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Today's News... This Morning

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(SEE PAGE 3 & 4 IN TODAY'S EDITION)

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Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

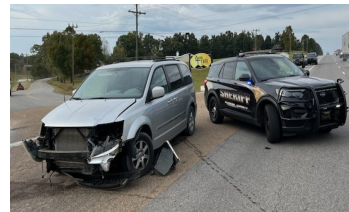
Wreck/Shooting CR 100/110

McMinn County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a call of a vehicle crash that wound up involving an assault, a gunshot, and drugs early Monday morning. According to Sheriff Joe Guy, around 900 am, deputies were notified of a motor vehicle crash at the intersection of County Roads 100 and 110. "Dispatchers advised that a UPS driver came upon the traffic crash and what appeared to be 3 males and 1 female engaged in an argument," said Sheriff Guy. "One male claimed he had been injured by the others and another male claimed he'd been shot. When they realized deputies were on the way, the two injured males and the female left the scene in a separate vehicle together and the other male ran off on foot." Deputies responded along with Tennessee Highway Patrol and an investigation ensued with the addition of Drug Task Force Officers and TBI Agents. The male who had been assaulted, Daniel Ferguson, of Meigs County, was located a few minutes later at a residence on County Road 115, and was transported to a regional hospital with a head wound. "A few hours later, the female, Kelsey Roberts, and the male who had been shot, Tommy Conn, both of Meigs County, were located in a wooded area nearby," added Sheriff Guy. Roberts was arrested on an active Violation of Probation warrant and also faces warrants from Meigs County. Conn was transported to a regional hospital for treatment. "As we understand it at the present time, Mr. Ferguson was assaulted by someone in the group, and at some point Mr. Ferguson shot Mr. Conn," said Sheriff Guy. "The whole thing was related to the vehicle crash, and may also involve drug issues because a large quantity of narcotics were also recovered at the scene. We are still investigating the incident and attempting to put the pieces together." The 4th suspect, who the Sheriff's Office believes is Peyton Adam Womac, is described as a white male, wearing a black hoodie, with scruffy brown hair and beard. Sheriff Guy believes this suspect was picked up by someone not long after the crash. Roberts remains in custody without bond, and charges are pending against Conn and Ferguson. Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of Womac is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office.

Community News You Can Use

✓ The City of Athens Public Works Department announces that Madison Avenue from Hill Street to Green Street; Washington Avenue from Church Street to Green Street; Hornsby Street from Church Street to Green Street; White Street from College Street to Bank Street; N. Jackson Street from College Street to Highway 30; Long Street from Washington Avenue to Madison Avenue; Baxter Street and from Washington Avenue to Highway 30 will be closed. These closures will be from Friday, October 13th at 4:00 p.m. until Saturday, October 14th at 7:00 p.m. Detours will be posted. The purpose of this closing is for the 2023 Pumpkintown Festival. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

MVA IN ENGLEWOOD: Last Wednesday at 5:30 pm at the intersection of Co Rd 516 & Hwy 411 N, Englewood, a 2011 Chrysler Town & Country Touring Mini Van and a 2015 Toyota Tacoma collided with no injuries reported. Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and McMinn County Sheriff's Department all responded. THP Officer Douglas Taylor investigated the accident. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.



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OCTOBER is
**NATIONAL
BULLYING
PREVENTION
MONTH**

Date: Tuesday, October 10th

Time: 4:00-5:15 p.m.

Location: Athens City Primary

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Sunday CLOSED
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In 1872, President J. A. Dean ordered a bell to be placed on the front porch of Old College. Upon completion of the Merner-Pfeiffer Library, the bell was moved to the cupola above the library.

In 1971-1972, a group of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity brothers took the bell as a prank. The 321-pound bell was taken from the bell tower using only manpower.

Thanks to members of the SigEp fraternity, the bell has been returned to the library. Here it will ring at celebrations and commencements..

Please join us on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. in front of the Merner-Pfeiffer Library to celebrate the return of the bell.



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Tuesday, October 10, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Obituaries

♦**Dr. John Carl McKenzie**, age 89, passed away Sunday, October 8th. John was born in Porterville, California. Most of his life was spent in Tennessee. John earned degrees from McMinn County High School, Tennessee Wesleyan College, The University of Chattanooga, and The Baylor College of Medicine. After serving two years as a medical officer in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War, Dr. McKenzie opened his private practice in Athens in 1965. He became a trusted ob/gyn and delivered over 7,000 babies before his retirement in 1998. He was a fine Christian man and spent many hours teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, attending Deacons Meetings and recording Good News Time devotionals for WLAR/WJSQ. Visitation will be Wednesday, October 11th at First Baptist Church in Athens from 1:00-2:30 pm with a funeral service at 3:00 pm. Burial will follow in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Pauline Sue Bott Arnett**, passed away on Wednesday, October 4th. She was currently living in Sitka, AK and was born in Los Angeles, CA. Pauline was a former resident of Dallas, TX prior to moving to Athens in 1982. She was a member of Athens Lutheran Church and was formerly associated with True Form Industries and Textron. Funeral services will be at 6:00 PM Wednesday, October 11th at Athens Lutheran Church, located at 710 Forrest Ave. in Athens, TN. Interment will be at 11:00 AM Thursday, October 12th in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm Wednesday, October 11th at the church prior to the funeral service. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Carolyn Lianne Addie Lynn**, age 55, of Riceville, died Monday morning at her home. Funeral arrangements will be announced later by Ziegler Funeral Home.

Deck The Streets With Fall

The Main Street Design Committee would like to encourage you to decorate your buildings with Fall decor! Pumpkintown (Saturday, October 14th) is around the corner and you can showcase your creativity as thousands of visitors grace the streets of downtown over the next few weeks! As an incentive, the Main Street Beautification Award will be presented to the property that has the most creative entryway/window display! This award comes with perks (all free from Main Street). There will be a photo & story in local media, and various social media outlets. A beautification sign will be placed at your business location for one month, and a beautification plaque will be awarded which is sponsored by The Trophy House. Announcement & spotlight on Main Street Moments Radio (15 minute interview on WYXI radio), plus an added promotional opportunity of your choice will be the added bonus! (*Mums the word!*) This promotion is an opportunity for you to "**Deck the Streets with Fall!**" Beautification award winner will be selected and announced the week of October 16th.

Pumpkin Painting

AT THE ARTS CENTER

SAT, OCT 14

11 - 3 | DURING PUMPKINTOWN
while supplies last

THE Arts CENTER
Athens Area Council for the Arts

Sweetwater's **LADIES NIGHT OUT**

Fall Fashion Show

At Sweetwater's Depot Visitor Center

FOOD TRUCKS

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October 19

5:15-6pm: Mingle & Eat
6-7pm: Fall Fashion Show
7-8: Exclusive Shopping

\$10
Seating is limited
Scan to Purchase Tickets:

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305 WALNUT ST.

Ribbon Cutting-TWM, Inc (Formerly Medders Surveying)

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for TWM, Inc., located at 9 W Washington Ave., Downtown Athens. TWM (formerly Medders Surveying) specializes in civil & structural engineering and land surveying . They look forward to expanding their offices and services here in southeast Tennessee. Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right are: McMinn County Mayor John Gentry, Athens City Councilman Dick Pelley, Mark Texter, Jen Cochran, Derek Twente, Christian Medders, Cayla Medders, Sarah Patterson, Bryce Goodman, Mark Sigmon and Tyler Harrison with TWM. Back: Stacey Hester, Chamber Diplomat; Stephanie Devine; State Representative Mark Cochran, Doug Bailey, Chamber Diplomat; Hugh Willson; Traci White, Chamber Diplomat; Larea Graves, Chamber Diplomat; Rob Preston, Chamber President/CEO); and Karen Sullivan, Athens Chamber.



Ribbon Cutting-New York Life Insurance

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, New York Life Insurance-Clarissa Holmes, located in Athens. Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right are: Karen Sullivan, Athens Chamber, Athens City Council Member Dick Pelley, Cheryl Ingram; Clarissa Holmes, New York Life; Dawn Sullins; Stacey Hester, Chamber Diplomat; Traci White, Chamber Diplomat; Tod Marner, Chamber Board. Back: Rob Preston, Chamber President/CEO; Walt Bowman; State Representative Mark Cochran; Stephanie Divine; Doug Bailey, Chamber Diplomat; Lindsey Ferguson; Larae Graves, Chamber Diplomat; Todd Watson, Chamber Board.

