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Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ Power was knocked out to a wide area of Athens Tuesday morning after a squirrel got into the North Athens Substation.
- ✓ The monthly American Legion Fish Fry will take place this Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the VFW Post on North Congress Parkway. A donation gets you a platter of fried fish and all the trimmings. The proceeds go to help keep the big American flag flying at I-75 and exit 49.
- ✓ The McMinn County 4-H Photography Contest for 2021 is underway. To enter you must be a 4-Her in the 4th through 12th grade. You must be the photographer (no selfies). You must fill out the entry form from this website:
<https://McMinn.Tennessee.EDU/4-H-CLUBS/> For more information, call 745-2852. Deadline for entries is March 31st.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Tuesday 3-23

Tennessee: 803,104 cases, up 1,459. 11,747 deaths, up 34.

| COUNTY | CASES | ACTIVE | DEATHS |
|---------|--------------|--------|--------|
| McMinn | 6,125 | 98 | 94 |
| Meigs | 1,297 up 2 | 19 | 23 |
| Monroe | 5,512 up 5 | 70 | 93 |
| Polk | 1,881 up 4 | 56 | 24 |
| Bradley | 13,779 up 49 | 442 | 142 |
| Rhea | 4,220 up 5 | 28 | 75 |

Woman Killed in I-75 Crash

A Decatur woman was killed in a one-vehicle traffic accident on I-75 in McMinn County Monday afternoon. The Tennessee Highway Patrol reports that Surlina Easton, 49, was a passenger in a Honda Civic driven by 45-year-old Emerson Eaton of Decatur. The THP says the vehicle was traveling northbound on I-75 when the driver lost control and ran off the right side of the roadway, striking a tree. The THP says charges against Eaton are pending. The wreck happened around 12:45 p.m. Monday at mile marker 57.4.

NO ATHENS CHAMBER ANNUAL BENEFIT IN 2021
The Athens Chamber of Commerce has decided not to hold the annual June Benefit Dinner this year. Chamber CEO Rob Preston says it takes about a year to plan such an event, and the situation in the world has made it tough to do that for 2021. He says he hopes to make an announcement about plans for 2022 in 30 to 40 days. Over the years, the event has featured such speakers as former President George W. Bush, golfer Jack Nicklaus, football star Peyton Manning, baseball and football star Bo Jackson, and Alabama football coach Nick Saban. You may remember that last year's dinner with Jack Nicklaus had to be postponed from June until October due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

◆ The guest on the Women at the Well radio show, "Hope From the Well," this week will be Anthony Greev. "Hope From the Well" is heard at 8:15 a.m. Thursday on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5 or [ONLINE](#).

PLANTED IN CHRIST OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP

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Outreach Deliverance Classes are held every Thursday 7:00 pm at Planted in Christ Outreach Fellowship. Located at: 317 Maple Street in Athens. For more information: call 423-435-8986

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT
MARCH Specials >> 2 Country Ham Biscuits \$3
2 Fish Sandwiches \$6
5 Meals for \$5 ea. • 32 oz Tea \$1
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South Congress Parkway 744-5292

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medical center for women

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Athens Center
213 E. Washington Ave.
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WYXI RADIO
FM 94.5 AM 1390

The Trading Post

Daily Monday - Saturday Morning
8:45 am - 9:30am and
Monday - Friday Afternoon
4:15pm to 4:45 pm

WEATHER FORECAST
Wednesday - Cloudy. Possible showers. High 70.
Wednesday night - Cloudy & mild. Low 58.
Thursday - Possible rain & t'storms. High 70.
Friday - Partly sunny & pleasant. High 72.
More weather at: wysi.com



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Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Rosemary Marie Sledge**, age 69, of Athens, died Tuesday at her home. Companion Funeral Home of Cleveland is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Helen Elaine Barber**, age 74, of Englewood, died Monday at her home. She worked in outside insurance sales for most of her adult life. She volunteered for many years at Contact and Welcome Wagon of Athens. Funeral services will be 2 p.m., Friday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 5-8 p.m., Thursday at Laycock-Hobbs.

MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The McMinn County Senior Center is once again accepting appointments for the ARRP Foundation's free tax preparation. All of the available appointments had been filled. However, now that the IRS is extending the tax filing deadline until May 17, they are able to take more appointments. You can call the Senior Center on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 745-6803 to schedule a tax appointment.

✓ The transgender sports bill requiring students to prove their sex at birth in order to play middle and high school sports is headed to Governor Bill Lee's desk to be signed into law, now that it has been passed in both the House and the Senate.

Meet the Prom Dress Lady

Mattie Cardin is the force behind The Prom Closet at Englewood Church of God. Mattie, who is a senior at TWU, started The Prom Closet three years ago in order to provide free prom dresses to young ladies who cannot afford a dress. She said there is a big need for women "who cannot go out and spend a couple hundred dollars on a dress that they're going to wear for a couple hours."

The first year saw 80 dresses donated. This year, there were 185 dresses. More than 50 visitors attended the 2021 Prom Closet event, with 37 dresses picked out. Mattie says The Prom Closet provides one-on-one, boutique-style consulting for young women who cannot afford a dress or other prom services, all at no cost. She says women in the church volunteer to act almost like a consultant. They take the young ladies and go through all the different dresses. There are dresses in sizes 00 all the way to size 24, in every color, shape, size, or material you can think of, and the volunteers make them feel as beautiful as they possibly can.

Mattie graduates in December, but she plans to continue providing the prom dress service to the young ladies in the Athens area.



TODAY IN HISTORY - MARCH 24th

1820 - The American hymn writer Fanny Crosby was born. She became blind when she was only six weeks old. While attending a school for the blind, she began writing poetry. She later wrote hymns, publishing over 6,000. Many of those are still in our hymnbooks, such as "Blessed Assurance," "To God Be The Glory," "Rescue The Perishing," and "Pass Me Not, Oh Gentle Savior."

1874 - Magician and escape artist Harry Houdini was born in Hungary. He became a master of "escape," with acts in which he extricated himself from ropes, shackles, and locked containers. His most sensational feat consisted of escaping from an airtight tank that was filled with water.

1958 - Elvis Presley reported to local draft board 86 in Memphis, TN. He became US 53310761. Oddly, since Elvis was now 'government property' serving his time in the Army, Uncle Sam stood to lose an estimated \$500,000 in taxes each year that Private Presley was in the Army.

1970 - The People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East Is Red."

1989 - The nation's worst oil spill occurred as the supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking 11 million gallons of crude.

1990 - The space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

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