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Wednesday, September 30, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Sewn With Love Exhibit To Showcase Lifelong Craftsmanship of Julia Jett Reedy



The Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association, Etowah Arts Commission, and Etowah Historical Society will present Sewn with Love, a special exhibit highlighting the sewing artistry and legacy of Julia Jett Reedy. The exhibit will be on display from Oct. 1 through Nov. 14 at the Nancy Cantrell Dender Art Gallery in Etowah.

A public Meet the Artist Reception is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m., with light refreshments available.

Reedy's passion for sewing began at age 9 when her grandmother taught her the craft. What started with a simple cotton halter top grew into a lifelong pursuit spanning more than 65 years. Over the decades, she has created clothing ranging from formal gowns and suits to costumes, children's outfits and keepsakes for family members.

Much of the exhibit focuses on the garments and heirloom pieces Reedy created for her grandchildren. She taught herself advanced techniques, including smocking, and often incorporated antique linens, handkerchiefs and tablecloths into her work, creating one-of-a-kind pieces that blended family history with craftsmanship.

A Madisonville native, Reedy later made Etowah her home, spending 30 years teaching at Mountain View Elementary School before serving more than a decade as executive director of the McMinn County Education Foundation.

Organizers say the exhibit celebrates sewing as both an art form and a family tradition, showcasing the creativity, craftsmanship and memories woven into Reedy's work. The Nancy Cantrell Dender Art Gallery is located at 700 Tennessee Ave. in Etowah.

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Wednesday, September 30, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 **Athens, Tennessee**

Sullins Eye Care Celebrates New Madisonville Location



Sullins Eye Care recently celebrated the opening of its new Madisonville office at 3638 Highway 411 with a gathering attended by patients, community members, elected officials from Monroe and McMinn counties, and representatives of the Madisonville Chamber and Madisonville Main Street.

Founded in Athens in 1939 by the late Dr. Bill Sullins Sr., the family-owned practice expanded into Madisonville in 1996. Continued growth in the area created the need for a larger facility, leading to the construction of the new office.

Today, the practice is led by third-generation optometrists Dr. Trey Sullins and Dr. Stuart Sullins, alongside family members Dr. Christa Sullins and fourth-generation optometrist Dr. Tim Sullins and his wife, Dr. Kate Sullins. The new Madisonville location reflects the practice's continued growth and longstanding commitment to providing eye care services throughout the region. *Photo Credit: Dr. Trey Sullins*

Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Department announced that the intersection of Wabash Street and Kilgore Street will become an all-way stop beginning the morning of Monday, Oct. 12. Stop signs currently on Kilgore Street will be added to Wabash Street. Motorists are encouraged to watch for new signage and use caution when traveling through the intersection. For information, call Public Works at 423-744-2745.
- The McMinn County Election Commission will conduct public inspections and setup of voting machines for both Early Voting and Election Day beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7. The process is expected to take most of the day and will be held at the McMinn County Election Commission Office Conference Room and Blue Room.
- The Athens City Council will reconvene its Sept. 15 regular session on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 5:45 p.m. at Athens City Hall to complete remaining business. Citizen comments will be limited to individuals who signed up for the Sept. 15 meeting but were not heard before the session recessed. No additional speaker sign-ups will be accepted. For information, call the City Manager's Office at 423-744-2702.

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Wednesday, September 30, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 **Athens, Tennessee**

McMinn County Arrest Reports

September 28, 2026

Jesse White, 61, of Englewood, charged with domestic assault.

Cassandra Kuklo, 46, of Athens, charged with violation of probation in Maury County.

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

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

wyxiradio@gmail.com

Cleveland State To Offer Food Management Training Course

Cleveland State Community College Workforce Development will offer a five-week Food Management Advanced course this fall for individuals seeking supervisory or management positions in the food service industry.

Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 4:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 19. Instruction will be available in person on Cleveland State's Cleveland campus, with virtual participation options offered in Athens, Vonore and Benton.

The course is designed for those pursuing careers in restaurants, assisted living facilities, grocery store delis and other food service settings. Topics will include staffing and management fundamentals, financial controls, menu planning and legal considerations. Participants will earn the ServSafe Food Protection Manager certification and will be prepared to take the Certified Restaurant Supervisor exam after obtaining the required supervisory experience.

The cost of the course is \$400, with scholarships available for qualified participants. For more information, contact Workforce Coordinator Jason Nicholas at jason.nicholas@cscctn.edu or 423-614-8795.

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Wednesday, September 30, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Gloria Young Henderson, 86, of Cleveland, and formerly of Athens, passed away Saturday, September 26, at her residence in Cleveland. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Athens. She graduated from TWU and received her Master's from UTK. She was a teacher with the Athens Jr. High School for 35 years until her retirement. A funeral service will be conducted 1:00 pm, Thursday, October 1 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. Interment will follow in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 11:00am-1:00 pm at the funeral home prior to the service. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Gloria Young Henderson.

Alene Elizabeth Odom, 86, passed away on Friday, September 25. She was a member of East Athens Baptist Church where she loved to sing in the choir. She loved the Lord and kept journals of her daily prayers. Her faith was an important part of her life. There will be no formal visitation. A graveside service will be held at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Cemetery in Copperhill, TN on Saturday, October 3 at 11:00 a.m. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Alene Elizabeth Odom.

James Donald "Donnie" Jackson, 77, of Decatur, passed away on Sunday, September 27. Donnie proudly served in the United States Army, embodying the values of service and dedication. Following his military service, he established a successful career as a lineman for VEC in Decatur, where he was known for his skill and commitment to his work. Per Donnie's request, no formal services will be held. [Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services](#) is honored to serve the Jackson family.

Jimmy Allen Massingale, 61, passed away on Thursday, September 24. A celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date and will be announced by family once planned. [Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens](#) is honored to be entrusted with these arrangements.

Phillip Kelly, 76, of Etowah, passed away on Sunday, September 27. He attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and enjoyed reading and art. Music held a special place in his heart, as he was also a talented musician. A graveside service will be held at Conasauga Cemetery (252 County Road 876, Englewood, TN 37329) at 3:00 p.m., Friday, October 2. [Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah](#) is in charge of arrangements

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	VS		EAST HAMILTON @ WALKER VALLEY FRIDAY, OCT. 02 @ 7:00 PM