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# The Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News. This Morning.

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is accepting nominations for  
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[sbboyd@crescent-inc.com](mailto:sbboyd@crescent-inc.com) or  
[callen@crescent-inc.com](mailto:callen@crescent-inc.com)

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## MCHSA Meeting to Showcase Piece of Revolutionary History



The McMinn County Historical Society and Archives will continue its observance of America's 250th anniversary with a special public meeting Sunday, March 1, at 2 p.m. in the Blue Room of the courthouse.

The program will feature a unique look at a brooch worn by George Washington, offering attendees a tangible connection to the nation's founding era. The presentation will be led by Lisa Stafford and Jordan Carter, who will share the history and significance of the artifact as part of the Society's "Celebrating America 250" series.

Organizers say the event is part of an ongoing effort to highlight local ties to the broader American story as the country approaches its semiquincentennial in 2026.

The meeting is open to the public. For more information, contact the McMinn County Historical Society and Archives at 423-744-3911.

Source: Steve Sherlin, MCHSA

## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Election Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 5 p.m. in the conference room of the McMinn County Courthouse. Items on the agenda include certifying petitions and locking ballot boxes and bags in preparation for the May Primary. The agenda was posted Friday, Feb. 20, on the bulletin board at the election office and on the commission's website.
- The monthly meeting for the Cherokee Beekeepers Association will be on Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 P.M. The location of the meeting is the McMinn Senior Activity Center located at 205 McMinn Ave., Athens, TN. The public is always welcome; you do not need to be a member to attend.
- The Meigs County Historical Society will kick off its America 250 celebration on March 15 at 2 p.m. with "The Weight We Carry: Veteran Stories," an event featuring the sharing of local veterans' stories and a special recognition honoring all veterans in the community.

 Athens Lutheran Church  
710 Forrest Ave., Athens, TN  
[athenslutheranchurch.org](http://athenslutheranchurch.org)

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Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

**Spring Break Art Classes Open for Registration**



Athens Area Council for the Arts has announced registration for Artsplorations visual arts workshops for school-aged youth March 17 & 19, 2026. All workshops are beginner-friendly.

Participants should register by Friday, March 13 for all Spring Artsplorations workshops. The cost for each session is based on a four-tier Pay What You Can scale and materials are included for all tiers.

**Discover Pottery with Patricia Shook** is open to ages 5 - 10. The workshop meets Tuesday, March 17, 10:00 AM - Noon. In this workshop, our professional clay instructor will lead a handbuilding clay project.

**Explore Pottery with Patricia Shook** is open to ages 11 - 16. The workshop meets Tuesday, March 17, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. In this workshop, our professional clay instructor will lead a handbuilding clay project.

**Discover Painting with Katie Bragg** is open to ages 5 - 10. The workshop meets Thursday, March 19, 10:00 AM - Noon. In this workshop, our visiting art teacher will lead a painting project.

**Explore Painting with Katie Bragg** is open to ages 11 - 16. The workshop meets Thursday, March 19, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. In this workshop, our visiting art teacher will lead a painting project.

Information about the instructors, as well as links to register for all classes and workshops, is available online at [athensartscouncil.org/classes](http://athensartscouncil.org/classes). Please note there is a transaction fee to register online; however, students may register over the phone at 423-745-8781, or in person at The Arts Center, with no transaction fee.



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CAMP LIVING STONES ANNUAL

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**MARCH 7, 2026**

**8AM TO 11AM**

**ADULTS \$10**

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**ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES: \$14**

INFORMATION:  
423-263-5060  
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**SEE ATLANTA BRAVES FROM  
THE PEN AT TRUIST PARK**

**Generously donated by  
Katie & Cullen Trew**



*Other auction items include original art, concert & play tickets,  
family experiences, apparel, and more*

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 7**

**PLEASE RESERVE TICKETS BY FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27  
online ([athensartscouncil.org](http://athensartscouncil.org)), in person (320 North White Street),  
or over the phone (423-745-8781)**

CLICK THE BUTTON OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE MORNING FAX



# Never Miss an Update!

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Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Chopped Champion Kenyatta Ashford Wows Crowd at Mardi Gras Event



One week after tickets quickly disappeared for Main Street Athens' Mardi Gras celebration, organizers say the "Taste of Mardi Gras" dinner with Kenyatta Ashford proved to be a resounding success.

The sold-out event brought a touch of New Orleans to downtown Athens, where guests enjoyed a specially crafted three-course meal featuring classic dishes and bold Creole flavors. The evening was held at The Food Hub, an initiative of Main Street Athens designed to strengthen the local food and beverage community.

The Food Hub serves as a fully equipped commercial kitchen and business incubator, offering mentoring, affordable kitchen access and event space for aspiring and established culinary entrepreneurs. Organizers say the facility plays a key role in supporting small businesses while also creating unique dining experiences like the Mardi Gras celebration.

Community members interested in learning more about The Food Hub and how to utilize the space can visit [mainstreetathens.org/food-hub](http://mainstreetathens.org/food-hub) for additional information.

Main Street Athens officials have indicated that more special events are planned throughout the year.

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

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# McMinn County Arrest Reports

## February 22, 2026

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Derek Morrow</b>, 46 of Athens, charged with driving on a suspended license.</p> <p><b>Ethan Gooch</b>, 29 of Etowah, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, and paraphernalia, Bond \$7,117.49.</p> <p><b>Jacoby Austin</b>, 33 of Athens, charged with aggravated criminal trespassing. driving on a revoked license, resisting stop, and evading arrest, Bond \$7,500.</p> <p><b>Macy Wells</b>, 34 of Sweetwater, charged with aggravated child abuse and neglect, under 8 years old, in Monroe County.</p> <p><b>Jeffrey Torbett</b>, 62 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license, criminal trespassing, resisting stop, and failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$4,620.95.</p> | <p><b>Dustin White</b>, 30 of Riceville, charged with violation of probation, Bond \$1,160.45.</p> <p><b>Mark Johnson</b>, 48 of Decatur, charged with driving without a license, failure to have insurance, and violation of registration laws, Bond \$2,000.</p> <p><b>Paul Bovard</b>, 39 of Athens, charged with reckless driving, DUI, second offense, and driving on a revoked license, fourth offense, Bond \$9,000.</p> <p><b>Dirk Weber</b>, 61 of Athens, charged with violation of probation, Bond \$730.95.</p> <p><b>Melvin McDermott</b>, 39 of Athens, charged with schedule II fentanyl for resale, casual exchange, possession of meth with intent to sell, Bond \$25,000.</p> |
|--|---|

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

 <p style="text-align: center;">CELEBRATING NATIONAL FFA WEEK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INVESTING IN A FUTURE OF GROWTH FOR ALL OF US</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">THANK YOU FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  Athens Utilities Board          100 New Englewood Road          (423) 745-4501          www.aub.org       </p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">Women's Conference</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">March 7, 2026 10:00am-2:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join us for a powerful time of testimony, uplifting music, and delicious food as women come together to share, grow and celebrate faith and sisterhood.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">         Guest Speakers: Stephanie Dunn          Brittany Duggan          Singer: Cayci Leamon       </p> <p style="text-align: center;">         Union McMinn Baptist Church          314 County Road 316          Niota TN 37826       </p> 
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# Obituaries

**Jerry M. Prince**, 94 of Athens, passed away on Friday, February 20. Jerry lived a life marked by service to country, love of family, and a continuous pursuit of education and study of history. Jerry served in the US Navy during the Korean War and completed his bachelor's and master's degrees at Middle Tennessee State College. He was a member of Keith Memorial United Methodist Church and served the farming community as a director of the McMinn County Farm Bureau for many years. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Jerry M. Prince.

**Stephen Key**, 71, of Englewood, passed away on Saturday, February 21. He leaves behind cherished memories and a legacy of love that will forever echo in the hearts of those who knew him. In his leisure time, Stephen found joy in bowling, a hobby that brought him satisfaction and allowed him to connect with friends and family. He will be greatly missed, but the affection he shared will continue to resonate within all who had the privilege of knowing him. No formal services will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**Vergie Lynn Bivens**, 78, of Ten Mile, passed away on Thursday, February 19. She was of the Baptist faith. Vergie was a well-established and deeply loved owner of convenience stores, faithfully serving the Meigs County community since 1976. Most recently, she was the proud owner of Four Corner Market, where she continued to serve others until her retirement in 2012. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 28 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 12 noon - 2 p.m. (EST), prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Bivens family.

**David "Round Man" O'Daniel**, 75, a native of Athens and resident of Cleveland, passed away on Sunday, February 22. Visitation will be held from 5:00-8:00 PM on Tuesday, February 24 at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at 12:00 PM at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Clear Springs Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of David "Round Man" O'Daniel.

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