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Today's News... This Morning

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Whiting Ordered to Pay Court Costs on Yet Another Failed Lawsuit

Another lawsuit filed against the City of Athens by Glenn Whiting has been dismissed by the McMinn County Chancery Court. Whiting claimed when the suit was filed that the City of Athens failed to provide Whiting with several documents that he had requested through the Tennessee public records act. Also, Whiting claimed that one of the documents he did receive was too heavily redacted. Chancellor Jerri Bryant in her summary, stated that the "Defendant (City of Athens) argues the redactions were because of public policy. It is the City's position the report of sexual harassment should be confidential and the parties accused, as well any potential victims, be protected from public disclosure as a matter of public policy as it creates an atmosphere of trust between the Human Resources Department and the employees of the City of Athens and to allow disclosure would otherwise have a chilling effect to all individuals, including victims, when there are no disciplines or formal complaints filed." Another document request by Whiting was emailed to a person who no longer worked for the City and as a result, that is why he never received a response. The other requests were handled properly according to the summary. Chancellor Bryant stated: "this Court finds the Plaintiff (Whiting) has failed to prove a violation of the Tennessee Public Records request by the Defendant (City of Athens). Whiting was also ordered to pay all court costs.

Church News & Events

~ Everlasting Life Christian Center of Etowah is holding a women's conference this Saturday at the Niota Depot and on Sunday at the church located at 1710 Hwy 411, South, Etowah. See their ad on page 4 for details and a link.

~ New Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, County Road 326, Sweetwater, is having Homecoming, Sunday, Sept. 8th at 11am. Guest singer will be Billy Hodges, formerly with the Kingdom Heirs.

~ Old National Bank and the leadership of St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church have met and have established an account for anyone that would like to make a monetary donation to assist the church going forward. Donations can be made at any Old National Bank office or mailed to Old National Bank, 106 West Washington Avenue, Athens, TN 37303. Checks should be made payable to St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church.

~ Celebrate Recovery meets every Thursday at 6:00 P.M. at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur).

~ First Church of God will be hosting their Homecoming Service on Sunday September 8 beginning at 10:15 a.m. There will be lunch served after the service and singing will then follow. The church is located at 300 Congress Pkwy N., in Athens (across from Dooley Tractor Company).

~ Niota UMC will be having a new worship service on the first Wednesday of every month called "The Welcome Table." The first service is Wednesday 9/4 at 6pm at the church fellowship hall. All ages are welcome.

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Friday, August 30, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

21st Annual Pumpkintown is Saturday, October 12



Historic downtown Athens, Tennessee and Friendly City Festivals are busy preparing for one of East Tennessee's favorite fall festivals – Pumpkintown: A Festival of History, Harvest and Heritage on Saturday, October 12th. Scheduled from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., this will be the 21st annual festival celebrating the rich cultural history of East Tennessee by highlighting Native American culture, local history and displaying elements of times past that are unique and interesting for all ages. Pumpkintown is among the area's premier fall festivals and is one of the largest annually attended events in McMinn County will over 22,000 in attendance. The day-long celebration brings to life the rich cultural history and heritage of the county and is named for a former McMinn County settlement. If you were to try to locate Pumpkintown today, you'd find yourself somewhere on Mayfield Dairy Farm about two miles North of downtown Athens and yet still within the city limits. It's not certain

when Pumpkintown began or who founded it. It is known that around 1820, a postmaster for Pumpkintown was named. Hugh Kelso, one of the first postmasters in McMinn County, distributed mail arriving by stagecoach. The county itself was newborn, formed in 1819 and named after Joseph McMinn who governed Tennessee at the time. Pumpkintown was once described as a home for "transients and ne'er-do-wells", and it is surmised the name came from the native crop grown on the premises. Legend would have us believe that Pumpkintown was considered to be the actual site for what would become The City of Athens, but that didn't quite happen. After much discussion and dissent, the permanent location of the county seat was located midpoint in the county on donated land and the little pioneer settlement was eventually absorbed into Athens. Pumpkintown provides a variety of events for all ages to enjoy. Old favorites will be returning including the Scott Crisp Memorial PowWow, the famous Mutt Strut/Doggie Costume Contest/ Adopt-a-Thon sponsored by the McMinn Regional Humane Society, a historical walk through downtown Athens highlighting The Battle of Athens conducted by The History Honchos, CASA Corridor of East Tennessee Celebrity Dunk Tank and pumpkin painting at The Arts Center. Live entertainment on two stages, Mr. and Miss Pumpkintown presented by Dance Productions Studio of Performing Arts, CASA Corridor Parrot Parr-ty 5k/1 mile run and over 200 info, food and craft vendors as well as shopping at local businesses round out the venue. There will be plenty of childrens' activities throughout the venue as well as a petting zoo, pony rides, inflatables, reptile zoo and lots of interactive vendors for all ages. "We have a saying in Athens and McMinn County that is so true-if you can't find something to do, see, eat or enjoy while you're here, it's not our fault", said Meredith Willson, President of Friendly City Festivals. "Thanks to our community, vendors and attendees, Pumpkintown has enjoyed great success for the past 20 years and we look forward to another exciting year for this event." Pumpkintown is a free to the public production by Friendly City Festivals made possible by the following sponsors: The City of Athens Hotel/Motel Tax Fund, McMinn Tourism Board, VEC Customer Shares, Tennessee Overhill Association, TVA, Tennessee Arts Commission, Citizens National Bank of Sevier County, Athens Kiwanis Club, Simmons Bank, Simmons Wealth Management Group, Starr Regional Medical Center, Kona Ice, Pendleton's Playground, Starr Regional Medical Center, Mayfield Dairy Farm, DENSO, Dynasty Spas and Pools, Humana, Valley Oil, Wolfenden Family Pharmacies and Warren Jackson CPAs. For more information about Pumpkintown 2024, please contact Meredith Willson at 423/887-3544 or by email at meredithw2009@comcast.net.

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Friday, August 30, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

United Way Supports Senior Center

The McMinn Senior Activity Center has received generous support from the United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties to bolster its Lunch with Friends Program. This initiative provides up to three dozen senior citizens with a daily free, nutritious meal in a communal setting. Beyond the meal, the program enhances the quality of life for seniors by reducing hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition, while promoting social engagement and overall well-being.

Since its inception in 2017, the Lunch with Friends Program has thrived thanks to community support, including contributions from local organizations like Morning Pointe Assisted Living and Starr Regional Medical Center. Volunteers play a crucial role in preparing meals, utilizing donations from the community, such as the recent gift from the United Way.

Executive Director Diane Hutsell emphasized the program's importance, especially as older adults face challenges like rising food costs, health issues, and the loss of independence. The Center, serving seniors since 1974, is committed to empowering older adults through various programs that promote a healthy mind, body, and spirit.

For more information about participating in the Lunch with Friends Program or other activities at the McMinn Senior Activity Center, contact 423-745-6830 or visit 205 McMinn Ave, Athens, TN.

Community News You Can Use

- Saturday, September 28, at 9 a.m. at AgCentral Co-op, is the McMinn County 4-H Chicken Show and Sale. Three breeds of laying hens are available for purchase: Rhode Island Red, Brown Star, and Barred Rock. Come experience some small town fun and bring laying chickens home to eat fresh eggs and support your McMinn County 4-H'ers. All Buyers Welcome. For more information call 423-745-2852.
- The VFW is having their Annual Turkey Shoot beginning on Saturday, September 14, from 8am-12 Noon and each Saturday through November 23 at VFW Post #5146 at 706 North Congress Parkway in Athens. They are raising funds for their Christmas baskets to be distributed to Veterans & spouses. For more information, call 423-745-8387.
- Isaiah 117 House, a Tennessee nonprofit supporting children awaiting foster placement, will host its annual golf tournament on Friday, September 27, at Springbrook Golf & Country Club. The event will feature breakfast, lunch, prize opportunities, and free Titleist gear for all participants. Registration opens at 7 a.m. for the morning flight and 12 p.m. for the afternoon flight, with shotgun starts at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sponsorships are available. To register or become a sponsor, visit www.isaiah117house.com/golf and select Monroe-McMinn County. For more details, contact Jennifer Collins, Monroe-McMinn Location Leader at (423) 519-3393
- Etowah Carnegie Library is hosting Toddler Storytimes in partnership with Nurture the Next McMinn, where they read, play, and build strong brains. The first storytime will begin at 11am on Wednesday, 9/4. This program is designed for children 2-4. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit www.etowahlibrary.com.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Friday - 50% T'storms. High 94.
Fri. Night - Low 69.
Sat. - 70% T'storms. High 89. Low 69.
Sun. - 70% 70% T'storms. High 85. Low 68.
Mon. - 40% T'storms. High 86. Low 65.
More Weather at: wysi.com

Friday, August 30, 2024 Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

Kaylyn Tincher Represents McMinn County in D.C.



McMinn Central High School student and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Ocoee Region's Etowah Unit member, Kaylyn Tincher, represented her Club and the McMinn County community in Washington, D.C. as a part of an annual teen trip last month. Teen members of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Ocoee Region traveled to the Nation's Capital to attend The Summit for America's Youth – Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth advocacy event. While at the conference, Kaylyn and her group attended leadership courses, career expos, and learned about the importance and methods of interacting with one's local, state, and federal government all before traveling to Capitol Hill where they spent a full day meeting with staff teams of legislators to garner support for Boys & Girls Club programs. Additionally, Kaylyn and her peers were able to experience many DC highlights including the Capitol Building, all major national monuments, and most notably, received an exclusive invitation to tour the White House. Kaylyn, who is a freshman at McMinn Central High School states, "I am so grateful for the opportunity the Club has given me to see the country and get out of my comfort zone. It was a privilege to represent my community and my Boys & Girls Club." At the Etowah Unit, Kaylyn serves as the President of her Club's "Keystone Club" which is Boys & Girls Clubs' nationally chartered teen leadership program. Through this program, Kaylyn and her fellow Keystone Club members work to create projects and host events that support both the local community and the Etowah Unit. Following the trip, Kaylyn also shared how inspired she is to come home and continue serving others through the Keystone Club program. This school year, Kaylyn also plans to participate in Boys & Girls Clubs of the Ocoee Region's annual scholarship competition, Youth of the Year. The Boys & Girls Club is a safe environment for K-12 students during out-of-school time that provides meaningful relationship, academic support, and life-changing opportunities. Boys & Girls Clubs of the Ocoee Region serves youth at 17 sites across Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Polk, and Rhea counties. For more information on enrollment or involvement with the Etowah Unit, please contact

Etowah Unit Director, Sierra Fischer at sfischer@bgcocoee.org. For more information on teen programming and opportunities provided by Boys & Girls Clubs to middle and high school students, please contact Director of Teen Services, Jared Goins at jgoins@bgcocoee.org. To learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of the Ocoee Region, visit their website at bgcocoee.org. *Source: Sierra Fischer - Etowah Unit Director.*

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Praise and Worship Richarra Hardaway

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Speaker Elder Karen Nash
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Register: www.everlastinglifeetowah.com



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Friday, August 30, 2024 Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

Donald Jayroe of Calhoun was arrested by the THP for DUI. Bond Not listed.

Emma Reed, 25 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Simple Possession of Fentanyl, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$21,000.

Samuel Reed, 24 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$3,000.

Katie King, 30 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$2,969.90.

Nathan Wood, 42 of Madisonville, was arrested by the MCSO for Aggravated Domestic Assault, Vandalism, and Driving Without Due Care. Total Bond: \$4,000.

Jessie Fairbanks, 32 of Niota, was arrested by the MCSO was arrested for Parole Violations. No bond.

Dustin Lance, 26 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Public Intoxication, Disorderly Conduct, and Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$3,731.45

Ricky Rollins, 35 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Violation of Probation State. No Bond.

Clifton Sharp, 43 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for DUI. Total Bond: \$2,000.

James Ellison, 47 of Niota, was arrested by the MCSO and charged with Unlawful Carry/Possession of a Weapon. Total Bond: \$24,000.



Cody Chrisman, 32 of Decatur, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation, Violation of Probation State, and Resisting Arrest. Total Bond: \$809.45.

The accused remain innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from public sources.

Obituaries

Richard Lee (Nutty) McNutt, 69, of Riceville, passed away, Thursday, August 29 at his residence. He was an electrician with Webb Plumbing, Heating, and Electric Corp. until his retirement. The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 pm, Tuesday, September 3 at Smith Funeral Home. There will be no formal service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Richard Lee McNutt.

Lewis Ross Partain, 84 of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, August 28. Lewis retired from Norfolk Southern Railway after 32 years. The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 3 at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, September 4 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lewis Ross Partain.

Fred Lee Yoder Jr., 72, of Etowah, passed away Wednesday, August 28. Junior worked at Thomas and Betts/ABB as a Tool & Die Specialist for 48 years and retired in 2017. Funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, August 31st in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., Saturday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in Prospect Cemetery.

In Touch
with DR. CHARLES STANLEY

Weekdays
10:00 am - 10:30 am

Sundays
Noon - 12:30 pm

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