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Thursday, October 16, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Leadership McMinn Visits Etowah Depot



The 2025 Leadership McMinn class met Wednesday, October 15th at the Etowah L&N Depot for History Day. LeBron Fowler, Executive Director of the Etowah Chamber of Commerce & Etowah Main Street gave a presentation on the History of Etowah. Executive Director, Adrian Lambert presented the story and objectives of the Tennessee Overhill and its many projects. Leadership McMinn is led by Rob Preston, President & Julie Simbeck, Program Director of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. This Leadership Project is conducted once a year beginning in the Fall, and is open to businesses and community minded citizens interested in learning about McMinn County.

Source: Nancy Dalton, TN Overhill

Community News You Can Use

- The last monthly meeting of the Cherokee Beekeepers for 2025 will be Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. Please take note that the meeting location is now at the McMinn Senior Activity Center located at 205 McMinn Avenue, Athens, Tn. Monthly meetings will resume in January 2026. The public is always invited. You do not need to be a member to attend.
- Starr Regional Medical Center is hosting its annual flu shot fundraiser to benefit the Friendly Fellow Club's Christmas basket program on Friday, October 24 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. in the main lobby of the Athens hospital. **Read more on Page 5.**
- Athens City Schools congratulates Dr. Andrew Kimball, Supervisor of Federal and Specialized Programs, on being named one of nine finalists for the 2025-2026 Tennessee Supervisor of the Year! Dr. Kimball's leadership and commitment to excellence continue to make a positive difference for students and staff across the district. The Tennessee Department of Education will announce the grand division winners and the statewide honoree in December. The Athens community joins ACS in celebrating this well-deserved recognition.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming October Events

Heritage School: Creature Feature
Get close to Tundra the fox and other furry creatures!
Friday, Oct 17 @ 11:00
\$10 for members \$15 for nonmembers



ANNUAL QUILT SHOW
SEPT. 30 - OCT. 29
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History For Lunch
Join us in a discussion on nineteenth century
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Thursday, Oct 23rd @ Noon

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Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:
Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
Students: \$3.00

More Information

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www.livingheritagemuseum.org



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Ribbon Cutting for new Athens Chamber Member



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member Athens Wax Studio and Med Spa, located at 2029 Congress Parkway South in Athens. They offer Botox, Filler, IV Therapy, Micro Needling, Weight Loss Therapy, PRP, Full Body Waxing, Esthetician services such as facials, HydraFacial, Massage Therapy, and Hair Services. Contact them at 423.506.2716. Shown here are Chamber and business representatives, staff, and owner of Athens Wax Studio & Med Spa Emilee Hurst.

Source: Julie Simbeck, Athens Chamber of Commerce

Driver Injured After Car Rolls Over on County Road 854



A driver was injured Monday afternoon after losing control of a 1991 Toyota Corolla on County Road 854 in Etowah. The vehicle rolled over and struck a tree stump just after

12:30 p.m., according to emergency responders. First responders from Etowah Rural Fire Department provided initial medical care at the scene until AMR paramedics arrived. The driver was then transported by AMR to Starr Regional Medical Center in Etowah for treatment. Etowah City Fire Department, Englewood Rural Fire Department, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Office also responded. Sheriff's Corporal Travis Duke investigated the crash.

Photo courtesy of Etowah Rural Fire Department



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Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Athens Community Theatre Announces Auditions for Beloved Musical "Annie"

AUDITIONS
Annie

SUNDAY & MONDAY Nov 9 & 10

Directed by Melonie Carideo
Music Directed by Ellen Kimball

athensartscouncil.org/auditions



The Athens Community Theatre (ACT) is thrilled to announce open auditions for the hit musical *Annie*, directed by Melonie Carideo with music direction by Ellen Kimball. Auditions will be held Sunday and Monday, November 9 and 10, at 6:00 p.m. at The Arts Center. Performances are scheduled for February 19 through March 1, 2026.

Carideo is seeking a large, multigenerational cast that includes a strong adult ensemble and a dozen talented "orphans." Everyone is welcome to audition, whether seasoned performers or newcomers to the stage.

Those auditioning should prepare a solo of their choice in any style or genre. An accompanist and speaker will be available for sheet music or recorded

tracks. Participants are encouraged to know their song well, as auditions are expected to be competitive. Comfortable shoes are recommended for a movement portion, and some auditionees may be asked to read from the script.

Children with special talents—such as tumbling or juggling—are encouraged to showcase their skills. Anyone interested in helping with the production in any capacity is also invited to attend auditions. Callbacks will take place Tuesday, November 11, at 6:00 p.m.

Participants should bring their work, school, and family schedules for the rehearsal period, which runs from November 11, 2025, through March 2, 2026. Parents of minors must accompany their children to auditions to complete required forms.

Based on Harold Gray's classic comic strip, *Annie* is a Tony Award-winning musical featuring timeless favorites like "Tomorrow." The production is part of ACT's Mainstage Series, which showcases celebrated musicals, dramatic classics, and multigenerational performances in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater.

Tickets for ACT shows range from \$15 to \$25 and are known to sell out quickly. Patrons are encouraged to purchase early to secure their seats for this family favorite.

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Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Vols Prepare for Prime-Time Showdown with Alabama

The storied “Third Saturday in October” rivalry returns under the lights this weekend as No. 11 Tennessee travels to face No. 6 Alabama at 7:30 p.m. ET Saturday in Bryant-Denny Stadium. The 108th meeting between the longtime SEC rivals will air nationally on ABC, with SEC Nation and Marty & McGee broadcasting live from Tuscaloosa.

Both programs enter the game with 5-1 records. Alabama sits atop the SEC standings at 3-0, while Tennessee is 2-1 in conference play. The Volunteers have claimed two of the last three matchups, making them one of only two teams in the country with multiple victories over the Crimson Tide since 2022.

Head coach Josh Heupel highlighted the historic significance of the rivalry and the challenge ahead, noting that Alabama continues to perform at a high level on both sides of the ball. The Vols’ preparation this week centers on disciplined play and creating turnovers against an Alabama offense led by quarterback Ty Simpson, who has been efficient and careful with the football.

Tennessee enters the contest riding momentum from a 34–31 victory over Arkansas, powered by its strongest rushing effort of the season. The Volunteers gained 264 yards on the ground, averaging 6.6 yards per carry. Running backs DeSean Bishop, Star Thomas, and Peyton Lewis all contributed to the success, with Bishop rushing for a career-best 146 yards and Lewis scoring twice in the second half. Coaches credited the group’s patience, improved blocking, and strong finishes near the goal line.

The Vols, winners of seven of their last nine SEC games, will look to end a long drought in Tuscaloosa, where they have not won since 2003. Alabama, meanwhile, carries a 15-game home winning streak—tied for the nation’s longest—into Saturday’s matchup. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. ET Saturday on ABC as Tennessee and Alabama renew one of college football’s most enduring rivalries.



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Boys and Girls
K4-6th Grade



CLEARWATER
BAPTIST CHURCH



Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

10-14-25

David Aders, 50 of Englewood, charged with violation of probation for two counts of evading, and criminal impersonation, Bond \$2,605

Stefan Crisp, 38 of Decatur, charged with violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia, Bond \$1,054.45

Brian Sledge, 48, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for possession with intent to deliver marijuana.

Christopher Gohagan, 50 of Athens, charged with violation of an order of protection, Bond \$2,000

Jason Wilks, 47 of Englewood, charged with aggravated assault, Bond \$7,000

Steven Blissett, 29 of Whitwell, Tennessee. charged with driving on a revoked license and DUI.

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

Flu Shot Fundraiser to Benefit Friendly Fellow Club's Christmas Basket Program

Starr Regional Medical Center will hold its annual flu shot fundraiser to support the Friendly Fellow Club's Christmas Basket Program on Friday, October 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the main lobby of Starr Regional Medical Center – Athens.

Flu shots are free, but donations are encouraged. All proceeds go toward purchasing food for nearly 500 baskets distributed each year to local families in need. The event, a long-standing community partnership between Starr Regional and the Friendly Fellow Club, helps promote good health while supporting neighbors during the holiday season.

Flu shots are available for anyone 18 and older. Parents are encouraged to take children to their pediatrician for vaccinations. For those unable to walk into the lobby, a nurse will be available to administer shots in vehicles upon request.

Event co-coordinator Amber Bain, LPN and CPR Coordinator at Starr Regional, said the fundraiser provides "an opportunity to protect yourself and others from the flu while giving back to the community."

For more information, contact Amber Bain at 423-744-3151.

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