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Friday, May 02, 2025 Page 1 Athens, Tennessee

METCC to hold benefit concert for St. Mark AME Zion Church next week



The Mid-East Tennessee Community Chorus (METCC) will present a special benefit concert titled *"Beauty for Ashes"* on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** at **Allen Memorial United Methodist Church**, located at **800 Decatur Pike, Athens, TN.**

The concert aims to support **St. Mark AME Zion Church**, a historic congregation in Athens' Free Hill community that was **devastated by fire on August 15, 2024**. The blaze not only destroyed the 150-year-old church building but also resulted in a **tragic fatality**. The cause of the fire and the identity of the victim remain under investigation.

St. Mark AME Zion Church has stood as a cornerstone of the **African-American community** in Athens for more than a century and a half. Located in **Free Hill**, an area historically settled by free Black families, the church has been both a spiritual and cultural hub for generations. Its destruction has left a profound impact on the congregation and surrounding community, who are now facing the difficult path of mourning, healing, and rebuilding.

The *"Beauty for Ashes"* concert will feature uplifting choral selections and inspirational music, reflecting both the sorrow of loss and the hope of renewal. **Donations will be accepted** at the event, with all proceeds going toward the recovery and restoration efforts for the St. Mark congregation.

For more information, visit www.themetcc.org or call **423-381-0008**. This evening of music, memory, and unity promises to be a powerful testament to the enduring spirit of a community coming together in faith and support.

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Friday, May 02, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Driver Injured After Vehicle Leaves Road and Strikes Ditch in McMinn County



A single-vehicle accident occurred Wednesday afternoon around 2:30 p.m. on County Road 422 near Athens, involving a 2015 Dodge Caravan. According to authorities, the vehicle left the roadway and struck a ditch, resulting in injuries to the driver.

Emergency medical personnel from AMR responded promptly to the scene and transported the driver to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens for treatment. The extent of the driver's injuries has not been released at this time.

Multiple local agencies responded to assist, including the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, Niota Rural Fire Department, and Englewood Rural Fire Department. The Tennessee Highway Patrol is leading the investigation into the crash, with Trooper Travis Ryans serving as the investigating officer.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.

Weekend Event Calendar

Looking for something to do today or this weekend?

Follow [WYXI on Facebook](#) and check out the Morning Fax Round-Up! Included in our daily post will be a calendar listing fun events that will be happening throughout the week. Here are the events for today and this weekend!

- **May 3:** Northeast Large Scale Train Show (Better Living Center 9AM)
- **May 3:** May Daze Culture Crawl (10am - 3pm)
- **May 3:** Distinguished Young Women Program (7pm @ ACMS)
- **May 3:** WYXI Live Broadcast at The LITE House (10:30am-2:30 pm) Listen on FM 94.5 & AM 1390
- **May 4:** McMinn Co, Historical Society meeting (2PM @ McMinn Co. Courthouse) Author Marilyn Mascaro will discuss her latest book, "When the Rivers Flowed"

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Athens, TN

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Downtown Athens

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Friday, May 02, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **Ascension Life Church** is hosting their annual **Spring Picnic** this Sunday, May 4 from 10am - 2pm. There will be food, fellowship, and fun for all ages. Inflatables for the children and a Mega Water Slide. BYO towel and lawn chair. The church will provide the main food, you can bring chips, canned drinks, and desserts.
- The women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church are having a High Tea this Saturday, May 3 at 1:00 pm. No cost of admission, but they taking donations for the Episcopal Church Women's Group. Please RSVP at 423-745-2224
- **Luminary Church** (3401 River Rd., Ten Mile) is continuing their HUGE Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale today and tomorrow, May 2 & 3 from 9am - 2pm. Many great items for sale and clothing items at \$1 each. The youth program will sell ice cream and baked goods as well.
- **Niota UMC** will be hosting a free week-long summer camp on July 14-18 in partnership with Camp in the Community at their church in Niota. The summer camp is open to all children ages 5-14. The camp will run from 8:30-4:30pm (Friday ends at 2pm) and includes breakfast and lunch. Space is limited, make sure to sign up soon to secure your spot. To register, visit <https://www.campinthecommunity.org/host/niota>
- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- **New Life Church** hosts weekly Prayer Meetings every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00pm. The church is located at 204 Fisher St. in Athens. All are welcome.
- **SRBC Kids presents: Kingdom Seekers** on Sunday Nights at 5:30pm at **Solid Rock Baptist Church** (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun). This event combines, God, music, games and fun into a very special all ages affair.
- Due to the overwhelmingly positive reception, **The First Christian Church of Etowah** will again hold a huge **Indoor Yard Sale, Bake Sale and Hot Dog Luncheon** at 701 Ohio Ave, Etowah on Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3 from 8AM to 12PM. Hot dogs with chili and slaw, chips and soft drink \$6.00. All proceeds will go to the First Christian Church Food Bank.
- **Eastanallee Baptist Church** is having its **4th annual Car Show** on Saturday, May 3 from 10am - 2pm. There will be music, doorprizes, and food. There is no registration fee or paid admission.



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Friday, May 02, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional Health Officials Urge Measles Vaccination as Cases Rise in Tennessee

Starr Regional Medical Center's Infection Preventionist, Jessica Felker, MSN, RN, CIC, is urging McMinn County residents to take steps to protect themselves against measles as new cases continue to appear across the country, including in Tennessee.

Measles is not just a rash—it's a highly contagious respiratory illness that can lead to severe complications such as pneumonia, brain damage, and even death, especially in babies, young children, and unvaccinated individuals. It spreads easily through coughing and sneezing and remains one of the most contagious viruses known.

The best protection? The **MMR vaccine**. Two doses are recommended for children—one between 12 and 15 months, and a second between ages 4 and 6. Adults born after 1957 who haven't been vaccinated should also get one or two doses.

Vaccination not only protects individuals but also helps shield vulnerable community members who can't be immunized. Felker emphasizes, "It only takes a few seconds to receive a vaccine, but it could save a life."

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/measles or contact the McMinn County Health Department at 423-745-7431.

Summarized from a report by Jessica Falkner, Infection Preventionist, Starr Regional Medical Center

Bo Perkinson Honored for 50 Years with Optimist Club



Former Athens City Mayor Bo Perkinson was recognized on Thursday for a remarkable milestone—50 years of service as a member of the Optimist Club.

Perkinson's long-standing commitment to the organization reflects his dedication to community service and youth development in Athens and beyond.

The Optimist Club is part of **Optimist International**, a global service organization with nearly 3,000 clubs and over 80,000 members in more than 20 countries. Clubs operate independently, focusing on projects that benefit children and local communities. These initiatives often include sponsoring youth sports, organizing scholarship contests, and supporting area schools.

Through five decades of involvement, Perkinson has played a consistent role in fostering optimism and opportunity for young people in the region.

Source: Optimist Club of Athens

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Friday, May 02, 2025

Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

May Daze Culture Crawl Set for This Weekend in Downtown Athens

CULTURE CRAWL

may daze

MAY 3rd
Downtown Athens
10am-3pm
LIVE ART, ACTIVITIES, SHOPPING

Get ready for a vibrant celebration of arts, culture, and community as [Main Street Athens](#) hosts the [May Daze Culture Crawl](#) this **Saturday, May 3, 2025**, from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** in **Historic Downtown Athens**.

This **free, family-friendly event** will feature hands-on activities, live art demonstrations, and showcases by local artists and makers, all spread throughout participating downtown businesses. See [THIS VIDEO](#) and find out what some partnering businesses will be up to tomorrow!

Highlights of the day include:

- **Flower crown making** at *Athens Flower Shop*
- **Cookie decorating** at *Grandma's Gingerbread Bakery*
- **Live painting and artist exhibits** at *Fuller's Frame Shop*
- **Pottery throwing demos** and a **mural dedication** at *The Arts Center*
- Plus face painting, chalk art stations, jewelry making, printmaking, and much more!

[WYXI Radio](#) will be broadcasting live from **10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** from *The Lite House* (1 W. College Street), with on-air hosts **Cousin Mark and JP Vasquez** bringing you interviews, live coverage, and updates on the festivities.

Stop by the broadcast booth for a chance to win prizes from local businesses, including **Greeks Bearing Gifts**, **NAPA Auto Parts**, **Lena Perkins**, **LMT**, the **McMinn Living Heritage Museum**, and many more with **no purchase is necessary!**

Tune in to **FM 94.5 or AM 1390** to catch the live broadcast and join the celebration downtown. For a full schedule of events and participating locations, visit *Main Street Athens* on Facebook.

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Friday, May 02, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

James "Henry" Knox, 88 of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, April 30. James served in the United States Army. Graveside services with military honors will be held at McMinn Memory Gardens on Monday, May 5 at 11:00 AM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of James "Henry" Knox.

Coy Ward, 84 of Benton, passed away on Wednesday, April 30. Coy was the owner and founder of Ward's Tree Service, the oldest tree service in East TN, serving McMinn and surrounding counties. Family and friends will assemble at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 3, at Bordwine Funeral Home and go in procession to Cambria Cemetery for the 2:00 p.m. graveside service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Darlene Jane McMillan, 55 of Sweetwater, passed away on Wednesday, April 16. Darlene was a woman of deep faith. She found joy in music, cherished the moments she could spend traveling, and above all, treasured the time spent with her family. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to serve the McMillan family.

John Logan Ziegler Jr., 76 of Decatur, passed away on Thursday, May 1. He was a lifelong Dairy Farmer partnered with his best friend, his brother. He enjoyed bear hunting and spending time in the mountains. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 6 at Shiloh Baptist Church. Interment will follow in the Beta Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5 – 7 p.m. on Monday, May 5 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Ziegler Family.

Marco Tulio Vasquez, 75, passed away on Monday, April 28. He was a devoted Machinist and beloved family man, channeling his dedication into every task he undertook. One of Marco's proudest accomplishments was emigrating to America, where he worked tirelessly to achieve the American dream. The community will gather to honor Marco's life during visitation services scheduled for Friday, May 2 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Good Samaritan Funeral Home. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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