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Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Athens, Tennessee

Another Drowning At Blue Cove

For the second time in a year, there's been a drowning at the Blue Cove Hideaway, a former rock quarry, near Riceville. James Semster, 25, of Atlanta drowned Sunday afternoon when he jumped from a home-made wooden platform on a 30-foot bluff. Witnesses say he went under and did not resurface. Divers with the McMinn County Rescue Squad recovered his body. Sheriff Joe Guy says Blue Cove is an abandoned rock quarry, formerly known as Proffitt's Quarry. Sheriff Guy calls it a dangerous and filthy place, with no life guards and no safety equipment. He says the owner charges admission to the swimming hole and camping area, but does not do anything to prevent alcohol or drugs from being brought onto the site. The sheriff says his officers have checked out the Blue Cove Hideaway in the past, and when they drive in, the swimmers and campers just toss their contraband into the water. In June of last year, a Niota man died after jumping from a bluff. Sheriff Guy has this advice to the public: "Stay away from this place. It's dirty and it's unsafe."



(Photo Courtesy of Sheriff Joe Guy)

FATAL STABBING IN ENGLEWOOD

An Englewood man faces charges of 2nd degree murder and attempted murder after allegedly stabbing his parents, killing his father and injuring his mother. It happened at a house on Dixon Avenue Sunday morning. Police were called to the residence for a domestic disturbance. When they arrived, they found 62-year-old Phillip Elrod and his wife, Teresa, with stab wounds. They were airlifted to UT Medical Center, where Phillip Elrod was pronounced dead. His wife is hospitalized with lacerations. Police Chief Gary Miller says the Elrods' son, Michael, has been taken into custody. The photo below shows the Englewood Rural Fire Department standing by at a helicopter landing zone on the Englewood football field. (Photo by Lynn Ingram of the Englewood Rural F.D.)



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Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Morning Fax®..Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

New Café Opens in Etowah

The Etowah Area Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a grand opening for Hummingbird Café and Bakery located at 616 Tennessee Ave. in Etowah. The restaurant offers a choice of sandwiches, soups, and a large selection of baked goods. Pictured at the ribbon-cutting are: Chamber President Blake McCaslin; Helen Mullins; Leah Tavernese; Joy Shadden Crockett; Lara Crockett; Rebecca Penny; Owners Shelby and Coty Morrow; Nancy Dalton; Judy Bales; Lauren McKee; Bethany Hembree; D.O. Crockett; Helen Crockett; Mark Cochran; Brian Trammell; Amanda Johnson, Cat Pate; and Rebecca Hovater. (Photo by Durant Tullock)



Obituaries

- **Robert E. Davidson**, age 82, of Ten Mile and Athens, died Saturday at The Health Center at Standifer Place. He was an electrical contractor for many years and a veteran of the U.S. Navy and the National Guard. Graveside services with military honors will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.
- **Cindy Snyder Burke Underwood**, age 58, of Athens, died Monday at Willow Acres in Riceville. She was a former employee of Sweetwater Valley Title and McMinn County Register of Deeds. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **James Lee Moses**, age 82, of Athens, died Saturday at U.T. Medical Center in Knoxville. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

MORE LOCAL NEWS

~ Etowah City Manager Matthew Graveley has resigned effective immediately. Graveley served for 5½ years as city manager. He recently came under criticism for his handling of the application for a new distillery in Etowah.

~ The unemployment rate in McMinn County was 4.3% in May, down from 4.5% in April. The jobless rate in Meigs County in May was 6%, down from 6.1% in April. In Monroe County, the unemployment rate in May was 4.2%, down from 4.3% in April.

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