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Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Wellness with Lena Ribbon Cutting



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Wellness With Lena, located at the Downtown Beauty Lounge 201 N White St., Athens. Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right: Lisa Mayfield, Karen Sullivan (Athens Chamber), Paul Semenoff (Chamber Diplomat), Lena Perkins (Wellness With Lena), Patricia Swafford, Rhonda Wilson, Stacey Hester (Chamber Diplomat), Lisa Rhea (Chamber Diplomat). Back: McMinn County Clerk Melinda King, Laken Farris, Brenda Ratledge, Richard Pupard, Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Traci White (Chamber Board), John Rodriguez (Chamber Board), Hugh Willson (Chamber Diplomat).

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## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Election Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 18 at 5:00 pm in the Conference Room of the McMinn County courthouse. They will conduct any election business to legally come before the board. The agenda will be posted on the Bulletin Board at the Election Office by Thursday, February 13.
- In Lieu of the regularly scheduled McMinn County Commission Meeting on February 17, 2025 the Commission will hold **Morning Fax** their Annual Strategic Planning Session on February 28, 2025. More details for this meeting will be posted.
- ◆ This week, *Hope From the Well* host, **Julie Tillis** invites guest **Drewrobin Niman**. *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.



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!

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Wednesday - Rain.** High 56.  
**Wed. night - Thunderstorms.** Low 48.  
**Thursday - Mostly Sunny.** High 50.  
**Thurs. night - Partly Cloudy.** Low 25.  
**More Weather at: [wyxi.com](http://wyxi.com)**

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### TN WESLEYAN SUNDAY LUNCH

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

**Time: 11am-1:30pm**

**Location: Sherman Dining Hall**  
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Scan and select the upcoming Sunday from the lunch meal period.



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Wednesday, February 12, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Chester Jasper**, 76, passed away on Monday, February 10. Chester was known for his infectious laugh, his honest nature, and his generosity. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten. A celebration of Chester's life will be held on February 15, at 2:00 PM at 538 Burketts Chapel Road, Decatur. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Jasper family.

**Larry Randall Bradford**, 79 of Tellico Plains, passed away on Monday, February 10. Larry was a member of Good Springs Baptist Church for many years. Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 13 from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 7:00 PM at the funeral home. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, February 14 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Larry Randall Bradford.

**Walen Monroe Teems**, 77, passed away at his home Sunday, February 9. He retired from his electrical career at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. A graveside Masonic service will be held at 2:00 on Thursday, February 13 at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Vearl Kennedy**, 98 of Athens, passed away Sunday, February 9 peacefully at his residence. He was former co-owner of Athens Stockyards and raised cattle. He developed Kenwood Acres. He was of the Christian Faith and an active member of First Baptist Church of Athens. Funeral services will be 7:00 P.M. Wednesday in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will be 11:00 A.M. Thursday in Idlewild Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5 pm-7pm on Wednesday in the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens is in charge of arrangements.

**James Gary Landers**, 74 of Riceville, passed away on Monday, February 10. He was an avid golfer, retired from Bell South and an active member of Eastanallee Baptist Church. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with his family. Funeral services will be 7 pm Thursday, February 13 at Eastanallee Baptist Church. The graveside will be 11am Friday, Feb. 14, 2025 at Eastanallee Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 3-7 pm Thursday at the church before the service. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.

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Wednesday, February 12, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

## Free Valentine's Concert at Cleveland State



VOCAL RHAPSODY  
AND  
CHOIR CLUB

Valentine's Day

JAZZ CONCERT

February 13th, 2025  
6pm  
Johnson Building Auditorium  
Cleveland State Community College

Cleveland State  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The community is invited to a free Valentine's Concert on **Thursday, February 13, 6 p.m.** Cleveland State Community College's music program presents this concert in the **George R. Johnson Cultural Heritage Center Auditorium** on the college's main campus.

The concert will feature music performed by Cleveland State's Vocal Rhapsody choral ensemble and the Choir Club. The evening's love-themed jazz selections will include *Love is Here to Stay*, *When You're Smiling* and *It Had to Be You*. Morning Fax Today's News. This Morning.

"These students have worked so incredibly hard on this concert over the past few weeks," said Andie Phillips, Director of Vocal Rhapsody. "We're so excited for you all to come! Not only will we have the whole choir sing, but also several students will sing solos, duets, and even a small ensemble. It's a great way to celebrate the Valentine's holiday with jazz standards we all know and love!"

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (423) 473-2303.




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**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**    Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4    **Athens, Tennessee**

## Local SAR Chapter committing to preserve Local History at Matlock Family Cemetery



The Hiwassee Chapter Tennessee Society Sons of the American Revolution (Hiwassee Chapter SAR) is committed to preserving local history. Cemeteries are an often overlooked but important repository for historical information. Over the past year, the members of the Hiwassee SAR Chapter have been working diligently to clean and preserve the Matlock Family Cemetery located on County Road 209 near Niota, Tennessee in the Marshall Hill Community. The Matlock Family Cemetery contains the graves of Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War Veterans. Among the numerous historically significant graves in the cemetery is that of Revolutionary War Patriot Maximillian Rector. Last April local representatives of both the SAR and DAR held a Grave Marking Ceremony to honor Patriot Rector. Rector enlisted as a Private in the Conti-

Continental Army in 1776 and was attached to Captain John Ashby's Company in the 3rd Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Marshall. Thomas Marshall was the father of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Private Rector was at the Battle of Brandywine in September 1777 and Germantown October 1777 before surviving the horrific conditions at the encampment of Valley Forge the winter of 1777- 1778. Rector's service continued until he was captured by General Clinton's forces during the Siege of Charleston in May 1780. **Morning Fax** "From Brandywine to Valley Forge to Charleston, Rector's story is amazing. By preserving his final Today's News. This Morning. resting place, we can do our part to continue to tell his story" stated Hiwassee Chapter SAR President Ed Waldron. Waldron continued, "Unfortunately, despite all the work by our Chapter's members in the cemetery, several mature trees are a threat to continued damage and deterioration to these historic graves and headstones. We need some monetary help from the community to remove these trees and save these important historic assets." The Hiwassee Chapter SAR is currently seeking donations for the removal of trees and restoration of headstones at Matlock Family Cemetery. The fundraising goal is \$10,000 and donations can be sent payable to SAR PO Box 307 Philadelphia, TN 37846. "We know that our community is very patriotic and values history. Any help would be appreciated in this preservation effort" said Waldron in closing.

**Source: Jordan Curtis, Hiwassee Chapter SAR Member**

## TDOT Plans I-75 Expansion

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is planning to expand a section of I-75 to accommodate increasing traffic in Loudon County, one of the fastest-growing communities in East Tennessee.

The project aims to widen I-75 from the I-40/75 split to the Lenoir City exit, expanding the highway from two lanes to three in each direction. Officials believe the expansion is necessary to address congestion caused by the area's rapid population growth.

Local businesses have also seen an increase in out-of-state customers. Mary Bright, owner of The Sparkly Pig in **Morning Fax** Lenoir City, said many of her patrons are newcomers from other states. Today's News. This Morning.

City officials agree the interstate expansion is long overdue and will support future growth. "That's a major choke point for a lot of folks," said Amber Scott Kelso, City Administrator for Lenoir City, emphasizing the need for improved infrastructure.

TDOT plans to begin construction in 2027, using funds from the Transportation Modernization Fund, though an exact completion date has not been set.

**Source: [WVLT](#)**

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Wednesday, February 12, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

## Tranquility Succeeds in Bringing Community Together over Art



[Tranquility Community Center](#), (807 County Road 220, Athens) opened the doors to their center on Tuesday and welcomed in a group of community members for an art experience like no other! Following the step-by-step instruction of local artisan, [Brianna Carroll](#), these community artists were able to bring their very own "Heart Tree" to life. This class kicked off a new series of

**Morning Fax** art classes at Tranquility Community Center. These classes will be taking place on the second Tuesday of every month from now through October. The next class will be held on Tuesday, March 11 with more information available as the class date gets nearer.

*Photos Courtesy of Kerry Miller*



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Wednesday, February 12, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6 Athens, Tennessee

## Pressure Washing Downtown Athens

The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following closures: Beginning Monday, February 17, the City of Athens will have a contractor pressure washing sidewalks and parking spaces downtown. To minimize the impact on local businesses, the work will begin at 5:00 PM each day and continue throughout the evening hours. During this time, there will be rolling closures of sidewalks and parking areas. All vehicles parked in the areas listed below must be removed from the designated work zones by 5:00 PM each day.

Additionally, older door seals may not be watertight so building owners are encouraged to place a rolled towel at the base of the door while the work **Morning Fax** is occurring in front of their building. If you Today's News. This Morning. have experienced any issues, please contact Athens Public Works at 423-744-2745.

The areas to be affected are PARKING SPACES AND SIDEWALKS on JACKSON STREET, WHITE STREET, MADISON AVENUE, AND WASHINGTON AVENUE.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

## Englewood Home Destroyed by Fire; One Injured Rescuing Pets



A mobile home on County Road 480 in Englewood was fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. No one was home at the time of the fire.

Fire crews from Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, and Madisonville City Fire worked to contain the blaze, using water drafted from a nearby creek for a continuous

water supply.

**Morning Fax** Today's News. This Morning. One civilian sustained a hand laceration while rescuing pets from the home.

Etowah Rural Fire Chief Adam Hafley led the response, with assistance from the McMinn County Sheriff's Department and AUB. *Photos by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept.*

## FAITH & FINANCE

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