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Friday, December 20, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

TVFCU Breaks Records with Holiday Donations for Angel Tree Program



Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union (TVFCU) employees and community members set a new milestone this year by providing holiday gift bags for about 185 children and seniors through The Salvation Army Angel Tree program. They also contributed approximately 390 additional gifts across Tennessee and Northwest Georgia, marking the credit union's largest-ever holiday contribution.

ing the credit union's largest-ever holiday contribution.

"TVFCU [adopted] more angels than any other business in Chattanooga, [helping us serve] around 3,000 people," said Kendall Hudson, community relations and development manager at The Salvation Army in Chattanooga.

Since 2006, TVFCU has hosted a Thanksgiving employee food auction to support the Angel Tree program, raising \$11,500 this year—enough to adopt 62 angels. Ten TVFCU branches housed Angel Trees, while seven others supported holiday initiatives like the Stocking Full of Love program and Toys & Coats for Kids. "The holiday spirit really comes alive through TVFCU's efforts," said Lisa Elrod, vice president of branch operations.

TVFCU plans to continue the tradition in 2025. For more information or to support The Salvation Army, visit tvfcu.com or csarmy.org.

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Friday, December 20, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Dr. Carl Quinn Osborn, 78 of Decatur, passed away Monday, December 16, at his residence. He attended First Baptist Church of Athens. He served in the U.S. Army rising to the rank of major. He received his Doctorate degree from the University of Oklahoma. Per his request there will be no service at this time. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Dr. Carl Quinn Osborn.

Steve Norman White, age 76, of Decatur, passed away on Wednesday, December 18. He had a passion for riding horses, raising cows, reading and gardening. The family will receive friends from 12 noon - 2 p.m., on Saturday, December 21, 2024, in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. A graveside service will follow immediately in the Meigs County Memorial Gardens. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the White Family.

Community News You Can Use

- Athens Community Theatre will hold auditions for *As She Likes It* on January 12 and 13, 2025, at 6:00 PM at The Arts Center. Actors aged 18+ are invited to audition, with cold readings from the script required. The show runs March 13-16, 2025. Visit athensartscouncil.org/auditions or call 423-745-8781 for details.
- Dedicate a brick in honor of your favorite veteran at Veterans Memorial Park. Each new Veteran's name will be read during the next Brick Dedication Ceremony. Gift certificates are available for pickup at Athens City Hall to present this special gesture to your Veteran this Christmas. Bricks can be purchased online [HERE](#) by mail, by phone at 423-744-2704, or in person at Athens City Hall (815 N Jackson St., Athens).

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

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Friday, December 20, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- Celebrate Recovery meets every Tuesday at 6:00 P.M. at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens).
- Trinity Grace Church will be hosting their Christmas Eve Service at TWU Townsend Auditorium from 5 - 6pm on Christmas Eve. All are Welcome.
- Trinity UMC (100 E. College St., Athens) presents "Walk-Through Bethlehem", a free community event on Sunday, December 22 from 3 - 5pm. Witness Jesus' birth story with live characters. You will end in the sanctuary with a beautiful live nativity.
- Cambria Baptist Church (305 County Road 875, Etowah) will present "Angels Unaware", a Christmas Play on Friday, December 20 at 7pm.
- Conasauga Baptist Church (649 County Road 475, Etowah) presents their Christmas Play, "Never Too Old for Christmas" on 12/22 at 6:00 pm.
- New Mount Tabor Baptist Church (385 County Road 325, Sweetwater) is hosting their Christmas Play *The Christmas Guest* on December 22 at 6pm.
- Double Springs Baptist Church (111 County Road 776, Athens) would like to invite you to their Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service on 12/24 at 6pm.
- Athens Christian Church (802 Matlock Ave., Athens) is announcing that their special Christmas services will take place on Sunday, December 22nd at 11 am with a Christmas Worship Service including songs, communion, and a choir performance. At 6 pm, they will present a Candlelight service with songs, communion, the Christmas Story, and fellowship with light refreshments.

More on Next Page



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Friday, December 20, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- The next monthly Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will occur on Thursday, January 2 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 by phone at (423-507-7769) or by Email at marcusguinn@gmail.com for more information.
- East Athens Baptist Church (301 Central Ave., Athens) invites you to their morning worship on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10:45 am for the Handbells Ring Christmas presentation. On Tuesday December 24th, they will have a Christmas Eve Service which will take place at 4:00 pm. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

Tennessee Adds 56,000 Jobs Despite Slight Unemployment Increase



Tennessee employers added 56,000 nonfarm jobs over the past year, marking the state's largest annual job growth in 2024, according to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce

Development. The health care and social assistance sector led the gains, followed by professional, scientific, and technical services, and retail trade.

Despite this growth, Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 3.5% in November, up from 3.3% in October but still below the national rate of 4.2%. The state previously achieved a record-low unemployment rate of 3% earlier this year.

Between October and November 2024, Tennessee added 6,300 jobs, with the health care sector and local government showing significant increases. Tennessee's unemployment rate remains well below the national average, reflecting continued strength in the job market.

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Friday, December 20, 2024 Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

TBI Arrests 10 in Operation Autumn Shield

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) says their Task Force has identified 14 known victims of online child sextortion in Tennessee.

The victims were located as a part of TBI operation "Autumn Shield," [which led to the arrest of 10 people](#). The TBI say most of these victims were on social media platforms such as Instagram and Snapchat.

The 3 men facing charges from our area include: Michael Williford of Sequatchie County, Joshua Long of Marion County, and Rory Frerichs of Polk County. The TBI says one of the ten suspects used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create a nude image of his underage daughter and shared it online.

The technology allows a user to create new images or videos based on the user's requests. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children says generative AI is a huge concern.

Their CyberTipline has received more than 7,000 child sexual exploitation reports involving this over the past two years. Sequatchie County Sheriff Phillips also says there are several apps for parents that monitor text messages, social media, and emails to ensure kids are staying safe online.

Originally Published by [News Channel 9](#)

Josh Heupel Named Semifinalist for George Munger Award



After leading Tennessee to a 10-win season and its first College Football Playoff berth, head coach Josh Heupel has been named a semifinalist for the prestigious George Munger Award, recognizing college football's most outstanding coach. This marks Heupel's second semifinalist nod in three years, having been a finalist in 2022. Heupel joins legendary Tennessee coaches Phillip Fulmer and Gen. Robert Neyland as the only ones to achieve multiple 10-win regular seasons.

Under Heupel, the Vols finished the 2024 regular season tied for second in the SEC and ranked in the top 10 nationally in 12 key statistical categories, including scoring defense, rushing defense, and total offense. Tennessee has amassed 30 wins over the past three seasons, the most since 1998-2000, cementing Heupel's impact on the program.

The No. 9 Vols will face No. 8 Ohio State in the College Football Playoff on Saturday at 8 p.m. ET, live on ABC and ESPN.

Source: [UTSports.com](#)

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