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Today's News... This Morning

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Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Sumner Suspended for 2 Weeks

The Athens City Council has voted to suspend City Manager C. Seth Sumner for two weeks without pay effective immediately. The Council also voted to do an evaluation of Sumner's job performance. Assistant City Manager James Gallup was named to serve as interim city manager. The action was taken Monday night by the City Council which reconvened the August 10th special called meeting to investigate several issues, mostly involving allegations made by Sumner and then police Chief Cliff Couch. At last night's meeting, Couch appeared briefly and expressed regret about what has transpired in the Athens City government. He left without taking any questions. Later in the meeting, Sumner was asked about the firing of Couch. He said without getting into specifics that there were some things that came to light recently that made a difference. Sumner was also questioned about the loaded handgun found in his carry-on bag at the Knoxville airport. He said he put his hand into his bag at the ticket counter just to make sure his gun was not in there and did not feel it. However, it was detected by the TSA when the bag went through the x-ray machine. He was not arrested but was given a citation and his gun was taken. He said the charges were dismissed but he had to forfeit his weapon. He also said the first person he called was Chief Couch to confide in him about what happened and asked whether he would be allowed to fly home from his destination. He also admitted that he never told the mayor or city council about the incident. After about 4 hours, Council member Frances Witt-McMahan made the motion to suspend Sumner for two weeks without pay. The vote was 4 to 1, with Dick Pelley voting no. He said he favored firing Sumner. A group of peaceful protesters gathered outside prior to the meeting. (TimWright photo)



Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The McMinn County High School Homecoming Parade will be held in Downtown Athens this evening. Parts of Madison Ave., Jackson St., and Washington Ave. will be closed from 5 to 8 p.m. The parade starts at 6 p.m. and will go around the Courthouse Square.
- ✓ Athens Utility Board's fall flush of water lines will take place today starting at 12:30 p.m. It was rescheduled from October 5th due to weather. Crews will open each fire hydrant in the city for several minutes to flush out any sediment that may be in the lines.
- ✓ The McMinn County 2021 property tax notices are in the mail. You should notify the Trustees Office if you do not receive your notice within the next ten days.

The differences shown below for cases and active cases are the differences between Friday's Report & Monday's Report

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Monday 10-18

Tennessee: 1,266,252 cases up 540. 15,887 deaths up 7.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	10,387 up 42	202 up 11	127 up 2
Meigs	2,153 up 6	33 down 4	28
Monroe	9,599 up 12	126 down 36	122 up 1
Polk	3,164 up 14	69 down 10	29
Bradley	21,914 up 39	289 down 52	187
Rhea	6,921 up 12	140 down 21	91

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



NEW: Hand Breaded Chicken Sandwich \$3.99
Pork Chop Biscuits 2 / \$6 • 32 oz Tea
 Due to Staffing Shortages, the
 Athens Bojangles will be closed on
SUNDAY ONLY DURING OCTOBER
 BOJANGLES of Athens-South Congress Pkwy 744-5292

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CASA Corridor Of East TN



COSTUMES FOR CASA
 5K & AWARENESS WALK

October 30th
 Registration: 8am Run: 9am
 Walk: 9:30am

EUREKA TRAIL

Costumes Welcome!
 Candy & Fun For All!

ONLINE REGISTRATION
 CLICK [HERE](#)

Early Bird Registration
 (before 10/15/21) \$25
 \$30 Registration fee after 10/15/21
 Groups of 10+ receive \$5 discount



The Trading Post

Daily Monday - Saturday Morning
 8:45 am - 9:30am and
 Monday - Friday Afternoon
 4:25pm to 4:55 pm



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Tuesday, October 19, 2021 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **James "Jim" S. Majors**, age 82, of Athens, died Friday, October 15th. He was president and CEO of Tellico Culvert for 32 years until his retirement. A graveside service will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Becky Zoe George**, age 57, of Philadelphia, TN, died Sunday at Sweetwater Hospital. There will be no formal services at this time in honor of her wishes. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

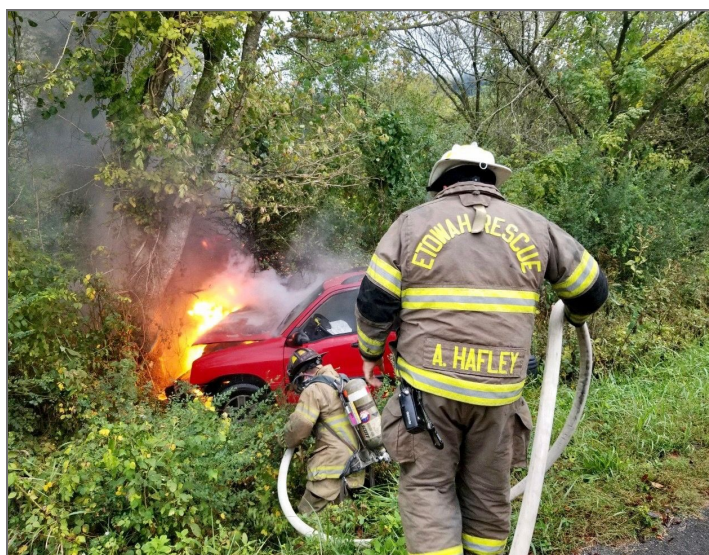
♦ **Eva May Murray Hoback**, age 93, of Mt. Harmony community died Monday at her residence. She was a native of Detroit, MI, and a resident of McMinn County since 1971. She was a public service worker who worked with juveniles in Macomb County, MI and McMinn County. She also volunteered with Contact, Hospice and The Hope Center. Formal services will be announced at a later date. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

LISTENING REMINDER: The guest on Main Street Moments on Tuesday (Today-Oct. 19) will be Heather Bateman with CASA, discussing the group's Annual 5K & Awareness Walk. The interview will be heard at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI Radio: AM-1390 FM-94.5 & [ONLINE](#)

Car Hits Tree, Catches on Fire

Last Saturday morning around 9 on County Road 881, the driver of this 2004 Chevrolet Tracker lost control hitting a tree head on. The vehicle burst into flames. The driver escaped safely. The Etowah and Englewood Rural Fire Departments responded. THP Trooper Travis Ryans investigated.

(Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept)



TODAY IN HISTORY - OCTOBER 19th

1781 - The American Revolutionary War drew to a close as Britain's Lord Cornwallis surrendered more than 7,000 of his troops at Yorktown, Virginia.

1812 - French forces under Napoleon Bonaparte began a retreat from Moscow.

1879 - After hundreds of unsuccessful tries, inventor Thomas Edison finally succeeded in demonstrating his new electric light bulb.

1945 - Country singer Jeanne C. Riley was born. She sang on demo records and worked as a secretary before hitting it really big in 1968 with "Harper Valley P.T.A."

1960 - The United States imposed an embargo on exports to Cuba.

1973 - The Arab oil-producing nations imposed a total ban on oil exports to the U.S. and declared a 10% cut in production to put pressure on the U.S. and its western European allies to force Israel to withdraw from Arab lands. The oil embargo triggered an energy crisis and a severe recession in the U.S. and Europe during the next two years.



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