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Athens City's Dr. Andrew Kimball Named Regional Semi-Finalist for State Supervisor of the Year



Dr. Andrew Kimball of Athens City Schools has been named a regional semi-finalist for the 2025–26 Tennessee Supervisor of the Year award. Kimball, who oversees Federal/Specialized Programs for the district, is one of three semi-finalists selected from the South East CORE region.

The Tennessee Department of Education selected 23 semi-finalists statewide for the Supervisor of the Year honor, recognizing outstanding leadership and dedication in advancing education across Tennessee. These educators represent each of the state's eight Centers of Regional Excellence (CORE) areas, as well as the Shelby County-Municipals region.

From this group of exceptional candidates, a statewide scoring panel will select nine regional finalists to move forward to the interview phase of the selection process.

Dr. Kimball's recognition highlights his ongoing commitment to serving students, supporting educators, and strengthening academic programs across the Athens City School system.

Source: Julie Lofland, ACS//[TN Department of Education](#)

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Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens will host its Summer Blood Drive with MEDIC on Friday, July 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Athens City Hall Courtroom (815 N. Jackson St.). All donors will receive a MEDIC gift and a Texas Roadhouse coupon. Come help save a life!
- Grace and Mercy Ministries is holding a Drive-Thru BBQ Fundraiser at Market Park Pavilion in Athens on Thursday, July 24th from 11:30 am - 1 pm. They will be serving Pulled Pork, Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips and a Dessert for \$10 per plate. You may pay with either Cash or through PayPal. Call 423-920-1367 for any pre-orders.

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, send it to: wyradio@gmail.com

McMinn County Drivers Enjoy Some of the Nation's Lowest Gas Prices

McMinn County residents are seeing welcome relief at the pump this summer, as gas prices continue to hover near some of the lowest levels in the country. The average price for a gallon of gas in McMinn County is currently \$2.72—well below the national average of \$3.17 and among the lowest in the Southeast.

Tennessee as a whole ranks sixth among the nation's least expensive fuel markets, with a statewide average of \$2.82 per gallon. These prices are in line with July 2021 levels, marking a four-year low for summer travel season. The dip is largely attributed to strong global oil supply and relatively steady demand, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Nationally, gasoline demand increased last week from 8.64 to 9.15 million barrels per day, while domestic supply fell slightly. Despite that, gasoline production ramped up, averaging 9.9 million barrels daily.

While Tennessee drivers are benefiting from cheaper gas, they're also paying more than most for electric vehicle charging. At an average of 46 cents per kilowatt hour, Tennessee ranks third in the nation for highest public EV charging costs, behind only West Virginia and Alaska.

With summer road trips underway, McMinn County drivers are among the few across the U.S. enjoying both scenic drives and budget-friendly fuel. *Source: AAAgasprices.com*



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Friday, July 11, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- Niota First Baptist Church is hosting "True North" Vacation Bible School Sunday, July 13th through Thursday, July 17th. The hours are 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm each evening and includes Pre-K to High School age. This is a great opportunity for young people prior to regular schooling which begins in early August. (See ad on Page 2)
- Brookhill Baptist Church in Etowah will be hosting Vacation Bible School for children from Pre-K through 8th grade on July 13-16 nightly between 6:00pm to 8:00pm. A free meal will be provided each night.
- Are you struggling with the loss of your spouse? Clearwater Baptist Church (964 County Road 180, Athens) will be holding a one day event for *Loss of Spouse* on **Saturday, July 12** from 6pm-8pm. If you are grieving the loss of anyone close to you, they are beginning a new session of *GriefShare* helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. Beginning on Thursday, July 17th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm there will be an ongoing (in 13 week rotations) grief support group that you can join at any time and is open to the community. For more info. or to register please visit: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share (Notify us in advance if childcare is needed.)
- West End Baptist Church (Clark St., Athens) will have their Homecoming Service on July 13, beginning at 11:00 am. *Eastern Sky* will be singing. Lunch will follow. Everyone is invited to attend.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.
- Pope Avenue Baptist Church and Union Hill Baptist Church will be hosting Bible School beginning this Sunday, July 13 through Friday, July 18 nightly between 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Everyone is invited an if you wish to attend but need transportation, contact Kay Frank at 423-506-1643.
- On Saturday, July 19 from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be hosting a tag sale fundraiser at 123 S. Jackson St. in Athens. Household items and furnishings will be available!
- **Niota UMC** will be hosting a free week-long summer camp on July 14-18 in partnership with Camp in the Community at their church in Niota. The summer camp is open to all children ages 5-14 The camp will run from 8:30-4:30pm (Friday ends at 2pm) and includes breakfast and lunch. To register, visit <https://www.campinthecommunity.org/host/niota>

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Athens, Tennessee

\$65,200 in State Arts Grants Awarded to McMinn County Organizations

McMinn County arts and cultural institutions have been awarded a total of \$65,200 in state grant funding from the Tennessee Arts Commission for Fiscal Year 2026, which runs from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The grants are part of the first round of awards for the fiscal year and will support programs that preserve and promote the area's artistic and cultural heritage.

Local recipients include the Athens Area Council for the Arts, receiving \$39,700; the Etowah Arts Commission, awarded \$5,600; the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, which will receive \$8,100; and the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association, awarded \$11,800. These grants are part of a larger statewide initiative. The Tennessee Arts Commission expects to distribute up to \$12.3 million in funding through approximately 1,000 grants across all 95 counties, supporting a wide range of programs in both rural and urban communities.

Funding decisions are made through a review process involving citizen advisory panels with expertise in arts disciplines and final approval by the full Commission. Additional grant opportunities remain available throughout the year, including the Arts Build Communities and Student Ticket Subsidy programs. The Tennessee Arts Commission reports that the state's nonprofit arts and culture sector contributes \$1.4 billion annually to the economy while enhancing education, tourism, and quality of life for residents across the state. More information on available grant programs can be found at tnartscommission.org.

Obituaries

Giovanni "Gio" Ospina, 34, born in Paterson, NJ, passed away on Wednesday, July 9 at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center in Knoxville. He was known for his quick wit, generous heart, and an unshakable devotion to the people he loved. Gio's greatest joy in life was being a father. He leaves behind two cherished daughters who were the center of his world. In his younger years, Gio found freedom and fun in skateboarding and soccer - hobbies that reflected his energy and love for movement. He was protective, caring, and full of laughter - the kind of person who could brighten a room with his presence and make everyone feel at home. A visitation to honor Giovanni's life will be held on Saturday, July 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Companion Funeral Home, located at 400 S White Street, Athens. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

Jackie Allen Fairbanks, 59 of Decatur, passed away on Sunday, July 6. He had a passion for fishing, a deep appreciation for squirrel hunting, and an undeniable need for speed. A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, July 12 at Companion Funeral Home of Athens, TN at 8:00pm. A visitation will be held prior from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

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