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# The Morning Fax

Today's News. This Morning.

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## TDOT Approves New Downtown Athens Design Overlay



Great news for downtown Athens! The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has officially approved a new design overlay for the city's downtown area as part of its upcoming resurfacing project. This exciting update is based on the community-driven 2020 Downtown Design Master Plan and aims to create a safer, more accessible, and more welcoming environment for all.

Key changes include the removal of the continuous turning lane, new striping and directional arrows to help calm traffic, and additional parking spaces around the courthouse. The design also focuses on improving pedestrian safety and accessibility, with upgraded sidewalks to meet ADA standards.

An aerial graphic of the new design is available, offering a clear look at the improvements planned for the heart of the city.

For questions or more information, please contact the City Manager's office at 423-744-2702. The City of Athens is excited to see these enhancements come to life and thanks the community for its continued support.

Source: [City of Athens - Facebook](#)



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**McMinn County Living Heritage Museum**  
Upcoming Events

### TRASH AND TREASURE 2025

RECEIVING Donations Dates & Times: April 16 - 19 11AM-4PM  
PREMIERE NIGHT April 23 (Wed) 5PM - 8PM Admission \$10

SALE Dates and Times:  
\*April 24 (Thurs) 10AM - 5PM  
\*April 25 (Fri) 10AM - 5PM  
\*April 26 (Sat) 10AM - 3PM

\*Free entry!

**TWO GREAT LOCATIONS:**

**Lower-Level Museum**  
522 W. Madison Ave.  
Athens, TN 37303  
(Furniture, Lamps & Jewelry)

**Museum Annex**  
408 W. Washington  
Athens, TN 37303  
(All Other Goods)


Please support your Museum! Hosted by the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum Guild. Sponsored by Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation

**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](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.org)

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Thursday, April 17, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Dispatcher Appreciation Week: Honoring the heroes behind the headset

April 13–19 marks *Dispatcher Appreciation Week*, a time to recognize the unseen heroes who serve as the vital link between emergencies and the help that follows.

When someone calls the E-911 Center, it's a dispatcher who answers — a calm, steady voice providing reassurance in moments of panic. These professionals guide callers through critical situations, often offering life-saving instructions like CPR until first responders arrive. They are trained to manage chaos, soothe anxiety, and stay focused when every second counts.

Dispatchers are more than just voices on the line — they are the angels on our shoulders, working tirelessly behind the scenes to protect and serve. This week, and every week, we thank them for their dedication, compassion, and service to our community.

To all our dispatchers: we see you, we appreciate you, and we thank you.

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## WANTED: David Alexander Henderson



The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is seeking information on the whereabouts of **David Alexander Henderson**.

- **Race:** Caucasian
- **Sex:** Male
- **Height:** 5'05"
- **Weight:** 170 lbs
- **Eye Color:** Green
- **Hair Color:** Brown

### Charges:

- Failure to Appear (Criminal Court)
- Criminal Court Violation of Probation (Attempted Contraband in a Penal Facility)

### Morning Fax

Today's News. This Morning.

If you see David Alexander Henderson or have any information regarding his location, please contact the **Monroe County Sheriff's Office** at (423) 442-3911 or **Monroe County Dispatch** at (423) 442-4357 (HELP). All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Source: [Sheriff Tommy Jones - Facebook](#)



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6:00 PM





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**Thursday, April 17, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee**

## UT Extension – McMinn Announces May Program Lineup

May is just around the corner, and registration is now open for a variety of health and wellness programs offered by the UT Extension – McMinn. These free, community-focused events are designed to promote physical well-being, lifelong learning, and practical skills. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged!

**Stay Strong, Stay Healthy (SSSH)**

• *May 5 – June 25*  
 • Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00–11:00 AM  
 • UT Extension–McMinn, 2345 Denso Dr., Athens  
 • Register: 423-745-2852//FREE (Grant-Funded) | *Limit 12 participants*

This evidence-based fitness program is designed to help older adults build strength, flexibility, and balance for independent living. Sessions include a warm-up, guided strength exercises, and a cool-down. Weights are provided, and participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and sturdy shoes. Graduates will receive a take-home guide to continue exercising on their own.

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**Arthritis Exercise Program**

• *May 6 – May 22*  
 • Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
 • Etowah Senior Center, 435 Cooper St., Etowah  
 • Register: 423-745-2852//FREE

This gentle, joint-friendly exercise program is designed specifically for individuals living with arthritis. Participants will learn safe, effective movements to improve strength and mobility without aggravating symptoms. The program is built on Arthritis Foundation guidelines and includes tips on joint protection and correct body mechanics.

**Canning Seminars**

• *Space is limited – register early!*  
 Register: <https://mcminn.tennessee.edu/>  
 • **May 6:** *Canning 101: Water-Bath Canning* □ UT Extension–McMinn Office, 5:30–6:30 PM  
 • **July 23:** *Canning 101: Pressure Canning* □ E.G. Fisher Library, 10:00–11:00 AM

These hands-on seminars will teach the basics of safe home canning, perfect for beginners or those needing a refresher before the summer harvest.

**Pressure Canner Gauge Testing – FREE**

Before canning season begins, ensure your equipment is working properly! Stop by the UT Extension–McMinn Office for a free gauge test. Call ahead or drop off your canner: **423-745-2852**

Don't miss these engaging and educational opportunities to improve your health and skills this spring! Please share with friends and neighbors who might be interested.

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## Cleveland State Spring Choral Concert

**Cleveland State** COMMUNITY COLLEGE invites the community to the annual spring concert performed by the college's Vocal Rhapsody Choir and the Choir Club on Thursday, April 24, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the George R. Johnson Cultural Heritage Center at CSCC.

The program will center on themes from popular movies and will include well-known songs such as "Eye of the Tiger" and "A Million Dreams," as well as "What Was I Made For" and "Pure Imagination."

"We're excited to offer you a chance to enjoy some of the wonderful moments from movies," said Andie Phillips, Vocal Rhapsody Director. "Bring your loved ones and join us for this special event. We look forward to seeing you there!"

The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Andie Phillips at: [aphillips13@clevelandstatecc.edu](mailto:aphillips13@clevelandstatecc.edu).

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Today's News. This Morning.

## Search is on for stolen camper



On Tuesday, at roughly 11 a.m., McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy posted on Facebook about this pull-behind camper that was stolen off County Road 5. The Camper is a Wilderness Heartland 2015 Camper, bumper pull. Sheriff Guy asks that you contact the McMinn County Sheriff's Office if you have any information about this stolen camper.

Source: [Joe Guy - Facebook](#)

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Today's News. This Morning.

**American Legion Post 68**  
**Freedom Run**  
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Thursday, April 17, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## TWU Bulldog Athletics

The 2025 regular season has come to a close for a few teams and is nearing the end for a few others.

### Here are the latest with Tennessee Wesleyan Athletics:

The **baseball team** has concluded their home schedule, ending the home portion with a 14-5 win against Spartanburg Methodist College on Tuesday. The team holds a 33-10 overall record and will spend the next two weekends on the road for their final two conference series.

The **softball team** holds an 18-9 overall record with seven games remaining in the regular season. Six of the seven are conference games.

The **men's and women's tennis teams** both won the 2025 Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) Regular Season Titles with perfect conference records. The men's team went on to win the AAC Tournament Title while the women's team finished as the runners-up. The men's team receives an automatic bid to the NAIA National Tournament.

The **women's lacrosse team** is getting ready to play in the AAC Tournament with a 5-9 overall record.

The **men's and women's track and field teams** are getting set to compete in their conference meet. *The meet is set for Thursday-Saturday in Johnson City, TN.*

TWU recently announced a generous gift from Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Bobby Goodfriend and his wife Wendy to renovate and expand the baseball field at Athens Insurance Stadium. The plans include adding lights to the field, a new video scoreboard, and a renovated press box among other updates. The field will be re-named to Bobby Goodfriend Field and the current name associated with the field, Dr. Jack Bowling, will be placed on a new concourse.

### Upcoming Events:

*Away:*

**Thurs. April 17**

Women's Lacrosse vs. Truett McConnell Uni. at 11:00 AM

**Thurs. April 17-Sat. April 19**

Outdoor Track and Field Conference Championships

**Fri. April 18**

Baseball vs. St. Andrews University 12:00 PM/3:00 PM

**Sat. April 19**

Baseball vs. St. Andrews University 12:00 PM

*Home:*

**Fri. April 18**

Softball vs. University of Pikeville at 2:00 PM/4:00 PM

*Source: Chris Berry, Director of Sports Information, TWU*



## A New Song From TM Elevating Music's TM BlueSnake Project

Rock-Country-Smooth Jazz,

Bluegrass, Religious

Link to the Music Video:

<https://tinyurl.com/3ebmbbyt>

Written and Produced by  
Stephen R Pell (BMI)

Listen for free here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5fnpt9c>

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# Never Miss an Update!

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Thursday, April 17, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

## Dooley Tractor Company Hosts Live Broadcast with WYXI tomorrow!



Tomorrow is the big day! This Friday, April 18, Dooley Tractor Company in Athens celebrates 86 years of serving the community with a special on-site event and live radio broadcast from Cousin Mark and J.P! It's the **Kubota Orange Days Sales Event** with special pricing on tractors, mowers, side-by-sides, and more!

**Location:** Dooley Tractor Company, 109 Congress Pkwy. N, Athens

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Broadcast:** WYXI FM 94.5 / AM 1390

Cousin Mark and JP will be broadcasting live and chatting with customers and staff about what makes Dooley Tractor a top destination for outdoor equipment and service.

### Attendees can enjoy:

**Free Mayfield Dairy Farms ice cream** to help beat the heat

**Free Bojangles biscuits** (until 10 a.m.) and **sandwiches** (until 1 p.m.) while supplies last

**Free WYXI gift** for the FIRST 25 visitors

**Enter to win prize baskets** from local favorites (with no purchase necessary)

Don't miss this chance to grab a deal, enjoy local flavor, and celebrate a proud local business that's been part of the Friendly City for 86 years!

## Obituaries

**Carolyn Anne Morrison Wattenbarger**, 73 of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, April 15. She was a member of Ten Mile Baptist Church. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 18 at Ten Mile Baptist Church (3823 Old Ten Mile Rd, Ten Mile). Interment will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 19 in the Decatur Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Wattenbarger family.



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