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Thursday-August 19, 2010

Athens, Tennessee

LOCAL & AREA NEWS

◆ AUDITS SHOW MISSING COUNTY MONEY

~ The state Comptroller's office has just released a report on cash shortages and thefts in county offices across the state. The McMinn County Court Clerk notified the Comptroller's office that she had discovered discrepancies in the receipts and deposits involving the General Sessions Court. An audit determined there was a shortage of \$15,484 in the office for the period from November 6, 2006 to July 10, 2009. The audit showed the shortage resulted from the misappropriation of cash collections and improper entries made to conceal the theft. Tina Snyder, the employee responsible for collecting and recording the filing and other court fees in the General Sessions Court, was terminated on July 22, 2009, and was indicted by the McMinn County Grand Jury last November.

~ An audit also showed a cash shortage of \$30,646 in the Monroe County Jail's commissary. The commissary bookkeeper was suspended and indicted by the county grand jury for theft over \$10,000. Officials found \$35,429 in unidentified cash in her desk and a safe. The audit found that collections were not routinely deposited within three days as required by law and sometimes were never deposited. The county received \$20,646 from its insurance company, leaving a \$10,000 shortage at the end of the fiscal year.

~ An audit of the Polk County school system found a \$13,500 cash shortage. Most of it was money collected for the lease of land owned by the school system that was not deposited with the county trustee. An employee was indicted, but was found not guilty. Another employee repaid \$1,047 after using a county-owned welder for personal use.

NATIONAL-WORLD NEWS

◆ President Obama assured voters in Ohio that the economy is slowly getting better. He said the economy is a lot like recovering from an illness--"you get a little bit stronger each day." Meantime, an AP poll finds that an overwhelming majority of Americans now describe the nation's financial outlook as poor.

◆ A statewide poll shows a majority of New Yorkers remain opposed to construction of a muslim mosque near ground zero. The poll shows the issue will be a factor for many voters this fall.

◆ Former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich could be retried on four counts against him. The jury was one vote short in convicting him of political corruption charges. They found him guilty on the least serious of the 24 counts against him and there was a mistrial on all the rest.

◆ American Airlines has found another fee to charge. The airline is now charging between \$19 and \$39 extra for seats in the first two or three rows in the coach section.

◆ A new national study has found that a stunning one in five teenagers has lost a little bit of hearing. The study suggests listening to loud music on earbuds may be to blame. Experts warn that slight hearing loss can cause problems in school and set the stage for hearing aids in later life.

◆ Radio talk show host Laura Schlessinger will give up her popular "Dr. Laura" show when her contract is up at the end of the year. She recently apologized for saying the "N" word 11 times to a caller on the air. As a result, some of her advertisers cancelled.



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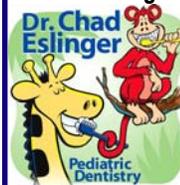
**Riddle & Wallace Soda Shop & Lunch Box , 8 E. Washington,
423-453-5755; fax 423-453-5757. Fudge Factory is open. Buy 1 pound and
get ½ pound free. Turkey Cranberry Sub w/fries or chips, \$4.99. Meatloaf
Dinner w/cheesy potatoes & green beans, \$5.99. Now open 10a.m.-5p.m.**

**BOjangles Famous Chicken & Biscuits-S. Congress Parkway
(744-5292) August Specials: 2 Ham Biscuits for \$3, 2 Ham & Egg Biscuits for
\$4, Get a 12 piece Super Tailgate which includes 6 Biscuits, 3 Picnic Fixins', + ½
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Western Sizzlin Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike (745-2626)
Thursday (All Day) 8 oz. Sizzlin' Top Sirloin with Potato, Bakery, &
Dessert Bars, \$6.99. (All day): 16 ounce T-Bone with Potato,
Bakery, and Dessert Bars, \$12.99.

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Thursday-August 19, 2010

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

✓ Today at noon is the deadline for candidates to file their qualifying petitions to run in the November 2nd election, which includes the Athens City Council and the Athens School Board.

✓ The Athens Fire Department answered a total of 56 calls during the month of July. Two of the calls involved residential fires, with a total loss of \$35,000. Firefighters also responded to 11 trash fires, 10 vehicle accidents, and 10 false alarms. They also assisted Sweetwater firefighters in battling a blaze at a vacant downtown building. That fire was started by fireworks.

✓ The 2010 high school football season gets underway Friday night when the McMinn High School Cherokees travel across the county to play Central. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. The McMinn Central Cheerleaders will have a Chick-fil-A tailgate party from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the school parking lot.

✓ The non-profit organization Youth Villages is looking for single and married adults in McMinn and Bradley counties who would be interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents to children who have suffered abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Youth Villages will hold an open house for interested people on August 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. at their office, 6400 Building, 5741 Cornelison Road, Chattanooga.

✓ Women at the Well reminds you that their annual golf tournament will be held on August 25 at the White Oaks Golf Course. For details, call Women at the Well at 745-0010.

More Local News

◆ **COUNTRY PATCH OWNERS WILL REBUILD**
 Jim and Debbie Gunn, owners of the Country Patch restaurant which was destroyed by fire on Tuesday say they will rebuild. Meantime, Athens Fire Chief Jim Dyer says the fire definitely started in the attic. He says there is nothing suspicious about the fire, but the exact cause has not yet been determined. Chief Dyer says the building was insured but he did not have a dollar figure on the amount of damage.

◆ **ATHENS TO BUY COLLINS & AIKMAN LAND**
 The Athens City Council has voted to purchase 86 acres of land where the now-vacant Collins and Aikman plant is located. The land is owned by Textron, Inc., and will cost the city \$418,000. The purchase includes one 5,000 square-foot building, but does not include the main plant. City officials wanted to buy the property to help attract new industrial prospects. The vote was 4 to 1, with Dick Pelley casting the only no vote. Pelley said he would have voted for the purchase if he felt it would guarantee jobs. The land is located off Redfern Drive and is adjacent to the Norfolk Southern Railway tracks.

◆ **ANNUAL "FUR BALL" IS COMING UP**
 The annual "Fur Ball" sponsored by the McMinn Regional Humane Society will take place this Saturday evening at Springbrook County Club. The event will feature food, dancing, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased by calling 649-0370. All proceeds will benefit the Humane Society.

DODGE RODEO TIME

**Friday, August 20th at 8:00 p.m. &
 Saturday, August 21st at 8:00 p.m.**

To Benefit the Idlewild Fire Dept.

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