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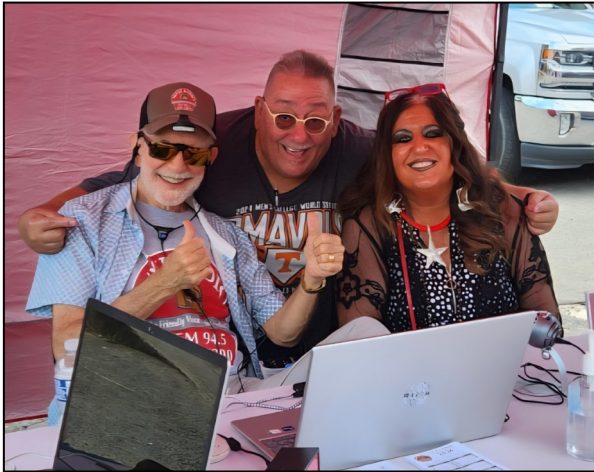
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**Moofest Highlights: A Photo Roundup**



Festival Organizer, Meredith Willson, Friendly City Festivals



WYXI Staff (left to right) - "Cousin" Mark Lefler, "Brother" Barry Sullivan and "Sister" Stephanie Devine, Account Sales Representative.



"Cousin" Mark Lefler interviews Mark Moses, Denso Manufacturing Athens, TN President

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**Tuesday, June 09, 2026**

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**Athens, Tennessee**

## ACT Sets Auditions for *The Crucible* in July

Athens Community Theatre will hold auditions for Arthur Miller's classic drama *The Crucible* on **Sunday, July 26 at 2 p.m.** and **Monday, July 27 at 7 p.m.** at **The Arts Center**. The production, directed by **J. Brad McKenzie**, will run **October 2–11, 2026**.

McKenzie is seeking a **large cast of adults ages 18 and older**, with roles ranging from young adults to actors in their 60s and above. One key role calls for a **young adult Black actor**. Those auditioning should be prepared to read from the script and take simple direction. Anyone interested in helping with the production in any capacity is encouraged to attend.

Participants should bring their **work, school, and family schedules** covering **July 28 through October 11**.

Widely regarded as one of America's most powerful plays, *The Crucible* dramatizes the Salem witch trials while offering a sharp commentary on fear, accusation, and societal pressure. The story follows John Proctor, his wife Elizabeth, and a servant whose false claims of witchcraft set off a devastating chain of events.

The production is part of ACT's **Mainstage Series**, presented in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Tickets range from **\$15 to \$25**, and early purchase is recommended as shows often sell out.

## Community News You Can Use

- The E.G. Fisher Public Library, located at 1289 Ingleside Ave., Athens, will host its next Noon Book Club meeting on Wednesday, June 10 at 12 p.m. The current selection is "Journey to the Center of the Earth" by Jules Verne. The discussion will be led by Sarah Harris, Assistant Professor of Education and Director of Graduate Education Programs at Tennessee Wesleyan University. The library will provide a light lunch, and all readers are welcome to attend.
- The **summer solstice**—the longest day of the year and the official start of summer—will occur on **Sunday, June 21**. The day will feature the most daylight of the year, marking the transition into the season's warmest stretch.

## 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  
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# 66th Annual Athens Kiwanis Club PANCAKE BREAKFAST



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Tuesday, June 09, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## Moofest: A Photo Roundup



“Cousin” Mark Lefler interviews Amy Sullins, Interim Director of Main Street Athens



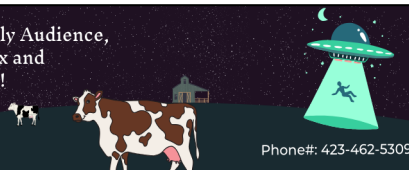
“Cousin” Mark Lefler interviews John Gentry, McMinn County Mayor



Cole Sitzlar Band Performs at the Market Park Pavillion (Courtesy of Boggess Videography)

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“Brother” Barry interviews Lindsey Ferguson, Director, McMinn County Economic Development



“Brother” Barry interviews Jordan Curtis, Vice Mayor, City of Athens



“Brother:” Barry interviews Perry McCowan, Athens City Council Member

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**TWU, Cleveland State Expand Transfer Pathways for Future STEM Educators**

Tennessee Wesleyan University and Cleveland State Community College have expanded their long-standing partnership with new articulation agreements that create clear transfer pathways for students preparing to teach in biology, chemistry, and math for grades 6–12.

Under the agreements, students who complete an associate degree or up to 60 credit hours at Cleveland State can transfer directly into Tennessee Wesleyan with junior standing, moving efficiently toward a Bachelor of Science in Education. The aligned coursework also ensures that eligible students will have already met TWU's general education requirements, allowing them to focus on upper-level classes in their teaching fields.

“This partnership reflects Tennessee Wesleyan’s and Cleveland State’s shared commitment to student success and higher education access,” said Dr. Tyler Forrest, president of TWU. “These pathways will allow students to seamlessly continue their education and achieve a bachelor’s degree while preparing for meaningful careers in the classroom.”

The agreements include detailed course-mapping guides so students can clearly see how their credits will apply toward their bachelor’s degree. Graduates of these programs will be prepared to enter the workforce as licensed secondary education teachers, helping address the region’s growing need for STEM educators.

The collaboration underscores both institutions’ commitment to expanding educational access and strengthening workforce pipelines across Southeast Tennessee.

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**Obituaries**

**Norma Suzanne “Ann” Jones Johnson**, age 78, passed away on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at Park West Hospital in Knoxville. She grew up in Riceville and built a meaningful career in healthcare administration spanning more than 40 years. The immediate family will have a private graveside service. Smith Funeral and Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

**Mable “Estelle” Prince Powell**, age 82, of the Short Creek community near Riceville, passed away on Sunday, June 7, 2026. She was a longtime member of Short Creek Baptist Church. Visitation will be Friday, June 12, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home with a funeral service at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at Short Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

**Randy Sitzlar**, 77, of Etowah, passed away on Thursday, June 4 at his home. He was a licensed operator with the local McMinn County Amateur Radio Club, following in the footsteps of his late dad. Randy retired as a Chief Yardmaster from the L&N/CSX RR after 42 years of service. Per Randy’s request, no formal services will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.