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# The Morning Fax®

## Today's News. This Morning.

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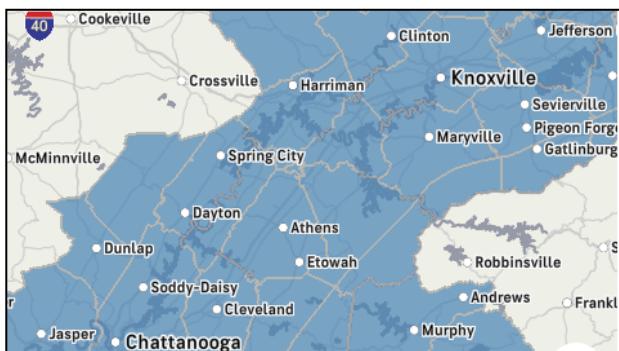
**423-337-1493**

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Weather Update: Winter Storm Watch Issued for McMinn County, East Tennessee



A Winter Storm Watch has been issued for McMinn County and much of East Tennessee, remaining in effect from late Friday night through Sunday evening, as forecasters warn of the potential for heavy snow and significant ice accumulation across the region.

According to the National Weather Service, the storm system could bring a mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain. Snow accumulations of 4 to 10 inches are possible, especially north of Knoxville, with the heaviest snowfall expected near the Kentucky border and far western Virginia. Areas south of Knoxville, including parts of East Tennessee, could see ice accumulations of up to one-half inch, with the greatest icing likely south of a line from Crossville to Tellico Plains, including portions of the southern Cumberland Plateau.

The combination of snow and ice could lead to widespread power outages, downed trees, and extremely hazardous travel conditions. Officials warn that travel may become impossible at times during the storm. Forecasters note that the storm presents a complicated and evolving forecast, with uncertainty remaining about the exact placement of the heaviest snow and ice. Residents are urged to closely monitor updated forecasts in the coming days, as significant changes are still possible.

Light snow mixed with rain may develop over higher elevations late tonight into Thursday morning, though little to no accumulation is expected during that period. More impactful winter weather is anticipated as the main system moves into the area over the weekend, followed by colder temperatures that could cause snow and ice to linger into next week.

Residents across McMinn County and surrounding areas are encouraged to stay weather-aware, prepare for potential power outages, and limit travel during periods of severe winter weather.

Source: [National Weather Service, Click Here for the Latest Update](#)

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### McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

#### Upcoming January Events

##### HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

Origins of UTK's Body Farm with Frank Murphy  
Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> @ Noon - Free Admission



##### HERITAGE SCHOOL:

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

Chemistry Magic Show with Dr. Al Hazari - fun for all ages!  
Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> @ 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

**SPRING TRASH & TREASURE RECEIVING:  
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##### Museum 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.  
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SEE WEBSITE  
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Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

## Gov. Bill Lee to Deliver Final State of the State Address Feb. 2

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee announced Wednesday, Jan. 21, that he will deliver his final State of the State address to the General Assembly and Tennesseans on Monday, Feb. 2, at 6 p.m. CST.

The address will be presented during a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly in the House Chamber at the Tennessee State Capitol. The speech will mark the governor's final State of the State as he enters his last year in office.

"Since the earliest days of our country, Tennesseans have always been people who press on to the next frontier to lead America," said Gov. Lee. "As we begin our final year together, I'm grateful for what we've accomplished and confident that the decisions we make today will help define Tennessee's next chapter and our role in America's future."

The address will be broadcast statewide and streamed live on Gov. Lee's Facebook and YouTube channels, allowing residents across Tennessee to watch the speech in real time.

## Cleveland Police Lieutenant Bobby Ruth Marks 18 Years of Service

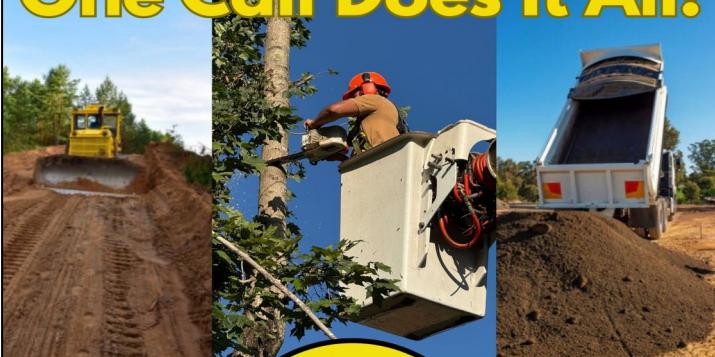


Lt. Bobby Ruth is beginning his 18th year with the Cleveland Police Department, where he now supervises a team of 15 patrol officers. A 2005 Cleveland High School graduate, Ruth originally planned to pursue baseball before a criminal justice internship with the Cleveland Police Department while attending Cleveland State Community College redirected him toward law enforcement.

After completing the Law Enforcement Training Academy at Cleveland State, Ruth was hired by the department and served five years as a patrol officer. His career has included five years as a School Resource Officer at E.L. Ross Elementary School, supervisory roles, and work in criminal investigations beginning in 2020. He later returned to Cleveland State to earn an associate degree in criminal justice and government service and was promoted to lieutenant in September 2025.

*Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC*

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Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

## Severe Weather Postpones Weekend Performances of "Now We Juke-ing!"

Athens Community Theatre and the Athens Area Council for the Arts have announced that two performances of *Now We Juke-ing! A Juke Joint Story* have been postponed due to a forecast of severe weather. The Thursday, January 22, and Friday, January 23, performances will proceed as scheduled, while the Saturday, January 24, performance has been moved to Saturday, January 31, and the Sunday, January 25, performance has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 1.

Tickets already purchased for the postponed Saturday and Sunday shows will automatically transfer to the new dates, and the rescheduled Saturday performance will still include catering by Neutral Grounds. The production is part of Athens Community Theatre's 2025–26 Dessert Series. Organizers noted that tickets are no longer available online, but patrons may attend a pay-what-you-can rehearsal on Friday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m., with proceeds supporting Athens Area Council for the Arts programs.

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

January 21, 2026

**DeMarcus Hughes**, 22 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$1,244.85.

**Sarah Walker**, 38 of Dayton, charged with child support, and violation of probation for possession of meth, Bond \$6,881.45.

**Jeremiah Bean**, 42 of Athens, charged with burglary in Meigs County.

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

**Main Street Athens** is holding its monthly meeting this evening. It's an opportunity for building owners, business owners, and community members to connect, network, and stay informed about what's happening in Downtown Athens. The meetings are designed to share updates, gather feedback, and encourage collaboration as we work together to strengthen and revitalize downtown Athens. The meeting takes place at 6:00 pm at the Main Street Athens office at 3 West College Street.

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Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Lorinda Dianne Davis**, 79 of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday, January 20. She was a long-time member of North Etowah Baptist Church. She loved to cook and was an accomplished seamstress and artist. Graveside service & interment will take place at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, January 22 at Madisonville City Cemetery. Arrangements by Biereley-Hale Funeral Home, Madisonville.

**Clyde Edward Morrison**, 94 of Riceville, passed away on Tuesday, January 20. Clyde was a lifetime member of North Athens Baptist Church, where he was most recently the oldest member and faithfully served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and choir member for many years. Clyde was a Korean War veteran who proudly served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Missouri and the USS Mansfield. Clyde worked for Bowater for 37 years as a boilermaker. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am, Friday, January 23 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Burial will follow at McMinn Memory Gardens. There will be no formal visitation. Laycock Hobbs Funeral Home Athens, TN in charge of arrangements.

**Mary Catherine Hardin Thompson Todd**, 79 of Sweetwater, passed away on Tuesday, January 20. She was a member of Glenlock Baptist Church in Sweetwater. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m., on Friday, January 23 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Bethel Springs Baptist Church Cemetery in Calhoun. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Todd family.

**Mary Jane Batzel Harris**, 89, passed away on Monday, January 19. A resident of McMinn County for 18 years, she was a lifelong resident of the Poconos, living in Tobyhanna, PA. Mary was an avid gardener and animal enthusiast. Funeral arrangements will be made by Duffy & Snowden Funeral Home in Moscow, PA. There will be no visitation. Private burial will be at Fairview Memorial Park, Elmhurst, PA. Ziegler Funeral Home in Athens, TN has been entrusted with serving the family of Mary Jane Batzel Harris.



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