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Wednesday, November 05, 2025

Page 1

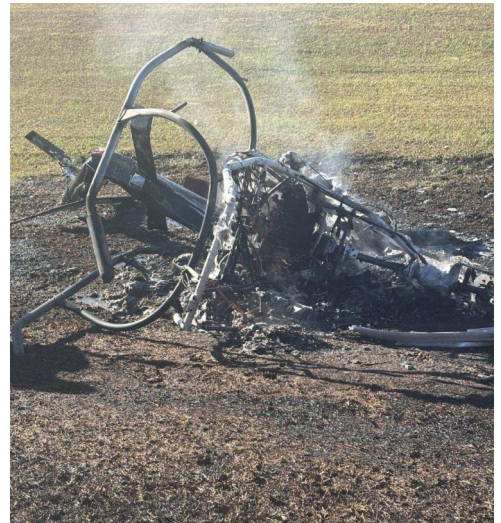
Athens, Tennessee

Helicopter Crashes and Burns at McMinn County Airport

Shortly after 3:00 pm Tuesday, McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy reported on social media that a small helicopter crashed and caught fire at the McMinn County Airport. The only person on board the helicopter was the pilot, who was injured. EMS personnel responded to the airport to treat the



pilot. No identification or patient status was released on the pilot. Dispatchers paged a mutual aid call. Units from Athens City and Rural, Etowah City and Rural, and Claxton Fire Departments arrived shortly



thereafter along with a foam trailer and the Mutual Aid Fire Chief. A grass fire was extinguished where the helicopter landed. *Source: Facebook*

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Wednesday, Nov. 05, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Athens Area Council for the Arts Opens Registration for Fall Art Classes

The Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) has announced registration for a new series of fall art classes, offering creative opportunities for all ages and experience levels. Participants are asked to register at least three days before the class begins. Classes include:

•**Loom Weaving** with Nancy Kyzer — *Saturday, Nov. 8, 1–4 p.m.* Open to all ages, this workshop introduces loom techniques to create personalized woven wall art, perfect for holiday gifts. Cost: **\$25**, materials included. Registration deadline: **Nov. 7 at 5 p.m.**

•**Watercolor Studio** with Sandy Brown — *Thursdays, Nov. 6 & 13, 4:30–6:30 p.m.* Designed for intermediate to advanced painters, this two-session course focuses on technique, composition, and critique. Cost: **\$40**, supplies not included.

Instructor information and registration links are available at: athensartscouncil.org/classes. Students may also register by phone at **423-745-8781** or in person at The Arts Center to avoid online fees.

Beginning **September 2025**, past and current AACA pottery students may sign up for **studio hours at \$20 per month**, available by phone or in-person registration during office hours.

Regional Park Softball Fields Closed for Construction



The Athens Parks and Recreation department has announced that the Athens Regional Park Softball Fields will be closed to the public for construction effective immediately. All five (5) softball fields are being renovated. The concession stand restrooms will remain open throughout the time of construction. An announcement will be made when the fields will re-open for play. For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (423) 744-2704



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

Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Wesleyan University Presents *Romeo and Juliet*

Tennessee Wesleyan University proudly presents a modern retelling of William Shakespeare's timeless tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*, running November 14–16, 2025. Performances will take place in Townsend Auditorium on the Tennessee Wesleyan campus.

- Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 16 at 2:30 p.m.

Admission is free, with donations gratefully accepted to support the TWU Fine Arts Department. This production features a talented cast drawn from the Tennessee Wesleyan community, including students, faculty, and local performers. Among the cast are Jim Schiavoni, Head of the English Department, taking on the role of Friar Lawrence, and Augustin Bocco, Dean of the Colloms College of Arts and Sciences, appearing as Prince Escalus. The inclusion of McMinn County community members makes this production a true celebration of collaboration and creativity.

In this contemporary adaptation, the feuding Capulets and Montagues are reimagined as representatives of America's two major political parties, the Republicans and the Democrats. As the curtain rises on cries of "Vote Red! Vote Blue! Capulet or Montague!" audiences are invited to reflect on division, loyalty, and love in a society split by ideology.

Through its modern lens, *Romeo and Juliet* reminds us that even in the midst of conflict, empathy and understanding remain our most vital bridges. Don't miss this thought-provoking and passionately performed reimagining of Shakespeare's most enduring tale of love and loss.



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Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 **Athens, Tennessee**

McMinn County Arrest Reports

Obituaries

11-03-25

Thomas Gunter, 44 of Tellico Plains, charged with child support, Bond \$5,000.

Joshua McCraw, 23 of Madisonville, charged with simple possession of schedule II fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$14,000.

Sandra Jackson, 57 of Etowah, charged with violation of probation for harassment, Bond \$826.

Joseph Hodge, 59 of Loudon, charged with failure to appear in Loudon County.

Randall McDonald, 57 of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license, DUI, and traffic violations, Bond \$2,000.

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

Mary Melvina Smalling Self, 91 of Athens, passed away on October 31st at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. Mary was raised in the farm life but went on to business school and became employed by several banks before working at Bowater Southern Papermill for 42 years. Mary was very involved in her community in her younger years serving as Past Matron of Athenian 159 OES in Athens and held several other offices in Tennessee's Eastern Star. She enjoyed Gospel Quartet singing and accompanied her husband, Marvin, for over 40 years as he sang in multiple Quartets and in other church choirs. Mary's hobbies included reading, painting and crafts. She was a current member of Genesis Baptist Church and a previous member of Eastanallee Baptist Church, Central Baptist Church and Farr's Chapel in Monroe County. Funeral services will be 3:00 PM Sunday, November 9, 2025 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens TN. is in charge of the arrangements.

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