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Wednesday, May 07, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Athens VFW Hosts BBQ Fundraiser for Shower Bus 99

Athens VFW Post 5146 held a Day of Service on Saturday, organizing a community BBQ dinner to support Shower Bus 99, a local nonprofit dedicated to helping McMinn County's less fortunate.

The event raised \$1,392 to benefit Shower Bus 99, which provides essential services such as hot showers, toiletries, clean clothes, and meals to individuals in need throughout the area.

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"Our Post is fortunate to have great volunteers," said Linda Sherman, a representative with the VFW.

The VFW Post 5146 extends its gratitude to everyone who donated, volunteered, or came out to enjoy a meal in support of a cause that brings dignity and care to those experiencing hardship.

Source: Linda Sherman



Pictured here standing left to right:

Volunteers with the VFW (in blue): Michelle Haney, Jim Haney, Monty Simmons, Nina Whitman, Linda Sherman, Jim Garrity.

Volunteers with the shower bus: Tonya Frerichs, Mark Frerichs, Emma Mull, Debbie Mull and Shaiden Frerichs

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Athens, Tennessee

Class of 2026 Distinguished Young Woman, Mia Sewell



The Distinguished Young Women (DYW) Morning Fax® event took place at ACMS over the week-
end. DYW is the oldest and largest national scholarship program for high school girls.

Pictured from left to right: Sarah Thomas, Jaylin Coffie, Macy Knox (1st runner up), Ayleen Leon, Mia Sewell (DYW 26), Kaliyah Williams (2nd Runner-Up), Halle Newman

Free Japanese Cloth-Wrapping Class Coming to Athens

The Athens-Isahaya Sister City Committee and the Asian Culture Center of Tennessee are inviting the public to experience a traditional Japanese art form at a free Furoshiki class on May 30.

The event will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, located at 522 West Madison Avenue in Athens. Open to all ages, the hands-on workshop will teach participants the Japanese art of Furoshiki—cloth wrapping used to beautifully and sustainably package gifts and other items.

Organizers describe the class as a fun and easy introduction to an eco-friendly tradition that combines creativity with cultural appreciation.

While the event is free, registration is required to attend.

For more information or to register, contact the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum or visit the Athens-Isahaya Sister City Committee's social media page.

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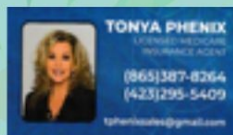
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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State: Faculty Emeritus Recognition



Cleveland State Community College recently recognized Suzanne Wood (left) and Alejandra Hoffer (right) for earning emeritus status. Faculty members who have a minimum of ten years of full-time employment at Cleveland State and have demonstrated extraordinary service to the college can be nominated for emeritus status after their first year of retirement. Wood taught early childhood education for over 20 years at the college, and Hoffer taught Spanish for more than 15 years. *Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC*

Starr Regional Appoints Two New Members to Board of Trustees

Starr Regional Medical Center has named Dr. Timothy Collins and Rob Preston to its Board of Trustees, filling vacancies left by Carter Runyan and Dr. Vickie Turnbough after their terms ended in December 2024.

Dr. Collins is a family medicine physician in Etowah with more than 30 years' experience. Rob Preston has served as chief executive officer and president of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce for nearly 20 years.

They officially joined the board on April 1. Collins and Preston joined existing board members The Rev. Dr. Vant Hardaway, Chair, retired/Starr Regional Medical Center Chaplain; John McLain, secretary, CEO of Starr Regional Medical Center; Johnnie C. Carter, MD, Family Practice; Pastor Angel De Hoyos, Woodward Avenue Church of God; and Shane Sewell, COO, Wilson Construction Group.

Starr Regional Medical Center's Board of Trustees meets monthly and is charged with quality oversight, financial management and executive leadership. To learn more, visit [StarrRegional.com](https://www.starrregional.com).

Blackout Poetry Class

Saturday, May 10, 2025 @ 10 AM

**at the Etowah Art Gallery, 700 Tennessee Avenue,
Etowah next to the Historic Gem Theater**

FREE EVENT: Drop by the Gallery and try out a new and fun form of Art. Blackout poems utilize a text written by another author. The new writer or poet takes a writing implement, commonly a black marker, and blacks out sections of the text, leaving only a few remaining words. Most poets want to make a cohesive and logical poem with the words they find. But, other writers utilize a more random and instinctual approach to blackout poetry.

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Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Roger Dale Higdon, 69, native of Polk County and longtime resident of McMinn County, passed away on Monday, December 2, 2024. He was retired from the United States Army. Graveside services will be held on Friday, May 9 at 1:00 PM at Eastanallee Cemetery with full military honors. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Roger Dale Higdon.

Hazel Ramsey, 94, passed away on Monday, May 5. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

Anthony Odale Ware, 70, passed away on Wednesday, April 30. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

Michael L. Williams, 66 of Etowah, passed away on Monday, May 5. Mike retired from Bowater after 40 years, he was a member of First Baptist Church of Etowah. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, May 9 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Friday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in Eastanallee Baptist Church Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Joyce Ann Powers, 72 of Decatur, passed away on Sunday, May 4. She was a member of Faith Baptist Church. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 8 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation. Interment will follow in the Meigs County Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 12 noon – 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Powers Family.

Peter John "Pete" Harrell, 78 of Englewood, passed peacefully on Sunday, May 4. Pete served in the U.S. Army with military honors. He then dedicated 40 years to Athens City Schools. Funeral services will be 4:00 PM Saturday, May 10 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The interment will follow at Sweetwater Valley Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM prior to the service. Please bring quarters to the visitation and funeral to honor Pete's magic quarter tricks. All of the quarters will be donated to the McMinn County Educational and Community Foundation in his honor. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

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