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Today's News... This Morning

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(SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE NEWS)

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Monday, February 26, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

Voting Deadlines

The Tennessee Secretary of State's office and McMinn County Administrator of Elections, TeAnna McKinney, reminds all McMinn County voters that Tuesday, Feb. 27 is the final day to cast a ballot during the early voting period for the March 5th Presidential Preference Primary and County Primaries. "Early voting concludes on Feb. 27, but there is still time for all registered McMinn County voters to cast their ballots ahead of Super Tuesday," said Administrator of Elections, TeAnna McKinney. The ballot for the March 5 Presidential Preference Primary was certified and set in December of 2023 so some candidates who have suspended their presidential campaign will still appear on the ballot. Voters will not only be selecting their preferred presidential candidate, but they will also be selecting delegates if voting in the Republican Primary, and Offices for District Attorney 10th Judicial District, Property Assessor, McMinn County School Board, Districts 1-5, Constable Districts 2 & 4, Etowah City School Board. "If you are a registered Tennessee voter and you have not yet cast your ballot during the early voting period, now is the time," said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. "Early voting provides a safe, secure process for registered voters to let their voices be heard before Election Day." For details on hours, polling locations, and more, McMinn voters can download the free GoVoteTN app or visit GoVoteTN.gov.


Continued on Page 3

Community News You Can Use


✓The City of Athens Public Works Department announces that parking spaces 102, 103, 104, and 105 on Madison Avenue White Street to Jackson Street on Monday, March 4, from 7:30 a.m. until 5:15 p.m.; Madison Avenue from White Street to Jackson Street on Tuesday, March 5, from 5:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. Parking spaces 102, 103, 104, and 105 on Madison Avenue from White Street to Jackson Street on Wednesday, March 6, from 7:30 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. The purpose of this closing is for the McMinn County Election Commission's election supply pick up, drop off zone and receive election returns. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

✓The McMinn County Commission will hold their Annual Strategic Planning Session on March 1st, 2024, at 4:00 pm. at the Etowah Depot in their newly renovated Portico Room.

✓The Good Faith Clinic will be open Tuesday, February 27 at 3 p.m. for refills and at 3:30 p.m. for doctor visits. The Good Faith Clinic is free primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, from the ages of 18-64, who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic meets on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 S Congress Parkway in Athens. **REMINDER:** The Good Faith Clinic is open the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, Tuesday of each month.

 •Monday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 1:30
•Tuesday-Madisonville 10:30 - 1:30
•Wednesday-Etowah-10:30 - 2:00
•Thursday-Athens Sock Shop- 10:30 - 1:30
•Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30

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Food City Volunteer Recognition Award



Each year, Food City recognizes outstanding volunteerism among their dedicated team of associates through the Claude P. Varney Volunteer Recognition Program. “Food City is committed to the communities we serve. Many of our associates volunteer their time and talents to assist charitable organizations throughout the region and we’re proud to recognize their efforts,” said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer. The program is named in memory of Food City’s beloved former president and board vice-chairman of 47 years, Claude P. Varney, who was well-known for his tremendous compassion and humanitarian services. An independent panel of judges review associate nominations. The winners are selected based upon outstanding achievements in the areas of health, education, environment, cultural arts, recreational, heritage/history and public service. One winner is selected from each Food City store. Those winners then compete at the district level, where 13 overall district winners are selected. The 2024 District Winner from Athens Food City is Linda Morrow. She

is an exceptional teammate and person; she is involved with numerous organizations in her community and is a true asset to whatever she participates in. She goes above and beyond what is expected of her. Linda is a ray of sunshine to everyone she encounters. She is the true definition of being a beautiful human. Her heart for volunteering in her community is like none other. She doesn’t let a need go unmet. She is a true inspiration to those around her. Her kindness and gentle spirit not only make her community but the world a better place to live in. The world needs more Linda’s. The district winners will be recognized for their outstanding achievements with a \$250 contribution made to their charity of choice. Two divisional winners will be selected from among the district winners. The division winners will receive a plaque and a \$750 charity contribution. One overall winner will be selected to receive the prestigious Claude P. Varney Humanitarian Award and a \$1,250 charitable contribution. “We’re extremely proud of the difference our associates make in their community. Food City is committed to providing our associates with the support they need to become the best possible corporate citizens,” said Smith.

Large Grass Fire Spreads

Wednesday around 12:30 pm on County Road 632, near Athens, a brush and grass fire was started by an unknown source on the side of the roadway with the fire jumping the roadway and spreading to 5 parcels resulting in approximately 12 acres being burned. Claxton Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Etowah City Fire and Englewood Rural Fire Departments all responded with Claxton Fire Chief Mike Stewart in command of the scene. Photos by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department





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Monday, February 26, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

◆ **Ernest Jackson Teas, Jr.**, age 81, of Decatur, passed away on Friday, February 23, at his residence. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and training horses. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

◆ **Faye Torbett York**, 86, of Etowah, TN passed away Saturday, February 24, 2024. She was a native of Englewood, and a longtime resident of Etowah. Faye was a faithful lifelong member of Englewood First Church of God, as well as a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 28th at Bordwine Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday prior to the service. Friends and family will meet at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 29th for the interment in McMinn Memory Gardens. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

VOTING DEADLINES Continued from Page 1:
The Heritage Foundation ranks Tennessee number one in the nation for election integrity. The Secretary of State's office is Tennessee's trusted source for all election information — including the GoVoteTN app. For more information about early voting and other election information, visit GoVoteTN.gov or contact the McMinn County Election Commission located on the ground floor of the McMinn County Courthouse at 6 E. Madison Ave, Athens, TN. The phone number is 423-745-0843. Email: elections@mcminnelections.com or website mcminnelections.com.

More Community News

✓ In honor of Black History Month, E. G. Fisher Public Library will host Dr. Chris Schutz on February 27 in the Varnadow Community Room at noon. Dr. Schutz is Chair of the History Department of TWU as well as Co-Chair of the TWU Diversity Council. A light lunch will be served.

✓ McMinn County Trustee Phil Tuggle is reminding taxpayers that Thursday, February 29th, is the last day to pay property taxes before interest must be added. Property taxes can be paid online. Go to tennesseetrustee.com, click on McMinn County and follow instructions. Taxpayers with delinquent taxes can call 745-1291 or email ptuggle@mcminncountytn.gov for the correct amount due.

Tn State Senate Advances Proposals

Last week, the Senate advanced proposals aimed at amending the Tennessee Constitution. One bill Senator Adam Lowe is sponsoring will empower parents to make the best educational decisions for their child. On Wednesday, the Senate Education Committee advanced legislation to empower parents to have the final say over education decisions for their child. [Senate Bill 1688](#) allows parents and guardians to hold back their child from the next grade without the approval of the school board if their child has a learning or behavioral delay. The bill advances to the Senate floor for final consideration.



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