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Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The McMinn High School Class of 58 has cancelled the Class Reunion Dinner Meeting scheduled for this Saturday at 5 p.m. They hope to reschedule it next spring.
- ✓ This November 7th, the Etowah Arts Commission will provide the 29th Annual Young Authors' Conference. Considering community health concerns, the EAC will be shifting this conference to an online platform, which will allow them the opportunity to reach approximately 5,060 local children. Five well known authors and illustrators from across the country will provide unique videos for the event and discuss their work. Children will be advised on how to access the online event.
- ✓ Early voting for the upcoming Federal and State General Election and the Athens, Calhoun and Niota City Elections will be October 14th - 29th.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE TUESDAY P.M.

Tennessee: 194,611 cases, up 879. 2,420 deaths, up 31.

COUNTY	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	1,163 up 13	1,017	121	25
Meigs	232 up 4	214	15	3
Monroe	1,066 up 8	965	83	18
Polk	407 up 1	363	34	10
Bradley	2,972 up 5	2,811	144	17
Rhea	854 up 4	751	90	13

Man Electrocuted Stealing Copper

Athens police are investigating after a man was found dead in the wall of a condemned motel. Officers responded to the Athens Lodge on Liberty Branch Road near the I-75 Mt. Verd Road exit early Monday morning. The lodge is currently shut down by a court order declaring it to be nuisance property, meaning no one is allowed to be in it or on the property. A witness told officers they saw a car drive down the road to the lodge. The witness also told officers they saw someone running away from the



building, and that's when they called 911. When officers arrived, they heard water running. It was coming from the laundry room. Officers found a man in a recess behind one of the walls. He was deceased. After a brief investigation, police say it appears that the man was trying to steal copper components from the building and was accidentally electrocuted in the process. He was identified as Danny Lee Dawson of Athens. (Photo by www.newschannel9.com)

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



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As we continue to monitor the situation and to help lessen the risk of exposure of the virus to our valued citizens and employees of The City of Etowah, we will be conducting all meetings in a virtual setting until Governor Lee provides further guidance.

A Special Called Meeting in place of our postponed September 28, 2020 City Commission meeting will be conducted via teleconferencing beginning at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 5, 2020. A recording of the meeting will be posted via Facebook Live at the "The City of Etowah" Facebook page. The agenda is currently posted on our website. All citizens are encouraged to participate with comments during the meeting.

The link to our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofetowah>

Obituaries

- ♦ **Wanda Lee Rowell**, age 59, of Athens, died Saturday, September 26th. She retired as a medical assistant. A celebration of Life service will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Athens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.
- ♦ **Jerry M. Wallace**, age 81, of Niota, died Tuesday at his residence. He worked for Fox Photo for 27 years and served in the Air Force. Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Thursday, October 1st, at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs is in charge.
- ♦ **Dorothy (Dot) Oliphant Anderson**, age 89, of Cleveland (and a native of Riceville), died Sunday, September 27th, at Life Care Center of Cleveland. She had worked for many years for various doctors in Cleveland and Chattanooga as a medical assistant and office manager. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday in the Cleveland Chapel of Companion Funeral Home, with a service celebrating her life at 1 p.m.

◆ MONDAY STORMS CAUSES OUTAGES

The storms that moved across Athens Monday night caused several power outages as a result of damage to trees by lightning. A lightning strike caused a span of primary wire to come down near County Road 666. A tree fell on E. Farrell Street in Niota, taking down two spans of primary wire in the process. In Athens, 35 customers lost power by a bad section of primary line that blew a fuse. A circuit at the North Athens substation was knocked out of power by a large tree that fell, and 373 customers lost power.

Halloween: BooM or Bust?

Halloween as always will be October 31st. But the observance will be a lot different this year as a result of the COVID pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control has released guidelines for families wanting to celebrate Halloween. The guidelines discourage people from most of the fun activities associated with Halloween.

The CDC lists several **low-risk activities**:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household
 - Decorating your house
 - Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Moderate risk activities:**
- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or the edge of the yard)
 - Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or apples.

High risk activities:

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door
- Having a trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots.
- Going to indoor haunted houses where people may be crowded together and screaming



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