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Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

New State DUI Laws Begin on July 1

Two new DUI laws will take effect in Tennessee on July 1. One law increases the severity of penalties for first-time offenders, while the other changes the location where offenders serve their sentences. The legal blood alcohol limit will be lowered from 0.2% to 0.15%, and the minimum jail time for first-time offenders will increase from 48 hours to seven days. This stricter penalty may result in more cases going to trial as defendants might plead not guilty more frequently. Additionally, the new law allows first-time DUI offenders, at the discretion of the judge and prosecutor, to serve their sentence in an alternative facility instead of jail. These alternative facilities will provide counseling and DUI classes, although offenders will still be confined.

◆ The guest this week on "Hope From the Well" will be **Chastity Humphrey**. "Hope From the Well" is heard each Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens City Council met in regular session last evening. Major items on the agenda included: City Attorney Chris Caldwell presented the results of his investigation concerning several organizations in the City that have imposed a ban of Council Member Dick Pelley from participating in any future events at the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Wesleyan University and the McMinn Senior Activity Center. The City Attorney also presented his investigation of Council Member Pelley who allegedly acted unilaterally to post flags at Veterans Park bypassing established protocols, violations of state law, the city charter and creating a potential liability to the city. A vote was taken and passed to hold a public meeting to review the charges against Pelley and to consider an ouster to remove him from office. The city also approved a \$130,000 purchase of a tract of land on Elizabeth Street for a proposed fire station #3. Also, the budget for the new fiscal year was passed on final reading.
- Today, June 19th, is now a national, state and local holiday. Its official name is Juneteenth and commemorates the day in 1865 when the last group of slaves were emancipated and given their freedom in the Galveston, Texas area. The Athens City Municipal Building will be closed as well as most financial institutions. The local chapter of the NAACP will hold a Juneteenth celebration of culture this Saturday, June 22nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at J.L. Cook Memorial Park at 414 Cook Drive here in Athens. The free event will have live music, food and dancers.
- The McMinn County Highway Department has announced that County Road 718, Nipper Road, will be closed on Thursday, June 20 and Monday June 24, from 8 am - 4 pm for road construction.

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Wednesday, June 19, 2024

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Evetta Moses Higdon, age 79, native and longtime resident of McMinn County, passed away on Monday, June 17. She attended Athens Free Saints True Holiness Church. The family will receive friends from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Thursday, June 20, at Ziegler Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 21, at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Evetta Moses Higdon.

Closures Continued

before your scheduled pick-up day. Commercial/Industrial garbage routes will also be on regular schedule. ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. CONTACT MCMINN 911 COMMUNICATIONS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

July 4th City Office Closures

The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following holiday closure: The Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and Animal Control will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2024 in observance of Independence Day. The Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and the Animal Shelter will re-open Friday, July 5, 2024 during regular business hours. The residential garbage route for Thursday, July 4, 2024 will be picked up on its regular schedule. All other residential garbage routes will also be on regular schedule. Please have garbage totes to the road the night

Story continued at top right

Arrest Reports

Ashley Pilkey, 24 of Cartersville, GA, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$3,000.

Aisha Brewster, 30 of Etowah, was arrested by the Athens PD for Possession of a Schedule VI Substance. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Justin Pilkey, 37 of Cartersville, GA, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$3,000.

Continued on Page 4

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Arrest Reports

James Richesin, 45 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the MCSO for Evading Arrest, Driving on a Restricted License, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange (*Substance Not Noted). Bond not noted.

Richard Brock, 43 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the MCSO for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Michael Wilson, 38 of Englewood, was arrested by the Athens PD for two counts of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Resisting Stop, Burglary of Motor Vehicle, Identity Theft/Use of Another's Information, Theft of Property under \$1000, Simple Possession of a Schedule VI substance, and Fugitive from Justice. Total Bond: \$88,500.

Dominique Taylor, 38 of Chattanooga, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$700.95.

Tyrone Stevenson, 60 of Chattanooga, was arrested by the Athens PD for Public Intoxication, and Public Indecency. Total Bond: \$3,000.

Christopher Butler, 34 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation, Driving on a Suspended License, Financial Responsibility, and Reckless Driving. No Bond Reported.

The accused remain innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
 All information attained from public sources.

What Day is It?

TODAY IN HISTORY—June 19

1903 - Baseball player Lou Gehrig was born. He was a star first baseman and hitter for the New York Yankees. He played in 2,130 consecutive games. He died at the age of 37 from a rare and fatal form of paralysis, which has since come to be called "Lou Gehrig's Disease."

1914 - Bluegrass pioneer Lester Flatt was born. Along with banjo player Earl Scruggs, he had scores of hit records, including "Foggy Mountain Breakdown," "Cabin In the Hills," and "The Ballad of Jed Clampett."

1934 - Congress created the Federal Communications Commission to regulate interstate communications, including radio and television broadcasting. Among other things, the FCC assigns frequencies and issues licenses.

2000 - The Supreme Court, in a 6-3 ruling, barred officials from letting students lead stadium crowds in prayer before football games.

TODAY IS:

- Juneteenth
- National Watch Day
- World Sauntering Day
- National Garfield the Cat Day



*Freedom Day.
 Emancipation Day
 Juneteenth.*

This day celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. It honors the history and journey of African Americans. Juneteenth officially became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021. This holiday is considered the longest running African American holiday and has been called America's second Independence Day.

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