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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News... This Morning

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Thursday, September 29, 2022

Athens, Tennessee

## Meigs County Man Pleads Guilty

A Meigs County man who was charged with solicitation of a child has pleaded guilty in a Virginia court, according to Ninth Judicial District Attorney Russell Johnson. Johnson says that his office was contacted by the FBI Violent Crimes Against Children task force out of Virginia. The task force needed assistance locating, interviewing, and arresting Kevin Pemberton (in photo) of Meigs County for soliciting an undercover officer posing as a child. Investigators were able to locate Pemberton and interview him, in which Johnson said Pemberton confessed. A search warrant was also executed on his phone. Following this encounter, Pemberton attempted to flee. He was then arrested on warrants from Rockingham County, Virginia with the assistance of the Meigs Sheriff's Office. On Sept. 23rd, DA Johnson said that Pemberton had recently pleaded guilty to Proposal of a Sex Act by Communications System, which includes online solicitation of a minor. He received a five-year prison sentence that he is serving in a Virginia prison. Upon his release, he will be subject to supervision for life as a registered sex offender. (DA Johnson FB Photo)



## Community News You Can Use

✓ Directors at Athens Utilities Board voted Tuesday night to increase the power rate by 1% effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. AUB has raised power rates only four times, including this one, since 1997. The power increases that AUB has had are: a 3% increase in 2003; a 1.97% increase in 2007; a 1% increase in 2018; a 1% increase in 2021; and, this 1% increase in 2022. That is a total of 7.97% in about 25 years. Wayne Scarbrough said, "We know the score, believe me. No increase is ever wanted and no increase ever feels good, but I feel that our customers will understand that AUB has kept things as tight as possible. We never have an increase that is not needed." Annualized, AUB's increases over time equal two-tenths of a percent per year versus an annualized inflation rate of 2.3 percent per year over the last 15 years. Essentially, AUB has kept local costs in control such that they equal only one-tenth (1/10) of the rate of inflation for the same time frame. AUB General Manager, Eric Newberry said, "That's something to be proud of and something our customers can appreciate. That is one of the things that has us ranked at number four of 143 distributors in terms of low rates. We just don't raise rates unless we absolutely have to." he said.

✓ Tyler Boyd will lead a discussion about local legal legend E.B. Madison at The McMinn Historical Society monthly meeting on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. in the blue room of the courthouse. Madison Avenue is named for E.B. Madison and he was a relative of President James Madison. Current and former members and guests are encouraged to attend.

### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits

**STEAK BISCUITS 2 for \$4**

• Try our new Chocolate Chip Cookie

• 32 oz Tea \$1

**BOJANGLES of Athens**  
South Congress Pkwy 744-5292

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### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday** - Sunny & nice.  
High 72.**Thurs. Night** - Clear. Low 47.**Friday** - Cloudy. High 73.**Friday Night** - Mostly cloudy  
& wind. Low 57.**Saturday** - Heavy rain from  
Tropical Storm Ian. Watch for  
flooding. High 65.Weather at: [wxyi.com](http://wxyi.com)**What Happens If You  
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The Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>**call 746-1390 or email:  
[wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)

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

**SCOTT CRISP MEMORIAL POWWOW**  
**CASA RED SHOE 5K / 1 MILE RUN**  
**LIVING HERITAGE MUSEUM QUILT SHOW**

**MRHS MUTT STRUTT & ADOPT-A-THON**  
**HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS OF DOWNTOWN ATHENS**  
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Thursday, September 29, 2022

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Levi W. Phillips, Jr.**, age 79, of Athens, passed away Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at a health care facility in Rome, GA. He joined the U.S. Army in 1963 and served in the Vietnam War and completed his enlistment as a sergeant. He was employed with Big K as an assistant manager. In 1971 he joined the Athens Police Department where he served for 33 years and retired as a captain.



Home going services will be Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 p.m. at Light of Life International Ministries on Congress Parkway N, Athens with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church prior to the service. Interment will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at McMinn Memory Gardens in Athens. M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service is in charge.

♦ **Lewis E. McCowan**, age 82, of Sweetwater, passed away Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at his home. He was born in Niota. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966-1968 and worked for Steel City for many years. He also served on the Sweetwater City Council and worked as an addiction counselor. Home going services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at First United Church of Christ in Sweetwater with visitation from 2 to 3 p.m. prior to the service. Interment will follow at Moore Cemetery in Niota. M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Athens is in charge.

## Wednesday's Market Report

U.S. stocks rebounded strongly after six straight days of losses, as a reprieve in rates provided some relief across fixed-income and equity markets. The energy sector led the S&P 500 gains, while the tech sector lagged. Oil rose 4.5%. At the closing bell, The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 548.75 to 29,683.74. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 71.75 to 3,719.04, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 222.13 to 11,051.64.

### ◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE

Weekly Summary: 09/18/22 - 09/24/22

There were 1,033 cases (per day) and 18 deaths (per day) last week

**Tennessee:** 2,335,380 Total Cases 27,758 Total Deaths

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>CASES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
McMinn	18,891	274
Meigs	3,909	61
Monroe	16,793	254
Polk	5,293	86
Bradley	37,107	434
Rhea	11,148	165

Covid-19 update information from the Tennessee Department of Health is updated on Saturday and posted to their website each Wednesday.

★ ★ ★ ★ **ELECT** ★ ★ ★ ★

**Steven SHERLIN**  
Athens City Council



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# BINGO NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 @ 6:PM

Niota Depot  
201 E Main Street  
Niota, TN 37826

Free Entry  
Silent Auction  
\$3 Bingo Cards Or  
3 Canned Goods Per  
Card  
Raffle Tickets  
Door Prizes  
Baked Goods  
Community Fun,  
All welcome

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