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IronCraft Donates Disc Harrow to Support Agricultural Mechanics Training at MCHS



Left to Right – Aaron Slack (IronCraft), Kasey Harmon (Ag Mechanics teacher), Brody Dugger (student), Ryland Christian (student), Kahde Parkinson (student), Brooklyn Sewell (Career and Industry Coordinator for McMinn), David McKeenan (IronCraft).

The Agricultural Mechanics program at McMinn County High School has received a new piece of equipment thanks to a donation from IronCraft. The company recently provided the program with a disc harrow that students will use for hands-on training.

According to the McMinn County Career & Technical Education Center, students will have the opportunity to disassemble and reassemble the harrow, gaining practical mechanical skills that will support future workforce readiness. Instructors say the equipment will enhance students' understanding of real-world agricultural machinery and strengthen the program's commitment to applied learning.

School officials expressed appreciation for Iron-Craft's ongoing partnership and its support of career

and technical education in McMinn County. They said the company's investment reflects a shared dedication to helping students develop valuable skill sets for their future careers. *Source: McMinn Co. CTE Center*

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Athens, Tennessee

TWU Launches Fully Online Degree Completion Program for Adult Learners

Tennessee Wesleyan University is expanding educational opportunities for adult learners through its fully online Degree Completion Program in Leadership Development. The program is designed for individuals who previously started but did not complete a bachelor's degree, offering a flexible option for working adults to return to school and advance their careers on their own schedule.

Tuition is set at \$1,160 per course, and all classes are delivered asynchronously, allowing students to balance coursework with full-time jobs, family responsibilities, and other commitments. University officials emphasize that completing a degree later in life is both possible and achievable with the right support.

Students may tailor their studies by selecting one of six concentrations: Accounting, Communication Studies, Management, Healthcare Management, Human Resources Management, or Industrial Management. Each pathway is structured to build practical skills and leadership abilities relevant across a variety of industries.

Applications are now open. Prospective students can learn more about the Degree Completion Program and its concentrations by visiting Tennessee Wesleyan University's website or contacting the admissions office.

Sweetwater Bank-Fraud Investigation Leads to Multiple Arrests, Recovery of \$15,000



Detectives with the Sweetwater Police Department, working jointly with the Vonore Police Department, launched an investigation on Monday, Nov. 10, into a bank-fraud case involving incidents reported between Nov. 6 and 8. Officers quickly identified a suspect and vehicle tied to the crimes and distributed the information to surrounding law-enforcement agencies.

The Blount County Sheriff's Office later located the vehicle with three occupants. After one suspect attempted to flee on foot, all three individuals were taken into custody.

The primary suspect, Eddie Montgomery, was served with felony warrants and was also discovered to be wanted in Atlanta in connection with a bank robbery earlier this month. He was taken into custody by the U.S. Marshals Service and transferred back to Georgia.

The individual who ran from deputies, Marvin Jenkins, was linked to additional felony offenses in Sweetwater. Authorities say more charges and warrants have been issued for him.

During the investigation, officers recovered more than \$15,000 in cash, along with fraudulent checks and fake identifications believed to have been used in multiple identity-theft and fraud cases. Sweetwater Police officials expressed appreciation for the assistance of the Blount County Sheriff's Office, Vonore Police Department, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

11-17-2025

Christopher Bennett, 49 of Decatur, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth and paraphernalia, Bond \$2,572.40

Derek Boozle, 32 of Chicago, Illinois, charged with driving on a revoked license, speeding, failure to carry a license, Bond \$6000

Amy Balsa, 41 of Athens, charged with DUI, implied consent law, child abuse, neglect, non-violent, Bond \$4,000

Ezra Marker, 24 of Cleveland, Charged with state violation of probation.

Michael Handy, 39 of Madisonville, Charged with violation of probation, Bond \$647.95

Bobby Brakebill, 59 of Niota, charged with violation of the sex offender registry, and child support, Bond \$15,000

Louis Exotimal Lazo, 19 of Athens, charged with public intoxication, underage consumption, and being a fugitive from justice, Bond \$76,000

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

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Narcisa "Clarissa" Campos Pagan, 51 of Athens, passed away on Friday, October 31. Clarissa was born in the Dominican Republic with humble beginnings, but as a star student who gave her all in everything she did, she earned a scholarship to study abroad in the United States and started her career to support her family both here and in the Dominican Republic. Family and Friends are invited to the visitation at Alvarez Funeral Home in Newark, New Jersey on Sunday, November 16th, from 3:00 - 6:00PM. The Funeral will be held Monday, November 17th, at 9:00am. Interment will take place at Glendale Cemetery in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Companion Funeral Home of Athens, TN and the Cody Family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Sarah Frances Scott Howell, 99 of Decatur passed away on Saturday, November 15. She was a member of Decatur First Baptist Church. A graveside service in honor of Sarah's life will be held on Thursday, November 20, at 12:00 PM at Bethsadia Cemetery. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Howell family.

Joann Lynn Stafford Morgan, 66 of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, November 16, She was a member of Stephensville Baptist Church of Englewood. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 5:00 -8:00 PM. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, November 20 at 1:00 PM at the funeral home with interment to follow at McMinn Memory Gardens at 2:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Joann Lynn Stafford Morgan.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

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