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Friday, January 31, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Starr Regional Medical Center \$12 Million Expansion



Starr Regional Medical Center (SRMC) announced Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> the \$12 million expansion of its intensive care unit (ICU) to improve access to critical care services within McMinn County. Construction is estimated to be completed in early 2026. "This is truly an exciting time for Starr Regional Medical Center, the community and the entire region we serve. The project increases our capacity for intensive care patients as well as medical surgical patients," said John McLain, Starr Regional Medical Center Chief Executive Officer. "Our mission is making communities healthier, and it guides everything we do. Enhancing our critical care services and investing in new technology and capabilities to better serve our family, friends and neighbors demonstrates our commitment to this

mission. We will keep the community informed of the project's progress, and we appreciate your patience during the construction process." Starr Regional Medical Center is honored to have been selected as a grant recipient by the Tennessee Department of Health's Healthcare Resiliency Program, a competitive grant program designed to expand Tennessee's capacity in delivering quality healthcare services, as well as modernize and transform healthcare in rural communities across the state. Starr Regional Medical Center was awarded a \$6.4 million grant for the ICU expansion project and Tele-ICU advancement. Once construction is complete, the ICU will occupy the newly constructed space, and the number of ICU rooms will be increased from five to 10 rooms. The unit will feature private rooms, a modernized design and upgraded technology that supports enhanced patient care for the most vulnerable and critical patients, so they can receive the care they need closer to home. The project also will create a new waiting area for families and two additional beds for the medical surgical unit. Starr Regional Medical Center hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on January 29, 2025, to celebrate the beginning of the project. The progress of the ICU expansion project will be shared with community members via the hospital's website and social media channels. Starr Regional Medical Center, part of Lifepoint Health, is committed to its mission of *making communities healthier*<sup>®</sup> and demonstrates this commitment through welcoming new providers, adding and expanding service lines and continually investing in its facilities and technology. Starr Regional Medical Center, with campuses in Athens and Etowah, proudly supports McMinn County and the surrounding communities by ensuring everyone has access to care, regardless of their ability to pay; creating an environment where providers want to practice and employees want to work; and continuously championing local activities and organizations committed to improving the lives of our neighbors and communities. For more information about Starr Regional Medical Center, please call (423) 745-1411 or visit [StarrRegional.com](http://StarrRegional.com). For more information about Lifepoint Health, visit [www.lifepointhealth.net](http://www.lifepointhealth.net). Photo provided by: Starr Regional Medical Center

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Friday** - Rain. High 62.  
**Fri. Night** - Partly Cloudy. Low 38.  
**Sat.** - Mostly Sunny. High 57. Low 37.  
**Sun.** - Sunny. Mostly Clear. High 66. Low 40  
**More Weather at:** [wvxi.com](http://wvxi.com)



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Friday, January 31, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Martha Jean Anderson Evans**, 90 of Hixson, TN, passed away Tuesday, January 28 at the Hospice Care Center in Chattanooga. She was a member of Jefferson Street Baptist Church in Dublin, Georgia. She was associated with J.C. Penny Company for 18 years, and she was song leader for Carl Vinson VA Worship Center for 47 years. A graveside service will be conducted, 2:00 pm, Sunday, February 2 at Mt. Harmony Cemetery. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Martha Jean Anderson Evans.

**Samuel "Randy" Randolph Ayres**, 86 of Knoxville, went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on January 22, 2025. Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, Randy graduated from West High School in 1956. He earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Tennessee. Randy practiced law in Athens, Tennessee and served as a Circuit Court judge for the State of Tennessee. A memorial service will be held today, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, at 2 pm at Rose Funeral Home – Mann Chapel in Knoxville, with visitation at 12:30 pm. Interment will follow at Highland Memorial Cemetery.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

If you take a newsworthy photograph, e-mail it to: [wyxiradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyxiradio@gmail.com)

## Community News You Can Use

- The Athens City Council will hold a called meeting in the Burkett L Witt Council Chambers of the Athens Municipal Building located at 815 N. Jackson St. in Athens. **The meeting will start at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 4.** The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and approve a project for the 2025 Community Development Block Grant application.
- The McMinn County Board of Education will have a workshop on **Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.** at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.

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Friday, January 31, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Friendly Fellow Club Seeking Donations for Families in Need

Donations to the Friendly Fellow Club's 2024 food box program have only covered one-third of the overall cost of the 500 boxes prepared for and distributed to local families in need. Donations can still be made to ensure this important community program continues in subsequent years.

A Christmastime tradition for the Athens and McMinn County community for almost 90 years, the Friendly Fellow Club food box drive serves households in the community with food to get them through the winter. The Friendly Fellow Club is a 501(c)(3) organization. Not only are the donations tax-deductible, but because the Friendly Fellow Club operates under an all-volunteer board and the boxes are packed by community volunteers, 100 percent of all donations—every single penny—goes to help families in Athens and McMinn County.

Online donations via credit/debit card or PayPal can be made online at [friendlyfellows.org](http://friendlyfellows.org) by clicking the donate button. Donations can also be mailed to P.O. Box 325, Athens, TN 37371-0325 or dropped off at The Daily Post-Athenian offices on Washington Avenue in Downtown Athens. Make checks payable to Friendly Fellow Club. Donations in honor or memory of a loved one are always a special tribute and are most welcome. Donors using the online payment portal can add an honorarium/memorial by including that information in the "Add Note" section of the donation portal. For more information, or to make a donation, visit [friendlyfellows.org](http://friendlyfellows.org)

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JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 1, 2025



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# Church News & Events

- **Mars Hill Presbyterian Church**, Circle II, is sponsoring a **SOUP-ER BOWL LUNCHEON** as a Relay for Life fundraiser on Sunday, February 9, at noon. They will serve homemade soups, chili, cornbread, and homemade desserts. Everyone is invited to attend. The address is 205 North Jackson St., Athens.
- The next monthly Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will occur on Thursday, February 6 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Cafe in downtown Athens. This ecumenical prayer breakfast is open to all men of Christian faith plus those who want to establish a relationship with Jesus. Please contact Marcus Guinn for more information by phone at 423-507-7769 or via email at: [marcusguinn@gmail.com](mailto:marcusguinn@gmail.com).
- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Christ Community Church** is once again opening the Prom Shop on Saturday, March 29 from 9 am - 3 pm. The Prom Shop provides Prom Formal wear at no cost for any student to attend their prom or dance. Christ Community Church is located at 14 S. Congress Pkwy in Athens. For more information, email [promshopathens@yahoo.com](mailto:promshopathens@yahoo.com).
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00 P.M. at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00 P.M. at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? **Clearwater Baptist Church** (964 County Road 180, Athens) is beginning a new session of GriefShare, helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. Beginning on Thursday, March 6th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm there will be an ongoing (in 13 week rotations) grief support group that you can join at any time and is open to the community. For more info visit: [clearwaterbc.org/grief-share](http://clearwaterbc.org/grief-share)
- Mount Olive A.M.E. Zion Church, Star Bethel Baptist Church, and Everlasting Life Christian Center are hosting a Fun, Food, & Fellowship event: "Old School Sunday". There will be "Dress in your Oldies" contest in celebration of Black History Month. Wear your oldest clothing and whoever has the most unusual outfit from each church wins a prize. This event will take place at 1:00 pm on Sunday, February 9 at Mount Olive.
- Star Bethel Missionary Baptist Church is hosting their Pastoral Installation Service on February 16 at 11am and 3pm. The church is located at 331 County Road 890, Etowah.



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Friday, January 31, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn Central Sweeps Meigs County in District 3-2A Matchups



McMinn Central Chargers and Chargerettes both picked up district 3-2A wins over Meigs County in Decatur, Tuesday night. Karina Bystry scored the Chargerettes' first 13 points and 18 of the team's first 20 points as Central jumped out to a 24-10 first quarter lead. They stretched the lead to 43-18 at halftime and cruised to a 63-42 victory. Karina Bystry led the Chargerettes with 35 points and moved into 4th place in the career scoring list with 2370 career points passing Julie Aderhold Goodin. Malea Masingale added 13 points. Reagan Baker scored 10 points and led the team with 6 rebounds, 8 assists, and 5 steals. The Chargerettes are now 23-1 overall and 7-0 in district 3-2A.

The Chargers jumped out to a 17-3 lead over Meigs County and led 28-18 at the half. Central outscored the Tigers 24-16 in the third quarter to build an 52-34 lead and pulled away to a 63-42 win. Will Benton led McMinn Central with 23 points and grabbed 7 rebounds. Carter Anderson scored 10 points and grabbed 8 rebounds. Daylen Spradling scored 15 points and led the team with 9 rebounds, 8 assists, and 6 steals. The Chargers are now 8-15 overall and 3-4 in district 3-2A. McMinn Central hosts district foe Kingston Friday. The Chargerettes tip off at 6:00pm.

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

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Your submission will be displayed in the window of the of the Etowah Art Commission, 700 Tennessee Ave.



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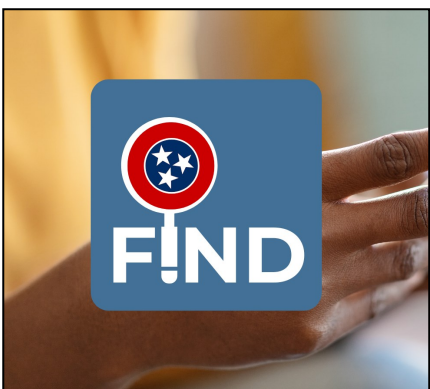
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# TBI Launches New Initiatives to Protect Tennessee's Seniors



The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) has introduced two new resources aimed at safeguarding the state's growing senior population.

The first initiative, **TBI Find**, is a mobile app available for Apple and Android devices that provides real-time updates on Silver Alerts in Tennessee. It also offers educational resources and a **CareKit** feature, allowing users to compile and store vital information and photos of loved ones, which can be quickly shared with law enforcement in case of an emergency. While designed for seniors, TBI recommends the CareKit feature for parents of young children as well.

The second initiative, **SafeSeniorTN**, is an online campaign providing guidance on technology, financial safety, and crime prevention for seniors. Hosted at [www.SafeSeniorTN.com](http://www.SafeSeniorTN.com), the platform combines expertise from TBI's Medicaid Fraud Control Division and Cybercrime Unit to offer tips on avoiding scams, identifying healthcare fraud, and recognizing signs of elder abuse.

TBI officials emphasized the importance of these tools in protecting vulnerable populations and preventing crimes before they occur.

Source: [Tennessee Bureau of Investigation](http://TennesseeBureauofInvestigation)



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