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Wednesday, October 29, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Two Dead in Shooting at Barku Plastics in Cleveland; Suspect Found Dead After Standoff



A deadly shooting Monday morning at Barku Plastics left two employees dead, including the company's vice president, according to Cleveland Police. Authorities identified the victims as Ivan Aldergot, the Vice President of Barku Plastics, and Tobias Gleinig, another employee whose role with the company has not yet been confirmed.

Police say the shooting occurred shortly after 10 a.m. at the Barku Plastics facility, located off Old Chattanooga Pike in southwest Cleveland. Responding officers found both men dead inside the plant, and investigators are treating the incident as a double homicide. According to police, the suspect — believed to be a former employee — fled the scene in a vehicle that was later located at a residence on Westview Lane in Bradley County.

A tense standoff followed as officers surrounded the home. Cleveland Police say tactical units deployed a robot and drone to gain entry after several hours, and once inside, officers discovered the body of a man who appeared to have died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Authorities are awaiting official confirmation from the Medical Examiner's Office to determine the suspect's identity. Neighbors described the ordeal as shocking and heart-breaking. "It's been an emotional day — this is a quiet street," said Joshua Scott, who lives nearby. "It's something our community will never forget." Both victims were reportedly German citizens working in supervisory roles at the plant.

Barku Plastics, founded in Cleveland in 2003, is a custom plastic injection molding and profile extrusion company operating as a subsidiary of Barku Kunststofftechnik GmbH, a German manufacturer established in 1977. The company supplies plastic components for industries including automotive, agriculture, and consumer goods. Police continue to investigate the motive behind the shooting.

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**Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025** Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 **Athens, Tennessee**

## Cleveland State dedicates new lab in Health & Science Center



Cleveland State Community College Foundation recently dedicated the Dr. Rodney and Margo Fitzgerald Nursing Lab in the Health & Science Center on the Cleveland campus. With a donation from the Fitzgerald Family Foundation, the state-of-the-art training facility will be used to prepare nursing students to serve in the healthcare field. The gift also provided training equipment for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program at the college. Dr. Fitzgerald has taught at Cleveland State for more than 50 years. He retired in 2002 after serving as Associate Dean in the Humanities Department, and he continues to serve the college as an adjunct professor.

*Pictured left to right: Dr. Corey Campbell, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Sandra Godsey, Dean of Business and Advanced Technologies; Dr. John Squires, Vice President of Economic and Institutional Development; Margo Fitzgerald; Dr. Andy White, Cleveland State President; Dr. Rodney Fitzgerald; Jonathan Cantrell, Foundation Board of Trustees President. Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC*

## Community News You Can Use

- The Etowah Senior Center is pleased to announce that they are having ***Tech Goes Home*** basic computer classes for ages 18 through 59. The classes will run from November 10-14 from 11:30-2:30. Laptops will be provided for use in the classes and students will keep the laptops if they're present for all 15 hours. Call the senior center at 423-781-7632 if interested.

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Athens Area Council for the Arts Presents Dual Exhibits Featuring National Geographic Photographer and Textile Artist



The Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) is pleased to announce two upcoming exhibits: *A Photography Exhibit* by National Geographic photographer Brian K. Miller, and *The Magic of Wool* by Bulgarian native Iliyana Skrobanska. Both exhibits will be available for viewing November 13 – December 12, 2025.

*A Photography Exhibit* will be showcased on the Gallery Wall in the Peggy Dow Performance Center at The Arts Center, while *The Magic of Wool* will be featured in the Willson Exhibit Room and Hallway Gallery. Viewing hours are Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and during special events. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet both artists at the Artist Reception on Friday, December 5, at 5:00 PM in the same locations.

Brian K. Miller's artistic journey began with childhood trips to the Everglades and family road adventures that sparked a lifelong passion for exploration. As a teen, he purchased his first camera, a Minolta SRT 201, and has been capturing his travels ever since — from the Canadian Rockies to the deserts of Arizona. His photography has been featured in numerous magazines, calendars, and books, including his first published collection, *"Birds of the Gulf Coast,"* released by Louisiana State University Press in 2001.

The exhibits reflect AACA's ongoing commitment to showcasing both regional and international artists, offering the community opportunities to experience diverse and inspiring works of art.

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## McMinn County Arrest Reports

## Obituaries

**10-27-25**

**Regina Dupree**, 53 of Cleveland, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$2,000

**Brittany Dougherty**, 28 of Englewood, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$2,000

**Wyatt Jackson**, 24 of Athens, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000

**Marie Williams**, 50 of Texas, charged with theft of property over \$1000, Bond \$3,000

**Fernando Morales**, 28 of Atlanta, Georgia, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,500

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**  
**Information gathered using Public Sources.**

**Walter Fred Womac Jr.**, 73 of Ten Mile, passed away on Sunday, October 26 at his home surrounded by family. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time with family. No formal service will be held. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Womac family.

**Emma "Sue" Brannon King**, 90, a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County, passed away on October 28. She was a longtime member of the Riceville Church of Christ. A visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Friday, October 31, from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM with a Celebration of Life service to follow at 1:00 PM. Interment will follow funeral services at Upper Spring Creek Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Emma "Sue" Brannon King.

**Tony Joe Land Sr.**, 70, passed away on Monday, October 27. Tony's career spanned over 35 years at Whirlpool, where his expertise in maintenance was not just a job but a reflection of his innate ability to understand and repair the world around him. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home, at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 30 and proceed to Etowah Cemetery for an 11:00 a.m. graveside service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

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