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Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Athens, Tennessee

8:30 am - 5 pm

Chamber Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for Athens Area Chamber Commerce member, McMinn County Historical Society & Archives, located at 107 W. College St., Athens. Chamber Friends joining the celebration



and pictured here left to right: Lisa Rhea, Kellie Collins (Chamber Diplomats), Danika Begley, Mary Ellen Nolletti, Clarice Coffman, Fred Underdown, Tyler Boyd, Jason Wright, (McMinn County Historical Society & Archives), Dannielle McMurray (Chamber Diplomat) Back: McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy, Joseph Ladner (Chamber Diplomat), Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Athens City Manager C. Seth Sumner, Karen Sullivan (Athens Chamber), Hunter Star (Chamber Diplomat), Athens City Mayor Bo Perkinson, A. Warren Docktor, PhD (East Tennessee Historical Society), Steve Sherlin (McMinn County Historical Society & Archives).

Equipment Shortage at A.U.B.

✓ Athens Utilities Board is facing supply-chain issues that could delay the construction of new homes and other projects in the area. Power transformers, utility poles, even power meters are becoming difficult to get. Anything associated with underground utilities is at a premium. According to Wayne Scarbrough, it takes up to 10 weeks to get power poles and up to 40 weeks to get common materials such as eye nuts, used on equipment for lifting, rigging, or as anchor points for other hardware.

AUB'S general manager, Eric Newberry, understands that customers will be upset, but he is stressing that all customers large and small, must be treated fairly. "Our job on the front lines is to serve all of our customers as well as we possibly can with clear communication of the situation and a realistic assessment of the schedule to the best of our ability," Newberry said.

AUB is preparing to implement a new step when working with home builders that will require the builder to use portable generators to power their equipment when building a home instead of hooking up to AUB's service right away, which would require a transformer. Scarbrough says there is no exact timeframe as to when these supply issues will be resolved and encourages everyone to work together and understand the issue at hand because, "We all are in the same boat."





Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

• Judith Ann Ashley Moore, 82, of Athens, passed away Thursday, May 28th, at Morning Pointe of Athens. She was a native of Chattanooga and a longtime resident of McMinn County. Funeral services were on Sunday, May 29th at Smith Funeral Home.

• **Thomas William Edwards**, age 67, of Greenville, TN and formerly of Athens, passed away Saturday, May 28th, in a Greeneville Hospital. Arrangement will be announced by Smith Funeral and Cremation Services of Athens.

• Betty Louise Seals Childs, age 88, passed away Thursday, May 26th at her residence. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

• **Billie Jean Dunn,** age 85, passed away Saturday, May 28th. Funeral services are today at 3:30 at Companion Funeral Home of Cleveland with visitation from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

FRIDAY'S MARKET REPORT Markets capped offa strong week on a high note. Equities traded notably higher. Global markets were higher as well as oil and gold prices. The 10-year Treasury yield dropped below 2.75%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 575.77 to 33,212.96. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 100.40 to 4,158.24. and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 390.48 to 12,131.13.

LISTENING REMINDER: The guest on Main Street Moments today, May 31st, will be Mary Brown with the Athens Lions Club. The program will be heard at 8:15 a.m. today on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

Rape Suspect Arrested

A man faces rape charges in Athens after police say he grabbed a juvenile at Prof Powers Park and assaulted him in a bathroom Wednesday night, May 25th. Police say the boy's sister managed to get a photo of the suspect's license plate, which ultimately led to his arrest. An affidavit says officers responded to nearby Saint

Mary Catholic Church, where they were told a male juvenile had arrived at the church in tears. The boy told officers he, his sister and some friends were walking home from Ingleside School. The friends wanted to go to a particular house, but the boy didn't, so he instead went to Prof Powers Park (formerly known as Knox Park) by himself. He told officers that he was sitting at one of the picnic tables when he saw a silver car circling the parking lot several times. The car then parked, a man walked over to him, and started talking to him. At that point, the boy



told officers the man picked him up and carried him in to the bathroom, where he assaulted him. The boy said he told the man 'no!' several times, and was able to run out of the door and to the church, where he called his sister. As the sister and her friends rushed to the church, they saw a vehicle matching the description, and the sister took a photo of the license plate. With the license plate and the boy's description of the suspect, investigators say they identified him as 61-year-old Jeffery Lynn Gregory. They showed his picture to the boy, who confirmed Gregory was the man who assaulted him. Gregory was already in their data base and had an outstanding failure to appear warrant for his arrest. While the boy was being treated at a local hospital, officers got a call from his grandparents, who had spotted the suspect's vehicle. They told the officers the vehicle had returned to the park, leaving soon after, and that they were following it. Officers tracked down the vehicle and stopped it. They put Gregory in custody on the outstanding warrant. During questioning, Gregory said that he had been at the park. He told them he saw "a young white guy that appeared to be seventeen to eighteen years old." Gregory told investigators the two went into the bathroom to engage in a sexual encounter, with the 'teen' initiating the contact. He was then arrested on child rape charges and booked into the McMinn County Justice Center. (Booking Photo)

