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# The Morning Fax®

## Today's News. This Morning.

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If it's not listed,  
call us!

Friday, October 03, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Etowah Fall Festival This Weekend!

Etowah's long running traditional fall festival is taking place this weekend. The festival is growing and expanding. This will be a wonderful experience of the harvest season with your family on the historic L&N Depot lawn. As usual, there will be many vendors, incredible food, games, and wonderful live entertainment! This Saturday and Sunday, October 4th-5th, from 9:00a.m. - 7:00p.m. at 727 Tennessee Avenue, The L&N Depot Lawn and grounds.

(See their Ad on Page 5)

## Grants for McMinn, Meigs & Polk Counties

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter announced that 34 communities statewide will receive funding from the latest round of ThreeStar grants. In total, TNECD is awarding \$9.6 million in funding to Tennessee communities to support local workforce training, health and economic development initiatives. The ThreeStar Program is a strategic community development program developed to assist communities in preparing for a better future. Updated in 2025, the program now incorporates asset-based planning and a two-year timeline to accomplish long- and short-term goals. The program helps communities develop goals to maximize their local assets and drive economic development. In our area the McMinn County Economic Development Agency will receive \$20,000, Meigs County will receive \$238,000 and Polk County will receive \$249,860.



## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

### Upcoming October Events

#### History For Lunch

Thursday, Oct. 2nd @ Noon  
The history of WYXI Radio & The Morning Fax  
with Mark Lefler

#### Heritage School

Sourdough Cinnamon Rolls  
Saturday, Oct. 4th @ 10:30 AM  
Shelley Morgan from Mountain Medicine Farm will teach a class on making sourdough cinnamon rolls! \$10 or \$5 for members.



#### ANNUAL QUILT SHOW

SEPT. 30 - OCT. 29  
SPONSORED BY DENSO  
HOSTED BY HERITAGE QUILT GUILD



WE ARE OPEN UNTIL 5:00 PM FOR PUMPKINTOWN.  
COME VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE QUILT!

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

#### Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM  
Sunday - Monday: Closed

#### Admission:

Adults: \$5.00  
Senior 60+: \$3.00  
Students: \$3.00

### More Information

522 W Madison Ave.

Athens, TN 37303

423-745-0329

[www.livingheritagemuseum.org](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.org)

SEE WEBSITE  
FOR FULL  
PROGRAM  
INFORMATION

## Welcome To The Team

### SARA SPIVA

Introducing Sara Spiva, our new  
Madisonville Main Office Branch manager!

We're thrilled to have her on board and  
can't wait to see the expertise she brings  
to our team.

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OF EAST TENNESSEE



## TN WESLEYAN SUNDAY LUNCH IS BACK



Start your Sunday off right with our delicious and decadent Sunday Lunch on the TN Wesleyan Campus! Join us for a wide variety of lunch classics and new favorites to satisfy your cravings. Served all you care to eat style!

**Date:** Every Sunday

*"When school is in session."*

**Time:** 11am-1:30pm

**Location:** Sherman Dining Hall

204 E College Street, Athens TN 37303

Scan and select the upcoming Sunday from the lunch meal period.



## KICKOFF WITH BAILEY



### GREET & EAT BBQ

OCT. 4<sup>th</sup>

10:30am -12:30pm

LAKE PAVILION @  
ATHENS REGIONAL PARK

*Paid for by the Candidate*

**VOTE DOUG BAILEY FOR CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**

Friday, Oct. 03, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Upcoming Programs at McMinn Living Heritage Museum

The McMinn Living Heritage Museum, located at 522 W. Madison Ave, is hosting a variety of events in the coming months. For more information, visit [livingheritagemuseum.org](http://livingheritagemuseum.org) or call 423-745-0329.

### October Highlights

- **Oct. 4, 10:30 a.m.** — Learn how to make sourdough cinnamon rolls with Shelley Morgan of Mt. Medicine Farm
- **Oct. 17, 11:00 a.m.** — "Creature Feature": exotic animals visit the museum
- **Oct. 23, Noon** — *History for Lunch*: a talk on the Brontë Sisters, 19th-century novelists
- **Through Oct. 30** — Annual Quilt Show

### November Events

- **Nov. 6** — *History for Lunch*: the story of the U-505 German submarine captured by the U.S. Navy
- **Nov. 14, 5:00-8:00 p.m.** — Holiday House Auction & Silent Auction, plus a bake sale
- **Nov. 15, 11:00 a.m.** — Quilt class: learn the hand-piecing technique of crazy quilts

### December Preview

- **Dec. 11, Noon** — *The Final Offensive*: How the B-29 helped close WWII

Mark your calendar and plan to explore history, crafts, animals, and more while supporting the local museum.

## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Historical Society invites the public to a special presentation on **Sunday, October 5, at 2 p.m.** in the Blue Room of the Courthouse. Pat Guffey, Rhea County Historian, will present "*The Scopes Monkey Trial*", exploring the famous 1925 case that drew national attention to Dayton, Tennessee. For more information, contact the McMinn County Historical Society at 423-744-3911 or [mcminncohistory@gmail.com](mailto:mcminncohistory@gmail.com).
- Isaiah 117 House, a nonprofit dedicated to changing the way foster care begins, is hosting a fundraising event on Tuesday, October 28th, at 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM, at The Barn at Faith Farms. The event will help continue fundraising for Isaiah 117 House in Monroe/McMinn County and will consist of a catered meal and feature several speakers, including Isaiah 117 House staff. Attendance is by invitation only from a table host. Anyone interested in attending or hosting a table can contact Jennifer Collins at 423.518.3760 ext. 617 or on the web at:

[MonroeTN@isaiah117house.com](mailto:MonroeTN@isaiah117house.com)

## SMO JAM October 4th @ 6 pm



**Chris Hennessee**



**Adam Simons**



**Bay Harbison**

**LIVE MUSIC!**



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BLOOD AND  
BOO-  
ST  
A LIFE!**

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# UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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THURSDAY MORNING TO BE FEATURED HERE  
EMAIL: [WYXIRADIO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WYXIRADIO@GMAIL.COM)

THIS WEEK  
NEXT WEEK  
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Oct. 03, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Church News and Events

- Union McMinn Baptist Church (314 County Road 316, Niota) will be serving a free plate lunch for all on November 27th from 11am to 1pm. Come to the table for a free plate lunch. First Come, First Served. The church is located right off I-75 at exit 56.
- [Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship](#) (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. The clinic is run by a small staff and many volunteer physicians. Their goal is to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to rural East Tennessee. 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.*
- [Celebrate Recovery](#) meets every [Tuesday](#) at 6:00 pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every [Thursday](#) at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.
- Solid Rock Baptist Church (4975 Highway 11, Calhoun) will host singer Bob Sellers for their homecoming service on October 5 at their 10:30 a.m. service. (See ad on page 4)
- Conasauga Baptist Church is hosting a Tent Revival Series through today, October 3. There will be special singing tonight. The church is located at 649 County Road 475, in Etowah.

## Deadly Crash on County Road 313



A deadly head-on collision occurred late Thursday morning on County Road 313 in the 200 block. The crash happened around 11 a.m. when a full-size Chevrolet pickup and a Lincoln Navigator collided.

The driver of the pickup was airlifted by Lifestar to the University of Tennessee Medical Center with serious injuries. The driver of the Lincoln Navigator did not survive.

First responders from Niota Fire Department, North McMinn Fire Department, Athens Rural Fire Department, AMR, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol were called to the scene. THP Trooper Whitney Dixon is leading the investigation.

*Photo credit: David Prater, Niota Rural Fire.*

## HEARTBEATS & HARMONIES

AN OPEN-AIR CONCERT BENEFITING  
**Full Circle Medical Center for Women**

October 4 · 5-8PM  
ATHENS MARKET PARK PAVILION

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!**  
LIVE MUSIC - FOOD TRUCKS - FAMILY FUN

BRING A BLANKET OR LAWNCHAIR AND JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF TOE-TAPPING BLUEGRASS AND COUNTRY GOSPEL MUSIC, BOUNCE HOUSES, GAMES FOR KIDS, DELICIOUS FOOD TRUCKS, AND A POWERFUL CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND COMMUNITY.

ADMISSION IS FREE, AND ALL DONATIONS GO TO SUPPORT FULL CIRCLE'S MISSION OF EMPOWERING MOMS TO CHOOSE LIFE AND EQUIPPING FAMILIES TO THRIVE.

FOR MORE INFO:  
[BIT.LY/HEARTBEATS2025](https://bit.ly/heartbeats2025)





**SOLID ROCK BAPTIST**  
4975 U. S. Hwy 11-Calhoun, TN

*Homecoming*  
**SERVICE**

**October 5th**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**DINNER FOLLOWING SERVICE**

**Bob Sellers**  
Special Singing

**Scott Martin**  
Pastor

**Everyone is Invited!**

**McMinn County  
Historical Society  
Monthly Meeting**

**Sunday at 2:00 pm**  
in **Blueroom of  
Courthouse**




**Friday, Oct. 03, 2025**

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

**Athens, Tennessee**

## McMinn County Justice Center Celebrates HVAC Bootcamp

Cleveland State Community College Workforce Development recently completed an HVAC Bootcamp at the McMinn County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). Five inmates completed the bootcamp and earned their Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 608 universal certification.



Pictured back row left to right: Kayla Crowder, MCJC Grants & Programs Coordinator; Chelsea Falana, CSCC Workforce Development Coordinator; Jason Taylor, CSCC HVAC Instructor; Brandon Reece; Ryan Baker; Michael Benson; Nathaniel Benefield; Bruce Maynard; Stephanie Conservo, CSCC Adult Education Career Coach; and Dr John Squires, CSCC Vice President of Economic and Institutional Development.

## Gas Prices Hold Steady as McMinn Drivers See Relief at the Pump

Stability is the name of the game to start October, with the national average for a gallon of regular gas holding steady at \$3.15. But here in McMinn County, drivers are paying well below that number — averaging \$2.72 a gallon this week.

The drop comes as demand for gasoline has eased nationwide, falling from 8.95 million barrels per day to 8.51 million, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Meanwhile, overall supply climbed to 220.7 million barrels, helping push prices down. Seasonal trends are also at play, as stations transition to cheaper winter-blend fuel and crude oil production remains steady despite scheduled refinery maintenance.

Tennessee continues to rank among the cheapest places in the country to fill up, with an average price of \$2.78 statewide. That places the Volunteer State in the top five for lowest gas costs nationwide, alongside Oklahoma, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

Electric vehicle drivers, however, aren't seeing the same kind of break. Tennessee remains one of the 10 most expensive states for public charging, averaging 43 cents per kilowatt hour.

For now, McMinn County motorists are getting some welcome relief at the pump — just in time for the cooler months ahead.

## Lefler Leads WYXI and Morning Fax History Deep-Dive



Yesterday (Thursday, WYXI General Manager and Morning Fax Editor Mark Lefler was asked to discuss the history of WYXI and The Morning Fax as part of the McMinn Living Heritage Museum's *History for Lunch* series. He shared stories from the radio station's inception, as well as the decision to create *The Morning Fax* back in 1997.

tion's inception, as well as the decision to create *The Morning Fax* back in 1997.

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A large, dark brown wooden sign with a curved top and bottom, held by four metal bolts. The sign features the text 'Stouard Fall Festival' in a stylized, cursive font. Below the title is a decorative branch with orange and yellow autumn leaves and a small pumpkin. The dates and location are listed below the branch. The sign is set against a background of a festival scene with tents, tables, and pumpkins.

*Stouard*

*Fall Festival*

*Two Big Days!*

*Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>*

*AND*

*Sunday, October 5th*

*L&N Depot*

A large, bright orange pumpkin with a green stem and a small leaf, sitting on a grassy field with scattered autumn leaves. The pumpkin is the central focus of the bottom section of the image. Behind it, there are festival tents and tables with various items on display.

*Live Music  
Great Food  
Arts & Crafts*





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Friday, Oct. 03, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

**10-1-25**

**Micah Boring**, 25 of Athens, charged with sexual exploitation of a minor over 100 images, aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor over 25 images, Bond \$500,000

**Daryl Jackson**, 53 of Etowah, charged with domestic aggravated assault and child support, Bond \$200,000

**Gabrielle Vestal**, 49 of Englewood, charged with DUI, simple possession casual exchange of Schedule VI marijuana, casual exchange in possession of meth. Drug paraphernalia, implied consent law, simple possession casual exchange of schedule II Xanax, Bond \$15,000

**James Pope**, 45 of Athens, charged with violation of an order of protection, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$9,000

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

Information gathered using Public Sources.

## Obituaries

**Phyllis Joyce Roderick Earls**, 79 of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, October 1. She was a member of First Bible Baptist Church of Athens. Per Phyllis' request, there will be no funeral services. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Phyllis Joyce Roderick Earls.

**Stacey Ellen Tyrrell**, 63 of Spring City, passed away at her home, surrounded by the love of her family, on Wednesday, October 1. Stacey was known for her vibrant personality, her infectious positivity, and her generous heart. She had a special way of making everyone feel welcome, loved, and important. In keeping with Stacey's wishes, she will be cremated, and no formal services are planned at this time. Her loved ones will honor her privately, holding close the many beautiful memories and the joy she brought into their lives. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

## Thank You To Our Sponsors!



*Etowah Tennessee*



## Never Miss an Update! Don't forget to

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