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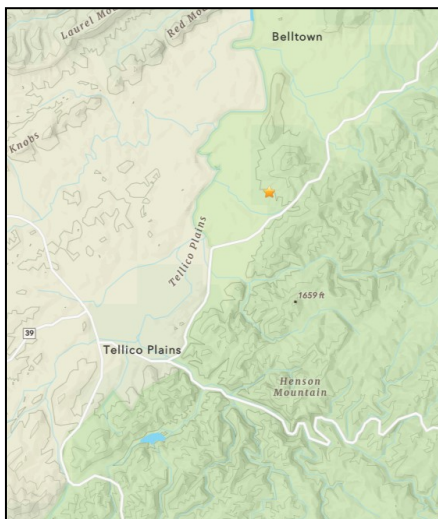
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Thursday, May 01, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Minor Earthquake detected near Tellico Plains



A small earthquake registering a magnitude of 2.0 was recorded in East Tennessee early Wednesday morning, April 30, according to preliminary data from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The quake occurred at 3:01 a.m. local time and was centered approximately 5.1 kilometers (3.2 miles) northeast of Tellico Plains. The epicenter was located at a depth of 20 kilometers beneath the Earth's surface.

Though minor, the tremor was also recorded near several nearby towns: roughly 19 miles east of Athens, 29 miles south-southwest of Maryville, and about 34 miles south of Farragut. The quake was approximately 114 miles north of Atlanta, Georgia. There have been no reports of damage or injuries associated with the earthquake. Given its low magnitude, it is unlikely that many residents felt the shaking.

The event was cataloged by the Southeast U.S. Seismic Network and the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis.

Source: USGS

◆ This week on *Hope From the Well*, Julie Tillis invites Connie McIntosh back to the program to discuss "The Primary Redemptive Names of God." *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

### Upcoming May Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL: Barn Quilt Square Painting with Christina DeBusk

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am

\$10 for members/\$15 for non-members

HERITAGE SCHOOL: Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency

Mime Barnes will discuss the purpose of the TWRA: to preserve, conserve, manage, protect, and enhance the fish & wildlife of TN & their habitats for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of citizens and visitors.

Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am \$5 or free with membership

HERITAGE SCHOOL: Local History Bingo

Join us to learn some local history playing bingo and win prizes!

Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 11:00 am \$5 or free with membership

HISTORY FOR LUNCH

Bring your lunch and learn about Old Federal Road, which first started as a mail route in the early administration of President Thomas Jefferson.

Thursday, May 22 @ Noon \*Free admission\*

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Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM  
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[www.livingheritagemuseum.org](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.org)



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Thursday, May 01, 2025
Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2
Athens, Tennessee

### ACMS announces Cheerleading Tryouts for 2025–2026 Season



Athens City Middle School is gearing up for the 2025–2026 cheerleading season with its annual tryout clinic and tryout day set for early May. Students interested in joining the ACMS cheerleading squad are invited to participate in a three-day clinic from May 5–7, followed by tryouts on May 8.

The cheer clinic will take place daily from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the ACMS gym. Tryouts will be held on May 8 from 4 to 6 p.m. Students from Athens City Intermediate School (ACIS) are asked to arrive by 4 p.m. and enter through the back gym door near the STEM building.

Those wishing to try out should pick up an informational packet available in the front office. The packet outlines tryout dates and participation requirements. For questions or additional information, students can contact Coach Barnett at [ebarnett@athensk8.net](mailto:ebarnett@athensk8.net) or Coach Gross at [mgross@athensk8.net](mailto:mgross@athensk8.net).

This event is part of a broader effort to prepare for the upcoming school year's athletic programs. Students interested in participating in any sport for the 2025–2026 school year should also pick up a sports information packet in the ACMS front office.

Source: [Athens City Middle School - Facebook](#)

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Today's News. This Morning.

### Community News You Can Use

- **VFW Post 5146 invites you to a Pulled Pork dinner on Saturday, May 3 from 4pm - 6pm** with all proceeds going to benefit the Shower Bus helping the less fortunate. Included in the \$10 price is smoked pulled pork, BBQ beans, slaw, and a roll. Dine in or carryout is available and the community is invited to attend.
- The McMinn County Election Commission Office will be closed TODAY, May Morning Fax® 1<sup>st</sup> for a Multi-County Election Training Today's News. This Morning. for staff. They will re-open on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 am.
- The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the **McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence**. There will also be a board workshop to begin ten minutes after Regular Session adjournment on May 6.
- The City of Athens celebrate **Trails Day** on Saturday, May 3 beginning at 2:00 pm on the Eureka Trail. This Trail Ride and Walk is open to participants of all ages and all skill levels. Discover the beauty of this community trail and enjoy the outdoors!

— MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> - MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> —



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Thursday, May 01, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Polk County Seniors Jumpstart Healthcare Careers with Phlebotomy Training



Pictured left to right: Le-An Thomason, Career Coach for Polk Co. HS, Emily Williams, Tia Davis, Summer Smasal, Dakota Campbell, Keila Navas, Ashlyn Stone, Izabel Thomas, Instructor Vicky Sullivan.

Seven graduating seniors from Polk County High School are getting a head start on their healthcare careers thanks to a partnership between Cleveland State Community College and Polk County Schools. Through an accelerated Phlebotomy Technician Bootcamp, the students are earning a nationally recognized certification before they even graduate.

The three-week program is held after school on the Cleveland State campus in the newly renovated Workforce CNA/Phlebotomy Lab. Led by nurse Vickie Sullivan, who brings 40 years of healthcare experience, the class teaches students how to safely perform venipunctures. At the end of the course, students will take the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) Phlebotomy Technician Certification (CPT) exam.

"This helps get my foot in the door," said student Keila Navas, who plans to seek a summer job as a phlebotomist. All seven students intend to pursue healthcare careers and further their education in college this fall.

The program is funded by the Innovative School Model grant, now in its third year. The grant supports career-focused initiatives across Polk County, including an Innovation Center at Copper Basin High School, a Livestock Facility at Polk County High School, and a Greenhouse at Chilhowee Middle School. It also funds career coaches to guide students in exploring advanced pathways.

"This grant allows our students to receive training in so many areas that will propel them to high-skill, high-wage careers," said Le-An Thomason, Work-Based Learning Coordinator and Career Coach at Polk County High School. "We appreciate Cleveland State's partnership and everything they do for our students." Students who continue at Cleveland State can earn college credit for the bootcamp, receiving a course substitution for Medical Terminology, an entry-level class in several healthcare programs.

"This is an amazing opportunity for students to train for a new career in healthcare and stack credentials for college credit," said Chelsea Falana, Workforce Specialist at Cleveland State. For more information on Workforce Development bootcamps, contact Chelsea Falana at (423) 614-8742 or [cfalana@clevelandstatecc.edu](mailto:cfalana@clevelandstatecc.edu). *Source: Andrea Byerly, Cleveland State*

HOPE FROM THE WELL

HOSTED BY: JULIE TILLIS

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Thursday, May 01, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Cleveland outlasts McMinn County in high-scoring Softball Showdown



Cleveland and McMinn County combined for seven home runs and 30 total hits Monday night, as the Lady Raiders held off a late rally to defeat the Lady Cherokees 15-10 in their District 5-4A regular season finale.

Cleveland built a commanding 14-3 lead behind home runs from Allison Farnsworth (2), Brylee Cisco, and Lilly Mason before McMinn County stormed back with a seven-run sixth inning, fueled by a pair of three-run blasts from Addie Miller and Madison Herd.

Despite the rally, Cleveland freshman pitcher Huntlee Dennison held on, recording the final outs and finishing with four strikeouts. Cisco led the offense with four hits and two RBIs, while Farnsworth went 3-for-3 with two homers and three RBIs.

Miller paced McMinn County with a perfect 3-for-3 night, including two home runs and six RBIs.

Both teams return to Athens Friday night to open the District 5 tournament. Cleveland (15-12, 5-1) will face Rhea County, while McMinn County (7-14, 1-5) takes on top-seeded Walker Valley.

Read More at the Source: [Chattanooga.com](http://Chattanooga.com)

## Coach Harrison retires from TWU



Coach Stan Harrison has announced his retirement from Tennessee Wesleyan University. Stan joined TWU in 1982 and served in numerous roles, including an impressive 23 years as head women's basketball coach where he achieved more than 500 wins. He has also served as

Dean of Students, Director of Athletics, Vice President for Student Development, Vice President for Enrollment Services, and head women's golf coach. In 2010-2011, he was selected by the Board of Trustees to serve as Interim President.

The community is invited to celebrate Stan and his years of service to Tennessee Wesleyan and the greater Athens community on Tuesday, May 6, from 3:00pm – 5:00pm in the Colloms Campus Center in the Johnson Event Center.

Source: Blake McCaslin, Tennessee Wesleyan University



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Athens, Tennessee

## Legislation Introduced to Study National Scenic Trail Status for Benton MacKaye Trail

A new bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Chuck Fleischmann seeks to evaluate the Benton MacKaye Trail for designation as a National Scenic Trail. The proposed legislation, known as the *Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act*, calls for a formal study of the 287-mile trail that winds through Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

The trail traverses diverse natural landscapes, including mountains, valleys, streams, and waterfalls. Approximately 95% of the trail lies on federally owned land and would be managed by the U.S. Forest Service if designated.

Supporters of the bill highlighted the trail's popularity and scenic value, noting its potential to boost tourism and promote outdoor recreation across the region. Lawmakers emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting access to the natural beauty found along the trail's route.

If passed, the bill would authorize the necessary study to evaluate the trail's eligibility and benefits as a designated National Scenic Trail.

## Obituaries

**Marco Vasquez**, 75, passed away April 28. Visitation will be Friday, May 2nd from 5 to 7 p.m. at Good Samaritan Funeral Home in Athens.

**Janice Morrow**, 70 of Riceville, passed away on Tuesday, April 29 after a lengthy illness. The family will have a private graveside service at McMinn Memory Gardens. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Janice Morrow.

**J.E. Wilson**, 86 of Decatur, passed away on Wednesday, April 30. He was a member of Union Grove Baptist Church. He was a United States Navy Veteran and a member of Meigs Lodge #213 F. & A.M. for over 61 years. He worked for Dillard Smith Construction for 42 years. A Masonic service will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025, in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services with a funeral service to follow. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, in the Decatur Cemetery with Military Honors. The family will receive friends from 5 – 7 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Wilson Family.

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