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Today's News... This Morning

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Monday, January 16, 2017

Athens, Tennessee

## State & Local News

### ◆ COUNCIL READY TO HIRE SUMNER

There will be a called meeting of the Athens City Council Monday at 4 p.m. at the Athens Municipal Building Training Room. The purpose of the meeting is to authorize the Mayor to execute an employment agreement for the position of City Manager between the City of Athens and Seth Sumner.

### ◆ A BAN ON FOOD STAMPS & "JUNK FOOD?"

A Tennessee lawmaker has introduced legislation seeking to ban the use of food stamps to buy items without nutritional value. Rep. Sheila Butt of Columbia says banned items would be those high in calories, sugar and fat, such as sodas, ice cream, candy, cookies, and cake.

### ◆ PEOPLE IN THE NEWS:

✓ State Senator Mike Bell of Riceville has been reappointed chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee. The committee is generally considered to be one of the most powerful in the General Assembly.

✓ Chris Liner has resigned from the Athens School Board. Liner has moved outside the city of Athens. School board members are required to live in the city. Liner has served on the school board for the past 14 years. The process of filling his seat will be discussed at the board's work session on Jan. 25th.

## National - World News

◆ The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is taking down the big tent. "The Greatest Show on Earth" will end in May following a 146 year run. Circus officials say ticket sales declined more than expected when elephants were removed from the circus last year. They cite declining attendance combined with high operating costs as reasons for closing.

### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The Executive Committee of Athens Main Street will hold a public meeting this Thursday, January 19th, at 5:30 p.m. in the event room of the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the \$100,000 Commercial Façade Improvement Grant that has been awarded to the City of Athens. Property owners within the downtown area can apply for building façade improvement funds. Downtown business owners and property owners are encouraged to attend.

✓ The Athens Parks and Recreation Department reminds you that the meeting for the 23rd annual Athens Soap Box Derby will be this Thursday at 6 p.m. in the courtroom at the Athens Municipal Building. All interested drivers should attend. This year's derby will be held on June 10th on Keith Lane. Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 17 are eligible to participate.

✓ The Athens City Council will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, at 6 p.m. in the Burkett Witt Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. The public is invited to attend.

### January is a

### No Joining Fee month!

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## GodSong Joins the Chamber

A ribbon cutting was held recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member GodSong Ministries, directed by Bob and Beth Burkey (Pictured below holding the scissors). Joining in the celebration, L to R: Dana Ferguson (Chamber Diplomat), Heather Kirkland (GodSong Board Member), Jackie Newman (Chamber Chairman), Lisa Dotson (GodSong Board Member), Kavitha Reddy (Chamber Board), Melanie Connatser (GodSong Board), Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Bob and Beth Burkey (Directors), Mark Cochran (McMinn County Mayor's Assistant), Jeremiah Burkey (Son of Bob and Beth), Cheryl Bressler (Diplomat), Gail Moser (GodSong Prayer Partner), Lisa Harrison (Diplomat), Preston Moser (GodSong Pray Partner), & Kim York (Diplomat)



## Obituaries

- ♦ **Elsie Mae Bright McMurray**, age 84, of Riceville, died last Thursday at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. She served as a caregiver for many years. Graveside services were held this past Saturday. Ziegler Funeral Home was in charge.
- ♦ **Charles F. "Possum" Lawson**, age 65, of Ten Mile (and formerly of Sweetwater), died January 10th at his home. He was a retired member of Pipe Fitters Local 102. A celebration of life service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday at Kyker Funeral Home in Sweetwater, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ **Iowa Eula Hamby**, age 90, of Etowah, died last Friday at Starr Regional and Rehab Center. Funeral services were held Sunday at Bordwine Funeral home.
- ♦ **Amy Elizabeth Morgan Feliciano**, age 36, of Rockford, Illinois, died January 2nd. She had a passion for the non-profit organization called "Set Her Free" that rescued and trained young women of Uganda. Her father, David Morgan, and several relatives live in the Athens area. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ **Iola "Nanny" Goodman** of Etowah died last Saturday at Starr Regional Nursing Home and Rehab Center. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Mars Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

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**TODAY IN HISTORY—JANUARY 16th**

**1910** - Baseball player Dizzy Dean was born. He wasn't given the name, Dizzy, at his birth on this day in 1910; but was named Jay Hanna Dean. Jay gained the reputation of being dizzy because of his malapropisms, used frequently in his later years. He was a star pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals during the 1930's and later became a popular radio sportscaster.

**1919** - The sale of alcoholic beverages in the U.S. was prohibited with the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Prohibition Era lasted until 1933 and was marked by extreme violence and Underworld gangs which supplied the public with illegal alcoholic beverages. Prohibition was repealed in 1933 after most Americans decided it had done more harm than good.

**1939** - The shrill siren call of radio's I Love a Mystery was heard for the first time as the show debuted on NBC's West-Coast outlets.

**1964** - The musical "Hello Dolly" starring Carol Channing opened on Broadway.