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**Tuesday, September 24, 2024** Page 1 **Athens, Tennessee**

### McMinn Co Student Charged in Posting Threat to McMinn Co High School

A 15 year-old female McMinn High student has been charged with making a threatening social media post last week. According to Sheriff Joe Guy, officers and school officials responded last Thursday to McMinn High after the post was shared just before school. Officials say the post alarmed many students, staff and parents, and disrupted most of the school day. Sheriff Guy says a week-long investigation by his School Resource Officers has revealed the identity of the student as well as the reason behind the post.

"To put it simply: She admitted she just wanted to cause a stir so she wouldn't have to go to school that day" said Sheriff Guy. "The cost in manpower to taxpayers in our response that day can't be compared to the cost in anxiety and fear that this student caused and her irresponsible action has resulted in her being charged with a felony."

The charge of Making Threats of Mass Violence on School Property is now a felony in Tennessee. Sheriff Guy wishes students would think before they make a social media post. A felony charge can follow you the rest of your life," added Sheriff Guy. "Parents need to monitor student's social media, and encourage responsibility. Words matter, especially those directed at a school or another person in a threatening manner. We, along with our school administrators, will investigate, use our own technology, and prosecute these cases."

### Community News You Can Use

- **CORRECTION:** The Athens Utilities Board will meet Tuesday, September 24th at 5 p.m.
- Anna Smith from the Office of Tennessee Attorney General Division of Consumer Affairs will be presenting "Scams Stop Here: A Presentation for Older Adults" at the Etowah Senior Center, 435 Cooper Street, Etowah on Thursday September 26 at 10:00. She will tell how to protect yourself from current popular scams such as Technical Support Scams, Door to Door Maintenance Scams, Timeshare Scams, Imposter Scams, Lottery Scams, Charity Scams, and Robocalls. She will also inform where to report these scams.
- The VFW Auxiliary is hosting Trunk or Treat at the VFW on Saturday, October 26 from 4-6 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The McMinn County Election Commission will meet in a called meeting on Monday, September 30th at 5:00 pm in the Conference room for the purpose of setting election calendar, locking provisional ballot bags and any other election business to come before the board.
- The 2024 McMinn County High School Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Friday, October 4th. There will be a meet and greet reception beginning at 4:30 pm in the school cafeteria followed by the Induction Ceremony at 5:30 pm in the school auditorium. Those being inducted are: Eric Axley, Steve Byrum, Haley Carroll, Joey Grubb, Trace McDermott, and Stephen Stansell. The public is invited.

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Tuesday, September 24, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

# Obituaries

**Peggy Jean Spurling Wade**, age 80, lifelong resident of McMinn County, passed away on Friday, September 20. She was a member of Athens Free Saints True Holiness Church. Visitation was held at Athens Free Saints True Holiness Church on Monday, September 23, from 5:30-6:30 PM. A Celebration of Life service was held at 7:00 PM at the church. Ziegler Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements for the family of Peggy Jean Spurling Wade.

**Carolyn Craig Brewster**, age 74, passed away peacefully on September 20. Carolyn was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to many. She was born in Sweetwater. Carolyn attended High Point High School and graduated from Sweetwater High School. She was a dedicated member of the First United Church of Christ, where she served as a Mother and the Director of Christian Education. Carolyn's passion for spreading the word of God extended through her years teaching Sunday School and leading Bible study classes for battered women. In addition to her church work, Carolyn sang in the Gospel Choir and loved or-

ganizing Vacation Bible School. Education and ministry were central to Carolyn's life. She earned an Associate's Degree in Ministry from the International Ministry College. Beyond her service in the church, Carolyn worked for many years as a caretaker and prepared food for local establishments like Sweetwater Hospital, Brown's Elementary School, and Marvel's Restaurant. She was known for her exceptional cooking, particularly her famous coleslaw, which she made for special occasions. Funeral services will be held Thursday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m. at the First United Church of Christ in Sweetwater with pastor, Rev. Nicholas Jones officiating and Rev. Vant Hardaway delivering the eulogy. The family will receive friends on Thursday from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. Interment will follow the service at Sweetwater Memorial Gardens. Visitation by friends and loved ones also on Wednesday, Sept 25 from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home in Athens. Services of loving memory entrusted to M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Athens, Tennessee. *Obituaries Continued on Page 3*

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Tuesday, September 24, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Sarah Beth Isbill Bridges**, age 90, of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, entered into eternal rest Saturday, September 21. She was born and raised in Englewood. She was an 8th generation Tennessean and a 5th great granddaughter of Zachariah Isbill, a founding father of the State of Tennessee. She was a lifelong Baptist and a proud member of The First Families of Tennessee and First Families of the Cherokee Nation. Her Memorial Service will be held Tuesday, September 24 at First Baptist Church, 61 Church St., Charleston, SC at 1:00 pm. The Family will receive friends thirty minutes prior to the service. Burial will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, September 26 at Mt. Arnon-Manila Methodist Cemetery in Englewood. Arrangements in South Carolina by J. Henry Stuhr, Inc. and in Tennessee by Ziegler Funeral Home.

**Mary Lou Shelton Roberts**, age 78, longtime resident of Ten Mile, passed away on Saturday, September 21. She attended Open Door Baptist Church in Sweetwater. The family will receive friends on Thursday, September 26, from 5:00-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, September 27, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Ten Mile with Pastor Mason Strickland and Pastor Ted Clower officiating and special singing by Eddy Watson, Johnathan Watson, Danny and Patsy Carter. Interment will follow funeral services at Hornsby Hollow Cemetery in Ten Mile. Ziegler Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mary Lou Shelton Roberts.

**Charles Marcus "Marc" Preskitt**, age 63, of Englewood, passed away surrounded by his family at home on Sunday, September 22. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced at a later date. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements

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Athens, Tennessee

## Starr Regional - New Board of Trustees Member



Starr Regional Medical Center announced today that R. Shane Roberts, MD, has been selected to serve on the hospital's Board of Trustees. Dr. Roberts fills the seat left by Charles B. Cox, MD, whose term ended December 2023.

"We are so proud to welcome Dr. Roberts to our Board and know that he will do an outstanding job," said John McLain, chief executive officer of Starr Regional Medical Center. "His longstanding leadership and deep knowledge of the unique needs of our community will be a great asset to our leadership team, employees, and medical staff as we work to make our communities healthier. We are confident in Dr. Roberts' ability to be a meaningful voice for our hospitals and the members of the communities we serve."

Dr. Roberts is a family medicine physician and has been caring for the communities of Decatur, Athens and the surrounding areas for more than 25 years. He received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Tennessee Tech University and Doctor of Medicine from the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University.

"It is so important to have strong community hospitals," said Dr. Roberts, "and I am truly honored to serve on Starr Regional Medical Center's board. I look forward to working collaboratively with the other board members and hospital leadership team to help our hospital continue to explore ways to expand access to quality care close to home."

Dr. Roberts assumed his role September 3, 2024, joining existing board members Carter Runyan, chair, COO of WarrenJackson CPAs; Rev. Dr. Vant Hardaway, vice chair, retired/Starr Regional Medical Center Chaplain; John McLain, secretary, CEO of Starr Regional Medical Center; Johnnie C. Carter, MD, Family Practice; Pastor Angel De Hoyos, Woodward Avenue Church of God; Shane Sewell, COO, Wilson Construction Group; and Vickie Turnbough, MD, Medical Associates of Athens. Starr Regional Medical Center's Board of Trustees meets monthly and is charged with quality oversight, financial management and



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