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Today's News...This Morning

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Thursday, January 14, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Funeral Home Employee Arrested

A former employee at Serenity Funeral Home in Etowah faces charges that he stole money from the funeral home and from its patrons during his ten years of employment. A McMinn County Grand Jury indicted Brian Miracle this week on charges that include two counts of theft of property and one count of burglary other than habitation. The crimes were discovered last September at Serenity Funeral Home. The incident was immediately reported to the Etowah Police Department, which began an investigation. Police determined that Miracle was making unauthorized transactions and misusing a credit card belonging to Serenity Funeral Home. Losses totaled \$80,000. It was also discovered that an estimated \$13,000 was taken from individuals and not turned over to the funeral home for payments made toward funerals. Brian Miracle was arrested on Tuesday on two grand jury indictments for theft over \$60,000 and theft over \$10,000 and booked at the McMinn County Jail. He was released after posting bond. Miracle's address is listed on the booking report at the jail as Peerless Road in Cleveland. He is 43 years old.



Community News You Can Use

- ✓ State Sen. Mike Bell of Riceville has been reappointed to serve as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Bell, along with State Rep. Mark Cochran, will be interviewed live on the news at 8 a.m. today (Thursday) on WYXI Radio, FM 94.5 & AM 1390.
- ✓ The McMinn County Honor Guard needs veterans to volunteer to serve. The Honor Guard participates in military burials, providing 21-gun salutes, etc. You must be an honorably discharged veteran and from McMinn County to be a part of the Honor Guard. For more information, call Bill Anderson at 507-7198.
- ✓ County health departments in Tennessee are now booking appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations for people 75 and older online. In McMinn County, go to: www.signupgenius.com/go/mcminn-waiting-list or you can call 745-7431. If you have already had the first vaccination, the health department will notify you of your appointment for the second shot.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Wednesday P.M.

Tennessee: 665,499 cases, up 4,625. 8,148 deaths, up 137.

COUNTY	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	4,922 up 24	4,349	501	72
Meigs	1,091 up 6	958	117	16
Monroe	4,397 up 39	3,857	478	62
Polk	1,366 up 10	1,182	167	17
Bradley	10,355 up 109	9,199	1,066	90 up 1
Rhea	3,694 up 30	3,212	427	55 up 1



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 Monday through Friday
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 Week in
 Review 4-7 pm

*Having more fun than a human being should be allowed to have
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We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:
wysi@bellsouth.net

WYXI FM 94.5 & AM 1390
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 Click the Listen Live Logo **LISTEN LIVE** 

WEATHER FORECAST
Thursday - Mostly cloudy. Possible rain in p.m. High 46.
Thursday Night - Snow & rain with little accumulation. Low 35
Friday - Cloudy with some snow in a.m. High 40.
Friday Night - Low clouds. Low 29.
 More Weather at: wysi.com

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 3 to 4 p.m. & 7 to 9 p.m.
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Thursday, January 14, 2021 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Peggy Hall Wall**, age 73, of Tellico Plains and Niota, died December 30th. She taught school at Tellico Plains Junior High and High School. After retirement, she became a substitute teacher at Niota Elementary School. A private celebration of life will be held. Myers Funeral Home of Tellico Plains is in charge.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET REPORT:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 8.22 to 31,060.47. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 8.65 to 3,809.84, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 56.52 points to 13,128.95.

UNITED WAY SEEKING NOMINATIONS

United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties is now accepting nominations for the Dick Dyer Community Service Award. The award is given each year to an individual who exemplifies Mr. Dyer's exceptional vision and caring spirit for the community. He was the first director of United Way. The recipient should have made significant contributions to the community through church or civic activities. The award will be given at the United Way Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on Feb. 25th. To submit an application, mail it to P.O. Box 1681, Athens, TN 37371. Previous recipients include James H. Willson, C. Scott Mayfield, William Sullins, George Price, Harold "Prof" Powers, Joe Jaquish, Dixie Liner, Frank Davis, and Mary Brown.

Meet Kevin Goins

Athens Utilities Board has a new Power Superintendent. Kevin Goins was named to the position this week as David St. John, AUB's current power division leader, prepares to leave AUB to be a consultant in the power industry. Goins has been at AUB for more than 20 years, beginning as an intern before becoming a full-time employee in the spring of 2000. A year later, he moved from water and wastewater to the company's power division. Goins has moved through the roles of apprentice lineman, lineman, assistant crew foreman, line crew foreman, and Director of Power Systems. Now, he takes on the top job in the division as Power Superintendent. Goins is married to Allison and they have five children.



THAT WAS FREEZING FOG, NOT SNOW

We woke up Wednesday morning to find something that looked like snow on the ground. It wasn't snow, though. It was something the weather service calls freezing fog. Bruce Hari took this photo on their farm.



TODAY IN HISTORY - JANUARY 14th

1741 - Benedict Arnold, the American Revolutionary War general and traitor, was born. Arnold was in command of West Point in 1780 and devised a scheme to surrender the fort to the British. The plan was exposed before it could take place. Arnold escaped to New York City, where he became a general in the British army.

1914 - Henry Ford began the assembly-line method of building cars on this date. The first car to roll off the line was the famous "Model T" Ford.

1938 - Singer Jack Jones was born. Among his hit records, "Dear Heart" and "Lollipops and Roses."

1951 - The first National Football League Pro Bowl All-Star Game was played -- in Los Angeles, California. The American Conference defeated the National Conference in a squeaker -- 28-27.

1954 - Marilyn Monroe married baseball great, Joe DiMaggio. The marriage lasted nine months. After her death (in 1962), DiMaggio had red roses delivered to her crypt two to three times a week for some twenty years.

1964 - A hootenanny was held for the first time at the White House, as the New Christy Minstrels entertained President and Lady Bird Johnson, as well as Italy's President.

2005 - A European space probe sent back the first detailed pictures of the frozen surface of Saturn's moon, Titan.