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Tuesday, December 02, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Record Crowd Turns Out for 9th Annual Turkey Trot 5K

A record-breaking crowd of 267 runners—and several canine companions—**hit the streets Thanksgiving morning for the **9th annual Turkey Trot 5K** at Keith Memorial United Methodist Church. Clear skies and a holiday spirit helped fuel a strong field, with **Mia Sewell** posting the fastest women's time at **20:52** and **Clint Fincher** leading the men at **16:45**.

Age-group winners included:

- **13 and under:** Owen Burce and Mimi Coffie
- **14–19:** Brady Carroll and Mia Sewell
- **20–29:** Clint Fincher and Joelle Bixby
- **30–39:** Ty Thomassian and Courtney Williams
- **40–49:** Jarrett Brown and a tie between Jackie Newman and Amy Sewell
- **50–59:** Charles Mayfield and Kelly Petrosini



Athens Vice Mayor **Jordan Curtis** added to the festivities, cheering on participants in full turkey attire as the event's official mascot. Proceeds from the race help support the church's long-running **free community Thanksgiving meal**, which served **well over 500 people** this year.

Event sponsors included Food City, Pie Hound Pizza Company, Mayfield Farm Park, Southeast Bank, Sullins Eye Care, Rymer Chiropractic, Edward Jones/Murray Willis, Mitchell Bryant Attorney, Greeks Bearing Gifts, Chris Trew Attorney, Simmons Bank, Warren-Jackson CPA, Wagg-n-Purr, Result Fitness, Allyson Kirkland Crye-Leike, White Street Market, Heil Trailer, Simply Skin/Casey Parsons, Comprehensive Wellness/Dr. Walt Rucker, Southern Walker Landscape Design, Mayfield Dairy, and Be Proud of Where You Are From/Renee Nicolo. *Photos by Dr. Trey Sullins (More photos on Page 4)*

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Tuesday, Dec. 02, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Updated Street Closures

Due to the forecast of inclement weather, the Jimmy Liner Memorial Christmas Parade was postponed to Monday, December 8 beginning at 6:30 pm. The City of Athens has announced the updated street closures.

Keith Lane – Crestway Drive to Madison Avenue
 Madison Avenue – Keith Lane to Jackson Street
 Jackson Street – Madison Avenue to Cook Drive
 White Street – Coach Farmer Dr. to Madison Ave.
 Washington Avenue – Jackson Street to Keith Lane

These areas will be closed on Monday, December 8, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Additionally, all streets adjacent to the parade route will be blocked during the parade.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

REMINDER: The lighting of the Christmas Tree is this evening at 5:30 on the TWU campus followed by hot chocolate, Scripture reading and letters from Santa. Then at 7 pm the 22nd annual lessons and carols will be held at Allen Memorial UMC.

Vehicle Slides Off Highway 307 No Injuries Reported



A driver escaped injury Sunday afternoon after losing control of a 2006 Chevy Malibu on Highway 307 near Sweetwater. The crash occurred shortly before 12:30 p.m., sending the vehicle off the roadway.

Notia Rural Fire Department and Englewood Rural Fire Department responded to the scene, along with THP Trooper Jalen Skipper, who investigated the incident.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

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Celebrate the Season of
Christ's Coming!

Advent Midweek Services at 7pm
December 3rd, 10th, and 17th
Pot Luck Meal at 6pm before service.

Tuesday, Dec. 02, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

11-30-25

Artisha Hamilton, 44 of Madisonville, charged with violation of probation for DUI. Bond \$2,185.

Damien King, 18 of Englewood, charged with violation of probation for contributing to the delinquency of a minor, Bond \$1,298.40.

Logan Hall, 23 of Dayton, charged with driving on a revoked license for DUI. Bond \$4,000.

Richard Perry, 45 of Sweetwater, charged with receiving or concealing of stolen property, driving on a revoked license, failure to have insurance, Use of a stolen or lost vehicle license plate. Bond \$3,000.

Jeffrey Elsa, 55 of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license, felony evading arrest, and resisting stop order.

Stacy Marnie, 41 of Decatur, charged with violation of probation for assault. Bond \$1,033.95.

James Mowery, 30 of Georgetown, charged with violation of probation for shoplifting. Bond \$1,239.71.

Robert Miller, 51 of Dayton, charged with state violation of probation for evading arrest.

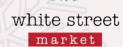
Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered using public sources.

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:

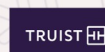
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NOVEMBER 29TH - DECEMBER 6TH



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More Photos from the Turkey Trot 5K





 McMinn Co. Historical Society & Archives

Christmas Gathering

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 Please bring finger foods.
 Pizza, Drinks, & Dessert will be provided.
 This will be our Dec Mtg

Sun DEC | 7th | 2 P.M.

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Tuesday, Dec. 02, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Hoyt Austin Watson, 86 of Etowah, passed away on Saturday, November 29. Hoyt was a member of Goodsprings Baptist Church. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 3 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home, Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and go in procession to Goodsprings Cemetery for the 11:00 a.m. burial. Bordwine Funeral Home and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

Fletcher Lee Letner, 78 of Ten Mile, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 28. He attended Concord Methodist Church. At Fletcher's request, there will be no formal services held. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Letner family.

Wanda Gallaher Wilkerson, 75 of Athens, passed away on Friday, November 28. A private family memorial service will be held on Wednesday, December 3, at 12:00 pm, at M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home in Athens, at 502 Congress Parkway North, Athens. M.D. Dotson & Sons in charge of arrangements.

Freddy Lee Hester, 74 of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, November 30. He was a member of Victory Baptist Church. Visitation will be held at Victory Baptist Church on Wednesday, December 3 from 5:00-7:00 PM. A funeral service will follow at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held on Thursday, December 4 at 11:00 AM at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Freddy Lee Hester.

Wanda Boles, 78, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 30. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Wednesday, December 3, from 12:00-1:00 PM. Graveside services will follow at 1:30 PM at Clearwater Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Wanda Boles.

Jane R. Joines, passed away on Thursday, November 27. Per Jane's request, there will be a private burial with no formal services. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the Joines family with these arrangements.

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