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Thursday, May 29, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Bald River Falls Bridge and Tellico River Road to Reopen Tomorrow



The Monroe County Department of Tourism and the Cherokee National Forest have announced the official reopening of the Bald River Falls bridge and Tellico River Road on Friday, May 30, 2025. The reopening follows extensive rehabilitation work aimed at improving safety and accessibility to one of Tennessee's most scenic natural landmarks.

Bald River Falls, known for its striking 90-foot cascade and convenient roadside viewing, is a major attraction within the Cherokee National Forest. The newly renovated bridge includes a dedicated pedestrian viewing area, allowing visitors to enjoy the falls safely while separating foot traffic from vehicles.

The reopening is expected to boost tourism and provide economic benefits to local businesses that depend on visitor traffic. Officials also highlighted the importance of the project for restoring access to surrounding communities, businesses, and public lands.

Travelers are advised to plan accordingly and check for any updates on road conditions. More information on Monroe County attractions can be found at www.visitmonroetn.com.

Source: [Visit Monroe TN - Facebook](#)

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Forrest Hills Apartments
11:35- 11:55
Clem Jones Apartments
12:00-12:20
North City School
1:00-1:20

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Thursday, May 29, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Good Faith Clinic Open TODAY



The Good Faith Clinic will be open **TODAY**, Thursday, May 29 at 3 p.m. for refills and at 3:30 p.m. for doctor visits.

The Good Faith Clinic is free primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, ages of 18-64, who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic meets on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 S Congress Parkway in Athens.

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*REMINDER: The Good Faith Clinic is now open the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, **Thursdays** of each month.*

Source: Norma Barham

Cleveland State's Seymour Room Dedication

Cleveland State Community College recently **Morning Fax®** dedicated the multi-purpose room in the Health Today's News. This Morning. and Science Center on the Cleveland campus in honor of Dr. Bill Seymour. Dr. Seymour was the sixth president of the college from 2014 to 2022. He was instrumental in securing the funding to build the Health and Science Center, the first new classroom building on the Cleveland campus in over 47 years. *Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC*



Pictured left to right: Dr. Andy White, Cleveland State President; Dr. Bill Seymour; Dr. John Squires, Vice President of Economic and Institutional Development; Catherine Seymour; Gary Fuller, Past Chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees; and Jonathan Cantrell, Foundation Board of Trustees Chairman.



McMinn County Living Heritage Museum



Upcoming May Events

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 29 @ Noon *Free admission*

HERITAGE SCHOOL: History of Dog Showing

Enjoy a short tour of the Fisher Manor followed by a presentation on dog showing with homeowner Pam Gallery. This is an on site program at the Fisher Manor. This program has a limit of 30 participants. Registration is required.

Saturday, June 7th @ 10:00 am

\$5 for members - \$10 for nonmembers

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens



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

522 W Madison Ave.
Athens, TN 37303
423-745-0329
www.livingheritagemuseum.org

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Thursday, May 29, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Local Fire Departments Complete Annual Emergency Driver and Safety Training



Earlier this month, multiple fire departments in the region participated in annual emergency services training required under the Vanessa K. Free Emergency Services Training Act of 2005. This state law mandates at least two hours of annual refresher training and a comprehensive exam for all emergency vehicle drivers in Tennessee.

The Emergency Vehicle Driver Training course combines classroom instruction with hands-on driving exercises using fire department apparatus. The training is designed to enhance driver awareness of state laws and best practices, using case studies to guide instruction. The course applies to all emergency personnel, including law enforcement, firefighters (both career and volunteer), and rescue workers. In addition to driver training, participants completed OSHA-required Blood Borne Pathogen training, covering how to recognize and protect against exposure to infectious materials.

The training was led by Etowah City Fire Captain Nathan Coe, an instructor certified through the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads since March 2014. Departments participating in the training included Etowah City Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and Englewood Rural Fire. *Photos courtesy of Etowah Rural Fire Department*

◆ Today on *Hope From the Well*, Julie Tillis invites Robin Nation back to the program for the second part of a discussion about "Freedom from Oppression." *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.



LISTEN ON WYXI RADIO FM 94.5 & AM 1390

SPECIAL REPORTS OF THE LOCAL ATHENS RACE
BEGINNING AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY, MAY 31

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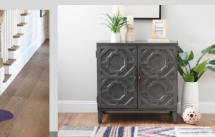
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Thursday, May 29, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

April's Unemployment Rates Drop in 94 Counties Statewide

Unemployment rates fell in 94 of Tennessee's 95 counties in April, according to the latest report from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD). Only Unicoi County saw a slight increase in joblessness during the month.

Williamson County posted the lowest unemployment rate at 2.2%, followed by Rutherford County at 2.3%. Four other counties — Wilson, Cheatham, Knox, and Robertson — reported rates of 2.4%. At the other end of the spectrum, Johnson County had the state's highest unemployment rate at 5.1%, though it still saw a slight decline from March. Unicoi County followed at 4.9%, marking the only increase in the state. Hardeman County recorded a 4.5% rate, down significantly by seven-tenths of a percentage point.

The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April stood at 3.5%, below the national rate of 4.2%. County-level rates are not adjusted for seasonal factors. TDLWD also highlighted the Youth Employment Program (YEP), which helps businesses across Tennessee connect with young workers. Through YEP, employers are matched with motivated youth talent while payroll and insurance are handled by local partners. More information is available at yeptn.com.

Breakdown of Local Labor Force Estimates on Page 5

Source: TN Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development

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Thursday, May 29, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

TWU Delegation Completes Cultural Exchange Trip to Japan



A group from Tennessee Wesleyan University recently returned from a successful cultural exchange trip to Isahaya and Nagasaki, Japan—Athens' sister city. Led by Sister City representative Ers

Henry, the group visited schools, historic landmarks, and met with local officials to strengthen international partnerships.

Two Polk County High School students also participated in an English Camp with Japanese students who will visit Athens this summer. The trip marked an important step in deepening ties between the communities and expanding global opportunities for students.

Source:

[Athens-Isahaya Sister City Committee - Facebook](#)

Obituaries

Max Ronald Carroll, 86 of Calhoun, passed away, Wednesday, May 28 at his residence. He was a member of Calhoun First Baptist Church and was a graduate of McMinn County High School Class of 1956. He was a McMinn County Hall of Fame recipient in both Basketball and Baseball, he held the state record for 16 consecutive free throws in a game from 1955-1995. A funeral service will be held 1:00 pm, Saturday, May 31 at Calhoun First Baptist Church. Interment will follow in Calhoun Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 11:00am-1:00 pm at the church prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Max Ronald Carroll.

Dr. Robin Lee Pierce, Jr., of Athens, and former long-time Superintendent of Athens City Schools, passed away Wednesday at his home after a lengthy illness. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens.

TENNESSEE LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

April 2025					Mar. 2025	
County	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Rate	Change
Bradley	49,696	48,162	1,534	3.1	3.5	-0.4
McMinn	20,704	19,959	745	3.6	4.2	-0.6
Meigs	4,654	4,470	184	4.0	4.8	-0.8
Monroe	19,849	19,233	616	3.1	3.5	-0.4
Polk	7,465	7,236	229	3.1	3.5	-0.4

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