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Tuesday, June 02, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Cherokee Trail of Tears State Park to be Dedicated Today in Meigs County



Tennessee State Parks will officially dedicate Cherokee Trail of Tears State Park during a special ceremony today, Tuesday, June 2, marking the site's transition from a county-operated park into the Tennessee State Parks system.

Formerly known as Cherokee Removal Memorial Park, the site is a designated location on the historic Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The park is situated in Meigs County at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Tennessee rivers near the historic Blythe Ferry crossing, a significant location in the forced removal of the Cherokee people during the 1830s.

The dedication ceremony is invitation-only and will begin at 5:30 p.m. Eastern time. Members of the media are invited to attend and may arrive beginning at 4:30 p.m. for a self-guided tour of the park prior to the formal program.

According to Tennessee State Parks, photography and media coverage will be permitted during the dedication ceremony and immediately afterward during designated photo opportunities.

Following the ceremony, media representatives will be asked to leave the park grounds to allow Cherokee partners private time for reflection and cultural observances.

State officials said the request is intended to honor and protect the cultural, spiritual and personal connection Cherokee people maintain with the site. The post-ceremony observances will not be open to the public or media and may not be photographed or recorded. The dedication marks a significant milestone for the park, elevating the former county facility into Tennessee's state park system while preserving and interpreting one of the region's most important historical sites.

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

Athens, Tennessee

WYXI to Broadcast Live from MooFest

WYXI Radio will bring live coverage of National MooFest to listeners across the region on Saturday, June 6, with a remote broadcast from downtown Athens from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The broadcast will air on FM 94.5, AM 1390 and through the [Live365](#) app on smart devices. WYXI will be set up under the big red tent at 117 North White Street, where listeners can meet Cousin Mark, Brother Barry (aka 'BMAN') and Sister Stephanie.

In addition to live coverage from one of Athens' largest annual events, the station will feature interviews with MooFest organizers and community leaders while offering a variety of giveaways. Registration for prizes is free, with no purchase necessary.

MooFest, established in 2007, is East Tennessee's premier dairy festival and celebrates the region's dairy heritage and June Dairy Month in partnership with Mayfield Dairy Farms. The free, family-friendly event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout downtown Athens.

WYXI is inviting listeners, Morning Fax readers and community supporters to stop by the broadcast tent and join the festivities.

Community News You Can Use

- Kairos Outside of Eastern TN is having a "Walking In Love" 5K & 1 Mile Run on Saturday, June 13 at Eureka Trail. Kairos Outside is a non-profit Christian organization that ministers to ladies whose lives have been impacted by incarceration. All proceeds will benefit the ministry.
- The 2026 Downtown Summer Nights concert series kicks off Saturday, June 6, at 6 p.m. on the Meigs County Courthouse Square in Decatur with a Cruise-In and a performance by T. Graham Brown. Admission is free, and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of music and community fellowship.
- JSM Legacy Group will host the Tennessee Taste of Soul Experience Saturday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.) at the McMinn Senior Activity Center Event Hall in Athens. The event features soul food, live music, and a celebration of community and history. Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door, proceeds benefit restoration of the McMinn Legacy House and local nonprofits. For info, contact Jasmine McDermott at 423-829-2979 ext. 0 or jsmlegacygroup@gmail.com

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

May 31, 2026

David Burnett, 46, of Etowah, charged with theft of property, Bond \$1000.

Savannah Patterson, 38 of Madisonville, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$1000.

Amber Martin, 37 of Madisonville, charged with evading arrest, Bond \$5,000.

Samantha Zauter, 34 of Athens, charged with driving on suspended license, failure to have insurance, violation of registration laws, leaving the scene of an accident, and drug paraphernalia.

Melissa Peeler, 46 of Riceville, charged with state violation of probation for theft, \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Jacob Sharp, 33 of Crossville, charged with assault, Bond \$2,000.

Corey Howard, 33, of Athens, charged with child support, felony aggravated assault, leaving the scene of an accident, and vandalism Bond \$7,500.

Jansen Walker, 22 of Englewood, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000.

James Newberry, 35 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for possession of fentanyl.

John Youngs, 32 of Athens, charged with DUI, and violation of implied consent, Bond \$1,000.

Michal Pavligo, 47 of Missouri, charged with reckless endangerment, driving without due care, and child support.

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

Meet the Brumbelows!

The Tennessee Valley Area Operation Christmas Child Team invites pastors, project leaders, community group leaders, homeschoolers, and ANYONE interested in learning more about the shoebox ministry to these special events.

Pastor Mark and Cherry Brumbelow will share their testimony of how God uses their small Texas church to exceed shoebox goals that seem impossible in order to call His children to deeper faith and ultimately share the gospel with children worldwide.

Thursday, June 11, 2026
Refreshments: 5:30 PM
Presentation: 6 PM
Woodward Church of God
507 Woodward Avenue
Athens, TN 37303

Friday, June 12, 2026
10 AM
Spirit City North Etowah
231 Pennsylvania Avenue
Etowah, TN 37331

Friday, June 12, 2026
6 PM
Notchey Creek Baptist Church
5529 New Hwy 68
Madisonville, TN
37354



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Tuesday, June 02, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

East Tennessee Foundation Opens 2026 Y-12 Community Investment Fund Grants

The East Tennessee Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2026 CNS Y-12 Community Investment Fund grant cycle, offering up to \$12,500 for eligible nonprofit organizations serving communities across East Tennessee.

Applications are open through June 11 at 5 p.m. ET. Grants will support one-year projects focused this cycle on teen resilience and veteran support services.

The program is designed to strengthen community-based efforts that expand support systems for young people and veterans throughout the region.

Eligible nonprofit organizations can apply and learn more through the East Tennessee Foundation's website at <https://easttennesseefoundation.org/grants/cns-y-12-community-investment-fund/>.

Obituaries

Judy Wilson, 78, of Athens, passed away on Saturday, May 30. She spent many years working as a registered nurse at several local healthcare facilities, providing compassionate care to countless patients. A visitation to honor her will be held on June 4, 2026, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Good Samaritan Funeral Home. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Harold Ross "Frosty" Stephens, 96, passed away on Saturday, May 30 at the Tennessee State Veterans' Home in Cleveland. He was a decorated Army veteran and lifelong public servant whose career spanned more than 40 years of military and civil service. He was active duty during the Korean War and with the TN Army National Guard and Civil Service. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Athens. The family will receive friends from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 3 at First Baptist Church in Athens, The funeral services will be held at 5:00 pm Wednesday, June 3 at the church. Full military honors will be conducted at the graveside at McMinn Memory Gardens in Athens on Thursday, June 4th at 11:00 am. Smith Funeral and Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Harold Ross "Frosty" Stephens.

Kenneth Aaron Elrod, 90, of Athens, passed away Sunday, May 31, 2026 at NHC in Athens. He was a life long resident of McMinn. He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church. He was a graduate of Tennessee Wesleyan University and was associated with Bowater Paper Mill for 40 years until his retirement. A graveside service will be conducted 11:00 am, Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at McMinn Memory Gardens with Rev. Skip White, Rev. Tina Morgan and Rev. Sam Roberts officiating. The family will receive friends at Smith Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 2, 2026. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Kenneth Aaron Elrod.

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