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Wednesday, December 03, 2025

(with attribution)

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

A Record-Breaking Year for the 2025 Celebrity Bagging Event



United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties is thrilled to announce that this year's Celebrity Bagging Event—hosted by our friends at Food City of Athens—was their biggest one yet! Thanks to the faithfulness, kindness, and generosity of our community, an incredible \$10,324 was raised to support their mission. They are deeply grateful for every donor who made this impact possible. Thank you for showing that *United is the Way*.

wyxiradio@gmail.com

They extend a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful local celebrities from Athens City Schools, Athens Utility Board, Athens Kiwanis Club, our United Way Partner Agencies, Simmons Bank, Bowater Credit Union, and Old National Bank. Their energy and enthusiasm helped set the perfect tone for the holiday season.

A special thank you goes to Food City Manager Rusty Rollins and his incredible team, as well as Bowater Credit Union, for hosting a successful pre-fundraising event. Your commitment reminds us how powerful community partnerships truly are.

And of course—what would Celebrity Bagging be without a little friendly competition? We are excited to share that Athens Kiwanis has once again earned the title for the hour with the most donations collected. As reigning champions, they proudly carry the trophy for another year—and the bragging rights that come with it!

Athens, TN continues to shine as a leader in generosity. This community consistently shows up, stands together, and lifts one another up—and this year's event is yet another reminder of the power of collective giving.

Written By: Alicia Rose, United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties



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Holiday Hours Update

Nov 30: Closed

Dec 7: Last Sunday Lunch of 2025. Will resume on Jan 18, 2026!



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

Athens, Tennessee

TWUDINE

Driver Rescued After Hours-Long Entrapment on I-75



A driver was rescued Sunday morning after being found entrapped in a crashed Corvette along I-75 South near the 57-mile marker. The incident was reported shortly after 10 a.m. on November 30, when calls came in regarding a vehicle in the median.

Firefighter Stephen Capua, arriving in his personal vehicle, discovered the late-model Corvette with the driver pinned inside. Fire crews from North McMinn, Niota, and Athens responded and worked to extricate the individual.

Authorities believe the crash may have occurred several hours earlier, as the engine was cold and the driver—though awake—was disoriented. The patient was transported by AMR to UT Medical Center in Knoxville, as poor weather conditions prevented the use of a Life Flight helicopter.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol is leading the investigation.

Photo by David Prater, Niota Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- The Etowah Thursday Music Study Club will present the 21st Annual Community Christmas Concert Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Etowah First Baptist Church. Featured will be Etowah Town Band, Etowah Community Choir and Flute & Saxophone Ensembles. Admission is free. Bring non-perishable food or monetary donations to help the Etowah Food Pantry.
- Athens Community Theatre will present the Tony Award—winning musical Annie February 19—March 1, 2026. Performances will be held Thursdays—Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Tickets are now available for AACA Arts Partners and go on sale to the general public December 5. Prices are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. The special catered "Where Are They?" reunion event on February 20 is \$25. Patrons are encouraged to purchase early, as ACT productions frequently sell out.





ATHENS DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS Keith Church Choir 5:30PM

Saturday Dec, 6th.

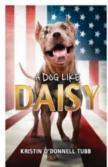


Meet Local Children's Author Kristin O'Donnell Tubb 2:00-4:00PM













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Athens, Tennessee

TWU Honors Jeff Cunningham as 2025 Distinguished Entrepreneur

(with attribution)



Tennessee Wesleyan University's Goodfriend College of Business and Professional Studies has named Jeffrey L. Cunningham its 2025 Distinguished Entrepreneur, recognizing his leadership, service, and long-standing impact on the region. The award was presented during TWU's twelfth annual Distinguished Entrepreneur Award Luncheon, which drew a record crowd of community leaders, officials, alumni, and students.

Cunningham is a former president and CEO of Athens Federal Com-

munity Bank, where he led the organization through its conversion to a bank holding company and subsequent NASDAQ listing. He later served as executive vice president and vice chairman of the CapStar Bank Board. He now volunteers as president and CEO of the Athens Federal Foundation, which has awarded more than \$2.5 million in grants supporting basic human needs across Southeast Tennessee.

In his keynote remarks, Cunningham highlighted the importance of hard work, valuing others, and "doing good," a message praised by university leadership.

More information and a livestream of the event are available on the **TWU** website.

Three-Vehicle Crash Sends One to Hospital on Monday Evening



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A three-vehicle collision sent one driver to the hospital Monday around 5:30 p.m. after a Ford Fusion was rearended while turning into a driveway. The Fusion was struck from behind by an F-

250 work truck, causing it to be pushed into the opposite lane, where it collided with a Hyundai Tucson.

Each vehicle had a single occupant. The driver of the Ford Fusion was transported to a local hospital for treatment. No other injuries were reported.

North McMinn Fire, Niota Fire, Athens Fire, the McMinn County Sheriff's Office, and AMR responded to the scene. Stephen Capua oversaw incident operations.

The crash is being investigated by THP Trooper Dean Conk.

Photo by David Prater, Niota Rural Fire.







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Wednesday, Dec. 03, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

12-01-25

Melissa Davis, 42 of Athens, charged with possession, and or carry of a weapon, possession of a weapon by a felon, and parole violations for burglary. Bond \$12,000.

John Larson, 56 of St. Carl's Wood, New Mexico, charged with criminal trespassing and indecent exposure.

James Phillips, 52 of Niota, charged with casual exchange, possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia.

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

Obituaries

Elmer Lee "E.L." Martin, 82 of Englewood, passed away on Sunday, November 30. E.L. was a proud and dedicated 50-year member of the Carpenters Local Union 74. E.L. was of the Church of God faith. A Masonic service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 4 at Bordwine Funeral Home in Etowah. Family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Thursday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 5th at the funeral home and will go in procession to Sunrise Cemetery for the 11:00 a.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Dr. Stanley Bernard Smith passed away at Starr Regional Medical Center on Saturday, November 29. He pursued a Bachelor's degree at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA and received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery from Temple University in Philadelphia. Stanley proudly served in the U.S. Army where he attained the rank of Captain. Stanley will be laid to rest in the Chattanooga National Cemetery. Companion Funeral Home of Athens, TN and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

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