The Gem Players are holding auditions for the hilarious mystery comedy,

Death of a Doornale, on this Sun., March 11 at 3pm at the historic Gem Theater, Etowah . This play will be presented May 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 & 13. Dessert will be served during intermission & reservation are required by calling 423-263-3270. Tickets are \$15

Friday, March 9, 2018

State & Local News

♦ MAN DIES IN TRUCK WRECK ON I-75

A 33-year-old Decatur man was killed in an early-morning traffic accident on Interstate 75 north of Athens at milemarker 53 on Thursday. State Trooper Travis Ryans says Billy J. Lett was driving a pickup truck northbound around 5 a.m. when for unknown reasons, the truck left the right side of the roadway, striking the guardrail with the left front bumper. That caused the truck to spin out of control and roll, striking the pillar of one of the double bridges crossing the interstate. It came to rest on its tires, on the back side of the second bridge pillar. The driver was entrapped and pronounced dead at the scene.

♦ MCHS TEACHER FIRED

A math teacher at McMinn County High School has been dismissed for inappropriate communications with a female student on the social media site Snapchat. The district attorney says it will not file any criminal charges against the teacher, Chet Fulton.

♦ WEATHER SPOTTERS NEEDED IN McMINN With the Spring severe weather season just around the corner, the National Weather Service needs weather spotters. The NWS will be providing Skywarn spotter courses throughout the state. Residents in McMinn County who would like to become a certified Skywarn spotter will have an opportunity to attend a free training course in Athens on March 27th. The course will be held at 6 p.m. in the McMinn County Emergency Operations Center at 1107 Congress Parkway, South. To register, click "Register here"

National & World News

Shamrock Shuffle

5K & 1 Mile Fun Run

REKA TRAD

TO REGISTER

Athens, Tennessee

park

◆ Nearly one million people are without power across the Northeast as the region digs out from its second nor'easter in seven days. Two to three feet of snow fell from New Jersey to New England as the major nor'easter swept across the Northeast.

◆ Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is in London for a three-day state visit. This is his first global tour since taking office and will include stops in New York and Washington.

◆ A former Russian spy and his daughter were exposed to a nerve agent and remain critically ill after they were discovered unconscious Sunday in Salisbury, England. Yulia Skripal, 33, was visiting her father, Sergei Skripal, 66, before the two fell suddenly ill. The incident is being treated as attempted murder

• COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ You are invited to a community gathering next Tuesday, March 13th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Knight Park near Downtown Athens. The event is free and open to the entire community. There will be food, music, games, and conversations about what you would like to do and see in Athens. The event is hosted by The Athens Thriving Community Team.

✓ The next meeting of the Cancer Support Group at Athens Church of Christ will be next Tuesday, March 13th, at 6:30 p.m.



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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

• **Rachel Grace Crow Childers,** age 93, of Tellico Plains, died • Wednesday at Starr Regional Medical Center of Athens. She was a former real estate agent. At her request, there will be no formal visitation or funeral service. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

WACKER HIT BY FINE FROM STATE

A state investigation into a September 7th explosion at the Wacker plant in Charleston has resulted in five serious violations and a fine of \$25,000. The TOSHA report found Wacker failed to conduct necessary inspections and did not ensure materials, parts, and equipment were suitable for what they were being used for. The explosion resulted in a plant worker, a firefighter, four deputies, and seven residents treated at hospitals. Wacker announced this week that the incident was caused by a mechanical failure in the company's hydrogen recovery building. Wacker says a new piston in an upgraded compressor design fractured, resulting in the release of hydrogen that ignited. To restart the plant, Wacker says it will be returning to their original compressor design that has operated safely for years at other Wacker sites.

♦ MORE COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE: The Gem Players will hold auditions for the hilarious mystery comedy, *Death of a Doornale*, this Sunday, March 11, at 3 p.m. at the Gem Theater in Etowah. The roles available include three females and two males age 20 and above. For more information see their ad on page 1.

Church News & Events

- Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, 126 County Road 881 in East Etowah, will hold a one-year celebration this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. There will be special music by the Stewart Brothers and the Eastern Sky Singers. Dinner will be proved in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, call 744-4435.
- The Tennessee Wesleyan Choir will sing this Sunday at 11 a.m. at Wesley Memorial UMC of Etowah. The church is located at 932 Ohio Avenue.
- Lane Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Niota will observe Choir Day this Sunday at 3 p.m. The program will feature the North Point CP Church Choir from Sweetwater, the Watson Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church Choir from Charleston, The Dixson Family from Knoxville, and others. The church is located at 904 County Road 264.
- St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church in Athens will have a Men's Day breakfast on this Saturday, March 10th at 9 a.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Daniel Phillips from Cox Chapel. Men's Day will be Sunday March 11th. The morning speaker will be Elder Tommy Allen from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church at 11 a.m. The evening speaker will be Elder Chris Eady from Mount Pleasant Baptist at 3 p.m. The theme is "Who Is My Neighbor?"

