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# The Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

Today's News. This Morning.

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Everyone is Invited!

## McMinn County Historical Society Monthly Meeting

Sunday at 2:00 pm  
in Blueroom of  
Courthouse



Friday, February 27, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

### The Food Hub, Gentry Homestead Partner for Hands-On Pasta-Making Class



A new collaboration is bringing farm-to-table cooking education to Athens this spring.

The Food Hub has announced a partnership with Gentry Homestead to host a pair of hands-on kitchen classes focused on traditional pasta-making and community connection.

The Gentry Homestead Kitchen Class will be offered March 21 and April 4 at 6 p.m. at The Food Hub in Athens. Each session is limited to 12 participants.

The class will be led by Hunter Gentry of Gentry Homestead, who will guide attendees through kitchen safety and sanitation basics before teaching them how to make classic egg pasta from scratch. Participants will hand-roll their own pasta to take home and prepare a traditional carbonara dish using ingredients that reflect the farm's farm-to-table philosophy. The evening will conclude with a shared sit-down meal. Lemonade, sweet tea and water will be provided.

*"This is more than a cooking class — it's a chance for our community to slow down, learn something real, and share a meal together. That's exactly the kind of event Athens deserves,"* organizers with The Food Hub said.

**Tickets are \$65 per person and are available through The Food Hub's website [HERE](#). With only 12 seats per class, organizers expect spots to fill quickly.**

The Food Hub is a community-based food space dedicated to supporting local food culture, education and entrepreneurship in Athens. Gentry Homestead, based in McDonald, provides sustainably raised meats, produce and other farm goods, along with workshops and events aimed at connecting people more closely to where their food comes from.

Source: Maggie Blaine, Main Street Athens

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Friday, Feb. 27, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## “Arts on the Side” Heads to St. Paul’s for March Performance

The Athens Area Council for the Arts will host its monthly Arts on the Side program Tuesday, March 24, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 123 S. Jackson St., Athens.

The event will begin with a community meal catered by Aramark at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, followed by the 6:30 p.m. premiere performance of “The Great Space” in the sanctuary.

The program is part of a tour debuting a new work for string quartet by Nashville composer Ben Jones, featuring choreography by Becca Hoback. The Tennessee Arts Commission-funded project explores physical space through music and movement and includes tour stops in Nashville and Knoxville, along with a limited vinyl release.

AACA Executive Director Lauren Brown said Athens is proud to be included on the premiere tour. Organizers note the event has no religious affiliation, with the church selected as part of the project’s focus on nontraditional performance spaces. The gathering remains open to all and continues the series’ tradition of combining shared meals with live arts experiences.

*Source: Lauren Brown, Exec. Dir., Athens Arts Council*

## Church News & Events

- Gospel group, **Dumplin Valley**, is scheduled to perform at New Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, 385 County Road 326, in Sweetwater on Sunday, March 1 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Mighty Men of Praise** will host a free song release concert on Saturday, February 28 at Athens City Middle School, located at 200 Keith Lane, Athens. Auditorium doors will open at 5 p.m., and the program will begin at 6 p.m. The evening will feature performances by Nash Ministries, Soul Lifters and special guest *Shaddaj*. Jasmine Porter-McDermott from the Burke’s Gospel Jubilee radio show, which airs on Sunday at 9 a.m. on WYXI 94.5 FM & 1390 AM will EmCee the festivities. The event is free and open to the public.

*More Church News & Events located on Page 3*



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— Sandra A.

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# UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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THIS WEEK  
NEXT WEEK  
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Feb. 27, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Church News & Events

- The next Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church, will be held Thursday, March 5, at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Cafe in downtown Athens. This ecumenical gathering is open to all men of the Christian faith, regardless of church affiliation, as well as those seeking to establish a relationship with Jesus. For more information, contact Marcus Guinn at 423-507-7769 or email: [marcusguinn@gmail.com](mailto:marcusguinn@gmail.com)
- Athens Lutheran Church, located at 710 Forrest Ave., invites the community to attend Lenten Worship services on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. through April 1. A potluck fellowship meal will be held each week at 6 p.m. prior to the service. The congregation welcomes all who wish to observe the Lenten season of repentance and reflection. More information is available at [athenslutheranchurch.org](http://athenslutheranchurch.org).
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? Clearwater Baptist Church (964 County Road 180, Athens) is starting a new session of GriefShare helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. There is an ongoing (in 13wk rotations) grief support group that you can join at any time and is open to the community. For more info or sign up visit: [clearwaterbc.org/grief-share](http://clearwaterbc.org/grief-share)
- [Celebrate Recovery](#) meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur and Thursdays at **6:30pm** at [Spirit City Church North Etowah](#).
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*



### 15th Annual Power of the Purse

March 26, 2026

The Barn at Faith Farms

6-8 PM-Doors will open at 5:30

- Individual Tickets: \$40each  
Sponsored Tables of 8: Starting at \$350  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual Power of the Purse T-shirts (pre-order): \$20  
Join us for:
- Silent Auction featuring designer purses
  - Dinner, BINGO & SINGO
  - "Who Are You" and "What's In Your Purse?" games
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  - Punch Bowl Drawing - Cash Only
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ATTN: PERSONNEL TEAM.

Friday, Feb. 27, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Emerging Community Innovation Pitch Finalists

The George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Cleveland State Community College will host an Emerging Innovators Competition on March 3, 2026. The event is open to the public and sponsored by the George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the Cleveland Bradley Business Incubator and the Small Business Development Center.

Five students will compete in the fifth annual Emerging Student Innovators Pitch Competition at 12 p.m. First and second place winners will be awarded \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively, and the third-place winner will be awarded \$500.

Seven new businesses will compete in the fourth annual Emerging Community Innovators Pitch Competition at 5 p.m. First place will receive \$7,500; second place will receive \$4,000, and third place will receive \$1,500.

### Pitch Finalists are:

- **Access to Success Learning Company** - Owner Monica Crandell Stone
- **Blended and Branded** - Owners Adrienna Varlack, Tess Varlack, Noelle Allgood, and Glynis Allgood
- **Math IQ** - Owner Jeremy Higdon
- **Roam Wild LLC** - Owner Nichole Vild
- **Rocky Pops, LLC** - Owners Dee Lancaster and Tammy Lowry
- **Take Root Studio** - Owners Bryson Killian and Canaan Bowling
- **Trailhead Counseling and Consulting PLLC** - Owner Kristi Rice

Judges for the Emerging Community Innovator Pitch Competition are Dr. Corey Campbell, Cleveland State Vice President for Policy and Strategy, Jim Fairweather, owner of Fairweather Financial in Monroe County, and Margaret Schenck, founder of United Knitting in Cleveland and an advisory board member of the George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Sandra Godsey, Cleveland State Dean of Business and Health Professions, said, "We are excited to provide this opportunity to the community, as well as the faculty, staff and students of Cleveland State. We want to be a resource for the small businesses of our five-county service area which is the goal of the George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation."

The pitch competitions are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [mycs.cc/entr](http://mycs.cc/entr), call (423) 478-6224 or email: [entrepreneurship@clevelandstatecc.edu](mailto:entrepreneurship@clevelandstatecc.edu).

Source: Andrea Byerly, Cleavelanf State Community College

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for **MCMINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**



Friday, Feb. 27, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

### February 25, 2026

**Christopher Teague**, 56 of Athens, charged with child support.

**Christopher Pitman**, 40 of Athens, charged with manufacturing, sell, delivery or possession of a controlled substance.

**Jeffery Weeks**, 62 of Decatur, charged with domestic aggravated assault in Meigs County, felony tampering with evidence, simple possession casual exchange of meth, drug paraphernalia, and driving on a suspended license.

**John Pike**, 32 of Englewood, charged with unlawful carry and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, Bond \$75,000.

**Tharron White**, 36 of Sweetwater, charged with violation of probation for possession of marijuana, and child support, Bond \$7,191.90.

**Miguel Andres**, 38 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1000.

**Lathan Graham**, 18 of Kingston, charged with vandalism, burglary of a motor vehicle, domestic assault, and assault, Bond \$26,000.

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

## Tellico Plains Man Arrested Following Drug Raid



A Tellico Plains man was arrested Feb. 18 after authorities executed a search warrant at a residence on Graham Loop.

Investigators with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, working alongside the Tenth Judicial District Drug Task Force and the sheriff's Tactical and Narcotics Team, carried out the search following what officials described as an extensive investigation.

The probe began after numerous tips were submitted through Crime Stoppers and the sheriff's office anonymous tip line. Complaints included heavy vehicle traffic, blocked roadways, disturbances, suspected marijuana laced with fentanyl and reported hand-to-hand drug transactions at the property. During the search, officers recovered approximately six pounds of marijuana, THC products including wax, hundreds of opioid painkillers, drug paraphernalia, multiple firearms and cash.

**Randy Harrison**, who lives at the residence, was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Monroe County Jail on multiple felony drug and weapons charges. Officials said the investigation remains ongoing and credited citizens who provided information that led to the search warrant. *Source: [Monroe County Sheriff, Tommy Jones](#)*

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### Athens Police Issue Scam Alert Over Fraudulent Calls

The Athens Police Department is warning residents about scam phone calls from individuals falsely claiming to be police officers.

According to a media release issued Feb. 24, callers are attempting to frighten residents into sending money or sharing personal information. In some cases, the caller claims the person has missed jury duty, has an active warrant or is facing criminal charges. The scammers then demand immediate payment to avoid arrest.

Police emphasized that the calls are fraudulent. The department will never call or text to demand payment, request specific forms of payment or threaten arrest over the phone.

Anyone who receives such a call is urged to hang up immediately, avoid sharing personal or financial information and report the incident to law enforcement.

For questions or to report a scam, residents may contact Lt. Blake Witt with the Athens Police Department at 423-744-2730.

Source: [City of Athens TN Police Department - Facebook](#)

### Obituaries

**Shannon Brewer**, 53, passed away on Monday, February 23. Shannon lived her life with a profound strength rooted in her faith and a passion for her family. As a stay-at-home mom, Shannon dedicated herself entirely to her role as a mother, cherishing every moment with her daughter, Mikenzie. She found immense joy in family reunions, where her warm spirit and love were felt by all who gathered. Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 28 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Saturday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in Cambria Baptist Church Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral, Owner/Licensed Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

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