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Today's News... This Morning

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Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

## STATE & LOCAL NEWS

◆ **BELL SEEKING SENATE MAJORITY LEADER POSITION**  
 State Senator Mike Bell of Riceville is said to be eying the post of Senate Majority Leader. The current majority leader, Mark Norris of Collierville, has been nominated by President Trump to fill a U.S. District Court judgeship in West Tennessee. If that happens, both Bell and Senator Jack Johnson of Franklin would like to have the majority leader position. Bell and Johnson consider themselves to be great friends. The contest appears to already be getting underway. After Johnson gave pens engraved with their names to the 28 members of the GOP caucus, Bell struck back by providing bowls of spicy bear and deer sausage balls to his colleagues. Bell is an avid hunter. Both Bell and Johnson say they're content to let Norris, whose term as majority leader extends through 2018, to remain there because their candidacies are based on his departure.

**CANCELLATIONS:**

- Due to predictions as of now, tonight's Cancer Support Group of Athens Church of Christ has been cancelled. They hope to reschedule the speaker for the Feb 13th group.
- The McMinn County Election Commission Meeting scheduled for 12 noon today has been rescheduled for January 23rd at 12 noon.
- To see a full list of closings click on our website [HERE](#)

**NOTE:** North Etowah Baptist Church will offer a warming shelter if temps drop below 32 degrees overnight. Check in is 5-8 p.m.

## National & World News

- ◆ A storm system will move through the eastern United States this week, bringing a new round of snow, ice and brutal cold temperatures along with it.
- ◆ An investigation is underway in California after 13 siblings ages 2 to 29 were allegedly held captive in a home in Perris. Some were "shackled to their beds with chains and padlocks."
- ◆ Nearly 50 years after his death, a fifth-grade Texas girl paid tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an inspiring speech that called on young people to get involved in politics and enact change, so that "they will be able to say that Dr. King's dream has really come true."
- ◆ A 910-carat diamond was discovered in Southern Africa. This is one of the biggest gems ever found. It is believed to be the 5th largest diamond to ever be unearthed.

◆ **MORE COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE**

- ✓ The United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties is now accepting nominations for the Dick Dyer Community Service Award. The award is given each year to an individual who exemplifies Mr. Dyer's exceptional vision and caring spirit for the community. To submit a nomination, mail it to P.O. Box 1681, Athens, TN, 37371-1681 by January 26th.
- ✓ The Athens City Council holds its monthly meeting tonight at 6 p.m. One item on the agenda is a public hearing and final vote on a proposal to allow the sale of beer at festivals and music concerts in Downtown Athens.

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**WEATHER FORECAST**  
**Tuesday** - Snow likely after 1 p.m. High near 29.  
**Tuesday Night** - 40% chance of snow before 1 a.m. Low around 9.  
**Wednesday** - Mostly sunny. High near 25.  
 More Weather at: [wysi.com](http://wysi.com)

# All Things Exterior

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Tuesday, January 16, 2018 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

- ♦ **Virginia Ann Brackett Pope**, age 84, of Calhoun, died Sunday. She was retired from Davidson Textron. She was the first female Commissioner of Niota. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Niota Cemetery. No formal visitation will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
- ♦ **Harry Raymond Checker**, age 68, of Madisonville, died last Friday at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home.
- ♦ **James Larry King**, age 67, of Decatur and formerly of McMinn County, died Sunday at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home.

## Measles Alert for Chicago O'Hare Travelers!

If you have traveled through the Chicago O'Hare airport, be forewarned that a measles alert was issued four days after an air passenger, who was diagnosed with the highly contagious virus passed, through two terminals at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. A statement issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health stated that on January 10th, some time between 6:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., "a passenger on an international flight with a confirmed case of measles arrived in Terminal 5 of the airport and the person departed on a domestic flight from Terminal 1." The statement warned that the passenger "was infectious that day" and "may have traveled to other parts of the airport."

## Thriving Launch Party

As part of the Thriving Communities Partnership, a kickoff celebration was held at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum last Friday. Approximately 70 community members participated in the brainstorming session, sharing ideas about the current arts and cultural assets in Athens as well as visions for the future. The Athens Team (Lisa Dotson, Kay Simmons, Whitney Kimball-Coe, and Lauren Shepherd) will participate in a 10-month training session to determine a project and put together a strategic plan that will benefit the Athens community. The photo shows Bridgett Massengill, Director/CEO of Regional Thriving Communities Partnership speaking to the group.



(Photo by Lisa Dotson)

## Today In History ~ January 16<sup>th</sup>

- 1853** - André Michelin, the French industrialist who first mass-produced rubber automobile tires, was born.
- 1910** - Baseball player Dizzy Dean was born. He wasn't given the name, Dizzy, at his birth on this day in 1910; but was named Jay Hanna Dean. Jay gained the reputation of being dizzy because of his malapropisms, used frequently in his later years. He was a star pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals during the 1930's and later became a popular radio sportscaster.
- 1939** - The shrill siren call of radio's I Love a Mystery was heard for the first time as the show debuted on NBC's West-Coast outlets.
- 1943** - Country singer Ronnie Millsap was born. His many hits include "What A Difference You've Made In My Life" and "Smoky Mountain Rain."
- 1961** - Mickey Mantle signed a contract which made him the highest paid baseball player in the American League. 'The Commerce Comet' stepped up to the plate for \$75,000 for the 1961 season. Over in the National League, Willie 'Say Hey' Mays, was making more money than any baseball player. He had a contract for \$85,000.

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