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# Cleveland State Hosts School Counselor Institute



Cleveland State Community College recently welcomed high school counselors from Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, and Polk counties for a four-day School Counselor Institute, giving participants an in-depth look at the programs and career pathways available to local students.

As part of the institute, counselors and Cleveland State representatives toured the Whirlpool plant (pictured left), gaining firsthand insight into regional workforce needs and industry partnerships that benefit students.

The week also featured program demonstrations on campus. Robert Brewer, Professor and Coordinator of the Greg A. Vital Center for Natural Resources and Conservation, provided an overview and

hands-on demonstration of the college's Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries program. Ralph Gwaltney, Assistant Professor of Advanced Technologies, shared information about Cleveland State's Mechatronics program, highlighting training opportunities that prepare students for high-demand technical careers.

*Source: Andrea Byerly, Cleveland State Community College*

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**JUNE DAYS**  
1986 40TH ANNIVERSARY 2026  
**CELEBRATES**

**SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2026**  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST 7:30AM**  
**LIVE MUSIC 8:30AM-NOON**  
**ANTIQUE CAR SHOW 9:00AM**  
**CONCERT ON MAIN STREET 7:00PM**

**COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE-SUNDAY**  
**ENGLEWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH @ 6PM**



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Paid for by Mark Cochran for State Representative

**Friday, June 26, 2026**      **Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2**      **Athens, Tennessee**

### New TN Law Bans Cryptocurrency ATMs Beginning July 1

Beginning July 1, 2026, a new Tennessee law signed by Governor Bill Lee will prohibit the operation of cryptocurrency ATM terminals statewide, and the Athens Police Department is preparing local businesses for the change.

Detectives will be visiting Athens businesses currently operating these machines to ensure owners are aware of the new law and its enforcement timeline. The department says the effort is part of a broader push to protect residents—particularly seniors and vulnerable individuals—who have increasingly been targeted by scammers using crypto ATMs to facilitate fraudulent transactions.

Police officials say enforcing the new legislation will help reduce financial crimes, prevent scam-related losses, and strengthen community safety.

Questions may be directed to Detective Blake Witt at 423-744-2730. *Source:* [City of Athens PD](#)

### Community News You Can Use

- Englewood will celebrate the 40th anniversary of June Days on Saturday, June 27, featuring live music beginning at 8:30 a.m., the Miss June Days Pageant, and performances including Madelyn Tallent, Watson Brothers, Just Us Bluegrass, Shelby Barnett & Jenna Kate Lee, and Cole Sitzlar. Events also include a 7:30 a.m. pancake breakfast, a 9 a.m. antique car show, and a night concert on Main Street at 7 p.m., with a community church service Sunday at 6 p.m. at 1st Baptist.
- As required by state law (T.C.A. 2-9-105(b)), the McMinn County Election Commission will conduct setup and inspection of all Early Voting and Election Day voting machines on Friday, June 26 at 9:00 a.m. at the Election Commission Office (Conference Room and Blue Room). The process will take most of the day. The Commission will also hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 21 at 5:00 p.m. in the Election Office to conduct official election business. The agenda will be posted by Friday, July 17, 2026 on the office bulletin board and the Election Commission website. Please confirm details with official election sources.

# Beat the Heat!

**June 29th – July 5th**

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# UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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THIS WEEK  
NEXT WEEK  
EVERY WEEK

Friday, June 26, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

## Church News & Events

- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur and Thursdays at **6:30pm** at **Spirit City Church North Etowah**.
- **St. Mary's Legacy Clinic** offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madson Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- The Good News Singers will lead a Southern gospel worship hour at **Athens Christian Church**, 802 South Matlock, on **Saturday, June 27 from 6-7 p.m.** A time of uplifting music and praise is planned. For more info, call **423-333-5085**.
- East Niota Baptist Church will hold a **one-day Vacation Bible School** on **Saturday, June 27, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The theme is "Illumination Station." Everyone is welcome.
- East Athens Baptist Church will host **VBS 2026** on **July 12-16, from 5-8 p.m.** at 301 Central Ave., Athens. The theme is *Emerald Crossing: An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23*. Open to **Pre-K through 5th grade**, with **free supper** provided. Registration is now open.
- The next Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church, will be held Thursday, July 2 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Café in downtown Athens. The ecumenical gathering is open to all men of Christian faith and to those seeking a relationship with Jesus. For details, contact Marcus Guinn by phone at 423-507-7769 or via email at [marcusguinn@gmail.com](mailto:marcusguinn@gmail.com)
- Allen Memorial United Methodist Church will welcome **former pastors** to lead worship throughout July: **Rev. Melissa Smith (July 5)**, **Rev. Charla Sherbakoff (July 12)**, **Rev. Jeff Wright (July 19)**, and **Rev. Austin Meadows (July 26)**. All are invited to attend.



The Athens Area Council for the Arts  
Board of Directors  
invite you to join us  
at a reception in honor of  
**Lauren Brown, Executive Director,**  
for 13 incredible years at  
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Monday, June 29th  
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Friday, June 26, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

June 24, 2026

**Robin Teague**, 56 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for escape, failure to appear for theft of merchandise, and escape.

**James Guffey**, 32 of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, simple possession of schedule 1 heroin, criminal trespassing, casual exchange and possession of meth, Bond \$14,000.

**Mercedes Sanders**, 33 of Decatur, charged with simple possession of schedule 2 meth, Bond \$12,000.

**Victoria McLemore**, 33 of Spring City, charged with violation of probation for possession of schedule 2 fentanyl, Bond \$2,252.

**Kathy Scruggs**, of Athens, charged with state viola-

tion of probation for schedule 6 resale.

**Candelaria Salgado**, 38 of Decatur, Alabama, charged with domestic assault, open container law, and driving on a suspended license, Bond \$12,000.

**Gary Wallace**, 46 of Etowah, charged with shoplifting, violation of probation, and false reports, Bond \$20,000.

**Larry Trueblood**, 54 of Sweetwater, charged with vandalism over \$1,000, evading arrest, and driving on a revoked license.

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

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Friday, June 26, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Gregory "Greg" Allen Huggins**, 63, a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, June 25, 2026. He retired from Bowater Southern Paper Company as a boiler operator after 41 years. Greg also worked as an EMT for Meigs County and was a volunteer Fire Chief in Riceville. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Visitation will be held on Monday, June 29, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 PM at Smith Funeral and Cremation Services of Athens. Smith Funeral and Cremation Services of Athens has been entrusted with serving the family of Gregory "Greg" Allen Huggins.

**Marvin "Dobbin" Gene Lingerfelt**, 91, passed away at his home in Cleveland on Sunday, May 31. In his younger years, he sang tenor with the Melody Boys gospel group, traveling throughout the country and sharing his faith and love of music. In 1989, he was honored with the title of Kentucky Colonel, the Commonwealth of Kentucky's highest civilian honor. Marvin also excelled in sports and earned a room full of horseshoe trophies, including numerous state championships. A graveside service will be held in Ohio in October, where Marvin will be laid to rest beside his beloved wife, Marge. Companion Funeral Home is honored to assist with these arrangements.

**Troy Danny Baker**, 84, of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, June 24 at Starr Regional Medical Center. He was a member of the Baptist Temple of Athens TN. He worked for Fox Photo, McMinn County Justice Center as a Jail Administrator, and later retired from J&B Bonding. He was also involved with FOP. He enjoyed trading, spending time with family, and catching up with old friends. The family would like to give a special thanks to the healthcare providers of NHC of Athens. Funeral Services will be 1:00 PM Saturday, June 27 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The graveside service will follow at McMinn Memory Gardens. The visitation will be from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm prior to the service. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

**Martha Grace Rayburn**, 77, of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday, June 23. She shared her God given talent through the beautiful way she played the piano. Funeral service will be held on Thursday, June 25 at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service at Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Madisonville. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.



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