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Monday, October 19, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

TBI Special Agents Investigating Officer-Involved Shooting in Sweetwater



At the request of 10th Judicial District Attorney General Stephen Hatchett, TBI special agents are investigating the circumstances leading to an officer-involved shooting that occurred Friday afternoon in Sweetwater.

At approximately 3:15 p.m., deputies with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Glenlock Road in Sweetwater regarding a man who was reportedly armed and making threats. Preliminary information indicates that upon arrival, deputies made contact with the man, who was armed with a rifle and refused to comply with commands to drop the weapon. The Madisonville Police Department's Special Response Team responded to assist and attempted to negotiate with the subject. For reasons still under investigation, the situation escalated, resulting in a Madisonville officer firing at the man, striking him. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment. No officers were injured during the incident.

TBI agents are working to independently determine the series of events leading to the shooting, including collecting evidence and conducting interviews. Throughout the process, investigative findings will be shared with the District Attorney General for his further review and consideration. The TBI acts solely as fact-finders in its cases and does not determine whether the actions of an officer were justified in these types of matters. That decision rests with the District Attorney General requesting TBI's involvement.

The TBI does not identify the officers involved in these types of incidents and instead refers questions of that nature to the respective department to answer as it sees fit.

Any available updates on this investigation will be posted online at: TBINewsroom.com



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Sweetwater Main St Marketplace 10:30 - 2:30
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Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Living Heritage Museum Names New Executive Director



Meet Chris Anthon, the new director of the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum. Chris began his new role on October 1st and takes the place of Brett King, who has been the director since 2023. King, a former instructor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, will be returning to the education profession at the first of the year with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

His last day at the museum was October 14th.

Chris Anthon and his wife moved to Athens two years ago from Shelbyville, TN. Prior to that, he was involved in the technology industry for the past 30 years in Northern California. In an interview with WYXI RADIO, Chris stated

that he was looking forward to expanding some of the offerings of the museum and moving it more into the “21st Century” especially with changes involving technology.

When asked how he chose to move to Athens, Chris said he “literally” threw a dart at a map of the Southeastern U.S. and said living is Athens “is a nice change and better environment.” Welcome Aboard, Chris Anthon!!

Reminder: The Annual Quilt Show at the Living Heritage Museum continues until October 28. Be sure to visit the museum now, vote on your favorite quilt and meet the new director.

In the photo at left: Chris Anthon and Brett King.

Morning Fax Staff Photo

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

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Athens, Tennessee

Crash on Co Rd 405 and 404



Friday late morning a Dodge Dakota and a Honda Civic collided on County Road 405 at 404. The driver of the Civic was transported to the Justice Center. The driver of the Dakota was transported by AMR to the hospital to be checked as she was 21 weeks pregnant. Response by Englewood and Niota Fire Departments. McMinn County Sheriff's Department Deputy Bryan Powers is lead investigator of the crash.

Photos by David Prater with Niota Rural FD

TWU Community Music School Fundraiser

The TWU Community Music School will be having a fundraising event on November 13, 6:00-7:30 in the Glenn Lowe Dining Room on the Tennessee Wesleyan campus. If you are looking for a date night activity, family night fun, or just enjoy good music, join us and help raise money to supply instruments for our program. Knoxville's premiere TV band, **The ReRuns**, will be performing as well as select students of the Community Music School. The event is **free** to attend and **open to the public**. **Prizes for TV Trivia** include Tidal Wave Car Wash tickets, \$50 salon gift card, \$25 Sweet Stuff gift card, two tickets to the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra's Christmas Concert, and more. Meals in the TWU Dining Hall are \$9.25. Grab a plate and join them for music and TV trivia!

Please **RSVP** by **Nov. 6** to gdockery@tnwesleyan.edu.

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Monday, October 19, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Report

ARRESTS 10-16-26

Christopher Henley, 53, of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia. Bond \$2,800.

Ivory Canaan, 29, of Athens, charged with simple possession, casual exchange, of fentanyl, marijuana, and suboxone, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$12,000.

Nicole Walker, 34, of Athens, charged with violation of probation for vandalism, possession of paraphernalia, aggravated assault on a first responder, false reports, attempted escape, and reckless endangerment. Bond \$112,000.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn Warming Center will hold volunteer training on Sunday, November 1, 2026 from 2-4pm at the Cooke Ministry Building located on Walter Street. This is an opportunity for the community to learn and ask questions on ways that are available to volunteer. If you have questions contact Tinamarie Maison at 208-241-7806.

Football Scores

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tennessee Volunteers 26 | Alabama Crimson Tide 10 |
| Cleveland 42 | Bearden 7 |
| Tellico Plains 44 | McMinn Central 28 |
| McMinn Co 33 | Red Bank 0 |
| Meigs Co 49 | Scott Co 0 |
| Eagleton 40 | Polk Co 13 |
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Monday, October 19, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Hwy 307 Crash



Thursday evening close to 6, the driver of this 2021 Ford Expedition hit a spot on Hwy 307, Sweetwater then over corrected

leaving the roadway hitting a tree head on. The driver was treated on the scene by first responders and AMR, LifeStar landed on the scene to transport the driver to UT Knoxville. The passenger was treated on the scene by AMR then transported to Sweetwater Hospital. Responding to the scene was Englewood Rural Fire, Niota Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, McMinn County Sheriff's Department along with Investigating THP Trooper Jaylon Skipper. Englewood Rural Fire Capt Josh Roach and Niota Rural Fire Training Officer Chad Gates were in command of the scene.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department

Tennessee Unemployment Rate

Tennessee's unemployment rate held firm at 3.4% for the third month in a row, according to new data from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD).

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September was unchanged from the previous two months and down one-tenth of a percentage point from a year ago. Before July, the last time Tennessee posted an unemployment rate of 3.4% or lower was in July 2024.

The state's rate remains well below the U.S. rate, which was 4.2% last month.

Over the past year, Tennessee employers added 28,400 nonfarm jobs. The largest gains were in the leisure and hospitality sector, followed by the healthcare and social assistance sector, and state government.

Over the month, total nonfarm employment increased by 2,500 jobs, with the biggest increases in leisure and hospitality; professional, scientific, and technical services; and government.

TDLWD has compiled an [analysis of the September 2026 unemployment data](#).



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Monday, October 19, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

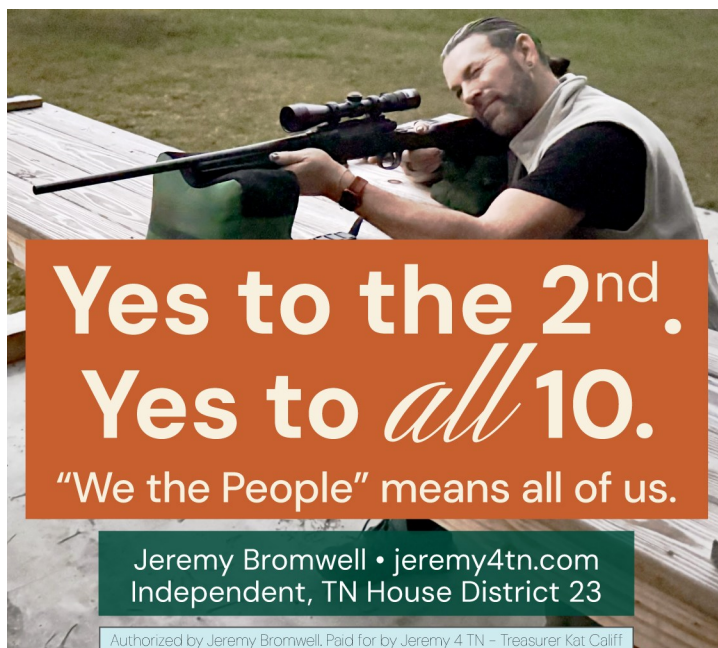
Gina Marie Belcher, age 44, a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County, passed away on Saturday, October 17, 2026. She loved photography, reading, going to see Matt Cordell, and was an avid Tennessee Volunteers fan. Gina attended Mount Harmony Baptist Church. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, from 5:00-8:00 PM. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at McMinn Memory Gardens with Reverend Garry King officiating. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Dorothy "Dee" Dutcher Misa, 83, of Athens, passed away Thursday, October 15, 2016 at a hospital in Knoxville, TN. She was a native of Boston, Mass, and longtime resident of McMinn County. She was a member of the Athens Elks Lodge #1927. She was an insurance agent until her retirement. A funeral service will be conducted, 1:00 pm, Tuesday, October 20, 2026 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home with Rev. Mark Reedy officiating. Interment will follow in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 11:00am-1:00pm at the funeral home prior to the service. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Dorothy "Dee" Dutcher Misa.

Thomas H. Castor, 71, of Niota TN went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. He was born in Lead, South Dakota on March 3, 1955, but was a resident of McMinn County all of his adult life. He was a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather, who enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, fishing and shooting skeet. He was a member of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church in Niota. A receiving of friends will be held from 5:00-7:00 pm Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at Smith Funeral Home with a service immediately following. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Thomas H. Castor.

Rhonda Jean Bowers Collins, 72, of Athens, TN passed away Friday, October 16, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was greeted with open arms by her husband, Jerry and son, Niles Brandon as well as all her loved ones who had gone on before. Rhonda was a member of Freedom Baptist Church in Athens, Tennessee. She was not only blessed with a loving family, but she was also blessed with a wonderful church family. Rhonda was a devoted Christian, wife, momma, and Nene. For many years Rhonda enjoyed sharing her love of worshiping God through song with her singing group The Redemption Messengers. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, October 19, 2026, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home with Pastor Chad Oody officiating. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 20th and go in procession to Green Hill Cemetery for the 11:00 a.m. committal service. [Bordwine Funeral Home](#) of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Margie Audine Johnson Shell, age 86 of Niota, Tenn. passed away Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026, in Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. She was a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County, Tenn., a daughter of Audley Winfred and Alma Grace Clark Johnson and preceded in death by Sister: Janet Norwood. She retired from Athens Products and was a member of Niota United Methodist Church and was very active in United Methodist Women. Graveside services will be 11:00 A.M. Wednesday in McMinn Memory Gardens with Rev. Stephen Yeancy and Rev. Alex Thompson officiating. There will be no formal visitation. [Laycock Hobbs Funeral Home](#) of Athens is in charge of arrangements.



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