

**19th Annual
Etowah Community
Christmas Concert**
Thursday, Dec 14 @ 7 pm
1st Baptist Church Etowah

FEATURING
Etowah Town Band
Etowah Community Handbells
Etowah Community Choir

FREE ADMISSION

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Today's News... This Morning

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(See page 2 for more news)

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Friday, December 01, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

Woman's Remains Identified

A woman whose remains were found in 1987 in Roane County has been identified as a result of a partnership between the Roane County Sheriff's Office and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Unidentified Human Remains DNA Initiative. On August 29, 1987, a body was discovered by a passer-by beside a garbage dumpster in the 2600 block of Highway 58 in Kingston. Forensic anthropologists determined that the remains were those of a white female, likely between the ages of 35 and 50. The victim had been burned after her death and discarded beside the dumpster. Investigators with the Roane County Sheriff's Office worked to determine the identity of the victim through the use of technology available in 1987, but their efforts were not successful. After exhausting all leads, investigators could not determine the victim's identity, and she was classified as a Jane Doe. Attempts to identify the Roane County Jane Doe continued, and in April of 2009, the University of Tennessee Forensic Anthropology Center submitted a sample of her remains to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A DNA profile was developed and entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System in hopes that the woman would eventually be identified, but no developments occurred. In April, as part of the Unidentified Human Remains DNA Initiative, TBI agents assisted the Roane County Sheriff's Office by submitting a sample of the woman's remains to Othram Inc., a private lab based in Texas, for forensic genetic genealogical (FGG) DNA testing. Scientists provided information about possible relatives connected to the woman. Last month, agents made contact with one of those family members and obtained a familial DNA standard. That standard was then submitted to Othram for comparison against the DNA of the unidentified woman. Based on the DNA and forensic genealogy results, scientists at Othram confirmed that the unidentified

Continued on Page 2 Column 2

Community News You Can Use

- ✓The Good Morning Etowah, Christmas Edition is this morning at CapStar Bank in Etowah. If you are a Chamber Member, a Friend of the Chamber, or are interested about what they do and would like to know more, meet them there at 8:00 a.m. Also, for those of you who would like to participate, please bring a white elephant gift for the annual exchange.
- ✓The Englewood Christmas Parade will be tonight. Downtown city streets will be closed at 6 p.m. until 7:30 to 8 p.m.
- ✓There will be no monthly meetings for the Cherokee Beekeepers Association for December. The meetings will resume in January 2024. At that time, the meetings will again take place on the fourth Tuesday of the month.
- ✓Athens Area Chamber of Commerce announces that Hendon Hooker is coming to Athens. For ticket purchases call 423-745-0334 or visit [HERE](https://www.hendonhooker.com) to order online.
- ✓Reminder: Jazzy Little Christmas performances are Friday, December 8, at 7:30 PM; Saturday, December 9, at 7:30 PM; and Sunday, December 10, at 2:00 PM at the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center. Jazzy Little Christmas tickets are \$20. Limited tickets remain, patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets soon as AACA cannot guarantee availability. For more information visit athensartscouncil.org, or phone 423-745-8781. The Arts Center is located in Historic Downtown Athens, Tennessee, in the Main Street District, at 320 North White Street.

THURSDAY'S MARKET REPORT:

Stocks closed mostly higher. The technology-heavy NASDAQ closed lower. Treasury yields were little changed. The 10-year Treasury yield closed around 4.35%. Oil finished sharply lower. European markets closed higher. At the closing bell: The Dow Jones was up 520.47 to 35,950.89. The S&P 500 was up 17.22 to 4,567.80, and the NASDAQ was down 32.27 to 14,226.22.

COX ENTERPRISES GIFT SHOP & BOUTIQUE WILL BE AT ETOWAH'S "VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS" TOMORROW FROM 10-5 PM AT THE L & N DEPOT AND ALSO AT FAIRVIEW CHRISTIAN ACADEMY'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SAT. DEC. 9 FROM 10-2 PM. BRING THIS AD TO EITHER EVENT FOR 25% OFF! (WE'LL BE CLOSED AT OUR STORE THESE 2 SATURDAYS) GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST, EVEN FOR TEACHERS!

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Obituaries

♦ **Reagan Neil Wheeler**, age 79, of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. He was a United States Army Veteran and retired from CSX Railroad. He was a 9th Dan black belt in Isshinryu Karate. He was a long-time member of the Cambria Baptist Church. A masonic service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 2 at Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Green Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 – 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **John Nathaniel (Jack) Garner**, age 80, of Athens and formerly of Madisonville, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on Thursday, November 30. He was an active member of First Baptist Church for 46 years, an educator for over 30 years (Ingleside, North City, E.K. Baker, and Mountain View). He loved his students, and they loved him. During the summer months he was an instructor at the Tennessee PGA Junior Golf Academy. After retirement he was the Director of Coordinated Charities. He was a graduate of Madisonville High School, Hiwassee College, Tennessee Wesleyan College, and Tennessee Tech. Visitation will be Sunday, December 3rd, from 1 – 2:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Athens with the funeral at 2:30. Interment will be Monday, December 4th at 1 p.m. at McMinn Memory Gardens, Athens. Family and friends will assemble at the cemetery. Good Samaritan Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Church News and Events

-North Etowah Baptist Church will have a park-and-walk-through live nativity with a camel, sheep, and other animals on Saturday, December 9, 5:00-8:00pm. It is a free event with free refreshments.

-The McMahan Calvary Baptist Church will have a live nativity on Friday, December 1st from 6 to 8 p.m. You can drive-by to see it or stop and visit if you so choose. The church is located at 569 County Road 172, Athens. Ricky Vaughn is the Pastor.

-Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

- Celebrate Recovery meets at the following churches: The Englewood Church of God every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Woodward Avenue Church of God every Tuesday at 6 p.m.

-Mars Hill Presbyterian Church (205 North Jackson Street) is sponsoring a free children's playgroup on Mondays, 9-11 a.m. for ages 0-5. For additional information, contact the Church Office (423-745-1403) or Mary Ann Reed (910-200-2905).

Woman's Remains Identified Continued from Page 1: remains belonged to Betty Lou Wisley (DOB: 12/30/1935), originally of Clinton, Missouri. It was further determined that Wisley was living in or near the Knox County area at the time of her death. Now, Roane County Sheriff's Office Investigators and TBI special agents are hoping the public can help piece together the events leading up to Betty Lou Wisley's death. Anyone with information, specifically any knowledge about individuals she may have been with before her death, is asked to contact the Roane County Sheriff's Office at 865-717-4722 or email tips to awolff@roanesheriff.org. Click [HERE](#) to read more about TBI's Unidentified Human Remains DNA Initiative.

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