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Today's News...This Morning

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Friday, February 02, 2024 Athens, Tennessee

TBI Investigates Large Cryptocurrency Theft

An investigation by special agents with the Cybercrime and Digital Evidence Unit of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation into the theft of cryptocurrency resulted in the arrest Tuesday of an Oregon man. In May 2023, TBI special agents began an investigation into the theft of cryptocurrency from a Polk County resident. During the course of the investigation, agents determined that from September 2022 through December 2023, on three separate occasions the victim had funds stolen from an account, at a loss totaling approximately \$330,300 at the time of the theft. While the stolen cryptocurrency was sent to multiple exchanges, the investigation revealed that the theft in those incidents could either be traced to accounts belonging to Patrick Hakim of Albany, Oregon, or involved accounts or services subscribed to by Hakim. The investigation reached across the country and included agencies from multiple states and jurisdictions: State of Oregon Department of Justice, Albany (OR) Police Department, Lincoln County (OR) Sheriff's Office, Ionia County (Michigan) Sheriff's Office, Santa Clara County (California) District Attorney's Office REACT Task Force, and the FBI Norfolk (Virginia) Field Office.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ Don't forget, Redwork Embroidery with Maddi Garvin will be at the McMinn Living Heritage Museum on Saturday, February 3rd at 11:00. Class size is limited to 12. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information about this event visit livingheritagemuseum.org
- ✓ Relay For Life will have a team Meeting this Monday at 6pm at Allen Memorial Fellowship Hall.
- ✓ For those wishing to pay property taxes prior to February 29, 2024, the McMinn County Trustee Office will be open all Saturdays in February 8:30 a.m. till 12:00 noon. The office is open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
- ✓ The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session on Thursday, February 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.
- ✓ Crescent Sock Company is accepting nominations for Woman of the Year and the deadline is Monday, March 4. Nominations may be sent to Crescent at POB 669, Niota, or by email to: sbboyd@crescent-incc.com or callen@crescent-inc.com.
- ✓ Monday, February 5th, is the deadline to register to vote in the "Super Tuesday" Presidential Preference Primary, County Primary and Etowah City School Board Primary. Register at the McMinn County Election office in the courthouse basement. For full details on the 2024 election cycle, click or tap: [HERE](#)


POST ROE: NOW WHAT?
 HOSTED BY NORTH ATHENS BAPTIST CHURCH
 402 TELlico AVE, ATHENS, TN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD - 2:00-7:45PM
 EVENING MEAL PROVIDED
 FIND OUT MORE AT:
WWW.ABOLISHABORTIONTN.ORG/EVENTS



Grand Opening Celebration

Athens City Primary & Athens City Intermediate School

DATE: Sunday, February 4th, 2024 TIME: 2:00pm-4:00pm
 RIBBON CUTTING/DEDICATION CEREMONY TIME: 3:00pm-3:15pm



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Friday, February 02, 2024

Morning Fax® Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦**Joe Bill Paul**, age 87, passed away peacefully on January 30th. He lived most of his life in Cleveland, then later in Riceville. He was the youngest of 5 children and spent his childhood helping his father work a dairy farm in Cleveland. He later joined the United States Navy where he served 4 years. He was stationed in Tokyo, Japan as a tele-typist and communications specialist. He spent his life as a tool and die maker for several local companies in Cleveland including Magic Chef, Brown Stove, and Schering-Plough. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his sons. He spent several years as a Dixie-Youth baseball coach. But the most important part of his life was his faith. Bill came to know the Lord later in life, but he loved the Lord and constantly studied and grew as a believer. He was a member of North Cleveland Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and helped direct the Senior Adult ministry there for several years. Services were held Thursday evening at the North Cleveland Baptist Church. A Graveside service will be today, February 2nd at Calhoun Community Cemetery which is next to the Calhoun 1st Baptist Church at 11am. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Evelyn Viola Ashe Poteet**, age 83, passed away peacefully in her home on January 29. She was born in a small log cabin in the Pleasant Grove community of Etowah in 1941. She grew up in the Etowah community and attended Etowah High School. She worked in many jobs in the community and even owned her own flower shop, White Dove Creations. She enjoyed horticulture, and loved to paint. Evelyn had many friends, but Jesus was her closest companion. She loved studying the Word and spoke with Him before every meal and many times throughout the day. Services will be held Thursday, February 8 with visitation from 4- 7 pm at Poole Funeral Home in Etowah, which is in charge of the arrangements.

Church News and Events

- Hymnsmen Quartet will be singing at Long Ridge Baptist Church, 11279 Highway 68, Tellico Plains, on Sunday Feb 4th at 6:00 pm.
- Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- Celebrate Recovery meets at the following churches: The Englewood Church of God every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Woodward Avenue Church of God every Tuesday at 6 p.m.
- Mars Hill Presbyterian Church (205 North Jackson Street) is sponsoring a free children's playgroup on Mondays, 9-11 a.m. for ages 0-5. For additional information, contact the Church Office (423-745-1403) or Mary Ann Reed (910-200-2905).

CRYPTOCURRENCY CONTINUED: TBI applied for and was granted an arrest warrant for Hakim in the 10th Judicial District of Tennessee for one count of Theft of Property, over \$250,000. On January 30th, detectives with the Albany (OR) Police Department arrested Patrick Samuel Hakim (DOB 09/12/1985) on the charge out of Tennessee and placed him into custody. He is currently being held in the Linn County (OR) Jail while awaiting an extradition hearing. The case is also being referred to the Linn County (OR) District Attorney's Office for consideration of local charges, including Computer Crime and Laundering a Monetary Instrument. **NOTE:** At this time, it remains unclear whether there may be an additional victim/s in relation to this case. For that reason, the TBI is releasing a booking photograph of Hakim and urges anyone with information to contact the TBI at 1-800-TBI-FIND.

Valentine's Dinner Dance
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