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Monday, December 3, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

Local & Area News

◆ CIGARETTE BUTT NABS THIEF/VANDAL

Sheriff Joe Guy says that good police work and DNA technology solved a crime that occurred more than a year ago. A van belonging to the Rockview Baptist Church on County Road 279 was stolen from a residence near Niota in September of 2017. Deputy Jerry Wattenbarger responded to the call and took a report. Sheriff Guy says that Wattenbarger walked over the crime scene and looked at some surveillance video from the homeowner. On the video, Wattenbarger noticed the suspect throw down a cigarette and noted the location. He collected the cigarette as evidence and sent it to the TBI for DNA testing. Three weeks later, Wattenbarger received information on the location of the severely damaged van, which was found on property on County Road 225, where a suspect, identified as Josh Wheaton, resided. After getting a search warrant, DNA was collected from Wheaton and that was sent to the TBI lab as well. Since the TBI gets thousands of requests for DNA analysis, it took about a year to get the results and both samples matched. This and other evidence was presented to the McMinn County Grand Jury, who issued indictments against Josh Wheaton for Theft over \$2500 and Vandalism. Wheaton was already in custody in the Meigs County Jail on other charges and will now face more charges from McMinn County. Sheriff Guy has since promoted Wattenbarger to Corporal. The Sheriff said he hopes incoming Governor Bill Lee will increase funding to the TBI so that more DNA evidence can be processed and more crimes can be solved.

National News

◆ FORMER PRESIDENT BUSH PASSES AWAY

George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States, died late Friday evening at his home in Houston, Texas, at the age of 94. Pictured below is a *White House Photo* showing the former President being interviewed by a reporter on Air Force One. That reporter is Peter Maer, who is a former colleague of Morning Fax Editor, Bob Ketchersid. Peter and Bob worked together at WSB RADIO in Atlanta for several years in the 1970's. Maer became the White House Correspondent for the Mutual Broadcasting System in 1976 until 1998 and then for CBS Radio until his retirement in 2015. Maer had this statement about President Bush: "My family and I are deeply saddened to learn of the death of President George H.W. Bush. Our nation has lost a "point of light." Mr. Bush, the last World War Two veteran to serve as president, was a true patriot in every sense of the word. I had the honor of covering him for 12 years when he was Vice President and President. So many memories. I was in the Oval Office media pool the day the Berlin Wall fell. President Bush took a calm, understated approach to avoid antagonizing Moscow. I also covered his crowning domestic achievement, the signing of the Americans With Disabilities Act. We spoke aboard Air Force One and in the Oval Office. I was privileged to travel with him and former President Clinton on their goodwill mission to tsunamis ravaged countries. He was always kind, gracious and generous. We stayed in touch over the years since he left office. I treasure each handwritten note and visits with him in Texas and Maine. Condolences to his loving family and staff. Rest In Peace President Bush".



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Reception Held for Director Blevins

A retirement reception was held last Thursday for retiring Director of McMinn County Schools, Mr. Mickey Blevins. Blevins will be retiring December 31, 2018 with over 35 years of service in education. He is shown here with the former Director of Meigs County Schools, Mr. Don Roberts. (Photo courtesy of Kim Bivens, Executive Assistant to the Director & Board Secretary)



Obituaries

- ♦ **Kimberly Ann Maloney**, age 54, of Athens, and formerly of Vander, WA and Bristol, PA, died Friday at her home. She had served as a teacher's assistant for students with special needs. The family will have a celebration of Kimberly's life at a later date. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
- ♦ **Bryan Douglas Derrick**, age 56, of Niota, died Friday at his home. He was a native and life-long resident of McMinn County and was an employee of Kimberly-Clark. A funeral service will be at 8 p.m. Monday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m.
- ♦ **Amelia Grace King**, infant daughter of A1C Trenton C. King and Alyssa Price King, died last Friday. Graveside services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Mars hill Cemetery in Englewood. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓The annual "Jimmy Liner Memorial Christmas Parade" in Downtown Athens will be held tonight at 6:30 p.m. Most of the streets around the courthouse and West Madison Avenue and Keith Lane will be blocked. The 2018 parade theme will be "An Athens Family Christmas."
- ✓The guest on the next weekly Athens Area Chamber of Commerce radio show, "Chamber Chat," will be Peyton Eastman, Children's Librarian at E.G. Fisher Public Library. You can hear Chamber Chat each Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI Radio AM-1390 or FM-94.5 and [ONLINE](#).

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- Sweet & Sassy** (Appetizer)
- The Mercantile** (Appetizer)
- White Street Market** (Appetizer)
- Greeks Bearing Gifts** (Soup)
- Ridge Outfitters** (Dessert)
- Snipes Chic's Boutique** (Dessert)
- Sullivan's on Jackson** (Dessert)
- Athens Movie Palace** (Present this ticket on Thursday, December 6th and receive "Buy One, Get One Free" tickets for the movie of your choice.)

Purchase a ticket, present it at the shops, and enjoy appetizers, soup, and dessert. Feel free to mix it up and enjoy dessert first!

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*Tickets available at the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce prior to December 5th or at The Arts Center on the day of the event.