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Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

CLA Choir Brings Holiday Spirit to McMinn Senior Center



The McMinn Senior Activity Center was blessed to have the student choir from Christ's Legacy Academy perform at the Center on Monday, December 16. The choir performed several classical pieces as well as some more traditional holiday songs. The concert was concluded with a joyous sing-along with the choir and Center members. "We are so thrilled to have such an amazing

community support that comes and supports the Activity Center and the work that we do here. Christ Legacy Academy has not only an amazing reputation as a school but also as encouraging its students to be involved in the community. We can't wait to have them join us again," said Diane Hutsell, Executive Director at the McMinn Senior Activity Center. For more information on the many activities and programs at the Activity Center, contact the Center at 423-745-6830 or stop by from 8a-4p at 205 McMinn Ave; Athens, TN 37303.

LISTENING REMINDER: TODAY on *Main Street Moments*: Host Sandra Kinney invites **Josh Rogers from Proof**. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TODAY on WYXI RADIO : AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

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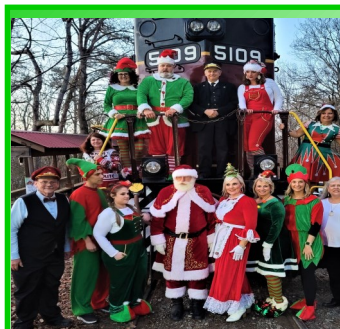
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Obituaries

Lois Louise Thomas Webb, 78, of Athens, TN passed away Saturday, December 14 at Tennova Healthcare in Knoxville. She was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church. She worked and retired from Athens Products after 28 years of service. A Christmas Celebration of life Service will be held at 7:00 pm, on Wednesday, December 18, in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 4:00-7:00 pm, Wednesday at the funeral home prior to the service. The family is asking anyone attending to wear Christmas attire. Family and friends will meet at Smith Funeral Home on Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 am to go in procession to McMinn Memory Gardens for a committal service at 11:00 am. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Lois Louise Thomas Webb.

James "Moose" Hayes, 87 of Meigs Co., passed away on December 15, 2024. The family will receive friends on Saturday December 21, 2024 at Companion Funeral Home of Athens from 10am-12pm. The funeral service will follow at 12:00pm. A graveside service will take place at Pisgah Cemetery in Decatur, TN following the funeral service. Companion Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Elmer Ray Harrill, 73 of Lenoir City and formerly of Athens, passed away at home on Sunday, December 15. Ray worked for CSX Railroad for 27 years. He was a member of Dixie Lee Baptist Church in Lenoir City. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 18 in Shady Grove Cemetery, Tellico Plains. No formal visitation will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Martha Ann Frye Huggins, 77, of Knoxville and formerly of Athens, passed away Monday, December 12 at NHC of Farragut. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Martha Ann Frye Huggins.

Patricia (Pat) McDonald, 79 of Athens, passed away on December 13, 2024 at Starr Regional Medical Center. She was employed at Roses for many years. Pat was of the Christian faith. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

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Tuesday, December 17, 2024 Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning Page 3 **Athens, Tennessee**

Celebrate Winter Break at E.G. Fisher Public Library!

This Winter Break, E.G. Fisher Public Library is the place to be! With a full schedule of activities, you can make the most of the holiday season with crafts, cooking, movies, and celebrations. Here's a sneak peek at what's in store:

December 23 @ 12:30 PM – Gift-Making Workshop

Create heartfelt gifts at our Christmas Gift-Making Workshop! Stations include wood ornaments, peppermint shower steamers, charm necklaces, painted rock tic-tac-toe sets, and yarn snowman crafts. Perfect for kids to make creative keepsakes.

December 26 @ 12:30 PM – Holiday Celebration Crafts: Around the World

Explore holiday traditions from around the world through self-guided hands-on crafts. Learn about celebrations like St. Lucia Day, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and more in this variety-packed workshop.

December 26 @ 5:00 PM –Teen Paint Night: Winter Tote Bags

Teens can create winter-inspired designs on tote bags! All materials provided. Space is limited, so registration is required. Call 423-745-7782 to sign up.

December 27 @ 12:30 PM – Festive Fruit Fluff Workshop

Join us for a fun and tasty session making whipped cream fruit salad! It's the perfect blend of festive and delicious.

December 30 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM – Noon Year's Eve Party
 Ring in the new year early at our Noon Year's Eve Party! Enjoy a storytime, crafts, coloring sheets, and an exciting balloon drop at noon. Meals for kids and teens will also be available from 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM.

January 2 @ 12:30 PM – Nature's Winter Wonders Workshop
 Embrace the season with nature-inspired activities! Make ornaments from sticks and twine, create bird feeders, and discover fun ways to play outside in winter.

January 3 @ 12:30 PM – Movies & Hot Cocoa
 Cozy up with a family-friendly winter movie (Rise of the Guardians - PG) and hot chocolate. Bring a friend and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at the library.

Special Holiday Closures:

The library will be closed on December 24, December 25, December 31, and January 1 to allow our staff to enjoy the holidays with their families.

Free Meals for Kids and Teens:

During our open days of winter break, we're offering free meals for kids and teens from 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM. Stop by for lunch and stay for the fun activities!

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Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

#7 Vols Prepare for CFP First-Round Battle in Columbus Against #6 Buckeyes



After two weeks to rest and prepare, No. 7 Tennessee is set to face No. 6 Ohio State in a highly anticipated College Football Playoff first-round matchup this Saturday night at Ohio Stadium.

Head coach Josh Heupel emphasized the significance of the opportunity, crediting the team's hard work since January for earning their place in this game. Junior running back Dylan Sampson echoed

Heupel's sentiments, noting that reaching the CFP was the goal all offseason.

Tennessee faces a major challenge against a talented Ohio State squad that boasts one of the nation's top defenses and elite offensive playmakers. Heupel praised the Buckeyes' all-around strength and stressed the importance of preparation to ensure the Vols play their best football.

This marks Tennessee's first-ever playoff appearance, a key milestone in its resurgence under Heupel. He highlighted the program's steady progress and the need to capitalize on this opportunity through focused preparation and execution.

Kickoff is set for 8 p.m. ET on Saturday in Columbus. It will be broadcast on ABC and ESPN.

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Today's News... This Morning

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Employee Charged with Arson following Dollar General Fire in Sweetwater



On Saturday, December 14, 2024, authorities responded to an alarm activation at the Dollar General located at 844 N Main St. Upon arrival, officers discovered smoke coming from the building and immediately called Sweetwater Fire and Rescue for assistance.

Firefighters arrived to find an active structure fire and began extinguishing the flames with the help of several neighboring fire departments. Following an investigation, authorities determined the fire had been intentionally set.

Detectives quickly identified Andrew Helton, a Dollar General employee, as a suspect. During questioning, Helton admitted to starting the fire. He was arrested and charged with two counts of aggravated arson. Helton is currently in custody, awaiting further legal proceedings.

Sweetwater Police expressed gratitude to Sweetwater Fire Department and the many other agencies involved, including Madisonville Fire-Rescue, Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department, Christianburg Volunteer Fire Department, and others, as well as the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Bomb & Arson Division, for their swift response and support.

Authorities remind the public that all suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

Source: [Sweetwater Police Dept.](#)

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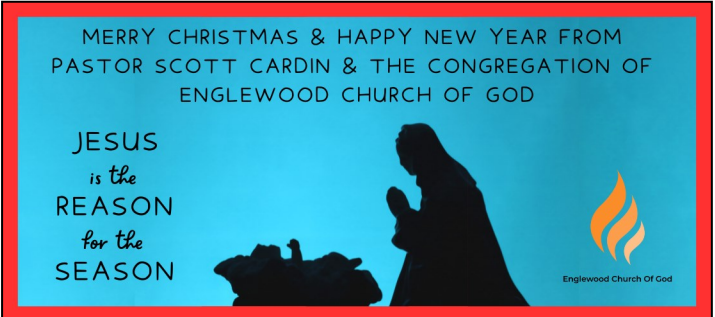
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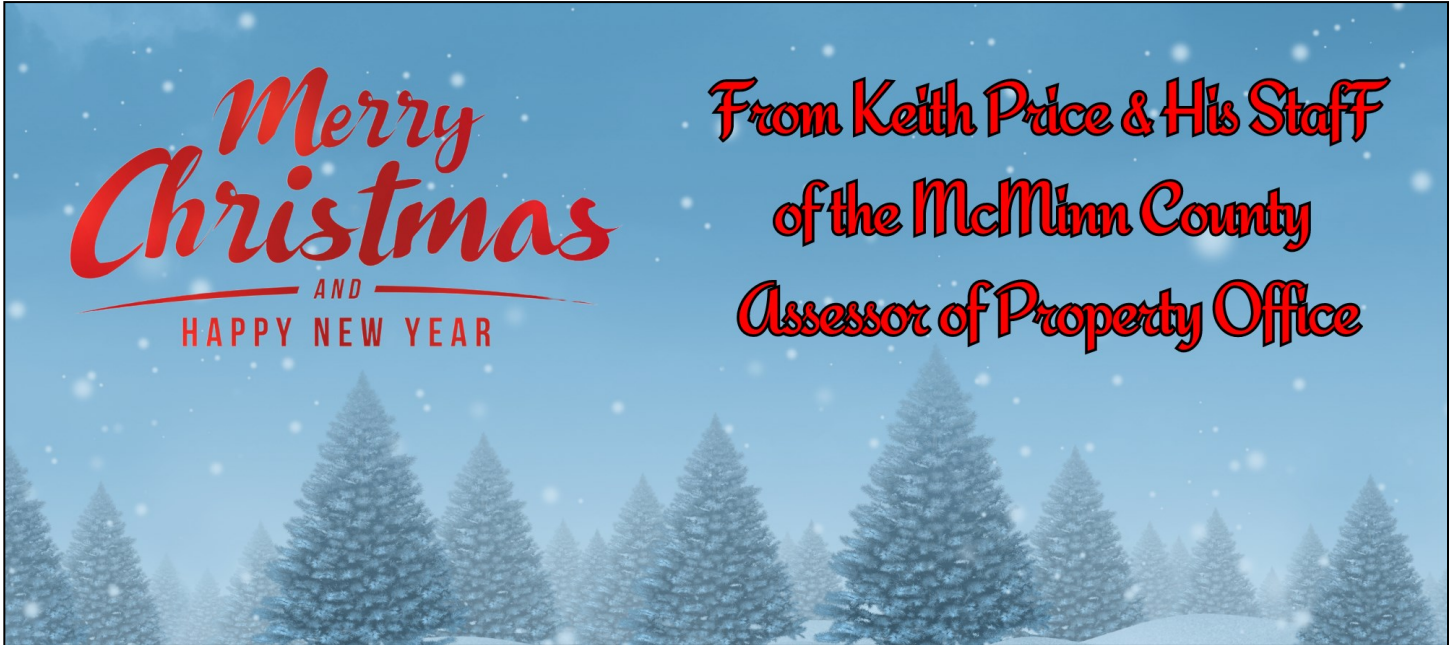
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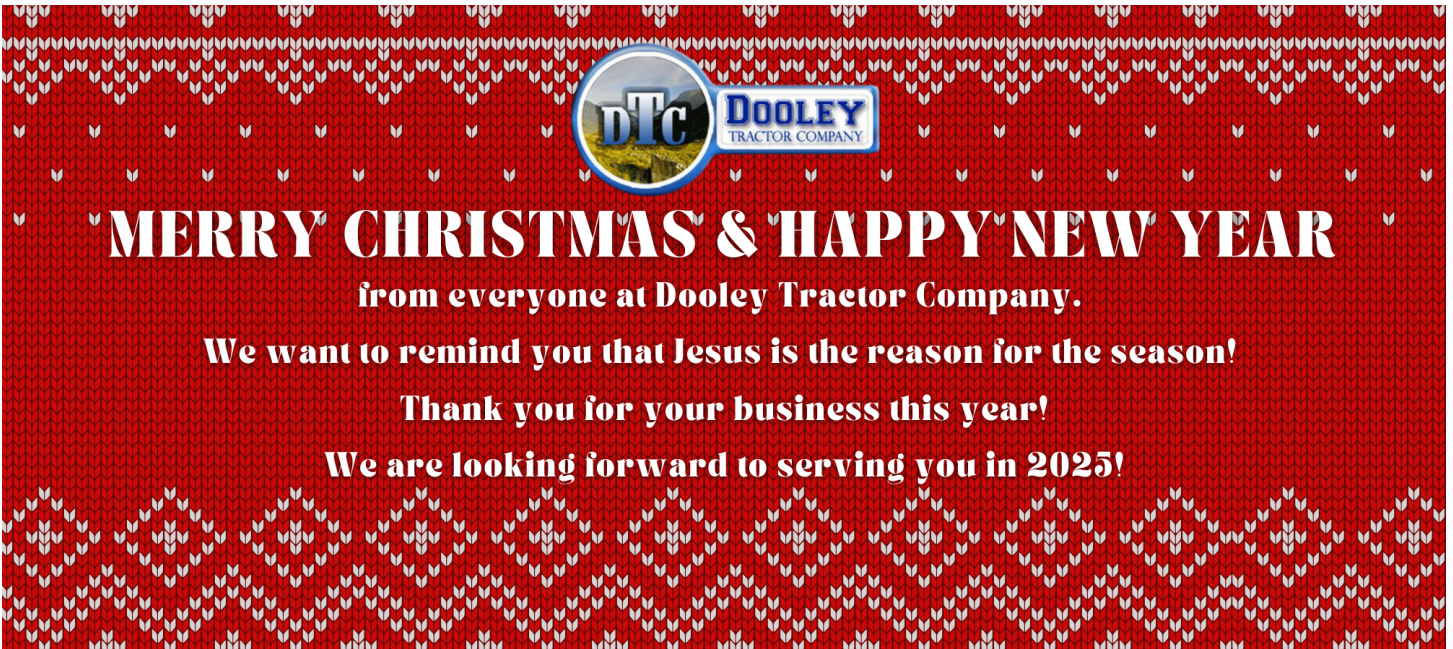
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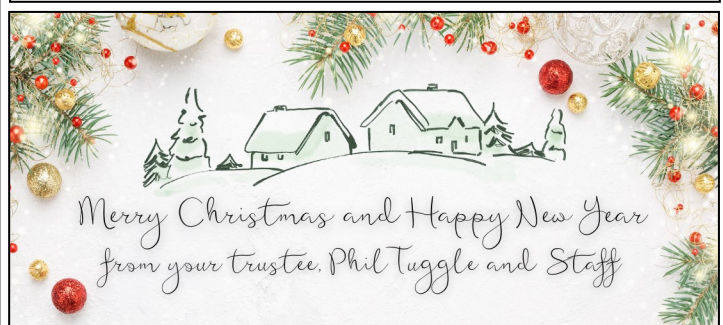
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