

**East Tennessee RENTAL & LEASING LLC**

We have a large fleet of vehicles to choose from including Vans, SUV's, Sedans & More.  
For more info contact:  
Jarin Cass or Michelle Vincent

East Tennessee Auto Outlet Hwy 30 E.  
[easttnrental@comcast.net](mailto:easttnrental@comcast.net)  
423-781-7154

# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News... This Morning

(Okay to copy, post or distribute with attribution)  
(Phone: 746-1390 Fax: 744-1390 e-mail: [wysi@bellsouth.net](mailto:wysi@bellsouth.net))

**PLANTED IN CHRIST OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP**

Help for Addiction to Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, Bondage, Anger Management and more Life Issues. Free

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

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

### Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The Athens Parks Department announces that registration is now open for the Co-Ed Adult Kickball League. The eight-game season takes to the field at Athens Regional Park with games being played on Thursdays from Sept. 2nd to October 21st. Kickball is a simple game that combines elements of soccer and baseball, using two teams, four bases, and a big red ball. For more information or to register, call 744-2700 ext. 3
- ✓ The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life McMinn will take place on August 21st from 5 to 10 p.m. at Market Park in Downtown Athens. The theme is "Paint the Town Purple." There will be food, fun, games, an auction, survivor recognition, a luminaria ceremony, and more. For more information, contact Angela Mathis at [angela.mathis@cancer.org](mailto:angela.mathis@cancer.org).

### ◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Tuesday 8-10

Tennessee: 927,010 cases up 3,490. 12,885 deaths up 41.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	7,135 up 37	316	107
Meigs	1,511 up 9	58	24
Monroe	6,325 up 46	236	98
Polk	2,246 up 14	99	24
Bradley	16,169 up 95	585	157
Rhea	4,635 up 26	165	83

### Athens City Council Called Meeting

The Athens City Council spent six hours Tuesday night in a special called meeting to discuss issues involving City Manager C. Seth Sumner and Police Chief Cliff Couch. There were eight items on the agenda, and only two items were covered. The Council voted to adjourn without taking any action on either item. A second meeting will be held later. Most of the meeting consisted of allegations and denials made by both Sumner and Couch. The first item on the agenda concerned the issue of two Google Nest cameras that mysteriously disappeared and later mysteriously reappeared. Very little new information about the cameras came out. Sumner testified that he talked to Detective Blake Witt about what kind of security cameras he should install at his home. He said Blake then handed him a box containing the two Nest cameras. Sumner said he put them in a chair in his office, and then returned them the next day without taking them home. He said he placed the box of cameras on Detective Witt's desk. Sumner said he got a call from Chief Couch 11 months later asking about the cameras. Couch said Sumner told him he never "took possession" of the cameras. Sumner denied using those words, and a person in his office at the time Couch called confirmed that. Chief Couch described how he had purchased a Trail camera and installed it in the "Sergeant's Closet." He said when he checked the camera to see what it had recorded, it showed Corporal Casey Patterson in the closet and appearing to reach up and turn off the camera. Patterson was questioned and said he did not turn off the camera and had gone into the closet looking for an evidence canister. Three hours of testimony and questioning by council members did little to shed any new light on what happened to the Nest cameras. The second item on the agenda involved claims by Chief Couch of retaliation against him by Sumner. He accused Sumner of harassing him and removing authority from him. He said he can no longer determine the promotional process within the police department, cannot fill vacant positions, and cannot pass police policy anymore. Couch said, "I just want to be able to run my police department." Sumner said he was hoping for the absolute best when he hired Couch as chief. He said his wife even called Couch his boy friend--the first person he talked to each morning and the last person he talked to at night. However, as time went along, Sumner said Couch began introducing politics within the police department. He accused Couch of allegations and lies. Sumner said there has been no retaliation toward the Chief. He said Couch has damaged the police department. After Sumner's summation, Councilman Dick Pelley said about half of what Sumner had said was "baloney," and asked if he would be willing to take a lie detector test. After six hours, the council adjourned.

**RENEW PRESSURE WASHING**

423-405-8280

EVERYTHING EXTERIOR  
FREE ESTIMATES

**RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT**

**Bojangles'**  
Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits

**AUGUST Specials >> Sausage & Egg Biscuits 2 / \$4  
8 Pc Tailgate Family Meal \$19.99  
5 Meals for \$5 ea. • 32 oz Tea \$1 •**

**NEW: Hand Breaded Chicken Sandwich \$3.99**  
BOJANGLES of Athens-South Congress Pkwy 744-5292

**WESTERN SIZZLIN'**  
RESTAURANT

WE'RE OPEN: Now Serving our Famous Flamelkist Steaks and All You Can Eat Soup & Salad Bar  
Wednesday: 11a-4p Petite Sirloin w/salad bar, \$10.99  
1804 Decatur Pike 423.745.2626

**MEDIC**  
REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER

1 DONATION SAVES 3 LIVES

**Athens Center**  
213 E. Washington Ave.  
Athens, TN 37303  
Monday-Friday  
8:30 am - 5 pm

FOR A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO The Morning Fax<sup>®</sup> CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

**WVLT RADIO**  
FM 94.5 AM 1300

**The Trading Post**

Daily Monday - Saturday Morning 8:45 am - 9:30am and Monday - Friday Afternoon 4:25pm to 4:55 pm


**WEATHER FORECAST**

**Wednesday** - Intervals of sunshine & clouds with possible t'storm. High 90.  
**Wednesday night** - Humid & cloudy. Low 72.  
**Thursday** - Warm, humid, & cloudy with possible strong t'storms. High 92.  
More Weather at: [wysi.com](http://wysi.com)

EARN UP TO  
**2.01%** APY\*  
on balances up to \$20,000 with **Bonus Rate Checking**

**SouthEast**  
bank  
Member FDIC

Make the switch to SouthEast Bank Athens  
1878 S. Congress Parkway



\*APY= annual percentage yield. Rates subject to change after account opening. APYs are accurate as of 06/07/2021. To earn Bonus Rate, each month the account must be enrolled in eStatements and post and clear at least 15 debit transactions of \$1 or more. If all qualifications are met during the statement cycle, a bonus rate of 2.01% APY on balances of up to \$20,000 and .20% APY on balances over \$20,000 will be credited. If bonus qualifications are not met during the statement cycle, a rate of .05% APY of the balance will be credited. Interest earnings are based on daily collected balances and are credited monthly to the account. Qualifying transactions include point of sale or online purchases using the SouthEast Bank debit card. ATM and cash-only transactions do not qualify towards the minimum debit card transaction amount. A paper statement fee of \$3 is assessed if not enrolled in eStatements; paper statement fee will be waived with a monthly average balance of \$1,200. This is a variable rate tiered account. Fees may reduce earnings. Some Fees and restrictions apply. Visit southeastbank.com or ask an associate for complete details.

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Evelyn Moore “Footy” Lambert**, age 86, of Englewood, died on July 30th. She had worked as a postmaster, a medical transcriptionist, and a medical receptionist. She also taught Sunday School for many years. A memorial service will be held this Saturday at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Athens, with visitation from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the church atrium.

♦ **Bettye Janie Bandy Guffey**, age 62, of Athens, died unexpectedly on Monday at her home. She worked for Damy Industries for many years. The family will receive friends from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday at Boyd Memorial 1st Church of God, with the funeral to follow at 2 p.m. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

### DOWNTOWN ATHENS FLASHBACK

Seen recently on Facebook was this photo of the old McMinn County Courthouse. The courthouse burned in 1964 and was replaced by the current courthouse. The old courthouse was surrounded by stately trees with benches underneath. On Saturdays families would come to town. While the womenfolk were shopping, the men would sit on the benches and “spit and whittle” and swap stories.



## Athens Schools Open Without Masks

The Athens City schools resumed classes this past Monday. School Director Robert Greene appeared on “Main Street Moments” heard Tuesday on WYXI Radio and brought listeners up to date on the schools and how they are dealing with COVID at this point:

- Greene says there will be no virtual (online) classes this year, except for children who are quarantined and cannot come to school.
- No masks are required at this point for teachers, staff, or for students.
- The schools are open to visitors. That was not the case last year.
- They will be doing social distancing and extra cleaning.
- They will not be checking temperatures. Last year, temps were even checked when students boarded their buses.
- However, Greene says things may change as the numbers of COVID cases in the schools go up. He says they will probably initiate mask rules if the numbers increase as they are predicted to do.



Full-Time Teller  
Athens Branch

Please email inquiries and resumes to [HR@PeoplesBank-TN.com](mailto:HR@PeoplesBank-TN.com)

**Now Hiring**

MEMBER  
FDIC



**FULL COLOR • UV RATED**

**BANNERS**

**LOWEST PRICES IN TOWN**

- SEAMED
- GROMMETS
- CUSTOM SIZES
- DESIGN SERVICE

STARTING AT  
**\$25**



**1610 CONGRESS PARKWAY  
423-453-5425**