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Today's News... This Morning

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Monday, February 5, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

## Local & State News

### ◆ TBI INVESTIGATES FORMER VEC WORKER

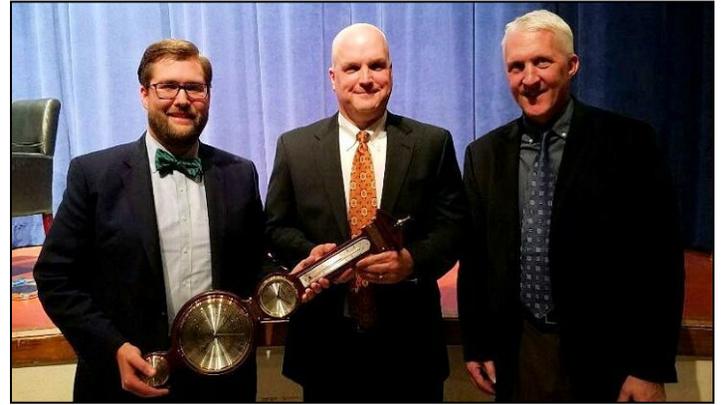
The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has been asked to help in the investigation of a former Volunteer Energy Cooperative employee who is suspected of theft. The employee was fired from his job in the VEC accounting department four weeks ago, and the Decatur Police Department was asked to investigate allegations of theft. Decatur Police Chief Monty Rowland asked the TBI for assistance. Chief Rowland is not disclosing any details about the investigation at this point, other than to say that investigations of white collar crimes can be lengthy and complicated. Chief Rowland also declined to reveal the former employee's name. However, VEC tells The Morning Fax that he is Jason Kittle. Kittle is 42 and lives in Athens. Sources close to the situation say the allegations involve theft of Volunteer Energy funds, possibly misuse of credit cards potentially totaling into the thousands of dollars. Chief Rowland says evidence gathered in the investigation will be turned over to the district attorney for possible submission to the Meigs County Grand Jury. At this point, no charges have been filed against Kittle.

**NOTE:** The Athens Parks Department is now taking registrations for the Eureka Trail Shamrock Shuffle 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run to be held on Saturday, March 17th, on the Eureka Trail. The race is a fundraiser to purchase solar safety lights along the trail. Save \$5 by pre-registering at 744-2704 or: [www.cityofathensstn.com/parks](http://www.cityofathensstn.com/parks)

## Adams is Man of the Year

The recipient of the annual J. Neal Ensminger Man of the Year Award is Athens banker Chris Adams. The award was presented this past Friday night at the annual Athens Area Chamber of Commerce awards program. Adams is a Vice President with Athens Federal Community Bank and currently serves as co-chair of the United Way fundraising campaign. He is pictured with Greg Moses, Daily Post-Athenian editor, on the left and DPA publisher Jeff Schumacher on the right. Moses was named Young Man of the Year.

(Photo by Rob Preston. More winners in Tuesday's **Morning Fax**)



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**WEATHER FORECAST**

**Monday** - Mostly sunny, high of 42.  
**Mon. night** - Clear, low of 29.  
**Tuesday** - 30% chance of rain, high of 52.  
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Monday, February 5, 2018 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Danny Lee Branham**, age 64, of Athens, died Friday at his home. He worked for many years at the K-25 plant in Oak Ridge and had owned Branham Artificial Mountain Stone for 30 years. He and his wife, Kay, owned Kay's Mr. Twister Restaurant in Ten Mile for 9 years and K-D's Restaurant in Athens for 5 years. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.

♦ **Alice Faye Payne**, age 81, of Knoxville, died Tuesday. She was retired from Etowah Manufacturing. Funeral services will be held at 12 noon Monday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

♦ **Billy C. Pritchard**, age 72, of Etowah, died Friday at UT Medical Center. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home of Athens.

♦ **Glen Edward Witt**, age 70, of Athens, died Thursday. He was a former employee of Athens Products, and served in the Air Force during the Vietnam era. Funeral services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday prior to the service.

♦ **Nancy Jane Moates**, age 71, of Etowah, died Friday. She retired from Etowah Utilities after 33 years. Funeral services will be Monday at 7 p.m. at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.

## House Fire in Rogers Creek

The Mark Howard residence in the Rogers Creek community was destroyed by fire this past Thursday. More than 30 firefighters responded. No one was at home at the time of the fire. (Photo by Van Elkins, chaplain of the Idlewild Fire Department)



### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Athens City Council holds its monthly Study Session tonight at 5:45 in the City Hall Conference Room.
- ✓ The McMinn County Election Commission will have a special called meeting Tuesday, Feb. 6th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Blue Room of the Courthouse to discuss personnel issues.
- ✓ You are invited to practice your Spanish and English language skills during Conversation Night at the E.G. Fisher Library at 6 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

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