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**4th Annual Mi Sueño Awards Recognize Rising Hispanic Leaders**



Cleveland State Community College Foundation recently hosted the 4th Annual **Mi Sueño Scholarship Dinner** at St. Therese Church. The Mi Sueño scholarship recognizes students working to better the Hispanic community.

Pictured left to right: **Bianca Baker**, Cleveland State Foundation Board of Trustee member; **Vanessa Jaramillo**, Cleveland State Foundation Board of Trustee member; **Ayri Novelo Hernandez**, scholarship recipient; **Alexandra Caicedo**, scholarship recipient; **Elizabeth Reina Gonzalez**, scholarship recipient; and **Carolina Roman**, Cleveland State Student Engagement Coordinator *Source: Cleveland State*

**Community News You Can Use**

- The Good Faith Clinic is open **TODAY, Thursday, May 28**, with refills and doctor visits at 3 p.m. and test results at 3:45 p.m. The clinic provides free primary care for uninsured adults 18–64 in McMinn and Meigs counties and meets at **Christ Community Church, 18 S. Congress Parkway**. It operates the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Thursdays each month.
- The Friends of the Library remind the community that **Saturday, May 30, 2026, before 5 p.m.** is the **final day to drop off used book donations** for this year's annual book sale. Donations help support programs at the E.G. Fisher Public Library, and organizers extend their thanks for the community's continued generosity.
- **The ISSA Senior Softball Tournament** returns to Athens Regional Park for its sixth year, having first began hosting in Athens in 2020. It will bring 142 games to town from **May 29–June 4** with teams traveling from multiple states.

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**McMinn County Living Heritage Museum**  
Upcoming Spring Events

**HERITAGE SCHOOL:  
NATURAL DYES FROM THE KITCHEN  
WITH PAT ARMSTRONG  
SATURDAY, MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> @ 11:00 AM  
\$5 EACH OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP**

**HISTORY FOR LUNCH:  
THE HISTORY OF LEWIS & CLARK WITH JOHN BINANDO  
THURSDAY, MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> @ NOON \*FREE ADMISSION\***

**TRASH AND TREASURE RECEIVING DAY  
MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> FROM 12:00 - 3:00 PM**

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

SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL PROGRAM INFORMATION

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Thursday, May 28, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## Athens Veteran Nears Completion of 200-Foot Tribute Fence



After three years of steady work, Athens Navy veteran **Susan "Doc" Ratliff** is nearing the finish line on her nearly **200-foot tribute fence**, with only one panel left to paint.

What began as a personal project has grown into a community-supported symbol of **healing and honor**. Each hand-painted panel along the fence outside her home pays tribute to **veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders**, telling their stories through patriotic scenes and symbols of sacrifice.

Ratliff says the project became a form of therapy as she navigated **PTSD and major depression** following her military service. On difficult nights, she walks the length of the fence, finding comfort in the artwork and the memories behind it.

Community encouragement has helped her continue adding panels, and now Ratliff is sharing another part of her journey — a **song she wrote and recorded**, inspired by the fence and her path toward healing. Watch it here: [Ratliff's song](#)

She hopes both the artwork and the music inspire others facing mental-health challenges to keep moving forward. *Source:* [NewsChannel 9](#)

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Thursday, May 28, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## Killer Beaz Returns to Gem Theatre June 5



Comedian Killer Beaz, known for ten seasons on Discovery Channel's *Moonshiners* and regular appearances at the Grand Ole Opry, will bring his high-energy stand-up show to the Gem Theatre in Etowah on Friday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Beaz, a longtime touring comic with thousands of radio, TV, and stage appearances, has built a national following with his clean, relatable humor. In addition to touring, he now serves as a host for Christian Comedy Revival, a growing faith-based entertainment platform blending comedy, testimony, and encouragement.

A veteran of the comedy circuit, Beaz has been praised by major outlets including *Rolling Stone* and *SHOWTIME*, and has released work through Sony and Warner Bros. Records. Tickets and tour information are available at [KillerBeaz.com](http://KillerBeaz.com). See more on Page 4.

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

### May 26, 2026

**Renika Mallette**, 45 of Marietta, Georgia, charged with manufacturing, sell, delivery, or possession of a controlled substance, and reckless driving.

**Stephen Yarber**, 63 of Sweetwater, charged with drug paraphernalia, simple possession casual exchange of Schedule 1, public intoxication, and prohibited weapons, Bond \$20,000.

**Alexis Bales**, 28 of Etowah, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

**The accused remain innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**

Information gathered using Public Sources.



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SPECIAL REPORTS OF THE LOCAL ATHENS RACE BEGINNING AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY, MAY 30

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Thursday, May 28, 2026 Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

# 2026 Moofest Scheduled for Saturday, June 6



Moofest, McMinn County's beloved dairy festival, is scheduled for Saturday, June 6. Taking place from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in historic downtown Athens, Tennessee, the festival showcases several popular activities including the Maggie Strut, Athens Lions Club's 17th annual MooRun at Eureka Trail, live entertainment on three stages, over 300 info, food and craft vendors as well as local shopping at downtown Athens businesses.

The festival also features AgAvenue at Market Park with interactive agricultural exhibits, Mayfield's pop up visitors center, live cows and milking demonstrations by McMinn County 4-H and Dairy Alliance. Other activities throughout the venue include life size dinosaurs on Washington Avenue, foam party in Knight Park and putt putt golf from East Tennessee Entertainment, Pendleton's Playground carnival rides, axe throwing in Market Park, Wheel of Agriculture game, Trivia Tractor feature and bounce houses by Let's Bounce Rental. And, there's crowd favorites The Little County Farm petting zoo, Happy Tales pony rides and Let's Read Colorful Bus along with lots of childrens' activities to keep everyone entertained.

Kicking off the Courthouse Steps Stage on Madison Avenue will be Jim Brooks and his grandson Rafe Paul with the Maggie Strut followed by Trevin Wade, Faith Willin', Clinch River Ramblers, Wilson and Cross and Steve Lewis.

Featured on the Market Pavilion Stage will be JCreek Cloggers, Run, Katie Run and Cole Sitzlar with a couple of Mayfield game s and contests in between sets. And Inspirations Dance and Gymnastics Studio will perform on the Madison Avenue Stage throughout the day.

Moofest is a production of Friendly City Festivals, a subsidiary of Willsonthropic, Inc. a 501©3 organization based in Athens that also produces Sounds of Summer and Pumpkintown.

All Friendly City Festivals events are free to the public thanks to the following sponsors: The City of Athens Hotel/Motel Tax Fund, McMinn County Tourism Fund, Mayfield Dairy Farms, Tennessee Overhill, Smile More Orthodontics, DENSO, Tennessee Arts Commission, East Tennessee Entertainment, Madison Avenue Pharmacy, Valley Oil, Kona Ice, Pendleton's Playground, Let's Bounce Rentals, Athens Insurance, KARM Stores, Citizens National Bank of Sevier County, Starr Regional Medical Center, McMinn County Economic Development Authority, REMAX Freedom, Window Works, Simmons Bank, WarrenJackson CPAs, Athens Kiwanis Club, Simmons Private Wealth Group, The Retirement Guys, River Valley Health and VEC Customer Shares.

For more information about Moofest, Sounds of Summer and Pumpkintown, check out the Friendly City Festivals website at: <https://friendlycityfestivals.com/>

and the [FCF Facebook](#) page for updates. *Photo submitted and article written by Friendly City Festivals*

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Athens, Tennessee

## ACT Sets Auditions for *Mean Girls* Season Opener

Athens Community Theatre will hold auditions for its 2026–27 season opener, *Mean Girls*, on **June 9–10 at 6 p.m.** at **The Arts Center**. Directed by Michael Webb with music direction by Brittany Duggan and choreography by Ethan León, the production runs **August 21–30**.

The creative team is seeking performers **ages 16+**, of all backgrounds and genders. Strong dance ability is required for all roles; lead roles call for experienced singers, while ensemble members do not need prior vocal training. Auditionees should wear comfortable clothes, bring their summer schedules, and be ready to learn a short song and dance combination. **Callbacks are June 11 at 6 p.m.**

*Mean Girls* is rated **PG-13** for language and adult themes. Anyone interested in helping with the production in any capacity is encouraged to attend auditions.

ACT's Mainstage Series features multigenerational casts and popular titles in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Tickets range from **\$15–\$25**, and early purchase is recommended as shows often sell out.

## Obituaries

**Sedrick Deronne Scarver**, 61, of Etowah, passed away on the morning of Tuesday, May 26 at his home. Survivors and funeral arrangements to be announced by M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home - Athens, TN.

**Larry Eugene Scott**, 74, of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, May 2. Larry was a member and Sunday School Teacher at Goodfield United Methodist Church. A dedicated educator, Larry devoted 39 years of his life to teaching in Meigs County. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 29 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m., prior to the service. Interment will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 30 in the Goodfield United Methodist Church Cemetery. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Service is honored to serve the Scott family.

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### OPEN INTERVIEWS

**Saturday, May 30, 2026**  
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**Registration**  
**7:30 AM - 8:45 AM**

*Late arrivals will not be eligible for interviews.*



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