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Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, February 19, 2025 Page 1 Athens, Tennessee

High winds knock down tree, cause Riceville outage



High winds on Sunday morning around 8:30 a.m. caused a large tree limb to fall, disrupting electrical service near Highway 163 and County Road 783 in Riceville. Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) quickly restored power to the affected area, while crews from the Etowah Rural Fire and Claxton Fire Departments worked to clear the limb and debris from the roadway.

Photo by Karley Stewart, Etowah Rural Fire Department

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens City Board of Education will have their Quarterly Joint Meeting with the Athens City Council. The meeting will be held at the ACS Administration Building on Monday, February 24 beginning at 5:00 pm.
- If you are still filing your taxes by mail and need forms there are FREE 1040 tax forms available at E.G. Fisher Public Library, They also have instruction booklets in English and Spanish.
- The McMinn Senior Activity Center is offering Tax Prep Assistance. Appointments are available on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am - 3:30 pm until April 7th. To Morning Fax schedule your appointment, call the Senior Center at 423-745-6830
- The Athens Utilities Board Budget and Finance Committee meeting will be on Thursday, February 20 at 11:30 am.

◆ This week, *Hope From the Well* host, **Julie Tillis** invites guest **Tonya Gambrell**. *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

Wed. - 60% Chance of Frozen Mix High 36.
Wed. night - Chance of Flurries. Low 22.
Thurs.- Partly Sunny. High 26.
Thurs. night - Mostly Clear. Low 12.
More Weather at: wyxi.com

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Wednesday, February 19, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Carlos R Hammond, 86 of Athens, passed away Saturday, February 15 at Starr Regional Medical Center. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens.

Terry Eugene KinCannon, 71 of Philadelphia, Tennessee, passed away Thursday, February 6. Terry had a love for gardening and music, having played in several bands in East Tennessee where he sang, played the guitar, and played the harmonica. Terry was of Islamic faith. The family has plans to have a memorial for Terry at a later date. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service and the Cody family are honored to assist his family during this difficult time.

James C. "Tuck" Garren, 82 of Delano, passed away on Sunday, February 16. Tuck worked for L&N Railroad and Bowater then ran Garren Realty. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5 pm - 7 p.m., Wednesday. Family and friends will assemble at Delano Cemetery, Saturday, February 22nd for the 2:00 p.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Nellie Mae Kyker-Sliger, 98 of Athens passed away Monday, February 17, 2025 at her residence. She was an active member of the Sewee Church of God. Nellie was a former employee of T.V.A. and worked 40 years for McMinn County Motor Company and Dooley Tractor Company. Visitation will be 4-7 pm Thursday, February 20 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home prior to the funeral service at 7 pm. The graveside service will be 11 am, Friday, Feb 21 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.

Betty Mae Stephens Croft, 80, passed away on Sunday, February 16 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. She was a member of Niota Methodist Church. She started working at the age of 16 at Niota Textile for many years and retired from Plastic Industry. Funeral Services will be 7:00 PM Friday, February 21. A Graveside service will be held at 3:00 PM Saturday, February 22 at Niota Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5-7 PM before the service in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Athens Parks & Recreation Presents
the 39th Annual

Daddy Daughter Dance

February 21st @ 7:30pm

February 22nd @ 1pm, 4pm, & 7:30

McMinn County High School



Tickets on sale January 1st at athenstn.gov/parks

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EVERY WEEKDAY

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Cleveland State Alumni Spotlight



Graduating from Walker Valley High School in 2014, **Maria Dunn** was among the first students to benefit from the Tennessee Promise scholarship. She attended Cleveland State Community College tuition-free and studied Early Childhood Education, an experience that provided the foundation for her teaching career. After earning an associate degree at Cleveland State, Dunn continued at Lee University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education, followed by a master's degree from Walden University. Dunn chose early childhood education because she has a passion for working with children. While at Cleveland State, her professors encouraged students to get additional endorsements with their teaching certification. Dunn chose to pursue an English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement. Now, she is an ESL teacher at Englewood Elementary and Niota Elementary with McMinn County Schools. Dunn said, "When I took the ESL classes, I enjoyed learning about different cultures and finding different ways to help students comprehend what they are struggling in, whether it was listening, reading, writing or speaking. I enjoy being an ESL teacher; the joy of my career is seeing students smile, laugh and improve in their academics."

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"Maria was a great student with such a positive attitude," said Margaret Horten, Education Career Community Director. "I enjoyed observing her student teaching experience, and now that she is teaching in the field, I look forward to her mentoring our students."

"My favorite memory at Cleveland State was planning and volunteering along with my classmates for the Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss Day," recalled Dunn. For 21 years, Cleveland State has been welcoming children of all ages to the free community event. Continuing this college tradition, the Education Career Community along with the Kiwanis Club of Cleveland and the United Way of the Ocoee Region will sponsor this year's Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss Day on Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information about the Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss event or the Education Career Community, contact Margaret Horten at (423) 473-2371 or mhorten@clevelandstatecc.edu. Source: Cleveland State Community College


Margaret Horten (left), Education Career Community Director, and Suzanne Wood (right), Retired Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, celebrate with Dunn (center) on her commencement day in 2017.



National FFA Week

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MONDAY - SATURDAY | 6:55 AM/4:00 PM
SUNDAY | 8:00 AM



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Upcoming Classes at the Arts Center



Athens Area Council for the Arts has announced registration for a variety of art classes starting in 2025. Participants should register three days before class starts. Botanical Beauty Craft with Lizz Harris is open to participants ages 12 and older. The class meets **Thursday, February 27, 1:00 to 3:00 PM**. Students will create a one of a kind art

piece using multiple cloth, felt and various fabrics. The outcome will be either a purse, framed panel, or pin cushion. The one-day workshop is \$30 and all materials are provided.

Information about the instructors, as well as links to register for all classes, is available online at athensartscouncil.org/classes. Please note there is a transaction fee to register online, however students may register over the phone at 423-745-8781, or in person at The Arts Center, with no transaction fee.

More information about AACA programs is available at athensartscouncil.org, or over the phone at 423-745-8781. Staff is available via phone, or in person, at The Arts Center. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Arts Center is located at 320 N. White Street, Athens.

Source: Lauren Brown, Exec. Director - AACA/The Arts Center

TBI Agents Investigating Monroe County Officer-Involved Shooting

At the request of the 10th Judicial District Attorney General Stephen Hatchett, TBI Special Agents are investigating an officer-involved shooting that occurred Monday night at a home in the 900 block of Smokey Branch Road in Vonore, Tennessee.

The preliminary investigation shows the Monroe County Sheriff's Office attempted to serve warrants on a man who was wanted for domestic assault and violation of an order of protection. When deputies pulled into the driveway, the subject began firing a weapon striking a Sheriff's Office patrol unit. One deputy sustained minor injuries. He was treated at the scene. Deputies returned fire, striking the subject, who was airlifted to an area hospital where he is being treated.

TBI agents are working to independently determine the series of events in the shooting, including collecting evidence and conducting interviews. Throughout the process, investigative findings will be shared with the district attorney general for his further review and consideration. The TBI acts solely as fact-finders in its cases and does not determine whether an officer's actions were justified in these types of matters. That decision rests with the District Attorney General requesting TBI's involvement. The TBI does not identify the officers involved in these types of incidents and instead refers questions of that nature to the respective department to answer as it sees fit. Any available updates on this investigation will be posted online at TBINewsroom.com.

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Looking for Real Estate Advice? You Need *Ten Minutes with Tina!*



Local real estate expert and longtime Athens resident Tina Mathis is bringing her wealth of knowledge and experience to the airwaves with a brand-new radio show, *Ten Minutes with Tina*. The show will air every **Friday at 8:15 a.m., starting THIS Friday February 21, on WYXI 94.5 FM and 1390 AM**, offering listeners valuable insights on real estate, homeownership, and the local market.

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As the owner of REMAX Freedom, she serves McMinn, Monroe, Meigs, and surrounding counties with a commitment to excellence and customer service.

Ten Minutes with Tina will be a quick and engaging way to discuss real estate trends, answer common questions, and provide expert advice for buyers and sellers.

Listeners can tune in every Friday morning to gain valuable tips, market updates, and answers to their real estate questions. For more information, contact Tina Mathis at 423-961-4444, email her at tinamathis@remax.net, or visit her website tinamathis.remaxfreedomtnproperties.com/

With over 43 years in the real estate industry, Mathis has built a reputation for her dedication to helping clients find their dream homes and investment properties.

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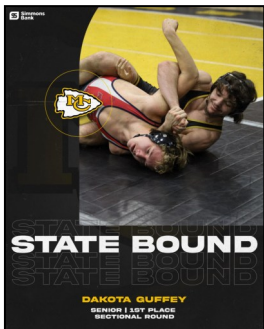
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Six McMinn Co. wrestlers to compete in State Tournament

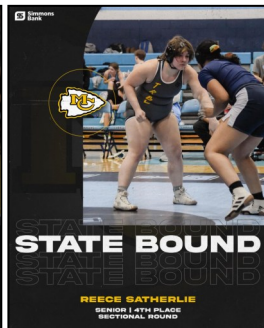
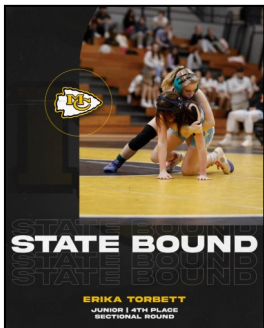


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Sectional wrestling tournaments were held for boy and girl wrestling squads last weekend. The top 4 wrestlers in each weight class advanced to the state finals, to be held this weekend. Three wrestlers from McMinn County and McMinn Central High Schools qualified for the state meet.

For McMinn County, on the boys' side, **Dakota Guffey**, 157 lbs., placed 1st in the sectional tournament. Guffey is the first McMinn wrestler to be crowned as a sectional tournament champion. Guffey was also named the tournament's "Outstanding Wrestler". This is significant because there are defending state champions and nationally-ranked wrestlers in that sectional.

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McMinn County's girls team qualified two wrestlers for state. **Erika Torbett**, 114 lbs. and **Reece Satherlie**, 235 lbs., both placed 4th in their sectional.

McMinn Central also qualified three wrestlers. **Elliott Davisson**, 144 lbs., and **Cliff Wilson**, 165 lbs., both placed 3rd in their sectional tournament. **Kaitlyn Rogers**, 235 lbs., placed 4th. Rogers is the first McMinn Central girl to ever qualify for the state meet.

The state wrestling tournament begins Friday, Feb. 21, at the Williamson County Agricultural Center in Franklin, TN.

Photos Courtesy of [McMinn County High School Athletics - Facebook](#)

Written by *David Stoika*
Former wrestling coach at McMinn County H.S.

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

David Hicks, 61 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Disorderly Conduct.

Kenneth Williamson, 56 of Cleveland, was arrested by the MCSO for Forgery.

Conner McBay, 18 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Filing False Reports and Threats of Mass Violence. Total Bond: \$4000.

John Williams, 54 of Athens., was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault and Aggravated Assault. Total Bond: \$32,000.

Rashad Hawkins, 37 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Aggravated Criminal Trespassing and Resisting Stop. No Bond.

Tamara Cochran, 42 of Englewood, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

Jessica Womack, 26 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation, Failure to Appear, Simple Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Schedule II Oxycodone, & Schedule IV Alprazolam, Possession of Schedule II Meth for Resale, Casual Possession of Methamphetamine. & Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$76,000.

Tonya Ross, 38 of Madisonville, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$1,500

Trevor Sherrill, 22 of Crossville, was arrested by the MCSO for Domestic Assault and Interference with a 911 Call. Total Bond: \$4,000

Gary Scruggs, 47 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for State Violation of Probation, Unpaid Child Support, and Criminal Trespassing. Total Bond: \$6,000

The accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using public sources.



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