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McMinn County Middle Schoolers Invited to Free MADE Camp This Summer

Middle school students in McMinn County can explore future careers this summer at MADE (Manufacture, Assembly, Design, & Engineer) Camp, a free weeklong program for rising 6th-8th graders. The camp runs June 9-12 at the McMinn Higher Education Center in Athens, with full days from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., a half day on Friday, and early drop-off at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are included. Space is limited to 30 campers.

MADE Camp introduces students to local industries through presentations, hands-on activities, and field trips to manufacturing facilities. Campers will also tackle STEM projects, team challenges, and a week-long showcase project, which will be presented during Friday's graduation event with awards and superlatives.

The camp is organized by the McMinn County EDA in partnership with local schools, colleges, and businesses, including DENSO Manufacturing, Tennessee Wesleyan University, Cleveland State Community College, and the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. DENSO serves as Title Sponsor, with Simmons Bank and IronCraft Attachments as Platinum Sponsors, and Cleveland State hosting as a Gold Sponsor.

Registration is free but limited. Families are encouraged to enroll early to secure a spot: <https://forms.gle/WxnXrsRezUvdNd9v6>.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County High School Class of 1970 will host a reunion gathering on Saturday, May 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the MCHS cafeteria. The event will feature casual dress and light refreshments, with an admission cost of \$10 cash per person payable at the door. Classmates, their significant others, and members of other graduating classes are invited to attend. Those planning to participate are encouraged to notify organizers through the "[MCHS Class of '70](#)" Facebook page to assist with event planning and refreshments.
- The City of Athens Public Works Department has announced a temporary street closure on Jackson Street from Green Street to Madison Avenue on Friday, April 3, from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. for the Carry the Cross 5K hosted by Trinity United Methodist Church. During this time, runners and spectators will also be present along Jackson Street, Washington Avenue, Madison Avenue, Keith Lane, Crestway Drive, McMinn Avenue, Elizabeth Street, and White Street. Motorists are advised to use caution, watch for pedestrians, and allow extra time for travel delays.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Spring Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL:

CHEMISTRY MAGIC SHOW WITH DR. AL HAZARI
SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH @ 11:00 AM

CHATTANOOGA AUDOBON SOCIETY PRESENTS - BEAK, FEET, FEATHERS
JOIN US TO LEARN ALL ABOUT BIRDS FROM JESSICA WHITEHORN
SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH @ 11:00 AM

DUTCH OVEN COOKING - PAM AND WARREN ARE BACK FOR ANOTHER COOKING CLASS! THIS TIME LEARN HOW TO COOK A DELICIOUS CAST IRON LASAGNA OVER AN OPEN FIRE!
SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH @ 10:00 AM

ALL HERITAGE SCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE \$5 OR FREE FOR MEMBERS.

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

Museum 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

SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL PROGRAM INFORMATION

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Thursday, April 02, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

ACT Announces Spring Comedy Table Reads in Athens



The Athens Community Theatre will continue its 2025–26 Table Read season with two upcoming comedy readings at The Arts Center in Athens.

The first event, *Noises Off*, will be held Tuesday, April 28, led by director Bob Borwick, followed by *Play On* on Tuesday, May 19, led by ACT member Sauni Reinhart. Both readings begin at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Organizers describe the table reads as informal, allowing participants to either read roles or simply observe. The events offer a relaxed introduction to community theatre while showcasing comedic works for potential future production. Additional table reads are planned throughout the year, giving community members ongoing opportunities to get involved, explore scripts, and experience live theatre in a casual, welcoming setting. *Source: The Arts Center*

McAlister's joins Athens Chamber



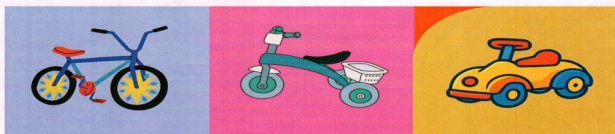
A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, McAlister's Deli, located at 1515 Congress Parkway South, Athens. Shown here are Chamber and business representatives, county and city officials, and the staff of McAlister's Deli.

Source: Julie Simbeck, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

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EGG HUNT
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Arts & Crafts / Food Trucks @ The Carnival

Friday - Saturday
 April 3rd, 4th
 10am - 8pm
 Etowah Depot

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday - April 4th
 11am - Etowah Depot Walking Park



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Thursday, April 02, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

Athens Awarded Grant for Heritage Park Walking Trail Project



The City of Athens has been awarded a \$9,990 grant from the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semi-quintcentennial to support development of a historical walking trail at Heritage Park.

The project, titled *Footsteps Through History: America 250 at Heritage Park*, will feature a series of permanent interpretive signs along a designated walking path. Each sign will highlight key periods from 1776 through 2026, connecting national, state, and local history while offering an educational experience for residents and visitors.

The trail will be built as part of ongoing renovations at Heritage Park, including a new ADA-accessible walking path. Completion of the project is expected to coincide with both the park's 50th anniversary and the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.

City officials said the grant will be supplemented with additional local funding to fully complete the project. The initiative is part of a statewide effort to commemorate America's semiquintcentennial through community-based historical and cultural projects. *Source:* City of Athens



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McMinn County Arrest Reports

Obituaries

March 31, 2026

- Stephen Reeder**, 37 of Athens, charged with resisting, assault, and disorderly conduct.
- Ricky Williams**, 61 of Ten Mile, charged with failure to appear in Monroe County.
- Shania Walker**, 34 of Decatur, charged with simple possession casual exchange of marijuana, Bond \$2,000.
- Kimberly Crabtree**, 56 of McMinn County, charged with theft of property under \$1,000.
- Melissa Hodge**, 36 of Athens, charged with failure to appear.

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

Eloise Cunningham, age 91, of Athens, TN passed at her home on March 30, 2026 She participated in the Extension Homemakers Club and the Evening Pilot Club. She was a member of Athens Church of Christ and was actively involved in the "Bear Ministry". Funeral services will be 12:00 Noon Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with Minister Terry Stuart officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM-12:00 Noon prior to the service at the funeral home. Grave-side services will be 3:00 PM (CST) (4:00 PM EST) Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Sand Rock Cemetery in Sand Rock, Alabama. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Sharon Dianne Weeks Blaylock, age 75 of Athens, passed away Sunday, March 29, 2026 at her residence. She was a member of North Etowah Baptist Church. A Licensed Practical Nurse for 44 years, she retired from Sweetwater Hospital and was a former employee of Erlanger Hospital and Woods Memorial Hospital. A veteran of the Vietnam Conflict, she was a Medic in the U. S. Army from 1968-1972, stationed in Germany. Grave-side services will be 11:00 AM, Friday, April 3, 2026 at McMinn Memory Gardens. There will be no formal visitation. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

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of Praise

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