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Wednesday, August 13, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Three Earn High School Equivalency Diplomas at Polk County Justice Center



Cleveland State Community College's Adult Education Department recently awarded three high school equivalency diplomas to participants at the Polk County Justice Center.

The achievement was made possible through a partnership with Polk County Sheriff Steve Ross and funding from an Evidence-Based grant awarded to Polk County by the State of Tennessee's Office of Criminal Justice Programs.

The program provides educational opportunities to help individuals gain the skills and credentials needed to improve their futures upon reentry into the community. Pictured left to right: Officer Mark Von Roden, Polk County Sheriff's Office Reentry Specialist; Amy Miles, Cleveland State Adult Education Instructor; Polk County Sheriff Steve Ross; Jacob Payne, Cleveland State Adult Education Instructor; Graduates - Christopher Eller, Everett Watson and Charles Flowers; Angela Cooper, Cleveland State Adult Education Director; Dr. John Squires, Cleveland State Vice President of Economic and Institutional Development. In back: Judge Brooklyn Townsend, Polk County General Sessions and Juvenile Judge. **Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC**

◆ Tomorrow on *Hope From the Well*, host **Julie Tillis** invites Kaitlyn Adams to the show. *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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EVERY WEEKDAY

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn Co. Verifiable Property Sales in July via TN Valley Appraisal Service

Community News You Can Use

Close Date	Close Price	Street Name	City
7/1/2025	325000	Lindsell Rd	Athens
7/1/2025	364000	Hillcrest Cir	Etowah
7/1/2025	324000	Crestway Dr	Athens
7/3/2025	197000	Co Rd 650	Etowah
7/7/2025	242250	Crescent Circle	Niota
7/8/2025	340000	County Road 622	Etowah
7/9/2025	185000	County Road 520	Englewood
7/10/2025	137000	County Road 750	Calhoun
7/10/2025	235000	Hammerhill Rd	Athens
7/11/2025	285000	County Road 260	Athens
7/11/2025	600000	Zion Cove Ln	Englewood
7/11/2025	185000	Pond Hill Rd	Niota
7/11/2025	250000	8th St	Etowah
7/11/2025	439000	Hillandale Dr	Athens
7/14/2025	248000	County Road 658	Athens
7/15/2025	575000	County Rd 3050	Athens
7/16/2025	190000	Indiana Ave	Etowah
7/16/2025	240000	County Road 909	Etowah
7/18/2025	260000	County Road 197	Athens
7/21/2025	250000	Towanda Trl	Athens
7/22/2025	296000	Willow Trc	Athens
7/23/2025	225000	Spruce St	Athens
7/25/2025	460000	County Road 100 - Lot 6	Decatur
7/25/2025	350000	County Road 350	Sweetwater
7/25/2025	324900	County Road 213	Athens
7/28/2025	154000	Pennsylvania Ave	Etowah
7/28/2025	315000	County Road 155	Riceville
7/28/2025	511500	County Road 577	Englewood
7/28/2025	300000	Highway 68	Sweetwater

- [The E.G. Fisher Public Library Noon Book Club](#) now meets on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays. The next meeting is today, August 13, at 12 p.m., featuring *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Library Director Becky Coleman will lead the discussion, which will include historical photos, wartime letters, and a display of similar titles. A light lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Library.
- The McMinn County Board of Commissioners will hold its regular session on Monday, August 18 at 6 p.m. in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse.
- The City of Athens Public Works Department has announced temporary street closures for **Saturday, August 16, 2025, from 4 to 9 p.m., to accommodate the Athens Travelers Car Club Cruise-In.** The affected areas include **Jackson Street from Green Street to Washington Avenue** and **Madison Avenue from White Street to Green Street.**

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Athens, Tennessee

The Athens Arts Center to Host "The Magic of Watercolor" Exhibit



The Athens Area Council for the Arts will welcome the Tennessee Watercolor Society back to The Arts Center for *The Magic of Watercolor*, a biennial exhibition running August 18 through September 26, 2025.

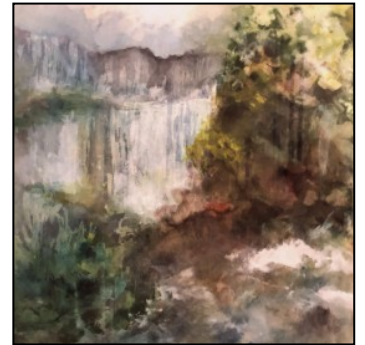
An opening reception will be held Friday, August 22, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Willson Exhibit Room and Hallway Gallery. Guests can enjoy refreshments, meet the artists, and learn more about their techniques.

The exhibit features new works by active, associate, and signature members from the society's Eastern Tennessee chapters, including well-known local artists such as Sandy Brown, Betty Grater, and Frances Graves. Brown, a signature member and AACA watercolor instructor, proposed Athens as the show's location after being approached by Chattanooga and Knoxville chapter coordinators.

The Tennessee Watercolor Society, the state's largest organization dedicated to water media, will present a variety of styles and techniques by some of Tennessee's most respected watercolorists. Admission to both the exhibit and reception is free, and works can be viewed during regular business hours and special events.

For details, visit athensartscouncil.org/exhibitions or tnws.org.

Photo: Painting of "Bear Falls" by Linda Blair



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Wednesday, August 13, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

B. Janet Kennedy Bidwell, age 86, a native and life-long resident of McMinn County, passed away on Monday, August 11, 2025. She taught Sunday school for over 40 years and enjoyed doing crafts. The family would like to offer special thanks to Caris Hospice and especially the care shown by RN Sandy Stewart and LPN Samantha Troup, and Dr Vickie Turnbough. Visitation will be held from 12:00-2:00 PM on Sunday, August 17, 2025, at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of B. Janet Kennedy Bidwell.

Betty Jean Potter Kile, age 80, of Chattanooga, passed away on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. A Grave-side Service will be held at a later date. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Kile Family.

McMinn County Arrest Reports

08-06-2025

Randy Carter, 61 of Athens, charged with Violation of state probation for vandalism.

William Cline, 72 of Athens, charged with failure to appear on charges of driving on suspended license, Bond set at \$2000.

Joel Lamb, 41 of Charleston, charged with failure to appear on charges of possession and casual exchange of meth.

Jonathan Ballew, 21 of Cleveland, charged with failure to appear.

Billy Locke, 56 of Etowah, charged with public intoxication, Bond is \$500.

Nathan Bean, 26 of Cleveland, charged with child support violation, and is being held for Bradley County.

Crystal Leach, 32, charged with possession and casual exchange of meth, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

08-07-2025

Justin Carroll, 41 of Madisonville, charged with violation of probation.

Cristopher Roderick, 51 of Athens, charged with violation of state probation on theft charges.

Quanteria Copin, 28 of Chattanooga, charged with possession of schedule 6 drugs, and drug paraphernalia.

Rachel Wilson, 31, charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, Schedule 2 fentanyl for resale, schedule 2 meth for resale, schedule 2 cocaine for resale, and simple possession of schedule 6 drugs.

Linda Garza, 23 of Athens, charged with aggravated child abuse, and neglect of a child under 8 years of age.

Timothy Wiggins, 37 of Chattanooga, charged with manufacturing, possession, sale and delivery, driving on a revoked license, possession and carry of a weapon by a convicted felon, schedule 2 fentanyl for resale, schedule 2 cocaine for resale, armed and dangerous felonies.

Travis Raper, 48 of Athens, charged with violation of state probation for introduction of contraband.

Kendal Ellison, 22 of Englewood, charged with violation of probation for possession, possession and casual exchange of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving on a revoked license, tampering with evidence, resisting stop.

Joshua Thompson, 24, charged with aggravated assault by strangulation.

The accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The information presented has been gathered from public sources.

Blessing of the Players

August 17th @ 9:30AM



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