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Wednesday, March 12, 2025 Page 1 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Man Sentenced to 15 Years for August Burglary



Derrick Grider
 (Courtesy of WVLT)

Knox County District Attorney Charme Allen said a McMinn County man has been sentenced after breaking into his cousin's home and stealing money.

According to Allen, officers with the Knox County Sheriff's Office responded to a burglary call at a home on Western Avenue on Aug. 8, 2022.

There, Allen said officers learned from the victim that her cousin, 44-year-old Darrick Grider, of Athens, had broken into her home, ransacked the kitchen and stolen money that was on the counter. Investigators collected fingerprints, which confirmed that Grider was the burglar.

"This repeat offender will now be off our streets for many years to come," said Allen.

Grider, who has nine prior felony convictions, was convicted of aggravated burglary and sentenced to serve the maximum sentence of 15 years in prison without the possibility of parole.

Originally Written By: [Josh Jarnagin, WVLT](#)

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◆ This week, *Hope From the Well* host, **Julie Tillis** invites guest **Ashley Gentry** to the program. *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday morning at 8:15 am on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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 TIME: 5:00-7:00PM

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Community News You Can Use

Charles Craig "CC" Monroe, 68 of Athens, passed away on Sunday, March 9. CC was a member of Freedom Baptist Church. He attended the University of Tennessee. CC was a member of the Steamfitter Local #43 of Chattanooga, and the CMA Trinity Warriors #994. Visitation will be held at Freedom Baptist Church from 5:00 until 6:30 PM on Wednesday, March 12. Funeral services will be at 6:30 PM at the church. Family and friends will meet at 9:00 AM for graveside services at Eastanallee Cemetery on Thursday, March 13. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Charles Craig "CC" Monroe.

John Robinson, 89 of Philadelphia, TN, passed away on Saturday, March 1. There will be no services at this time. Good Samaritan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Jim Zane, 91 of Athens, passed away Friday, March 7. Jim served in the military as a Marine during the Korean War. He loved to travel and spend time with his dogs. Jim will be taken to Fort Lauderdale Florida for his final resting place. Good Samaritan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

- The Athens Fire Department would like to remind you: **THERE IS A BURN BAN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. NO BURNING WITHIN CITY LIMITS.**
- There is a ribbon cutting this Thursday, March 13 at 1:30 pm for KARM (Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries) as they are welcomed as the newest member of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. KARM is located at 921 Decatur Pike in Athens.
- McMinn County Road 181 / Small Cave Road will be closed on Thursday, March 13, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for road construction.

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens Travelers Cruise-In turns 30!



The [Athens Travelers](#) are celebrating their 30th year of organizing area car shows with the [Cruise In 2025](#). Traditionally held on the third Saturday of each month, this Saturday,

March 15 marks the beginning of the 2025 Car Show season. Beginning in 1995, the Athens Travelers have held car shows in Athens that appeal to families and car enthusiasts alike.

The event will take begin at 4pm on Saturday around the Downtown Athens Square with great music and refreshments. There is no entry fee, no loud music, no profane lyrics and ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED. For more information contact Danny Richesin (423-744-4835), Shawn Gourley (423-746-9879), or Loretta Swafford (423-252-4408).

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Need a St. Patrick's Day Ride? Call AAA!

As St. Patrick's Day celebrations approach, AAA is once again offering its "Tow to Go" service in Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and other states to help keep roads safe.

The free service will be available from 6:00 PM on Friday, March 14, until 6:00 AM on Tuesday, March 18. Anyone who has had too much to drink can call AAA dispatchers at (855) 2-TOW-2-GO or (855) 286-9246 for a free ride within a 10-mile radius. The program is open to both AAA members and non-members.

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Important Notes:

- **Appointments cannot be scheduled in advance**—the service is meant to be a **last resort** for those who need a safe way home.
- The program is designed to **reduce impaired driving** and prevent accidents during the holiday.

AAA encourages everyone to **plan ahead, designate a sober driver, or use rideshare options** when celebrating. However, if needed, "Tow to Go" will be there to help get people home safely.

Source: [Local 3 News](#)

An Evening With Women in Ministry

Tuesday, March 18 | TWU's Colloms Campus Center
Desserts at 6 p.m., the program will begin at 6:30 p.m.



The TWU Department of Religion and Philosophy and Febb Burn Society of Women Philanthropists invite the community to a panel discussion led by area female clergy. The event is free and open to the public with time for fellowship and dessert prior to the program.

RSVP: thennessee@tnwesleyan.edu or 423-746-5330

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Athens, Tennessee

Chargerettes survive the Tornadoes; heading to State Championships



The McMinn Central Chargerettes defeated Alcoa 72-50 on Saturday night at the Roundhouse securing a spot in the Blue Cross State Championships to be played at the Murphy Center on MTSU's campus in Murfreesboro.

Miss Basketball finalist Karina Bystry scored 28 points and grabbed 6 rebounds Malea Masingale recorded a double-double with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Reagan Baker scored 10 points and dished out 5 assists. This win marked McMinn Central's tenth straight victory at home, pushing their record to 30-1.

The McMinn Central girls will face Loretto at 5ET/4CT today, Wednesday, March 12th. Loretto arrives at the Murphy Center averaging 57 points per game this season.

WYGO Sports coverage will begin at 4:50ET/3:50CT on 99.5 FM.

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McMinn Central Coverage Provided by: Todd Loveday, WYGO Voice of the Chargers & MaxPreps.com

Photo courtesy of [Holly Latham](#)

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Prom Shop Announces New Rules and Special Hours for 8th Graders

The [Prom Shop](#) at Christ Community Church (14 S. Congress Pkwy., Athens) is gearing up for another exciting year, offering **free formal wear** to students attending their high school prom. However, organizers have made some important rule changes to ensure a smooth and fair process for everyone.

[The Prom Shop recently expanded to allow middle school students to participate](#), however **high schoolers still have priority**. Only **high school students attending their school's prom** will be permitted in the shop during general hours. **8th graders will have a designated shopping time from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. No exceptions will be made.**

A significant change this year is that **students must be present** to pick out their dress or tuxedo. **No one may choose a formal outfit for another person.** With nearly 500 students expected to attend, organizers emphasize the importance of trying on outfits to ensure a proper fit before leaving.

The **Prom Shop** provides **free formalwear** for any student who needs it, ensuring that no one misses out on their special night due to financial constraints.

For more information, contact promshopathens@yahoo.com or follow [The Prom Shop](#) on Facebook.

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Tennessee Lawmakers Push to Remove State Tax on Fruits and Vegetables



A bill that aims to eliminate the 4% state tax on fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables in Tennessee has been deferred to next week's Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Subcommittee for further discussion.

The legislation, introduced as SB164 and HB633, seeks to amend TCA Section 67-6-228, which currently imposes a 4% sales tax on food and food ingredients. Tennessee's grocery tax is among the highest in the nation, generating over \$750 million annually. Lawmakers from both parties have expressed interest in fully eliminating the state grocery tax, with multiple bills filed this session to address the issue.

Democratic Rep. Aftyn Behn has proposed offsetting the potential loss in state revenue by taxing high-income businesses. Meanwhile, the Republican-sponsored bill does not include a corporate tax provision.

As the debate over Tennessee's grocery tax continues, the fate of this bill—and its potential impact on household grocery costs—will be closely watched in the coming weeks.
Source: [WSMV4 \(Nashville\)](#)

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MARCH IS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

MARCH 9-15 MS AWARENESS WEEK

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Athens, Tennessee

Blood Worm Moon: Total Lunar Eclipse on Thursday



Astronomy enthusiasts are in for a spectacular sight this March as the **Worm Moon** undergoes a **total lunar eclipse**, causing it to take on a striking red hue.

According to [NASA](#), the eclipse will happen overnight **Thursday, March 13** into the early hours of **Friday, March 14**. The Partial eclipse will begin at 1:09am, with the total eclipse beginning at 2:26 AM, ending at 3:31am, and the ensuing partial eclipse ending at 4:47 am. The celestial event will be visible across the entire **Western Hemisphere**, offering skywatchers a breathtaking display.

A **lunar eclipse** happens when the **sun, Earth, and moon align**, causing Earth's shadow to cover the moon. In a **total lunar eclipse**, the entire moon passes into the darkest part of Earth's shadow, creating a deep, reddish glow. This is why total lunar eclipses are often referred to as "**blood moons**." The red coloration occurs because sunlight passing through Earth's atmosphere is filtered, scattering shorter blue wavelengths while allowing red and orange hues to reach the moon's surface. The more dust or clouds in Earth's atmosphere, the deeper the red color will appear.

The March full moon is known as the **Blood Worm Moon**, a name believed to originate from the **Old Farmer's Almanac**, referring to the return of earthworms as the ground begins to thaw in early spring. Other sources suggest the name could date back to the **1760s**, referencing beetle larvae emerging from tree bark.

Stargazers should also keep an eye on the **western sky**, where **Jupiter and Mars** will be visible near the moon. Additionally, the dimming of the moon's usual brightness will make constellations easier to spot.

With the **first day of spring arriving on March 20**, this total lunar eclipse offers a stunning way to welcome the changing season. Don't miss the chance to witness this rare celestial event!

Photo Courtesy of [Yahoo! News](#)

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Whether you're a caregiver, family member, or professional in senior living, this event is your opportunity to connect, learn, and find support. Don't miss this chance to explore compassionate care options—reserve your spot today!

2090 West Madison Avenue | Athens, TN 37303 | 423-405-3075 | [dominionathens.com](#)