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Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

Athens Chamber Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, American Legion Bill Rodgers Memorial Post 68, located in Athens with over 150 members. Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right are: Susan Peglow, McMinn County Veteran Services; Jim Barrentine, American Legion; Athens City Councilman Dick Pelley, William Anderson, Dolores Anderson, Sam Creasman, Mike Phillips, and Andy Baker with American Legion; Lisa Rhea, Chamber Diplomat; Don Hart (American Legion). Back: Robert Ballesteros, American Legion; Wesley Skinner, Chamber Diplomat; Gary Moore, American Legion; Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), John Rodriguez, Chamber Board; Stephanie Devine; Hunter Star, Chamber Diplomat; Paul Semenoff, Chamber Diplomat; Doug Bailey, Chamber Diplomat; Stephen Powell, American Legion; Karen Sullivan, Athens Chamber; Joanne Arnett, Chamber Diplomat.



Fentanyl Recovered

The City of Athens Police Department has announced the recovery of a large amount of fentanyl pills. Corporal Parson, with the Athens City Police Department, responded to the Days Inn Hotel, room 126, in reference to a breach of trust incident. Upon arrival, Corporal Parson made contact with a female who was in possession of the vehicle in question. While speaking with her in front of the hotel room door, Corporal Parson detected the odor of Marijuana coming from the room. The female admitted that a small amount of Marijuana was inside the room. Corporal Parson and Detective Roberts secured a Search Warrant for the hotel room, and after a diligent search, officers recovered well over 1,000 Fentanyl Pills (M Box 30s), 64 grams of Methamphetamine, various drug paraphernalia, and suspected Marijuana. Since January 2023, officers with the Athens Police Department have seized over twenty thousand dollars' (street value) worth of Fentanyl Pills. Fentanyl is a man-made opioid that is 50 to 100 times stronger than heroin and morphine, because it is so strong and so addictive. It's being added to heroin, fake prescription pills, even stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine. The result is huge increases in overdoses, and sadly, more Tennesseans than ever are dying. These deaths are preventable with knowledge and tools. "I am proud of Corporal Parson and Detective Roberts for being vigilant and combating this dangerous drug epidemic the United States and City of Athens are currently facing. The streets of Athens are a little safer now with this large number of dangerous narcotics taken off the streets, and a dealer behind bars, stated Lieutenant Witt. For more information, please contact Chief Fred Schultz of the Athens Police Department at 423-744-2730. For more information on the dangers of Fentanyl please visit [TDMHSAS Fentanyl Onepager \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/transportation-and-logistics/tmhsas/fentanyl-onepager) Call TN Redline addiction treatment at: 1-800-889-9789

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Wednesday, February 22, 2023

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Warren A. Griggs II**, age 73, passed away February 18th at UT Hospital in Knoxville. He was born in Hammond, Indiana and was a graduate of Morton High School, Class of 1967. He graduated from Purdue University with a master's degree in Political Science. He worked 35 years as a Commodity Broker in Chicago and retired to Niota. A funeral service will be at 3 p.m. Thursday February 23rd at Good Samaritan Funeral Home with visitation from 1 to 3 p.m.

♦ This week on "Hope From the Well," Robin Nation and Julie Miller will be discussing "Freedom from Fear" Part 3. "Hope From the Well" is heard at 8:15 a.m. Thursday on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

TUESDAY'S MARKET REPORT Equity markets closed 2% lower as investors grappled with higher interest rates and shifting expectations for upcoming Fed rate hikes following last week's inflation readings. 10-year Treasury yields topped 3.9%, the highest since last November. At the closing bell: The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 697.10 to 33,129.59. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 81.75 to 3,997.34, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 294.97 to 11,492.30.

Athens City Council Re-cap

The Athens City Council met in regular session last night at the Municipal Building and here's what happened: Trey Ivins, Assistant Principal at Athens City Middle School, gave an update on what's happening at ACMS. Athens City Schools Director Robert Greene informed the council of the construction project for the new Athens City School being built next to City Park School. Greene told the council that the growth of the number of students is reaching near a limit of 200 due to an influx of people whose children have been living in campers and motels. Athens Police Sergeant Shaun Thompson addressed the council and reported that there are now 12 open positions on the force with another officer giving his notice Tuesday. Thompson told the council that pay and vehicle restrictions are hurting APD and causing officers to go to other police departments with better benefits. A contract was approved for Keith Wilson Construction Company to complete renovations at the Larry Wallace Animal Shelter after the original bid winner could not fulfill the terms of the contract. Approval was given to purchase new playground equipment for Cook Park. Former Athens Mayor Dr. Burkett Witt was granted a lifetime membership on the City Council Advisory Board with voting rights. Mayor Steven Sherlin announced that the council will hold its annual strategic planning meeting summit at the new McMinn County / State of Tennessee learning center across from DENSO on Friday evening March 3rd and Saturday March 4th. The mayor also announced there will be a called meeting on March 6th to review applicants for Athens City Manager. The search committee narrowed 44 résumés down to 4.

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Employees pictured back row left to right: Randy Willcutt, Rob Carmley, Randy Peterson, Mark Ingram, Tim Petry, Kyle Coffman, John Hinton, Tim Ownby and Walt Pimentel. Front row left to right: Mike Williams, Store Manager, Kody Knox, Chelsie Stewart, Rocky Plante and James Dake. Not pictured: Tyler Wilson, Ross Trotter, Gordon Biekkel, Marc Henderson, James Simmons, Andy Spohn, Wayne Cowart, Brennen Meities Vaughn and Mike Lawson


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