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2412 Congress Pkwy South, Athens

Thursday, July 17, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Charleston Plant Workforce Reduction



A 'small percentage' of employees at the Wacker Chemie plant in Charleston, Tennessee will be affected by a workforce reduction the company plans to announce soon. Right now, the exact number of employees affected is unknown. A company spokesman reported more information will be released later. About 650 workers are employed at the Charleston plant. A Wacker spokesman reported that this decision was made as part of a strategic realignment with a view to a challenging market environment to ensure the long-term health and competitiveness of the company. Wacker Chemie has been in operation in Charleston since 2011.

Photo courtesy of Wacker Chemie

TDEC Announces Meigs Co Grant



The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Office of Outdoor Recreation has announced \$22,059,191 in grants from the Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) program, the Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program (TRIP), and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for 31 communities across the state. In this most recent round, Meigs County will receive \$97,500 from the 'LPRF' program. It is to be used for upgrades to their East View Park and Ten Mile Park. The LPRF program provides state funding to match local government investments for projects and the purchase of land for parks, natural areas, greenways, and recreational facilities. All grant projects must be on publicly owned land. The TRIP is a state funded program that provides grant money to cities and counties who lack professional park and recreational directors and do not provide a comprehensive recreation delivery system in their community to assist with the establishment of the first Parks and Recreation Department. The RTP program provides federal funding to match local government investments for land acquisition for trails, non-routine trail maintenance, trail construction, trail rehabilitation, and trail head support facilities.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming July & August Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL:

Plantain Salve Making Class with
Christina DeBusk

Sat., July 26th @ 11am - \$5 or free with membership

The History and Process of Taxidermy
with Clint Deschner the owner of Oostanaula Taxidermy.

Sat., August 9th @ 11am - \$5 or free with membership

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

THE HISTORY OF CANEY CREEK VILLAGE

Join us for a presentation by author Debbie Moore. This book contains photographs and information about the development and demise of Caney Creek Village that was located on the Ocoee River in Polk County, East Tennessee

Thurs., August 14th @ Noon - Free Admission

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:
Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
Students: \$3.00

More Information

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www.livingheritagemuseum.org

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Thursday, July 17, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Local News

TVFCU's 34th Used Car Night is right around the corner, and everyone is invited to this fan-favorite community event at AT&T Field on Saturday, Aug. 2, as the Chattanooga Lookouts take on the Knoxville Smokies at 7:15 p.m. This year we will be giving away SIX used cars thanks to generous donations from dealer partners. Mark your calendar for Saturday, Aug. 2, at 7:15 p.m. Come for the game, stay for the fun — and maybe even drive home in your next car.

◆ **COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:** The Athens City Schools Board of Education will hold the July Work Session on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at the Administration Building beginning at noon.

We encourage you to e-mail results from local school sporting events for use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:
wyradio@gmail.com

◆ **REMINDER:** Today on *Hope From the Well*, Julie Tillis invites Anna Salas, student at Women at the Well. *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

Remembering The Fallen Five



CONGRESSMAN
CHUCK FLEISCHMANN

U.S. Representative Chuck Fleischmann released the following statement commemorating the tenth anniversary of the July 16, 2015, terrorist attacks in Chattanooga that took the lives of five brave U.S. servicemen, remembered forever as the Fallen Five. Ten years ago a radical jihadist terrorist took the lives of five heroic servicemen and wounded two others in one of the darkest days Chattanooga and Tennessee have endured. "Out of the horror and violence of that terrible day, our community has stood firmly together in love, support, kindness, and strength to honor and remember the ultimate sacrifice and legacy of the Fallen Five and to uplift and support their beloved families," said Congressman Fleischmann. "Chattanoogans, Tennesseans, and Americans nationwide will never forget the Fallen Five. We will always pay homage to U.S. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Thomas J. Sullivan, U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant David A. Wyatt, U.S. Marine Sergeant Carson A. Holmquist, U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Squire K. "Skip" Wells, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall J. Smith. Their dedication to America, our community, our military, our freedoms, and service to others will always be remembered. Congressman Fleischmann requests that everyone join Brenda and him in praying for the eternal souls of the Fallen Five "who are home now with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for their families and loved ones. Congressman Fleischman quoted Psalms, 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble,' and 'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me'. "May God bless the Fallen Five and their families, and may God continue to bless Chattanooga and our great nation."

Source: Justin Doil, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann's Office

A Night of
HOPE

Breaking Barriers Today

July 31
2025

For all students interested in starting this Fall

Cleveland State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SOUNDS OF SUMMER



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JULY 25TH**

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GoComics

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Ribbon Cutting for Henry's Hardscape & Excavation

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Henry's Hardscape & Excavation, located in Athens and surrounding areas. Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right: Amy McDonald (Chamber Diplomat/Board), Lisa Rhea (Chamber Diplomat), Tammy Stanford (Henry's Hardscape & Excavation), Tala Jimenez, John Henry (Owner Henry's Hardscape & Excavation), Haley Cabrera, Jacob Jarnagin (Henry's Hardscape & Excavation), Stacey Hester (Chamber Diplomat/), Cayce Davis. Back: Rhonda Wilson, Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Cory Johnson (Henry's Hardscape & Excavation), Hugh Willson (Chamber Diplomat), Austin Wiseman (Henry's Hardscape & Excavation), Walt Bowman, Chris Plovich, Traci White (Chamber Diplomat/Board), DeShane Oggs, Doug Bailey (Chamber Diplomat).



SOUNDS OF SUMMER



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This Week at the Derby

Monday saw our racers head to downtown Akron for the parade and opening ceremonies. Arliss was seen waving the famous Big Orange Tennessee flag that Athens racers have wielded for many years during the parade, as Silas and his family marched along beside. The Opening Ceremony returned for the first time in several years to the newly renovated and reopened Maynard Performance Pavilion at Lock 3 Park (photo below) as the champs were each announced and given an opportunity to take the stage to throw out memorabilia from back here at home. The champs then wrapped up the evening with a movie night at the Akron-Summit County Main Library. See Photos below.

Tuesday was the only off day for the champs as the Rally racers took the track for their AAA Challenge Race. Our racers enjoyed trips to the beach at Lake Erie and took some time with family to relax and recharge for the push into what will be a very busy but very exciting remainder of the week. The nightcap was rounded out with a family swimming event at the Shaw JCC of Akron where all champs were encouraged to enjoy the beautiful amenities as such a huge part of this week is the family-friendly events that the All-American Soap Box Derby facilitates.

Wednesday was the AAA Local Challenge race that will be something very similar that our racers are used to back home in the local Athens competition. This is a single-elimination, three car lane, and wheel swap event that will give the racers experience in all three lanes and getting more accustomed to the Akron track. We'll be back with more updates throughout the day tomorrow live from the track as our champs move closer to competing for a World Championship.

Source: Derek Phillips, Program Coordinator for the City of Athens



Arliss in Parade



Arliss and Silas at Opening Ceremonies



Silas with family in Parade



Maynard Performance Pavilion

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Thursday, July 17, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State Logistics Students Are Thriving

In May 2025, seven students graduated as the first cohort in the recently created Logistics & Supply Chain Management program at Cleveland State Community College. Each student completed an internship as part of the program and received a full-time job by June 2025, a 100 percent placement rate. As part of the program, students used the Thrive Regional Infrastructure Portal (TRIP), an online dashboard for regional transportation data, to complete capstone projects addressing issues facing the companies where they worked. In 2021, Thrive Regional Partnership, a non-profit community development organization serving 16 counties in north-west Georgia, northeast Alabama, and southeast Tennessee, solicited proposals to create a new transportation research portal, giving industry and government officials a valuable tool to address the region's infrastructure and shipping issues. Two higher education institutions competed for the project – Georgia Institute of Technology and Cleveland State Community College. After reviewing the proposals, the leadership at Thrive Regional Partnership, with support from local industry partners, decided to award the project jointly to Georgia Tech and Cleveland State, with the goal of simultaneously creating the TRIP portal and a world-class curriculum where students at Cleveland State are exposed to current technologies and use them to solve current issues faced by industry. Four years later, students at Cleveland State are benefiting from this unique partnership, being exposed to a state-of-the-art curriculum while gaining valuable skills and solving real-world problems. The collaboration between Thrive Regional Partnership and Cleveland State is not finished; instead, it is just beginning. With funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the organizations will be working together over the next five years to expand the curriculum and TRIP portal to other colleges and secondary schools throughout the region. For more information, visit Thrive Regional Partnership (thriveregionalpartnership.org/) or the TRIP Portal (trip-thrive-geohub.hub.arcgis.com/). To inquire about

the Cleveland State Logistics & Supply Chain Management curriculum, email Dean Sandra Godsey at: sgodsey@clevelandstatecc.edu. For more information on Cleveland State Community College, visit the website at clevelandstatecc.edu or email clscc_info@clevelandstatecc.edu. If you are interested in applying, visit mycs.cc/applynow. Students are currently enrolled online and on-campus through the CSCC main campus in Cleveland, Tennessee, as well as CSCC's McMinn Higher Education Center in Athens, Tennessee and the Monroe County Center in Vonore, Tennessee.

Obituaries

Robert Anderson (Bob) Loftis, 88, of Athens, passed away Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at NHC of Athens. Bob was a lifelong resident of McMinn County. He was a member of East Athens Baptist Church of Athens. Bob was a graduate of McMinn County High School and attended Tennessee Wesleyan College. He was associated with Bowater for 49 years in the Chemical Department until his retirement. A graveside service will be conducted 11:00 am, Friday, July 18, 2025 at McMinn Memory Gardens with Wes Loftis officiating. There will be no visitation. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Robert Anderson (Bob) Loftis.

Lester Woody, 88, of Etowah, TN passed away Tuesday, July 16, 2025. Lester was an active church member of Delano Baptist Church. He enjoyed reading. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, July 21st in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home with Jake Cook officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m., Monday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in McMinn Memory Gardens. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

HOPE FROM THE WELL

HOSTED BY: JULIE TILLIS

THURSDAYS AT 8:15 AM

"If you have Jesus in your life, you will always have hope."



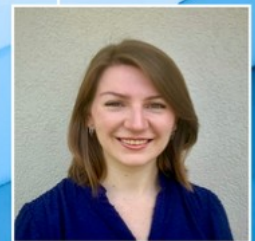
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