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Morning Fax[®]

Today's News... This Morning

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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
Located at: 317 Maple Street in Athens. For more information: call 423-435-8986
HOPE to see you there!

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

September Unemployment Rates

In September, 91 out of 95 Tennessee counties reported unemployment rates below 5%, despite most counties seeing slight increases from August. Rates rose in 77 counties, stayed the same in 13, and fell in five. Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 3.2%, lower than the national average of 4.1%. Residents can explore job opportunities and resources through the state's American Job Centers or online services.

County	September, 2024				Aug, 2024		Sep, 2023	
	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Rate	Change	Rate	Change
Bradley	50,603	48,914	1,865	3.7	3.6	0.1	3.5	0.2
McMinn	21,240	19,860	971	4.7	4.4	0.3	4.2	0.5
Meigs	4,937	4,594	227	4.7	4.7	0	4.9	-0.2
Monroe	21,141	19,833	839	4.1	3.9	0.2	3.7	0.4

Community News You Can Use

- Please be aware that Athens Utilities Board is NOT sending anyone to your home to test your water. Do not allow anyone claiming to be affiliated with AUB into your home for this purpose. Protect your home and your safety—contact Athens Utilities Board directly if you have any questions or concerns. 423-745-4501.
- The City of Athens is preparing a Safety Action Plan to make our roads and pathways safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Public engagement is crucial when developing a safety plan that can adapt to the evolving needs of our community. You are invited to shape the future of road safety in the City of Athens by taking part in a project survey. To learn more about the Action Plan, visit their website at <https://safestreetsathens.com/> Make a difference in our community. Get involved and have your voice heard!

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James A. Staton, Owner / Licensed Funeral Director (front),
Standing (L-R) Audrey Staton Hall, Licensed Funeral Director, Jasper Staton, Unlicensed Funeral Assistant,
Amber R. Staton, Unlicensed Co-Owner

The Staton family and the staff of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the families of Meigs County and the surrounding areas by providing compassionate service to every family who walks through our doors. At Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services it truly is "Our family serving your family".



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www.decaturfuneralsandcremations.com
James A. Staton, Owner

AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY
Friday, November 8
5-7 PM @ VFW
Congress Parkway North
FISH-FRIES-COLESLAW-GREEN BEANS-HUSH PUPPIES

WEATHER FORECAST
Wednesday - Cloudy, warm, humid. Possible rain. High 78.
Wed. night - Clear & mild. Low 60.
Thursday - Partly sunny, warm & humid. High 78.
Thurs. night - Cloudy & mild. Low 60.
More Weather at: wyxi.com

TN WESLEYAN SUNDAY LUNCH

Start your Sunday off right with our delicious and decadent Sunday Lunch on the TN Wesleyan Campus! Join us for a wide variety of lunch classics and new favorites to satisfy your cravings. Served all you care to eat style!

Date: Every Sunday
"When school is in session."
Time: 11am-1:30pm
Location: Sherman Dining Hall
204 E College Street
Athens TN 37303

Scan and select the upcoming Sunday from the lunch meal period.



WATER DAMAGE?

CALL THE EXPERTS

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Wednesday, November 6, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Monday Fire on County Road 655



Early Monday morning, around 4 am, the McMinn County Sheriff's Department was first to respond to a fully involved structure fire on County Road 655 in Athens. The family was alerted by smoke detectors and noticed smoke after opening an interior door, but all members were able to escape safely, according to Riceville Rural Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth.

Multiple agencies joined in response, including Riceville Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, Calhoun Fire, Athens Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, North McMinn Fire, Clearwater Rural Fire, and Niota Rural Fire Departments. Additional support came from AMR and VEC.

Fire districts were covered by Etowah City Fire, Athens City Fire, West Polk Fire, and Madisonville City Fire Departments. Riceville Rural Fire Chief Ainsworth led the operations on the scene.

Photo provided by the Englewood Rural Fire Department.

◆ This week, *Hope From the Well* will feature **Lacey Stone**, student at Women At The Well. *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

Life Auction

A Live & Silent Auction Event

12.6.2024 at 6:00 PM

ATHENS REGIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
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Catch up on your Christmas shopping AND give the gift of life by joining us for Full Circle's 3rd annual Life Auction!

Guests will enjoy an evening of food, fun, and fabulous auction items—all for a good cause. With items up for grabs like jewelry, electronics, sports memorabilia, attraction tickets, and even a deluxe beach getaway, you're sure to find something for everyone on your list.

Because of the generous support of our local sponsors, all of the proceeds from the event go to support the life-saving work of Full Circle. Click [HERE](#) or email bethefullcircleforwomen.org to get your tickets today!



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Obituaries

Larry Stiner Wattenbarger, 74 of Niota, passed away on Tuesday, November 5 after a lengthy illness. He was a proud member of Meigs Lodge #213 F.&A.M. for 53 years and an ironworker for Local 384 for 50 years in Knoxville, TN, and a member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Niota. A masonic service will be held at 3 p.m., on Friday, November 22, 2024, in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 1 to 3 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Wattenbarger Family.

Dwain Carlton Ealy, Sr., 88, passed away on November 3rd. He was a U.S. Air Force and Tennessee Air National Guard veteran, Dwain was deployed to Germany in 1961 during the Berlin Wall's construction. He belonged to Keith Memorial United Methodist Church. Dwain also devoted 59 years to the Kiwanis Club of Athens, TN, earning the Distinguished Service Award in 2002. A celebration of Dwain's life will take place at 2:00 pm on Saturday, November 23, at Keith Memorial United Methodist Church, with visitation from 12:00-2:00 pm at the church. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is serving the family.

CLA Cross-Country



Congratulations to Samuel Larson of Christ's Legacy Academy in Athens, who earned an individual bid at the TSSAA DII A regional cross-country qualifiers on October 29th! He will compete in the state meet at Sanders Ferry Park in Hendersonville on November 8th

Source: Sarah Dalbey, CLA Creative Arts Director

www.TheSouthernEvents.com
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Thanksgiving
 & Christmas

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FREE Crafts & Cookies
 3:00, 4:00, & 5:00 PM

Pictures with Santa
 3:00 - 6:00 PM

"The Best Christmas
 Pageant Ever"
 2:00 & 7:00 PM



ELECTION RESULTS: Yesterday's election may go down as one of the "reddist" in history locally and even across Tennessee. Republicans swept nearly every partisan contest. President Trump carried McMinn County with 82% of the vote as opposed to Vice President Kamala Harris, who received 17% locally. Across Tennessee, Trump received 64% whereas Harris got 34%. Third District Congressman Chuck Fleischmann will return to Washington for another term with 79% of the vote in McMinn County and 68% district wide. Fleischman was opposed by Democrat Jack Allen, a former resident of Athens and the former President of Citizens National Bank prior to its merger with Simmons Bank. Senator Marsha Blackburn received 80% of the vote locally and 64% statewide. Her opponent, Democrat Gloria Johnson of Knoxville, received 18% locally and 34% statewide. State Representative Mark Cochran won another term with an 85% margin while Democrat David Thomforde received 15%. The Athens City Council will soon have a new member. In a 3-way race for two seats, the two top vote getters were incumbent Jordan Curtis (2984) and John Duggan (2773). Newcomer Perry McCowan came in 3rd place with 2006 votes. The Athens City School Board will have a new member, Republican Stan Harrison, who won 41% of the vote, while independent incumbents Chris Adams and Beth Jackson won 30% and 29% respectively. Justin Evans, Evan Thomas and Mark Ledford were the top 3 vote getters in a 6-way race for the Calhoun City Commission. In the Niota City Commission election, there were 3 candidates running for 3 seats. David Dilbeck, Shelby Renee Brakebill and Robert Aaron Arnwine were elected. McMinn Director of Elections, TeAnna McKinney, reported that there were a large number of provisional ballots cast and it will be several days before they will be counted which could change some of the unofficial totals mentioned previously.

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Joint Compliance Nets Numerous Citations for Vape Sales

A joint operation in McMinn, Polk, Bradley, and Monroe Counties has resulted in several citations to businesses for illegal vape sales. According to Sheriff Joe Guy in a joint press release with other area law enforcement agencies, District Attorney General, and DTF Director, the issue of vaping devices being sold to juveniles in turning up in area schools is a problem that all law enforcement agencies share. In Tennessee, an individual must be 21 years old to purchase a tobacco product such as a vaping device. Sale to a person under the age of 21 is a class C misdemeanor. "We all see it daily in our local schools," said Sheriff Guy. "And juveniles are being sold the devices without their ID being checked, or simply sold illegally at area stores. This was made possible with the support of General Hatchett's Office and the Drug Task Force" According to the joint statement, on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force conducted a compliance check of forty-seven local businesses in Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk County, Tennessee in reference to the sale of Vape and THC products to individuals under the age of twenty-one. As a result of the operation seventeen businesses were found to have violated state law. The Task Force issued a total of thirty-four citations during this operation. District Attorney General Stephen M. Hatchett is quoted as saying: "The District Attorney's Office and all our law enforcement partners are committed to preventing youth access to Tobacco, Smoking Hemp and Vapor Products. We have received multiple complaints from our community and our schools regarding these products and we have taken proactive action to stop these products from being sold to our youth. We truly appreciate ATS The Bridge and the Monroe County Wellness and Prevention Coalition helping with these enforcement actions. This is notice to any establishments in the 10th Judicial District selling these products that enforcement actions will continue to protect our youth". Athens Police Department, ATS The Bridge, Bradley County Sheriff's Office, Cleveland Police Department, McMinn County Sheriff's Office, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Monroe County Prevention and Wellness Coalition, Polk County Sheriff's Office, and Sweetwater Police Department, assisted the Task Force with this operation. All agency heads agreed this was a successful effort, and it will be repeated in the future. *Source: Joe Guy, MCSO*



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November 16-17, 2024

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Wednesday, November 6, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

Dallas Bradley, 27 of Etowah, was arrested by the Athens PD for DUI and Driving on a Suspended License. No Bond

James Phelps, 61 of Southwick, MA, was arrested by the MCSO for DUI and Violation of Implied Consent. Total Bond: \$4,500

Innocent Ezekiel, 53 of Richmond, TX, was arrested by the THP for Driving without Due Care, Leaving the Scene, and Failure to Give Immediate Notice. Total Bond: \$3,000

Roy Partin, 51 of Athens, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Theft over \$10,000. and Evading Arrest. Total Bond: \$20,000

David Hicks, 61 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Misuse of 911 and Filing False Reports. Total Bond: \$10,000

Matthew Knox, 35 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Casual Exchange / Possession of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond Unreported

Lisa Dodson, 59 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Public Intoxication, Violation of Probation, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$3,232

Dustin Winton, 42 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Manufacturing, Sale, Delivery, Possession of Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, and Marijuana, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, and Driving in Possession of Methamphetamine. Total Bond: \$35,000.

Demetrius Stoudemire, 33 of Cleveland, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$600

Michelle Williams, 44 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Disorderly Conduct. Total Bond: \$500

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



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