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Tuesday, January 06, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Grandparent Club to Hold Inaugural Meeting TOMORROW



A new community group designed to support and connect grandparents will officially launch this week with the first meeting of the McMinn County Grandparent Club.

The inaugural meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the McMinn County Higher Education Center, located at 2345 Denso Drive in Athens. The event marks the beginning of a monthly gathering aimed at celebrating the role grandparents play in families and the community.

Those attending the first meeting will learn about the vision and purpose of the Grandparent Club, enjoy a brief program beginning at 1 p.m., share refreshments, and spend time connecting with fellow grandparents in a relaxed, social setting.

The Grandparent Club will meet monthly on the first Wednesday at 1 p.m., with all meetings held at the McMinn County Higher Education Center. Organizers emphasize the group is open to all grandparents, even those unable to attend the January meeting.

The program is coordinated by Sarah Kite, Extension Agent III in Family and Consumer Sciences with UT Extension-McMinn. For more information, contact Kite at 423-745-2852 or skite@utk.edu.

Community members are encouraged to attend and take part in the beginning of a new initiative focused on connection, encouragement, and leaving a positive legacy.

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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State MASA Donate Hats to Tennessee Oncology Patients



The Medical Assisting Student Association (MASA) at Cleveland State Community College collected new hats for patients at the Tennessee

Oncology office in Cleveland. Students and the instructor delivered the donated hats in December.

Pictured left to right: Brianne Payne, TN Oncology Patient Service Team Lead / Scheduling Coordinator; Dee Graham, TN Oncology Assistant Operations Manager; Denisse Ledesma, TN Oncology clinical staff; Timyrah Phillips, TN Oncology clinical staff; Kayla Turner, Medical Assisting student; Autumn Peak, Medical Assisting student; Karmon Kingsley, CSCC Medical Assisting Program Director; Gail Evans, Medical Assisting student; Kristie Smith, Medical Assisting student; and Barbara Mullins, TN Oncology Operations Manager.

McMinn County Arrest Reports

January 4, 2026

Abigail Brock, 26 of Etowah, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000.

Shannon Rozier, 51 of Tellico Plains, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license.

Zachary Fincham, 25 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

Steve Borden, 51 of Athens, charged with theft of property, Bond \$3,000.

Libney Roblero Ortiz, 36 of Athens, charged with DUI, and driving without a license, Bond \$2,000.

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

Information gathered using public sources.

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Athens, Tennessee

AACA Welcomes Singer-Songwriters for Curated Show



Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) is pleased to welcome Kyshona Armstrong, Damien Horne, and Joy Clark on Friday, February 6 at 7:00 PM at The Arts Center's Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater.

Kyshona Armstrong returns to close the 2025-26 Black Box Concert Series with Songwriter's Night with Kyshona. This show is an intimate evening with singer-songwriters sharing original music, curated by Kyshona Armstrong. Kyshona is an artist ignited by untold stories, and the capacity of those stories to thread connections in every community. With the background of a licensed music therapist, the curiosity of a writer, the patience of a friend, the vision of a social entrepreneur, the resolve of an activist, and the voice of a singer - Kyshona is unrelenting in her pursuit for the healing power of song. She lends her voice and music to those that feel they have been lost, silenced, forgotten or alone. Joining Kyshona are singer-songwriters Damien Horne and Joy Clark.

Louisiana born-and-raised singer-songwriter and guitarist Joy Clark is charting her own path with her debut album *Tell it to the Wind*. As the youngest of five children born into a tight-knit, deeply religious family just outside of New Orleans, her release is both a declaration of her independence and a love letter to the traditions that shaped her.

Damien Horne began performing at a young age growing up in Hickory, North Carolina. After high school graduation, Damien took a Greyhound bus to Los Angeles chasing his entertainment dreams.

After becoming homeless, Damien returned to North Carolina where he formed the band Stellar Tree and made the move to Nashville. Performing on the streets at night led Damien to be discovered by country star John Rich who invited him to join the MuzikMafia through which Damien was able to secure a publishing deal and tour nationally with such artists as Dwight Yoakum, Kid Rock, and John Legend.

All Black Box Concert Series performances are in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Tickets are on sale now. Tickets for this series range from \$20 to \$25. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets early. *Source: Lauren Brown*

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens Selling Decatur Pike Property, Looking for Sealed Proposals



The Athens City Council has authorized the sale of a city-owned ranch style house on 1.08 acres of land located at 2201 Decatur Pike in Athens. A [bid package](#) with parcel information, house size and age, floor plan, zoning information, 2025 appraisal, and photos is available at www.athenstn.gov via the Bids icon located under Popular Links on the Athens Tennessee homepage.

The deadline to submit a proposal is Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Purchasing Office at 423-744-2780.

Obituaries

Evelyn Doris Goines, 71 of Decatur, passed away on Saturday, January 3. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Meigs County Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 4 - 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6 and from 1 - 2 p.m., prior to the service on Wednesday, January 7. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Goines family.

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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