



**CHRIS BRYANT**

January 7, 2024  
6:00 P.m.

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Today's News... This Morning

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(See page 3 for more news)



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Friday, January 05, 2024 Athens, Tennessee

## Starr Regional Welcomes First New Baby for 2024

Starr Regional Medical Center is celebrating 2024 with the year's first bundle of joy. Weighing 7 pounds and 2 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches, Kaleb Ethan Mark Berryhill, the first child born to Kaylee Rodriguez and Shawn Berryhill of Sweetwater, Tenn., arrived Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 4:07 a.m. "I am very excited to welcome our baby boy to our family," said Rodriguez. "The doctors, nurses and staff at Starr Regional Medical Center are wonderful and have taken great care of us. They made this experience special." Starr Regional's Center for Women & Babies is committed to providing high quality, compassionate care close to home for new and expecting parents in the region. The Center offers a complete program of medical, surgical and educational services to accommodate the unique needs of female patients and newborns. "Our clinical and support staff are committed to creating a safe, welcoming and comfortable environment for moms and babies," said Laura Richesin, RN, Director of Women's Services at Starr Regional Medical Center. "We are passionate about helping families in our community welcome their newest additions in a positive and memorable way." In celebration of being the first baby born in 2024 at Starr Regional, the family was presented with gifts, including: a quilt from the Heritage Quilt Guild, made by guild members Marti Blont, Janet Meeks and Judy Wiik; gift cards from Athens Pediatrics, PLLC, and Covenant Pediatrics; a gift from the McMinn County Education Foundation; infant blanket from the Starr Regional Auxiliary; and a gift basket of infant care items and gift cards from Starr Regional Medical Center. Starr Regional's Center for Women & Babies is located on the Athens campus at 1114 West Madison Avenue. To learn more or to schedule a tour of their facilities, call (423) 744-3280, or visit [StarrRegional.com](http://StarrRegional.com). Photo submitted by Starr Regional Medical Center



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We encourage you to E-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, Email it to: [wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)



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Friday, January 05, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Michael Edward Pilkey**, age 31, native of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, December 31. Visitation will be from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 6 at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 2:00 PM at the funeral home. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, January 8, 2024, at McMinn Memory Gardens in Athens. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Billy Eugene Raper**, age 84 of Madisonville, passed away January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at his residence. He lived most of his life in the Gudger Community. He was a 1957 graduate of Madisonville High School and was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He retired from ALCOA after 34 years. No services are planned at this time. Family requests no flowers. Good Samaritan Funeral Home of Athens in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Carl Vernon Rue**, age 83, of Athens passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2023, following a long illness, at his residence in Athens. He was born in Athens. He was a Decorated Veteran of the US Army and Vietnam War and a member of the Miracle Deliverance Tabernacle. Please Join us at Miracle Deliverance Tabernacle in Riceville on Friday Jan. 5, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturday, Jan. 6, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm for visitation, and Saturday Jan. 6th at 1:00 pm for the Funeral Service. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

## Church News and Events

-The 2x2 Quartet will be singing on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at Double Springs Baptist Church. Sunday School is at 10am. Everyone is welcome.

-Chris Bryant will be singing at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Calhoun on January 07 at 6 PM in the evening service. Everyone is welcome.

-Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

- Celebrate Recovery meets at the following churches: The Englewood Church of God every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Woodward Avenue Church of God every Tuesday at 6 p.m.

-Mars Hill Presbyterian Church (205 North Jackson Street) is sponsoring a free children's playgroup on Mondays, 9-11 a.m. for ages 0-5. For additional information, contact the Church Office (423-745-1403) or Mary Ann Reed (910-200-2905).

-The Epps Family from South Carolina will be singing at Solid Rock Baptist Church on January 14 at 10:30 in the morning service. Everyone is welcome.

### ◆ LOCAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS:

✓ The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session on Thursday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence. There will be a Board Workshop prior to the Regular Session Meeting on Monday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m.

✓ The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting a Sobriety Checkpoint on January 15<sup>th</sup> in McMinn County at 9 a.m. on SR163 @ CR 850. The scheduled checkpoint is contingent upon manpower and weather conditions

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# Some Photos with Santa

Santa took time-out to visit children at E.G. Fisher Library just a few days before his long Christmas journey. Photo submitted by Bruce and Chris Hari



Christmas Eve Englewood Rural Fire Department held its annual Santa run. Thanks to all the toy donations or monetary donations. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department

