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Friday, February 13, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

WYXI Radio Celebrates World Radio Day Today



Today, Friday, February 13, WYXI Radio is joining stations around the world in celebrating World Radio Day, recognizing radio's lasting role in informing, inspiring, and connecting communities. In McMinn County, that mission is carried out daily by many stations, including WYXI — proudly known as *"The Friendly Voice of the Friendly City."*

Finding their home at 94.5 on the FM dial and 1390 on the AM side, McMinn County's home for Southern Gospel music, WYXI blends uplifting gospel favorites with Christian programming and strong local involvement. A cornerstone of the station is the long-running Trading Post Morning Show, airing weekdays at 8:30 a.m., where residents can buy, sell, trade, and share community announcements. WYXI also highlights the local business community through "Main Street Moments," hosted by Maggie Blaine of Main Street Athens, airing Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m. The program features conversations with business owners and event organizers about the latest happenings in Athens. On Sundays at 9:00 a.m., listeners can tune in to "Burke's Gospel Jubilee," featuring the best in Urban Gospel music and hosted by local DJs Stanley Blair, Jasmine Porter-McDermott, and Karen King. The station also carries

the nationally syndicated Christian program "Focus on the Family" weekdays at 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and "In Touch" at 10 a.m.

Established by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, World Radio Day highlights radio as one of the world's most trusted and accessible forms of media. Even in today's digital age, radio remains a constant companion in homes, vehicles, and workplaces.

While music streaming services and digital platforms continue to grow, local radio stations like WYXI offer something those services cannot — real-time local connection. Radio provides immediate weather updates, community announcements, church news, school information, and emergency alerts that directly impact listeners' daily lives. It also gives local businesses an affordable way to reach hometown customers and keeps dollars circulating within the community. Unlike algorithm-driven streaming services, local radio is curated by people who live and work in the same community as their audience. It reflects local values, highlights area events, and gives a voice to neighbors. Supporting local radio ensures that McMinn County continues to have a reliable, familiar presence on the airwaves — one that informs, uplifts, and unites.

As World Radio Day is celebrated across the globe today, WYXI remains committed to serving the community with faith, music, and hometown connection — proudly living up to its name as *The Friendly Voice of the Friendly City*.

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens Chamber Accepting Nominations for "2025 Mother of the Year"

McMinn County's "2025 Mother of the Year" will be announced during the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the annual honor, which recognizes an outstanding mother in McMinn County for her dedication to family, community involvement, and positive impact.

Nomination forms and award guidelines are available at the Chamber office, located at 13 North Jackson Street in Athens, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Forms may also be requested by calling 423-745-0334.

The deadline to submit nominations is March 16.

Community News You Can Use

- **BOLO:** Authorities advise residents to be on the look out for a stolen 2002 White Ford Explorer. **TN License Plate #: 203 BCPG.** The vehicle was noticed to have been taken from a residence in McMinn County on Friday, February 6, 2026. Vehicle has a dark-colored rear passenger door.
- The Athens City Council and the Athens City School Board of Education will hold a joint meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the Athens City School Administration Building, 943 Crestway Drive, Athens. This is an open public meeting for discussion only. No formal action will be taken.

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UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

SEND YOUR EVENTS BY
THURSDAY MORNING TO BE FEATURED HERE
EMAIL: WYXIRADIO@GMAIL.COM

THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Feb. 13, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- Solid Rock Baptist Church is hosting a revival beginning on Monday, February 16 - Thursday, February 19. Services begin at 7:00 pm nightly with Pastor Jonathan Smith leading worship. (See their ad the bottom, right of the this page)
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? Clearwater Baptist Church (964 County Road 180, Athens) is starting a new session of GriefShare helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. There is an ongoing (in 13wk rotations) grief support group that you can join at any time and is open to the community. For more info or sign up visit: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.
- **St. Mary's Legacy Clinic** offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- Mt. Verd Baptist Church, 252 Co. Rd. 249 Athens, will have guest Evangelist Dr. Ralph Sexton of Trinity Baptist Church in Asheville, NC, this Sunday, February 15, 2026 for both the morning & evening worship services. Special music will be by The Ben Rochester Family of Blacksburg, SC. Sunday School begins at 10 am with worship at 11am & a meal to follow the morning service. The evening service begins at 6 pm. Everyone is invited! For more info, call 423-506-4052.
- Athens Lutheran Church (710 Forrest Ave., Athens) invites you to Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, February 18 with a service at 7pm and Imposition of Ashes from 9am - Noon.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church will host a Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) pancake supper fundraiser for its music program on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. The suggested donation is \$5 per person for all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage. The church is located at 123 S. Jackson St. in Athens. For more information, call 745-2224.

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Athens, Tennessee

Former Tellico Plains Police Officer Indicted, Arrested Following TBI Investigation

A former Tellico Plains police officer has been arrested following an investigation by special agents with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

In April 2025, at the request of 10th Judicial District Attorney General Stephen Hatchett, TBI agents began investigating allegations involving Tellico Plains Police Officer Clayton Foxx, 24. During the investigation, agents determined that Foxx allegedly engaged in sexual contact with a minor while on duty. Authorities also allege that Foxx provided false information during two separate interviews about the incident.

On Wednesday, the Monroe County Grand Jury returned indictments charging Foxx with one count of Official Misconduct, one count of Statutory Rape, and two counts of False Reports.

With assistance from the McMinn County Sheriff's Office, agents arrested Foxx and transported him to the Monroe County Jail. He was booked on a \$200,000 bond.

The charges are accusations, and Foxx is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Source: [TBINewsroom.com](https://www.tbinewsroom.com)

Cleveland State, Whirlpool Launch Tool and Die Apprenticeship



Cleveland State Community College and Whirlpool Corporation have launched a Tool and Die Maker Registered Apprenticeship Program, approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. Five Whirlpool employees are participating in the four-year program, completing 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and 11 technical courses at Cleveland State.

The program covers Machine Tool Technology, CNC and Automation, and Tool and Die Technology, led by veteran machinist Shawn Williams. Tool and die makers design and maintain precision tools, dies, molds, and fixtures essential to manufacturing. Williams brings nearly two decades of teaching experience and extensive industry experience, including time at Whirlpool, allowing students to immediately apply classroom skills on the job.


This program follows Cleveland State's Industrial Maintenance Apprenticeship, now in its final year. Registered apprenticeships provide employers with skilled workers and often result in high retention rates.


For more information, contact Cleveland State Workforce Development Director Heather Brown at hbrown@clevelandstatecc.edu or (423) 614-8793.

Photo: Shawn Williams (left) instructs Leo Miramontes (right) and other Whirlpool apprentices in the Precision Manufacturing Lab at the PIE Innovation Center in Cleveland.

Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC

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Friday, Feb. 13, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

February 11, 2026

Heath Derrick, 44 of Englewood, charged with failure to appear for schedule II meth, Bond \$14,000.

Justin Neves, 27 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, Bond \$2,354.

Dillen Boggess, 27 of Benton, charged with reckless driving, and evading arrest, Bond \$11,000.

Adam Banta, 47 of Charleston, charged with driving on a suspended license, violation of registration laws, violation of probation for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$3,520.95.

John Joins, 67 of Athens, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from Public Sources.

Obituaries

Cassie Solon Swihart, 74, of Sweetwater, passed away on Tuesday February 10. Cassie graduated from nursing school as a Registered Nurse in 1971 and dedicated herself to her nursing career. She traveled to Japan, where she worked as an occupational health nurse beginning in 1985, later serving at Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Hawaii as a nurse. After many years of faithfully giving her all to her profession, she retired in 1998. She loved arts and crafts, playing cards, reading, and watching old-fashioned movies and musicals. Cassie was a devoted member of the Catholic community. She was kind, loving, and generous, always willing to help anyone in need. In retirement, she volunteered with CASA Monroe in Sweetwater, advocating for children in foster care. The family will receive friends on Sunday, February 15 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Chapel of Companion Funeral Home in Athens. A Celebration of Life service will follow at 4:00 p.m. In accordance with Cassie's wishes, she will be cremated, and no burial will take place. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody Family are honored to assist the Swihart family during this difficult time.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13



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