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Today's News...This Morning

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100 Decatur Pike, Athens (423) 745-4704

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Massive Fire Burns in Monroe County



Shortly after 11:00 am on Tuesday, March 4, Monroe County Dispatch received notification that a fire had been reported on Hwy 360 near Rafter Road. Evacuations were in place and several structures were im-

acted by the fire. Electricity was temporarily shut off in different parts of Tellico Plains as a precautionary measure against electrical fires in the area. Overnight evacuation shelters were set up at Tellico Plains High School provided by the American Red Cross. A mobile medical unit was provided by Chota Community Health Services. Over 20 Tri-State Mutual Aid agencies responded to the four separate wildfires that left over 100 acres burning in Monroe County.

Continued on Page 3

Source: [Mitch Ingram-Monroe County Mayor/Tri-State Mutual Aid](#)

Community News You Can Use

- The next caregiver support group at Dominion of Athens will be held on Wed., March 12 from 11 am to 1pm. Lunch will be provided. Reserve your spot by calling 423-405-3075. Remember: **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**. A Support group can help.
- The Daffodil Days Paw Painting event will take place on Friday evening, March 7 from 3:30pm - 6:30pm at Fuller's Frame Shop in Athens. The cost is \$10 per board. If unable to attend, boards can be purchased to take home. For more info, call Fuller's at 423-745-7489
- The Athens City Schools Board of Education draft agenda and packet for the Monday, March 10 board meeting can be viewed online on the Athens City Schools website. If an individual wants to address the board about an item on the agenda, there is a sign-up form provided before the meeting to request to speak.
- The 79th Annual Awards Meeting, sponsored by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, is Thursday, April 24th. The event will be at The Barn at Faith Farms starting at 5:30 pm. Each year at the event, the chamber honors members of the community with various awards. Tickets are on sale now and are available for purchase at the Chamber of Commerce Office, located at 13 North Jackson Street or by phone 745-0334.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL
CAMPFIRE STORIES WITH JIM BROOKS
SIT OUTSIDE BY THE CAMPFIRE AND LISTEN TO EXCITING STORIES THAT ORIGINATED IN THE HILLS OF EAST TN
SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH @ 11:00
\$5 OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

COMPLIMENTARY HOT COCOA



REGISTRATION REQUIRED, LIMIT: 30 MUST REGISTER BY MARCH 14 *ON SITE PROGRAM AT FISHER MANOR*

CHARCUTERIE CLASS W/ HAILEE BORQUE & SHORT TOUR OF THE FISHER MANOR
SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH, 11 AM
\$45 FOR MEMBERS, \$50 FOR NONMEMBERS

HISTORY FOR LUNCH

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH @ NOON
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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.
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www.livingheritagemuseum.org

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Thursday, March 6, 2025

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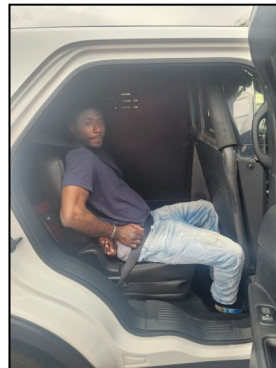
Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Betty L. Wagner, 85, passed away on Friday, February 28, 2025. She left an indelible mark on the lives of all who knew her. The Family will announce a memorial at a later date. Companion Funeral Home in Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

Andrew Estel "Buddy" Lynn, 78, a longtime resident of the Valley Road community, passed away on Tuesday, March 4. He was the owner of Valley Road Body Shop. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home from 4:00 until 7:00 PM on Sunday, March 9. Funeral services will be at 7:00 PM at the funeral home. Graveside services will be held on Monday, March 10 at 11:00 AM at Valley Road Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Andrew Estel "Buddy" Lynn.

Arrest Made in Athens Shooting; Suspect Charged with Attempted Murder



Authorities have arrested a suspect in connection with the February 28 shooting on McMinn Avenue that left one person with life-threatening injuries.

Caleb J. Darby, 30, of Chattanooga, was taken into custody Tuesday morning by federal authorities and Chattanooga Police officers. He was transported back to Athens by detectives with the Athens Police Department and is now facing a charge of attempted

first-degree murder. Darby is being held at the McMinn County Justice Center on a \$450,000 bond.

Athens Police Chief Schultz expressed his gratitude to the federal, state, and local agencies involved in the arrest, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Bradley County Sheriff's Office, and the Chattanooga Police Department. He also commended the dedication of the Athens Police Department officers.

The investigation is ongoing, and additional charges are expected. Authorities urge anyone with information to contact the Athens Police Department at 423-744-2730.

TENNESSEE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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MARCH 11



Tuesday, March 11 from 6-7:30PM
 Johnson Event Center in Colloms
 \$10 for guests/\$5 for students
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HOSTED BY: **JULIE TILLIS**
THURSDAYS AT 8:15 AM

"If you have Jesus in your life, you will always have hope."




WOMEN OF THE WELL MINISTRIES

Monroe County Public Safety Update

"As of 3.5.2025 at 10:40 AM, all fires have been fully controlled, and crews continue monitoring conditions. Evacuation orders have been lifted for all areas except Lake Heights, which remains inaccessible. Road crews are working to clear debris, and emergency responders continue to assess conditions. Power outages will remain in effect as damage is evaluated Morning Fax and repairs begin. If you need water or snacks, please visit the Tellico Plains Community Center, where supplies are available.



Lunch available at Tellico Plains Community Center for volunteers who helped throughout the wildfires, anyone with power outages and anyone else who needs it.

Please continue to avoid restricted areas and follow official guidance. We will provide further updates as conditions improve." *Posted by: [Mitch Ingram, Monroe County Mayor—Facebook](#)*

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Thursday, March 6, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

TWU Spring Open House coming in April



**Tennessee
Wesleyan**
UNIVERSITY

Tennessee Wesleyan University will host its **Spring Open House** on **Tuesday, April 1**. Prospective students are encouraged to attend and see first-hand the academic, social, and athletic advantages of Tennessee

Wesleyan. Dr. Forrest and other campus leaders and students will be present to answer questions and experience a day in the life of a Tennessee Wesleyan Bulldog. Individual or group tours can also be scheduled by visiting twesleyan.edu

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Athens Food Hub Set to Open March 27



Main Street Athens would like to announce the Grand Opening of The Food Hub, a first of its kind in Tennessee. The Food Hub is a shared business space designed to support food and beverage entrepreneurs by reducing the high costs and risks of starting a new business. It offers access to a fully equipped commercial

kitchen, mentoring opportunities, and low-cost solutions tailored to help aspiring restaurateurs and food producers launch and grow their ventures. The Grand Opening will take place on Thursday, March 27 from 12pm to 2pm at 3B W. College Street in Athens. Morning Fax
Today's News. This Morning.

WYXI Radio will broadcast live from the grand opening beginning at 11am until 3pm and you can be a part of the celebration by visiting in person or tuning in to the broadcast on FM 94.5 or AM 1390.

For more info, call (423) 333-0329 or email info@mainstreetathens.org

HOPE FROM THE WELL

HOSTED BY: **JULIE TILLIS**

THURSDAYS AT 8:15 AM

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**WOMEN AT THE WELL
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