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Today's News... This Morning

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(SEE PAGE 10 FOR MORE NEWS)



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Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

Tourism Report for McMinn County

The City of Athens is pleased to announce the release of the 2022 Tourism Report for McMinn County. This report, provided by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, provides insight into the number of county visitors, visitor spending, and visitor economic impact. BY THE NUMBERS:

- McMinn county ranked 29 among the 95 counties in Tennessee.
- Visitor spending in McMinn County generated \$7,165,700 in state and local tax revenue.
- If it were not for state and local taxes generated by tourism, each McMinn County household would pay \$339 more in state and local taxes.
- Visitor spending also supported 593 jobs in McMinn County.

According to the report, McMinn County has seen a 6.88% growth in visitor spending over the past year. Breaking down by 5 tourism industries, transportation brought in 32% of that \$72.2 million dollar spending while food and beverage accounted for 26%, lodging at 23%, retail at 11%, and amusement and recreation at 9%. "Tennessee is thriving as tourism continues to soar, from our large cities to small towns," said Mark Ezell, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. "Our industry's hard work is paying off with record levels of visitor spending and significantly outpacing inflation. It is our privilege to showcase these numbers and express our gratitude to our partners, attractions, elected leaders and visitors who made a record year for Tennessee." "This snapshot is provided by the state to all counties and it's incredible to see the number of visitors and their spending in McMinn County," said Brianna Baker, Communications Coordinator. "We are in such a great spot to attract visitors traveling across the country with Great Smoky Mountain National Park nearby as well as day tripping between Knoxville and Chattanooga," she continued, "Considering that no city-wide visiting was really promoted in 2022 I am excited to see how this data reflects from 2022 to 2023 where we have been marketing Athens as a place to visit and working with our lodging partners in sharing our attractions and dining opportunities." McMinn County Mayor John Gentry said "he is proud that people are visiting the county and experiencing the many Continued on Page 2



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OPEN POSITION AVAILABLE

Main Street of Athens, TN is seeking a director for its non-profit organization. An ideal candidate would be energetic, positive, and willing to work in collaboration with business owners and leaders, as well as have a desire to be a community builder. Grant writing skills would be helpful, but not required.
The Mission of Main Street Athens is to create a sustainable town center that contributes to the communities' health while preserving the unique history and culture of historic Downtown Athens. The over-all goal is to create a vibrant Downtown for residents and visitors to work, live, shop, dine and enjoy entertainment.
Applications will be accepted through 1-10-2024 and can be emailed to athensmainstreet@gmail.com

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Dinner Feeds 4-6 People

Sliced Ham, Choice of 1 Casserole (Broccoli, Sweet Potato, Green Beans),
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Orders accepted through Wednesday, December 20th

Athens
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Etowah
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Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

◆ Onis Brantley, age 87, passed away on December 16. Onis found solace in the simple joys of life, reveling in long walks through nature and passionately cheering for Tennessee football and basketball. However, his greatest passion lay in spreading the gospel to all he encountered. At the age of 17, Onis embarked on a 70-year journey as a devout Christian. Initiating every conversation with a warm handshake, he eagerly shared the reassuring words from Hebrews 13:5, emphasizing the Lord's promise to never leave nor forsake. His dedication to the Lord manifested not just in words but in actions. For three decades, he joyfully led the church choir, using his God-given talents to uplift the spirits of those around him. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 20, from 5 – 7 p.m. at Laycock Hobbs Funeral Home followed by a memorial service. The burial will be held Thursday, December 21, at 11 a.m. at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Toursim in McMinn County

Continued from Page 1:

unique aspects of the community. McMinn County's location and the welcoming nature of its people make it a prime destination for visitors across the nation. We are blessed with an abundance of picturesque views, outdoor activities and local entertainment," said Gentry. "We will continue to promote our many local amenities so more people can discover what we already know—there is simply no place in the world like McMinn County." For more information about the City of Athens tourism planning, please visit www.athenstn.gov or contact Brianna Baker, Communications Coordinator 423-744-2798. The 2022 Economic Impact on Travel Report includes county snapshots, comprehensive models of the economic impact of spending by industry and an online interactive dashboard for the latest state and county information.

◆ The guest this week on "Hope From the Well" will be Connie McIntosh discussing "The Shepherds." Hope From the Well is heard each Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

East Athens Baptist Church

Rev. Mike Dannel
Worship Pastor/Director

Dr. Brian Trapp
Senior Pastor

Sunday, December 24th at 10:45 am
The EABC Handbell Choir rings Christmas

Come Join in the Christmas celebration!

Christmas Eve service will be held at 4pm.
The public is invited to attend all services.

SOUTHERN HOMES REALTY GROUP

Merry Christmas!

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7



And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2: 10 & 11

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2: 13 & 14

The Full Account of the Birth of Jesus can be found in Matthew 1 & 2 and Luke 2 in the Holy Bible
MERRY CHRISTMAS
from WYXI Radio and
the Morning Fax Staff

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Morning Fax@...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, 91.1 Spirit FM, Serving Southeast Tennessee with contemporary Christian music. Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right are: Hunter Starr, Chamber Diplomat; State Representative Mark Cochran, Chris Anderson, Julie Anderson, John Anderson; Teresa Anderson, Jeff Anderson, 91.1 Spirit FM; Traci White, Chamber Diplomat; Lisa Rhea, Chamber Diplomat; and Stephanie Devine. Back: Rob Preston, Chamber President/CEO; Hugh Willson; Joseph Ladner, Chamber Board/Diplomat; Jordon Perleoni; John Rodriguez, Chamber Board; Doug Bailey, Chamber Diplomat; Melinda King, McMinn County Clerk; Lindsey Ferguson, McMinn County Economic Development; McMinn County Mayor John Gentry, Athens City Vice Mayor Larry Eaton, and Karen Sullivan, Athens Chamber.





MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

from everyone at Dooley Tractor Company.

We want to remind you that Jesus is the reason for the season!

Thank you for your business this year!

We are looking forward to serving you in 2024!

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
PASTOR SCOTT CARDIN & THE CONGREGATION OF
ENGLEWOOD CHURCH OF GOD

JESUS
is the
REASON
for the
SEASON



Merry Christmas

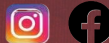
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FROM JIM & PATTI GREEK & STAFF.

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Merry Christmas

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

Garden Club Gives Donation to Etowah Christmas For Kids

The Etowah Friendly Garden Club recently gave back to the community with a \$750 donation to the Etowah Christmas For Kids. The Etowah Christmas For Kids volunteers will embark on a gift-giving journey on December 23 to make sure 96 families in need have a Merry Christmas. Sergeant Wes Atwell of the Etowah Police Department is the President of the Etowah Christmas For Kids, a non-profit 501C3 organization, and he leads a group that is mostly made up of First Responders and their families. Etowah Police Chief Scott Hicks is Vice President, and his wife Rita is the Secretary of the organization. "We have done this several years now, as me and Etowah Fire Chief Adam Hafley have been here from day one," Atwell said. "We have been fortunate that we have set a higher goal each year to raise more money to buy more toys for more families. We have expanded outside of the City Limits to Etowah addresses in the county." Atwell said the City of Etowah is a big help in letting the Etowah Christmas For Kids deliver toys for the children of Etowah in grand style on December 23. After buying the toys and wrapping them up, the volunteers will meet at the Etowah Police station on the morning of December 23. "We will load the toys and presents up in a big trailer, and the volunteers will climb in Etowah Police Cars and Etowah Fire Trucks to hit the road on December 23," Atwell said. "Thanks to the City of Etowah, we will have the means not only to be seen, but heard with lights and sirens. We will even have Santa and Mrs. Claus making the rounds on the float we had in the Christmas Parade."

In the Photo below: Etowah Friendly Garden Club President Gene Keller presents Etowah Christmas For Kids President Etowah Police Sergeant Wes Atwell with a \$750 donation for this year's Toy Drive. Pictured left to right: Firefighters Kevin Elliott and Christian Spurgeon, Etowah Police Chief and Christmas For Kids Vice President Scott Hicks, Atwell, Firefighter Nathan Cole, Etowah Friendly Garden Club Vice President Marcheta McDonald, Keller, Etowah City Manager Russ Blair, Etowah Friendly Garden Club Treasurer Clarice Coffman, Etowah Fire Chief Adam Hafley, and Etowah Friendly Garden Club Member Jennifer Burch. (Etowah Friendly Garden Club Photo)



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Christmas
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*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

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Sunday Morning Service 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Service 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6 Athens, Tennessee



Merry Christmas from all of our staff.
Thank you for another wonderful year!

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CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM MELINDA KING
& THE STAFF AT THE
MCMINN COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE

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Merry Christmas

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United Way Agency Workshop

The United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties will conduct its annual Agency Workshop on Thursday, January 25th at 10:00 a.m. at the McMinn County Higher Education Building located at 2345 DENSO Drive, Athens. Any 501(c)3 non-profit agency interested in applying for funding from the 2024 Campaign and becoming a United Way Partner Agency must attend. The 2024-25 Application for Funding will be available at this time. In order to be eligible for funding from the United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties, the agency must meet the following criteria:

- The organization is an incorporated nonprofit organization under the laws of the state of Tennessee and has tax-exempt status under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service code.
 - The organization must have been in operation and established as a 501(c)3 for at least two years or fall under the umbrella of an established 501(c)3 for at least two years to demonstrate it has a reasonable degree of continuity and permanence.
 - The organization has a Board of Directors that is an active, rotating, representative voluntary governing body, with regular meetings and is responsible for developing its mission, determining its strategic direction, and providing oversight. The Board of Directors has inspected an approved annual audit or review, as well as the IRS Form 990.
 - The organization has bylaws that state the purpose of the organization, make provisions for the size of the Board of Directors, and provide rules for selection, tenure, number of officers and committees, financial and legal procedures, conflicts of interest, and quorum requirements.
 - The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring that sufficient funds are available for the organization to meet its objectives.
 - The organization maintains current registration as a Charitable Organization with the Tennessee Secretary of State or has a current registration exemption from the Tennessee Secretary of State.
 - The organization must provide services in McMinn & Meigs Counties, and its services are provided without discrimination in regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status.
 - The organization will adhere to the funding agreement and will provide all documentation and reports by established deadlines. The organization must have the ability to track Program Outcome Indicators (overall performance) and report to UWMM as requested.
 - The agency demonstrates reasonable efficiency in program management and adequacy of resources, both in materials and personnel (voluntary and paid), to sustain a quality level of service.
 - The agency must sign and comply with the Partner Agency Code of Conduct and educate agency employees and volunteers regarding the Code of Conduct.
- Continued on Page 8

*Merry
Christmas*
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Keith Price & His Staff
of the McMinn County
Assessor of Property Office

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 7 Athens, Tennessee

Merry Christmas

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YOUR NEW YEAR BE FILLED WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE AND ADVENTURES THAT
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*Merry
Christmas*
AND HAPPY READING!

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compassion illuminate your
holiday season.

Wishing you joy, kindness, and
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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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Merry Christmas

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Merry Christmas!

From
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Register of Deeds.



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HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
MAGIC SCISSORS BEAUTY
SALON



Jesus Is The Reason For The Season

MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR



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AT
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and endless smiles.

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Wednesday, December 20, 2023 **Morning Fax@...Today's News This Morning** Page 9 Athens, Tennessee

United Way Agency Workshop

- Continued from Page 5:** Organization certifies that all funds and donations will be used in compliance with all applicable anti-terrorist financing and asset control laws, statutes, and executive orders.
- Eligibility for funding does not extend to individuals, school fundraisers, capital campaigns or endowments, sponsorships, marketing opportunities, event fundraisers, animal or pet responsibilities, or sports events.
 - The agency must agree to help promote, participate in, and support United Way fundraising events.
 - Must be able to provide a detailed description of the program that funds are being requested for and how that program falls into one of the categories of Education, Financial Stability or Health.
 - The minimum request for funds is \$10,000. For more information about the fund allocation process and to RSVP to the meeting, please contact Paige Zabo by calling 423-745-9606 or via email at paige@unitedwaymm.com

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

FROM THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF

**TENNESSEE COLLEGE
OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY**
ATHENS


GET STARTED TODAY!
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MERRY
Christmas

FROM INTERNAL MEDICINE ASSOCIATES
OF MCMINN COUNTY

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SAMUEL OLSEN, M.D., CRAIG RILEY, M.D.
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 FILL YOUR LIFE WITH
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 THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

**Merry
 Christmas!**

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 10 Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

✓ Tai Chi for Arthritis- (January 8th – January 31st) Meets Monday's and Wednesday's. Two locations available: at First Baptist Church, 305 Ingleside Ave., Athens (10am -11am) and at UT Extension, 2345 Denso Dr., Athens (3pm – 4pm). \$48/Lifetime Membership Register: <https://mcminn.tennessee.edu/> CDC Recommends Tai Chi for Arthritis for fall prevention. In 1997, Dr Paul Lam led a team of tai chi and medical specialists to create this program. It is easy, enjoyable, and safe for people with arthritis to learn. Medical studies have shown the program to relieve pain for people with arthritis and improve their quality of lives, as well as preventing falls for the older adults. For this reason, arthritis foundations around the world and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in America are giving it their full support. Although especially effective for arthritis, it is a great start for beginner to improve health and wellness. The program is proven to be effective to prevent falls. Watch an overview and comments from health professionals on the program. Give the gift of Tai Chi to yourself and a friend or family member!



*We wish you and your family
 a very Merry Christmas*




Peoples Bank
 OF EAST TENNESSEE



**ALL-NIGHT
 Christmas
 Music**

6 PM - 6 AM
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ATHENS