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**Tuesday Morning Weather Update:
Mountain Snowstorm Continues Across Southern Appalachians**



A powerful early-season snowstorm continues across the Southern Appalachians this Tuesday morning, with steady snow falling above 3,000 feet and light accumulations reported on the Cumberland Plateau.

Winter Weather Advisories have been expanded around the Plateau and into northeast Tennessee, while a Winter Storm Warning remains in effect for the Great Smoky Mountains. Wind gusts up to 40 mph are accompanying the snow, leading to low visibility for TVA crews and other employees during shift changes. Spotty to scattered power outages are possible for local power companies, though major TVA transmission impacts are not expected. Snow will continue through the day and into the evening, with periods of heavy and blowing snow in the higher elevations. Some areas may see a brief lull around midday before snow showers redevelop this afternoon.

- **5,000 feet and higher:** 10–15 inches of snow expected
- **Above 3,000 feet:** 4–8 inches likely
- **1,500–3,000 feet:** 1–4 inches possible in East Tennessee and southwest Virginia foothills
- **Cumberland Plateau:** 1–2 inches expected
- **Lower elevations (including Knoxville):** light dusting possible

Temperatures remain well below normal. Highs today will only reach the **upper 30s**, about **25 degrees colder than average**, with widespread **sub-freezing temperatures** tonight. Lows will drop into the **mid-20s**, and wind chills will dip into the **teens**, creating dangerous conditions for outdoor workers. A **hard freeze and widespread frost** are expected overnight into early Wednesday morning.

Residents are urged to stay alert for changing conditions and check **local radio and NOAA Weather Radio** for the latest forecasts and advisories. *Source: National Weather Service*

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Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Officials break ground on new Health Dept.



Construction is officially underway on the new McMinn County Health Department, which will be located at 301 Elizabeth Street in Athens. The state-of-the-art facility is expected to take shape over the coming months and will enhance access to quality health services for residents across the county. Local officials say the new building will provide improved space, updated technology, and expanded resources to better serve the community's needs. The project marks a major step forward in strengthening public health infrastructure in McMinn County.

Source: McMinn County Mayor's Office

Community News You Can Use

- McMinn County Senior Activity Center will be hosting a Christmas Bazaar and crafts fair featuring many unique vendors Saturday, November 15th from 9 a.m. To 5 p.m. There will be photo opportunities with Santa.

- On Nov. 2nd, the McMinn Co. Historical Society elected its officers for the 2025 - 2027 term. Pictured here left to right: Tyler L. Boyd, President; Marc Brown, Vice President; Esther Nunley, Treasurer; Steve Sherlin, Corresponding Secretary; Jason Wright, Recording Secretary. Jordan Carter and Donald Hoppel also received Certificates of Appreciation from the McMinn County Historical Society President Tyler L. Boyd for their service on the MCHSA Executive Board from 2023-2025.



(See Photo above)

Recording Secretary. Jordan Carter and Donald Hoppel also received Certificates of Appreciation from the McMinn County Historical Society President Tyler L. Boyd for their service on the MCHSA Executive Board from 2023-2025.

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HAPPY VETERANS DAY!



Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Living Heritage Museum Awarded Grant to Digitize Historical Archives



The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum has received a \$6,660 Tennessee America 250 Project Support Grant from the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, administered by the Tennessee State Museum.

The funding will allow the museum to digitize and catalog more than 2,000 historical documents and images, making them freely available online for research, education, and public access. The grant will also fund the purchase of an overhead projector and 100-inch screen to help classrooms and community groups engage with the digital archives in an interactive, educational setting.

“This grant preserves McMinn County’s role in America’s democratic story and makes it accessible to all,” said Museum Director Brett King. “It advances our mission to safeguard and share our heritage for generations.”

The Tennessee America 250 Project Support Grant is part of a statewide initiative celebrating the nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026. From the \$6.435 million allocated to the Tennessee State Museum, the first round of the competitive program drew 220 applications totaling nearly \$4 million. Eighty grants were awarded across 37 counties, totaling \$1.57 million.

“I’m inspired by statewide excitement for the nation’s 250th anniversary,” said Ashley Howell, Tennessee State Museum Executive Director and Commission Chair. “These projects will spark engagement through exhibitions, programs, and preservation in 2026.”

First-round projects must be completed by April 30, 2027. A full list of recipients is available at www.tn250.com.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR HOLIDAY-THEMED VENDORS FOR THIS YEAR'S OLD FASHIONED DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS!

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REMINDER: OLD FASHIONED DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS HAS BEEN MOVED TO SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH.

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

11-09-2025

Kenny Stevens, 43 of Riceville, charged with vandalism, Bond \$1,000.

John Anderson, 37 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for violation of the sex offender registry. Bond \$10,000.

Ricky Rollins, 36 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for schedule II, and contempt of court.

Brian Armstrong, 48 of Etowah, charged schedule II meth.

Justin Lotto, 32 of Athens, charged with driving on a suspended license, Drug paraphernalia, and child support, Bond \$5,000.

Christopher Cook, 49 of Athens, charged with shoplifting, schedule 6, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$2,000.

Candice Baker, 33 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for schedule II meth, Bond \$24,000.

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

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Robert "BT" Thomas, age 80, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 8. He spent over three decades building a successful career at Owens Brockway Glass, where his work ethic and commitment earned the respect of colleagues and friends alike. A proud veteran, Robert served honorably in the United States Navy, carrying that sense of duty throughout his life. Robert was a member of Allen Memorial Church and the Masonic Grand Lodge of Michigan, finding fellowship and purpose in both communities. Family and friends are invited to gather in remembrance on Thursday, November 13. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Good Samaritan Funeral Home, followed by a funeral service at 1:00 PM. A graveside service will take place at McMinn Memory Gardens at 2:00 PM. Robert's legacy lives on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. He will be deeply missed. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Carol Wells Mitchell, age 85, a resident of McMinn County for 33 years, and formerly of Orlando, FL, passed away on Saturday, November 8. She attended Englewood First Church of God. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Wednesday, November 12, from 12:00 PM-1:30 PM. Graveside services will follow at 2:00 PM at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Carol Wells Mitchell.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

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