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Today's News...This Morning

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Thursday, November 29, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

Athens Man Arrested for Stealing from VEC

In what the State Comptroller's Office calls one of the largest cases of theft they've ever investigated, an Athens man, Jason

Kittle, 42, has been indicted for stealing nearly \$1 million from Volunteer Energy Cooperative. Kittle was a former accountant for VEC. He was fired on January 2nd, and Decatur police began investigating allegations of theft. The TBI and the State Comptroller's Office were brought in. Comptroller Justin Wilson says they determined that Kittle stole at least \$994,981 between June 2011 and December 2017. Wilson says Kittle stole



VEC money for his personal use by making payments to his personal bank and credit card accounts and to a credit card account in the name of a family member. Wilson says Kittle was able to conceal the thefts by recording the fraudulent transactions in VEC's accounting system as online payment fees or similar transactions. He says Kittle also managed and reconciled the VEC bank account statements, which allowed the thefts to remain undetected for years. The report found that VEC failed to provide proper oversight and failed to review the online payment details that Kittle entered into the accounting system. Kittle was indicted by the Meigs County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$250,000. He was arrested on Monday and bonded out on Tuesday.

National & World News

◆ A body found in North Carolina has been identified as 13-year-old Hania Aguilar who was kidnapped outside her home. State crime lab tests indicate the body is Aguilars, but a final determination will be made with dental records according to investigators.

It's Parade Time

The 2018 Christmas Parades in the Athens area get underway this Saturday. Here is the schedule:

NIOTA: The Niota Christmas Festival and parade scheduled for this Saturday have been cancelled due to weather concerns.

DECATUR: The Decatur Christmas Parade has been moved to 12 noon Sunday due to the weather.

ATHENS; The annual Jimmy Liner Memorial Christmas Parade will be next Monday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. in Downtown Athens. The parade begins at Athens City Middle School on Keith Lane and goes through Downtown Athens and back out West Madison Avenue.

ETOWAH: The Etowah Christmas Parade will be Thursday, December 6th, starting at 7 p.m. Traffic on U.S. 411 will be blocked from 2nd Street to 11th Street from 6 to 9 p.m.

ENGLEWOOD: The Englewood Christmas Parade will be Friday, Dec. 7th, starting at 6:30 p.m.

TEN MILE: The Ten Mile parade will be Friday, Dec. 14th, at 6 p.m. The parade goes from Uncle Gus' BBQ to Ten Mile School.

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The United Way fundraising campaign has reached more than half of it's \$710,000 goal. They are currently at \$428,000. For information on donating, call 745-9606.





Daily Monday - Saturday Morning 8:45 am - 9:30am and

Monday - Friday Afternoon 4:15pm to 4:45 pm



WEATHER FORECAST Thursday - 40% rain after 1 p.m. High 47.

Thursday Night - 60% rain. Low 44.

Friday - 60% rain before 1 p.m. High 59.

Friday night - 60% rain. Low

More Weather at: wyxi.com

Thursday, November 29, 2018 Morni

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

OBITUARIES

- Helen Marie Hoogland O'Donnell, age 80, of Athens, died Tuesday at Life Care Center of Athens. Arrangements will be announced by Smith Funeral Home.
- **Joyce Ann Shelton,** age 51, of Athens, died Monday at UT Medical Center. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Friday at Laycock -Hobbs Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday.
- Jackie Joe Fagg, age 77, of Athens, died Monday at Starr Regional Medical Center. He was retired from Plastic Industries. He was also a former member of the McMinn County Rescue Squad. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at McMinn Memory Gardens. Smith Funeral Home is in charge.
- Aderon L. Billingsley, Sr., age 86, of Etowah, died Nov. 22nd. He worked at Bowater for 40 years. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Thursday at M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home of Athens, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks rose, with the best-performing sectors being technology and health care.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 618 points or 2.5% to 25,366. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 62 points or 2.3% to 2,744, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 209 points or 2.9% to 7,292. In Commodity markets, the spot price of gold rose \$5.80 to \$1,220.80, and the price of crude oil fell \$1.09 to \$50.47.

Down to Earth Ribbon Cutting

The ribbon was cut recently for Down to Earth at 309 W. Madison Avenue #2. Pictured left to right (front row): Heather Smith (Diplomat), Lisa Dotson (Main Street), Rob Preston (Athens Chamber President/CEO), Lori Penley (Owner/holding son, Niko) and Nick Penley (Owner), Mary Ann Penley (Mother), Brittni Wright (First Tennessee Bank), Kim York and Lisa Harrison (Diplomats) (back row): Johnny and Sue Caughran (Lori's parents), Tammy Cockrum (Lori's sister/store manager)

(Photo by Kay Simmons)



The McMinn County Board of Education invites you to join us for a Retirement Reception honoring our Director of Schools, Mickey Blevins, for 35 years of service in education.



The reception will be held at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence
3 South Hill Street Athens, Tennessee Thursday, November 29, 2018
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

