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Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Award-Winning Journalist and Author David Carroll to Visit Meigs Decatur Public Library



The Meigs Decatur Friends of the Library is hosting acclaimed author and journalist **David Carroll** for a special "Meet the Author" event on **Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 12:00 PM** at the **Meigs Decatur Public Library**, located at 120 E. Memorial Dr., Decatur, TN.

Carroll, a longtime news anchor for Local 3 News and award-winning columnist, will share insights from his career and discuss his latest

books, including *"I Won't Be Your Escape Goat"*—a witty collection of essays from his popular newspaper column—and *"Hello Chattanooga: Famous People Who Have Visited the Tennessee Valley,"* a deep dive into Chattanooga's rich cultural history. With a career spanning decades and numerous accolades to his name, Carroll is known for his engaging storytelling and connection with audiences. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Carroll firsthand and explore the humor, history, and heart found in his work. For more information, call (423) 334-3332. *Source: Mignonne Pendergrass, President Meigs Decatur Friends of the Library*

## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Commissioners will meet in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse in Athens in Regular Session on Monday, April 21 at 6:00pm.
- The Athens Utilities Board (AUB) will be closed on Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday. Regular business operations will resume on Monday, April 21, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. While offices will be closed, AUB crews from all divisions—including Power, Water, Wastewater, and Natural Gas—will remain on standby throughout the Easter weekend to respond to any emergencies and ensure uninterrupted service for the community. Customers needing to report an outage or utility emergency can do so by calling AUB's 24-hour outage line 423-745-3131.
- Several county committees will meet in the Blue Room this week to review and award project bids. On Thursday, April 17, the **Airport Committee** (4:00 PM), **Solid Waste Committee** (4:30 PM), and **Properties Committee** (5:00 PM) will meet. The **Recreation Committee** will follow on Monday, April 21 at 5:30 PM. Topics include bids for airport T-Hangars, Landfill Road, the Health Department, and Bicentennial Park. The **Board of Zoning Appeals** Meeting for tomorrow, April 16 has been cancelled due to lack of applications.



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## WEATHER FORECAST

**Tue.:** Sunny. High 65.

**Tue Night:** Clear. Low 41.

**Wed.:** Sunny. High 65.

**Wed Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low 41.

More Weather at: [wyxi.com](http://wyxi.com)



## SPLASH INTO SUMMER AT THE YMCA!

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Athens, Tennessee

## Athens City Council to Discuss Liquor License Limit, Property Disposal, and Christmas Light Show at April 15 Meeting



The Athens City Council will hold its regular session **TODAY, Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers at the Athens Municipal Building.**

Highlights of the agenda include a proposal to amend the city code regarding the number of retail liquor store licenses allowed within city limits. Council will consider whether to remove the current limit of two licenses or to increase the limit, with the first reading of one of two proposed ordinances scheduled depending on the decision. Also on the agenda is the approval of a legal settlement, and a resolution to declare property at 2201 Decatur Pike (Lot 1) as surplus, paving the way for its disposal.

Under the consent agenda, council will vote on agreements for a Christmas Lights Show at Athens Regional Park with NoogaLights, LLC, a cemetery maintenance contract with Total Lawn Care, and an agreement with Gresham Smith Engineers for the construction phase of a stormwater project funded by ARP dollars.

Special presentations include recognizing Dr. Trey Ivins of Athens City Middle School, honoring Shelia and the late Dan Chesanow with the VIVID Award, and a Proclamation for Day of Prayer. Additional business includes board appointments and reappointments, and updates from city departments and City Manager Randall Dowling.

The meeting is open to the public and includes time for citizens' comments on agenda items and general issues.

## EASTER EGG HUNT



Wednesday, April 16  
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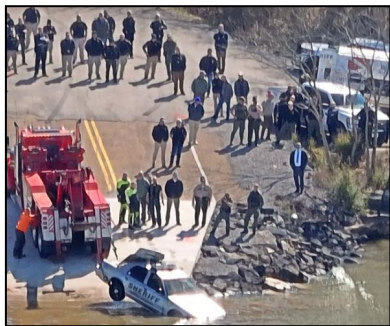
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## Family of Drowning Victim Sues GPS Company After Tragic River Incident



The family of Tabitha Smith, who drowned in February 2024 alongside Meigs County Deputy Robert Leonard, has filed a lawsuit against GPS company Garmin. The suit alleges that Garmin's navigation system misled Leonard by displaying a non-existent bridge over the Tennessee River, causing him to drive into the water while transporting Smith to jail.

Smith, handcuffed in the back of the patrol car following an earlier altercation, drowned in the incident. The family's lawsuit argues the GPS error led to the fatal crash.

Smith, handcuffed in the back of the patrol car following an earlier altercation, drowned in the incident. The family's lawsuit argues the GPS error led to the fatal crash.

Garmin has denied liability, stating the tragedy was due to negligence and has requested the case be dismissed. In addition to the claim against Garmin, Smith's family has also filed a civil lawsuit against Meigs County and Deputy Leonard's estate.

Source: [Local 3 News](#)

## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum Hosts Annual Trash & Treasure Sale

The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum is gearing up for its annual **Trash & Treasure Sale** in 2025, featuring a wide variety of items across two locations. Donation drop-offs are welcome **April 16–19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day**. Furniture donations should be delivered to the museum's lower level.

A special **Premiere Night** will be held Wednesday, April 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. with a \$10 admission fee. Tickets are available at the museum and at the door.

The **Public Sale** runs:

- Thursday, April 24: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Friday, April 25: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Saturday, April 26: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Admission to the public sale is free.**

**Sale Locations:**

- **Museum Lower Level** (522 West Madison Ave) – Furniture, lamps, jewelry
- **Museum Annex** (408 Washington Ave) – All other goods  
*Cash or check only.*

The event is hosted by the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum Guild and sponsored by the Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation.

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**Tuesday, April 15, 2025**      Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4      **Athens, Tennessee**

## Starr Regional Medical Center Honors Employees for Years of Service

Starr Regional Medical Center recently hosted its annual Service Awards Banquet to honor employees who achieved 5 years or more of service (in 5-year increments) between January 1 and December 31, 2024, as well as employees who received recognition throughout the year as winners of the 2024 Mercy Award, The DAISY Award and Shining Starr Award. The event took place at Ramble Creek Vineyard & Events and included dinner for honorees and their guests.

“It is a privilege to recognize and celebrate our employees for their commitment to our patients and our community through a career in healthcare. From clinical to administrative staff, each person plays an important role in enhancing our mission of *making communities healthier*,” said John McLain, Starr Regional Medical Center Chief Executive Officer. “Our vision is to create places where people choose to come for healthcare, physicians and providers want to practice, and employees want to work. This vision, coupled with our core values, strengthens our culture where employees feel more like family than co-workers. I am confident this is why we celebrate a great number of valued employees for service ranging from five to more than 40 years each year.”

Special recognition was given for 2024 Mercy Award winner Vania King, Medical Staff Coordinator; DAISY Award recipients Brittany Cook, RN, Starr Regional Health & Rehabilitation, and Rachel Newberry, RN, Women’s Services/Post-Surgical; and 2024 Shining Starr winners Chelsea Herring, Emergency Room, Alyssa Kirksey, Med/Surg Unit, Jordan Marshall, Emergency Room, Kinsleigh Page, Women’s Services/Post-Surgical, and Abby Webb, Emergency Room. ***Employees honored for their years of service at this year’s event and their respective departments included:***

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>45 Years</b><br>Sandra Haynie, Accounting   | Jeffrey David, Surgery<br>Michael Key, Plant Operations<br>Aimee McDaniel, ER Etowah<br>Judy Peery, Ultrasound Unit<br>Jacqueline Plumley, Emergency Room<br>Melissa Presley, Imaging | <b>5 Years</b><br>Brandi Armstrong, Marketing & Communications<br>Debra Ann Bailey, Environmental Services<br>Lucas Bayes, Emergency Room<br>Alexandra Brannon, Surgery<br>Marshall Brantley, Registration - Admitting<br>Laura Casillo, Surgery<br>Rodney Cook, Plant Operations<br>Kathleen Davis, SCC-Charleston<br>Jeannie Dickey, Surgery<br>Julie Duvall Gales, Surgery<br>Angela Edwards, Surgery<br>Analise Farnham, Wound Care Clinic<br>Hanna Fox, Surgery<br>Tara Jones, Case Management<br>Hannah Kaylor, Surgery | Rebecca Kuehnemund, Laboratory<br>Jessica McMinn, Athens Surgery Center<br>Jennifer Moates, Nursery<br>Tori Roby, Surgery<br>Victoria Grace Shaw, Surgery<br>Kathleen Sias, Medical & Surgical Unit<br>Jayden Snyder, Medical & Surgical Unit<br>Dawn Stutts, Senior Care<br>Holly Swafford, Surgery<br>Sarah Waddell, Laboratory<br>Lorna White, Athens Surgery Center<br>Delisa Wilcox, Emergency Room<br>Genevia Yates, Athens Family Practice<br>Julia Young, Athens Surgery Center |
| <b>30 Years</b><br>Kelley Clark, Physician Practices<br>Rhonda Roderick, Nursing Home<br>Wendy G. Thorpe, Laboratory   | <b>15 years</b><br>Ralph Greene, ER Etowah<br>Tammy Knox, Surgery<br>Lee Perry, Materials Management  |   |   |
| <b>25 years</b><br>Elaine Davidson, Social Services<br>Dale Harris, Pharmacy<br>Mitzi Newberry, Quality<br>Karen Watson, Pharmacy<br>Kelley Anne Watts, Occupational Therapy | <b>10 Years</b><br>Summer Brooke Fritts, Senior Care<br>Mitzi Long, IT & S<br>Joshua Raschka, Laboratory<br>Alma Suarez, Cardiopulmonary  |   |   |
| <b>20 Years</b><br>Brian Amburgey, Imaging<br>Veronica Clark, Billing Staff - Shared<br>Teresa Constant, Labor & Delivery  |   |   |   |

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## Book Signing Drop-in & Discussion

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Athens, Tennessee

**Donate Blood and Get Free Admission to Soaky Mountain Waterpark**



From April 14 to May 10, 2025, donors who give blood through MEDIC Regional Blood Center—either at a center or mobile drive—will receive a free admission ticket to Soaky Mountain Waterpark.

Tickets are valid May 10 – June 15, 2025, giving donors the perfect chance to kick off summer with some splash-filled fun.

For more info, visit [medicblood.org](http://medicblood.org) or call the Athens Center at 423-453-5846. They are located at 927 Decatur Pike next to Ingles. Walk-ins are welcome.

## Obituaries

**Garnet Ford Hackler Cofer**, 93 of Decatur, passed away on Sunday, April 13. She was a member of Savannah Methodist Church in Ooltewah and a past member of Decatur First Baptist Church. She received her LPN nursing degree in 1960. she owned and operated "Home for the Aged" in Decatur. She loved playing cards, sewing, cross stitching and gardening. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Family of Garnet Ford Hackler Cofer.

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

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Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

**Raymond Marshall**, 30 of Cleveland, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$2,906.90

**James Mullins**, 54 of Waycross, GA, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. No Bond.

**Edna Wood**, 52 of Loudon, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. No Bond.

**Timothy Kirby**, 39 of Riceville, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

**Lisa Allen**, 46 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

**David Cowan**, 45 of Niota, was arrested by the MCSO for Theft between \$10,000 - \$60,000. Total Bond: \$15,000.

**Isaiah Wilkins**, 24 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell. Aggravated Assault, Domestic Assault and Interference with an Emergency Call. Bond Unclear.

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**  
**Information gathered using public sources.**

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