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City of Athens Prepares for Potential Winter Weather This Weekend



City of Athens officials are preparing for a possible winter weather system expected to impact the area this weekend, with crews taking proactive steps to protect public safety and maintain essential services.

Public Works crews are scheduled to begin applying brine and salt to roadways on Friday to reduce the risk of icy and hazardous driving conditions. Snowplows and related equipment are being inspected and positioned for rapid deployment if needed. City officials said Athens is also coordinating with McMinn County and state emergency management agencies to ensure a unified response should conditions worsen.

Emergency services will remain fully operational on a 24-hour basis throughout the event, and residents are urged to contact McMinn County E-911 in the event of an emergency.

City officials encourage residents to stay informed by monitoring updates posted on the City of Athens website and official social media channels. Citizens are also encouraged to register for the McMinn County Emergency Alert System to receive timely notifications related to weather and public safety.

In addition, the McMinn Warming Center, located at 714 Walter Street in Athens, will be available as an overnight shelter when temperatures fall to 32 degrees or below, providing a safe, warm place for those in need.

City officials thanked the public for their cooperation and urged residents to remain weather-aware and take appropriate precautions as the weekend approaches. *Source: [City of Athens - Facebook](#)*

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Scan and select the upcoming Sunday from the lunch meal period.

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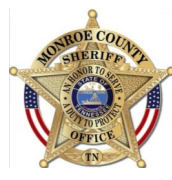
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Maritato's Globe Life joins Athens Chamber



A ribbon cutting was held yesterday for Nick Maritato with Globe Life Insurance. From left to right in the picture: Sarah Harris (chamber diplomat), Stacey Hester (chamber diplomat), Brett King (chamber diplomat), Stephanie Devine, Paul Semenoff (chamber diplomat), Nick Maritato (Globe Life – with scissors), Aaron Anderson (chamber board member), Sean Musgrove (Globe Life), Melinda King, Doug Bailey (chamber diplomat) and Shannon Willis (Chamber Membership Services Director)

Monroe County Sheriff's Office Urges Residents to Check on Neighbors During Extreme Cold



As temperatures continue to fall and extremely cold weather is expected through the rest of the week and into the weekend, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office is reminding residents to take time to check on elderly family members, neighbors, and others who may need assistance.

Officials encourage residents to ensure vulnerable individuals have adequate heat, food, medications, and warm clothing. Cold temperatures can be especially dangerous for older adults and those with limited mobility, and even a brief phone call or visit can make a significant difference.

The sheriff's office also urges the public to take precautions to protect themselves and their homes, including the safe use of heating sources and checking on pets and livestock during the cold spell.

Anyone who knows of someone in need of assistance is encouraged to reach out or contact local resources. Officials emphasized that looking out for one another helps keep the community strong and safe during extreme weather.

Source: [Sheriff Tommy Jones - Facebook](#)

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Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

ACT Presents "Annie" at the Arts Center

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Annie

FEB 19 - MAR 1, 2026

Directed by **Melonie Carideo**
 Music Directed by **Ellen Kimball**
 Accompanist **Matthew Crabtree**
 athensartscouncil.org



Athens Community Theatre (ACT) will bring the beloved, Tony Award-winning musical *Annie* to the stage February 19 through March 1, 2026, as part of its 2025–26 Mainstage season. The production is directed by Melonie Carideo with music direction by Ellen Kimball and will be performed in ACT’s Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater.

Based on the classic comic strip by Harold Gray, *Annie* is one of the most celebrated musicals in theater history, earning seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. With a book and score by Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse, and Martin Charnin, the show features timeless songs such as “Tomorrow.”

Performances are scheduled Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7 p.m. on February 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28, with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on February 22 and March 1. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students.

A special catered event, the “Where Are They?” Reunion Mixer, will be held following the Friday, February 20 performance, bringing together cast members from ACT’s 2011 production of *Annie*. Tickets for that evening are \$25.

ACT officials encourage patrons to purchase tickets early, as Mainstage productions frequently sell out before performance dates. **Source: Lauren Brown, Exec. Director, AACA**


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McMinn County Arrest Report

January 19, 2026

Sarah Linweber, 28 of Athens, charged with theft of property and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$2,000

Lance Ainsworth, 39, of Athens, charged with coercion of witness by threats, and retaliation for past actions, Bond \$8,000.

Crystal Presley, 48 of Sweetwater, Charged with Burglary, Bond \$15,000.

Benny Coker, 18 of Madisonville, charged with evading arrest, underage consumption, and driving on a suspended license, Bond \$8,000.

Joshua Patterson, 39 of Athens, charged with theft of property, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$2,000.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered using Public Sources.

Obituaries

Russell O. Mahery, 76, of Athens, passed away Sunday, January 18. A funeral service will be conducted 6:00 pm, Thursday, January 22 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 4:00-6:00 pm Thursday at the funeral home prior to the service. The committal service will be 11:00am, Friday, January 23 at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Russell O. Mahery.

Jason Alston, 43, passed away on Tuesday, January 13. Survivors and arrangements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Services in charge of arrangements.

Sue Ann "Susie" Roberts Stapp, 63 of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, January 18. Family and friends will gather at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Ten Mile for graveside services at 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 22. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Sue Ann "Susie" Roberts Stapp.

Mitchell Edward Armour, 52 of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, January 20. A memorial service to honor and celebrate Mitch's life will take place on Thursday, January 22 at 6:00 PM in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 4 - 6 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Armour family.

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