

Thursday, December 19, 2024

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Athens City Council Meeting

Here's a recap of the Tuesday night meeting of the council:

Approved the demolition of the former North City School. The city is currently spending between \$5,000 and \$6,000 per month to maintain the substandard building. Plans are to retain the approximate 9 acres of land for future growth and development.

Approved the purchase of 2 new vehicles for the Athens Police Department.

Did not appoint someone to fill a vacancy on the McMinn County Library Board and deferred action on the matter until next month.

Approved a resolution to apply for a grant for assistance for new equipment to be used by the Fire Department.

Deferred action until next month on an application from the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum for additional Hotel-Motel tax funds.

Approved revisions to the employee handbook, application of policies, plans, rules and regulations section and departmental rules and regulations section.

EXPOSURE coming to Athens

Athens, Tennessee

The Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) invites amateur and professional photographers to participate in its annual photography exhibit, **EXPOSURE**. The exhibit features two divisions: digital and film. Entry fees are \$10 per digital photo and \$5 per film photo, with a submission deadline of Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Full details, including the prospectus and timeline, are available at:

athensartscouncil.org/exposure-prospectus.

This year's judge, Linnea Moody, a photographic artist from Missouri now based in Chattanooga, will also showcase her work alongside the exhibit on the Gallery Wall in the Peggy Dow Performance Center. Moody's art focuses on memory, perception, and photographic experimentation, with her work displayed in various solo and group exhibits nationwide.

EXPOSURE will run from March 24 to May 30, 2025, in the Willson Exhibit Room and Hallway Gallery at The Arts Center. The Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday, April 4, at 5:00 PM. Viewing hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and during special events.





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Obituaries

Martha Ann Frye Huggins, 77, of Knoxville, formerly of Athens, passed away on Thursday, December 12 at NHC Place in Farragut following a battle with cancer. A native of Athens, Martha Ann attended McMinn County High School and graduated from Fairfax Hall in Waynesboro, Virginia. She graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan College with a degree in English and worked for several years as a social worker for the Department of Public Health. Martha Ann was an accomplished athlete who loved waterskiing, tennis, and golf. She was also a tenacious card player and duplicate bridge was her primary passion. A private graveside service will be scheduled at a later date. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Martha Ann Frye Huggins.

Community News You Can Use

- The AUB Budget and Finance Committee meeting for December will take place today Thursday, December 19 at 11 am.
- The McMinn County Election Commission will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th through Friday, December 27 for Christmas and on January 1 for New Years.
- The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting a sobriety checkpoint on Thursday, February 6 at 8:30 pm on Hwy 411 at the Polk County Line in McMinn County. The scheduled checkpoint is contingent upon manpower and weather conditions.
- If you live within the Niota City Limits and have ANY Christmas Decorations on the outside of your house, please come by Niota City Hall (201 E. Main St., Niota) and enter your name for a drawing for gift cards from delicious restaurants.





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ANNUAL STUDENT ART SHOW AND FIGHT OR FLIGHT ARE JANUARY EXHIBITS AT THE ARTS CENTER



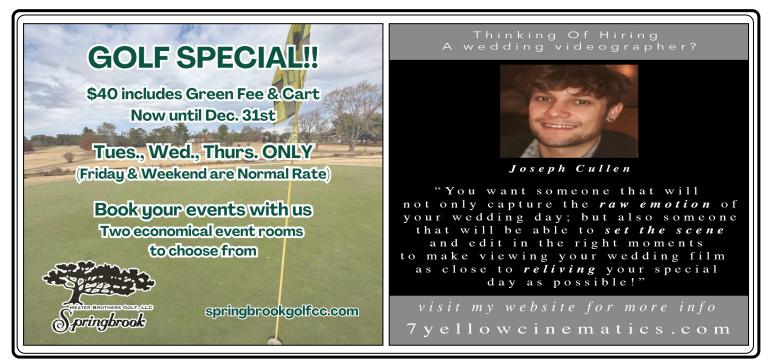
The Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) will host its annual Student Art Show and "Fight or Flight," an exhibit by Myles Freeman, from January 6 to February 5, 2025. The Student Art Show, featuring middle school, high school, and college students from McMinn and nearby counties, will have its opening reception and awards ceremony on Friday, January 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Myles Freeman, who will judge the Student Art Show, creates paintings inspired by sci-fi classics like *Dune* and *Blade Runner*. His exhibit, "Fight or Flight," reflects themes of cultural marginalization and resilience, featuring surreal figures in challenging landscapes.

"Fight or Flight" will be displayed in the Peggy Dow Performance Center, while the Student Art Show will be in the Willson Exhibit

Room and Hallway Gallery. Viewing hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and during special events.

More information is available at <u>athensartscouncil.org</u> or by calling 423-745-8781. The Arts Center is located at 320 N. White Street in Athens.



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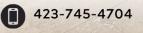
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It's Great to Be a Tennessee Vol: Excellence in Execution

As of December 18, 2024, the University of Tennessee's athletic teams are experiencing significant achievements across multiple sports:

Football

The No. 7 Tennessee Volunteers are preparing for a highly anticipated College Football Playoff (CFP) first-round matchup against No. 6 Ohio State. The game is scheduled for Saturday, December 21 at Ohio Stadium in Columbus, with kickoff at 8 p.m. ET. Head coach Josh Heupel emphasized the team's dedication and preparation leading up to this opportunity.

Men's Basketball

The top-ranked Tennessee Volunteers continued their undefeated season with a commanding 84-36 victory over Western Additionally, transfer guard Talaysia Cooper has been a Carolina. Point guard Zakai Zeigler was instrumental, nearly standout, averaging 20.1 points, 6.1 rebounds, 3.7 assists, and achieving a triple-double with 10 points, nine assists, and a 2.9 steals over seven games, contributing significantly to the career-high 10 rebounds. The Vols' defense was formidable, Lady Vols' undefeated start under new head coach Kim Caldlimiting Western Carolina to 21.9% shooting from the field. In well, a recent thriller, Jordan Gainey secured a 66-64 win against These accomplishments highlight a period of exceptional per-Illinois with a buzzer-beating layup, contributing 23 points to formance for Tennessee athletics across multiple disciplines. maintain Tennessee's perfect record.

Women's Basketball

The Lady Volunteers made history by sinking 30 threepointers in a 139-59 win over NC Central, setting a new record across NCAA Division I women's and men's basketball, as well as the WNBA and NBA. Senior guard Samara Spencer led the offensive onslaught with a career-high 33 points, including nine three-pointers.

Athlete Spotlight

