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We are a Christian, non-profit organization that seeks to address the food insecurities in McMinn County, TN.

Monday, February 17, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Burke's Gospel Jubilee Celebration

One of the longest running radio programs in McMinn County held its annual celebration yesterday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Burke's Sunday Morning Gospel Jubilee first aired on WYXI RADIO in July 1967. Its founder, William Edward (W.E.) Burke was the primary host of the program until his passing. In the photo are the current hosts of the program: (L-R) Jasmine Porter-McDermott, Stanley Blair and Karen King. Burke's Sunday Morning Gospel Jubilee is broadcast each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. The longest running radio program in McMinn County, if not the State of Tennessee, airs immediately after Burke's Gospel Jubilee at 10:00 a.m. It is the Sunday School Lesson of the Air that was founded by the late J. Neal Ensminger, former publisher of the DPA, in 1946. Burke's Gospel Jubilee Celebration was held at the Light of Life International Ministries Church on North Congress Parkway in Athens.



Photo by Harriel Blair

## Athens City Council Meeting Tomorrow



The Athens City Council will meet in regular session tomorrow, Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00 pm in the Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers of the Athens Municipal Building. On the agenda are the following items: Awarding of bids for improvements to Heritage Park & July 4th Fireworks at Regional Park. Approving the installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box at AFD HQ, Approving a request of \$42,000 from the county for two chest compression devices, Approving of various appointments to the Council Advisory Committee, Historic Preservation Commission, and Athens Housing Authority. They will also consider approving road and railroad safety improvements.

• Monday - Closed

• Tuesday-Madisonville: Wil-Sav 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, February 17, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Kenneth Wayne Marsh**, 74 of Athens, passed away on Sunday, February 9. One of his favorite things to do in life was work on tractors, especially John Deere tractors. No arrangements have been publicly announced. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service and the Cody family are honored to assist the Marsh family during this difficult time.

**Richard "Murdock" Allen Collins**, 65 of Sweetwater, passed away on February 13 with his family by his side. He attended Cleveland State Community College where he obtained his HVAC & Refrigeration Technician Certificate and opened his own business, "Rick's Heat & Air" for a period of time. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 15 at 4:00 pm at Crossroads Baptist Church located at 110 Veterans Road, Sweetwater. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

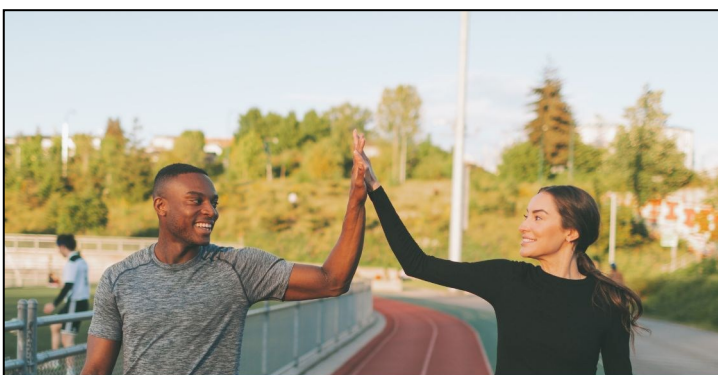
**David Paul Bruce**, 57, passed away on Tuesday, February 4. He retired in 2011 after over 24 years of dedicating his life to the United States Air Force. He loved cooking, traveling, and fishing, finding peace while working in his yard and playing with his dogs. Recently, David dedicated his life to his faith and was baptized on January 24. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service and the Cody family are honored to assist the Bruce family during this difficult time.

**LISTENING REMINDER:** TOMORROW on *Main Street Moments*: Host Sandra Kinney invites Olivia Sargal from The Lighthouse Business Incubator. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TUESDAY on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

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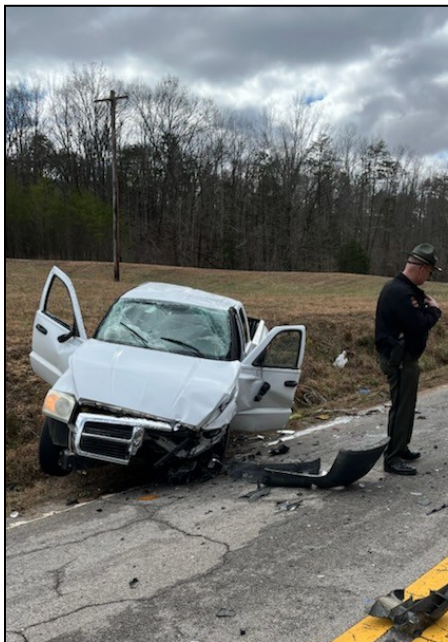
CLICK HERE OR VISIT  
[FACEBOOK.COM/WYXIAM1390](https://facebook.com/wyxiam1390)

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Athens, Tennessee

## Fatal Head-On Collision on Highway 310



A 2005 Dodge Dakota Club Cab SLT and a 2018 Nissan Maxima collided head-on Thursday around 1 p.m. on Highway 310 at County Road 480. The driver of the Nissan Maxima was pronounced dead at the scene and required extrication by fire personnel, while the Dodge Dakota driver was transported to Starr Regional Etowah by AMR.

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Responding agencies included Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and THP Trooper Andrew Metelits, along with the THP Investigative Team. TDOT assisted with traffic rerouting.

Photos by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department



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Monday, February 17, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

## Teen Suspect in Fatal Alcoa Crash Transferred to Adult Court



A Blount County Juvenile Court judge has ordered 17-year-old Maddex Forsythe to be tried as an adult for felony murder in the death of Madison Hoese, who was killed in a March 2024 crash at the intersection of Hall Road and Lincoln Road in Alcoa.

Forsythe, a passenger in a stolen vehicle, was 16 at the time of the crash. The judge ruled he was beyond rehabilitation within the juvenile justice system, citing more than a dozen prior offenses.

The two-day hearing included testimony from mental health experts, a probation officer, and the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS). While Forsythe's attorney and DCS argued he could still be rehabilitated, prosecutors contended he posed a risk to public safety.

Morning Fax Today's News This Morning Forsythe and another teen, who was driving, were in DCS custody when they escaped, stole a car, and later crashed into Hoese's vehicle while allegedly intoxicated before fleeing the scene.

Hoese's family expressed relief at the ruling. A transfer hearing for the driver is expected at a later date.

Source and Photo: [WBIR](https://www.wbir.com)

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Monday, February 17, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Monroe County mother faces charges in 2-year-old daughter's death



A Monroe County grand jury has indicted Sophia Sloan, 26, and five men in connection with the 2023 Sweetwater shooting that killed a toddler. The group faces first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse charges, along with multiple other felonies.

The Feb. 14, 2023 shooting on Hawkins Road resulted in the deaths of young Alayna and Lenning Huerta, who authorities say fired the first shots, striking the child in the head. Huerta was later found dead on the porch from a gunshot wound.

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The five men—Nathaniel Kain McEwan, Francisco Lagunas Jr., Liu Huerta, Itzhui Huerta, and Malachi Franklin—are being held criminally responsible for Huerta's actions, according to investigators.

Additional charges include felony murder, conspiracy to commit murder, attempted murder, burglary, reckless endangerment, and firearm possession during a felony.

Source: [WBIR](#)

## Driver Injured in Englewood Rollover Crash

A 2012 Chevy Equinox overturned after striking a culvert on West Athens Street near Sunrise Cemetery Road Thursday morning around 10 a.m. Emergency responders from Englewood Rural Fire, Englewood Police, and AMR arrived at the scene, where the driver was treated and transported to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Rodney Best is investigating the accident.

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Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.



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