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Today's News... This Morning

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Tennessee Tourism in a Blizzard

Community News You Can Use



- The Athens Arts Council is announcing their Annual Arts Gala will be taking place on Saturday, March 8 from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm. Enjoy a night of dinner, dancing with the Nashville Soul Experience and an auction featuring special items like original artwork and one-of-a-kind experiences all to support the arts. This is a formal event; dressy attire is suggested, black tie optional. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased at the link [HERE](#).
- The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Beekeepers Association will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. The meetings are held at the AgCentral Morning Fax Farmers Cooperative located at 920 Congress Pkwy. N., Athens. You do not need to be a member to attend.

Morning Fax The Tennessee Dept. of Tourist Development held their annual Blizzard conference in Franklin, TN this week – *Blizzard Reimagined* was this year's theme, named because this is where our groups get together & brain storm new ideas. One of the topics discussed there "Defining & Celebrating Success in Your Destination". To quote Commissioner Mark Ezell "No matter what brings you here, we know Tennessee will capture your heart. After all, a trip to Tennessee Sounds Perfect".

Pictured from Left to Right – Jenni Veal - TN Dept of Tourist Development, Melanie Beauchamp – Assistant Commissioner of Rural Tourism, Nancy Dalton –Tennessee Overhill Tourism & Marketing Coordinator, Mark Ezell – Tennessee Commissioner of Tourist Development, John Gentry – McMinn County Mayor, Brianna Baker – McMinn County Tourism, Adrian Lambert – Tennessee Overhill Executive Director.

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Friday, February 14, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Theresa "TC" Ann Herrmann Palermo, 67, passed away on Tuesday, February 11. She was raised in Metairie, LA and was a longtime resident of McMinn County. Visitation will be held from 12:00-2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 18 at Ziegler Funeral Home in Athens. Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Theresa "TC" Ann Herrmann Palermo.

William "Bill" Raymond McCullough, 83, of Englewood passed away on Saturday, February 8. He was the longtime owner of *Bill's Trading Post* of Englewood. A memorial service will be held on Friday, February 14 at Englewood Church of God from 6-8pm. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

Robert Paul (J L) Whitaker, 83 of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, February 11 at his residence. He was employed at MOOG INC. in Buffalo NY for 30 years and was also a devoted member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church. A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 AM Monday, February 17 at Saint Mary's Catholic Church. The interment will follow at Cedar Grove Cemetery. The family will receive friends 5-6 PM Sunday February 16 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home will in charge of the arrangements.

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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Wynn Expands Christian Broadcasting to 44 Million Homes



Pastor Anthony Wynn of Miracle Deliverance Tabernacle in Riceville, TN, continues to grow Greater Love TV (GLTV), a Christian network launched in August 2023 to help ministries share the Gospel affordably. GLTV now broadcasts in 20 states, reaching 44 million Americans, including prison ministries, and airs five days a week on KAZQ-TV. The network is expanding its digital presence and planning to launch on cable and satellite while hosting conferences. Pastor Wynn emphasizes that GLTV is about changing lives and providing a platform for ministers. More information is available online at: anthonywynnministries.com or 1-877-226-4088.

TN Bill proposes \$20 Minimum Wage



A new bill introduced in the Tennessee General Assembly proposes an increase in Tennessee's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$20 per hour. If House Bill 1399 passes into law, Tennessee would have the highest minimum wage in the country. The same bill failed in 2024, but this year the bill's sponsor, Representative Justin Pearson (Memphis), says he has more support. Tennessee is one of 20 states that have minimum wage set at the federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour. Rep. Pearson says he understands that it would be the highest in the country, but he says Tennessee should be a leader in livable wages. *Source: [Local 3 News](http://Local3News.com)*

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Friday, February 14, 2025

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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.
- **Christ Community Church** is once again opening the Prom Shop on Saturday, March 29 from 9 am - 3 pm. The Prom Shop provides Prom Formal wear at no cost for any student to attend their prom or dance. Christ Community Church is located at 14 S. Congress Pkwy in Athens. For more information, email promshopathens@yahoo.com.
- **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)
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? **Clearwater Baptist Church** (964 County Road 180, Athens) is beginning a new session of GriefShare helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. Beginning on Thursday, March 6th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm there will be an ongoing (in 13 week rotations) grief support group that you can join at any time and is open to the community. For more info go online to: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share
- **Star Bethel Missionary Baptist Church** is Morning Fax hosting their Pastoral Installation Service on February 16 at 11am and 3pm. The church is located at 331 County Road 890, Etowah.
- The **McMinn Senior Activity Center** is pleased to announce a free Bible Study program every Thursday at 2 pm during February. They will study and explore the righteous attributes of great biblical women through the lens of Proverbs 31.
- **New Life Church** hosts weekly Prayer Meetings every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00 pm. The church is located at 204 Fisher St. in Athens. All are welcome.
- **Widowhood Workshop Ministry** is hosting their February **Widowhood Fellowship on Saturday, February 22** beginning at 11AM at **Athens Church of Christ** (1016 North Avenue, Athens) All widows and widowers are invited to join for an uplifting time, chili lunch and speaker Dean Miller, founder and Director of Widowhood Workshop Ministry. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please call (423) 745-0554 or (423) 618-0439

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Athens, Tennessee

Gov. Lee Signs Education Freedom Act into Law



Gov. Bill Lee has signed the [Education Freedom Act](#), landmark legislation that establishes Tennessee's first-ever universal school choice program. The Governor was joined by members of the Tennessee General Assembly and stakeholders, including dozens of Tennessee families, students and educators, to celebrate the Education Freedom Act's passage into law with his signature. Tennessee parents may find more information on the Education Freedom Scholarship Program [HERE](#).

Additional information on how parents may apply for the program is forthcoming as the Department of Education begins

the implementation process, which includes promulgation of rules by the State Board of Education and collaboration with the Central Procurement Office.

Additionally, the legislation delivers on Gov. Lee's commitment to further investment in Tennessee's public schools by delivering teacher bonuses, increasing K-12 facilities funding and ensuring state funding to school districts will never decrease due to disenrollment. **SOURCE: TN Governor's Press Office**

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Friday, February 14, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6 Athens, Tennessee

United Way of McMinn & Meigs County

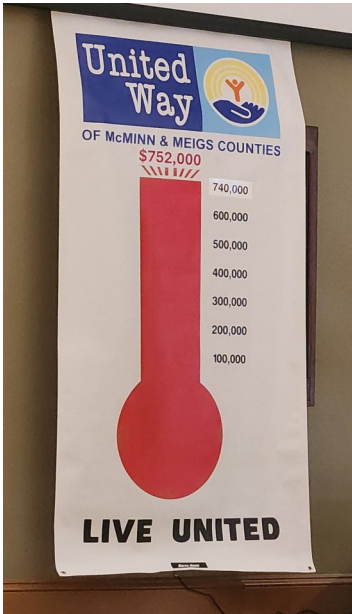
The 2024-2025 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon of the United Way of McMinn and Meigs County was held yesterday. The United Way provides funding for numerous partner agencies including the Athens-McMinn YMCA, Boys & Girls Club - Meigs Unit, Etowah Area Senior Citizens, Etowah Rescue Squad, Good Faith Clinic, The HOPE Center, McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services, McMinn Education Foundation, McMinn Rescue Squad and the Tri-County Center. Also, grants were provided to the Friendly Fellows Food Basket Program, Let's Read 20, Meigs-Decatur Friends of the Library and the McMinn County Senior Center.

President and CEO of the United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties, Lee Montgomery, announced that the fundraising goal of \$740,000 was surpassed and \$752,000 was actually raised; the 10th consecutive year that exceeded their goal. (See Thermometer)

Several awards were presented. The Dick Dyer Community Service Award was given to Stanley Blair by Shane Sewell. Greg Moses handed the James H. Willson Award to Paige Zabo, the former President and CEO of United Way. Norma Barham was the recipient of the Joseph T. Frye Award presented by Michelle Crafton.

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SOURCE: Mary Lefler, Morning Fax Staff. PHOTOS: by Stephanie Devine, Morning Fax Staff.



SUCCESS!! Stanley Blair (L) and Shane Sewell



Greg Moses (L) and Paige Zabo. Incoming Board Chairman Blake McCaslin in Background.



Michelle Crafton (L) and Norma Barham

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