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Today's News... This Morning

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Friday, December 30, 2016

Athens, Tennessee

## Local and Area News

### ◆ CITY MANAGER CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE OFFER

The Athens City Council is on the verge of hiring a new city manager to replace Mitch Moore who is retiring effective December 31st. The council interviewed Seth Sumner on Wednesday. The council will hold a called meeting at 4 p.m. today to offer him the job. Sumner is currently serving as assistant city manager in Savannah, Tennessee.

### ◆ TORNADO CLEANUP WORK CONTINUES

Volunteers continue to work along Highway 307 doing tornado debris cleanup and tree removal. The youth from Englewood Baptist Church pitched in on Wednesday. If you are willing to help, call the McMinn County Mayor's Office at 745-7634.

(Photo from McMinn County Mayor John Gentry)



## More of 2016's Biggest Stories

Continuing our review of 2016's biggest news stories in McMinn County:

- Vandals destroyed over 40 vehicles at East Tennessee Auto Outlet. Two male juveniles were arrested. They were apprehended by private investigator Chuck Burris.
- Speaking of Chuck Burris, he was elected Mayor of Athens at the organizational meeting of the Athens City Council. John Coker was elected to the council in the November voting. The council chose Dick Pelley to be Vice Mayor of Athens.
- Four longtime employees of the City of Athens announced their retirements or resigned this year: Police Chief Chuck Ziegler, City Manager Mitch Moore, and Human Resources Director Rita Brown are retiring at the end of the year. Public Works Director Shawn Lindsey resigned to accept a position elsewhere.
- In September, an angry worker at Thomas & Betts shot and killed his two supervisors, and then took his own life.
- David Charles Johnson of Athens was sentenced to seven years in prison for attempting to hire two men to murder his wife by driving a rental truck head-on into her car on U.S. 11. One of the men alerted police and Johnson was arrested.
- In the neighboring county of Meigs, four people died in a wreck on Highway 58 south of Decatur in May when a trailer came loose from a dump truck and smashed into two cars.
- TVA's Unit 2 reactor produced its first electricity in June.
- In October, Food City announced it was opening a new super-market in the Madison Park Shopping Center in Athens

### Hear

## Dave Ramsey



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### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



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### WEATHER FORECAST

**Friday** - Sunny. High 42.  
**Friday night** - Mostly clear. Low 27.  
**Saturday** - Cloudy 40% rain. High 43.  
**Sunday** - Cloudy. 50% rain.  
More Weather at: [www.wyxi.com](http://www.wyxi.com)



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## Church News and Events

- ~ *Journey Home* and *The Primitive Quartet* will be at Union McMinn Baptist Church December 31st. Doors open at 5 p.m. Service begins at 6 p.m.
- ~ "The Charlie Brown Christmas" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" will be shown tonight at 6:30 at Christ Community Church on South Congress Parkway. It's a free double-feature and refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.
- ~ Lane Chapel Church in Niota will have a New Year's Eve Watch Night Service Saturday at 10 p.m. This is a joint community service with First United Church of Christ and Mt. Cumberland Presbyterian, both of Sweetwater.
- ~ The Teen Challenge Choir will be featured at the Second Sunday Singing on January 8th at 6 p.m. at Wesley Memorial Church of Etowah, 923 Ohio Avenue.

### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Athens Parks Department announces that Prof Powers Park will reopen today. The park was damaged by the recent tornado. In the coming weeks additional storm-related repairs will be made inside the park. Roofs will be replaced, the ball field lights will be repaired, and the pavilion will be rebuilt.
- ✓ The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting a Sobriety Checkpoint at U.S. 11 and State Highway 163 in McMinn County on Sunday, January 1st.

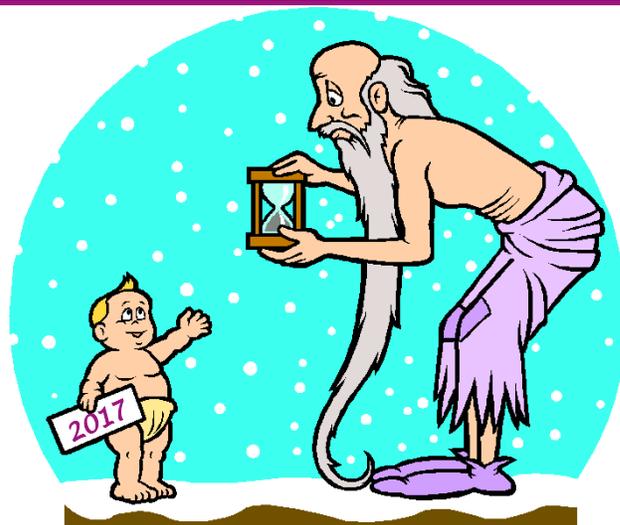
## Obituaries

- **Ellen Lavern Cook**, age 79, of Vonore, died Wednesday at McMinn Memorial Nursing Home. Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. Friday at McMinn Memory Gardens.
- **Judith "Judy" Raper Langston**, age 72, of Athens, died Monday at Athens Place. She served as an educator in McMinn County for more than 30 years, eventually serving as technology coordinator in the central office until her retirement. At her request, there will be no formal visitation or funeral services. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.
- **Betty Jo Kyker**, age 80, of Niota, died Tuesday at her home. She was a retired cook at Niota Elementary School. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Kyker Funeral Home in Sweetwater, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Raymond Hixon Jennings**, age 73, of Decatur, died Wednesday at his home. He was a member of IBEW Local 175 in Chattanooga. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday at First Baptist Church of Decatur, with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at Bowers Funeral Home.
- **Charles Taylor**, age 46, of Athens, died Monday. He was a native of South Carolina, but spent most of his life in Monroe and McMinn Counties. Private family services will be held at a later date. Serenity Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge.
- **Mary N. Walker**, age 70, of Athens, died Thursday at NHC Healthcare of Athens. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

*As we stand at the doorway  
leading out of 2016 and  
Into 2017, none of us knows  
what lies on the other side  
of that door.*

*What will the New Year bring?*

*It is our hope here at  
The Morning Fax that 2017  
will bring you health,  
prosperity, and happiness.*



**Happy New Year !**

No Morning Fax on Monday. See you on Tuesday, January 3, 2017