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Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The Athens Public Works Department has announced the following holiday closures: The Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and the Animal Shelter will be closed next Monday, July 5th, in observance of Independence Day. They will reopen on Tuesday on the regular schedule. Monday's residential garbage will be picked up on Tuesday. All other garbage routes will be on the regular schedule.
- ✓ Here's a traffic advisory. Keith Lane is closed from Crestway Drive to Powers Path. It will remain closed until Monday, July 12th, at 5 p.m. The purpose of the closing is for the installation of a box culvert for the new school construction project.
- ✓ The Etowah Chamber of Commerce announces the next "Good Morning Etowah" will be this Friday at the L&N Depot from 8 to 9 a.m.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Tuesday 6-29

Tennessee: 866,841 cases down 42 12,564 deaths up 7.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	6,665	9	103
Meigs	1,429	4	24
Monroe	5,981 up 1	9	96
Polk	2,112	3	24
Bradley	15,300 down 5	28	154
Rhea	4,386 up 1	3	82

New Laws Take Effect July 1st

- Several new laws take effect in Tennessee effective July 1st:
- Beginning July 1st, most law-abiding Tennesseans can carry a firearm either open or concealed without a permit.
- Volunteer firefighters will receive a \$600 annual payment upon completion of at least 30 hours of training.
- A felon who uses a firearm while committing a crime will have to serve 85% of the sentence, up from the current 30%.
- A person who murders a first responder will be punished as a terrorist with a sentence of death or life without parole.
- A new law provides for a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of any individual who kills a law enforcement officer in the line of duty.
- The Tennessee Business Fairness Act takes effect. The measure puts all businesses on the same playing field during a pandemic so small businesses are not forced to close while their bigger competitors stay open.
- A law goes into effect that protects civilian reemployment rights for Tennessee National Guard members upon completion of State Active Duty service.

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Wednesday, June 30, 2021

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Charles Edward Rayburn**, age 92, of Etowah, died Monday. He retired from Hiwassee Land Co. after working over 30 years. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in Green Hill Cemetery. No formal visitation will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Jerry Anita Hicks Crabtree**, age 81, of Riceville, died Monday. She was a native of Polk County and was a school bus driver for McMinn County Schools. A funeral service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. prior to the service.

♦ **Larry Baugh**, age 51, of Riceville, died Sunday. He worked at Hutchison Heating and Air. A memorial service will be Friday at 7 p.m. at Good Samaritan Funeral Home with visitation at 5 p.m.

◆ STARR MTN. BASEBALL IS TOURNAMENT BOUND

Four All Star teams from Starr Mountain Baseball, Etowah, will be playing in the Dixie Youth state tournament. The 5-6 Ozone Team (pictured, right) will play in Sweetwater July 1st at 2:30 & 8:30 p.m. and July 2nd at 10:30 a.m. (Photo & information from April Bowman)



Gospel Music Flashback

June 30th, 1954, is known as one of the most important dates in Southern Gospel music. A plane crash claimed the lives of two members of the Blackwood Brothers Quartet and devastated the popular group. The Blackwood Brothers were in Clanton, Alabama, to sing with the Statesmen at the Peach Festival. They had recently purchased an airplane to travel from city to city. R.W. Blackwood and the group's bass singer, Bill Lyles, decided to take the plane up. Both were licensed pilots. It crashed on landing, killing both men. After the crash, James Blackwood told the Statesmen's Hovie Lister he would never sing again. However, in 1956 the group re-organized with the famous bass singer J.D. Sumner. The Blackwood Brothers released over 200 albums and sold over 50 million records. Among their best-known songs were "Learning to Lean" and "Give The World A Smile." The photo shows Lyles and R.W. Blackwood at the controls of their plane.



TODAY IN HISTORY - JUNE 30th

1859 - French acrobat Blondin crossed Niagara Falls on a tight-rope as 5,000 spectators watched.

1917 - Singer Lena Horne was born. Her biggest hit record was "Stormy Weather." Lena Horne died May 9th, 2010.

1921 - Documents were signed forming the Radio Corporation of America, better known as RCA. RCA soon rivaled its main competitor, General Electric (GE).

1936 - The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "Gone With The Wind" was published. The book by Margaret Mitchell was made into the longest film of its day—220 minutes. The story is set in Atlanta in the Civil War days and has remained popular throughout the years. The movie starred Clark Gable as Rhett Butler, Vivian Leigh, and Olivia de Havilland, among others, including Butterfly McQueen.

1953 - The first Corvette rolled off the Chevrolet assembly line in Flint, MI. That early 'Vette sold for \$3,250.

1962 - Los Angeles Dodger's star Sandy Koufax pitched his first no-hitter in a game with the New York Mets. Koufax would toss three more no-hit games before retiring in 1966.

1971 - The 26th Amendment to the Constitution, lowering the minimum voting age to 18, was ratified as Ohio became the 38th state to approve it.

1994 - The U.S. Figure Skating Association stripped Tonya Harding of the national championship and banned her from the organization for life for an attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan.

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