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Today's News... This Morning

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Tuesday, Aug 08, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

## MVA On CR 405 - Athens

This 2009 Chevrolet overturned while going around a curve on Co Rd 405, Athens close to 1am Saturday. The driver was injured with no medical transport and the passenger was transported



to UT Hospital Knoxville by AMR and is listed in critical condition. Responding agencies were Englewood Rural Fire, Niota Rural Fire, and McMinn County Sheriff's Dept. THP Officer Jackson Mowrer investigated the accident. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.

## Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The Good Faith Clinic will be open today, Tuesday, August 8th at 3 p.m. for refills, and at 3:30 p.m. for doctor visits. The GFC is for residents of McMinn and Meigs Counties that are under the age of 65 and have no health insurance. It's at 18 Congress Parkway South.
- ✓ The Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library will hold their monthly book sale on Saturday, August 12th. The book sale is on the first floor of the library and will be open 10am-2pm. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit online at [www.etowahlibrary.com](http://www.etowahlibrary.com).
- ✓ The McMinn County Election Commission will meet in regular session, Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the conference room of the McMinn County Courthouse and will conduct any election business to legally come before the board.

**MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT:** Stock markets were higher across the board. Yields were modestly higher. The U.S. 10-year yield was up to 4.09%. WTI crude oil was down to around \$82. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 407.51 to 35,473.13. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 40.41 to 4,518.44, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 85.16 to 13,994.40.



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### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



- Sausage & Egg Biscuits 2 for \$5
- LIMITED TIME: Breaded Sandwich with pickles, coleslaw & choice of tangy BBQ sauce or mustard based Carolina Sauce
- 32 oz Tea \$1

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Tuesday, Aug 08, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦**Billy Lynn "Bill" Dyke, Sr**, age 73, of Athens, passed away on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. He was a member of Third Street Baptist Church in Alcoa. Bill was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in Vietnam. He was associated with Athens Stove Works. Arrangements will be announced at a later date. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Norbert Alvin Hashe**, age 94, of Athens, passed away Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at Athens Place Assisted Living. He was a native of Greeneville, and a longtime resident of McMinn County. He was a well known Dairy Farmer. A graveside service will be conducted at 2 pm, Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11:30 am-1:30 pm Wednesday at Smith Funeral Home prior to the graveside service. Smith Funeral and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Herman Grant Creasman**, age 90, a lifetime resident of Meigs County passed away on August 6<sup>th</sup>. He retired from Combustion Engineering and enjoyed working on his farm. He was a member of the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. The family will hold a private memorial service at a later date. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is charge of arrangements.

♦**John Gates Sterchi**, age 69, of Ten Mile, passed away due to a tragic accident at his home on August 5<sup>th</sup>. He was born in Knoxville and attended Chilhowee Elementary School, Holston High School (Class of 1972), and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1979. He worked many decades in the field of fire safety and protection and served as the Fire Marshal for TVA's Watts Bar Nuclear Plant for the last 17 years of his 37-year career at that facility. He was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades throughout his career. He proudly worked with the brave men and women serving as local Volunteer Fire Fighters in training exercises throughout his career with TVA and considered many of those heroes his friends and comrades. Ironically, those brave men and women were instrumental in coming to John's recovery following his tragic accident. The family will receive friends at Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 163 Arrants Avenue, Decatur, on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 7 PM and will conclude with a memorial devotion. A celebration of John's extraordinary life will be held in Knoxville at a later date. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

## TBI Undercover Operation

A two-day undercover operation by special agents with the TBI Human Trafficking Unit, the Alcoa Police Department, and the 5th Judicial District Attorney General's Office has resulted in the arrest of seven men accused of seeking illicit sex from minors. Over a two-day period beginning August 4th, as part of an undercover investigation aimed at addressing human trafficking in East Tennessee, authorities placed several decoy advertisements on websites known to be linked to prostitution and commercial sex cases. The focus of the operation was to identify individuals seeking to engage in commercial sex acts with minors. As a result of the operation, authorities arrested seven men. All were booked into the Blount County Jail on the following charges:

- Rene Gonzalez (DOB: 8/5/79), Sevierville: One count of Trafficking for a Commercial Sex Act. \$25,000 bond.
- Hardkkumar Patel (DOB: 8/9/91), Knoxville: One count of Trafficking for a Commercial Sex Act. \$25,000 bond.
- Jorge Pickens (DOB: 5/10/02), Knoxville: One count of Trafficking for a Commercial Sex Act. \$25,000 bond.
- Bradford Hartman (DOB: 10/14/88), Maryville: One count of Trafficking for a Commercial Sex Act. \$35,000 bond.
- Kenneth Price (DOB: 7/31/62), Rogersville: One count of Trafficking for a Commercial Sex Act. \$35,000 bond.
- Jeremiah Williams (DOB: 10/5/99), Knoxville: One count of Trafficking for a Commercial Sex Act. \$35,000 bond.
- Chethan Ranganatha (DOB: 8/1/83), Knoxville: One count of Trafficking for a Commercial Sex Act. \$35,000 bond.

Part of the operation also focused on identifying potential victims of trafficking. Two adult women were cited and offered services such as housing and counseling through Grow Free Tennessee, a program of the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Information about human trafficking and law enforcement's actions to address the issue in Tennessee can be found online at [www.ITHasToStop.com](http://www.ITHasToStop.com)

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**SCHEDULE:**

- 8AM - Registration Begins
- 8AM - Breakfast Starts
- 9AM - Shooting Begins
- Noon - Awards

For Sponsorship & Registration Information Contact:  
Fire Chief Adam Haffey  
Phone: 423-856-0218  
Email: [district4chief@outlook.com](mailto:district4chief@outlook.com)