

**AMERICAN LEGION  
FISH FRY**  
Friday, April 11  
5-7 PM @ VFW  
Congress Parkway North  
FISH-FRIES-COLESLAW-GREEN BEANS-HUSH  
PUPPIES



**The  
Morning  
Fax®**  
Today's News. This Morning.  
Okay to distribute (with attribution) Click here to send your stories to [wyxradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyxradio@gmail.com)

**OSMENT FLOORING**  
discount outlet  
(423) 252-0316  
30 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
Over 120 Styles of Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring  
Cozy Carpeting and Beautiful Hardwood  
The Best Scratch Resistant Laminates  
12ft & 16ft-wide Sheet Vinyl  
Ask about our "Match & Beat ANY Price" Policy  
2412 Congress Pkwy South, Athens

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

**Page 1**

**Athens, Tennessee**

## Press Release: McMinn Co. Deputies Catch Burglars at Sweetwater Airsoft



**Blake Fisher James Whitmer Paiden Davis Joshua Weber**

McMinn County deputies responded to a reported theft occurring at a business early Monday morning and caught the burglars in the act.

According to Sheriff Joe Guy, on April 7 around 12:30am, deputies were dispatched to a report of a theft in progress at Sweetwater Airsoft on County Road 275. Dispatchers advised that the business had also experienced a burglary the night before. As deputies arrived, they located a Ford F150 with 2 suspects inside. As more deputies arrived, a search was conducted of the area and 3 more suspects were located at the corner of the property. The suspects were identified as Joshua Weber 18, of Vonore; James Whitner, 20, of Sweetwater; Blake

Fisher, 19, of Athens; and Paiden Davis, 24, of Vonore, along with a 17 year-old male juvenile. Detectives arrived on the scene and an investigation commenced.

"It appeared that Weber and the juvenile had been to the Airsoft business at some time before and had returned the night before with Whitner, Davis and Fisher and burglarized it," said Sheriff Guy. "They returned the next night to do the same. Weber, Whitner and the juvenile broke in while Davis and Fisher waited outside in the truck. Several of the airsoft guns and other accessories had been hidden in the nearby woods and deputies were able to locate those, and others the thieves had taken to the homes of Webber and the juvenile in Monroe County. Those were later recovered from both locations with the assistance of Monroe County Sheriff's deputies."

Joshua Weber was charged with 2 counts of Burglary, 2 counts of Theft over \$1000 and was held on a \$56,000 bond. James Whitner was charged with Felony Burglary and Theft over \$2500 and was held on a \$56,000 bond. Paiden Davis was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Burglary and was held on a \$10,000 bond, and Blake Fisher was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Burglary and was held on a \$5000 bond. The juvenile was charged separately through juvenile court. The stolen items were returned to the business owners as they were recovered.

"It was the quick response by our deputies and good police work that resulted in a positive outcome," said Sheriff Guy

**Source: Joe Guy, Sheriff, McMinn County**

**Morning Fax®**  
Today's News. This Morning.

**PLANTED IN CHRIST  
OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP**  
Help for Addiction to Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, Bondage, Anger Management and more Life Issues.

Free outreach deliverance classes are held every Thursday 7:00 pm at Planted in Christ Outreach Fellowship 317 Maple Street, Athens.

For more information: 423-435-8986  
HOPE to see you there!

**MCMINN  
TANK & PIPE**

We offer same day & next day delivery!

- 1,000 gal Tank & Lowboys
- 1,000 & 1,500 gal Pump Tanks
- 2' & 3' Chamber Pipe
- 3" Schedule 40 Pipe
- Risers in Lids for Easy Pumping

423-507-9487  
423-744-0121

If it's not listed,  
call us!

**SOUTHERN  
HOMES**  
REAL ESTATE

**423-744-3515**

**Congratulations to  
Radley K.  
Lockmiller  
Top Producing  
Agents for  
March 2025**

[www.TheSouthernHomes.com](http://www.TheSouthernHomes.com)



**300 W. Madison Ave., Athens, TN 37303**

### TN WESLEYAN SUNDAY LUNCH

Start your Sunday off right with our delicious and decadent Sunday Lunch on the TN Wesleyan Campus! Join us for a wide variety of lunch classics and new favorites to satisfy your cravings. Served all you care to eat style!

**Date: Every Sunday**  
"When school is in session."

**Time: 11am-1:30pm**

**Location: Sherman Dining Hall  
204 E College Street  
Athens TN 37303**



Scan and select the upcoming Sunday from the lunch meal period.





## SPLASH INTO SUMMER AT THE YMCA!

Don't miss out on youth group swim lessons! Drowning is 100% preventable with skills practice and proper SUPERVISION. Classes for ages 0-12 are now available for registration through July!



Swim Spas

**POOL OPENING SEASON**

Spas

- Pool and Spa Chemicals
- We do **WATER TESTING**
- Everything you need!

103 Dynasty Way • Athens  
Order Online  
www.dynastypoolsandspas.com  
423-745-1425

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

### George Financial joins Athens Chamber



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area of Commerce member, George Financial/Erica Croomes, located at 106 East Washington Ave., Athens. Chamber Friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right are: Wesley Skinner (Chamber Diplomat/Board), Stephanie Devine (WYXI Radio), Erica Croomes, Will Evans, & J Raschke (George Financial), Hunter Starr (Chamber Diplomat), Stacey Hester (Chamber Diplomat). Back: Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), John Croomes, Tod Marner (Chamber Board), Karen Sullivan (Athens Chamber), Todd Watson (Chamber Board), Richard Pupard.

**Morning Fax**  
Today's News. This Morning.

Source: Julie Simbeck, Athens Chamber

### Community News You Can Use

- The Etowah Friendly Garden Club is making Morning Fax final preparations for the upcoming Annual Plant Sale that will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon.  
Today's News. This Morning.
- The McMinn County Election Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, and a called meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, both in the conference room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The agenda for the April 15 meeting will be posted on the bulletin board at the election office today, Wednesday, April 9. The April 22 meeting will include the reorganization of the commission for the new term and the ap-  
Today's News. This Morning.

**Listening Reminder:** Women at the Well founder, Robin Nation invites you to listen to *Hope From the Well* this week with guest Charlotte Bates! They will be discussing Charlotte's journey with the organization. *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday at 8:15 am on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM FEATURING  
CABINETRY FROM THE FOLLOWING BRANDS

MANTRA KITH KITCHENS

INTEGRITY  
CABINETS

JSI CABINETRY



**Hiwassee**  
builders supply  
100 Decatur Pike, Athens (423) 745-4704



American Legion Post 68  
**Freedom Run**

APRIL 19

@9AM

**5K/1K**

EUREKA TRAIL  
ATHENS, TN

(423) 507-4938  
REGISTER: TOTAL RACE SOLUTIONS





# June 7th Downtown Athens

Free Admission  
**10AM-5PM**



**AG AVENUE WHEEL OF  
AGRICULTURE & TRIVIA  
TRACTOR  
MAYFIELD GAMES AND  
CONTESTS**

**ATHENS LIONS CLUB  
MOORUN AT EUREKA TRAIL  
MR. & MISS MOOFEST  
PAGEANT**

**Live Entertainment  
on 4 Stages!**

**MARKET PAVILION STAGE  
FURTHER UP THE ROAD  
KINSLEE MELHORN  
J-CREEK CLOGGERS  
COLE SITZLAR  
EMI SUNSHINE**

**COURTHOUSE STEPS  
JIM BROOKS  
LOGAN CROSS  
NINA RICCI  
ROSCOE MORGAN**

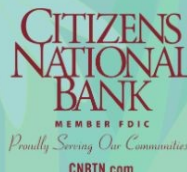
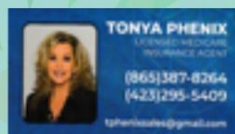
**LIFESTILES STAGE  
INSPIRATIONS DANCE &  
GYMNASTICS**

**DOWNTOWN BEAUTY LOUNGE STAGE  
RONNIE RAPER MUSIC STUDENTS**

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



**DENSO**  
Crafting the Core



**KONA ICE**



**Warren Jackson**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, PLLC



**Simmons Bank**




**Simmons Bank**  
PRIVATE WEALTH



**FRIENDLYCITYFESTIVALS.COM**







94.5 FM

1390 AM

BUY!

SELL!

TRADE!

THE

TRADING POST

MORNING SHOW

WITH J.P. VASQUEZ

AIRING SINCE 1971

WYXI RADIO

The Friendly Voice of the Friendly City

FM 94.5 AM 1390

TAKING CALLS DAILY!

(423) 745-1390

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

EVERY WEEKDAY

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Donald Dodgen inducted into TSSAA Hall of Fame Class of 2025



Eight distinguished individuals were honored as the Class of 2025 inductees into the TSSAA Hall of Fame during a special luncheon held Monday, April 7, at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. The ceremony recognized two administrators, three coaches, two officials, and one contributor for their lasting impact on Tennessee high school athletics. Among them was **Donald Dodgen**, a celebrated coach and athletic director with roots at **Tennessee Wesleyan University** and **McMinn County High School**, whose decades-long career has shaped the lives of countless student-athletes. (In photo back row, 1st on the left)

Donald Dodgen's remarkable 38-year coaching career has left a lasting legacy on high school and college athletics across the state. He began his journey as a standout player at Tennessee Wesleyan, later returning as a coach and earning a spot in the university's Hall of Fame as both an athlete and coach.

His coaching career began at McMinn County High School before continuing at Gatlinburg-Pittman and ultimately Farragut High School, where he built a powerhouse basketball program. Over the years, Dodgen amassed an impressive 655-309 career record, including 308 wins at Farragut and a state tournament appearance in 1982.

In 2010, Dodgen transitioned into the role of Athletic Director at Farragut, where his leadership helped guide the school to 13 state championships across multiple sports. His dedication to excellence and student-athlete development has made him one of the most respected names in Tennessee athletics.

Dodgen joins a distinguished group of eight inductees in the TSSAA Class of 2025, further cementing his place in the state's storied sports history. *Source: TSSAA News*

### *With Sincere Appreciation*

We are deeply grateful for your prayers, generosity and acts of pure kindness.

They have been a comfort to us during this difficult time. Your thoughtfulness and support will never be forgotten.

*Dr. Vant Hardaway and daughters, Vanessa, Julie, and Family*



DR. JANICE HARDAWAY





Burke's

GOSPEL

JUBILEE

SUNDAYS AT 9 AM

WYXI RADIO

The Friendly Voice of the Friendly City

FM 94.5 AM 1390



# Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens

"59 Years of Dedicated Service"

Jerry E. Smith, LFD, 1010 S. White Street • Athens

## A Complete Funeral Home, Chapel & Visitation Rooms

A caring staff of professional, licensed directors • Only the best quality funeral supplies •

Made in the U.S.A. • Any type of service you desire • We serve all faiths. •

We offer pre-planning service • Competitive pricing • Locally owned & operated.

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Baseball Recap

## Obituaries



The McMinn County Cherokees earned a 5-2 road victory over the Rhea County Golden Eagles on Monday in a District 5-4A baseball matchup in Evansville.

Rhea County struck first, scoring in the opening inning, but McMinn quickly responded with a sacrifice fly by Drake Frazier in the second. After briefly falling behind again on a passed ball, the Cherokees took control in the fourth, scoring three runs—highlighted by a two-RBI single from Cooper Wilson and a Rhea error. Kade Hyde added insurance with a solo homer in the sixth.

Sophomore pitcher Marshall Goodner delivered a dominant performance on the mound, going the distance and remaining undefeated. He allowed six hits and no earned runs, striking out nine and walking two. Wilson led the Cherokees with two RBIs, while Jaser Arms and Auston Fugate each had two hits. For Rhea County, Bradley Hall and Corydon Butler collected two hits apiece. The win improves McMinn's record to 11-7, while Rhea County falls to 5-11.

["Copyright © 2024 GameChanger Media, Inc. All rights reserved."](#)

**Keith Allen Kratochvil**, 69 of McMinn County, passed away on Monday, April 7. He was the owner/operator of R&K Construction for over 20 years. Keith was a member of Fairview Baptist Church in Athens. Visitation will be held at Fairview Baptist Church in Athens from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, on Friday, April 11. A memorial service will follow at 6:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Keith Allen Kratochvil.

**Emily Murphy Cope**, 42 of York, PA, passed away on Monday, March 31. Emily earned degrees from Moody Bible Institute and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Emily exemplified what it means to be an effective and engaging college professor, caring about the students and faculty she mentored as whole people. A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 4, at 11:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of York, 225 E. Market Street, York, PA. Arrangements entrusted to Hartenstein Funeral and Cremation Care, Inc.

THE BEST IN  
YESTERDAY AND TODAY'S  
*Southern Gospel*  
Music

On-Air since 1966

**WYXI RADIO**  
The Friendly Voice of the Friendly City  
FM 94.5  
AM 1390

Scan this QR Code to  
Subscribe to the  
Morning Fax!

Never Miss an Update!







Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

**Shannon Arnett**, 50 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault, Simple Possession of Cannabis, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$7,000.

**Jonathan Powell**, 27 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Driving without an interlock device, Violation of Registration laws, and Financial Responsibility. Total Bond: \$1,000.

**Michael Sherlock**, 56 of Augusta, SC, was arrested by the Athens PD for Possession of a Schedule II Controlled Substance. Bond Unclear.

**Chris Nelson**, 33 of London, OH, was arrested by the Athens PD for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of a Schedule II Controlled Substance for Resale, and Possession of a Schedule VI Controlled Substance. Bond Unclear.

**Chad Sitman**, 34 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation and State Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$1,836.45

**Allison Brazell**, 29 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$1,000.

**Joseph Marchisio**, 32 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault, 911 Interference, and Vandalism. Total Bond: \$2,500.

**Clarissa McKinney**, 33, was arrested by the MCSO for Harassment. Bond Unclear.

**Darian McConaghay**, 23 of Navarre, FL was arrested by the MCSO for Felony Evading and Reckless Driving. No Bond.

**Jessica Croft**, of Etowah. Was arrested by the Etowah PD for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$511.45

**David Rodrigues Cruz**, 32 of Charleston, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

**Mariah Kennedy**, 19 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault, Vandalism, and Interference with Emergency Services. Total Bond: \$3,500.

**Brandon Ferguson**, 19 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for False Reports. Total Bond: \$4,000.

**The accused remain innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered using public sources.**



WEEKDAYS AT 9:30 AM/5:30 PM

ON

WYXI RADIO FM 94.5 AND AM 1390

PRESENTED BY:

ATHENS AUTO LOGIC  
BOOKOUT'S TIRE, LUBE & STORAGE  
ROBERTS AUTO REPAIR

JOHN  
FULLER



JIM  
DALY



LOVE WORTH FINDING®  
WITH ADRIAN ROGERS  
SUNDAYS AT 7:30 AM & 3:00 PM