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Thursday, October 29, 2026**Page 1****Athens, Tennessee**

Red Cross Offers Halloween Safety Tips

With Halloween just days away, the American Red Cross of Tennessee is encouraging families to take simple precautions to help ensure a safe night of trick-or-treating. The organization recommends using face paint instead of masks that can limit vision, carrying flashlights, adding reflective materials to costumes and treat bags, and wearing light-colored clothing when possible. Costumes should be flame-resistant and free of long, trailing fabric that could create tripping hazards.

The Red Cross also urges parents to know where children are going and to accompany younger trick-or-treaters door-to-door. Children should walk rather than run, stay on sidewalks, cross streets only at corners, and visit only homes with porch lights on. Trick-or-treaters should accept treats at the door and never enter a stranger's home. Families are also reminded to use caution around animals, especially dogs.

Drivers are encouraged to be extra alert on Halloween night, as excited youngsters may forget to look both ways before crossing the street. Parents should inspect all treats before they are eaten, discarding loose candy, opened packages, and unfamiliar items.

Homeowners welcoming trick-or-treaters can help improve safety by lighting walkways, sweeping leaves from sidewalks and steps, and removing obstacles from porches and yards that could cause falls.

The Red Cross says a little preparation can help make Halloween both fun and safe for everyone.

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More Information

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Thursday, October 29, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Cougar Track & Treats Event at Cleveland State



Children enjoyed collecting candy in the comfort of their cars in the drive through event.

Cleveland State Community College recently hosted Cougar Tracks and Treats in partnership with **MARS Wrigley**. Families drove through campus and received candy as well as information about college programs. *Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC*

Special Olympics Bowlers Shine at Classic Lanes



The McMinn/Meigs Area Special Olympics bowling event was held Oct. 9 at Classic Lanes, with athletes enjoying a day of competition, fellowship and fun. The event was coordinated by Judy Rogers, McMinn/Meigs Area Special Olympics director, with support from the Athens Civitan Club.

Among the top bowlers of the day were: (L-R) Angie Mason, Issac McGhee and Chris Cheek, who earned the highest scores during the competition.

Organizers praised the athletes for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship, making the annual event another successful celebration of achievement and community support. *Source: Connie Bishop*

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Thursday, October 29, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Table Reads This Winter with Athens Community Theatre

Athens Community Theatre (ACT) opens its 2026-27 Table Read season. All ACT Table Reads take place at The Arts Center in Athens, TN, and are on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM unless otherwise indicated. All Table Reads are free and open to the public.

First is *Elf The Musical* on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:00 PM, led by ACT director Traci McKenzie and the second is on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 PM, which is *Alice By Heart*, led by ACT member Ethan León.

ABOUT ELF THE MUSICAL - Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh realities that his father is on the naughty list and his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

ABOUT ALICE BY HEART - In the rubble of the London Blitz of World War II, Alice Spencer's budding teen life is turned upside down when she and her dear friend Alfred are forced to take shelter in an underground tube station. When the ailing Alfred is quarantined, Alice encourages him to escape with her into their cherished book and journey down the rabbit hole to Wonderland.

ABOUT TABLE READS - Participation in a table read is a great way to "dip a toe in" to see what it's like to work with Athens Community Theatre. The play is read casually: A participant can read a part or simply listen, and change their mind at any time. ACT members host these opportunities for fun, to preview plays and musicals for consideration, or for more niche titles. They are always free and open to the public.

Upcoming Table Read dates for 2026-27: *Night Mother* on May 18.

Anyone who wants to learn about future table reads can email operations@athensartscouncil.org to be added to the notification list.



New filing & donors.

Mark Cochran's list now includes: Wright Brothers Construction owners (*Project River, anyone?*), Anthropic (AI), Airbnb, and more PAC money.

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Thursday, October 29, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Report

October 27, 2026

Ira Cannon, 30, of Athens, charged with simple possession, casual exchange of fentanyl, simple possession, casual exchange of marijuana, simple possession, casual exchange of suboxone, drug paraphernalia, and state violation of probation for theft, \$2,500 to \$10,000. Bond \$12,000.

Catherine Motes, 38, of Ten Mile, charged with child support, casual exchange possession of meth, and driving on a suspended license. Bond \$4,500.

Teresa Davis, 57, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for introduction of contraband in a penal facility, and shoplifting theft of property. Bond \$3,000.

Albert McHale, 64, of Niota, charged with driving on a revoked license, DUI, open container, and failure to have insurance.

Amy Stanley, 36, of Athens, charged with violation of probation for falsifying a drug test. Bond \$1300.

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

STATE NEWS: Two Men Sentenced in State Forest Tree Theft Case

Two Overton County men have been sentenced after pleading guilty to stealing a black walnut tree from Standing Stone State Forest, according to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

Derek Smith pleaded guilty Sept. 14, 2026, to theft of property valued at more than \$1,000, a Class E felony. He was sentenced to two years of probation through the Tennessee Department of Correction. Smith must pay \$2,050 in restitution and a \$1,000 fine.

Marvin Hall pleaded guilty Oct. 5, 2026, to theft of property valued at more than \$1,000, a Class E felony. He was sentenced to a two-year sentence, with six months to serve and the remaining 18 months on probation. Hall must also pay \$2,050 in restitution and a \$3,000 fine.

The case stemmed from the theft of a 55-foot black walnut tree from Standing Stone State Forest earlier this year. Investigators later traced the stolen tree to a regional sawmill where it had been sold. Both men have been banned from Standing Stone State Forest and Standing Stone State Park.

The case was investigated by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Crime Unit with assistance from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation park rangers.

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