

WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday: Partly Sunny. High 46.
Tue Night: 40% Snow. Low 31.
Wednesday: 50% Frozen Mix.
Rain. High 37.
Wed Night: Mostly Cloudy. Low 21.

More Weather at:
wyxi.com

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Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Public Letter to the Community

To Our Community,

In light of the recruitment propaganda distributed in our community by the Ku Klux Klan last month, we stand united against the ideologies and actions of the Ku Klux Klan, which fundamentally contradict the core teachings of love, compassion, and justice taught in Holy Scripture and modeled in the life of Jesus Christ. This hate group's legacy of violence, terrorism, and division disrespects the inherent dignity of every person created in the image of God. We celebrate racial diversity as an important aspect of God's good creation. As followers of Christ, we are also called to be voices for the voiceless and champion the cause of the oppressed. We affirm that racism, bigotry, and any form of hatred have no place in our communities or churches. We commit ourselves to building a community of unity and respect for all.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Vant Hardaway
Rev. Norman R. Beetler, The Shower Bus Ministries
Rev. Dr. Melissa L. Archer, Athens
Rev. Dr. Charlie Bryan, First Baptist Church, Etowah
The Rev. Claire Brown, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Archer, Church of God Cleveland
Pastor Richard White, Athens Christian Church, Athens

Rev. David Spann, Church of the Nazarene, Athens
Rev. David Reynolds, Church of the Nazarene, Athens
Rev. Melissa Smith, Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church
Rev. Ellen Peach, United Methodist Church
The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Bourne, Mars Hill Presbyterian Church
Rev. John Porter, Beulah Chapel

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Obituaries

Community News You Can Use

Colleen Patterson-Olley, 64 of Tellico Plains, passed away on February 24. She was a member of Maple Springs Baptist Church of Tellico Plains. Colleen loved crocheting and riding on motorcycles. She was an employee of B&B Restaurant of Tellico Plains. A Graveside Service will be held at a later date. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Johnny Manuel Rivera, 65 of Athens, passed away peacefully on February 11. A native of Fort Morgan, Colorado, Johnny was a retired, decorated United States Marine Master Sergeant who served his country with honor for 22 years. Johnny will be greatly missed and will forever be in the hearts of his loved ones. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Johnny Manuel Rivera.

James "Tuck" Garren, 82 of Delano, passed away Sunday, February 16. Funeral service will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 19 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Delano Cemetery, Saturday, Feb. 22 for the 2:00 p.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

More Obituaries on Page 7

- The Niota Planning Commission will have its regular scheduled meeting on February 20th 10am, in the Niota City Hall, 9 West Willson St.
- The UT Extension - McMinn County is hosting the **Matter of Balance** workshop which will take place from March 4 to March 27. It will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at First Baptist Church (Fellowship Hall), located at 305 Ingleside Ave., Athens. This workshop is designed to help older adults manage their fear of falling and stay active. Participants will learn strategies to reduce fall risks, set realistic activity goals, and practice simple exercises to improve strength and balance. The program aims to promote independence and enhance quality of life by preventing the physical and emotional effects of falling-related fears. Class instructors Sarah Kite and Kathleen Reid will lead the sessions, and all participants will receive a Matter of Balance workbook and other materials. The class is free, but limited to 12 participants, and registration is required by calling 423-745-2852.



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Tuesday, February 18, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

Weekend weather creates AUB outages



Over the weekend of February 15-16, 2025, the Athens Utilities Board (AUB) service area experienced significant power outages due to high winds and fallen trees. The severe weather conditions led to multiple incidents affecting various parts of the region:

- West Athens: A downed primary neutral line near Trio Equipment resulted in power loss for 293 accounts.
- Southern Parkway: A large pine limb fell on a three-phase line, disrupting service to 46 accounts.
- Niota: A tree caused extensive damage by taking down power lines and a pole, with the transformer landing on a house. This incident affected 91 customers.
- Englewood Area: Multiple outages across the area with some residents experiencing flickering power due to a tree limb impacting the lines.
- Additional Outages: Numerous smaller and individual outages were reported across the entire service area.

AUB crews worked diligently throughout the weekend to address these issues, prioritizing safety and efficient restoration of services. Customers are encouraged to report outages promptly to 423-745-3131 to assist in the restoration efforts. For future updates and information, AUB recommends following their Facebook page especially during storms.



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Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Basketball



This past Friday night saw the McMinn County Lady Cherokees and Cherokees split their district matchup with Walker Valley. The Lady Cherokees finished their regular season with a victory over the visiting Lady Mustangs 58-48. The Lady Cherokees were led by Mia Sewell with 15

points followed by Molly Trentham with 12 points and Hannah Clark with 10 points. The boys game saw the Cherokees fall in a high scoring affair, losing 87-85 to the Mustangs. The Cherokees were paced by Reese Frazier with 30 points. Frazier was joined in double figures by Joc Williams with 15 points, Brady Mullins with 12 points and Madden Cobb with 10 points. Congratulations to Brady Mullins who surpassed the 1,000-point mark for his career. Good luck to both teams as district tournament play begins later this week at Walker Valley High School. Game times have not yet been announced.

McMinn Cherokee Coverage Provided by Shane Sewell

#6 Lady Vols Dominate Weekend, Shut Out Nicholls 5-0



The sixth-ranked Lady Vols capped off a perfect weekend with a 5-0 victory over Nicholls on Sunday at the LU Softball Complex in Beaumont, Texas. Tennessee (10-1) went undefeated, securing five wins, including two against McNeese and additional victories over Lamar, Tulsa, and Nicholls, extending their winning

streak to 10 games.

Sophomore pitcher Sage Mardjetko delivered a dominant performance, throwing a one-hit complete-game shutout with a career-high 13 strikeouts. She allowed just one walk and carried a no-hitter into the fifth inning, earning her fourth win of the season. Over the weekend, Mardjetko collected two wins, allowing only two hits in 12 innings while striking out 17 batters. Key contributions also came from Laura Mealer, Bella Faw, and Sophia Nugent, helping the Lady Vols secure their final victory of the weekend.

Tennessee now turns its attention to the Mary Nutter Collegiate Classic in Cathedral City, California, from Feb. 20-22, where they will face Oregon State, No. 21 Oregon, Rutgers, No. 4 UCLA, and Minnesota.



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Obituaries

Herschell Robert Cruze, 74 of Athens, passed away on Sunday February 16 at Kindred Hospital in Chattanooga. He was a member of Double Springs Baptist Church and was a former Police Officer for the City of Athens having retired after 24 years of service. He was a Veteran of the U.S. Army having served in Special Ops with the 101st Airborne division for 11 years. Graveside services will be 11:00 AM Sunday, February 23 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.

Nellie Mae Kyker-Sliger, 98 of Athens passed away Monday, February 17, 2025 at her residence. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

Steven Dale Patterson, 66 of Athens passed away Sunday, February 16, 2025 at CHI Memorial in Chattanooga, TN. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

McMinn County Arrest Reports

Blake Kosarek, 29 of Athens, was arrested by Athens PD for Theft of Property. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Timothy Lankford, 38 of Decatur, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$1,400.

William Forrester, 52 of Cleveland, was arrested by the MCSO for Aggravated Burglary. Total Bond: \$25,000.

Jeffery Kelsey, 59 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for four counts of Reckless Endangerment. Total Bond \$8,000.

Ashley Gammey, 32 of Englewood, was arrested by the MCSO for Public Intoxication, Failure to Appear, Domestic Assault, and Criminal Trespass. Total Bond: \$3,000.

James Franklin, 43 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Possession of Methamphetamine, Simple Possession/ Casual Exchange of a Schedule II Substance, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$22,000.

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using Public Sources.**

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