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Optimist Club of Athens Honors Outstanding Students at Annual Youth Appreciation Breakfast



The Optimist Club of Athens celebrated excellence in local youth during its annual Youth Appreciation Breakfast, recognizing students from elementary, middle and high schools across the Athens area. The event brought together honorees and their families, along with teachers, administrators and community leaders, to highlight the achievements of some of the region's most exceptional young people.



Each year, one male and one female student from every school within the club's service area are selected by their faculty based on outstanding performance in arts, athletics, academics and community service. These students are then honored publicly at the breakfast ceremony.

During the ceremony, students were applauded not only for their accomplishments but also for the positive impact they have made on their schools and communities. Family members, teachers and administrators filled the room, offering support and celebrating the students' hard work and dedication.



The Optimist Club of Athens hosts the Youth Appreciation Breakfast each year as part of its mission to encourage and uplift young people, helping them build confidence and recognize their potential.

Photos (Top to Bottom): Elementary School Students, Middle School Students, High School Students; Source: Joe Allen, Optimist Club of Athens



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Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Small Ditch Fire Quickly Extinguished on County Road 850



Etowah Rural Fire Department responded to a reported fire on County Road 850 in Etowah around 3:30 p.m. Saturday. Firefighters arrived to find leaves burning unattended in a roadside ditch. The small fire was quickly put out.

Officials remind residents that a burn permit is required through May 15, 2026.

Photo by: Etowah Rural FD

Brittany Derrick Named ACS Supervisor of the Year



Athens City Schools has recognized Ms. Brittany Derrick, Supervisor of the Kids Connection Extended Learning Program, as the district's ACS Supervisor of the Year.

The district expressed appreciation for Ms. Derrick's leadership and continued dedication to the Kids Connection program and the students it serves.

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Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Dr. Kristine Walden Named ACS Principal of the Year



Athens City Schools has announced that Dr. Kristine Walden, principal of Athens City Primary School, has been named the ACS Principal of the Year.

Dr. Walden will now represent Athens City Schools in the Southeast CORE Region Principal of the Year competition for the State of Tennessee. District officials extended their congratulations and wished her continued success as she advances to the regional level.

McMinn County Arrest Reports

Shane Fritz, 41 of Englewood, charged with failure to appear for driving on a revoked license, simple possession of Schedule II fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$27,000.

Tristan Spuel, 25 of Etowah, charged with domestic assault. Bond \$1,000.

Melissa Davis, 42 of Athens, charged with being a Felon in possession of a firearm.

Johnny Mason, 45 of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Robert Davis, 57 of Athens, charged with being a felon in possession of firearms.

Jonathan Slager, 40 of Athens, charged with aggravated criminal trespassing. Bond \$1,000.

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



Wishing you a
Thanksgiving filled
with gratitude and the
warmth of community

From Cheryl Ingram,
McMinn County
Register of Deeds.



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Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Brenda Charlene Ward King, 63 of Athens, passed away on Saturday, November 22. She dedicated much of her life as a Certified Nursing Assistant in the healthcare industry. She was a cherished member of Bethsadia Baptist Church. A Funeral Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 25 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., prior to the service. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26 in the Spring Creek Church of Christ Cemetery in Riceville. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the King family.

Charles Richard "Ricky" Floyd, 82 of Etowah, passed away, on Sunday, November 23. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 29 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Saturday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service at Mt. Harmony Baptist Church Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Barbara Jean Stephens Wilson, 89 of Athens, passed away on Sunday, November 23 at UT Hospital Comfort Care Unit. She was a member of Wildwood Baptist Church and a former employee of Harris Jewelers in Athens. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Tuesday, November 25, from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM with a funeral service to follow at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, November 26, at 11:00 AM at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Barbara Jean Stephens Wilson.

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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