



423-337-1493



Thursday, April 24, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

JapanFest Turns Athens into Little Tokyo - and More Events Are on the Way



Photos of festivities and DENSO volunteers that made this event possible

A swirl of drumming, paper cranes, and friendly robot showdowns filled the Athens City Intermediate School gymnasium on Tuesday evening as more than 200 residents stepped into a lively slice of Japanese culture.

[JapanFest 2025](#) transformed the gym into a whirlwind of sumo demonstrations, shamisen music, taiko drumming, origami folding, rice-ball making, kimono fittings, calligraphy practice, chopstick challenges, and even a tic-tac-toe duel against a DENSO robot arm. The event is part of a year-long lecture and workshop series presented by the Athens-Isahaya Sister City Committee, which aims to bring the traditions and everyday joys of Japan to the local community.

Three programs remain on the calendar: [a bento-box-packing workshop on May 10](#) at the McMinn Higher Education Center (advance registration required), a furoshiki gift-wrapping session at the McMinn Living Heritage Museum, and an *Undōkai Japanese Sports Day* at the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA. More information along with sign-up details for the May 10 workshop can be found on the [Athens-Isahaya Sister City Committee](#) Facebook page. *Source: Victoria White, Denso*

◆ This week on *Hope From the Well*, **Julie Tillis** invites **Connie McIntosh** to discuss “*Dreams and Angelic Encounters*.” *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday - 60% Chance of Showers with chance of Thunderstorms this afternoon. High 73.

Thurs. Night - 30% Chance of Rain. Low 60.

Friday - 80% Chance of Rain.. High 74.

Fri. Night - 60% Rain. Low 61.

More Weather at: wyxi.com

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum



Upcoming May Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL: Barn Quilt Square Painting with Christina DeBusk

Saturday, May 10th @ 11:00 am

\$10 for members/\$15 for non-members

HERITAGE SCHOOL: Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency

Mime Barnes will discuss the purpose of the TWRA: to preserve, conserve, manage, protect, and enhance the fish & wildlife of TN & their habitats for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of citizens and visitors.

Saturday, May 24th @ 11:00 am \$5 or free with membership

HERITAGE SCHOOL: Local History Bingo

Join us to learn some local history playing bingo and win prizes!

Saturday, May 31st @ 11:00 am \$5 or free with membership

HISTORY FOR LUNCH

Bring your lunch and learn about Old Federal Road, which first started as a mail route in the early administration of President Thomas Jefferson.

Thursday, May 22 @ Noon *Free admission*

Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:

Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
Students: \$3.00

More Information

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Thursday, April 24, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

E.G. Fisher Library Seeks Community Partners for Summer Reading Kickoff

E.G. Fisher Public Library is gearing up for its Summer Reading Kickoff Party on Thursday, June 5, 2025, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 1289 Ingleside Avenue in Athens. The free, family-focused celebration—expected to draw roughly 400 attendees—will highlight reading, summer fun, and local resources.

The library invites area businesses, nonprofits, and civic groups to host outdoor tables, distribute small summer treats (think candy, stickers, sunglasses, or popsicles), and share information about family-friendly programs. Merchandise sales and on-site electricity will not be available, so participants should bring their own table, chairs, and shade canopy.

Interested partners should complete the brief application form at <https://forms.gle/7i4qZRuu73dw4uvJ9> by Tuesday, May 20. Groups unable to attend may donate giveaways or treats - promotional materials can be attached to donated items.

For questions, contact the library at (423) 745-7782 or email meleenalivesay@fisherlibrary.org.

Community News You Can Use

- The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be **Morning Fax** conducting a variety of checkpoints: Today's News. This Morning.
 - June 6, 2025 – 9 p.m.:** Sobriety checkpoint, Hwy 58 at Lamontville Rd., *Meigs Co.*
 - June 14, 2025 – 9 p.m.:** Sobriety checkpoint, Hwy 68 at Big Apple Market, *Rhea Co.*
 - June 19, 2025 – 8 p.m.:** Sobriety checkpoint, Sunset Ave. at Old Englewood Rd., *McMinn Co.*
 - June 26, 2025 – 2 p.m.:** Driver-license safety checkpoint, Hwy 11 at County Road 50, *McMinn Co.*
- The McMinn County Election Commission will meet for a called meeting on Friday, April 25 at 8:30 AM in the Conference Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The purpose is to speak with the newly appointed Administrator of Elections (AOE) after the retirement of the current AOE
- The American Cancer Society **Relay for Life** Festival of Hope will be at Market Park, downtown Athens, on Saturday, April 26, from 2:00pm to 9:30pm. Admission is free.

Community News Continued on Page 4

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EVERY WEEKDAY

Thursday, April 24, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State: Law Enforcement Training Academy Graduation



The Cleveland State Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy held its 94th graduation ceremony on Friday. The graduates completed 520 hours of instruction, training and practicum activities.

Pictured first row left to right: Donovan Ryans, Eli Underdown, Lane Webb, Matthew Houston, Michael Manzo, Brittany Williams, and Robert Layne.

Back row left to right: Michael Chaigne, Preston Marlin, Phillip Merrill, John Griffin, Taylor Owens, Leland Kelly, Brandon Lankford, Alec Hood, and Director Mike Hodges.



Four awards were presented during the graduation program.

Pictured left to right: Eli Underdown, *Physical Fitness Award* winner; Preston Marlin, *Firearms Award* winner; Leland Kelly, *Driving Award* winner; Brittany Williams, *Academic Excellence Award* winner; with Director Mike Hodges.



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GoComics

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Michael "Peewee" Leon Call, 67 of Etowah, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, April 20 at Parkwest Medical Center. Peewee loved taking long drives and being outdoors. He also had a passion for old cars. He will be deeply missed. A Graveside Service will be held at 12:30pm on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at Etowah Cemetery. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Billie Hicks, 91 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, April 22. He enjoyed shooting and riding horses. He was a member of the American Legion #68, and American Quarter Horse Association. He retired from the United States Army after 26 years of service. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 28 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Short Creek Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12 noon – 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Hicks Family.

Perian Nadella, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, Aunt, and friend, passed away peacefully on April 14, 2025. Born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, she eventually found her home in the quiet beauty of Etowah. Though no public service will be held, her family will be honoring her privately in a celebration of life. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Community News (Continued)

- The McMinn County Election Commission Office will be closed on Thursday, May 1st for a Multi-County Election Training for staff. They will re-open on Friday, May 2nd at 8:30 am.
- The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the **McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence**. There will also be a board workshop to begin ten minutes after the Regular Session adjournment on May 6.
- The City of Athens celebrates [Trails Day](#) on Saturday, May 3 beginning at 2:00 pm on the Eureka Trail. This Trail Ride and Walk is open to participants of all ages and all skill levels. Discover the beauty of this community trail and enjoy the outdoors!
- The Athens City Primary School PTO will meet Friday, April 25, at noon in the PLC room. Agenda highlights include key updates and elections for next year's executive board—president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Parents interested in serving are encouraged to attend.

— MAY 1ST - MAY 31ST —

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Thursday, April 24, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Tellico Plains High School receiving \$500K for new track and field facility



State Rep. Mark Cochran of Englewood, secured \$500,000 in state funding for Tellico Plains High School (TPHS) in Monroe County.

The funding will be used to build a track and field facility at the school.

"Tellico Plains High School has a proud legacy of excellence in track and field, yet it has never had a track to call its own," Cochran said. "Not once has a home meet been held at TPHS. I am confident this appropriation will finally turn that long-held dream into a reality."

Cochran hopes the appropriation will honor the memory of Darrah Wiseman, a standout runner who was killed in a car crash on Nov. 2, 2024. Wiseman won six state championships in track and cross country. She had qualified for the state meet the week before her death and planned to run at Tennessee Tech University.

The project will provide student-athletes a dedicated space to train and compete, while honoring Wiseman's legacy and impact on the school community.

The appropriated funds are part of a \$59.8 billion balanced budget that was passed by the General Assembly and guided by Assistant Majority Leader Cochran in April.

Rep. Mark Cochran represents District 23 which includes McMinn and part of Monroe counties.

Written by Madison Shelton, Deputy Press Secretary / Photo Courtesy of Tellico Plains High School - Facebook

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