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Tuesday, October 13, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional, YMCA Partner for Breast Cancer Awareness Month Activities

Starr Regional Medical Center and the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA are partnering throughout October to promote breast cancer awareness, encourage preventive screenings and offer activities focused on health and wellness.

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, women age 40 and older are encouraged to schedule annual mammograms through the Starr Regional Breast Center. Hospital officials note that one in eight women will experience breast cancer and stress the importance of regular screening and early detection. Mammogram appointments can be made by calling 423-744-3372.

Community members are also encouraged to participate in National Mammography Day on Friday, Oct. 16, by wearing pink in support of those affected by breast cancer. Organizers are asking participants to share photos on social media using the hashtag **#WearPinkMcMinn**. Women who schedule a mammogram at the Starr Regional Breast Center that day will receive refreshments and a small gift.

A Pink Ribbon Walk will be held Thursday, Oct. 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eureka Trail. Participants are invited to wear pink, bring a friend and walk in honor or memory of a loved one affected by breast cancer. Walkers may personalize a bib with the name of someone they wish to honor or remember. There is no designated start time or course, allowing participants to join as their schedules permit.

Continued on Page 3



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McMinn County Man Arrested Following Human Trafficking Investigation

A McMinn County man is facing felony charges following a year-long investigation by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Human Trafficking Unit.

According to the TBI, agents launched an investigation in March 2025 after receiving information alleging that Ezzyveon Smith, 25, was involved in human trafficking activities in the McMinn County area.

The McMinn County Grand Jury returned indictments Sept. 15 charging Smith with one count of trafficking for commercial sex acts and one count of money laundering.

Authorities located Smith on Oct. 7 in Bullhead City, Arizona. With assistance from the Bullhead City Police Department, he was taken into custody and booked into the Mohave County Jail in Kingman, Arizona. Smith is awaiting extradition to Tennessee, where he will be held on a \$250,000 bond, according to the TBI.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information regarding suspected human trafficking is encouraged to contact the Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-855-55-TNHTH. Smith is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Source: [TBINewsroom.com](https://www.tbi.tn.gov/Newsroom)

Community News You Can Use

- A reminder that Full Circle Medical Center for Women will hold its annual Life Auction fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. at New Beginnings at Sweet Southern Farm in Riceville. The event will feature a catered dinner and live auction, with proceeds supporting the organization's free services for women and families. Tickets are \$25, advance registration is required, and seating is limited. Additional information is available at: [friendsoffullcircle.org](https://www.friendsoffullcircle.org).
- The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum's 2026 Quilt Show, "*Heritage, Needle, & Nation*," remains on display through Oct. 28. Hosted by the Heritage Quilt Guild of McMinn County, the annual exhibit features a variety of quilts celebrating craftsmanship, history and patriotic themes. Visitors can view the display during regular museum hours at 522 W. Madison Ave. in Athens.



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

Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional, YMCA Announce Breast Cancer Awareness Month Events

The Athens-McMinn Family YMCA is also offering a series of virtual exercise sessions through its Facebook page. The sessions are designed for individuals seeking to safely return to physical activity after breast cancer treatment and medical clearance from their healthcare provider.

In addition, Starr Regional's Community Wellness team continues its monthly blood pressure and glucose screenings at the YMCA. On Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 8:30 a.m., Jackie Berry, director of Community Wellness, and Amber Bain, CPR coordinator, will provide nutrition information in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. YMCA guests are welcome and should check in at the facility's welcome center.

For a complete schedule of events, visit StarrRegional.com/events or AthensMcMinnYMCA.org/calendar.

See Ad below for more information.

Two Men Arrested Following Shooting Investigation

A Friday afternoon shooting in McMinn County resulted in the arrest of 2 suspects and a hospitalized victim. According to Sheriff Joe Guy, around 1 pm on Friday, deputies responded to a report of a man being shot at a residence on County Road 713 near Riceville. When they arrived, officers found Ricky Nation suffering from a gunshot wound. Deputies provided care for Nation until he was transported to a local hospital by AMR ambulance service.

"As deputies and detectives began investigating, 2 suspects who had been at the residence and who had been in an altercation with the victim were quickly identified: Michael Smith (Bottom Right Photo) and Ricky Boggess (Bottom Left Photo)," said Sheriff Guy. "Throughout the afternoon and evening, officers sought out both suspects." According to Sheriff Guy, Smith was arrested late that evening when he was seen in a vehicle not far from the crime scene. Officers then received information that Boggess was in the Spring City area, where McMinn and Rhea County Deputies were able to locate him and take him into custody after midnight.

Michael L Smith was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault, Unlawful Possession of a firearm x2, and was held on a bond of \$120,000. He also had 6 child support warrants totaling a cash bond of \$33,535.46. Rickey Boggess was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault and Armed Dangerous felonies, and was held on a bond of \$80,000. The investigation is continuing.
Source: Sheriff Joe Guy



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Athens, Tennessee

College Football Chaos: Vols Win as Ranked Teams Fall

College football's sixth week brought plenty of surprises, and while Tennessee avoided becoming part of the upset list, the Volunteers didn't do much to silence their critics.

No. 15 Tennessee improved to 5-1 with a 24-17 win at Arkansas, rallying in the fourth quarter behind first-time starting quarterback George MacIntyre. MacIntyre threw for 247 yards and a touchdown, while DeSean Bishop added 138 rushing yards. Still, the Vols struggled for much of the afternoon against a Razorbacks team that entered the game 1-4 and winless in SEC play. The victory keeps Tennessee firmly in the SEC race, but with Alabama coming to Knoxville this Saturday, October 17th, concerns remain about the offense's inconsistency and the team's ability to compete with the conference's top contenders.

Around the nation, several ranked teams weren't as fortunate. Oklahoma handed No. 1 Texas its first loss of the season, winning 27-24 on a last-second field goal in the Red River Rivalry. UCLA traveled to Eugene and upset Oregon 17-15, stopping a late two-point conversion attempt to preserve the win.

The SEC also saw its share of drama. Georgia knocked off Alabama 20-17 in Tuscaloosa, handing the Crimson Tide their first loss of the season, while South Carolina stunned Florida in Gainesville. Kentucky added another surprise by upsetting LSU in overtime, sending Wildcats fans streaming onto the field.

Tennessee left Fayetteville with a win, but not necessarily with confidence. In a weekend that shook up the national rankings, the Vols survived. Whether they're ready to take the next step may be determined Saturday when Alabama comes to Neyland Stadium.

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Tuesday, October 13, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

Kentucky Motorcyclist Killed in Monroe County Crash

A Kentucky motorcyclist was killed in a crash Wednesday morning on Highway 68 in Monroe County.

According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol, 55-year-old Joe Gossett of Park City, Kentucky, was traveling north-bound on Highway 68 near McJunkin Road around 10:30 a.m. when he failed to negotiate a curve. Troopers said the Harley-Davidson motorcycle overturned and slid across the center line into the path of an oncoming Chevrolet van.

The motorcycle became lodged underneath the van, and the two vehicles remained connected until the van came to a stop in the roadway.

Gossett died from injuries sustained in the crash. Troopers reported that he was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

The driver of the van, a 40-year-old Maryville man, was not injured. No charges have been filed, and the crash remains under investigation by the Tennessee Highway Patrol. *Source:* WVLT.com

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