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Friday, October 23, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Isahaya Sister City Delegation Marks Visit with Hawk Release at DENSO Eco-Park

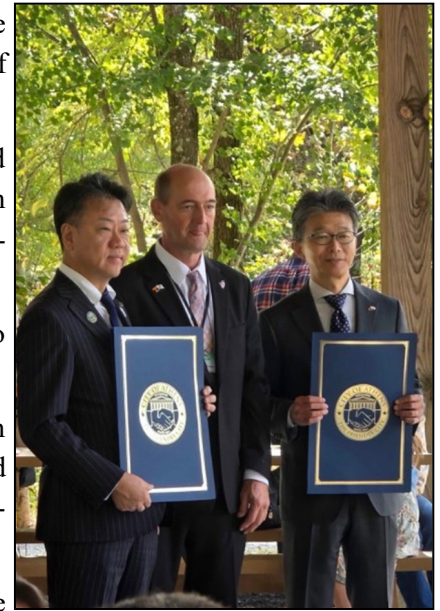
Members of Athens' sister city delegation from Isahaya, Japan, took part in a unique wildlife release event Tuesday at the DENSO Eco-Park, highlighted by the release of two rehabilitated red-tailed hawks back into the wild.

Athens Mayor Larry Eaton said the event featured the Consul General of Japan and the mayor of Isahaya each releasing a hawk, an experience made possible through Owl Ridge Raptor Center. The release was kept as a surprise for the visiting officials.

According to Eaton, the guests were honored to participate in returning the birds to their natural habitat and embraced the symbolic significance of the occasion.

In Japanese culture, the hawk is regarded as a symbol of martial skill, keen vision and good fortune. During remarks at the event, Eaton said the two hawks represented the strength of the Sister City relationship between Athens and Isahaya, a shared vision for the future, and hopes for continued prosperity in both communities.

Eaton described the event as a memorable moment for the city, DENSO and the community, saying it reflected the strong ties that have developed through the Sister City program and provided a meaningful way to celebrate the international partnership.



Pictured Left to Right: Isahaya Mayor, Okubo Yukishige; Athens Mayor, Larry Eaton; Japanese Consul-General, Shinji Watanabe

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Friday, October 23, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

## Community News You Can Use

- The Larry Dean Wallace Sr. Animal Shelter in Athens has reached full capacity and is urgently seeking adopters and foster families after multiple stray dogs were brought in overnight. Discounted adoption fees are available through the BISSELL Pet Foundation's Empty the Shelters event. Community members are encouraged to visit the shelter in person at 320 S. Jackson St. to help ease overcrowding.
- More than 4 million tubes of toothpaste, including several Brush Buddies children's products and certain Evo and Aru toothpaste varieties, have been voluntarily recalled nationwide due to manufacturing practice concerns. The FDA classified the recall as a Class II event, indicating potential temporary or medically reversible health effects. Consumers are encouraged to check recalled products and follow FDA guidance. For more details, click [HERE](#)
- The Athens Police Department will host a Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Residents can safely dispose of unwanted or expired prescription medications at the police department. Liquids and needles will not be accepted.

## Area High School Football Matchups

From region rivalries to key district contests, area high school football teams are back in action Friday night. See this week's games below.

**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL** THIS WEEK'S GAMES

|                                                                                     |    |                                                                                       |                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | VS |    | <b>MARYVILLE @ BRADLEY CENTRAL</b><br>FRIDAY, OCT. 23 @ 7:00 PM    |
|    | VS |    | <b>HARDIN VALLEY @ CLEVELAND</b><br>FRIDAY, OCT. 23 @ 7:00 PM      |
|    | VS |    | <b>SWEETWATER @ McMINN CENTRAL</b><br>FRIDAY, OCT. 23 @ 7:00 PM    |
|  | VS |  | <b>McMINN CO. @ RHEA CO.</b><br>FRIDAY, OCT. 23 @ 7:00 PM          |
|  | VS |  | <b>MEIGS CO. @ AUSTIN-EAST</b><br>FRIDAY, OCT. 23 @ 7:00 PM        |
|  | VS |  | <b>ONEIDA @ POLK CO.</b><br>FRIDAY, OCT. 23 @ 7:00 PM              |
|  | VS |  | <b>SEQUOYAH @ RED BANK</b><br>FRIDAY, OCT. 23 @ 7:00 PM            |
|  | VS |  | <b>SEQUATCHIE CO. @ WALKER VALLEY</b><br>FRIDAY, OCT. 23 @ 7:00 PM |

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†The APR (currently 7.00%) is based on the WSJ prime rate and may adjust monthly. After the introductory period, the APR can range from 4.00% to a maximum of 18.00%. All loans are subject to approval. Restrictions may apply. Limited time offer, rates are subject to change without notice. Third party closing fees may apply, generally ranging between \$570 and \$1200. Insurance is required. Visit any PBET location for complete details. NMLS #450164



# UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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THIS WEEK  
NEXT WEEK  
EVERY WEEK

Friday, October 23, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Church News & Events

- Union McMinn Baptist Church will host its Thanksgiving Day "Come to the Table" gathering on Thursday, Nov. 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 316 County Road 316 in Niota. Guests are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal, fellowship, worship and singing. The Leamon Family will provide special music. Everyone is welcome.
- [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 Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- St. Mark AME Zion Church will host its First Annual Cornerstone Chili Cook-Off community fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McMinn Senior Activity Center, 205 McMinn Ave., Athens. The event will feature chili, music, prizes, and a silent auction as part of efforts to help rebuild the church. For more information, contact Lila Robinson at 423-241-7117.
- Keith Memorial United Methodist Church will host the Lee University Chorale in concert on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 5 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The public is invited to attend.
- Lane's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, 904 County Road 264, Niota, will celebrate Women's Day on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 11 a.m. Guest speaker will be Minister Dian-na Jordan of Saint Paul Baptist Church in Knoxville. Lunch will be served, and everyone is invited.

*More Church News on Page 6*

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### Athens Announces Election-Related, Roadwork Closures

The City of Athens Public Works Department has announced several temporary street and parking closures related to election operations and roadway maintenance.

To accommodate the McMinn County Election Commission's election supply pickup, drop-off and election returns, four parking spaces near the courthouse ramp on Madison Avenue between White and Jackson streets will be closed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 2 and again on Nov. 4. In addition, Madison Avenue between White and Jackson streets will be closed from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 3.

Public Works also announced an updated closure for Mayfield Lane between Jones Street and Ingleside Avenue. The roadway will be closed from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 22 to allow for asphalt patching work.

Motorists are encouraged to use caution, follow posted traffic control signs and allow extra travel time when passing through the affected areas. Detours will be posted where necessary.

For additional information, contact the Athens Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

### 2nd Individual Arrested in Murder Case

An investigation by special agents with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the Roane County Sheriff's Office, has resulted in the arrest of a second individual in connection with a Ten Mile murder. On January 27th, at the request of 9th Judicial District Attorney General Russell Johnson, TBI agents began investigating the death of Elton Richardson (DOB 08/11/1981) that occurred in the 4600 block of Decatur Highway in Ten Mile. During the course of the investigation, law enforcement officers identified Mitchel Crass (DOB 04/07/1983), as one of the individuals responsible for Richardson's death. On Monday, the Roane County Grand Jury returned indictments charging Crass with one count of First-Degree Murder, one count of Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Murder, and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Tampering with Evidence. Crass was arrested and booked into the Roane County Jail. His bond has been set at \$865,000. The charges and allegations are merely accusations of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and convicted through due process of law.

Source: [TBINEWSROOM.COM](http://TBINEWSROOM.COM)

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Left to Right:  
Eleanor Cresswell, NP;  
Alicia Fulbright, NP;  
Adam Thornton, PA;  
Houston Yates, PA

## ETF Awards \$120,000 in Grants to Support Teens, Veterans Across East Tennessee

The East Tennessee Foundation has awarded \$120,000 in grants through the CNS Y-12 Community Investment Fund to support nonprofit organizations serving communities across a 20-county region of East Tennessee.

Established by Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC, the contractor for the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, the fund focuses this year's funding on programs that promote teen resilience and veteran support. Grants will help organizations provide services for at-risk middle and high school students and young adults, including mental health resources, educational opportunities, life skills training and foster care transition assistance. Funding will also support programs serving veterans and their families through mental health services, housing assistance, job training, disability support, service dog programs and community reintegration efforts.

Since its creation in 2015, the CNS Y-12 Community Investment Fund has awarded more than 200 grants benefiting over 140 nonprofit organizations throughout East Tennessee.

The 2026 grant recipients are Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge, CASA Monroe, Compassion Closet, East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA), Frontline Gardens, Isaiah 117 House-Anderson County, Isaiah 117 House-Bradley/Polk County, Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity, REBOOT Recovery, Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding (STAR), Shora Foundation and Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless. Grant recipients were recognized during a reception held earlier this month.



Pictured above: Grant Recipients

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Friday, October 23, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

## Church News & Events

- Mt. Verd Baptist Church welcomes you to their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 24 from 3pm - 5pm. There will be games, free food, face painting, pumpkin carving, and a Cake Walk. The church is located at 252 County Road 249, Athens. See their ad on page 5.
- Athens Lutheran Church, 710 Forrest Ave., will host a community Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. The free event is open to all ages, and the church invites the community to come for treats and fellowship.
- Eastanallee Church is holding a Fall Festival this Sunday, October 25th from 3 to 5 p.m. with lots of activities such as pony rides, candy caravan, hay rides, funnel cakes, inflatables, door prizes, food and dessert walks. The church is located at 482 County Road 725, Riceville. See their ad on page 4.
- Keith Memorial United Methodist Church invites the community to the 10th annual Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving Day beginning at 8am. Register at this link [HERE](#)

I'm here by choice, and I want District 23 to get better without becoming somewhere else.

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Jeremy Bromwell  
TN House District 23  
[jeremy4tn.com](http://jeremy4tn.com)

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

We encourage you to e-mail us community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

Any items you would like us to consider, e-mail: [wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)



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Friday, October 23, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 7

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Report

### October 21, 2026

**Cornelius Ferguson**, 49, of Athens, charged with four counts of child support. Bond \$18,000.

**Pamela Moses**, 47, of Athens, charged with two counts child support. Bond \$9,000.

**Corey Wade**, 31, of Athens, charged with schedule 2 cocaine, schedule 2 adderall, schedule 4 xanax, drug paraphernalia, and public intoxication. Bond \$25,000.

**Waylon Roberts**, 21, of Decatur, charged with state violation of probation for felony evading. Bond \$500.

**Librandon Smith**, 45, of Athens, charged with schedule 2 fentanyl for resale, schedule 2 meth for resale, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$10,000.

**Ronald Henry**, 60, of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth. Bond \$1,800.

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



## Obituaries

**Joe Kendall Armstrong**, age 91, of Englewood, Tennessee, passed away on October 21, 2026, at Willow Acres in Riceville, Tennessee. Kendall was born on July 5, 1935, and was the son of Robert and Elsie Ledford Armstrong. Kendall was the youngest of eight children and was the "baby brother" to his seven sisters. Kendall was a beloved husband to Doris McConnell Armstrong for 73 years, a devoted father to Sharen, Karen, Terry, and Doug, and a loving grandfather to seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren who knew him as Papaw Kendall. Kendall attended Englewood Elementary School and graduated from Englewood High School. He went on to work for 47 years at Mayfield Dairy in Athens, Tennessee as Lab Supervisor and finished his career as Production Supervisor. His career was an important part of his life, and after retirement he returned to assist in opening a new plant in Braselton, Georgia.

A longtime supporter of young athletes, Kendall coached youth sports through the Englewood Youth Program for many years. As a young man, Kendall trained and showed Tennessee Walking Horses with his lifelong friend and brother-in-law Kenny Dickson. He remained involved with the horses and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville for more than 60 years. He also served as a judge in one class at the National Celebration.

Kendall was an active member of Englewood United Methodist Church for more than 71 years. His church was a longstanding part of his life, and he loved his church family dearly.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 25, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home in Athens, TN. Graveside services will be held on Monday, October 26 at 11:00a.m., with Angela Akers (Kendall's pastor) and Ryan Armstrong officiating. Interment will follow at McMinn Memory Gardens in Athens.

[Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Joe Kendall Armstrong.



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