

**East Athens Baptist Church**

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE**  
service will be held at 5 pm  
on Friday, Dec. 24.  
Dr. Brian Trapp, Senior Pastor  
*The public is invited to attend.*  
301 Central Ave., Athens

# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

### Truck Fire Blocks I-75

A truck fire Tuesday morning blocked traffic northbound on I-75 in northern McMinn County for hours. The truck fire was reported at 7:30 a.m. at mile marker 59. The trailer was totally involved in flames when firefighters arrived on the scene. The photos below are from Niota Fire Chief Lee Mason.



### Athens City Council Meets

The Athens City Council held its monthly meeting Tuesday night, and the members heard reports on police and fire department activity for November.

- Interim Police Chief Freddy Schultz reported there were 48 thefts in November, 20 assaults, 5 motor vehicle thefts, 3 burglaries, and 2 sex offenses. Officers issued 289 citations for moving violations. (The number of citations for moving violations has increased sharply, now standing at 2653 for the year. That's up from 1049 through November of 2020) There were 90 traffic accidents in the city in November with 10 injuries. There are currently six vacancies in the police department.
- Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth reported that firefighters responded to 161 calls during November. Most of them, 119, were for rescue and emergency medical service. There were six fires, and 21 false alarms. The fire calls involved two dumpsters, two vehicle fires, one grass fire, and one cooking fire, with the fire confined to the container. There was also one gas leak.

*Niota First Baptist Church Christmas Candlelight Service with the Lord's Supper at 5pm Christmas Eve. Everyone is welcome! 6 Main Street, Downtown Niota, TN*



#### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



**NEW: Hand Breaded Chicken Sandwich \$3.99**  
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Due to Staffing Shortages, the Athens Bojangles will be closed on **SUNDAY ONLY DURING DECEMBER**  
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*Merry Christmas!*



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Wednesday, December 22, 2021 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Santa Found In The Wetlands

Santa was spotted flying over the Wetlands next to E.G. Fisher Library. Youngsters were invited this week to search for signs leading to Santa. They found him, and he shared a few stories with them and also found out what they want for Christmas.

(Photo by Richard Newman)



## History of Downtown Nativity Scene

For the past 31 Christmas holidays, motorists driving along Green Street past Veterans Park have been seeing a Nativity Scene. The late Libby Johnson started putting up the display in December of 1990. She said she got tired of seeing a display featuring Santa at what was then called Sunset Park. So, she asked Mrs. Long, who owned the big white house next to the park, if she could set up a Nativity Scene in her front yard. It's been there ever since. Miss Libby told us that one year someone stole the Baby Jesus doll. Another year, somebody complained about a Nativity Scene on city property. The complainer was quickly informed that the display is on private property. Miss Libby said several years ago, Mrs. Long's family members agreed to take over the responsibility for the Nativity Scene.



### ◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Tuesday 12-21

Tennessee: 1,357,289 cases, up 2,922. 18,145 deaths, up 91.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	11,008 up 14	141 up 1	152
Meigs	2,312 up 1	41 down 5	34 up 1
Monroe	10,183 up 12	117 down 4	145 up 1
Polk	3,332 up 1	39 down 3	38 up 1
Bradley	23,218 up 30	330 up 10	252 up 3
Rhea	7,309 up 5	74 down 6	105 up 3

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*"For God So Loved  
 The World..."*

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

Throughout the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, may we remember the true reason for the season.

**Jesus Christ...the greatest gift ever given.**

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