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Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn Senior Center Executive Director Saying "Goodbye!"



The McMinn Senior Activity Center will see a leadership transition this month as its Executive Director prepares to step down and move into a new role.

Diane Hutsell, who has led the center since 2022, announced early on Monday that March 14 will mark her final day in the role. She has accepted a new position as the Assistant Executive Director and Director of Philanthropy at the **St. Christopher Truckers Relief Fund (SCF)**—a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting semi-truck drivers and their families during times of illness or injury. The organization also provides free health and wellness programs tailored to the trucking industry.

Stepping in as **Interim Director** on **Monday, March 17**, will be **Erin Seland**, the center's current Assistant Director. Seland can be reached at development@mcminnseniors.com, though she will also monitor the outgoing director's email during the transition.

Expressing enthusiasm for the new opportunity, Hutsell shared, "I am incredibly excited about this new chapter in my life. It has been a pleasure working with this community, and I appreciate all the support along the way."

For more information about the McMinn Senior Activity Center's programs and services, visit mcminnseniors.com or contact the center directly via phone at (423) 745-6830.

LISTENING REMINDER: TODAY on *Main Street Moments*: Host Sandra Kinney invites Deb Wallace to talk about the TWU Criminal Justice Club fundraiser *happening later tonight* at TWU. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TODAY on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

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- Tuesday-Decatur beside Southeast Bank at the Boys and Girls Club -10:30 - 2:00
Tuesday PM: Niota School 5-7
- Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2:00
- Thursday-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 - 1:30
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30

BEST OF BEST

Facebook

YOU'RE INVITED TO Saint Patrick's Day Party

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MARCH 17 | 1PM-2PM

McMinn Senior Activity Center, 205 McMinn Ave., Athens

Hosted by McMinn Co. FCE



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Obituaries

Elsie E. Stacy, 88 of Decatur, passed away on Wednesday, February 26. She worked for Illinois State Police for many years and retired from there leaving many friends. Elsie was an avid gardener and a friend of all birds and wildlife. The family will receive friends from 10:00 am – Noon on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Decatur. A celebration of life in Springfield, Illinois will be held at a later date. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Stacy Family.

Bertha Elizabeth Haynes, 85, passed away on Monday, March 10, 2025, at NHC Healthcare. She was a member of Smyrna Baptist Church in Smyrna, TN and enjoyed listening to audio books, listening to gospel music, traveling and talking to her friends and family. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 13, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Decatur Cemetery. The Family will receive friends from 12 noon to 2 p.m. prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Haynes Family.

Ida Yvonne "Sissy" Owens, 85 of Decatur passed away on Friday, March 7 at her home. Sissy was a member of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Decatur for several years. Above everything, she enjoyed spending time talking with her family

and friends. She will be deeply missed. A Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:00pm. A Visitation will be held prior from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. A Graveside Service will be held on Thursday, March 13, at 11:00am at Decatur Cemetery. Companion Funeral Home in Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

Juana Crescencia Cruz Redman, age 84, native of El Salvador, and longtime resident of McMinn County, passed away on Saturday, March 8. She was a member of New Hopewell Baptist Church. The family will receive friends at Ziegler Funeral Home from 5:00 until 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 12. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held at McMinn Memory Gardens at 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 13. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Juana Crescencia Cruz Redman.

Kathy Louise McKenzie Womack, 70 of Meigs County, passed away on Tuesday, March 4. Kathy was an avid reader, collector of literature, and enjoyed cooking. A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date, per Kathy's request. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Womack family.

More Obituaries on Page 3

American Legion Post 68

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Tuesday, March 11, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Mark McElhaney, age 81, of Athens, died Sunday, March 9, at the home of his son, Joe. He was a longtime member of Fairview Baptist Church, having served in the bus ministry and deacon for many years. Funeral services will be 6:30 pm Tuesday at Fairview Baptist Church. The family will receive friends from 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm prior to the funeral service. Burial will be 11:00 am Wednesday in Sunrise Cemetery in Englewood. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Mark McElhaney.

Norman (Norm) Ritter, 83 of Dayton, passed away at home on Wednesday, February 19. Norm worked in golf course maintenance in Florida and Tennessee. Norm enjoyed fishing, golfing, watching sports and spending time with his son. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

Charles Monroe, of Niota, passed away on Sunday, March 9. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Charles Monroe.

Joseph Braden, of Athens, passed away on Monday, March 10. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Joseph Braden.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Commissioners will meet in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse in Regular Session in Athens on Monday, March 17 at 6:00 pm.
- Casa Corridor of East TN is hosting a Pickleball Tournament on April 12-13. For More Information, visit their website at casacorridor.org
- Nominations are being accepted for the Athens "Young Woman/Man of the Year". These awards are sponsored by TWU and will be presented at the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on April 24. Candidates must be 39 years of age or younger and the date of birth should be included on the application. Candidates should exhibit leadership qualities and participate in providing overall contributions to community welfare. Nomination forms are available upon request by calling 423-746-5202 and nominations should be sent to President's Office, Tennessee Wesleyan University, 204 East College Street, Athens, TN, 37303. Deadline for nominations is Monday, March 28.

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

Amanda Gossett, 27 of Decatur, was arrested by the DTF for Simple Possession of Schedule II Oxycodone, Possession of a Schedule VI Substance for Resale, and Legend Drugs. Bond Unclear.

Caleb Darby, 30 of Chattanooga, was arrested by the MCSO for Attempted 1st Degree Murder and Unlawful Carry/Possession of a Weapon. No Bond.

Larry Lamm, 57 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Shawn Hicks, 49 of Riceville, was arrested by the Athens PD for two Charges of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Driving on a Suspended License, and Headlight Violations. Bond Unclear.

The accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered using public sources.

Athens Leaders Celebrate Japanese Emperor's Birthday with Consulate General in Nashville



Athens city officials recently attended a special celebration in honor of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan's birthday, hosted by the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville.

Among those representing Athens were EDA Director Lindsey Ferguson, Mayor Larry Eaton, and City Manager Randy Dowling. Pictured here with Consulate General Shinji Watanabe and his wife, this event highlighted the strong economic and cultural ties between Japan and McMinn County.

Japanese investment has played a pivotal role in the region's economic development, with companies like DENSO North America bringing jobs, innovation, and sustained growth. These partnerships have strengthened McMinn County's industrial landscape while fostering a spirit of collaboration and cultural exchange.

The event served as a reminder of the deep connections between the community and Japan, reinforcing the shared commitment to economic and cultural progress.
Source: Lindsey Ferguson, McMinn County EDA Director

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