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Wednesday, October 04, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

Local and Area News

Meigs County will soon receive a tremendous honor. There has been discussion for well over a decade about what to do when The Chattanooga National Cemetery runs out of room for future burials. Chattanooga National Cemetery was created almost 160 years ago for soldiers killed in the Civil War battles on Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Chickamauga GA. Since then the historic ground has become the final resting place of Medal of Honor recipients and veterans who fought before and after the cemetery was created, but at some point in the not too distant future the cemetery will run out of space for more burials and the answer to what happens then is going to be in Meigs County. The Department of Veterans Affairs has just purchased 270 Acres of property in the Blythe Ferry area of Meigs County and will build a new national cemetery there. The VA looked at property in other states, but for local veterans families it is important to have the new national cemetery close-by and Meigs County is the place it will be. Retired Army Major General Matt Quinn is Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs. He leads national cemeteries for the Department of Veterans Affairs and made the official announcement yesterday. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann was involved in the process as well. More info at: NC9.com

A McMinn County woman charged with sex crimes against minors appeared in court Monday, October 2nd. Melissa Blair is accused of having sexual relations with 18 male students at McMinn Central High School. She faces 44 charges. A change of venue was requested but denied by Judge Andrew Freiberg, Defense attorney Robert Kurtz, who is representing Blair, said the attention of Blair's case could make it more difficult to select from a pool of jurors. Judge Freiberg admitted pre-trial publicity could become a problem and set Blair's next hearing for Nov. 6th at 1:30pm.

Natural Gas/Public Power Week

Athens Utilities Board will observe National Public / Natural Gas Week as well as Public Power Week from October 1 to 7. This annual nationwide event is intended to build public awareness about the value of having a community-owned natural gas utility and a community-powered, not-for-profit electric utility. There are approximately 1,000 public natural gas systems serving more than 6 million customers and there are 2,000 other community-powered, not-for-profit electric utilities that provide power to 49 million Americans. "This year, we are focusing on how AUB is building for the future to ensure reliable, affordable, sustainable and customer-focused service to our community for many years to come," said Eric Newberry, AUB general manager. "Since we operate right here in Athens and serve our friends and neighbors, we care a great deal about things such as customer service, helping folks save energy and money, providing reliable service-power or natural gas-and keeping our community safe," said AUB's Amy McDonald. Thank you for supporting Athens Utilities Board. Follow AUB on social media as they celebrate this week. AUB says they are looking forward to continuing to bring safe, reliable natural gas and electric service into your homes and businesses.

◆ The guest this week on "Hope From the Well" will be Connie McIntosh discussing "The Importance of Today". Hope From the Well is heard each Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.



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Wednesday, October 04, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

◆ **Marcia Allen Payne**, age 89, passed away Monday, September 4th at her home. The family requests your presence at a Celebration of Life, Saturday, October 7th at Smith Funeral Home from 2:00-4:00 pm. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

◆ **Barbara Vincent Mashburn**, age 70 of Riceville passed away on Sunday, October 1st at Parkwest Hospital. She loved gardening, canning, was an avid quilter, she was an excellent cook. A funeral service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 5th at Good Samaritan Funeral Home. Visitation be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Thursday prior to the service. Good Samaritan Funeral Home, Athens is in charge of arrangements.

◆ **David Charles Harris**, age 86, passed away peacefully on Sunday October 1st at his residence in Athens where he has lived for the last 15 years. Prior to that he was a lifelong long resident of the Poconos living in Tobyhanna, PA. Growing up he was an avid outdoorsman, hunter, golfer, family man, and proud Marine. He was born in Umitilla, FL. Funeral arrangements will be made by Duffy & Snowden Funeral Home in Moscow, PA. There will be no visitation. Private burial will be at Fairview Memorial Park, Elmhurst, PA. Ziegler Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of local arrangements.

Obituaries Continued

◆ **Helen Ruth Churchwell**, age 82, of Benton, passed away Monday, October 2nd. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced at a later date. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah in charge of arrangements.

◆ **Myra Jo Zimmerman**, age 93, known to her loved ones as JoZi, passed away on August 16th in The Villages, Florida. She was born in Etowah. JoZi was a remarkable woman who cherished her family. Throughout her life, JoZi found joy in many hobbies and interests. She had a green thumb and took great pleasure in tending to her vegetable garden. Music was another passion of hers. She enjoyed playing piano, autoharp, and zither, as well as listening to a variety of genres especially Christian traditional hymns and Appalachian folk music. Above all else, she lived her life in daily adoration and love of Christ and her Father in heaven. JoZi will be remembered for her love, kindness, and unwavering faith. Her presence will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. May her soul rest in eternal peace. John 14:27 quoting Jesus: "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you." I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6. A graveside service will be held, 11:00 am, Saturday, October 7th at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

◆ The guest this week on "Hope From the Well" will be Connie McIntosh discussing "The Call". Hope From the Well is heard each Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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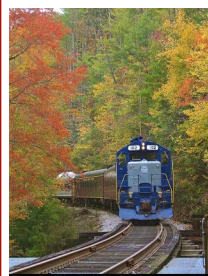
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Wednesday, October 04, 2023 **Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning** Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

TWU Enrollment Up!



Tennessee Wesleyan University's Fall 2023 enrollment saw gains over the previous Fall semester. According to university data after census day, the 14th day of classes and recognized as the official enrollment day of each semester, the largest gain was in graduate enrollment. "The increase in enrollment was largely due to the almost 70% increase in graduate program enrollment," said Dr. Tyler Forrest, Tennessee Wesleyan University President. "Diversifying our course offerings has been a priority for many years, and the increase of graduate programs is a key driver in future enrollment. Tennessee Wesleyan recently received approval to launch two more graduate programs, a Master of Science in Sport Leadership and Master of Science in Project Management. These two programs will complement the five programs already in the University's portfolio, including a Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Science in Education, Master of Business Administration, Master of Occupational Therapy, and Master of Science in Nursing. The Master

of Science in Sport Leadership will have two distinct tracks, one for coaching and one for athletic administration. The Master of Science in Project Management will be housed within the Goodfriend School of Business and support students wishing to advance their knowledge in project management or enter the profession mid-career. Other programs seeing increases included the Bachelor of Dental Hygiene and online RN-BSN program within the TWU-Fort Sanders Nursing Department. Dual Enrollment classes were up 14% year-over-year. "Many high school students want to get ahead in their college degree, and the dual enrollment option provides college credit coursework that also meets high school requirements," said Sara Hopper, Executive Director of Admissions at TWU. "We have provided dual enrollment options for many years but want to make sure students know we are a viable option in that space and accept the Dual Enrollment Grant (DEG) through the state of Tennessee that will cover the cost of the first five dual enrollment courses." Tennessee Wesleyan University, founded in Athens, Tennessee, in 1857, is a four-year liberal arts institution affiliated with the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church offering more than 30 undergraduate and graduate programs. Through strong academic programs, service-learning opportunities, student organizations, and athletics, Tennessee Wesleyan University helps students become enlightened servant leaders who believe in serving others, pursuing knowledge, and leading by example. For additional information about Tennessee Wesleyan University, visit www.tnwesleyan.edu or become a TWU fan on Facebook.

Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Riceville Housekeeping, located in McMinn, Roane, Bradley, Polk, Loudon, Meigs, and Monroe counties. Contact them by email at lyntrisha39@gmail.com or by phone 423.457.2583. Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right are: Hunter Starr, Chamber Diplomat; Athens City Councilman Dick Pelley, Karen Sullivan, Athens Chamber; Kim Woody, Riceville Housekeeping; Patricia Reinehr, Owner Riceville



Housekeeping; Hugh Willson; Vicki Reinehr, Riceville Housekeeping; Lisa Rhea, Chamber Diplomat; Tod Marner, Chamber Board; Back: Stephanie Devine; Doug Bailey, Chamber Diplomat; Athens City Vice Mayor Larry Eaton, Brandon Johnson; Jordon Perleoni; Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), and Daniel Atkinson.