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Today's News... This Morning

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8:30 am - 5 pm

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ Coordinated Charities is temporarily closed due to staff members getting sick. Executive Director Kevin Lane says they hope to re-open tomorrow, on Wednesday.
- ✓ An Athens teenager who was the object of a TBI Amber Alert has been found safe. The TBI says 17-year-old Autumn Turner was found in St. Augustine, Florida. She was found with 27-year-old Jacob Flournoy who is now in custody. He's wanted by Athens Police on charges of kidnapping and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
- ✓ Dr. Vant Hardaway will be the guest speaker at the McMinn Living Heritage Museum's History for Lunch program this Thursday, August 26th, at noon. Bring your lunch and listen as Hardaway shares stories of growing up, the challenges he faced, integration, and heartwarming stories of his life.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Monday 8-23

Tennessee: 994,479 cases up 4,120. 13,204 deaths up 25.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	7,675	535	108
Meigs	1,641	129	24
Monroe	6,971	641	99
Polk	2,407	156	25
Bradley	17,280	1,089	159
Rhea	5,159	531	83

Date Set for Adjourned Council Session

The date has been set for the reconvening of the adjourned Special Session of the Athens City Council. The special session was called to deal with issues involving City Manager C. Seth Sumner and Police Chief Cliff Couch. The Council met to ask questions and hear testimony from both Sumner and Couch two weeks ago on August 10th. After six hours, the meeting was adjourned with several more items on the agenda yet to be discussed, including details involving the arrest of Sumner for having a handgun in his carry-on bag at the Knoxville Airport.

The Special meeting will reconvene next Monday, August 30th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Burkett Witt Council Chambers at the Athens Municipal Building. The first meeting dealt with issues surrounding two Nest cameras which disappeared and then mysteriously reappeared. The City Manager also denied retaliating against Chief Couch or any other city employees. The meeting adjourned as Couch asked for an opportunity to respond to a list of criticisms made by Sumner of his performance as police chief. Couch was not allowed to respond.

NOTE: The Athens City Council will hold another Council Night Out event at 6 p.m. this evening at the McMinn Senior Activity Center, located at 205 McMinn Avenue, Athens. This will give citizens of Athens an opportunity to meet with council members one-on-one to ask questions and/or offer suggestions to them on ways to improve the city.

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To VEC Board of Directors

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Pamela Gamble Burris**, age 70, of Athens, died Sunday in the presence of her husband, Dr. Gary Burris. She met her husband-to-be in high school, married him in 1971, and worked hard to support him through dental school. When he opened his office in Athens, she was the receptionist and bookkeeper for several years. A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Cedar Grove Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Smith Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

♦ **Dorothy Bernice Watts Ghorley**, age 87, of the Big Springs Community in Decatur, died Saturday at Hospice of Chattanooga. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Brittville Baptist Church in Georgetown with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the church. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT: Equities finished higher, bouncing off of last week's decline to reach new highs. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 215.63 to 35,335.71. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 37.86 to 4479.53, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 227.99 points to 14,942.65.

DECATUR WOMAN CONVICTED OF MURDER

Stacy Miller of Decatur has been convicted of felony murder in the death of her boyfriend, Roger Miller, whose body was spotted by a busload of school children lying near an intersection in May, 2019. A second suspect, Rocky Howard, was scheduled to go on trial today, but his trial was postponed due to COVID concerns in Meigs County.

Truck Found Burning in a Field

Around 4:15 Saturday morning, the Englewood Rural Fire Department was dispatched to a Utility Truck found burning in a field along County Road 408, Englewood. The compartments had been emptied and the truck was a total loss. McMinn County Sheriff's Dept. Corporal Jeremy Harrison investigated the incident.

(Photos by Lynn Ingram,
Englewood Rural Fire Dept)



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TODAY IN HISTORY - AUGUST 24th

79 A.D. - Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash. An estimated 20,000 people died.

1814 - British forces captured Washington, D.C., and burned the White House and the Capitol Building.

1875 - Captain Matthew Webb of England set out on the first swim across the English Channel. The distance is only 21 miles as the crow flies. However, because of the tide Webb actually swam nearly twice that distance and was in the water for nearly 22 hours.

1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly non-stop across the United States, traveling from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., in just over 19 hours.

1938 - Mason Williams, musician, was born. His biggest hit record was "Classical Gas."

1989 - Pete Rose, baseball's all-time hitter, was banned for life from playing baseball for betting on games when he was playing for Cincinnati.