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Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The McMinn County Commission holds its monthly meeting next Monday, October 18th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Blue Room of the Courthouse.
- ✓ Moody's Investors Service has assigned a rating of Aa3 to the City of Athens' \$7.7 Million General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021. At the same time, Moody's has affirmed the city's outstanding issuer rating as Aa3. That is considered to be a "very high grade" investment rating.
- ✓ The McMinn Senior Activity Center is now accepting applications for senior citizens who want to sign up for rides in My Ride McMinn, a new transportation service for seniors. Volunteer drivers are also needed. For info, call 745-6830.

Couch Hires Law Firm

Fired Athens Police Chief Cliff Couch has hired a law firm to represent him in political legal action against City Manager C. Seth Sumner. Sumner fired Chief Couch last Friday in what Couch says was retaliation against him for going to District Attorney Steve Crump after having suspicions that Sumner was involved in the disappearance of two "Nest" cameras from the police department. The issue of Couch's firing came up at Monday night's City Council study session. Councilman Dick Pelley and others asked Sumner to explain what prompted the firing. At that point, City Attorney Chris Trew stepped in and advised the council that Couch had hired a law firm and anything that Sumner or the council members said at the study session could and probably would be used by Couch's attorneys. Couch has retained attorneys Janie Varnell and Logan Davis of the Chattanooga law firm, Davis & Hoss. The law firm issued a statement saying: While the news and sudden decision to terminate Chief Clifton Couch without warning and without explanation is shocking, it is not entirely unexpected due to the amount of retaliation and hostility Chief Couch has experienced from City Manager Seth Sumner over the last several months." The statement continues, "Chief Couch looks forward to telling his story at the appropriate time and venue." More information may come out when the City Council's special called session reconvenes next Monday, Oct. 18th, at 6 p.m. in the Conference Center at the Athens Regional Park.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Tuesday 10-12

Tennessee: COUNTY	1,256,502 cases up 2,639	15,687 deaths up 104
	<u>CASES</u>	<u>ACTIVE</u> <u>DEATHS</u>
McMinn	10,292 up 23	195 up 5 122
Meigs	2,135 up 7	40 up 2 28 up 1
Monroe	9,540 up 24	172 down 18 117
Polk	3,123 up 4	86 down 9 29 up 2
Bradley	21,755 up 36	338 up 2 187 up 11
Rhea	6,874 up 18	178 down 7 90

Hear

Dave Ramsey



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3 to 4 p.m. &
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on **WYXI**
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NEW: Hand Breaded Chicken Sandwich \$3.99
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Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Morning Fax®... Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Patricia "Marlene" Moore Smith**, age 69, of Athens, died Sunday at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. She was a native of Del Rio, TN and a longtime resident of McMinn County. She was associated with McMinn County School systems for 36 years as a teacher, most of which was at Englewood Elementary School. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, October 14th at Shiloh Cemetery in Pigeon Forge with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 13th at Smith Funeral and Cremation Services of Athens.

♦ **Velma Worthy Brazzell**, age 82, of Niota, died Tuesday at Sweetwater Hospital. She was retired from Athens Manufacturing. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Ziegler Funeral Home; interment will follow at Niota Cemetery.

♦ **Chandler Allen Harrill**, age 25, of Etowah, died Monday. Funeral services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday. Interment will follow the funeral service at Green Hill Cemetery.

♦ **Cory Lane Howell**, age 26, of the Mt. Harmony Community near Niota, died Sunday at his residence. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m., Thursday at Smith Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. prior to the service. Interment will be at 11 a.m., Friday at Mt. Harmony Cemetery.

Fire Destroys Barn & Vehicles

A fire that broke out around 6 p.m. this past Sunday destroyed a barn on Highway 39 West, Riceville. The barn housed three vehicles and other contents. All were a total loss. The Riceville, Athens Rural, Calhoun Rural, and Englewood Rural Fire Departments responded. Riceville Rural Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth was in command of the scene.

(Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept)



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