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Today's News... This Morning

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Friday, July 30, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ A new Senior Citizen Ride Share Program will begin soon at the McMinn Senior Activity Center. It's called *MyRide McMinn*. Beginning in October, *MyRide McMinn* will provide door-to-door transportation services to the region's residents age 60 and older. Volunteer drivers will use their personal vehicles to carry seniors to medical appointments, banks, grocery stores, etc. Riders will pay a \$25 annual membership fee and a small fee for the first round-trip. For more information, call 745-6830.
- ✓ The 75th anniversary of the Battle of Athens will be held Saturday, July 31st, at the soccer fields in Athens Regional Park at 5 p.m. Admission is free. There will be speakers and exhibits along with food trucks, vendors, and a parade.
- ✓ A "Blessing of the Helmets" was held recently at Boyd Memorial Church of God. Prayers were offered for protection for the McMinn County Youth football team and that the players would show forth Christ and sportsmanship.



Athens Police Sued for Man's Death

A \$20 million wrongful death lawsuit has been filed against the City of Athens and two police officers in the August 2020 death of a man they were taking to jail. The lawsuit says Allen Ott was suffering from a medical emergency. Officers Jeremy Bowman and Beau Swafford responded to a medical call at an Athens car wash where Ott admitted to taking meth and antidepressants. Athens police took him to the hospital where he was checked out. Police body cam video shows the officers struggling to get Ott into a patrol car. They eventually put him into the car face down with his hands cuffed behind his back. Ott's sister, Torie, says the video shows Ott beginning to "uncontrollably spasm and shake." When they reached the jail, Ott was unresponsive and CPR could not revive him. An autopsy determined that the cause of his death was an overdose. The lawsuit says the officers failed to notice the signs that Ott was in serious medical distress. Athens Police Chief Cliff Couch says the officers took him to the emergency room and then to the jail. When they found him unresponsive, they immediately began life-saving measures and summoned medical help. Chief Couch says a TBI investigation found that Ott died of a drug overdose.

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Obituaries

♦ **Brenda M. Watts**, age 81, of Etowah, died Thursday. A private graveside service will be held in Green Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

THURSDAY'S MARKET REPORT: Stocks closed higher despite news that GDP growth fell well short of expectations. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 153.60 to 35,084.53. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 18.51 to 4,419.15, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 15.68 points to 14,778.26.

70% OF McMinn Residents Are Not Vaccinated
The TN Department of Health reports that only 29% of the population of McMinn County have had both COVID-19 vaccinations. The numbers show just under 32% have had one shot.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Thursday 7-29

Tennessee: 891,331 cases up 2,586. 12,730 deaths up 8.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	6,832 up 28	129	105
Meigs	1,452 up 4	16	24
Monroe	6,089 up 4	73	98
Polk	2,145 up 7	21	24
Bradley	15,601 up 47	206	156
Rhea	4,478 up 15	74	82

Church News & Events

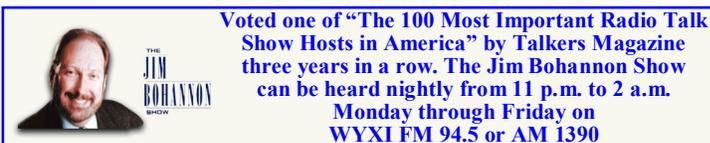
- If you or someone you know is battling addiction, struggling with anger, or other life issues, Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- Boyd Memorial Church of God will have a one-day VBS Saturday (7-31) starting at 1 p.m., concluding with a cookout and inflatable water slide.
- Niota United Methodist Church will have a Back to School Water Party this Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be waterslides, a giant slip-n-slide, popsicles and more. All are welcome.
- Pisgah Baptist Church in Decatur will be having a Back to School Bash this Sunday, Aug. 1st, at 6 p.m., with bouncy houses, games, pizza, home made ice cream and more.
- Eleven churches in the Etowah area are hosting a Back to School Backpack Giveaway on Saturday, July 31st, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the L&N Depot. Etowah area students are invited to come pick up a backpack full of school supplies.
- Oak Grove Baptist Church, 2012 CR 100, has a free community soup kitchen every Wednesday from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- East Athens Baptist Church welcomes Dr. Brian Trapp as their new Senior Pastor.
- Jones Chapel UMC, 590 CR 778, will have their VBS "Mystery Island-Tracking Down the One True God" for grades pre-K through 6th on August 6th from 6-8 with a hot dog roast & Aug. 7th from 9 to 3 with lunch and water games.

TODAY IN HISTORY - JULY 30th

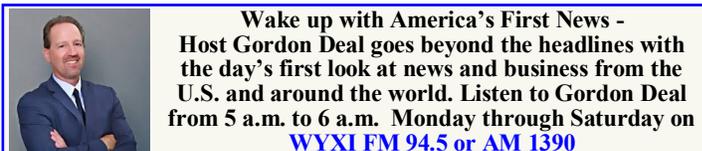
- 1863** - Automaker Henry Ford was born near Dearborn, Michigan. He started the Ford Motor Company and unveiled his masterpiece, the Model T, in 1908. He also introduced the conveyer-belt assembly line method of making cars which revolutionized manufacturing.
- 1898** - Dr. Kellogg invented corn flakes.
- 1909** - The first airplane was delivered to the U.S. War Department.
- 1929** - Christine McGuire, one of the singing McGuire Sisters, was born.
- 1941** - Singer Paul Anka was born. His first hit record was "Diana."
- 1942** - The WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services) was formed.
- 1956** - "In God We Trust" officially became the U.S. motto.
- 1965** - Medicare, the government-funded health insurance program for the elderly, was created.



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