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**Monday, January 27, 2025**

**Page 1**

**Athens, Tennessee**

## Athens City Council

The Athens City Council met in regular session last week and here is a recap of the proceedings.

A Proclamation was presented to Mike Bevins for his many years of service and leadership on the Athens City School Board. Another Proclamation was presented to signify "School Board Appreciation Week" which is taking place this week. The council also issued a resolution to declare this week as "Athens Flood Awareness Week."

A motion was made to rescind the December 17, 2024 vote to demolish North City School. No second was made and no vote was taken. The motion was in regard to the rapid growth of new homes in the city and maybe needing the building after all.

The City Planning Commission recently approved a plat to build 90 new homes between Keith Lane and Cedar Springs Road. Construction of those homes is scheduled to start in February. Sources have indicated a plat for another 90 new homes will be presented to the Planning Commission for their consideration. If it is approved, those homes will be built just off Decatur Pike on property formerly owned by the Seaton family.

The council authorized the city manager to contact an architecture firm to begin designing a new fire station to be constructed on Elizabeth Street near Cedar Grove Cemetery. The fire station is expected to cost around 4 to 5 million dollars.

## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Commissioners will meet in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse in Athens in Regular Session TODAY, January 27 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Athens Utilities Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28 at 5:00 p.m. Included in the agenda is a Presentation by John Werner, Vice President of Cumberland Securities.
- The McMinn County Historical Society and Archives are having their next meeting on Sunday, February 2. It is a field trip to the Van Dyke Mansion.
- **Tennessee School Board Appreciation Week** is January 26 - February 1. This week honors all the work of the school board and the education system. Thank you to every school board's members. **Read more on Page 3.**

**McMinn County Living Heritage Museum**

is seeking a motivated and detail-oriented individual to join our team as Office Assistant/Bookkeeper. We are looking for someone who is not only appreciative of McMinn County's history and artifacts but is adept at keeping financial records, maintaining membership programs, and interacting with the public.

Applications Available at:  
McMinn County Living Heritage Museum  
522 West Madison Ave  
Athens, TN 37303

Application Deadline  
February 17th, 2025

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**Tues Night - Partly Cloudy. Low 34.**

**More weather at:**  
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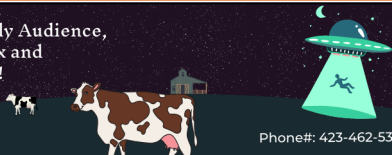
- Monday - Closed
- Tuesday-Decatur beside Southeast Bank at the Boys and Girls Club -10:30 - 1:30
- Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2:00
- Thursday-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 -1:30
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30



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Monday, January 27, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Edward "Ed" Tracey Reed**, 77 of McMinn County, passed away on Friday, January 24. He was a member of the Athens BPOE 1927 and was a truck driver for Sherwin Williams for over 30 years. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Edward "Ed" Tracey Reed.

**Hubert R. "Poppy" McCoy**, 92 of Niota, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 23 at home. A member of Niota United Methodist Church, he was a veteran of the United States Army and served his country during the Korean War. Funeral services will be 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, February 2, in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The family will receive friends Sunday from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM at the funeral home. Interment will be 11:00 A.M. Monday, February 3 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of arrangements.

**Donald Eugene Wattenbarger**, 53 of Niota, passed away on Friday, January 24. Visitation will be held on Monday, January 27 from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM with a funeral service at 3:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Hammonds Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Donald Eugene Wattenbarger.

**Peggy L. Cook**, 75 of Etowah, passed away on Friday, January 24. Memorial services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 28 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 pm prior to the service in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

*Obituaries Continued on Page 4*



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† For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the product operator's manual. Power (HP/KW) and other specifications are based on various standards or recommended practices. KCDA-24-150716-9

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Monday, January 27, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

## Tennessee Observes School Board Appreciation Week



Tennessee is celebrating School Board Appreciation Week from January 26 to February 1, 2025, highlighting the vital role school boards play in shaping our schools and communities. School board members, who serve voluntarily,

take on the significant responsibility of governing school districts, making decisions that impact the education and future of countless children.

This week provides an opportunity for administrators, school staff, students, and the community to come together and express gratitude for their dedication and hard work. While appreciation should be shown year-round, this designated week emphasizes the importance of recognizing their commitment and the sacrifices they make to improve education for all.

## AgTrack Cost Share Fund Recipients Announced

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) is announcing agricultural and forestry business recipients of the cost share fund, AgTrack.

AgTrack is a competitive grant program that awards funds to starting or expanding agricultural, food, and forestry businesses, as well as nonprofits, local governments, and other entities in Tennessee or those whose project is located in Tennessee. The program focuses on value-added and processing projects that benefit other producers or forest landowners.

**The following businesses will receive AgTrack funding:**

- Havco Wood Products, Monroe County - forest products
- Monroe County Government, Monroe County - agricultural event arena
- Sweetwater Valley Farm, McMinn County - food manufacturing
- Vonore Fiber Products, Monroe County - ag tech

Source: [Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture](#)



# Thank You!

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Monday, January 27, 2025

Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Elizabeth Ann “Betsy” Elliott**, 86 of Athens, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 25. Betsy was a devoted member of the Sewee Church of God. Funeral services will be 7:00 P.M. Friday in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Graveside services will be 1:00 P.M. Saturday in Sewee Church of God Cemetery. The family will receive family and friends 5-7pm Friday prior to the service in the chapel. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens is in charge of arrangements.

**We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: [wyxiradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyxiradio@gmail.com)**

## AACA Presents *9 to 5: The Musical*

Athens Community Theatre (ACT) is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of *9 to 5: The Musical*, the smash Broadway hit based on the 1980 film featuring music by Dolly Parton. Directed by Tyler Peaden and with music direction by Matthew Crabtree, this lively production will run from April 3 to April 13, 2025.

Showtimes are scheduled for Thursdays through Saturdays (April 3–5 and 10–12) at 7:00 PM and Sundays (April 6 and 13) at 2:00 PM. Tickets, priced between \$15 and \$25, will go on sale February 13, and early purchase is recommended as ACT events often sell out quickly.

As part of ACT’s 2024–2025 Mainstage season, *9 to 5: The Musical* will be performed in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theatre at The Arts Center. Mainstage productions showcase larger, multigenerational casts and offer family-friendly, classic entertainment for the community.

Don't miss this dynamic production filled with humor, heart, and unforgettable music.

TENNESSEE SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION WEEK  
JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 1, 2025



Jonathan Pierce  
District 1 - Board Chairman



Joe Malone  
District 1



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District 2



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District 4



Bill Irvin  
District 4



Dustin Prichard  
District 5



Taylor Cook  
District 5



# Thank You

## McMinn County School Board!



Monday, January 27, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Meigs Co. Basketball Round-Up



**Meigs County @ Sweetwater  
Friday, January 24**

The Lady Tigers completed a season split with Sweetwater after a disappointing home loss to the Wildcats earlier in the season. The Lady Tigers again avoided a cold start by scoring 21 points in the 1st quarter led by Taylor McHone who had 11 of her 16 total points in that quarter. After establishing a commanding lead at halftime Coach Baker slowed things down in the second half with all starters sitting out the 4th quarter. McHone led all scorers with 16, followed by King with 12, Brown with 10, Kranz with 9, Schaumburg with 5, and Smith with 4. **Final Score - Meigs County 56, Sweetwater 27.**

The Tigers couldn't overcome the 14 point deficit they faced after the 1st quarter. The defense settled in afterwards and held the Wildcats in check during the 2nd and 3rd quarters, but the offense could not do its part. Jaxon Hope and Mason Davis paced scoring with 14 apiece while Malone, Armour, Powell, and Eli Hope combined for the remaining 10.

**Final Score - Meigs County 38, Sweetwater 51.**

The Tigers and Lady Tigers have two important home games this week hosting McMinn Central on Tuesday and Tellico on Friday.

*Meigs Co. Athletic Coverage by: Meigs County Journalism*

## TWU Basketball Loses Weekend Games



On Saturday, the basketball programs at Tennessee Wesleyan University went on the road to face Montreat College in Appalachian Athletic Conference games.

Unfortunately for the teams, neither were able to pull out wins in two close games.

The women's team fell to the conference opponents 70-62. Anna Crowder led the team with 17 points and 14 rebounds. The men's team fell in 96-93 to Montreat. Ty Hurst led the offense with 19 points.

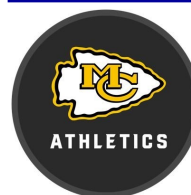
### Upcoming events:

*Away:* WBB on Jan. 27 at Welch College at 6:30 PM ET.

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

*Source: Chris Berry, Director of Sports Information - TWU*

## Cherokee Basketball has mixed weekend



The McMinn County Cherokees and Lady Cherokees lost hard fought games to Walker Valley this past Friday night. The girls game saw Walker Valley pull away in the second half for a 55-49 win. Lily Sliger led the Lady Cherokees with 18 points and 8 rebounds followed by Mia Sewell with 12 points. The boys action saw Walker Valley win a back and forth affair 81-73. The Cherokees were led by Reese Frazier with 32 points followed by Madden Cobb and Joc Williams with 13 points each. *Source: Shane Sewell*



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Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

## Central Basketball Round-Up



The McMinn Central Charger and Chargerette basketball teams played district 3-2A games on both Thursday and Friday evening. On Thursday, the Chargerettes routed Sweetwater 83-34. Karina Bystry surpassed 2300 career points as she led the team with 28 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists, and 6 steals. Reagan Baker scored 11 points. Alahna Powell added 10 points. The win improved the Chargerettes to 21-1 overall and 5-0 in district 3-2A.

The Chargers defeated the Sweetwater Wildcats 59-54. Daylen Spradling led Central with 26 points, 4 assists, and 3 steals. Carter Anderson added 13 points. Ray McCarty scored 12 points and led the team with 8 rebounds. Will Benton returned from missing 3 games due to an ankle injury and scored 8 points and grabbed 5 rebounds. The win improved the Chargers' record to 7-14 overall and 2-3 in district play.

On Friday, the Chargerettes built a 50-16 halftime lead in route to an 81-44 district victory over the Tellico Plains Lady Bears. Karina Bystry led Central with 29 points and 9 rebounds. Reagan Baker scored 17 points. Malea Masingale scored 10 points, grabbed 7 rebounds, and led the team with 6 assists and 3 steals. The Chargerettes are now 22-1 overall and 6-0 in district 3-2A.

The Chargers led the top 5 ranked Tellico Plains Bears 32-27 early in the second half but couldn't hold the lead. Tellico Plains led 41-39 after three quarters, and the Bears outscored Central 19-9 in the fourth quarter to defeat the Chargers 60-48. Ray McCarty led the Chargers with 11 points and grabbed 7 rebounds. Carter Anderson scored 10 points. Will Benton scored 8 points and led the team with 11 rebounds. The Chargers fell to 7-15 overall and 2-4 in district 3-2A.

**Upcoming games:** Tuesday at Meigs County. Girls tip at 6:00. Friday Kingston at home. Girls tip at 6:00

*McMinn Central Coverage By: Todd Loveday, Voice of the Chargers*

## "Pearl" clutches win against Tennessee



In a nail-biter that felt more like a boxing match than a basketball game, the Auburn Tigers narrowly defeated the Tennessee Volunteers 53-51 on Saturday night. The intense, low-scoring game culminated with Vols guard Zakai Zeigler missing a potential go-ahead three-pointer in the closing seconds.

Auburn head coach Bruce Pearl commended Tennessee's toughness, praising head coach Rick Barnes and his players for their physicality and grit. Pearl also noted the mutual respect between the two teams, highlighting how closely contested the matchup was.

Despite the loss, Tennessee's performance raised no concerns about its ability to succeed in March. A few different calls or a made shot at the buzzer could have easily flipped the outcome in favor of the Vols.

This game featured two of college basketball's top teams, with Auburn capitalizing on home-court advantage. Tennessee, however, is poised to grow stronger as the season progresses, learning valuable lessons from the intense contest.

The Volunteers return to Knoxville for a three-game homestand starting Tuesday at 7 p.m., where they will face ninth-ranked Kentucky. The game will air live on ESPN from Food City Center.

**Source:** [A to Z Sports](#) **Photo:** Jake Crandall