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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, October 04, 2022

Athens, Tennessee

### Kittle Pleads Guilty to Theft

Jason Kittle, the man charged with stealing almost \$1 million from Volunteer Energy Cooperative, has pleaded guilty to theft greater than \$250,000. Kittle, who was an accountant at VEC, actually stole at least \$994,981 between June 2011 and December 2017 from Volunteer Energy. The theft was discovered in late 2017 - early 2018 when VEC launched a new accounting system. Kittle was indicted on November 28, 2018. His trial was to begin yesterday morning in Kingston. Senior Assistant District Attorney, Robert Edwards, tells the Morning Fax that Kittle decided to plead guilty just before the trial started. He will appear in front of Circuit Court Judge Michael Pemberton on January 11, 2023 for sentencing. It's expected that he will receive a sentence of 15 to 25 years in prison with no probation allowed. (TN Comptroller Photo)



### Community News You Can Use

- ✓The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session, Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence on Hill Street in Athens.
  - ✓The next session of the Council Night Out series is October 4<sup>th</sup> (tonight) from 6 to 7 p.m. at Westside Elementary School at 700 Westside Street. City residents have the opportunity to meet, greet, and share their thoughts and ideas with the individuals that represent them and set the priorities for the city through the budgetary process each year. For questions regarding the Council Night Out event, please contact the office of the City Manager at 423.744.2700 Option 9.
  - ✓Etowah Carnegie Library will serve lunch to children under 18 during the October break. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. Monday October 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and on Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>. Meals are provided by the Athens YMCA.
  - ✓There will be a book sale at the Meigs Decatur Public Library from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> with fiction, non-fiction, teens, young adults, and children's. There will be puzzles, movies, and something for everyone. This is sponsored by the Meigs-Decatur Friends of the Library. For more information, call 423.334.3332.
  - ✓The McMinn County Rescue Squad Toy Drive and Feed a Family Food Drive is going on now until November 1<sup>st</sup>. They are in need of non-perishable and canned goods and new toys. Drop off locations are at Edward Jones offices at: 10 N. White Street, 102 N. White Street, 582 Congress Pkwy. S., and 2418 Congress Pkwy S. #2 in Athens.
- Football Score Correction: Last Friday night's score for the McMinn Central football game was McMinn Central 17 and Kingston 14. We apologize for the error.

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Tuesday, October 04, 2022

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

## Obituaries - continued

◆ **Sherry Yvonne Huey McRae**, age 50, of Decatur, passed away Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at Sweetwater Hospital. She was a native of Athens and lifelong resident of McMinn County. She had served many years as a CNA at Sweetwater Hospital and with home healthcare. A graveside service will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at Rogers Creek Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

◆ **Ora Paul Land**, age 80, of Englewood, passed away Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. A graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at McMinn Memory Gardens. No formal visitation will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

◆ **Cecilia Brown Jack**, age 81, of Athens, passed away Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at Starr Regional Medical Center. She was a lifelong resident of McMinn County. She was a longtime employee of Kroger. A memorial service will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Episcopal Church with visitation at the church following the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge.

◆ **Tracey Bratten**, age 48, of Sweetwater, passed away Sunday at Starr Regional Medical Center. A memorial service will take place in Florida at a later date. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge.

◆ **Mongin McTyire Smyly**, age 81, passed away Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Knoxville. He was born in Ruffin, SC. He retired from being a millwright in the construction industry, working with many national construction companies throughout the United States. His last job was at Lowe's in Dayton. A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services with visitation from 1 to 3 p.m. prior to the service.

◆ **Vaughn D. Priestwood**, age 91, of Niota, passed away Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at his residence. He was a native of McMinn County. He was retired from Dycho Chemical Company after 67 years of dedicated service. A funeral service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. prior to the service. A graveside service will be at 11 a.m., Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

**MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT:** Equity markets were up. The U.S. 10-year yield was down about 14 basis points. European shares were higher and Asian markets declined. Oil moved sharply higher. The British pound rebounded after the U.K. government walked back its plan to cut taxes on high earners. At the closing bell, The Dow Jones Industrial Average was 765.38 to 29,490.89. The S&P 500 was up 92.81 to 3,678.43, and The Nasdaq Composite was up 239.82 to 10,815.43.

**PUMPKINTOWN**  
Athens, Tennessee

**October 8**  
**10AM - 5PM**  
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