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Today's News...This Morning

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Former State Senator Mike Bell Joins State Fire Prevention Office



The Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) announced that former longtime state legislative leader Mike Bell has been named assistant commissioner of TDCI's Division of Fire Prevention, which includes the State Fire Marshal's Office. A native of McMinn County and former small business owner, Mr. Bell had a 16-year tenure in the Tennessee General Assembly where he first served as a state representative and later as a state senator. His career in the legislature included high-profile leadership roles as chairman of the Senate Government Operation Committee (2012-2018) and the Senate Judiciary Committee (2019-2022). In 2022, He joined the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) as the agency's Senior Policy Advisor and Legislative Director. "I know firsthand how the men and women who protect their communities as volunteer firefighters deserve everything we can do to support them, which is why I supported legislative proposals such as the Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training Grant Program, as well as the Volunteer Educational Incentive Program. "By joining the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office, I hope to inspire our team to find new ways to make a difference in the lives of firefighters, citizens, and all our stakeholders. I am tremendously excited about getting started in my new role, and I can't wait to get to know my team." His first day at TDCI will be Aug. 19. ~ CHATTANOOGAN.COM

Church News & Events

- Bethlehem Baptist Church is collecting shoes to donated to children left orphaned and is asking for your donations to help further this cause. They will have collection boxes at the Wil-Sav Drug Store in Madisonville and at Sloan's of Etowah.
- [Clay Hill Baptist Church](#) (594 County Road 675, Riceville) will be hosting [Women at the Well](#) this Sunday, August 11 during the 11 a.m. service. The Women at the Well will be singing and sharing their testimony about how God has improved their lives. Visit their Facebook event page [HERE](#). Everyone is encouraged to join for the service and Clay Hill Baptist Church would like to remind you as well about their Sunday School that begins at 10 a.m. as well.
- [Rocky Mount Baptist Church](#) (1002 Rocky Mt. Rd., Athens) is celebrating their Homecoming on Sunday, August 18. Singer [Dave Raby](#) will be singing gospel music with the service beginning at 10 am and a fellowship meal to follow.
- [Athens Christian Church](#) (802 S. Matlock Ave., Athens) is having a [Back-to-School Bash](#) on August 18 at 12 p.m. They will be having light refreshments, games, and snow cones. They are also collecting school supplies that they will give to families with school-age children. They will be first come, first serve.
- [Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship](#), 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Friday - Sunny. High 88.
Fri. Night - Mostly Clear. Low 67.
Sat. - Sunny. Light Winds. High 86. Low 64.
Sun. - Sunny. High 85. Low 65.

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Dr. Byrd

Friday, August 8, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

TWU Celebrates Inaugural Class of Executive Graduates



Tennessee Wesleyan University's Spring and Summer 2024 Commencement services celebrated the first graduates of The Goodfriend College of Business and Professional Studies Executive Graduate Program.

With the support of Dr. Robert Goodfriend, TWU Board of Trustees Chairperson, the executive programs were launched in fall 2023 semester. The development of the programs were fueled by a vision to create a learning environment fostering intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and practical skills. From the outset, they were designed to meet the needs of today's educational landscape. Offered in a low-residency hybrid format, these programs bridge the gap between classroom instruction and practical application. Residency weekends provide a time of study while allowing students to interact with faculty and classmates on TWU's West Knoxville campus.

Executive graduate program students choose from six entry points per year to begin their studies that includes three areas of study: the Master of Business Administration, the Master of Science in Project Management, or the Master of Science in Business Analytics. These programs had their first graduates in May, with another nine students graduating in August. "As we celebrate graduations and celebrate the first anniversary of the executive programs, we are reminded of the power of collaboration and innovation," said Dr. Stacy Swafford, Dean of the Goodfriend College of Business and Professional Studies. To learn more about Tennessee Wesleyan University, including the executive format programs, visit www.tnwesleyan.edu. In the photo are recent graduates Kabalan Doumit and Sri Vani Bala, with Anne Montgomery, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Business Programs and Dr. Stacy Swafford, Dean of the Goodfriend College of Business and Professional Studies and Associate Professor. *Photo and Press Release provided by Blake McCaslin, VP for Marketing, Communications and Community Engagement, TWU*

Swafford, Dean of the Goodfriend College of Business and Professional Studies. To learn more about Tennessee Wesleyan University, including the executive format programs, visit www.tnwesleyan.edu. In the photo are recent graduates Kabalan Doumit and Sri Vani Bala, with Anne Montgomery, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Business Programs and Dr. Stacy Swafford, Dean of the Goodfriend College of Business and Professional Studies and Associate Professor. *Photo and Press Release provided by Blake McCaslin, VP for Marketing, Communications and Community Engagement, TWU*

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Friday, August 8, 2024

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Meet & Greet



The City of Athens will be hosting a community Meet & Greet from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on Wednesday, August 14th in the Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers located at 815 N. Jackson Street Athens. Attendees will include current city council members, members of the Athens city staff, and the three candidates that are currently interviewing for the position of Athens City Manager. All citizens are invited to attend for this opportunity to meet your local city officials, and city manager candidates. *(See Public Notice of Called Meeting on Page 4 for City Manager Consideration & Vote)*

SKYWATCH: This year's Perseid meteor shower peaks around the night of August 11 and before dawn on August 12, 2024, with good viewing conditions for a few days on either side of the peak.

Obituaries

James "Jim" Stanley Womac, age 80 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. He was a retired truck driver for FedEx. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Monday, August 12, 2024, at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of James "Jim" Stanley Womac.

Multiple Indictments in East TN Meth Ring

An investigation by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and the 5th Judicial District Drug Task Force has led to the indictment of 15 individuals involved in a large-scale methamphetamine distribution operation in Knox County and surrounding areas. The investigation identified Richard Carroll Baker, a member of the Pagans Motorcycle Club, as the ringleader, with fellow member Brian Batson Fox and others assisting in the distribution of illegal narcotics across East Tennessee. A Knox County Grand Jury returned the indictments on July 31st, with 14 of the individuals already arrested. The investigation remains ongoing. *Continued on Page 4*

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Friday, August 8, 2024

Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

Multiple Indictments in East TN Meth Ring

The individuals located and arrested are as follows:

Richard Carroll Baker, Knoxville – Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine, three counts of Sale/Delivery of 26 Grams of Methamphetamine.

Brian Batson Fox, Dandridge - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

David Eugene Maples, Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Joseph Shane Moore, Strawberry Plains - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Larry Douglas Bradford, Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Erin Elizabeth Wright, also known as **Erin Fleenor**, Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Deidre Nicole Hood, Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Connie Sue High, Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Jill Marie Jones, Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

LeAndrea Faye Osentoski, Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Alicia Mae Kristen Murphy, Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Bettina Clara Godwin, Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Charles Richard Robertson, Jr., Knoxville - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Courtney Janene Lewis, Powell - Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Sell, Deliver, or Manufacture 300 grams or more of Methamphetamine.

Those accused are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and convicted through due process of law.



Today In History - August 9

1945 - The United States exploded a nuclear device over Nagasaki, Japan, instantly killing an estimated 39,000 people. The bombing came three days after Hiroshima was bombed.

1963 - Singer Whitney Houston was born. Her biggest hit records include "The Greatest Love Of All" and "I Will Always Love You."

1969 - Actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found murdered in Los Angeles. Cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers known as the "Family" were later convicted of the crime.

1974 - President Richard Nixon's resignation became effective at noon, and Vice President Gerald Ford was sworn in as the nation's 38th President.

2014 - Michael Brown, an unarmed African American teenager, was fatally shot by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, resulting in days of civil unrest and protests fueled by tensions between Ferguson's predominantly Black population and its predominantly white government and police department.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CALLED MEETING OF THE ATHENS CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all residents of Athens, Tennessee, and to all persons interested, that a called meeting of the Athens City Council will be held at the Athens Municipal Building (Burkett Witt Council Chambers) located at 815 North Jackson Street, Athens, Tennessee, commencing at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, August 19, 2024.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. Consider the selection of City Manager.
2. Discuss, authorize and approve any and all matters related to the hiring of a City Manager.

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Manager at (423) 744-2702.

Steven S. Sherlin, Mayor