

# **Election Day is March 3rd**

Voters in McMinn County will be going to the polls on March 3rd to vote in the Republican and Democratic Presidential Preference Primary and the County Republican and Democratic Primary. The ballot will also include a Sales Tax referendum for voters outside the Athens city limits on whether to raise the local option sales tax rate from 9% to 9.75%. City of Athens voters approved a .75% increase last year. The last day to register in person to vote is February 3rd. Absentee requests must be made by Feb. 25th. Early voting will be Feb. 12th-25th.

#### HIGHWAY 30 MAY OPEN BY END OF APRIL

TDOT says if all goes well, all the traffic lanes on Highway 30 in Athens will be open by the end of April. The \$10.2 million project started nearly three years ago. The project involves removing the median and adding a center turn lane. However, major delays have been caused by unexpected problems that required the design and construction of additional retaining walls. During the construction traffic has been reduced to two lanes.

**SEVEN SHOW UP AT WARMING CENTER** Seven people took advantage of the new Warming Center at East Athens Baptist Church Tuesday night as the temperatures dropped into the upper teens. Tanya Murphy with Grace & Mercy Ministries says the shelter will not open again until the next time the temperature drops below 25. The Warming Center opened Sunday night with no takers. One person showed up Monday night.

# **Achieving Their Dream**

This year's Dream Achievers Award program honored 126 students in grades 7-12 from McMinn County Schools, Athens City Middle School, and Christ Legacy Academy. The program was started in 2013 by the McMinn County Branch of the NAACP to recognize and honor all African-American students who obtain a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher. The award is presented to the students during the M.L. King, Jr. Holiday weekend and is in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's awards were presented this past Sunday at Tennessee Wesleyan University. Each student is presented with a scholarship award valued at \$500 that can be used at Tennessee Wesleyan. Several recipients have chosen to attend TWU.

(Ann Boyd sent us this photo of the winners)







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### **Obituaries**

• Frances Durethia Williams, age 69, of Athens has died. She taught kindergarten at Calhoun Elementary School for 34 years and was Chairman of the Athens Housing Board and a member of the NAACP. Funeral services will be 12 noon Saturday at St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church, with visitation from 1 to 6 p.m. Friday at M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home of Athens and Saturday from 11 a.m. until 12 noon at St. Mark Church.

• Anthony Joseph Carpenter, age 52, of Athens, died January 13th. He worked for Gemtron, Athens Parks & Recreation, and the Athens City School System. A memorial service will be February 1st at 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Allen Memorial Methodist Church. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

#### ◆ TENNESSEE'S SEAT BELT USAGE CLIMBS

The Tennessee Highway Safety Office announces a significant increase in the state's overall seat belt usage rate. The rate rose from 90.9 percent in 2018 to 91.75 percent in 2019. Tennessee's 2019 seat belt survey shows 96.7 percent of females wear seatbelts, while 87.9 percent of males buckle up. Pickup trucks displayed the lowest usage rate (84.9 percent).

**ADVISORY:** The McMinn County Highway Department says Britton Road (County Road 732) will be closed through this Friday for railroad crossing repairs.

### **TODAY IN HISTORY - JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**1368** - China's Ming dynasty, which lasted nearly three centuries, began as Zhu Yuanzhang was formally acclaimed emperor following the collapse of the Yuan dynasty.

**1789** - Georgetown University was established in present-day Washington, D.C.

**1932** - New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

**1933** - The 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "Lame Duck Amendment," was ratified as Missouri approved it.

**1950** - The Israeli Knesset approved a resolution affirming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

**1962** - Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. Tony Bennett recorded "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" in New York for Columbia Records. In 1964, the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified as South Dakota became the 38th state to endorse it.

**1968** - North Korea seized the U.S. Navy intelligence ship USS Pueblo, commanded by Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, charging its crew with being on a spying mission; one sailor was killed and 82 were taken prisoner. Cmdr. Bucher and his crew were released the following December after enduring 11 months of brutal captivity at the hands of the North Koreans.

**1989 -** Surrealist artist Salvador Dali died in his native Figueres, Spain, at age 84.

**2005** - Former "Tonight Show" host Johnny Carson died in Los Angeles at age 79.

## **Am Vets Donate to Band**

On this past Veterans Day, the McMinn Central High School Band volunteered to play at the Etowah AmVets Post 100 Veterans Day program. The music was so enjoyable that Post Commander Roy Nivens presided over a unanimous vote to donate \$100 to the band. Last Wednesday, Jimmy Williams, Post 100 Provost Marshal, met with Principal Jeff Gilbert and Drum Major Hannah Vaughn to present them with a check. Jimmy Williams also presented them with a personal donation of \$100.00. Pictured from left to right: Hannah Vaughn, Jimmy Williams, and Jeff Gilbert.



### WEDNESDAY'S MARKET REPORT:

U.S. stocks were mixed as investors assessed corporate earnings and economic data. Technology and communications were the best-performing sectors. Energy lagged on lower oil prices. Existing home sales came in better than expected for the month of December. Shares of IBM rose after the company reported earnings that beat analyst expectations.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 10 points to 29,186. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 1 point to 3,322, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 13 points to 9,384.



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