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Today's News... This Morning

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Monday, December 11, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

## 3 Charged in Cattle, Tractor Thefts

Several suspects have been charged in recent thefts of cattle and tractors in McMinn Co, as well as other livestock thefts in surrounding counties. According to McMinn Co Sheriff Joe Guy, on October 10, Deputies with the McMinn County Sheriff's Office investigated a report of a stolen Kubota tractor from County Road 446 near Englewood. During the process of the investigation, it was found Mr. Gary Hill was the suspect in the theft and detectives discovered the tractor had been taken to Bristol, and then to Hiwassee, Georgia a few days later. Detective Amber Cook located the individual in Georgia and the Kubota tractor was recovered and returned to the owner. Gary Hill, of Monroe County, was a suspect in this case. On Dec 3, McMinn Co Deputies responded to a report of 5 stolen cattle from County Road 419 near Englewood. Pictures of the

story continued at right ⇨

suspect vehicle(s) and cattle trailer were obtained during the initial report and were posted on social media for public assistance. During the course of the investigation, Mr. Gary Hill was identified as a suspect in the theft of the cattle, as well as a Thomas 'Dewayne' Pressley of Meigs Co. Detectives, along with State Ag Crimes investigator Clint Brookshire, found Mr Dewayne Pressley and Ms. Donna Vaughn were directly involved in the theft along with Mr. Gary Hill, according to Sheriff Guy. The cattle were located in Lincoln County and were returned to the owner. Over the course of the next few days, McMinn County Sheriff's Deputies, Sweetwater Police, and Detectives and Agent Brookshire worked extensively on the case. Dewayne Pressley and Donna Vaughn were located in the Rural King Parking lot in Sweetwater on Dec 6 and were taken into custody. On Dec 7, Corporal Caleb Latham had contact with Gary Hill and was able to negotiate a peaceful surrender. Mr. Gary Hill was safely taken into custody and transported to the McMinn County Sheriff's Department where he is being held on the following charges: 1) Theft over \$5,000 for theft of the cattle 2) Illegal Possession or Fraudulent use of credit/debit card x 2 - Athens City Police Department 3) Theft of Property for theft of horses- Monroe County Sheriff's Department 4) theft of Property for theft of horses- Loudon County Sheriff's Department 4) Violation of Parole- Blount County Sheriff's Department

### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The McMinn County Library Board's Director Search Committee will be meeting at 5:00 PM on Tuesday December 12 in advance of the MCLB meeting at 6:00 PM. Both meetings will be at the E.G. Fisher Public Library.
- ✓ The Good Faith Clinic will be open Tuesday, December 12 at 3 p.m. for refills and at 3:30 p.m. for doctor visits. The Good Faith Clinic is free primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, ages of 18-64, who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic meets on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 S Congress Parkway in Athens. **REMINDER:** The Good Faith Clinic is open the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday of each month.
- ✓ Athens City Council study session will meet today at 6 p.m.


**LISTENING REMINDER:** This week's guest on Main Street Moments will be Jim and Patti Greek with Greek's Bearing Gifts. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

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 • Wednesday-Etowah-10:30 - 2:00  
 • Thursday-Athens - Harbor Freight- 10:30 -1:30  
 • Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30




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Monday December 11, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦**Robert Neal Pointer**, age 83, of Athens, passed away, Thursday, December 7 at Morning Pointe of Athens. He was a native of Cookeville and longtime resident of Athens. He was a member of Allen Memorial United Methodist Church. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Georgia Tech and was associated with the Department of Energy in Oak Ridge as a Project Engineer. A graveside service will be conducted at 1:30 pm, Friday, December 15 at Cedar Grove Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Smith Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Lee Anderson (Andy) Watkins Jr.**, age 78 of Athens, passed away on December 7<sup>th</sup> surrounded by loved ones at home. He was a man that never met a stranger and was always willing and wanting to help others. He was always sharing his love of the Savior Jesus Christ with anyone that would hear. Services will be held at a later date. Poole-Serenity Funeral Home & Cremation Services are in charge of the arrangements.

♦**Charles J. Greene**, age 90, of Madisonville passed away on December 7. He was born in Englewood. After enlisting in the Army and being stationed in Washington State, he was honorably discharged and returned to Englewood in 1959. He spent his career as a Foreman with the Carpenters Local Union for over 30 years, until his retirement in 1995. He had an avid love of fishing and hunting his whole life. He also became an active member of the Church in his later years. He will be remembered by those who knew and loved him as tough, but with a soft heart towards many things. He will be missed and remembered fondly. There will be no formal service, per Charles's wishes. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Sammie Kaye Smith Swanks**, age 78 of Ten Mile, passed away Friday, December 8 in Erlanger East Hospital in Chattanooga. She was a native of McMinn County, resident most of her life of Ten Mile. She was a member of Ten Mile United Methodist Church. She taught Art and English in Knox County and Meigs County. Funeral services will be at 6:00 P.M. at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday in Edgmon Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 4-6 Tuesday in the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Obituaries Continued

♦**Susana Fiapa'i McKhean**, passed away on December 3. She was born on the enchanting shores of American Samoa. She was a devoted wife of 21 years to Rickey Lynn McKhean. She was a proud alumna of Faga'itua High School, was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and a hardworking contributor to the city of Athens. In the face of her battle with cancer, Susana exemplified resilience living like, "That it will never come again, makes life so sweet." She fought valiantly, radiating strength and heroism until her last breath. The echoes of her infectious laugh, generous spirit, tenacious personality, and boundless dedication will forever resonate in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing her. Susana Fiapa'i McKhean will live on in the cherished memories of her loved ones, ensuring that her name is spoken with love, admiration, and enduring gratitude. May she rest in eternal peace. Visitation will be from 9:00 AM- 11:30 AM Saturday, December 16 at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with the memorial service at 11:30 AM. A graveside service will immediately follow at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Randy Rogers**, of Athens, passed away over the weekend. Rogers was a noted defense lawyer. Funeral arrangements have not been released, however a statement was posted on the law firm's FB page: "We are heartbroken to announce that our patriarch, Randy Rogers, passed away yesterday morning. Please be in prayer for the Rogers family. Also, please be patient with our firm as we grieve this tremendous loss. Our hours will vary next week. We thank you in advance for your understanding and prayers."



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