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REPUBLICAN PRIMARY  
AUGUST 6, 2026

FOR THE CANDIDATE  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE REGION



**The Morning Fax**<sup>®</sup>  
Today's News. This Morning.

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**Arts Council Seeks Support Through Annual Partnership Drive**



The Athens Area Council for the Arts is inviting community members to support its annual Arts Partnership Drive, which helps fund programs at The Arts Center.

As a nonprofit, AACA relies on donations to cover a portion of its operating costs, typically 10 to 20 percent of its annual budget. The organization serves thousands each year through arts education programs, summer camps, performances, and community events, including productions by Athens Community Theatre.

Officials say the program also supports tourism, with many attendees traveling from outside the state. Donation levels begin at \$100, with discounted options available. More information is available at [athensartscouncil.org/give](http://athensartscouncil.org/give).

**Community News You Can Use**

- Athens Utilities Board (AUB) will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2026, in observance of Good Friday. Regular business operations will resume on Monday, April 6 at 7:30 a.m. While offices will be closed, AUB crews from all divisions—including Power, Water, Wastewater, and Natural Gas—will remain on standby throughout the Easter weekend to respond to any emergencies and ensure uninterrupted service for the community. Customers needing to report an outage or utility emergency can do so by calling AUB's 24-hour outage line 423-745-3131. AUB wishes everyone a safe and meaningful Easter weekend.
- The McMinn Living Heritage Museum is asking Athens and surrounding communities for photos, newspaper or magazine articles, memorabilia, and artifacts relating to the Battle of Athens. Please call the Museum at (423) 745-0329 if you have any of those items or for more information.

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Happy  
**Easter**  
He is Risen!



**Peoples Bank**  
OF EAST TENNESSEE

*Easter*  
**Drive Thru**

**April 3 & 4th**  
**6:00-8:00 p.m.**



**Solid Rock Baptist Church**  
4975 Hwy 11 Calhoun, TN 37309  
*Pastor Scott Martin*

**SUNDAY LUNCH**  
*at Tennessee Wesleyan*

Start your Sunday off right with our delicious and decadent Sunday Lunch on the TN Wesleyan Campus! Join us for a wide variety of lunch classics and new favorites to satisfy your cravings. Served all you care to eat style!

**Date: Every Sunday**  
*"When school is in session."*

**Time: 11am-1:30pm**

**Location: Sherman Dining Hall**  
204 E College Street, Athens TN 37303



Scan and select the upcoming Sunday from the lunch meal period.



**f**  
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**Friday, April 03, 2026**      **Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2**      **Athens, Tennessee**

**HomeTowne Studios joins Athens Chamber**



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, HomeTowne Studios, located at 1515 Liberty Branch Lane, Athens. HomeTowne Studios is completely renovated home-like accommodations. Call 423.856.6150 to book or for more information. Shown here are Chamber and business representatives, and the staff and residents of HomeTowne Studios.

**TN Valley Churches Ministry Launches Free Online Directory for Local Churches**

A new online resource is helping connect families across the Tennessee Valley with local churches while giving congregations a free platform to share information and events.

William Davis, founder of TN Valley Churches Ministry, created TNValleyChurches.org to make it easier for residents to find a church home in their community. The volunteer-maintained website currently serves McMinn, Monroe, Bradley, Polk, Meigs, and Loudon counties, with plans to expand in the future.

The directory allows churches to list key details such as their name, address, pastor, service times, contact information, and social media links in one centralized location. Churches can also post upcoming events, including revivals, gospel singings, Vacation Bible Schools, and other special services open to the public.

Davis said the goal of the ministry is to simplify the process of connecting families with churches while helping congregations reach a broader audience.

There is no cost to participate, and the site is free for both churches and visitors. Davis hopes the resource will continue to grow and serve as a valuable tool for communities throughout the region.

**More Church News on Page 3**

**Premier PROPERTIES REALTY**


**HAPPY EASTER**

WISHING YOU ALL THE BLESSINGS THIS SEASON BRINGS



**Umbrellas are back!**

Donate between April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup> to receive yours.



**MEDIC**  
Regional Blood Center

# UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

SEND YOUR EVENTS BY  
THURSDAY MORNING TO BE FEATURED HERE  
EMAIL: [WYXRADIO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WYXRADIO@GMAIL.COM)

THIS WEEK  
NEXT WEEK  
EVERY WEEK

Friday, April 03, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Church News & Events

- Trinity United Methodist Church will host its first annual "Carry the Cross" event on Good Friday, April 3. The 5K run begins at 8 a.m., followed by a ½K Cross Carry Walk at 9:30 a.m. Registration is now \$35 on race day. No registration is required for the ½K walk. Participants can register online at [trinityumcathens.com/goodfriday5k](http://trinityumcathens.com/goodfriday5k).
- Athens Lutheran Church, located at 710 Forrest Ave., invites the community to join its Holy Week and Easter celebrations, beginning with Good Friday Worship on Friday, April 3 at 7:00 PM, a solemn service remembering the crucifixion of the Lord, followed by Easter Sunday Worship on Sunday, April 5 at 7:00 AM and 10:00 AM celebrating the resurrection, with an Easter breakfast and egg hunt for children taking place between services; More information is available at [athenslutheranchurch.org](http://athenslutheranchurch.org).
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur and Thursdays at **6:30pm** at [Spirit City Church North Etowah](http://Spirit City Church North Etowah).
- Mt. Harmony Baptist Church celebrates Easter Sunday at The Barn at Faith Farms on April 5 at 10AM. More info in ad on Page 4.
- **St. Mary's Legacy Clinic** offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- Harvest Time Ministries & Worship invites you to a Spring Revival at 7pm nightly from April 6 - 10 at the McMinn County Expo Center, 2405 Decatur Pike, Athens. There will be food provided nightly.
- Conasauga Baptist Church, 649 County Road 475, will host Easter Sunrise Service at 7AM on Sunday, April 5. Breakfast will follow the service.
- North Englewood Missionary Baptist Church will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4 at 4pm at Englewood Park (99 Sunny Side Ave, Englewood).
- One Voice Choir has been working hard to prepare a special concert to show support for Mr. Ronnie McMahan. The concert will be held on Sunday, May 3 at 2:30pm at Light of Life Ministries. All are welcome to come out and support the cause.
- Solid Rock Baptist Church invites you to their Easter Drive Thru, April 3 & 4 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Tap or click on their ad at the top of page 3 for a link to their Facebook page for more information and their location in Calhoun.



  
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*Come Worship with  
First Baptist Church of Niota  
Easter Sunday Morning*

*Easter service begins at 10:45  
Message by Pastor Cullen Conner  
Special Music will be presented.*

*Everyone is Welcome!*

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**6 Main St.,  
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Pastor  
Cullen Conner**



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EARLY VOTING APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>

ELECTION DAY MAY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026



for **MCMINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**



Friday, April 03, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

### April 01, 2026

**Nikita Bradford**, 36 of Athens, charged with casual exchange simple possession of meth, shoplifting, theft of property, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$10,000.

**Veronica Maddox**, 29 of Ten Mile, charged with failure to appear for shoplifting, Bond \$4,000.

**Derek Morrow**, 47 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property \$2,500 to \$10,000.

**James Walker**, 58 of Niota, charged with driving on a revoked license, and failure to appear for driving on a revoked license second offense, Bond \$9,000.

**Christopher McClure**, 52 of Niota, charged with state violation of probation for possession of meth for resale, child support, financial exploitation of an elderly or vulnerable person, and theft of property \$2,500 to \$10,000, Bond \$51,902.40.

**Brandon Croft**, 18 of Georgetown, charged with reckless driving, driving without due care, unnecessary excessive noise, and failure to have a tail light on equipment, Bond \$1,000.

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

## Cleveland State Seeks Instructors for Workforce Bootcamps

Cleveland State Community College Workforce Education is seeking qualified instructors to teach short-term trade bootcamps in high-demand fields, including welding, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, construction, and food management.

The programs range from 40 to 90 hours and focus on hands-on training to prepare participants for the workforce. Classes are offered throughout the college's service area, including Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, and Polk counties.

Officials say flexible scheduling is available, and individuals with industry experience are encouraged to apply online. For more information, contact Workforce Education Director Chrissy Pugh at [chrissy.pugh@cscctn.edu](mailto:chrissy.pugh@cscctn.edu) or 423-473-2262

Source: *Andrea Byerly, CSCC*

JOIN MT.HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH  
AS WE CELEBRATE EASTER AT THE  
BARN AT FAITH FARMS  
136 COUNTY ROAD 260, ATHENS  
APRIL 5th at 10:00 AM  
EVERYONE WELCOME



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# HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

**Happy Resurrection Sunday from  
WYXI Radio and The Morning Fax**

Friday, April 03, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## What Jesus Did On The Cross

When we preach Christ and him crucified ( I Cor. 2:2 ); has the question ever crossed your mind of " Well what did Jesus actually do on the cross? "....

Here are 10 scriptural things that Jesus did in his death on the cross.

1: He was made to be sin for us: ( II Cor. 5:21 )

Note: He DID NOT - Become sin. To become an alcoholic, you have to start drinking. Jesus never started sinning in any thing !

This is why GOD made him to be sin, so that he could satisfy the debt required by GOD.

2: He was made a curse for us: ( Gal. 3:13 ) quoting from ( Deut. 21: 22-23 )

3: He blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that were against us: ( Col. 2:14 )

4: He reconciled us to GOD in his death: ( Rom 5:10 )

Note: You are not born again at the cross; that takes place at his resurrection. In this verse, we are reconciled to GOD by his death, and saved ( delivered from GOD's wrath ) by his life.

5: He is our passover, sacrificed for us: ( I Cor. 5:7 )

6: His soul was made an offering for sin: ( Isa. 53:10 )

7: He bore our iniquities: ( Isa. 53:11 )

8: He poured out his soul unto death: ( Isa. 53:12 )

Note: the New testament reference to this is found in ( Phil. 2:8 )

he became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9: He made intercession for the transgressors: ( Isa. 53:12 )

This can be seen in the new testament in ( Luke 23:24 ) while hanging on the cross he cried; "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"

10: He destroyed him that had the power of death, that is the devil. ( Heb. 2:14 ) satan can no longer separate anyone from GOD ! When they choose to call out on the name of the LORD, they shall be saved ( delivered )

There was a lot that took place when Jesus died on the cross, I wanted to share them with you.

Remember this though; the cross without the resurrection would serve no purpose. The resurrection without the cross would not be possible. And both of these would have no power without his ascension to the Father, into the Holy Place not made with hands, but into the presence of GOD himself, to offer himself by his own blood to the Father and be accepted as the propitiation for our sin. I pray that this Resurrection Sunday takes on a whole new meaning for you like never before, by knowing what GOD did for you By, and Through Jesus.

Andy Bell, Truth For Today Ministry



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Friday, April 03, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Local Teacher Named NewsChannel 9 Educator of the Week



A local middle school teacher is being recognized for his dedication in the classroom.

NewsChannel 9 has named Geoffrey Freeman, a seventh-grade English Language Arts teacher at Athens City Middle School, as its latest Educator of the Week.

Freeman was selected for his strong commitment to teaching and the positive impact he has on his students. Colleagues and supporters say his passion for education is evident in the classroom, where he works to engage and inspire young learners each day.

The weekly recognition highlights outstanding educators across the region who go above and beyond in shaping the lives of their students.

Source: [NewsChannel9](#)

## Obituaries

**Sharon Dianne Weeks Blaylock**, 75 of Athens, passed away on Sunday, March 29 at her residence. She was a member of North Etowah Baptist Church. A Licensed Practical Nurse for 44 years, she retired from Sweetwater Hospital and was a former employee of Erlanger Hospital and Woods Memorial Hospital. A veteran of the Vietnam War, she was a Medic in the U. S. Army from 1968-1972, stationed in Germany. Graveside services will be 11:00 AM, Friday, April 3 at McMinn Memory Gardens. There will be no formal visitation. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

**Elizabeth Diane Bagamary**, 77 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, March 31. She was an expert seamstress, with her sense of style and beauty interwoven in every piece she created. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens TN. is in charge of arrangements.

**Jimmy Donald Weir**, age 82 of Athens, Tenn. went home to be with The Lord Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at NHC of Athens. He was a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County. He was a farmer and Tractor Mechanic and was a member of Mt. Verd Baptist Church. He enjoyed deer and turkey hunting. Funeral services will be 3:00 P.M. Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Mt. Verd Baptist Church with Rev. Donnie Dalton and Robert Riden officiating. Interment will follow in Valley Road Baptist Church Cemetery. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens, Tenn. in charge of arrangements.

**Eloise Cunningham**, age 91, of Athens, TN passed at her home on March 30, 2026 She participated in the Extension Homemakers Club and the Evening Pilot Club. She was a member of Athens Church of Christ and was actively involved in the "Bear Ministry". Funeral services will be 12:00 Noon Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with Minister Terry Stuart officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM-12:00 Noon prior to the service at the funeral home. Graveside services will be 3:00 PM (CST) (4:00 PM EST) Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Sand Rock Cemetery in Sand Rock, Alabama. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

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