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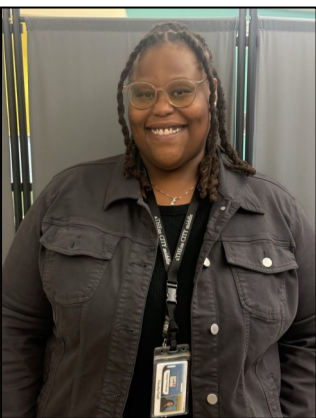
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Thursday, November 06, 2025**Page 1****Athens, Tennessee**

TDOE Launches New Novice Teacher Award; ACS Educators Honored



The Tennessee Department of Education's Educator Recognition Program has introduced a new award to honor outstanding novice teachers across the state. The recognition aims to celebrate early-career educators who demonstrate excellence in the classroom.

Winners will be recognized at the **Educators of Excellence** event in **August** in Nashville. Each district will nominate one **elementary (PreK-4)** and one **middle school (5-8)** teacher for regional consideration, with three finalists from each CORE Region, as well as from Shelby-Memphis and Metro Nashville schools, to be announced in the spring.

To qualify, nominees must be full-time certified teachers in Tennessee public or charter schools, spend most of their day in direct instruction, and have **between 10 and 30 months of classroom experience**.

Athens City Schools (ACS) has named its 2025 Novice Teachers of the Year:

- **Alyssa Miller** (pictured on left), Athens City Primary School (PreK-4)
- **Carmen Turnbough** (pictured on right), Athens City Middle School (5-8)

These educators will represent ACS in the regional selection process this spring. *Source: Julie Lofland, ACS*



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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Events

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

Paul Willson and Stan Gallery will discuss
the story of the U-505 German submarine that was captured
by the US Navy during World War II.
Thursday, Nov. 6th @ Noon
Free Admission

HOLIDAY HOUSE - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH
TICKETS \$35.00
BAKE SALE AND AUCTION PREVIEW 5:00 PM
DINNER 6:00 PM
LIVE AUCTION 7:00 PM

HERITAGE SCHOOL:

Crazy Quilting for beginners with Elizabeth Ruleman
& Irish flute by Julie Adams
Saturday, Nov. 15th @ 11:00 AM
\$5 or free with membership

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

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

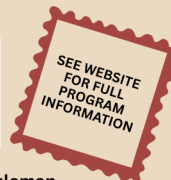
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Athens, Tennessee

ACT Announces Auditions for "Annie"



Athens Community Theatre will hold auditions for the musical *Annie* on Sunday and Monday, Nov. 9–10 at 6 p.m. at The Arts Center. The show will run Feb. 19–March 1, 2026.

Directed by Melonie Carideo with music direction by Ellen Kimball, the production seeks a large cast, including adults and children. Auditionees should prepare a solo song, wear comfortable shoes for movement, and be ready for possible readings from the script.

Callbacks are scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 11. The musical, based on the classic comic strip, includes well-known songs such as "Tomorrow."

ACT tickets typically range from \$15–\$25, with performances often selling out early.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Election Commission regular meeting will be Tuesday, November 18 at 5pm in the Conference Room of the McMinn County Courthouse and will conduct any election business to legally come before the board. The agenda will be posted on the bulletin board at the election office and on the website by Thursday, November 13. Note: Anyone wishing to speak at the Election Commission meeting on an item on the agenda may request to do so by signing in before the meeting begins and must follow the comment policy.
- The Hiwassee Holiday Train will be departing from the Delano Train Station in December. Beginning on December 6, the ride features Santa and his helpers, caroling, refreshments and many other surprises. Tickets start at \$25. Get them online at www.tvrail.com or call them at 423-894-8028.
- The McMinn Senior Activity Center will host a Vintage Clothing Exhibition and Fashion Show on Saturday, November 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. at 205 McMinn Avenue in Athens, TN. The evening will feature a silent auction with items including a vintage Pyrex set, hand-made quilts, and more unique treasures. Admission is \$10 per person, and the event is presented by Alex Farmer.

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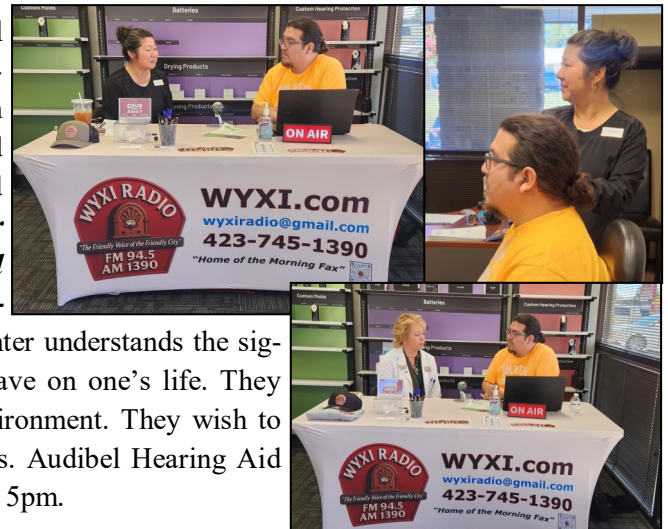
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Athens, Tennessee

Audibel brings the noise for WYXI Live Broadcast

On Wednesday, WYXI Radio broadcast from inside Audibel Hearing Aid Center at 586 S. Congress Pkwy. Ste #300 in Athens. WYXI Radio's J.P. Vasquez spoke to Nataly Bohannon (pictured in both top pictures) and Nannette Wortham (pictured at bottom) about the benefits of hearing health and even received a complementary hearing consultation. ***Readers can receive their own complementary hearing consultation by visiting Audibel or calling their office to schedule an appointment at 423-719-3802 and mentioning The Morning Fax.*** Audibel Hearing Center understands the significant emotional and physical impact that hearing loss can have on one's life. They strive to provide individualized care in a warm and caring environment. They wish to assist each patient in finding solutions to their hearing concerns. Audibel Hearing Aid Center is open Monday - Thursday 8am - 6pm and Fridays 8am - 5pm.



TWILIGHT TALES IN CEDAR GROVE GUIDED CEMETERY TOUR

Saturday, November 15th
4:00-6:00 PM

Step back in time as we explore the stories, legends, and lives of those laid to rest in historic Cedar Grove Cemetery. Join us for an evening of local history, mystery, and memory.

Please meet in the parking lot of the McMinn County Schools Central Office (beside Food City)

A shuttle will transport all guests to and from the cemetery for your guided tour.

Bring a jacket, comfortable walking shoes, and your curiosity!

"Twilight Tales In Cedar Grove" is hosted by the McMinn County Historical Society and Archives



Tickets - \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under

Call, email, or visit our office to reserve tickets

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mcminncohistory@gmail.com

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Athens, TN 37303

Note: this event includes walking over rough, hilly, and uneven terrain. If you wish to take the tour in daylight, please arrive between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM. The last tour leaves at 5:30 PM. The rain date is November 22. We will not postpone for a light rain or drizzle.



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McMinn County Arrest Reports

11-04-25

John Anderson, 37 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for violation of the sex offender registry.

Brandon Adams, 39 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of fentanyl, Bond \$1,184.45.

Pamela Liner, 33 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$4,000.

Jacob Condra, 18 of Englewood, charged with possession of a prohibited handgun under the age of 21, prohibited purchase of tobacco by minors, and possession of counterfeit money, Bond \$5,000.

Blaise Brighton, 25 of Cleveland, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property over \$1,000.

Robert Greggon, 36 of Athens charged with domestic assault, and open container law, Bond \$1,000.

Larry Nichols, 57 of Cleveland, charged with violation of probation for domestic assault, Bond \$2,000.

Catherine Sharp, 62 of Riceville, charged with traffic violations, running a stop sign, and driving on a suspended license.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered using Public Sources.

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Thursday, Nov. 06, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Neil Patrick "Mackey" McCollum, known to many as Pat, 81 of Athens, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, November 1 at his home. Pat proudly served his country as a U.S. Navy submariner during the Vietnam War. Per his request, no services will be held at this time. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Alex "Papa" Bobich, 75 of Niota, passed away on Monday, November 3. Al was loved by everyone and was "Papa" to many. He was a hard worker, successful business owner and loved his family unconditionally. He will be missed beyond measure. There are no arrangements to follow at this time. The family will hold a private ceremony at a later date. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Ida Mae Kennedy, 102 of McDonald, passed away on Tuesday, November 4 at her residence. She was a member of Clearwater Church. She enjoyed making quilts. Funeral services will be 2:00 PM Saturday, November 8, 2025 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The family will receive friends and family from 12-2PM prior to the service. The graveside service will be at Clearwater Cemetery immediately following the funeral service. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Bobby LaFayette Caldwell, 83 of Georgetown, passed away on Wednesday, November 5. He was an avid outdoorsman, finding pleasure in coon hunting and trout fishing. He was a devoted member of the Good Hope Baptist Church. A Funeral Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 10 at Good Hope Baptist Church. Interment will follow in the Standfield Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12 - 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Caldwell Family.

Jearldean Morrow Whittenburg, 76 of Decatur, passed away on Wednesday, November 5. She was a devoted member of the Union Grove Baptist Church. Her love for cooking, particularly preparing Sunday dinners for her family, made every gathering a cherished occasion. A Graveside Service will be held on Friday, November 7, 2025 at 11 a.m. in the Clear Springs Cemetery. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Whittenburg Family.



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