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Thursday, December 18, 2025**Page 1****Athens, Tennessee**

Former MCHS Standout Ronnie McMahan Named to Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame



Ronnie McMahan, a standout basketball player for Vanderbilt University and former star at Athens Jr. High and McMinn County High School, has been named to the Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame's Class of 2025.

McMahan, a native of Middle Tennessee, enjoyed a remarkable collegiate career with the Commodores from the early 1990s, leaving a lasting mark on the program. A starter in 114 of 124 career games, he finished his Vanderbilt tenure with 1,719 points, ranking fifth in program history at the time. He also excelled from long range, ranking third all-time in career three-pointers, and seventh in career steals.

He played a key supporting role during the 1993 Sweet 16 run alongside leading scorer Billy McCaffrey and later emerged as a leading scorer himself, averaging 18.3 points per game as a senior. McMahan's ability to shine in high-pressure games helped set a standard for future Vanderbilt players.

After his collegiate career, McMahan remained a fixture in local basketball, serving as Associate Dean of 9th and 10th grade at Montgomery Bell Academy while coaching both basketball and football. His dedication to his community and the game reflects the same drive and excellence that defined his playing days.

The Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2025, representing seven sports and spanning more than a century of Commodore history, will be formally inducted at the Student Life Center on Feb. 20, 2026.

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We will be closed December 22, 2025 - January 1, 2026! REOPEN January 2, 2026 REGULAR HOURS. We hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. The year 2025 has brought about chaos and challenging times for many of us. May we take time to reflect on Jesus the real reason for the season! He is our true help and comforter in times like these. Thank you to ALL of our customers for your business in 2025. It is greatly appreciated! We look forward to serving you in 2026! We are here to serve and help you in any way that we can with your home or business exterior needs. Our prayer for each person is that God blesses and prospers you greatly in 2026.

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Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State, TCAT Athens Sign Agreement to Expand Student Pathways

Cleveland State Community College and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Athens have entered into a new articulation agreement designed to give students a clear and seamless pathway from technical training to college completion.

The agreement allows students to begin their education at TCAT Athens and continue their studies at Cleveland State Community College in three high-demand programs: Computer Information Technology Cyber Defense, Computer Information Technology Cloud Computing, and Medical Office Administrative Professional Technology.

College officials said the partnership aligns coursework between the two institutions, helping students build practical, career-ready skills in areas such as cybersecurity, cloud computing, technical systems, software, and medical office administration. These programs are designed to prepare graduates for in-demand careers in today's workforce.

Leaders from both institutions emphasized that the agreement expands educational opportunities while strengthening the region's workforce. The collaboration is among the first of its kind in Tennessee between a TCAT and a community college. Both schools operate under the Tennessee Board of Regents.

More information about the programs is available by calling 423-478-6224 or emailing business@clevelandstatecc.edu.

Holiday Caroling in the Park Coming this Weekend



Join the community for *Holiday Caroling in the Park*, presented by Father's Love Ministry, on December 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Regional Park Pavilion, 2405 Decatur Pike, Athens. This festive gathering will spread the joy of the season through song, fellowship, and giving.

The event will feature free jackets, scarves, hats, and gloves, along with free Bibles, crosses, books, and educational materials while supplies last. Attendees can also enjoy free food, water, and hot beverages, plus raffle drawings for special prizes. Handmade crafts created by local sisters will be available for donations.

All are welcome to attend and celebrate the season together with love, generosity, and community spirit.

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Friday December 19th 10-5:30PM

Saturday December 20th 10-4:00PM

SUNDAY *Funday*

December 21st 12:00-4:00PM

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Tuesday December 23rd 10:5:30

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EVERY WEEKDAY


Community News You Can Use

- The Niota Fire Department extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas celebration a success for local children. Special appreciation is given to 2 Dude's BBQ, First Baptist Church of Niota, Alan Carter Athens Insurance, The Sugar Shack, the City of Niota, and all volunteers and supporters whose generosity and efforts made the event possible.
- AUB will have a combined Budget & Finance and Board meeting **TODAY**, Thursday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m.
- The City of Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, and Animal Shelter will be closed December 24–26 for Christmas and will reopen Monday, December 29. The Recycle Center will be closed December 24–27 and also reopen December 29. Residential garbage pickup will run on a normal schedule Monday–Wednesday, December 22–24. Thursday's route will be collected Monday, December 29, and Friday's route on Tuesday, December 30. Residents should place totes out the night before; extra garbage should be set curbside beside totes. Commercial garbage service will be limited. Emergency services will continue to operate 24/7.

Sales of Homes in McMinn County
November 1, 2025 to December 1, 2025

Close Date	Close Price	Street Name	City
11/3/2025	409000	Lake View Point	Englewood
11/3/2025	285000	County Road 456	Athens
11/7/2025	170000	Old Lee	Athens
11/7/2025	640000	County Road 220	Athens
11/7/2025	226000	County Road 436	Athens
11/10/2025	205000	Ohio	Etowah
11/12/2025	393000	County Road 100 - Lot 2	Decatur
11/14/2025	424000	County Road 1153	Riceville
11/14/2025	351500	County Road 784	Etowah
11/14/2025	264900	Tellico	Athens
11/14/2025	352500	Fyke	Athens
11/14/2025	249900	County Road 314	Sweetwater
11/18/2025	338000	County Road 475	Etowah
11/19/2025	355000	14th	Etowah
11/20/2025	567000	County Road 116	Athens
11/20/2025	304000	Greenway	Etowah
11/21/2025	314900	County Road 213	Athens
11/21/2025	422500	County Road 757	Riceville
11/21/2025	339900	County Road 155 Lot 7	Riceville
11/21/2025	248600	County Road 313	Sweetwater
11/25/2025	210000	Sherwood	Calhoun
11/25/2025	177000	W Farrell St	Niota
11/25/2025	202000	Crescent	Niota
11/25/2025	265000	Cedar Springs	Athens
11/26/2025	262500	Rocky Mount	Athens

Source: tvasinc.com



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CHRISTMAS

MUSIC

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FROM 6 PM TO 6 AM


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laughter, and filled with the
warmth of cherished
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Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

Investigation Underway Following Inmate Death at Monroe County Jail

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is looking into the death of a Monroe County Jail inmate that occurred early Tuesday morning.

Michael Wayne Harris, 46, of Madisonville, was serving an 18-year sentence after being convicted in June 2025 of possession of Schedule II methamphetamine for resale.

Authorities report that during a routine bed check at 6:16 a.m., correctional officers observed no issues in Harris' cell. Minutes later, another inmate noticed something unusual and alerted staff. Officers found Harris had attempted to take his own life using a bedsheet. Jail personnel immediately intervened, performing CPR before transporting him to Sweetwater Hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased. The District Attorney's Office was notified, and the TBI has been called to conduct an independent investigation, which is standard procedure for any in-custody death. No additional information is available at this time. **Source:** [Monroe Co. Sheriff Tommy Jones](#)

Driver Suffers Medical Emergency, Overtakes Truck on Co. Rd. 784 in Etowah



A driver was hospitalized Tuesday afternoon after a medical emergency caused them to lose consciousness and overturn their truck on County Road 784.

The incident occurred around 4:30 p.m. involving a 2018 Ford F-150. Emergency responders extricated the driver from the vehicle before transporting them via AMR ambulance to Starr Regional Etowah for treatment.

Etowah Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, and Etowah City Fire all responded to the scene, with Capt. Ryland Hearn of Etowah Rural Fire overseeing operations. Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Andrew Metelits conducted the accident investigation.

Photo by Etowah Rural Fire Department



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& HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Scout Troop 118 Celebrates Member Achievements



Scout Troop 118, part of the Cades Cove District of the Smoky Mountain Council, is recognizing the recent accomplishments of its members, who have earned multiple merit

badges and advanced in rank. The achievements highlight the Scouts' dedication to leadership, service, and personal growth, core values of the Scouting program. Troop 118 meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Keith United Methodist Church, where members develop skills, build character, and prepare for a lifetime of adventure and community service.

Troop leaders and families provide guidance and support, helping Scouts persevere and reach their goals. The troop encourages youth interested in Scouting to attend a Monday meeting to learn more about joining. Troop 118 continues to serve the local community by fostering leadership, outdoor skills, and civic responsibility, helping Scouts grow into confident and capable leaders through merit badges, rank advancement, and service projects.

McMinn County Arrest Reports

12-16-25

Christopher Holloman, 26 of Athens, charged with being a fugitive from justice, casual exchange and possession of meth, evading arrest and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$93,000.

Jordan Freeburn, 18 of Englewood, charged with felony vandalism, Bond \$1,000.

Frank Andrews, 18 of Delano, charged with felony vandalism, Bond \$1,000.

Giovanni Rowling, 19 of Athens, charged with felony vandalism, Bond \$1,000.


Timothy Harrison, 37 of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property, \$2500 to \$10,000.

Kimberly Benton, 42 of Athens, charged with criminal trespassing, Bond \$1,500.

Felicia Pratt, 38 of Niota, charged with failure to appear for theft of property.

Terry Lee, 46 of Athens, charged with simple possession of schedule 2 fentanyl, and schedule 3 suboxone, theft of property, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$36,000.


Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from Public Sources.




Merry Christmas

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And Happy New Year
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So That All May Thrive

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Merry Christmas

Wishing you joy and happiness
this holiday season.
From Our Troop to Yours.

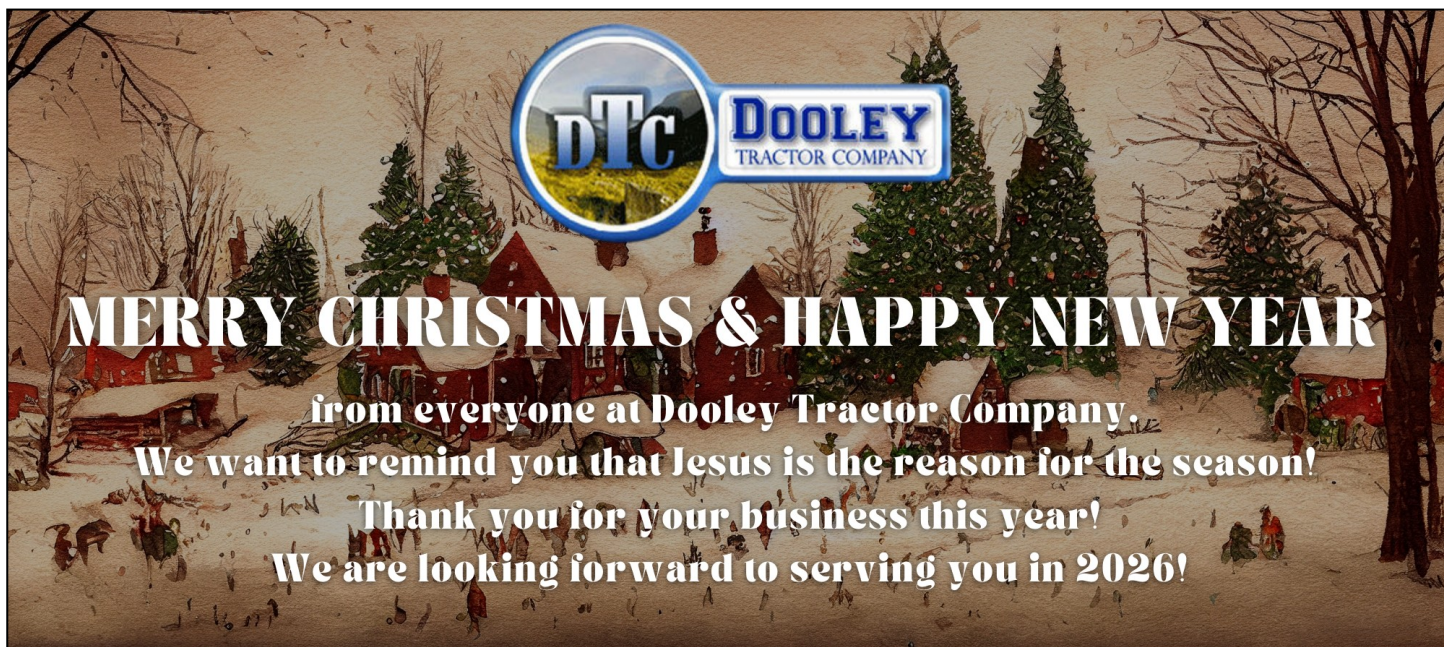
 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
POST 68




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Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 9

Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Wesleyan University Honors Graduates at Winter Commencement

Tennessee Wesleyan University celebrated its 2025 Winter Commencement on Friday, Dec. 12, recognizing 88 graduates who completed their academic programs during the fall semester.

The graduating class included 59 bachelor's degree recipients and 29 master's degree recipients, representing a wide range of academic disciplines. Among the most represented programs were the Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Business Analytics, and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Family members, friends, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate the achievements and perseverance of the graduates as they reached this milestone.

The ceremony featured a commencement address by Tennessee Wesleyan alumnus Sam Goodin, whose academic journey was marked by resilience while battling a rare and aggressive form of cancer. Goodin earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Industrial Management and delivered a message centered on faith, determination, and perseverance.

University officials praised the Class of 2025 for their dedication to academic excellence and the positive impact they have made on the Tennessee Wesleyan and Athens communities.

Obituaries

Sheila "Ann" Stanfield, 83, of Calhoun passed away on Monday, December 15. She was a graduate of Bradley Central High School and lived most of her adult life in McMinn County. She was a current member of Zion Orthodox Presbyterian and over the years a former member of Trinity Presbyterian, Old Salem Baptist, Calhoun First Baptist, Phillippi Baptist, and Blue Springs Baptist where she has many dear friends and family. Visitation will be from 12:00 to 2:00 Saturday, December 20 at Zion OPC 1326 Cedar Springs Road, Athens with the service following. The burial will be at Calhoun Cemetery. Companion Funeral Home of Athens, TN and the Cody family are honored to assist the Stanfield family during this difficult time.

*Merry
Christmas*
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

*From Keith Price & His Staff
of the McMinn County
Assessor of Property Office*