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Today's News... This Morning

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(SEE PAGE 3 IN TODAY'S EDITION)

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Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

Fire at HP Pelzer

Friday morning at 1 Athens Fire Department received the page for fire alarm at the HP PELZER plant on Industrial Way, Athens. Upon arrival of fire personnel, flames were visible and the plant was in production. At the point of arrival mutual aid was requested from Athens Rural Fire, Niota Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Cleveland City Fire, Bradley County Fire, Hillsvie Rural Fire, and Riceville Rural Fire. The plant was heavily damaged by the fire. A trailer backed up to the dock was destroyed by fire. Assisting at the scene was McMinn Haz-Mat, AMR and AUB. Athens City Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth was in command of the scene. Photos by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.



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TODAY IN HISTORY - DEC 26th

1799 -Former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

1893 - Chinese leader Mao Zedong was born in Hunan province.
1947 - Heavy snow blanketed the Northeast, burying New York City under 26.4 inches of snow in 16 hours; the severe weather was blamed for some 80 deaths.

1980 - Iranian television footage was broadcast in the United States, showing a dozen of the American hostages sending messages to their families.

1985 - Ford Motor Company began selling its Taurus and Sable sedans and station wagons.

1994 - French commandos stormed a hijacked Air France jetliner on the ground in Marseille, killing four Algerian hijackers and freeing 170 hostages.

1996 - 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colorado. (To date, the slaying remains unsolved.)

2000 - Michael McDermott, an employee at an Internet firm in Wakefield, Massachusetts, shot and killed seven co-workers. (McDermott was later convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.) Veteran stage and screen actor Jason Robards died in Bridgeport, Connecticut, at age 78.

2004 - More than 230,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, were killed by a 100-foot-high tsunami triggered by a 9.1-magnitude earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean.

2006 -Former President Gerald R. Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93.

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Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Frances Hart Nielsen**, age 90, of Athens, passed away Thursday, December 21 at her residence. She was a native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and a longtime resident of McMinn County. She was a member of Antioch Baptist Church of Athens. She was a nurse until her retirement. A graveside service will be conducted at 2:00 pm, Wednesday, December 27 at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12:00-1:30 pm at Smith Funeral Home. A procession to the cemetery will follow. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Anoline "Lene" Bacon Parkinson**, age 89, of Riceville, passed away Thursday, December 21 at her residence. She was a lifelong resident of McMinn County. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Riceville and was associated with T.B Isbell Insurance until her retirement. A funeral service will be conducted, 1:00 pm, Tuesday, December 26 at Smith Funeral Home. Interment will follow in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 12:00-1:00 pm at the funeral home prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Barney Taylor "B.T." Bowman**, age 81, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, December 21. He enjoyed farming, golf, fishing, skiing, and watching various sports in his free time. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, December 27th at 2 p.m. at Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation. Interment will follow in the Beta Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 noon - 2 p.m. prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Loretta Peters Turner**, age 77, passed away on Thursday, December 21. There will be no formal service held, per Loretta's wishes. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **James "David" Keith, Jr.**, age 57 of Oak Ridge, passed away Wednesday, December 20 at his residence. He was a native and lifelong resident of Oak Ridge. He worked as an assistant manager for Big Ed's Pizza, and for K25 in Oak Ridge. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Tennessee Unemployment Data

As Tennessee employers prepared for the busy holiday season, new data from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development showed more Tennesseans were available to work in November 2023 when compared to the previous month. While the state's seasonally adjusted Labor Force Participation Rate remained steady at 59.4%, estimates show the number of Tennesseans not working increased by slightly more than 5,000 individuals. That change caused the unemployment rate to inch up to 3.5%, from 3.3% percent in October. In a year-to-year comparison, Tennessee's latest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged and matched the November 2022 rate of 3.5%. Tennessee employers increased their payrolls by 19,500 nonfarm positions over the last year. The healthcare and social assistance sector saw the most year-to-year growth. The professional, scientific, and technical services sector added the next highest number of jobs and was followed by the local government sector. Between October and November, Tennessee experienced a decrease of 4,400 nonfarm jobs. The administrative, support, and waste services sector lost the most positions. The retail trade sector accounted for the next highest job loss, followed by the transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector. A complete analysis of Tennessee's November 2023 unemployment data is available [here](#). The nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November came in at 3.7%, 0.2 of a percentage point higher than Tennessee's rate for the month. The new national rate dropped 0.2 of a percentage point when compared to the previous month's rate of 3.9% but was up 0.1 of a percentage point from the 3.6% rate in November 2022. Tennesseans looking to start the new year with a new job can begin that search at one of nearly 80 American Job Centers across the state. Career specialists work one-on-one with job seekers to help them find employment, training for new career opportunities, and programs that can help remove any barriers that are keeping them from advancing in the workforce. All the services the state offers come at no cost to Tennesseans. This interactive map will guide job seekers to the American Job Center that is closest to them. The state of Tennessee will release the November 2023 County unemployment data on Thursday, December 28, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. CST.



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