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Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

WYXI Radio Broadcasts Pumpkintown!

Cousin Mark Leffler and J.P. Vasquez led four hours of live coverage from this year's Pumpkintown celebration on Saturday afternoon, capturing the sights, sounds, and community spirit of the annual Athens tradition. The broadcast aired on FM 94.5 and AM 1390 from 11 am—3 pm.

They interviewed key organizers and local leaders who helped make the festival a success, including Lindsay Ferguson and Brianna Baker of the McMinn County Economic Development Authority, Main Street Athens Director Sandra Kinney, Athens City Mayor Larry Eaton, Pumpkintown Music Coordinator and performer Jim Brooks, Athens Arts Center Executive Director Lauren Brown, McMinn County Mayor John Gentry, McMinn County Regional Humane Society Director Brian Morgan, and Friendly City Festivals Head Organizer Meredith Willson. The team's coverage showcased the partnerships and people that keep Pumpkintown growing year after year.



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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State Welding Bootcamp Graduation

Cleveland State Community College Workforce Development recently completed a MIG Welding Bootcamp. Partnering with City Fields, eight students completed the bootcamp and earned their American Welding Society (AWS) certification.



Pictured left to right: Norfolk Southern Welding Inspector Kyle Sparks, Reed Phillips, James Mowery, Benjamin Battle, Dionte Ware, Hakeem Hudson, Ashley Truelove, Derrick Garland, Edwin Vargas, and CSCC welding instructor Chad Laxton.

Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC

Mystery and Mentorship Take the Stage at Athens Community Theatre



Athens Community Theatre will present Agatha Christie's classic whodunit *The Mousetrap* October 24–November 2, 2025, in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Directed by Bob Borwick, the production features a talented local cast and will include a special catered Halloween performance with a “Mystery Maven Costume Contest.”

Tickets went on sale September 12 for \$20 adults, \$15 students, and \$25 for the October 31 event.

ACT and the Athens Area Council for the Arts will also host a free Take the Stage Audition Workshop on Saturday, November 1, 10 a.m.–Noon, led by longtime ACT director Melonie Carideo. The beginner-friendly session offers tips for confident and successful auditions. For details and tickets, visit the Athens Area Council for the Arts website.

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Athens, Tennessee

Vols survive late rally to defeat Arkansas, 34–31

After twice battling back from early deficits, the No. 12 Tennessee Volunteers recovered three fumbles and rattled off 24 unanswered points to defeat Arkansas 34–31 Saturday night at Neyland Stadium in front of a sold-out Champions Weekend crowd of 101,915.

Running back Peyton Lewis led the charge with two touchdowns, including a 13-yard score early in the fourth quarter that gave the Vols a 34–17 lead. Arkansas answered with two late passing touchdowns, but Tennessee's offense ran out the final 2:55 behind clutch first downs from quarterback Joey Aguilar and Lewis to secure the win.

The Vols balanced attack totaled 485 yards, with 264 on the ground and 221 through the air. Freshman DeSean Bishop rushed for a career-high 146 yards and one touchdown, while receiver Braylon Staley caught six passes for 109 yards. Aguilar finished 16-of-25 with 221 passing yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, Tennessee's front line dominated, producing five sacks, nine tackles for loss, and three fumble recoveries. Standouts included Andre Turrentine with 11 tackles, Edrees Farooq with nine stops and a forced fumble, and Jordan Ross, who tallied 1.5 sacks and a key fumble recovery.

With the win, Tennessee improves to 5–1 overall and 2–1 in the SEC, while Arkansas falls to 2–4 (0–2 SEC).

Up next, the Vols travel to Tuscaloosa next Saturday, October 18, for their traditional "Third Saturday in October" rivalry game against Alabama. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. ET on ABC.

Source: [UTSports.com](https://www.utsports.com)

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

10-12-25

Jeremiah Hayes, 44, Bradenton, Florida, charged with State violation of probation for meth for resale.

Heather Wills, 41, of Etowah, charged with violation of probation for drug paraphernalia, Bond \$973.47

Jose Dominguez, 27, of Athens charged with DUI, driving without a license, and open container law, Bond \$4500

Roger Roberts, 63, of Ocoee, Charged with theft of property, \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Samuel Dowdy, 39 of Niota, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000

Ray Lloyd, 26 of Etowah, charged with public intoxication, Bond \$500

Joel Lamb, 41 of Delano, charged with failure to appear in Bradley County.

Amy Stanley, 35 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation, and violation of probation for falsifying a drug screen, Bond \$1,061.47

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

Obituaries

Jimmie Sue Yeager, 90, of Riceville, passed to her heavenly home on Saturday, October 11, 2025. Jimmie Sue and her husband moved to Athens in 1952 with the start up of Bowater. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Athens. She enjoyed sewing quilting, knitting and crafts, she also enjoyed tennis and golf. She retired from McMinn County High School after 20 years serving under various principals. Jimmie Sue served various roles with the Living Heritage Museum where she was a member and co-chairman of Trash and Treasure. The family wishes to receive friends from Noon to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at Smith Funeral Home. Family and friends will depart from Smith Funeral Home for a graveside service at 2:00 pm at Eastanallee Cemetery with Miles Creasman officiating. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Jimmie Sue Yeager.

Nora Ann Dunn, 6 days old, of Decatur, went to Heaven on Thursday, October 9. Though her time on earth was short, her memory will live on in our hearts forever. The family will receive friends from 12 - 2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services with a graveside service to follow in Five Point Baptist Church Cemetery. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Dunn family.

Pearline Beatrice Davis Vaughn, 83 of Meigs & McMinn counties, passed away on Sunday, October 12. She was a longtime member of Walnut Grove Baptist Church. A visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Thursday, October 16 from 1:00-2:00 PM with a funeral service to follow at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow funeral services at Walnut Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Pearline Beatrice Davis Vaughn.

HS FOOTBALL #RESULTS



SEQUOYAH

0-33

MCMINN CENTRAL



SWEETWATER

34-6

CAMPBELL COUNTY



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