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Today's News... This Morning

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Friday, March 5, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The Good Faith Clinic will be open next Tuesday, March 9th, starting at 3:30 p.m. with Drive-through refills. Physician visits begin at 4. The Good Faith Clinic is located on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 South Congress Parkway, and provides free basic medical care to uninsured residents of McMinn and Meigs counties.
- ✓ The Athens City School Board of Education will meet this coming Monday, March 8th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Administration Building. The meeting can be viewed online on the Athens City Schools website.
- ✓ The Etowah Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a Downtown Clean-Up in April. Chamber Director Durant Tullock says plans call for cleaning the sidewalks, cleaning Rotary Park, and filling the downtown planters and hanging baskets with flowers.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Thursday 3-04

Tennessee: 779,449 cases, up 1,514. 11,501 deaths, up 42.

COUNTY	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	5,945 up 6	5,742	111	92
Meigs	1,267	1,231	14	22 up 1
Monroe	5,365 up 19	5,132	143	90
Polk	1,777 up 7	1,705	50	22
Bradley	12,996 up 39	12,492	363	141 up 1
Rhea	4,152	4,024	55	73

Citizens Help Officer in Need

Aaron Recht, a member of the Riceville Volunteer Fire Department, spotted a man Wednesday morning who was in the road on Congress Parkway blocking traffic. The man appeared to have blood on him. Recht called police. Athens Police Officer Meghan Chandler was traveling to work in her personal vehicle when she came upon the man. When she made contact with him, it was obvious that he was very intoxicated. He attempted to enter her vehicle and steal it. A struggle took place and the man was able to wrestle Officer Chandler's Taser from her duty belt.

Police Chief Cliff Couch says during the struggle, the man tased himself in the abdomen. Recht was still in the area. He and a citizen bystander came to Officer Chandler's aid during the incident and helped subdue the subject. The man was later identified as Ricardo Santana. Further investigation determined that the blood on him was the result of him hitting himself in the head with a liquor bottle earlier in the day, prior to his encounter with Officer Chandler. After receiving medical attention, he was booked into the McMinn County Jail on charges of Public Intoxication, Resisting Arrest, Attempted Motor Vehicle Theft, and Theft of Property. Chief Couch said, "I'm very proud of the way that Officer Chandler handled this situation. I'm also exceedingly thankful to serve in a city that has citizens who are willing to help an officer in need."

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Friday, March 5, 2021

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

- ♦ **George "Kelly" Strickland**, age 101, of Athens, died Thursday at his residence. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was a CPA for 40 years. Funeral services are Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home with visitation from 1 - 2 p.m.
- ♦ **Billy Ray Shelton**, age 73, of Athens, died Thursday at his residence. He was a well-known brick mason and worked for Richard Harrill and Sons Construction Company. The family will receive friends and celebrate the life of Billy on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home, with a graveside service at 2 p.m. at Ward Cemetery.
- ♦ **Johnnie B. Leslie Barnett**, age 93, of Delano, died Wednesday at Starr Regional Health & Rehab Center. A graveside service will be Monday at 2 p.m. in Green Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

POSTAL WORKER CAUGHT WITH STOLEN MAIL

An employee of the Dayton Post Office has been found with a large collection of stolen mail. The Rhea County Sheriff's Office says Melissa Chance was stopped in a mail Jeep by detectives on Highway 60. The detectives believed she was impaired from drug use. They found numerous pieces of U.S. mail in the Jeep with addresses ranging from Ooltewah, Hixson, Soddy-Daisy, Sale Creek, and Dayton. The officers said approximately 175 pieces of mail were unopened and 100 had been opened. Ms. Chance was also found with numerous prescriptions and gift cards that had been sent through the mail to other individuals.

Church News & Events

- If you or someone you know is battling addiction, struggling with anger, or other life issues, Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call: 423-435-8986
- Ascension Life Church has moved to two services on Sunday mornings. The first service starts at 9 a.m. and the second service will begin at 11 a.m. They will be identical, with the same worship songs, the same speaker, and the same message. However, there will be no nursery or children's church offered for the 9 a.m. service.
- Cedar Springs Methodist Church is having its spring bake sale on Saturday, March 27th, at 1326 Cedar Springs Road. Just like November, it will be phone-in orders only. Call 649-3773 to place your order between now and March 5th. Then come by the church between 8 and noon on the 27th to pick up the items.
- Athens Lutheran Church will continue Lenten Services on Wednesday, March 10th, at 7 p.m. The church is located at 710 Forrest Avenue.
- The Morrison Sisters from Resaca, Georgia, will be at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Calhoun on March 14th at 6 p.m.
- Jones Chapel UMC invites you to Celebrate Recovery Sunday nights from 6 to 8 p.m., with worship, groups, and a to-go meal. Groups are for anyone dealing with hang-ups, hurts, life challenges and loss.

TODAY IN HISTORY - MARCH 5th

1700 - British troops killed five colonialists in the so-called "Boston Massacre," one of the events that led to the American Revolution.

1933 - In the German elections, Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party won nearly half the seats in the Reichstag, the German parliament.

1953 - Soviet dictator Josef Stalin died at age 73 after nearly three decades in power. It's believed that 40 million Soviets died because of his communist rule.

1960 - Elvis Presley returned to civilian life after a two-year hitch in the U.S. Army. Not since General Douglas MacArthur returned from battle has a soldier received such publicity. Elvis said he probably would not be growing his famous and long sideburns back, though he did relent in later years.

1963 - Country singers Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas, and Hawkshaw Hawkins died in a plane crash near Camden, Tennessee. Patsy Cline was just 30 years old when she died.

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