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# The Morning Fax®

## Today's News. This Morning.

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Thursday, August 7, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## VEC Holding Unclaimed Property for Area Residents

## Community News You Can Use



Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is currently holding unclaimed property valued at \$50 or more for individuals who have not yet claimed their funds. Property owners are encouraged to contact VEC to

claim their property before the deadline of **October 23, 2025**.

To make a claim, contact Volunteer Energy Cooperative at **18359 Highway 58 N., P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322**, or call **423-334-7013** or **423-334-7014**.

If no claim is made by the deadline, the property will be transferred to the Tennessee Treasury Department's Unclaimed Property Division as required by law. For a full list of names and additional information, visit: <https://vec.org/vec-is-holding-unclaimed-property-2/>

- Tonight at 7pm at the Historic Gem Theater in Etowah, the Tennessee Overhill presents the latest installment of the "Gems of the Past" Historic Lecture Series. Tyler Boyd of the McMinn County Historical Society will be discussing his book, *Tennessee Statesman: Harry T. Burn*. Entry to the event is free and all are welcome to attend
- The Athens Chamber will host a free *Lunch and Learn* with Chip Higgins, author of *The Bizzics Way*, on **Wednesday, August 20 at Noon at White Street Market, 3 W. College St., Athens**. Attendees will receive a free copy of Higgins' book. Space is limited, so make sure to sign up soon. **Register now at:** <https://bizzics.kit.com/a88f526fd0>
- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closure:

**Oxnard Drive** from *Eaves Street* to *Alton Street* will be closed from Thursday, August 7 at 8:00 a.m. until Friday, August 8 at 4:00 p.m. **The purpose of this closure is for pavement repairs.** For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

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## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

### Upcoming August Events



#### HERITAGE SCHOOL:

The History and Process of Taxidermy  
with Clint Deschner the owner of Oostanaula Taxidermy.  
**Sat., August 9<sup>th</sup> @ 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 14<sup>th</sup> @ Noon - Free Admission**  
History of the American Revolution Part 2 with Brett King  
**Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am - 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

522 W Madison Ave.  
Athens, TN 37303  
423-745-0329  
[www.livingheritagemuseum.org](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.org)

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G.Y.B.

/dji- wai- bee/

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Thursday, August 7, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## AACA Opens Registration for Fall Art and Pottery Classes

The Athens Area Council for the Arts has opened registration for a wide range of art and pottery classes this fall, with offerings for children, teens, and adults of all experience levels. All classes take place at The Arts Center, and participants are encouraged to register at least three days before their chosen session. Instructor Patricia Shook will lead multiple pottery classes, including:

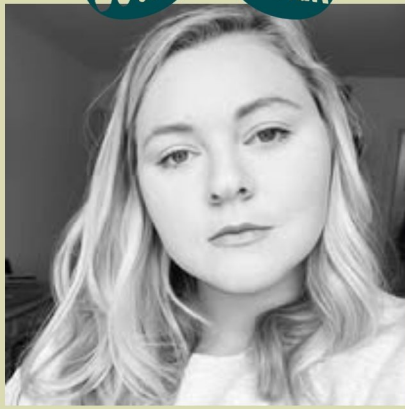
- Date Night Pottery** (ages 18+): One-hour evening classes for couples on select Fridays—August 8, 22; September 5, 19. \$85 per couple.
- Get Your Hands Dirty: Pottery Wheel** (ages 16+): One-day Saturday workshops on August 9, 23; September 13, 27. \$75 per session.
- Get Your Hands Dirty: Build a Mug** (ages 16+): Hand-building classes on select Saturdays—August 16; September 6, 20. \$75 per session.
- Handbuilding Pottery** (ages 16+): A seven-week class meeting Tuesdays, September 16–October 28, 1:00–3:30 PM. \$175.
- Pottery Wheel** (ages 16+): A seven-week course on Saturdays, September 18–October 30, 5:30–8:00 PM. \$200.
- Kids Pottery Wheel** (ages 10–15): A seven-week course meeting Thursdays, September 13–October 25, 10:00 AM–Noon. \$175.

### Watercolor classes include:

- Beginning Watercolor** with Chris Ingram (ages 16+): Six-week class on Mondays, September 29–November 3, 4:30–6:30 PM. \$200.
- Watercolor Studio** with Sandy Brown (ages 18+): Two-week course for intermediate to advanced artists, November 13 and 20, 4:30–6:30 PM. \$40 (materials not included).

Registration and instructor information is available at [athensartscouncil.org/classes](http://athensartscouncil.org/classes). Online registration includes a transaction fee, but in-person and phone registrations are free of additional charges. Call **423-745-8781** or visit The Arts Center to register. *Source: Lauren Brown, Executive Director, AACA*

**SOUNDS OF SUMMER**



**AUGUST 9TH**  
**KINSLEE MELHORN**  
7PM | MARKET PARK PAVILION, ATHENS, TN



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**GoComics**

Thursday, August 7, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## World's Longest Yard Sale Begins Thursday, August 7

The *127 Yard Sale* — known as the World's Longest Yard Sale — kicks off **Thursday, August 7** and runs through **Sunday, August 10**, stretching from **Nocalula Falls Park in Gadsden, Alabama** northward across **six states**, including **six counties in Tennessee**: Hamilton, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Cumberland, Fentress, and Pickett.

Spanning hundreds of miles along U.S. Route 127 and the Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway, the event offers shoppers endless bargains, antiques, and hidden treasures.

**Reminder:** Schools will be in session Thursday and Friday—please drive carefully and be mindful of local traffic.

For printable maps and more information, visit [127yardsale.com](http://127yardsale.com).

## Local Fire Departments Awarded State Grants



More than 20 local fire and rescue departments within the Tri-State Mutual Aid Association were awarded funding as part of a **\$3 million statewide**

**grant program** from the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office. Agencies in **McMinn, Monroe, Rhea, Meigs, and surrounding counties** received awards ranging from **\$2,000 to over \$88,000** to support equipment, training, and operations. Departments receiving funds include those in **Athens, Etowah, Englewood, Niota, Riceville, Decatur, Tellico Plains**, and others.

For the complete list of grant recipients and amounts, visit the [Tri-State Mutual Aid Association's Facebook page](#).

**COMEDY and COUNTRY**  
 TICKETS **\$30 each**  
 at the **Historic Gem Theater**  
 Etowah, Tennessee  
**Saturday, August 16, 2025**  
 Doors Open at 6:30 PM / Comedy 7-7:30 & Music at 7:30  
 Featuring... **Big Rich Brock** COMEDIAN  
**George Strait** TRIBUTE BAND  
 HOWARD DECKER  
 Tickets Available at the Tennessee Overhill Office and the Etowah Chamber Office – both at the Depot in Etowah or Call 423-263-7232  
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# Never Miss an Update!

SUBSCRIBE



Thursday, August 7, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

## Athens Firefighters Help Restore Fallen Firefighter Memorial



On July 26, five Athens firefighters traveled to Bell Buckle to help restore the Fallen Firefighter Memorial, honoring those who gave their lives in service. Working through sweltering summer heat, the crew cleaned and restored the site as a place of remembrance.

Participating in the effort were Jonathan Parrott, Jack Ingram, Austin Smith, Garrett Elliott, and Tommy Robinson. Their work was supported by Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth and the City of Athens. As noted in a city social media post, the memorial now "shines once again as a place of honor and remembrance for those who gave their lives in service."

## Obituaries

**Hoyt Melton**, 80 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, August 5. Hoyt served in the United States Air Force; he retired from M&M Mars after working for 25 years. He was a member of Valley View Baptist Church of Athens. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, August 8th in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 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.

**Eddie Dean Womac**, 66 of Ten Mile, passed away on Tuesday, August 5. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors. No formal services will be held. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Womac Family.

**Wilma Catherine Tallent Blandford**, 87 of Athens, passed away Tuesday, August 5. She was a member of Wildwood Baptist Church and was a very active member of the Senior Center where she worked as the nutritionist for many years. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 7:00 PM Monday, August 11 at Wildwood Baptist Church. The family will receive friends from 5-7 PM Monday prior to the service at the church. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

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## GEMS OF THE PAST HISTORIC LECTURE SERIES



Sponsored by the Tennessee Overhill, Tyler L. Boyd will be discussing his book, "Tennessee Statesman, Harry T. Burn". All are welcome to attend this amazing event.

7 August  
2025

7 PM - Gem Theater  
(423)263-7232