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(See page 3 for more news)

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Friday, November 24, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

Christmas Tree Lighting

Starr Regional Medical Center (SRMC) will host its fifth annual community Christmas Tree Lighting event Thursday, November 30 from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. The event will take place on the Athens campus, located at 1114 West Madison Avenue. "The Christmas season is especially joyous when we take time to gather with family, friends and neighbors," said John McLain, Chief Executive Officer of Starr Regional Medical Center. "We look forward to hosting our fifth annual Christmas Tree Lighting, a holiday tradition at Starr Regional Medical Center, and spending time with members of our community while enjoying Christmas carols, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and seasonal treats." In addition to the tree lighting, which will take place at 6 p.m., attendees will enjoy Christmas carols, photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus, and refreshments, including cookies, hot chocolate and cider. The event is free, and everyone is invited to attend. For more information about the event, please call (423) 745-1411 or visit StarrRegional.com See their ad on page 2

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ **Reminder:** The last day to register for Youth Basketball League is Sunday, November 26. To register on line visit: <https://secure.rec1.com/TN/athens-tn/catalog> Registration is \$75 per player and includes a reversible licensed NBA jersey and matching shorts, a basketball, secondary medical insurance for each player, background checks for coaches, and game official expenses.
- ✓ There will be no monthly meetings for the Cherokee Beekeepers Association for the months of November and December 2023. The meetings will resume in January 2024. At that time, the meetings will again take place on the fourth Tuesday of the month.
- ✓ Athens Utilities Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28 at 5 p.m.

◆ The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting a Sobriety Checkpoint on December 31st in McMinn County at 10 p.m. on Highway 30 at Denso Drive. The scheduled checkpoint is contingent upon manpower and weather conditions.

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You're invited to Starr Regional Medical Center's Fifth Annual

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. | Athens Campus

Join us for a fun, community event and enjoy photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus, Christmas Carols, Cookies, Cider & Hot Chocolate.



Friday, November 24, 2023 Morning Fax® Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Beautification Award

Congratulations to Diane & Richard Pupard, owners of Grandma's Gingerbread Bakery for being the recipients of the Main Street Athens Beautification Award for Fall Quarter 2023. Grandma's is the newest renovation and restaurant in Downtown Athens and Main Street Athens is excited to welcome them. Grandma's is located at 116 N. White Street. Below photos submitted by Lisa Dotson, Main Street Athens



Tennessee Unemployment Rates

Unemployment rates in most Tennessee counties remained below 5% in October, according to newly released county data from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD). Tennessee's seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate in October was 3.3%. That's just 0.2 of a percentage point above the all-time low jobless number of 3.1% which was last recorded in August. Unlike the statewide unemployment rate, county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted to account for different seasonal events that can impact employment. Eighty-eight of Tennessee's 95 counties recorded rates lower than 5% in October. The remaining seven counties had rates that were greater than 5% but lower than 10%. Rates decreased in six counties across the state during the month. They held steady in 16 counties and increased in the remaining 73 counties. For the second consecutive month, Moore and Sevier counties had Tennessee's lowest unemployment rates. Moore County's rate came in at 2.6%, which was unchanged from the previous month. Sevier County's rate was 2.7%, which accounted for a slight increase of 0.1 of a percentage point from its September rate. Perry County had Tennessee's highest unemployment rate in October. Its new rate of 7.9% was 3.2 percentage points higher than its September rate. Warren County saw the second-highest rate for the month. Unemployment there increased by 3.5 percentage points from 4% to 7.5%. TDLWD has compiled a complete analysis of the unemployment data for each of Tennessee's counties. As we head into the holiday season, Tennessee employers are searching for dependable employees to help with the increase in customers. Tennessee's American Job Center Network can help match Tennesseans to new employment opportunities. An interactive locator map can guide job seekers to the center closest to them. Below is the unemployment data for McMinn and surrounding counties.

County	Oct-23				Sep-23		Oct-22	
	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Rate	Change	Rate	Change
Bradley	50,865	48,936	1,929	3.8	3.7	0.1	3.6	0.2
McMinn	21,137	20,193	944	4.5	4.3	0.2	4.3	0.2
Meigs	4,994	4,726	268	5.4	4.9	0.5	4.4	0.1
Monroe	21,149	20,330	819	3.9	3.7	0.2	3.8	0.1
Rhea	14,083	13,453	630	4.5	4.3	0.2	4.4	0.1

Arrest Reports

From The McMinn County Justice Center:
 Jimmy Seymour, 30 of Athens, charged by Athens PD with violation of probation - fentanyl, resisting stop. \$3675 bond.
 Ashley Graves, 31, Athens, charged by McMinn SO with schedule II fentanyl for resale, schedule II meth, drug paraphernalia, violation of probation-Monroe Co. \$63,000 bond. Arrest Reports continued on Page 3



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Friday, November 24, 2023

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Dolores Milton Willoughby**, age 94, of Athens, passed away Tuesday, November 21 at her home. She was a lifelong resident of McMinn County. She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church. A graveside service will be conducted, 1:00 pm, Saturday, December 2 in Cedar Grove Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Karen Sipe Perry**, age 72, lifelong resident of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, November 21. A graveside service will be held at 12:00 PM at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens on Friday, November 24. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Cindy Ellison**, age 53, passed away on November 19 at Etowah Health and Rehabilitation. She lived in Athens the majority of her life. There will be a Celebration of Life visitation on Friday, Nov. 24 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Companion Funeral & Cremation Services, 2415 Georgetown Road NW in Cleveland. Companion Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Church News and Events

-The McMahan Calvary Baptist Church will have a live nativity on Friday, December 1st from 6 to 8 p.m. You can drive-by to see it or stop and visit if you so choose. The church is located at 569 County Road 172, Athens. Ricky Vaughn is the Pastor.

-Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Continued at top right →

Church News and Events Continued

- Celebrate with the Douglas Singers Sunday, December 3 at Believers Voice of Deliverance Church, 306 Spencer Drive, Harriman, Tn at 3:30 p.m.

- Celebrate Recovery meets at the following churches: The Englewood Church of God every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Woodward Avenue Church of God every Tuesday at 6 p.m.

-Mars Hill Presbyterian Church (205 North Jackson Street) is sponsoring a free children's playgroup on Mondays, 9-11 a.m. for ages 0-5. For additional information, contact the Church Office (423-745-1403) or Mary Ann Reed (910-200-2905).

Arrest Reports Continued

Continued from page 2:

Kolby Hinshow, 25, Chattanooga, charged by THP with criminal impersonation. No bond.

Julie Partin, 31, Niota, charged by MCSO with DUI, schedule IV drugs. \$5000 bond.

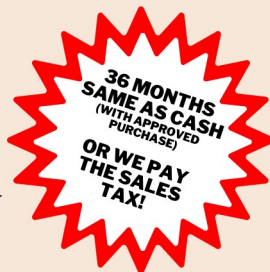
Matthew Keller, 43, Athens, charged by APD with DUI. No bond.

James Thurman, 49, Decatur, charged by MCSO with violation of probation-meth possession. \$1932 bond.

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

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