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AACA to Close House Blend Series with 'Evening with the Stars'



The Athens Area Council for the Arts will wrap up its 2025–26 House Blend Concert Series with *Evening with the Stars* on **Friday, May 8 at 7 p.m. at The Arts Center.**

Directed by Andrew Kimball, the annual showcase highlights regional talent of all kinds, including singing,

dancing, and acting. Auditions will be held Thursday, April 30 at 6 p.m. at The Arts Center, with participants asked to come prepared to perform. A pianist will be available for accompaniment, and the AACA house band September Song will assist during rehearsal and the show.

Organizers say the event continues a long-standing tradition of showcasing local performers, including past participants who have gone on to broader recognition. The performance will take place in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater, with ticket prices ranging from \$15 to \$40 depending on the event.

See ad on Page 2

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens City Council will hold a special called meeting **today, April 22 at 5 p.m.** at Athens City Hall, 815 North Jackson Street. The purpose of the meeting is to consider and act on a change order for additional work on the Dennis Street paving project, which would increase the overall project cost. A public comment period will be held, and those wishing to speak are asked to sign in prior to the meeting. For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at 423-744-2702.
- The City of Athens Parks & Recreation has announced that the Splashpad at Athens Regional Park and the Ingleside Pool will be opening soon and they are now taking reservations. Get your dates booked now for parties and special gatherings. Visit <https://secure.recl.com/TN/athens-tn/catalog> or call 423-744-2704 to reserve your spot.

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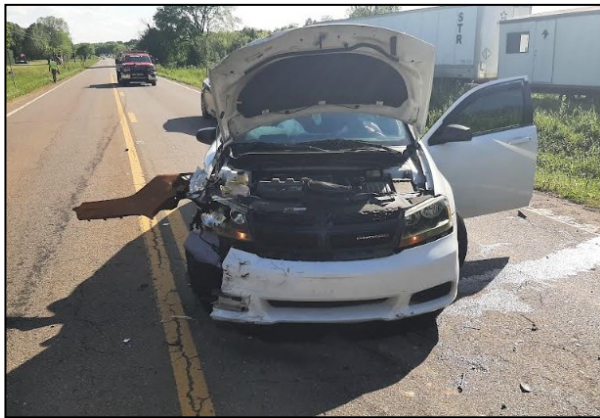
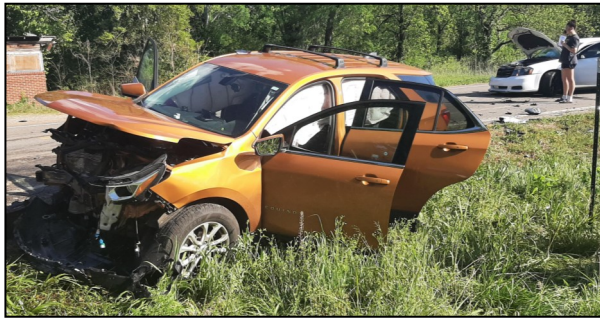
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Wednesday, April 22, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

No Injuries Reported in Niota Crash Involving Child Passenger



No injuries were reported following a two-vehicle crash Monday afternoon at the intersection of Highway 11 and County Road 323 in Niota.

Authorities said a white Dodge and a bronze Chevrolet Equinox collided around 5 p.m. An 8-year-old passenger in the Equinox was evaluated at the scene by EMS and first responders. All occupants were wearing seatbelts and did not suffer injuries.

Responding agencies included the Niota and North McMinn fire departments, AMR, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Office.

The crash is under investigation by Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Dean Conk Jr..

Source: David Prater, Niota Rural Fire Department

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

April 20, 2026

Samuel Salisbury, 38 of Etowah, charged with resisting arrest, simple possession of schedule II meth, Drug paraphernalia, and failure to appear, Bond \$30,000.

Bryce McLeister, 24 of Athens, charged with DUI, and failure to have insurance, Bond \$2,000.

Victoria Roof, 48 of Florida, charged with simple possession of schedule 6, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$6,000.

Mario Garcia Ramos, 35 of Cleveland, charged with speeding, and driving without a license, Bond \$500.

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

Cleveland State Honors Distinguished Student, Staff and Faculty



Cleveland State Community College has named Joshua Keith as Distinguished Graduate, Natalia Williams as Distinguished Staff Member, and Dr. Bonnie Freeland as Distinguished Faculty Member.

Joshua Keith (*pictured on right*), a Tennessee Reconnect student and Phi Theta Kappa member, has been active in campus organizations and founded the Outspoken Poetry and Creative Club. He plans to transfer to Middle Tennessee State University to study music business.

Natalia Williams (*pictured on left*), Director of Student Engagement and Support, has served the college since 2000, focusing on helping students overcome barriers. She expanded the campus food pantry and created a student lounge to support student needs.

Dr. Bonnie Freeland (*pictured center*), a longtime nurse and faculty member since 2018, has helped develop nursing courses at the college. She brings decades of clinical and teaching experience and holds a doctorate in nursing practice. *Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC*

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Wednesday, April 22, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

UT Extension-McMinn Announces May Programs and Upcoming Classes



The UT Extension-McMinn has released a full schedule of upcoming programs and classes for May, along with additional opportunities planned for June and July, offering a variety of educational and wellness activities for the community.

Kicking off the May schedule is the **Grandparent Club**, which will meet *May 6 at 1 p.m.* at the UT Extension-McMinn Office, located at 2345 Denso Drive. The free session will feature an Iris Paper Folding Card Workshop led by instructor Cindy Mishtal. The monthly program is designed to provide a space for grandparents to connect, share experiences, and learn new skills while building a supportive community. Organizers describe the group as an opportunity to stimulate the mind, strengthen relationships, and help participants "love, lead, and leave a healthy legacy for the next generation." The club meets the first Wednesday of each month.

Later in the month, UT Extension will offer "**RELAX: Alternatives to Anger**," a four-part class series scheduled for *May 12, 14, 19, and 21 from 10 a.m. to noon* at the same location. The course, which costs \$40, focuses on increasing awareness of the impact of anger on social-emotional health and interpersonal relationships while providing practical strategies for managing heightened emotions. The RELAX model emphasizes techniques to recognize, empathize, listen, accept, and "x-out" the past, helping participants develop in-the-moment de-escalation skills.

In addition to classes, UT Extension is offering **free pressure canner gauge testing**. Residents can call to make an appointment or drop off their gauge at the office. Officials note that annual testing is critical, as gauges can lose accuracy over time due to wear, storage, or handling. An inaccurate gauge can lead to under-processing, which may leave harmful pathogens such as *Clostridium botulinum* in low-acid foods, or over-processing, which can reduce food quality.

Looking ahead, several classes are scheduled for early summer. From *June 9 through June 25*, **Tai Chi for Diabetes** will be offered from *10 to 11 a.m. for a fee of \$48*, followed by WITS Brain Exercise from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., which is free to participants. Canning College workshops will also be held, including a **water-bath canning class on June 18 from 6 to 8 p.m.** and a **pressure canning class on July 14 from 6 to 8 p.m., each costing \$25.**

Registration for upcoming programs is available online at mcminn.tennessee.edu. For additional information, residents may contact the UT Extension-McMinn Office at 423-745-2852.

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