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Friday, October 16, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

TCAT Athens Students Help Upgrade Swift Water Rescue Trailer



Students and instructors in the Welding and Collision Repair departments at Tennessee College of Applied Technology Athens recently completed a project to upgrade a boat trailer used by the Etowah Rural Fire Department's Swift Water Team.

As part of the project, welding students added additional metal to strengthen and modify the trailer, while collision repair students refinished and painted it. The improvements allow the trailer to transport two

swift water rescue rafts, increasing the team's capacity to respond during water-related emergencies.

The collaborative effort provided students with hands-on experience while supporting local first responders and enhancing emergency response capabilities within the community.

In the photo (L-R) Freddie Smith, Collision Repair Instructor; Timothy McCulloch, Collision Repair Student; Tristan Lyles, Collision Repair Student; Jonah Dalton, Welding Student; Pat Miller, Welding Instructor; Austin Hancock, Etowah Rural Fire Captain. Photo by Etowah Rural Fire Department

Source: Lynn Ingram, Etowah Rural FD

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Friday, October 16, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

AACA Announces "A Choral Christmas" Holiday Concert

The Athens Area Council for the Arts has announced its 2026 holiday production, "A Choral Christmas," directed by Mike Dannel and featuring a variety of seasonal musical performances.

The concert will be presented Dec. 4-6 in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center. Audiences can expect an evening of holiday favorites, including choral arrangements, small-group performances, and solo selections featuring both sacred and secular Christmas music.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4, and Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m., with a Sunday matinee on Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.

AACA officials say the production will offer a festive way to celebrate the season in the intimate setting of the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater.

Area High School Football Matchups

From region rivalries to key district contests, area high school football teams are back in action Friday night. See this week's games below.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL		THIS WEEK'S GAMES
	VS	 BEARDEN @ CLEVELAND FRIDAY, OCT. 16 @ 7:00 PM
	VS	 MCMINN CENTRAL @ TELlico PLAINS FRIDAY, OCT. 16 @ 7:00 PM
	VS	 RED BANK @ MCMINN CO. FRIDAY, OCT. 16 @ 7:00 PM
	VS	 SCOTT @ MEIGS CO. FRIDAY, OCT. 16 @ 7:00 PM
	VS	 POLK CO. @ EGGLETON FRIDAY, OCT. 16 @ 7:00 PM
	VS	 SWEETWATER @ ONEIDA FRIDAY, OCT. 16 @ 7:30 PM
	VS	 LENOIR CITY @ WALKER VALLEY FRIDAY, OCT. 16 @ 7:00 PM

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UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, October 16, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

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.
- **October is Pastor Appreciation Month**, a time set aside to recognize and honor the pastors, ministers, and church staff who serve their congregations throughout the year. **Those wishing to share their appreciation publicly may contact Stephanie Devine at 423-462-5309 or radistephaniedevine@gmail.com** for information about recognition opportunities in The Morning Fax.
- 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.
- Englewood United Methodist Church will host its fourth annual Resource Fair on Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring information from approximately 25 local service agencies, free lunch, and opportunities for fellowship and community support.

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Friday, October 16, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

AAA Urges Drivers to Slow Down, Move Over for Roadside Safety

As **National Slow Down, Move Over Day** approaches on Oct. 17, AAA is reminding Tennessee motorists to take extra precautions when approaching vehicles stopped along the roadside.

While more than 90% of drivers surveyed said they slow down or move over when passing disabled vehicles, tow trucks, or emergency vehicles, studies show many fail to do so in practice. **According to AAA, more than 2,100 people were killed while stranded or working along roadways between 2019 and 2023.**

AAA officials say roadside dangers affect more than first responders and tow truck operators. Anyone experiencing a flat tire, mechanical problem, or other breakdown can find themselves just feet from passing traffic.

Under Tennessee's Move Over Law, drivers **must** move over for stopped vehicles displaying flashing or hazard lights, including emergency vehicles, tow trucks, utility vehicles, highway maintenance vehicles, and disabled motorists. If changing lanes is not possible, drivers must slow down and proceed with caution.

AAA also encourages drivers to stay alert, avoid distractions, never drive impaired, and watch carefully for people working near stopped vehicles. If a vehicle breaks down, motorists should move as far from traffic as possible, activate hazard lights, and remain aware of surrounding traffic while awaiting assistance.

AAA says slowing down and moving over can help prevent tragedies and protect emergency personnel, roadside workers, and fellow motorists.

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Friday, October 16, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Report

October 14, 2026

Dustin Atchley, 34, of Athens, charged with manufacturing, sale, delivery, possession of fentanyl, casual exchange, possession of meth, simple possession, casual exchange of Schedule 6, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$23,000.

Jacob Hampton, 30, of Decatur, charged with simple possession, casual exchange of fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$7,000.

Daniel Sledge, 41, of Riceville, charged with public intoxication. Bond \$1,500.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered using public sources.

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\$158,650 (81%) from PACs.

Mine: \$0.

Itemized contributions mid-2025 to Q3 2026.

Source: TN Registry of Election Finance

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We encourage you to e-mail us community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

Any items you would like us to consider, e-mail: wyradio@gmail.com



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