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Today's News... This Morning

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The Gem Players Presents



a Nathan Sanders Comedy
September 15, 16, 21, 22, 23,
28, 29, 30 at 7:30 p.m.
September 17, 24 & October 1
at 2:30 p.m.
Gem Theater - Etowah
Tickets \$12 (10-12 yrs \$8)
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Thursday, September 7, 2017

Athens, Tennessee

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

◆ BELL TO ATTEND HISTORIC CONVENTION

State Senator Mike Bell of Riceville is among eight Tennessee legislators who will join delegates from across the nation in Phoenix, Arizona, on September 12th at the Balanced Budget Amendment Planning Convention. This gathering will be the first national convention of the states to be convened since 1861, when states met to discuss an amendment they hoped would avert civil war. The purpose of the upcoming convention in Phoenix is to prepare for an anticipated convention convened under Article V of the U.S. Constitution to propose a balanced budget amendment and to recommend a set of rules under which such a convention would be governed.

◆ STORMS KEEP AUB HOPPING

Lightning during the thunderstorms that roared across McMinn County Tuesday afternoon kept AUB repair crews busy. Spokesman Wayne Scarbrough says a lightning strike on County Road 439 knocked out 21 customers. Lightning in the area of Richardson and Oak Streets affected 164 customers. A lightning strike in the area of Million Street knocked out 155 customers. A downed tree on County Road 439 affected 17 customers. Lightning also caused a structure fire on Shadows Lawn Drive.

It wasn't lightning, but a vehicle that took down a power pole Wednesday morning on County Road 500 just outside Englewood. That resulted in a fairly large outage for customers as crews repaired the damage.

National - World News

◆ Hurricane Irma lashed the Caribbean on Wednesday, causing at least three deaths. Farther north in the U.S., Florida, Georgia and South Carolina are facing states of emergency as residents brace for the monster storm.

◆ A top North Korean diplomat called his country's recent nuclear test a "gift package" for the United States and promised more to come if the U.S. continues what he called its "reckless provocations." North Korea claims it tested a hydrogen bomb on Sunday, the country's sixth nuclear test.

◆ A Swiss chocolate company has unveiled a fourth type of chocolate called "Ruby Chocolate." It naturally has a pink hue. The chocolate contains no berries, berry flavoring or added color to achieve its color and taste.

◆ BB Gun Found at Athens Middle School

An unloaded BB pistol was found in a student's backpack at Athens City Middle School Wednesday morning. Principal Mike Simmons sent a text message to parents advising them of the situation. He said he was given information that led to the discovery of the BB gun. He said the student will be disciplined.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The McMinn Area Cancer Relief Fund is having a scrapbooking/crafting fundraiser at First Baptist Church of Athens this Saturday, Sept. 9th, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. To register, call Rhonda McKenzie at 462-4825 or Connie Woodcock at 368-3214.

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Tennessee State Gospel Singing Convention

Clear Springs Baptist Church
653 County Road 100
Athens, TN

Friday, September 8 at 7:00
Saturday, September 9 at 10:00

Everyone welcome! Come out and enjoy convention style gospel music! Contact: Barbara Elkins (423) 745-7879



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Thursday, September 7, 2017 Morning Fax@...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Spanish American War Vets Honored

The Sons of Spanish American War Veterans recently conducted a memorial service at Fort Hill Cemetery to honor two Bradley County veterans who served during the Spanish American War. The veterans were William Columbus McBryant and John D. McBryant. Family members who attended the service are pictured below, left to right: John Simms, James McBryant, Chip Brown, Wesley McBryant, Charlie McBryant, John Sanders, Trina Pendergrass, Faye Batts, and Jerry Howard. (Photo by Daniel Koob)



Obituaries

♦ **Connie C. Akers**, age 66, of Athens, died Tuesday at Starr Regional Medical Center of Athens. She was a School Nurse for the Athens City Schools and Tennessee Wesleyan University. She was named "Mother of the Year" for 2016. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church of Athens, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. Laycock -Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **James Ronald "Ronnie" Hill**, age 76, of Cleveland, died Monday at his home. He was the owner of TB Isbell Insurance and The Hill Insurance Agency. He had been a member of the Air National Guard and a volunteer fireman. He was formerly employed with Bowater. Memorial services will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Ralph Buckner Funeral Home in Cleveland, with visitation from 4 to 7 p.m.

♦ **Rev. Lee Benjamin Tate, Sr.**, age 95, of Athens, died Monday. He spent 35 years in the ministry, 10 years at Bowater, and 10 years at Fox Photo. He served in the Army during World War II. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church, with visitation from noon to 1 p.m. at the church. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

◆ MORE COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ UT Extension of McMinn County is having a Lip Sync party at Market Park in Downtown Athens on September 18th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. to sign up members for 4-H 2017-18. Everyone in grades 4 through 12 can join. You are invited to come, bring your friends and lawn chairs for a night of singing and dancing to your favorite songs. There will be free popcorn and soft drinks while they last. For more information, call Sara Smith at 745-2852.

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Parent/ Teacher Conference

September 11th-15th

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