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Japanese Delegation Tours Local Schools During Sister-City Visit



A delegation from Isahaya, Japan, visited McMinn County Schools and Athens City Schools recently as part of the 40th anniversary celebration of the sister-city partnership between Athens and Isahaya.

The group toured McMinn County High School, Athens City Primary School, Athens City Intermediate School and Athens City Middle School, where they observed classroom instruction, student projects and educational programs.

At McMinn County High School, visitors explored Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and watched students demonstrate skills in trades, technology and industry.

“Our CTE students are learning skills that are in demand right here at home and around the world,” said McMinn County Schools Director Melasawn Knight.

In Athens City Schools, the delegation observed literacy instruction, STEM classes, art programs, media center activities and physical education featuring the Lü Interactive System. At Athens City Middle School, the tour included fine arts, STEM and academic classrooms, as well as the school cafeteria.

The school visits were among several activities commemorating the Athens-Isahaya sister-city relationship, established in 1986 to promote cultural exchange and cooperation between the two communities.

Both school systems thanked the City of Athens, the visiting delegation and the students, educators and staff who helped coordinate the visits. *Source: Camille Luttrell, McMinn County Schools*



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Dump Truck Overturms on Union McMinn Road in Niota



A Ford dump truck overturned Thursday afternoon on Union McMinn Road in Niota after the driver pulled to the side of the roadway believing she had a flat tire.

According to reports from the scene, the 50-year-old driver said the truck suddenly overturned while carrying a load of rock. Emergency responders from the Niota Police Department, Niota Fire Department and Niota Road Department assisted at the scene.

The driver was transported by Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Drew Metelits. *Photos by Tonia Willis, Niota FD*



Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Historical Society & Archives will host a presentation, **“Honoring the Veterans in Cunningham Cemetery,”** on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 2 p.m. in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The program will be presented by Danny Slack.
- Members of the McMinn County High School Class of 1969 are invited to an informal gathering at Silver Springs Restaurant in Riceville on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at noon. No registration or fee is required, and attendees are encouraged to come enjoy a casual afternoon reconnecting with classmates and friends.
- The McMinn County Amateur Radio Club will be hosting their annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, November 7th. The event takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join them for a wonderful chili dinner with all the toppings and you'll get a chance to vote on your favorite chef. It takes place at Southern Events at 298 West Madison Avenue in downtown Athens. For more information call (423) 507-3020.

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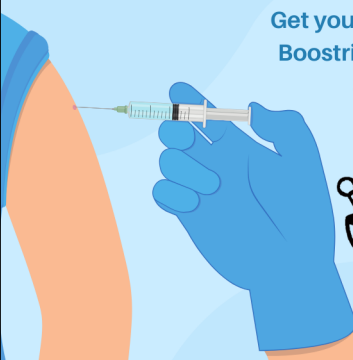



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Tuesday, October 27, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Arts Council Announces Fall, Holiday Class Lineup



The Athens Area Council for the Arts is accepting registrations for a variety of art classes and workshops beginning in late October and continuing through December.

The Studio, a free monthly art club for ages 11-17, will meet Nov. 23 and offers young artists opportunities to explore painting, drawing, sculpture and other art forms.

Several beginner-friendly classes for ages 16 and older are also planned. Patricia Shook will lead Holiday Trees workshops on multiple dates in November, where participants will create ceramic holiday trees for display. Shook will also teach Holiday Ornaments classes Nov. 29-

Dec. 6 and Nov. 30-Dec. 7, focusing on handcrafted clay decorations.

Nancy Kyzer will teach a three-session Portrait Drawing course Nov. 3-17, covering facial proportions, shading and portrait techniques.

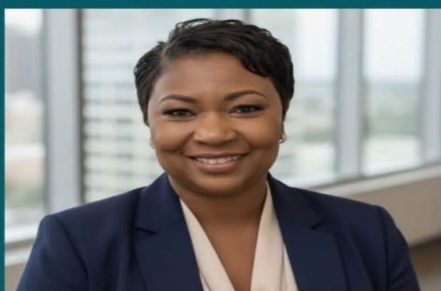
Deborah Kowalczyk will offer a series of introductory workshops, including Watercolor on Nov. 13, Oil Painting on Nov. 15, Colored Pencil on Dec. 1 and Soft Pastels on Dec. 12. Each workshop allows students to complete a finished piece while learning the basics of the medium.

The Arts Council also announced that past and current pottery students may rent pottery studio time for \$20 per month.

Registration information and instructor details are available at athensartscouncil.org/classes or by calling 423-745-8781. Registrations may also be completed in person at The Arts Center.



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Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

Vols Stunned by South Carolina, but Playoff Path Remains Open

Just one week after a signature victory over Alabama, Tennessee found itself on the wrong side of an upset Saturday, falling 27-24 to South Carolina on a 48-yard field goal as time expired.

The No. 11 Volunteers dropped to 6-2 after letting a seven-point fourth-quarter lead slip away. Tennessee overcame an early 14-0 deficit and led 24-17 late in the game before South Carolina rallied for a tying touchdown and the game-winning kick.

Running back **DeSean Bishop** continued his standout season, rushing for 120 yards and a touchdown on 32 carries. Tennessee finished with 184 rushing yards but struggled through the air, generating just 320 total yards while being flagged 12 times for 90 yards.

The Vols' loss highlighted a chaotic weekend across college football. No. 2 BYU suffered its first defeat of the season in a double-overtime loss to UCF, while Texas Tech, Ole Miss, Iowa and USC also fell, creating further uncertainty in the College Football Playoff race.

Despite the setback, Tennessee remains firmly in the playoff conversation thanks to its recent win over Alabama and a strong overall résumé. The Vols now enter an open date with an opportunity to regroup before the season's final stretch. Reducing penalties, finding more consistency in the passing game and improving late-game execution will be key areas of focus if Tennessee hopes to remain in contention for an SEC title and a College Football Playoff berth. *Written & Submitted by J.P. Vasquez, Color Analyst, TN Football*

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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

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Tuesday, October 27, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Report

October 25, 2026

Nestor Sejal Rekha, 42, of Athens, charged with DUI, no bond.

Cheyenne Moses, 28, of Athens, charged with violation of probation. Bond \$2,142.

Ethan Gooch, 29, of Etowah, charged with violation of an order of protection. Bond \$1500.

Joshua Stabnow, 47, of Athens, charged with public intoxication. Bond \$500.

Kendra Lyons, 18, of Athens, charged with simple possession casual exchange of schedule 6, felony tampering with evidence, and prohibited purchases of tobacco by a minor. Bond \$3,000.

Prakash Balakreekman, 56, of Philadelphia, charged with leaving the scene of an accident, and failure to give immediate notice of an accident.

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

Obituaries

Mildred Johnson Burris, of Athens, passed away Sunday, October 25, 2026 at the Groves of Athens. She was a native of Murphy, North Carolina and a longtime resident of McMinn. She was a member of East Athens Baptist Church. She worked as a secretary and bookkeeper for Reeves Electronics until her retirement. A funeral service will be conducted 11:00 am, Wednesday, October 28, 2026 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home with Rev. Mike Dannell officiating. Interment will follow in Cedar Grove Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10:00-11:00 am, Wednesday at the funeral home prior to the service. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Mildred Johnson Burris.

Joyce Casteel Barker, 81, of Ten Mile, TN passed away on Friday, October 23, 2026 at her home with her children at her side. A native and resident of McMinn County the majority of her life, she was a beautician, owning her own beauty salons in Athens in the 1970s and 1980s. She was of the Baptist faith. A graveside service will be conducted, 11:00 am, Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at McMinn Memory Gardens with Rev. Dr. Bryan Trapp officiating. The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 pm, Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at Smith Funeral Home. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Joyce Casteel Barker.

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