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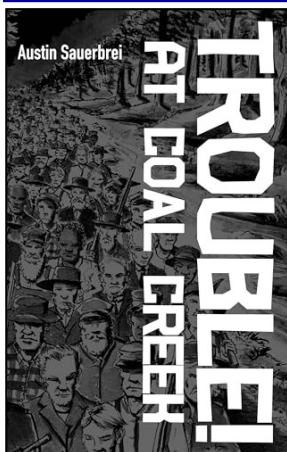
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Arts Center Highlights Local Author's Historical Graphic Novel



Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) is pleased to exhibit *Trouble! At Coal Creek* by Austin Sauerbrei, which gives viewers a chance to see the process of a working sequential artist. The exhibit is open to the public **August 18 through September 26, 2025**, with an **Opening Reception on Friday, September 12**, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in the Peggy Dow Performance Center at The Arts Center.

Sauerbrei's graphic novel, *Trouble! at Coal Creek*, is based on the historical events of an East Tennessee labor uprising known as "the Coal Creek War." This exhibit unpacks the true events of the Coal Creek War, showcases the art from the book, and breaks down the artist's creative process and what he learned along the way. The exhibit consists of a combination of original art, pages at different stages of development, original photos and newspaper articles from the historical events, and an 8-minute video interview with an East TN historian that helped produce the book.

Austin Sauerbrei is a community organizer and sequential artist based in Tennessee. He currently serves as the Director for Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM), a 53-year-old, member-

led organization dedicated to empowering everyday Tennesseans in their efforts to have a greater voice in determining their own future. Prior to this, Austin spent years as a neighborhood and tenant organizer in Nashville, and then as a labor organizer in Chattanooga and Knoxville. A lifelong comics enthusiast, Austin practices visual storytelling as a form of popular education. He and his wife, the Rev. Claire Brown, live in Athens, TN, with their three children. During the opening reception on September 12, patrons can enjoy refreshments and chat with the artist.

The exhibit and Opening Reception are available to the public for free. Public viewing is welcomed during regular business hours and special events. For more information about this exhibit, please visit athensartscouncil.org/exhibitions. To learn more about *Trouble! at Coal Creek* and purchase the graphic novel, visit haymarketbooks.org.

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Friday, August 22, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Farm Bureau Insurance–Todd Loveday Celebrates Ribbon Cutting



The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon cutting for Farm Bureau Insurance–Todd Loveday, located at 804 S. White Street in Athens.

Chamber members, local officials, and community partners joined the celebration. Those pictured include Chamber Diplomats, Farm Bureau Insurance staff, community leaders, and elected officials such as State Representative Mark Cochran, McMinn County Mayor John Gentry, and Sheriff Joe Guy. Todd Loveday, Agency Manager, was joined by his team and supporters as they officially marked the opening of their Athens office.

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens City Schools Board of Education will hold the August Work Session on Wednesday, August 27 at the Administration Building beginning at noon.
- The Southeast Tennessee Human Resource Agency (SETHRA) will be distributing USDA commodities to eligible Meigs residents on September 3rd, 2025 from 10:00 AM at 351 River Rd. Decatur, TN. If you have already signed up for Commodities and have been issued a card since 1st October 2024, you will not need to bring anything to participate. If you have not already signed up you will need to visit your local SETHRA office prior to or any day after distribution. **THERE WILL NOT BE THE OPTION TO SIGN UP ON DISTRIBUTION DAY.** Eligibility will be based on total household income not in excess of the State-established maximum percentage of the poverty line for the appropriate household size. In accordance with Federal law and USDA policy, SETHRA is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

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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.
- **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.
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? Clearwater Baptist Church (964 County Road 180, Athens) is 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 13wk rotations) grief support group that **you can join at any time** and is open to the community. For more info. visit: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share (Notify them in advance if childcare is needed.)
- Athens Christian Church invites the community to the Sizzlin' Summer Extravaganza on Saturday, August 23, from 1-9 p.m. at the Market Park Pavilion in Athens. The free event will feature live performances by the Songfarmers of Tellico Plains, Front Porch Pickers, Giving Thanks Gospel Band, Tori Gay, and comedic entertainer Lula Bell. Everyone is welcome to come out for an evening of gospel music, laughter, and fellowship.
- Christ Community Church will host an Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the back building at 14 S. Congress Parkway. A bag-a-bargain sale will begin at noon, and all proceeds will benefit the Prom Ministry.
- Voice of Deliverance C.O.G.I.C. will be having its 24th annual church and pastoral anniversary on Sunday, August 24, 2025. There will be two services. One beginning at 11:00am and the other at 4:00p.m. Dinner will be served between services. All are welcome. The church is located at 520 Old Riceville Road, Athens.
- Rocky Mount Baptist Church (1002 Rocky Mount Rd., Athens) invites Guest Pastor Caleb Howard for their Wednesday service on September 3rd at 6:00 pm.
- On Saturday, September 20th, Table Graces Food Pantry, a ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Athens, will have its 4th annual **"Run to the Table" 5k Color Run**. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the race begins at 8:30 a.m., starting from the Market Park Pavilion 106 S. Jackson St. in downtown Athens. Proceeds from the race benefit Table Graces, a weekly food provider in the McMinn County region feeding over 200 households each week with fresh produce, shelf stable items, frozen meat, and bakery items. Learn more about this event, complete a sponsor form or preregister at: stpaulsathens.org/run-to-the-table or call 423-745-2224.



Mike & Michelle

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

8-20-25

Michelle Trigezio, 32 of Athens, charged with simple possession of schedule II drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, and DUI. Bond \$16,000.

Flower Fields, 48 of Etowah, charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond \$3,000.

Britney Dingus, 38 of Delano, charged with DUI, simple possession of schedule II fentanyl, simple possession of schedule III drugs, and possession of Legend drugs. Bond \$34,500.

The accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from public sources.

Obituaries

Ronnie Gene Tudor, Sr. (Radiator Man) 55 of Niota, TN passed away on Wednesday, August 20 at Sweetwater Hospital surrounded by his family. Ronnie was a well-known mechanic at Cobb's Radiator for many years before going to work at the Tri County Center in Athens. The family would like to send a special Thank You to Sweetwater Hospital for their amazing help in their hard times. Good Samaritan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Danny Shelton, 66 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, August 20 in Knoxville. He was a Woodcutter and former employee of Titan Industry. He was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church. Graveside services will be 11:00 A.M. Saturday in Short Creek Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. Saturday at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens, Tenn. is in charge of arrangements.

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