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Today's News... This Morning

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Monday, October 11, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Police Chief Couch Fired By Sumner

Athens Police Chief Cliff Couch (in photo) has been fired. He was dismissed by City Manager C. Seth Sumner last Friday. The two men have been at odds for several months. At a special session of the City Council held in August, Chief Couch accused Sumner of retaliating against him by harassing him and removing authority from him. Couch said he could no longer determine the promotional process within the police department, could not fill vacant positions, and was no longer allowed to pass police policy. Sumner accused Couch of introducing politics into the police department. He also accused Couch of allegations and lies and said Couch had damaged the police department. When Sumner was contacted by The Morning Fax, he said, "Some things are yet to be decided. There will be a press release after 9 a.m. Monday." At this point there is no word on the effective date of Chief Couch's dismissal or who will be serving as acting chief. The Morning Fax has been unable to reach Chief Couch for comment.



FOOTBALL: McMinn County 45, Sweetwater 14; Loudon 47, McMinn Central 14; Polk Co. 10, Tellico Plains 6; Meigs Co. 66, Copper Basin 8. Tennessee 45, South Carolina 20.

Huge Turnout for Pumpkintown



The weather was perfect and the crowds were huge for this past Saturday's Pumpkintown Festival in Downtown Athens. Kristin Coates and Stanley Blair sent some photos to us.



◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Friday 10-08

Tennessee: 1,249,333 cases up 2,518. 15,558 deaths up 51.

| COUNTY | CASES | ACTIVE | DEATHS |
|---------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| McMinn | 10,245 up 33 | 219 up 4 | 122 up 1 |
| Meigs | 2,125 up 4 | 43 down 1 | 27 |
| Monroe | 9,453 up 43 | 206 up 7 | 117 |
| Polk | 3,105 up 14 | 96 up 9 | 27 |
| Bradley | 21,673 up 43 | 405 down 15 | 174 |
| Rhea | 6,821 down 22 | 192 down 11 | 91 up 1 |

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



NEW: Hand Breaded Chicken Sandwich \$3.99
Sausage & Egg Biscuits 2 / \$4 • 32 oz Tea \$1
8 Pc Tailgate Family Meal \$19.99
Due to Staffing Shortages, the Athens Bojangles will be closed on **SUNDAY ONLY DURING OCTOBER**
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423-745-1390 or Email: wysi@bellsouth.net

CASA Corridor of East TN



COSTUMES FOR CASA
5K & AWARENESS WALK

October 30th

Registration: 8am Run: 9am
Walk: 9:30am

EUREKA TRAIL

Costumes Welcome!
Candy & Fun For All!

ONLINE REGISTRATION

[CLICK HERE](#)

Early Bird Registration
(before 10/15/21) \$25
\$30 Registration fee after 10/15/21
Groups of 10+ receive \$5 discount



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Monday, October 11, 2021 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

- ♦ **Randy Allen Goins**, 61, of Athens, died October 5th at Starr Regional of Athens. He retired from Athens Housing Authority. Funeral services were held at Ziegler Funeral Home.
- ♦ **Susan Ninette Miller Morrow**, age 50, of Athens, died October 5th. A Celebration of Life service will be held on her birthday, October 16th, for her family and close friends. No formal visitation will be held. Smith Funeral Home is in charge.
- ♦ **Jessie Gwendolyn Brady**, 27, of Athens, died Oct. 8th at Park-west Medical Center. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home.
- ♦ **James Webber**, age 68, of Etowah, died October 2nd. A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, October 14th, at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 6 p.m.
- ♦ **Wanda Faye (Green) Roberts**, age 72, of Georgetown, died October 7th. Funeral services will be Monday at 7 p.m. at Decatur Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ **Billy Ray Godsey**, age 67, of Decatur, died October 7th at Hamilton Medical Center. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11th, at Decatur Funeral Home, with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ♦ **Russell Lillard Rouse, Sr.**, 60, of Athens, died Oct. 7th at his home. The family will receive friends on Wed., Oct. 13th, at Companion Funeral Home of Athens, with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m.
- ♦ **Jessie Mae Crisp Lankford**, 80, of Riceville, died Oct. 8th at her home. Funeral services will be 7 p.m. Monday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ **Courtney Leann Daniel**, 24, of Ten Mile, died October 9th. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

Ribbon Cut for Farm Bureau Agent

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Farm Bureau Insurance-Yuri Davis, located at 804 S. White Street. Shown in the photo below: Ashton Burrows, Amy McDonald, Lisa Rhea, & Joanne Arnett (Chamber Diplomats), Yuri Davis (Farm Bureau Agent), Ashley Davis, Heather Bateman, Danielle Sierra, & Traci White (Diplomats), Sandra Gutherie, Rush Gutherie, Wade Shultz, Tom Strassor, & Margaret Bohannon (Farm Bureau Board Members), Karen Sullivan (Athens Chamber), Larae Graves & Doug Bailey (Diplomats), John Rodriguez, Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Gary Chandler (Farm Bureau Regional Manager), Michael Moody (Farm Bureau), & Joseph Ladner (Diplomat)
(Photo from Julie Simbeck, Athens Chamber)



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