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Today's News... This Morning

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Athens Woman Charged in Mother's Murder



An Athens woman has been arrested for murder following a joint investigation by special agents from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Roane County Sheriff's Office, and the Office of the 9th Judicial District Attorney General.

The investigation began on April 21st when deputies from the Roane County Sheriff's Office responded to a call regarding a deceased woman at a residence on Circle Drive in Rockwood. The deceased, identified as Bertha Lodewegen, was found at the scene. At the request of District Attorney General Russell Johnson, TBI agents were brought in to assist with the investigation. Subsequent autopsy results confirmed that the death was a homicide. Investigators concluded that

Bertha Lodewegen's daughter, Marie Hefner, was responsible for her mother's death.

On April 25th, Marie Hefner was arrested and charged with First Degree Murder. She was taken into custody by the Roane County Sheriff's Office, with bond yet to be determined at the time of this report. *Photo Credit: Roane County Sheriff's Office*



- Monday – Sweetwater Little Drugs 10:30-1:30
- Tuesday-Madisonville-Will Sav -10:30 - 1:30
- Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2:00
- Thursday-Athens Sock Shop- 10:30 -1:30
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30



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Monday, April 29, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Area Ministerial Association working in cooperation with the McMinn County Senior Center has organized a Day of Prayer event. The event will be held at the McMinn County Senior Center (205 McMinn Ave., Athens) on Thursday, May 2 at 9 am. The event will last approximately 30 minutes with prayer being led by area pastors.

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LISTENING REMINDER: This week's guest on Main Street Moments will be Charlene Such, Stefanie Slaughter Burchfield, Joy Merckson, and Brianna Baker discussing patterns of the past Quilt Trail. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

Obituaries

- Darin Eugene Sykes**, 64, of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, April 23. He had worked in construction for many years. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM at the fellowship hall of First Baptist Church in Athens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Darin Eugene Sykes.
- Floyd Ray Partain** passed away on Thursday, April 25 at the age of 94. Floyd was self employed; beautifying homes, churches, schools, and businesses with his talent of painting and paper hanging. He also worked with the Athens Fire Dept. and the McMinn County Civil Defense. A Celebration of Life Service will be conducted 2:00 pm, Tuesday, May 7 at Smith Funeral Home. Smith Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens is honored to serve the family of Floyd Ray Partain.
- John Anthony Sanders**, 61 of Decatur, passed away on Wednesday, April 24. He enjoyed grilling and smoking food with his son. He was a very passionate worker at Dynasty Spas. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 29, in the Meigs County Memorial Gardens. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Sanders Family.

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Rachel Newberry, First Quarter DAISY Award Recipient



Rachel Newberry, RN, BSN, has been honored with The DAISY Award for the first quarter of 2024 at Starr Regional Medical Center. This DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses acknowledges the exceptional care provided by nurses, with nominations accepted from anyone who witnesses extraordinary compassion in nursing.

Ronald Hall, RN, Chief Nursing Officer at Starr Regional Medical Center, expressed gratitude for nurses like Rachel who consistently demonstrate outstanding care and support. "At Starr Regional Medical Center, we value our nursing staff and their commitment to championing patient care in everything they do. It is always a pleasure to celebrate and recognize these talented nurses, especially those who receive nominations from patients, patient family members and their colleagues for The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses," said Hall. "Nurses such as Rachel make a difference through the care, concern and support they provide others. It is an honor to present Rachel with The DAISY Award in recognition of the extraordinary nurse she is and strives to be each day."

Newberry, who began her journey at Starr Regional Medical Center as a patient care tech in 2021, has since transitioned into her role as a nurse following her graduation with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Pensacola Christian College in 2023. She continues to provide exemplary care in Women's Services and Post-Surgical Unit.

The DAISY Award recipients are chosen by a committee of nurses at Starr Regional Medical Center, with the award presentation being a surprise event among colleagues, patients, and visitors. Each recipient receives a certificate and a hand-carved sculpture called "A Healer's Touch," hand carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa

For more information about the DAISY Foundation, visit DAISYFoundation.org. If you would like to nominate a nurse for the DAISY Award, forms are available in the hospital common areas as well as the nursing units on Starr Regional Medical Center's Athens and Etowah campuses. Nomination forms may also be found online at StarrRegional.com. The DAISY Award program is open to nurses only, such as LPNs, RNs, and nurse practitioners. If non-nurses receive a nomination, they will be recognized separately from The DAISY Award program.



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