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#### Athens, Tennessee

### Gov. Bill Lee Announces \$100 Million HEAL Program for Helene Relief



Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee recently shared additional guidance on how communities impacted by Hurricane Helene may opt-in to receive immediate financial relief via the HEAL Program, which was established swiftly in the days following the disaster. The \$100 million fund directly serves the health and wellness of Tennesseans in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Counties eligible now for assistance include Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington. If any additional counties are added to the Major Dis-

aster Declaration for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Categories A through G, they will become eligible for the program.

"Hurricane Helene was an unprecedented disaster for Tennessee, and many local communities can't wait on federal reimbursements to begin the rebuilding process," said Gov. Lee. "These communities need immediate relief, and that's why we took swift action to develop and implement this unique program."

The HEAL Program allocates \$35 million to address water and wastewater system damage across eligible counties. These systems experienced extensive damage in most counties and were destroyed in others. Utilities are central to the health and wellbeing of Tennesseans living in the affected areas, as well as first responders and volunteers who are temporarily deployed to help with the rebuilding process. \$65 million will be divided equally among eligible economically at-risk and distressed counties to address dangerous debris removal. Eligible counties may find additional details on the opt-in process <u>HERE</u>. The maximum amount an eligible county may request through the HEAL Program is \$15 million. The deadline to opt-in is Tuesday, November 5, 2024. County leaders with questions regarding the HEAL Program should email: <u>HEAL.Recovery@tn.gov</u>.





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# Obituaries

**Barbara Susan Jackson**, 74, passed away on Monday, October 21. She spent many joyful hours participating in Etowah's Gem Player's community theater, where her talent and enthusiasm shone brightly. Services will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2024 at Jerry Smith Funeral Home, with receiving of friends from 1-3 pm and a celebration of life immediately following. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens in charge of arrangements.

Valerie Renee Gibson Roberts, 39 of McMinn County, passed away on Tuesday, October 22. Visitation will be held from 12:00-2:00 PM on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at Ziegler Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 2:30 PM at Upper Spring Creek Cemetery in Riceville. Ziegler Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Valerie Renee Gibson Roberts.

**Mamie "Inez" Triplett**, 84 of Etowah, passed away on Wednesday, October 23. Inez attended New Zion Baptist Church. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, October 26 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Saturday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Mountain View Cemetery (Brock Cemetery), Sunday, October 27th for the 2:00 p.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

## **Community News You Can Use**

- The McMinn County Amateur Radio Club is hosting their Annual Chili Dinner on Saturday, November 2 from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. There will be various types of chili, desserts, and drinks. Members of the police eat for free. The cost for persons aged 13 and older is \$12, Seniors 65+ \$10, and Kids 12 and under \$5. The event will be at Southern Events (300 W. Madison Ave, Athens). The proceeds will go to help maintain the radio towers that amateur operators use to communicate in times of natural disasters and emergencies. For more info, visit their Facebook page <u>HERE</u>.
- The VFW is having their Annual Turkey Shoot every Saturday from 8am-12 Noon and each Saturday through November 23 at VFW Post #5146 at 706 North Congress Parkway in Athens. They are raising funds for their Christmas baskets to be distributed to Veterans & spouses. For more information, call 423-745-8387.
- The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting a Sobriety Checkpoint on December 6 at 9 pm on US 11 at County Road 50. The scheduled checkpoint is contingent upon manpower and weather conditions.





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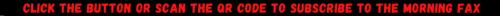
Athens, Tennessee

## **Church News & Events**

- Zion Hill Baptist Church is celebrating Hallelujah Haven on October 31st from 6 to 8 PM. They will have a petting zoo, food trucks, a hayride and TRUNK OR TREAT. The church is at 269 County Rd 516, Englewood. SEE AD AT BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE.
- Revival at Cambria Baptist Church, 305 County Road 875, Etowah. October 21st 25th, 7:00 PM.
- Celebrate Recovery meets every Thursday at 6:00 P.M. at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur).
- Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- Sweetwater House of Prayer is hosting a Community Blessing Closet on the third Saturday of every month from 8 am 4 pm.
- Niota First Baptist Church is having a TRUNK OR TREAT this Sunday, October 27th from 5 to 7 PM. The church is located at 6 Main Street in downtown Niota. **SEE AD ON PAGE 4.**

- Mt. Verd Baptist Church (252 County Road 249, Athens) invites everyone to their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 26 from 4pm 6pm. There will be Free Food, Games, and lots of Prizes! Enjoy the family-friendly activities they have to offer! SEE AD ON PAGE 7.
- Trinity United Methodist Church will be hosting a "S'mores & Scriptures" event on Saturday, October 26 from 6 pm 8pm. There will be fire pits, s'mores stations, photo props, fun games and music! Entry is free and they wish for you to join them for an evening of Fellowship and Fun! **SEE AD ON PAGE 7.**
- Old National Bank and the leadership of St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church (that was destroyed by fire) have established an account for anyone that would like to make a monetary donation to assist the church going forward. Donations can be made at any Old National Bank office or mailed to Old National Bank, 106 West Washington Avenue, Athens, TN 37303. Checks should be made payable to St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church.







# Never Miss an Update!

Friday, October 25, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

SUBSCRIBE

## **Church News & Events**

- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (1923 Pleasant Hill Rd., Ten
  Mile) will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat Event from 5:00 pm -7:00 pm on Saturday October 26. They are offering hot dogs, nachos, and candy for the kids.
- Solid Rock Baptist Church (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun) will be hosting a trunk-or-treat event on Sunday, October 27 from
   5:00-7:00 pm.
- Lane's Chapel A.M.E Zion Church's Women's Conference on Saturday 10/26/24 has been canceled. The Women's Conference will resume on Sunday 10/27/24. The 11:00 am speaker will be Rev. Pam Scruggs. Lane's Chapel A.M.E.
   Zion Church is located at 904 County Road 264, Niota. Theme: YOU'RE BIGGER. Lunch following morning service.
- Watts Bar Community Church Presents the 2024 Man Up Men's Conference. This two-day event will take place on
   October 25 & 26. Tickets are \$40.
- First United Presbyterian Church will now hold church services every 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome to join us. Minister Juanita McClure Lewis is the Interim Pastor.

- Eastanallee Church, 482 County Rd 725, Riceville, is hosting a free Community Wide Harvest Fest this Sunday, Oct. 27 from 3 to 5 PM. They will have almost a dozen different activities including a dunk tank and carnival games. SEE THEIR AD ON PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS & A WEBLINK.
- First Church of God (300 N. Congress Pkwy., Athens) will host their Fall Festival on Wednesday, October 30 from 5:00 pm 7:00 pm. On Nov. 10, the church will be hosting the Gospel Singing Group Journey Home for their 6:00 pm service.
- Lakeview Baptist Church (183 County Road 126, Athens) will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 26 from 4:00 pm 8:00 pm. They will be serving hot dogs for everyone. Games and treats are offered to all kids. The church is located beside Dynasty Spas.
- Watts Bar Community Church will be having a Fall Festival this Sunday, October 27 after their 11:00 am service.
- Clay Hill Baptist Church (594 County Road 675, Riceville) will have a trunk-or-treat this Saturday from 5:00 pm 7:00 pm.







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Athens, Tennessee

### **Ribbon Cutting for Sara Renee Portrait Photographer**

# **DENSO** Expanding

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Sara Renee Portrait Photographer, located in Athens. Chamber friends joining the celebration are pictured left to right: Paul Semenoff (Chamber Diplomat), Karen Sullivan (Athens Chamber), Adam Clark, Sara Renee Clark (Owner Sara Renee Portrait Photographer), Dee Murray, Hugh Willson (Chamber Diplomat), Stacey Hester (Chamber Diplomat). Back: Megan Slack, Whitney Weir, Wesley Skinner (Chamber Diplomat), Stephanie Devine, Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Doug Bailey (Chamber Diplomat), Traci White (Chamber Board/Diplomat).



The City of Athens would like to congratulate Denso Manufacturing North America on their newest expansion at their Athens plant here in McMinn County. Denso has set a tier one standard in innovation for the automotive industry. Denso announced Thursday that they would be expanding their Athens operations by 200 jobs and a hundred million dollar investment through their expansion to Athens. TNECD Deputy Commissioner for Business, Community, and Rural Development, Allen Borden spoke along with McMinn County Mayor John Gentry, and Athens Mayor Steve Sherlin. All gave remarks around the lasting partnership of almost 30 years with Denso Manufacturing here in Athens. Many Denso representatives spoke, and a plant expansion tour was given. The City of Athens City Manager, Randall Dowling was excited to be there to celebrate the expansion announcement. Athens

would also like to thank Lindsey Ferguson, Director of McMinn County Economic Development Agency, and her team for working so diligently on the many projects that benefit our city and wonderful county.



Source: City of Athens Press Release



Please give to your United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties

Our local United Way includes multiple agencies that help those in our community who are not always able to help themselves. United Way has always been about those who can, helping those who cannot.

It may be a child down the street who receives much needed social and physical activity at the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA or the Boys & Girls Club of Decatur; it could be an adult from your church who is functional in society because of training through the Tri-County Center; maybe a female friend has a better chance for tomorrow because of the H.O.P.E. Center was there when she needed shelter and support; and any one of us could someday require the services of the

Rescue Squad.

Being able to financially support United Way is one way of giving back to the community that has given so much to our families. Please consider becoming a President Council member with a gift of \$500 or more to help those who cannot help themselves. If you cannot give \$500, any amount will help and will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carter Runyan and Frank Snyder Co-Chairs, 2025 United Way Leadership Giving Campaign

You can donate by clicking on the link below or scanning the QR Code. https://www.uwmcminn-meigs.com/Donate





United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties



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Athens, Tennessee

#### Vols Focus on Recovery and Precision During Bye Week Ahead of Kentucky Showdown

The Tennessee Volunteers are in their second open week of the season, just four weeks after their last break. Following their previous bye, the Vols (6-1, 2-1 SEC) stumbled against Arkansas, but this time, they aim for a different outcome as they prepare to face Kentucky at Neyland Stadium.

Coach Josh Heupel emphasized the importance of "intentionality and attention to detail" during preparations. Reflecting on their last bye, which led to their only loss, Heupel stated, "Being intentional in how we work and how we prepare this week... Got to continue that." He credits the team's composure, saying, "Good teams continue to get better throughout the course of the season."

Tennessee's young quarterback, Nico Iamaleava, has faced criticism, but Heupel remains confident in his growth. "It's a position that's never going to be perfect," Heupel said, noting that Iamaleava showed resilience in the second half of the Alabama game. "You got to be a tough, tough dude mentally and physically to withstand all that."

GoComics

Injuries have been a challenge for the Vols, but the bye week offers a chance to recover. Wide receiver Squirrel White and Bru McCoy are expected to return for the Kentucky game. Heupel noted, "Feel like Squirrel will be ready to roll," as the team balances health with continued improvement in preparation for the home stretch.

The Vols will return to action when they host Kentucky on Nov. 2. *Source: UT Daily Beacon* 

## **Tonight's Football Match-Ups**

Meigs Co. (6-2) @ Brainerd (1-7) @ 7pm Sequoyah (0-8) @ East Ridge (0-8) @ 7pm Powell (7-1) @ McMinn Co. (4-4) @ 7pm Tyner Academy (5-2) @ Rhea Co. (4-3) @ 7pm Sweetwater (1-7) @ Polk Co. (4-4) @ 7:30pm McMinn Central (5-3) @ Tellico Plains (5-3) @ 7:30pm

