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Thursday, October 02, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Wanted Fugitive Apprehended in Sweetwater



On October 1, 2025, Monroe County Sheriff's deputies, along with officers from the Sweetwater Police Department, successfully apprehended 45-year-old Michael John McLemore of Sweetwater, at his residence located at 132 Southside Road.

Deputies and officers arrived at the residence to serve active warrants (from both MCSO and SPD) for Mr. McLemore. Upon their arrival, Mr. McLemore initially refused to exit the home. A Monroe County Sheriff's Office negotiator was deployed to the scene and attempted to encourage Mr. McLemore to surrender peacefully. Sweetwater Police officers who were familiar with him also assisted in the negotiations.

As the Monroe County Sheriff's Office S.W.A.T. unit mobilized for response, Mr. McLemore eventually exited the residence voluntarily. He was taken into custody without incident.

Mr. McLemore was wanted on the following charges:

- Two counts of Aggravated Assault
- Two counts of Violation of Probation
- One count of Aggravated Robbery

He has been booked into the Monroe County Sheriff's Office Jail and is currently being held on these charges.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Sweetwater Police Department for their assistance in bringing this situation to a safe resolution.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum



Upcoming October Events

History For Lunch

Thursday, Oct. 2nd @ Noon
The history of WYXI Radio & The Morning Fax
with Mark Lefler

Heritage School

Sourdough Cinnamon Rolls
Saturday, Oct. 4th @ 10:30 AM
Shelley Morgan from Mountain Medicine Farm will teach a class on
making sourdough cinnamon rolls! \$10 or \$5 for members.

SEE WEBSITE
FOR FULL
PROGRAM
INFORMATION



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Thursday, Oct. 02, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Clarity IT joins the Athens Chamber



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Clarity IT, located in Athens and surrounding area. At Clarity IT, they specialize in guiding businesses through the complex world of technology. From cloud solutions to network connectivity, cyber security to IoT, they provide expert advice and innovative solutions to help you thrive in the digital world. Contact them at 864.918.7660 clarityittech.com. Shown here are chamber and business representatives, county officials, family members and owner, Todd Graham, of Clarity IT.

Community News You Can Use

- The **Highway 411 Longest Yard Sale** begins today! And will take place through October 4, bringing many visitors and heavy traffic to the area. Drivers are reminded to slow down, watch for pedestrians crossing the road, and be alert for parked cars, doors opening, and people loading purchases. Please use caution with vehicles entering and leaving the highway and always use turn signals to keep everyone safe.
- The Athens City Council will hold a Special Called Session on TODAY at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 815 North Jackson Street. The meeting's agenda includes authorizing the City Manager for international travel from Oct. 26 thru Nov. 1 to attend the SEUS Conference in Tokyo, Japan, alongside the City Mayor, McMinn County Economic Development Authority, and Tennessee State Delegation. The trip will also include a visit to Isahaya, Japan, to strengthen the Sister Cities Program. Citizens may provide public comments and must sign in before the meeting begins. For more information, contact the City Manager's office at (423) 744-2702.

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Peoples Bank of East Tennessee Welcomes Sara Spiva



Peoples Bank of East Tennessee has announced several leadership changes as part of its continued investment in both its team and the communities it serves.

Sara Spiva has returned to the bank as Branch Manager of the Madisonville Main Office. A former member of the Peoples Bank team, Spiva brings extensive banking experience and is well known for building strong customer relationships and her active involvement in the community.

Brad Hunt will continue serving customers at the Madisonville Main Branch while also taking on expanded leadership responsibilities. He has joined the management team and will oversee Mountain Trust Mortgage in addition to his current role.

Kari Phillips, a longtime member of the Peoples Bank family, has transferred to the Sweetwater Branch. Her move will allow her to continue strengthening customer relationships and providing service in that community.

These leadership updates reflect the bank's commitment to fostering strong leadership within its branches and ensuring customers are served by people they know and trust. Peoples Bank emphasizes that *"Where relationships matter"* is more than a tagline — it remains the foundation of its mission.

Peoples Bank of East Tennessee is a locally owned community bank serving East Tennessee since 1997. With 10 convenient branch locations and a dedicated team of over 130 employees, they remain committed to providing personalized financial services that strengthen the communities they serve. *Source: Kristien Scott, Marketing Specialist, PBET*



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OCTOBER 4

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Thursday, Oct. 02, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

"Open Exhibit" at the Arts Center opens in October



Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) is pleased to present its annual **Open Exhibit** for residents of McMinn County and the surrounding counties. The exhibit is available for viewing **October 6 - November 7, 2025**.

The exhibit will be on display in the Willson Exhibit Room at The Arts Center. Viewing hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and during special events. The awards ceremony and reception on Friday October 24 begins at 5:00 PM in the same location.

"This year's show features 20 local artists with a range of talent and a unique point of view," says Holly Doucette, AACA Program Director. "It's exciting to see so many newcomers use The Arts Center as a platform to exhibit their work."

AACA is pleased to have Knoxville-based artist, **Suzanne Jack**, as judge for this year's competition. Suzanne Jack is a retired art educator and has been a professional artist for over 20 years whose sensibilities as an artist are revealed through a vivid color palette and dynamic energy. She has won regional and national awards such as Best of Show and the Pivot Point Gallery Award in the Tennessee Artists Association 2022 Art Exhibition. She will be published in the Stroke of Genius 14 drawing competition in *The Best of Drawing* presented by the editors of *Artists Magazine*.

All AACA programs are supported by the City of Athens and other sponsors are recognized on AACA's website.

More information about AACA programs is available at athensartscouncil.org, or over the phone at 423-745-8781. Staff is available via phone, or in person, at The Arts Center. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Arts Center is located in Historic Downtown Athens, Tennessee, in the Main Street District, at 320 North White Street. **Source: Lauren Brown, AACA**

Mystery Maven

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by Agatha Christie

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Thursday, Oct. 02, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Vols Recharge During Bye Week, Eye Arkansas Showdown at Neyland



Fresh off a dramatic overtime win at Mississippi State, No. 15 Tennessee is using its first open date of the season to regroup, recover, and sharpen its play before hosting Arkansas on Oct. 11 at Neyland Stadium.

Head coach Josh Heupel praised his team's fight in Starkville but stressed the need for improvement across the board. "There are a lot of things that we can do a lot better... in every phase of the game," Heupel said. "Whether you win or lose, it's dealing with the reality and how you get better."

The bye week is also giving younger Vols more chances to step into bigger roles. True freshmen David Sanders Jr. and Jack Van Dorselaer earned recognition from Heupel after key contributions late against Mississippi State. Sanders handled his first game snaps "prepared for the moment," while Van Dorselaer "played with violence, speed and technique" on the overtime run that sealed the win.

Heupel also highlighted transfer wideout Chris Brazzell II's development, crediting his ability to "go and attack the ball, making plays" in one-on-one situations. The Vols' depth will be tested as they gear up for a physical SEC stretch.

Meanwhile, quarterback Joey Aguilar, who led Tennessee's offense in the Mississippi State win, was named to the 2025 Hispanic Football Hall of Fame College Football Watch List. Aguilar, of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage, is among the top candidates for Hispanic College Football Player of the Year. Tennessee returns to action Oct. 11 for its only home game of the month, a critical SEC clash against Arkansas at Neyland Stadium. *Source: UTSports.com*

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GAME AT 6:45 PM



Thursday, Oct. 02, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

9-30-25

Travis Savage, 31 of Athens, charged with Schedule II fentanyl, Schedule II meth, Drug paraphernalia, violation of probation for driving on a suspended license, and assault, Bond \$18,951.40

Caleb Tulick, 23 of Sweetwater, charged with failure to appear for driving without a license.

Anthony Houston, 30 of Stockbridge, Georgia. Charged with being a fugitive from justice, schedule six drugs, and forgery, Bond \$234,000

Shannon Rosier, 50 of Tellico Plains charged with driving on a suspended license, violation of registration laws, and failure to have insurance, Bond \$5,000

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

Obituaries

Carol Kaliszewski Peterson, 87, of Athens passed away on Monday, September 29 at her residence. She retired in 1962 from the Army/Air Force Exchange Service. A private ceremony will be held at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Marianna Ellen Speakman, 86, passed away on Monday, September 29. Marianna was an educator earning her bachelor's degree from Pittsburgh State College and later her master's degree from the University of Louisville. She served as an elder at Mars Hill Presbyterian Church. A celebration of life will be held on October 11, at 11:00 a.m. at Mars Hill Presbyterian Church with a reception following.

Ronald Gregory Brown, 85 of Athens. passed away on Tuesday, September 30 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. He was a musician, who loved to play the guitar, fiddle, and piano. A graveside service will be held Thursday, October 16 at 11:00 a.m. in McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens in charge of arrangements.

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