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Tuesday, September 30, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Driver Hospitalized After Crash on County Road 436



A 2020 Kia Sportage left the roadway on County Road 436 in Athens and struck a power pole, knocking it down. The driver received treatment at the scene from first responders and AMR personnel before being transported to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens.

Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Athens Utilities Board, the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol all responded. Trooper Whitney Dixon is leading the investigation.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

LISTENING REMINDER: TODAY on *Main Street Moments*: Host Maggie Blaine invites **Amy Elkins** with **Southern Homes & Events!** The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TODAY on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

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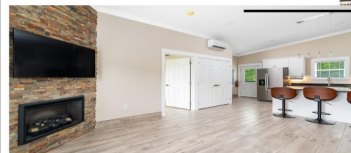
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Athens, Tennessee

Unemployment Rates Fall in McMinn County, Athens Area

Unemployment rates declined across Tennessee in August, including in McMinn County and the Athens Micropolitan Area, according to new figures from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

McMinn County posted a 4.4% jobless rate in August, down from 5.5% in July and lower than the 4.8% recorded a year ago. The Athens Micropolitan Area, which includes McMinn and Meigs counties, reported a 4.5% unemployment rate, dropping 1.1 percentage points from July.

Meigs County's rate stood at 5.1% in August, down from 6.1% the previous month.

Statewide, all 95 counties saw decreases in unemployment from July to August, with 90 counties posting rates below 5%. Sevier County recorded the state's lowest rate at 2.7%, while Perry County had the highest at 5.4%. Tennessee's seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.6%.

The Tennessee Department of Labor encourages job seekers to use free resources available at American Job Centers, which offer assistance with resumés, interviews, and access to job postings.

Audition Skills Workshop Set for Nov. 1 at Athens Arts Center



Athens Area Council for the Arts and Athens Community Theatre (ACT) welcomes all ages to Take the Stage Audition Workshop, led by Melonie Carideo, Saturday, November 1, 10:00 AM - Noon. This workshop is beginner-friendly, so no experience in theatre is necessary.

Long time ACT director, Melonie Carideo, leads this two hour workshop to help performers make an impression at their next audition. The workshop includes lots of tips and tricks for standing out at auditions. The instructor will cover stage presence, preparedness, cold reading, how to survive a movement audition, as well as what to bring and what to leave at home, to help performers gain the confidence to do their best!

There is no fee for the workshop, but participants are encouraged to make a donation to AACA to offset facility costs. Participants should also make sure to wear comfy clothes. This workshop is perfect for preparing for upcoming auditions.

All AACA sponsors are recognized on AACA's website.



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LOTS TO SEE, DO AND EXPERIENCE AT PUMPKINTOWN 2025!

If you're looking for something to do on Saturday, October 11th look no further than the 23rd Annual Pumpkintown in beautiful historic downtown Athens, Tennessee

"We have a saying here in Athens and McMinn County that if you can't find something to see, do experience or eat while you're in our little town it's not our fault, states Friendly City Festival's president Meredith Willson. Pumpkintown has become one of the region's favorite festivals in the last 22 years with plenty of activities for young and old. The festival hours will be 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. These activities and more help festival goers celebrate history, heritage and culture:

The Scott Crisp Memorial PowWow is dedicated to the memory of Scott Crisp, a beloved committee member of Pumpkintown until his untimely death in 2016. The beat of the native drum and the notes of the flute will lead you down to Market Park where you will experience blow gun demonstrations, tribal dancers and Native American crafts.

Another fan favorite is the McMinn Regional Humane Society's Adopt-a-Thon and Pet Costume Contest. Registration for the costume contest begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Market Park Water Wheel which is followed by the infamous Mutt Strutt at 10:45. Judging for the contest will begin at 11:00 with winners announced from the Market Pavilion Stage at 12:30 p.m. Fuller's Frame Shop will host the Adopt-a-Thon and Paw Print activity from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.mrhumane.org.

The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum's 41st Annual Quilt Show will be available to Pumpkintown attendees free of charge from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This award winning show produced by the Heritage Quilt Guild will feature more than 100 quilts in a variety of categories. For more information, visit www.livingheritagemuseum.org or call 423/745-0329.

Athens native Charles R. Ware will be honored and remembered in several ways during Pumpkintown weekend. Over 70 of his fellow Navy veterans will be in Athens commemorating their service on the USS Charles R. Ware destroyer. Beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Veterans Park, there will be a commemorative brick dedication ceremony honoring area veterans. The Veterans Brick Walkway was established in 2002 during the plaza renovation at Veterans Memorial Park. The walk was opened with more than 2,500 bricks, making it one of the largest veterans walk in the United States and today there are more than 4,000 bricks in the walkway. To inquire about placing a brick, bench or monument in the park, please contact Athens Parks and Recreation at 423/745-2704.

There will also be a special addition to the permanent Charles R. Ware exhibit at the Living Heritage Museum to honor Lt. Ware.

Another highlight of Pumpkintown is Pumpkin Plinko. On North Jackson Street, one of the largest Plinko games in the world is set up by Athens Parks and Recreation and will be manned this year by Victory Volleyball Academy. Young and old alike roll balls down the street through a maze of pumpkins where the object is to score a perfect 30 to win a prize!

Be sure to stop by The Arts Center on North White Street to check out the phenomenal new space and get your creative juices flowing with pumpkin paint starting at 11:00 a.m. until they run out of pumpkins. Then take a short walk across the street to Knight Park to check out Misfit Herd Mobile Petting Zoo and take a photo at the Pumpkin House created by Mayfield Farm Park!

In addition to all of the above, Pumpkintown will feature shopping at local merchants, live entertainment on three stages, a host of childrens' activities including pony rides, petting zoo and inflatables at Market Park, carnival rides on West Madison, dinosaurs and bubble fun on Washington and 300 arts, crafts, info and food vendors.

Pumpkintown is a free to the public production of Friendly City Festivals made possible by the generosity of the following sponsors: The City of Athens Tourism fund, McMinn County Tourism Board, VEC Customer Shares, Tennessee Overhill Association, Tennessee Arts Commission, Citizens National Bank of Sevier County, Athens Kiwanis Club, Simmons Bank, Simmons Wealth Management Group, Starr Regional Medical Center, Mayfield Dairy Farm, DENSO, Tonya Phenix Senior Insurance, Valley Oil, Madison Avenue Pharmacy, WarrenJackson CPAs, Athens Insurance, Kona Ice, Pendleton's Playground and The Retirement Guys.

Special thanks to media sponsors-The Daily Post Athenian, The Morning Fax, WCLE Mix 104.1 FM.

For more information on Pumpkintown 2025, please contact Meredith Willson at 423/887-3544 or by email meredithw2009@comcast.net Check out the Friendly City Festivals Facebook page or www.friendlycityfestivals.com for vendor maps and general information.

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Athens, Tennessee

Rep. Greg Vital Receives Chancellor's Award for Philanthropy



The Tennessee Board of Regents has honored State Rep. Greg A. Vital with the 2025 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy.

Cleveland State Community College nominated Vital for the award, citing his generosity and commitment to education and conservation. His donation established the Greg A. Vital Center for Natural Resources and Conservation inside the newly renovated Carl Hite Math and Science Building.

The Vital Center houses Cleveland State's Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries program and Agriculture program. It also serves as a hub for students, educators, and professionals to collaborate on environmental challenges.

At the award presentation, Vital said, "We need to instill the importance of stewardship of our land and water and the special places we call home." He added, "It's exciting to see Tennessee grow... One of the important things people choose when they come to Tennessee is our quality of life."

Vital also noted, "They may not all go to work for the USDA or the Fish and Wildlife Service. They may go into education and become teachers. They may go into research." He said he was honored "to be in the legislature and fight for education in Tennessee, because it is our future."

Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC



Just In Case You Missed It! Photo taken Saturday, September 27, 2025 in Riceville, TN by Morning Fax Publisher Mark Lefler

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

9-28-25

Abigail Anderson, 44, of Riceville, charged with disorderly conduct, Bond \$1,500

Jennifer Carroll, 52, of Athens, charged with three counts of theft of property.

Angela Huff, 31, of Englewood, charged with violation of probation, Bond \$641.45.

Reuben Satherly, 53 of Athens, charged with child support, Bond \$500

Cable Thatch, 35 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia and child support, Bond \$6,950.45

Gerald Frazier, 52 of Etowah, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license and evading arrest, Bond \$4,000

Jessica Green, 39 of Athens, charged with failure to appear.

Samuel Bean, 22, charged with fraudulent use of a credit card.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered using Public Sources.

Obituaries

Easton Dash Steven Lee Reed, infant son of Samuel and Savannah Osborne Reed, born on September 23, 2025, passed away on September 25, 2025, at UT Medical Center. A Celebration of Life will be at 1:00 PM, Saturday, October 4, 2025, at Open Doors Baptist Church, located at 1710 Old Highway 68, Sweetwater, TN 37874. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Easton Dash Steven Lee Reed.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

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