

Everyone is Invited!

McMinn County Historical Society Monthly Meeting

Sunday at 2:00 pm
in Blueroom of Courthouse



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McMinn County Freshman Rachel Hurst Earns Statewide "League of Extraordinary Teens" Honor



The McMinn County Education Foundation announces the newest young adult to earn the statewide recognition of League of Extraordinary Teens. Rachel Hurst, a freshman at McMinn County High School, has completed all the requirements and will be recognized by Governor Lee and the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation as a member of this prestigious group. Rachel exemplifies the spirit of youth leadership that MCEF champions through her remarkable accomplishments. She is a member of McMinn County High School's Golden Girls Dance Team and Concert Choir and is participating in the musical "Into the Woods".

In her "spare time", Rachel is an active member of East Athens Baptist Church and a competitive dancer with Miss Lisa's Dance Studio. The League of Extraordinary Teens is a statewide initiative to engage Tennesseans ages 13 – 19 in the financial and logistical support of Imagination Library programs in their counties. League Membership requires teens to personally register children and raise funds to cover the cost of including those children in their county's Imagination Library for one full year.

Rachel spent most of the day at the PumpkinTown Festival searching for new parents and young children to enroll in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program. Then, she began making potholders to sell to subsidize those new enrollees. She surpassed her goal of the support of 10 children for a year, by generating enough funds to provide over 130 books to children in our area. Congratulations to Rachel on this outstanding accomplishment. *Source: Ginger Robinson, MCEF*

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UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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THURSDAY MORNING TO BE FEATURED HERE
EMAIL: WYXIRADIO@GMAIL.COM

THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Jan. 02, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- The next Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will occur on Thursday, January 8 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 (marcusguinn@gmail.com or 423-507-7769) for more information.
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- [Celebrate Recovery](#) meets every [Tuesday](#) at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every [Thursday](#) at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.

Driver Falls Asleep, Crashes into Utility Pole on N. Niota Road



A single-vehicle crash was reported early New Year's morning after a driver fell asleep at the wheel on North Niota Road.

The accident occurred close to 7:30 a.m. and involved a

2011 Honda CR-V, which struck a utility pole. The driver was not injured.

Englewood Rural Fire responded to the scene, along with Englewood Police Officer Shawn Emery, who investigated the crash.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming January Events

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

Director Brett King continues his American 250th lecture series this month with a discussion on Article 1-7 of the U.S. Constitution Thursday, January 15th @ Noon - Free Admission

Origins of UTK's Body Farm with Frank Murphy

Thursday, January 22nd @ Noon - Free Admission

HERITAGE SCHOOL:

Cooking Healthy in the New Year with Shelley Morgan of Mountain Medicine Farm Saturday, January 17th @ 10:00 am \$5 or free with membership

Chemistry Magic Show with Dr. Al Hazari - fun for all ages! Saturday, January 24th @ 11:00 am \$5 or free with membership

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:
Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
Students: \$3.00

More Information

522 W Madison Ave.
Athens, TN 37303
423-745-0329

www.livingheritagemuseum.org

SEE WEBSITE
FOR FULL
PROGRAM
INFORMATION



Burke's

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SUNDAYS AT 9 AM



Friday, Jan. 02, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

12-30-25

Rente Davis, 36 of Athens, charged with Four Counts of Child Support, Bond \$15,000.

Calvin Walker, 32 of Athens, charged with domestic assault Bond \$1,000.

Terry Walker, 62 of Etowah, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

Lord Jackson, 34 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for aggravated assault by strangulation, theft of property, and identity theft, Bond \$5000.

Michael Shelton, 54 of Athens, charged with evading arrest with a risk of death, simple possession, casual exchange of fentanyl, drug paraphernalia, driving on a suspended license, tampering with evidence, assault, and aggravated assault against first responder.

Sharon Hightower, 58 of Fort Oglethorpe, GA. charged with failure to appear for possession of meth for resale.

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

Obituaries

Donald "Don" Eugene Slack, 83 of Etowah passed away on Tuesday, December 30. Don retired from CSX Railroad as well as Thomas & Betts. He was an active member of North Etowah Baptist Church. Don served in the United States Army. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, January 3, 2026 at Spirit City Church, North Etowah. The family will receive friends from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Saturday prior to the service at the church. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, January 4, 2026 and go in procession to Green Hill Cemetery for the 2:00 p.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Nancy Jane Barton, 66 of Knoxville, passed away on Wednesday, December 31. She was a member of Concord United Methodist Church in Knoxville. She graduated with her Bachelors Degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College. She was a Teacher at City Park School having retired after 28 years. Graveside services will be 1:00 PM Friday, January 2, 2026 at Cedar Grove Cemetery with Pastor Wil Cantrell officiating. Those unable to attend may send condolences to www.laycock-hobbs.com/obituaries/Nancy-Barton. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Elaine Contreras Smith, 58, passed away on Wednesday, December 31 in a Knoxville hospital. Arrangements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons in charge of arrangements



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2026



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Friday, Jan. 02, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Tony Bryan Hixson, 70 of Decatur, passed away on Friday, December 26. Tony dedicated his professional life to carpentry, proudly serving as a valued member of the Carpenters Union Local 74. His skilled hands crafted not only buildings but also cherished memories that will remain with his family and friends. Tony was a devoted member of Maple Grove Baptist Church. A memorial service will be held at 2- 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 10th, 2026 at 6001 Henry Rd. Harrison, TN. The family will receive friends from 12- 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Hixson family.

Nancy Pierce, 73, passed away on Monday, December 29. She was one of the most loving people you would ever meet. Home Going Celebration services will be held Saturday, January 3 at 1:00 p.m. at the Redemption For The Nations Church – Athens, TN with Dr. Angela Arnwine delivering the eulogy. Family will receive friends one hour before the service at the church from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. Burial will follow the service at Hammonds Cemetery. Services of loving memory entrusted to M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home- Athens.

Roy Richard Hutsell, 85 of Athens passed away on Monday, December 30. He was formerly a superintendent of Water for Athens Utilities Board and later became a partner with his brother Don to operate Hutsell Trenching. He was a member of Sewee Church of God and McMinn Saddle Club. Funeral services will be 1:00 P.M. Saturday in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Sewee Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens, Tenn. in charge of arrangements.

Janet Marie Delaney, 73 of Etowah, passed away on Monday, December 29. Janet had a passion for cooking and was known for her wonderful meals. At this time, no services are planned. Companion Funeral Home of Cleveland and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Kay "Cissy" Alyse Granita Hicks, 83 of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday, December 30. She was devoted to her family after retiring from a long career at Proffitts. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, January 3 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in Hiwassee Church of God Cemetery in Madisonville. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.



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