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Food City *"Friends & Pets in Need"* Holiday Food Drive

Food City is preparing to kick-off their 9th annual Friends & Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive.

"***Hunger is a serious problem throughout our region, especially during the holidays and colder winter months. Food City is proud to host a number of hunger relief programs throughout the year, including our Friends & Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive. The drive will benefit local hunger relief organizations and animal shelters throughout our area at a critical time***," says Steven C. Smith, Food City's president and chief executive officer.

Beginning November 4th and continuing through December 31st, specially marked bags containing non-perishable food items, as well as bags containing pet food products will be available for purchase for only $15 (plus tax) at all area Food City locations. Customers wishing to purchase the bags may deposit them in the collection bins located at the front of the store. 100% of the products collected will benefit local hunger relief organizations and animal shelters throughout the region.

"***Millions of Americans and animals need food assistance each year. The Food City Friends & Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive is another way we can help those in need right here in our own area***," adds Misty Deskins, senior director of marketing for Food City.

"Food City's ongoing hunger relief initiatives have been a tremendous success, and we are hoping to set a new record with this year's drive to help our neighbors and furry friends in need," said Smith. Last year's drive raised over $424,000 to benefit local hunger relief organizations and animal shelters.

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Optimist Club to Host 25th Annual Soup Supper

The Optimist Club of Athens will hold its 25th annual Soup Supper on Monday, Dec. 7, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the basement of Mars Hill Presbyterian Church in downtown Athens in conjunction with the Jimmy Liner Memorial Christmas Parade.

The fundraiser will feature a choice of vegetable soup or chili, along with crackers, cookies and a drink. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for children ages 10 and under. Proceeds will support the club's youth-focused community projects.

Both dine-in and drive-thru service will be available.

Source: Joe Allen

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens City Schools Board of Education will meet on Monday, November 9 at 5:30 pm at the ACS Administration Building.
- McMinn County Senior Activity Center will host its annual Friendsgiving Lunch fundraiser on Nov. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. featuring a traditional Thanksgiving meal. On Nov. 14, the center will hold its Christmas Bazaar & Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 205 McMinn Ave., Athens, featuring local artisans, handmade gifts, food and pictures with Santa. Vendor spaces remain available.
- The City of Athens will hold its Veterans Brick Dedication Ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m. at Veterans Park, 202 Sunset Drive. The names of each veteran honored with a commemorative brick will be read aloud during the ceremony. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair, as seating will not be provided.
- Information provided to The Morning Fax by the McMinn Living Heritage Museum for their History for Lunch event incorrectly identified Nov. 21 as a Thursday. The correct date is **Saturday, Nov. 21**.
- The Athens *FamilySearch Center* will host an open house on Friday, Nov. 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. at 506 Cedar Springs Road. The public is invited to explore genealogy resources, preserve family history and learn about free research tools. Admission is free.





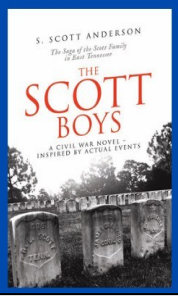


Church News & Events

- 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.***
- 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.
- 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 invites the community to the 10th annual Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving Day beginning at 8am. Register at the link HERE
- Mt. Verd Baptist Church, 252 County Road 249, Athens, will host a Thanksgiving drive-thru meal on Nov. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meals will be available on a first-come, first-served basis without leaving your vehicle.
- Marshall Hill Baptist Church (621 County Rd. 255, Niota) invites the community to their Fall Festival on November 7 at 2pm. See ad on Page 4.







Athens Native S. Scott Anderson
signing his Critically Aclaimed book '*The Scott Boys*'

Sunday 8 November 1 ~ 5
Monday 9 November 10 ~ 7

white street market

McMinn County Arrest Report

November 04, 2026

Dallas Moses, 33, of Athens, charged with disorderly conduct. Bond $500.

Heath Teigs, 42 of Niota, charged with violation of probation. Bond $1,500.

Reagan Muncy, 35, of Englewood, charged with burglary, theft under $1,000.

Benji Jernigan, 51, of Madisonville, charged with child support. Bond $5,000.

Kaitlyn Lynn, 21, of Niota, charged with violation of probation for possession of schedule 2. Bond $4,000.

Molly Wartman, 34, of Niota, charged with disorderly conduct. Bond $500.

Charles Williams, 59, of Athens, charged with criminal trespassing. Bond $3,000.

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

ACT Announces New Table Read Season

Athens Community Theatre has announced its 2026-27 Table Read season at The Arts Center in Athens, offering community members a chance to experience and explore theatrical productions in a casual setting.

The season will open with a reading of Elf The Musical on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m., followed by Alice By Heart on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

Table reads allow participants to either read a role or simply listen as the script is performed aloud. ACT uses the events to introduce potential productions, explore lesser-known works and provide an easy way for newcomers to become involved with local theater.

Additional table reads are planned throughout the season, including 'Night Mother on May 18. Most readings are scheduled for Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at The Arts Center.

Those interested in receiving notifications about future table reads may email operations@athensartscouncil.org.







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Obituaries

Doris Ann Graham, 77, of Niota, passed away on Monday, November 2. Doris was a hardworking woman who spent much of her life farming, a passion she carried throughout the years. She also enjoyed gardening and crafting, finding joy in the simple things she loved. Doris was a faithful member of Old Pond Hill Baptist Church. A graveside service will be held at a later date. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Rebecca Jane Sweet, affectionately known as "Janey," 66, of Englewood, passed away on Tuesday, November 3. Janey had a huge heart and a tremendous love for her family. She greeted nearly everyone she met with her familiar words, "Hey, sweetie," and was known for her humble spirit and kind heart. Her presence brought warmth to those around her, and she will be deeply missed by so many who were blessed to know and love her. A Celebration of Life service will be held at Community Baptist Church, where she attended, located at 120 County Road 287, Niota, TN, on Saturday, November 14 at 2:00 PM. Companion Funeral and Cremation Service of Athens, is honored to be entrusted with assisting the family during this difficult time.

George T. Pritchett, 87, of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, November 4, 2026. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of George T. Pritchett.

Ernest "Ernie" Lee Young, 60, of Grandview, TN passed away on Tuesday, September 29. Ernie held several jobs throughout his life. He worked on a dairy farm, at a Ford dealership as an auto mechanic, and drove semi-trucks in Florida before making the move to Tennessee. There, he worked for Jim Reed at Big T's Auto Parts in Crossville and served as ranch manager at Circle "R" Ranch in Grandview for approximately 24 years, until his passing. He also enjoyed fishing and learned to love horseback riding and going on trail rides. His smile and sense of humor will truly be missed. A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, November 14 at 10:30am at Grandview Baptist Church in Grandview, TN. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.



