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Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Area Schools Closed Today

Due to the single digit forecasted temperatures combined with a below-zero wind chill, the following area schools will be remaining closed today.

- Athens City Schools
- Bradley County Schools
- Etowah City Schools
- McMinn County Schools
- Meigs County Schools
- Monroe County Schools
- Polk County Schools
- Sweetwater City Schools

Schools have noted that this closure is due to the challenges the low temperatures bring, mainly to children bus riders, bus operators, and maintenance staff

Community News You Can Use

- Have you ever considered beekeeping or wondered if it was for you; well, here's your chance to find out. The monthly meeting of the [Cherokee Beekeepers Association](#) will resume on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting location is the AgCentral Farmers Cooperative located at 920 Congress Pkwy. N., Athens. You do not need to be a member to attend. The public is always welcome.
- [Monroe County Friends of Animals](#) wishes to remind you that January is "Unchain a Dog" Month. Dogs tethered for long periods can suffer from numerous health issues, both physical and psychological, such as boredom, loneliness, depression, and even aggression. As the cold winter persists, we urge you to bring your dogs indoors where they can stay warm, safe, and part of the family.
- There will be an Airport Committee Meeting on Monday, January 27 @ 5:30 pm in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is to review new T-Hangar design plans.



Help for Addiction to Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, Bondage, Anger Management and more Life Issues.

Free outreach deliverance classes are held every Thursday 7:00 pm at Planted in Christ Outreach Fellowship 317 Maple Street, Athens.

For more information: 423-435-8986
HOPE to see you there!

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WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday - Sunny. High 35. Wed. night - Partly Cloudy. Low 20.
Thursday - Partly Sunny. High 40. Thurs. night - Mostly Cloudy. Low 23.

More Weather at: wyxi.com

TN WESLEYAN SUNDAY LUNCH

Start your Sunday off right with our delicious and decadent Sunday Lunch on the TN Wesleyan Campus! Join us for a wide variety of lunch classics and new favorites to satisfy your cravings. Served all you care to eat style!

Date: Every Sunday
"When school is in session."

Time: 11am-1:30pm

Location: Sherman Dining Hall
204 E College Street
Athens TN 37303



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Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Lura Mae Evans, 84 of Reliance, passed away on Monday, January 20. Mae was one of the founding members of Calvary Church of God in Greasy Creek, as well as the oldest members. She retired from the Polk County Convenience Centers after 31 years of service at the age of 82. Funeral service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Friday, January 24, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Hiwassee Union Cemetery on Saturday, January 25th for the 11:00 a.m., committal service.. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Monroe County Narcotics Unit Seizes Significant Quantities of Drugs

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit and the Monroe County Violent Crime Task Force have been actively conducting operations over the past month, targeting known drug locations and seizing significant quantities of illegal substances.

Recent seizures include:

- **46 grams of methamphetamine** from a residence on North Fork Road in the Madisonville area.
- **18 grams of methamphetamine** from a residence on Scott Street in Tellico Plains.
- **27 grams of fentanyl, 1.7 grams of methamphetamine, 38 grams of marijuana, and \$205 in cash** from another residence on Scott Street in Tellico Plains.

Authorities are committed to combating the manufacturing, transportation, and distribution of drugs in the community, working tirelessly to remove these harmful substances from the streets. The names of those involved are being withheld at this time, and the Sheriff's Office reminds the public that all individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. *Source: [Sheriff Tommy Jones - Facebook](#)*

Athens Parks & Recreation Presents
the 39th Annual

Daddy Daughter Dance

February 21st @ 7:30pm

February 22nd @ 1pm, 4pm, & 7:30

McMinn County High School



Tickets on sale January 1st at athenstn.gov/parks

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Wednesday, January 22, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

TWU Basketball Update

Volunteers secure Top 10 finish under Heupel

The men's and women's basketball programs at Tennessee Wesleyan each picked up a double-digit win on Monday in their return to the floor at James L. Robb Gymnasium. The teams were hosting the Columbia International University Rams in Appalachian Athletic Conference games.

The Tennessee Volunteers (10-3, 6-2 SEC) capped a historic 2024 football season with a Top 10 finish in both major polls, marking the program's second such finish in three years under head coach Josh Heupel. The Vols ranked No. 9 in the Associated Press Top 25 and No. 8 in the Amway Coaches Poll, adding to their No. 7 placement in the final College Football Playoff rankings on Dec. 2.

The women's basketball team pulled away in the fourth quarter in a 74-51 conference win. Anna Crowder led all scorers with 21 points.

Tennessee achieved the program's first-ever College Football Playoff appearance this season, finishing as the third-highest ranked SEC team. The Vols were one of only 13 Power Four programs to secure 10 regular-season wins. All three of Tennessee's losses came on the road, including matchups against No. 6 Georgia and eventual national champion Ohio State.

The men's basketball team used a late scoring run to help them end the evening with a 76-59 victory against the Rams. Ty Hurst led all scorers with 25 points.

Upcoming events:

Away: Tonight, Jan. 22 at Reinhardt University at 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM.

Home: Sat. Feb. 1 against St. Andrews University at 12:00 PM (WBB) and 2:00 PM (MBB)

TWU Sports Coverage Provided by Chris Berry, TWU Director of Sports Information

This season marked the first time since 1999 and 2001 that Tennessee finished in the Top 10 twice within three years. Heupel's leadership has revitalized the program, which had not achieved a Top 10 finish since its 11-2 campaign in 2001.

The Vols' defense, led by Broyles Award finalist Tim Banks, was a standout unit. Tennessee ranked in the FBS Top 15 in 11 statistical categories, including third in fourth-down conversion defense (31.8%), fifth in yards per play allowed (4.56), and sixth in total defense (293.2 yards per game). The team surrendered just 16.1 points per game—the program's best since the 1998 national championship season—and limited 10 of their 13 opponents to under 20 points.

Offensively, Tennessee ranked 12th in scoring (35.7 points per game) and 15th in total offense (447 yards per game), reflecting their balanced approach. Heupel has guided Tennessee to three consecutive Top 25 finishes, with a total of 30 wins over that span, the fourth-highest in the SEC. The Vols' .769 winning percentage since 2022 ranks eighth in the FBS and third in the SEC. Tennessee is one of only four SEC teams—alongside Georgia, Alabama, and Texas—to finish in the AP Top 25 for three consecutive seasons.

With this year's achievements, Tennessee has solidified its place as a rising power in college football, continuing to build on Heupel's vision for the program.

Source: [UTSports.com](https://www.utsports.com)

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