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## Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

# Athens Mayor raises concerns about AMR



AMR, or American Medical Response, is being asked questions by Athens Mayor Larry Eaton about their ambulance service for the citizens of Athens as well as McMinn County. According to the Mayor, AMR is supposed to have 5 ambulance

units assigned to McMinn County with at least 3 of those inside the county at all times. In emails the mayor sent to the AMR Regional Director, Joshua Spencer, Eaton says that AMR has left the county with no ambulance units on several occasions. Also, the mayor says that the local AMR responders are understaffed with 8+ members leaving the organization recently for better pay and working conditions elsewhere. Spencer responded in an email and said that he is willing to meet with all those involved in dealing with the ambulance service, however the mayor says he wants any meeting held to be done so publicly, so that citizens will be able to attend and know what's happening. As of this date, no formal meeting has been scheduled.

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### WEATHER FORECAST

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# Obituaries

**Edward Belk**, affectionately known as Ed, 92 of Etowah, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, January 2. He dedicated his career to carpentry. Over the years, he contributed to the construction of numerous homes in the Seven Cedars neighborhood. Later, as a self-employed carpenter, he built homes throughout McMinn County. He was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Englewood. Family and friends will assemble at 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 7 at Bordwine Funeral Home and proceed to Green Hill Cemetery for the 1:00 p.m. graveside service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**Linda D. Webb**, 78, passed away on Sunday, January 5th, peacefully surrounded by her family at home. Linda had a deep love for the outdoors and she found joy in working with flowers. She was widely recognized for her creativity. She was a follower of Christ of the Methodist faith. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 9 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Thursday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in McMinn Memory Gardens. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**Gemima "Jeannie" Leonardo Boyce**, 87 a native of Brooklyn, NY, passed away on Sunday, January 5. Jeannie traveled and lived many places around the world when she served as a nurse in the United States Army. Jeannie earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), and the Armed Forces Medal. She retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Jeannie was later employed with Rightway/AppleTree Health Foods of Athens for over 20 years. Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Gemima "Jeannie" Leonardo Boyce.

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## Obituaries

**Joy Mullinax**, 78, passed peacefully on December 23, 2024 in Athens. She was an avid supporter of the high schools her husband, Coach John Mullinax, was connected to. She will be remembered for making signs, blowing air horns and cheering passionately for the Cherokees, Cougars, Indians and Bears. She will be remembered for having as much impact on young lives as any coach ever did. She was funny, sometimes feisty and always living and loving. A celebration of life and friends will be held in Athens on Saturday, Jan 11 at Jerry Smith funeral home beginning at 10:30 a.m. Smith Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

**LISTENING REMINDER: TODAY** on *Main Street Moments*: Host Sandra Kinney speaks with Renee Stavanja with the Athens Women's Newcomer Club. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. **TODAY** on WYXI RADIO: FM 94.5 and AM 1390.

## Community News You Can Use


- The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.
- The Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and Animal Shelter will be closed on **Monday, January 20, 2025** in observance of **Martin Luther King Day**. The Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and the Animal Shelter will re-open Tuesday, January 21, 2025 during regular business hours. **Residential garbage routes for Monday, January 20, 2025 will be picked up on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.** All other residential garbage routes will be on regular schedule. Commercial/Industrial garbage routes will be picked up on regular schedule. ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. CONTACT MCMINN E911 COMMUNICATIONS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.



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Tuesday, January 7, 2025
Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4
Athens, Tennessee

## Game Preview: #1 Tennessee at #8 Florida



The top-ranked Tennessee men's basketball team will play tonight in Gainesville to face No. 8 Florida in its first SEC road contest of the season. **Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. ET and the game will be broadcast on ESPN2.** The Volunteers, fresh off a commanding 76-52 victory over No. 23 Arkansas, matched the best start in program history at 14-0, a mark last achieved in the 1922-23 season. In Saturday's win, Tennessee dominated from the outset, leading by as many as 27 points. Fifth-year guard Chaz Lanier delivered a season-high 29 points—his third consecutive game with 20 or more—while forward Igor Miličić Jr. grabbed a career-best 18 rebounds, the most by a Vol since 2014.

Tennessee holds an 81-63 all-time series lead against Florida, including an 8-2 record over the last 10 meetings. The Volunteers enter Gainesville ranked in the AP top six for the fourth consecutive visit, a testament to their consistency under head coach Rick Barnes. Florida, led by senior guard Walter Clayton Jr., a preseason First Team All-SEC selection averaging 18.3 points and 3.9 assists per game, was projected to finish sixth in the SEC.

Currently the only undefeated team in the nation, Tennessee is riding a 14-game winning streak, the fourth such streak in program history and the third to occur within a single season. The Vols also lead the SEC over the last eight years with a .690 conference winning percentage (87-39). Their defensive prowess remains a cornerstone of success, as they rank first nationally in KenPom's adjusted defensive efficiency (87.1) and have held opponents under 60 points in 42 consecutive games.

Chaz Lanier has been a standout for Tennessee, leading the SEC with 20.3 points per game and scoring at least 22 points in seven of his last 10 outings. Zakai Zeigler, with 207 career steals, is just five away from breaking Tennessee's all-time record. The Vols also boast an impressive 14-2 all-time record as the No. 1 team in the AP Poll, including a flawless 6-0 this season.

As the Vols look to extend their historic start, Tuesday's matchup against a top-10 Florida team provides an opportunity to solidify their position atop the rankings and continue their dominance in SEC play. [UTSPORTS.com](http://UTSPORTS.com)



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