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Today's News...This Morning

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St. Mark AME Zion Church Burns



One of Athens' most historical churches is no more. St. Mark AME Zion Church, established in 1864, caught fire Thursday afternoon and was virtually destroyed. It was located at 707 North Jackson St.,

next to the Athens-McMinn YMCA and was the last structure that remained of "Free Hill." It was at one time called the Freedom Church. The Church was built in the 1860's by one of its pastors. St. Mark Church also served as a school, a recreation center, and a meeting place for the African American Community of Athens.

Credits: Boggess Videography

Church News & Events

- [Rocky Mount Baptist Church](#) (1002 Rocky Mt. Rd., Athens) is celebrating their Homecoming on Sunday, August 18. Singer [Dave Raby](#) will be singing gospel music with the service beginning at 10 am and a fellowship meal to follow.
- [Athens Christian Church](#) (802 S. Matlock Ave., Athens) is having a [Back-to-School Bash](#) on Sunday, August 18 at 12 p.m. They will be having light refreshments, games, and snow cones. They are also collecting school supplies that they will give to families with school-age children. They will be first come, first serve.
- Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- Celebrate Recovery meets at the following churches: The Englewood Church of God every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Woodward Avenue Church of God every Tuesday at 6 p.m.
- Cornerstone Christian Fellowship (1012 Knight Road, Athens) is hosting a Public Service Car Wash on Saturday, August 17th from 9 a.m. to noon. See their ad on Page 3.

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Friday, August 16, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Athens Man Charged with Infant Child's Death



On August 12, at approximately 3:15 p.m., Chief Sapp of the Collegedale Police Department observed a maroon SUV driving erratically on College Drive East in Collegedale, TN. The driver, identified as Timothy Blackdeer, was holding an unresponsive infant in his arms. After pulling over, Blackdeer handed the child to Chief Sapp, who noted the child was limp and had blue lips.

Three bystanders, who were nurse practitioners, assisted in performing CPR on the infant. Despite their efforts, the child was later pronounced deceased at Erlanger Children's Hospital with a body temperature of 105.8° F. During the incident, Blackdeer admitted that the child had been left in the car all day while he was at work.

Detectives learned that Timothy Blackdeer, of Athens, discovered his child unresponsive in his vehicle after receiving a call from his wife while working at Collegedale Academy Middle School. Earlier that morning, Timothy had dropped off two of his three children at their babysitter's residence in Athens, but unknowingly left the third child in the car. His wife, Catelin, assumed the missing child was with the older children at the

babysitter's. After realizing the child was not at home, she called Timothy, leading to the tragic discovery.

Photo: Timothy Blackdeer / Credit: Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Obituaries

Steven Michael Burns, age 44, of Ten Mile, TN, went to meet his Lord and Savior on Saturday, August 10. He enjoyed watching wrestling, Penguins Hockey, Steelers football, and spending time on the lake. He will be deeply missed and forever in our hearts. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, August 18, 2024 at Olive Branch Event Center in Cleveland, TN from 4:00pm - 5:00pm. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Burns Family.

Sybol Irene Price Irons, 86, of the Pond Hill Community went Home to be with the Lord on August 15, surrounded by her family. Sybol was a member of Old Pond Hill Baptist Church. Funeral services will be 7:00 PM Friday, August 16 in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 4-7 PM prior to the service at the funeral home. Graveside services will be 10:00 AM Saturday, August 17 at Pond Hill Cemetery. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

September 14th 2024 • 9am - 5pm

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Friday, August 16, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn Senior Activity Center Hosts "Eggs & Issues" Legislative Breakfast



In celebration of the McMinn Senior Activity Center's 50th Anniversary as well as National Senior Center Month, the Center is hosting Eggs and Issues on September 9, at 9 am, a legislative breakfast featuring state, county, and city elected officials, the McMinn

County Sheriff and District Attorney as well as representatives from US Senator Marsha Blackburn and US Congressman Chuck Fleischmann's office. During the event, members of the community will have an opportunity to talk with their elected officials to discuss the important role our senior centers play in strengthening community connections as a place where older adults find friendship, meaning, and purpose as well as gain insights into current initiatives and key issues impacting the community and the state.

This event is open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to attend. Due to limited seating, advance registration is required. Please stop by the office or call 423-745-6830 to RSVP today.

This year's National Senior Center Month theme is Strengthening Community Connections. Centers across the country will be hosting special events, programs, and celebrations throughout September to raise aware-

ness about the services and programs offered at the Center. The Center is open to everyone aged 50 and up and to residents outside of McMinn County.

"There's never been a better time to come home to your senior center," said Diane Hutsell, McMinn Senior Activity Center's Executive Director. "Come see everything your local center has to offer." The McMinn Senior Activity Center has several activities planned for the rest of 2024 so be sure to SAVE THE DATE!

September 15, 2024-Car Cruise-In

September 21, 2024-Golden Gala Dinner & Trivia

October (Date to Be Announced)-Homecoming- See what's going on at the Center with Bingo, Shuffleboard, Billiards, Snooker, Crafts, and other family-friendly events

October 19, 2024-Community Resource Fair

October 25, 2024-2nd Annual Halloween Howl Costume Party

November 23, 2024-23rd Annual Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show

The nation's 10,000 senior centers are one of the most widely used services among America's older adults, connecting 1 million individuals each year to programs that improve their health, economic security, engagement, purpose, creativity, mobility, nutrition, and more—all in a social and fun environment. For more information on the Activity Center, contact the Center at 423-745-6830 or stop by from 8a-4p at 205 McMinn Ave; Athens, TN 37303.



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2 Corinthians 5:17

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Friday, August 16, 2024

Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

Amie Murphy, 45 of Lenoir City, was arrested by the Athens PD for Violation of Probation - Loudon County. No Bond.

Kandice Baker, 32 of Decatur, was arrested by the Athens PD for Public Intoxication. No Bond Reported.

Austin Whitehead, 31 of Knoxville, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Theft of Property over \$10,000. Total Bond: \$30,000.

Christian Morgan, 28 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the THP for DUI, Refused Implied Consent, Non Registered Vehicle, Violation of Due Care, Following Too Close, and Improper Display. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Cody Richesin, 33 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Criminal Trespass. Total Bond: \$1,500.

Peyton Buckner, 22 of Athens was arrested by the THP for Violation of an Order of Protection. Total Bond: \$6,000.

Alan Rednose, 60 of Decatur, was arrested for Driving on a Revoked License. Total Bond: \$1,000

Shane Kyker, 34 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Maintain Lane, No Insurance, and Possession of Schedule II Meth for Resale. Total Bond: \$17,000.

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



Bob Sellers

**August 18, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

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Threat Resolved at Central High

The following joint statement is from Justin Wallace, McMinn County Schools, and McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy:

“Early Wednesday morning McMinn Central High School administrators were made aware of a threatening social media post that caused concern. An immediate investigation was undertaken with the McMinn County Sheriff’s Department and Homeland Security to determine the origin and intent of the post and address the situation in the most appropriate manner. This was accomplished with two students identified and placed on suspension. Charges may follow as the investigation continues. As a precautionary measure, additional law enforcement and administrative personnel were present to ensure the safety of all at the school. Our students’ safety is our number one priority, and at no point were any of our students or staff at risk.

The McMinn County School District, Sheriff’s Department, and Homeland Security take our school’s safety seriously and will continue to work together to ensure that our students have a safe environment to receive a quality education.”