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Friday, January 17, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Two Dead in Rhea County Shooting Incident

The Rhea County Sheriff's Office responded to a welfare check Tuesday morning at a residence on Lauren Lane, uncovering a tragic scene involving two gunshot victims.

Deputies were dispatched at approximately 11:48 a.m. Upon arrival, they found a deceased woman with an apparent gunshot wound inside the home and a man critically injured by a gunshot.

Emergency medical personnel transported the man to a designated air medical location, but he succumbed to his injuries upon arrival at the helipad.

Authorities are actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. The Rhea County Sheriff's Office has assured the public there is no immediate threat to the community.

Source: Chattanooga.com

Emergency Responders Conduct Search at Frozen Pond in Athens

Emergency responders from the Athens Fire and Police Departments were called to Prof Powers Park on Slack Road after Officer Queen noticed a scooter and articles of clothing near a frozen pond, raising concerns that someone may have fallen through the ice.

Upon inspection, responders found an open hole in the ice, prompting a multi-agency search effort. Chief Brandon Ainsworth and Lieutenant Patterson coordinated assistance from neighboring agencies, including the McMinn County Rescue Squad, Monroe County Dive Team, and Hamilton County Sheriff's Drone and Dive Team. Englewood Fire Department's Medic 3 provided support for divers during the search.

Using divers, underwater cameras, sonar, and drones, the teams conducted an extensive search but **found no evidence of a body**.

The Athens Fire Department expressed gratitude to all who assisted in the operation. For further details, contact Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth at 423-744-2789 or bainsworth@athenstn.gov.

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We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, e-mail it to: wyradio@gmail.com

Obituaries

Troy "Allen" Walden, age 51, lifelong resident of Niota, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, January 15. Visitation will be held at Pond Hill Baptist Church on Monday, January 20, from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM with a funeral service at 1:00 PM. Interment will follow at Niota Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Troy "Allen" Walden.

Barbara Jean Crabtree Slinger, age 89 of Athens, surrounded by her loving family, went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Tuesday, January 14, at Parkwest Medical Center of Knoxville. She was a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, pastor's wife and homemaker. Her life was blessed by all these titles. She loved the Lord, her family and her church family. Funeral services will be 1 pm Friday, January 17, at Parkway Baptist Church. The interment will be at McMinn Memory Gardens following the service. The family will be receiving friends from 11am-1pm Friday at the church before the service. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.

Ollie "Ruth" Shanks, 93, of Etowah, passed away on Wednesday, January 15, at her residence. Ruth was a member of Brookhill Baptist Church. She enjoyed delivering newspapers on her route and loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, January 19, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Interment will follow the service in Green Hill Cemetery. Family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday prior to the service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Community News

Dream Achievers celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Day will be held in Townsend Auditorium on the campus of Tennessee Wesleyan University on SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024 at 4:00 PM. The community is invited to come and celebrate and honor our African American students' scholastic achievements. SEE STORY ON PAGE 3

Gas Prices Rise Amid Higher Oil Costs Despite Low Demand

The national average for a gallon of gas has increased by four cents over the past week to \$3.10, largely driven by rising oil prices, which are hovering around \$80 per barrel. According to AAA spokesperson Andrew Gross, "Domestic gasoline demand is low, so why are pump prices creeping higher? Look at the cost of oil." He noted that global oil prices have surged due to strong demand for winter heating fuels and new U.S. sanctions against Russia's energy sector. Oil costs account for 56% of gas prices, leading to the recent increase.

Despite the rise, 26 states still report averages below \$3 per gallon. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that gasoline demand dropped last week to 8.32 million barrels per day, while domestic gasoline stocks increased to 243.6 million barrels.

Today's gas price average is eight cents higher than a month ago and three cents higher than a year ago. Meanwhile, the cost per kilowatt hour of electricity at public EV charging stations remains steady at 34 cents.

Source: [AAA Fuel Prices](#)

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Friday, January 17, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County NAACP and TWU Host Annual Dream Achievers Award



The McMinn County NAACP and Tennessee Wesleyan University will host the annual Dream Achievers Award ceremony on Sunday at 4 p.m. in Townsend Auditorium on TWU's campus.

McMinn County NAACP President Rev. Benjamin Jackson Jr. expressed gratitude for the community's continued support of the program, which began in 2013 and held its inaugural ceremony in 2014.

The event recognizes African-American students in grades 7 through 12 who achieve a 3.0 or higher GPA for the first semester of the academic year. Between 100 and 175 students from local schools are honored annually for their academic accomplishments.

Bulldog Basketball Recap

Wednesday night was action-packed as the TWU Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs faced off against Bryan College.

In women's basketball, Bryan College secured a 60-50 victory over Tennessee Wesleyan University, with Jacelyn Stone leading all scorers with 20 points.

In men's action, TWU triumphed over Bryan College 85-71. Amauri Young, who led six players in double figures, scored 20 points.

Upcoming Games:

- **Away:** TWU Women's and Men's teams travel to the University of Pikeville on Saturday, Jan. 18, for games at 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, respectively.
- **Home:** TWU hosts Columbia International University on Jan. 20, with games scheduled for 5:30 PM (WBB) and 7:30 PM (MBB).

Source: Chris Berry, TWU Director of Sports Information



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Fri. Night - 90% Chance of Rain.
Low 41.

Sat. - 80% Chance of Rain. High 52.
Low 33.

Sun. - Mostly Cloudy. High 36.
Low 213

More Weather at: wyxi.com

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Friday, January 17, 2025

Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

UT Agricultural Extension – McMinn Offers Free and Low-Cost Community Classes

The UT Agricultural Extension Office in McMinn County is offering several programs to promote health and wellness.

1. Tai Chi for Arthritis – Part 2

- **Dates:** February 3–26, 2025 (Mondays and Wednesdays)
- **Locations & Times:**
 - First Baptist Church, 305 Ingleside Ave., Athens: 10:00–11:00 AM
 - UT Extension Office, 2345 Denso Dr., Athens: 3:00–4:00 PM
- **Cost:** Free (thanks to a partner!)
- **Registration:** Call 423-745-2852
- **Details:** Designed for those familiar with Tai Chi Part 1, this program is endorsed by the CDC for fall prevention and arthritis management.

2. 5 Love Languages (Online)

- **Availability:** Free, all month long
- **Where:** On-demand via YouTube: [UT Extension – McMinn County](#)

- **Details:** Based on Gary Chapman's book *5 Love Languages*, this workshop explores how understanding love languages can strengthen relationships. Participants can take an online assessment and learn how to receive a free *Love Language* book.

3. Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)

- **Dates:** February 7, 2025 – January 9, 2026 (Fridays)
- **Time & Location:** 11:00 AM–12:00 PM, UT Extension Office, 2345 Denso Dr., Athens (Multi-Purpose Room)
- **Cost:** Free (grant-funded)
- **Registration:** Call 423-744-3249
- **Details:** A year-long lifestyle change program led by CDC-trained coaches. Participants will learn strategies for weight loss, healthy eating, stress management, and physical activity to reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Class size is limited to 15.

For more information about these programs, contact the UT Agricultural Extension – McMinn at 423-745-2852.



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Church News & Events

- [Solid Rock Baptist Church](#) (4975 Hwy-11, Calhoun) celebrates the return of the Lead Vocalist of *The Kingdom Heirs*, [Chris Bryant](#) in concert on Sunday, January 19 at 6:00 pm. (See their ad on PAGE 3)
- [Celebrate Recovery](#) meets every [Tuesday](#) at 6:00 P.M. at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every [Thursday](#) at 6:00 P.M. at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- [Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship](#) (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- [The Kingsmen Quartet](#) will be performing in concert TODAY, January 17 at [Union Fork Baptist Church](#) beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at 350 Lee Pike, Soddy Daisy. Tickets are \$20.00 and are available for purchase [HERE](#).
- Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church will be hosting a Martin Luther King Jr. observance on Monday, January 20 beginning at 2:00 pm. The church is located at 414 Chester Street in Athens.



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with DR. CHARLES STANLEY



Weekdays
10:00 am - 10:30 am

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