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Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

## Reports from the Capitol

State Senator J. Adam Lowe and State Representative Mark Cochran will be interviewed on today's local news coverage on WYXI RADIO FM 94.5 & AM 1390. Local and area news is presented at 7:05 a.m., 8:05 a.m., 12:05 p.m. and 5:05 p.m. One major topic is the proposal to reduce or eliminate Tennessee's Franchise Tax and return or rebate the taxes for the past three year back to businesses.

## Greeks in Top 25 Gift and Décor Stores in U.S.

Greeks Bearing Gifts, a gift shop owned and operated by Patti and Jim Greek for 28+ years in Historic Downtown Athens, has made a national accomplishment. The Athens local gift shop has earned the ranks of being one of the nation's Top 25 gift and décor stores from the business industry magazine, "Gifts and Decorative Accessories". This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that Greeks Bearing Gifts has earned this accomplishment. Greeks Bearing Gifts has been operating in Athens since 1996 and has received awards for their redesign after the downtown fire in 2017. "This is such an amazing accolade for one of our local small businesses. Greeks Bearing Gifts is known to locals as a great gift store but now they are getting their much-deserved recognition to the entire U.S. It is incredibly exciting to tell our visitors about all of the things Athens is famous for," stated Brianna Baker, Communications Coordinator. For more information about visiting the City of Athens, Tennessee go to: [www.visitathensn.com](http://www.visitathensn.com).

## Community News You Can Use

✓The 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Meeting, sponsored by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, is Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The event will be at The Barn at Faith Farms starting at 5:30 p.m. Each year at the event, the chamber honors members of the community with various awards. Tickets are on sale and are available for purchase at the Chamber of Commerce Office, located at 13 North Jackson Street or by phone 745-0334.  
✓Nominations are now being accepted for the Athens "Young Woman of the Year" award to be presented at the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on April 18. This award is sponsored by Tennessee Wesleyan University who also sponsors the "Young Man of the Year" award. Candidates for the "Young Woman of the Year" award must be 39 years of age or younger and the date of birth should be included on the application. Candidates should exhibit leadership qualities and participate in providing overall contributions to community welfare. Nomination forms are available upon request by calling 423-746-5202 and nominations should be sent to President's Office, Tennessee Wesleyan University, 204 East College Street, Athens, TN, 37303. Deadline for nominations will be Monday, March 18.

◆ The guest this week on "Hope From the Well" will be Leigh Ann Bergherm discussing sewing classes. Hope From the Well is heard each Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.



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Wednesday, February 14, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

◆**Evelyn Jeanette Armstrong**, age 89, of Athens, passed away at NHC Healthcare in Athens, on February 7. She graduated from J.L. Cook High School in Athens, in the year 1953. She worked as a Supervisor at General Motors in Grand Rapids Michigan for more than 25 years, and worked at Montgomery Wards in Grand Rapids, Michigan in the office. She worked at Quality Inn in Sweetwater, Tennessee and Western Sizzlin' in Athens, both as a hostess. She was always a diligent worker, who took pride in whatever job or position that she held. She was an avid church goer who attended St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church in Athens. She held the position of Treasurer for a few years. Home Going services will be held Friday, February 16, at 1:00 p.m. at M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home of Athens. Visitation will be one hour before the service at the funeral home from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow at McMinn Memorial Gardens, Athens. M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

◆**Kevin Shane Winters**, age 43, of Athens, passed away Monday, February 12, at his home. He was a native of Greenville, Mississippi and longtime resident of McMinn County. He was a member of Keith Memorial United Methodist Church in Athens. Above all Kevin was a devoted father and husband to his wife Dyan and their children, Elizabeth, Henry and Charlotte and a lifelong friend to many. A national award winning educator, Kevin was currently employed as a Senior Specialist with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching. He was known by his friends and colleagues to have a passion for helping his students be successful. He was a graduate of Tennessee Wesleyan University and later earned his Master's degree from Tennessee Tech University. Visitation will be Friday, February 16, from 5:00-8:00 pm at Smith Funeral Home. There will be a private graveside service held Saturday. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

## Manhunt Ends - Dehart Captured

Kenneth Dehart, 42, of Blount County has been captured. Dehart is accused of fatally shooting Blount County Deputy Greg McCowan and injuring Deputy Shelby Eggers during a traffic stop last Thursday evening. Dehart fled the scene.

Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union (TVFCU) is sponsoring the Chattanooga Zoo's new porcupine exhibit, which is part of the zoo's The Cape of Africa expansion. As part of this, TVFCU and the zoo are hosting a contest to name the newest addition to the African cape porcupine family at the zoo. The new porcupette (the official term for a baby porcupine) is one of the two twin brothers recently born to Tommy and Pookie Prickles. The other brother has already been named Nickel. TVFCU accepted name suggestions from the public through an online form, receiving nearly 900 submissions. The top five names, selected through an internal voting process, are: 1) Peso Prickles – submitted first by Amy W. 2) Bill Prickles – submitted first by Cait S. 3) Tickle Prickles – submitted first by Alyson G. 4) Buck Prickles – submitted first by Harris C. 5) Dolla Prickles – submitted first by Josh R. Now, TVFCU is asking the public to vote for their favorite name. Visit TVFCU's Facebook and Instagram pages to cast your vote. Voting will close at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 18. The winning name, to be announced next week on TVFCU's social media pages, will be selected by popular vote. The winner will receive a year-long family zoo membership. For more information about TVFCU, including how the credit union stays involved with the communities they serve, visit [tvfcu.com](http://tvfcu.com).

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