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Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Seeks Public Help Collecting White Oak Acorns

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry is encouraging residents to participate in the Tennessee White Oak Initiative, a statewide acorn collection program designed to support white oak forest restoration efforts through Nov. 15.

The initiative is a partnership between the Division of Forestry's East Tennessee Nursery, the University of Tennessee Extension and the Tennessee Forestry Association. According to State Forester Heather Slayton, white oak regeneration has declined across Tennessee, prompting efforts to restore the species in forests statewide.

Acorns collected through the program help supplement the seed supply at the East Tennessee Nursery in Polk County, which grows thousands of white oak seedlings each year for reforestation projects. Officials say wild-collected acorns often produce larger, stronger seedlings and help meet growing demand for white oak restoration.

Individuals, landowners, civic groups, forestry organizations and youth groups are invited to participate. Information on how to collect, store and deliver acorns is available through the Tennessee Forestry Association.

CSCC to Present 'Strange Journeys' Halloween Concert

Cleveland State COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cleveland State Community College will present its annual Halloween concert, *Strange Journeys*, on Friday, Oct. 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the George R. Johnson Cultural Heritage Center Auditorium on the college's Cleveland campus.

The free, family-friendly event will feature performances by Cleveland State students and faculty alongside local musicians. This year's theme explores unusual adventures and mysterious destinations through music from productions and films including *Into the Woods*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *Donnie Darko*.

Performers will include Cleveland State's Vocal Rhapsody choral ensemble, Cleveland Jazz Works, faculty musicians and guest performers from the Cleveland area.

Attendees are encouraged to wear costumes, and trick-or-treating will be available in the lobby following the performance. Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Schaffner at 423-473-2311 or matt.schaffner@cscctn.edu.

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Wednesday, October 21, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Athens Youth Basketball League Registration Now Open



The City of Athens Parks and Recreation Department has opened registration for its 2026-27 Youth Basketball League. The program is available for children in Pre-K through sixth grade, with games scheduled on Saturday mornings

beginning in January at the Athens City Primary and Intermediate School gyms.

Practices will be held one evening each week, with schedules determined by individual coaches. The cost is \$80 per player. Registration is available online, by phone, or in person at the Parks and Recreation Department's new office located at 122 Regional Park Drive. Team registrations and free-agent signups are both being accepted.

For more information or to register, visit:

secure.recl.com/TN/athens-tn/catalog

or call the Parks and Recreation Office at 423-744-2704.

ACT Opens Table Read Season with Agatha Christie Classic

Athens Community Theatre will kick off its 2026-27 Table Read season with a reading of *And Then There Were None* on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. at The Arts Center in Athens. The session will be led by ACT director Michael Webb and is free and open to the public.

Based on Agatha Christie's classic mystery, *And Then There Were None* follows ten strangers who are invited to a remote island mansion off the coast of England, where a suspenseful series of events unfolds.

ACT's table reads offer community members an opportunity to experience theater in a relaxed setting. Participants may choose to read a role, listen, or switch between the two at any time. The readings are designed to introduce newcomers to community theater, preview potential productions, and explore lesser-known works.

Most table reads are held on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at The Arts Center. Anyone interested in receiving notifications about future readings can email:

operations@athensartscouncil.org.

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Wednesday, October 21, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Report

October 15, 2026

Rebecca Crowder, 53, of Madisonville, charged with violation of probation for theft, and restitution. Bond \$1,600.

Crystal Rydell, 48, of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth. Bond \$2,800.

Megan Chariot, 36, of Athens, charged with shoplifting, theft of property. Bond \$2,000.

William Keller, 30, of Madisonville, charged with violation of probation for driving on a revoked license, and having no insurance. Bond \$791.

Rhonda Crowe, 48, of Athens, charged with violation of probation for violation of an interlock device. Bond \$600.

Wanda Borden, 23, of Athens, charged with DUI, and driving without due care.

Stephen Cook, 50, of Englewood, charged with aggravated burglary, theft of property. Bond \$20,000.

Jason Visage, 45, of Athens, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license. Bond \$2,000.

Flower Fields, 49, of Englewood, charged with aggravated burglary, and theft of property. Bond \$20,000.

Jonathan Henson, 44, of Madisonville, charged with theft of property. Bond \$4,000.

Additional Arrest Reports on page 5

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

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Tickets go on sale September 14th - \$15 each - may be purchased from the Gem Players or LaMone Rose - Call 423-263-3270 or 423-506-6067. Reservations are required and tickets are limited.



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Wednesday, October 21, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Report

October 18, 2026

Trey Jack, 24, charged with shoplifting over \$1,000, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Travis Boyd, 33, of Riceville, charged with failure to appear for domestic assault. Bond \$2,000.

Christopher Gohagan, 51, of Athens, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license. Bond \$2,000.

Joey White, 62, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for violation of the sex offender registry.

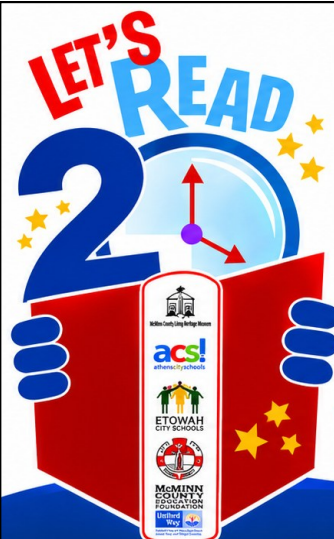
Zachariah Skanecki, 22, of Riceville charged with DUI, open container law, leaving the scene of an accident, and failure to give immediate notice of accident.

Anthony Ricker, 38, of Athens, charged with simple possession, casual exchange of meth, drug paraphernalia, and violation of probation for driving on a suspended license. Bond \$762.90.

Jake Shelton, 23, of Athens, charged with DUI.

Royce Holloway, 38, of Athens, charged with simple possession of schedule II fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia.

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



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Wednesday, October 21, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6 Athens, Tennessee

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Arts on the Side to Feature Free Dinner, Music and Art Exhibits

The Athens Area Council for the Arts will host its next Arts on the Side event on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Arts Center in Athens. The free community event will include a catered soup supper, exhibit receptions and live seasonal music.



Following dinner, provided by AR-AMARK Collegiate Hospitality, attendees can take part in a "Piano Walk," moving throughout the Arts Center to enjoy performances by local pianists in the lobby, music wing and Peggy Dow Performance Center. A list of participating musicians will be announced at a later date.

Arts on the Side is designed to make the arts accessible to the community by offering free meals and arts programming that encourages fellowship and creativity. Past activities have included concerts, jam sessions, visual arts projects, table reads and other cultural events.

TODAY IS...

- National Apple Day
- National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day
- National Witch Hazel Day
- Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day

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:

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Alicia Fulbright, NP;
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Obituaries

James "David" Cook, 69 of Philadelphia, TN and originally of Niota, passed away on Thursday, October 8. David was a member of Crossroads Baptist Church and a graduate of McMinn County High School. He was a dedicated employee of Niota Textile/Neuville Industries for 35 years, where he began his career in the shipping department and driving a truck and worked his way up to Supervisor. David's Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Corinth Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, located at 6100 Corinth Church Rd., Loudon, TN 37774. Finger foods will be provided by Corinth Baptist Church. [Com-](#)

[panion Funeral Home of Athens](#) is in charge of the arrangements.

Larry James Lawson, 80, of Cleveland, passed away on Saturday, October 17. A graveside service will be Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 11am in Cedar Grove Cemetery. [Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) is in charge of arrangements

Cindy L. Ellenbolt, age 71, of Athens, passed away at her residence on Tuesday, October 13. She was born on July 6, 1955. If you are a family member of Ms. Cindy, please contact [Companion Funeral and Cremation Service](#) to discuss arrangements.

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This is just a summary, check out the full platform on the site.

Authorized by Jeremy Bromwell. Paid for by Jeremy 4 TN - Treasurer Kat Califf