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Friday, October 09, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

PUMPKINTOWN POSTPONED DUE TO HURRICANE

Friendly City Festivals is putting safety first and rescheduling Pumpkintown to October 24, 2026.

We care deeply about our vendors and community. With the possibility of strong winds and heavy rain, we are making the difficult decision to reschedule Pumpkintown.

A survey will be going out to vendors about their availability for the rescheduled date and refunds will be issued to vendors unable to attend. Please remember, we are a small committee and are working as diligently as possible to get all needs addressed.

Thank you for understanding. We look forward to seeing you on October 24, 2026.



RESCHEDULED

**NEW
DATE**

October 24
10-5 PM
Downtown Athens



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Friday, October 09, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Rainy, Breezy Weather Expected Across McMinn County This Weekend

After a stretch of warm and mostly sunny weather, residents in McMinn County should prepare for a wet and breezy weekend, according to the National Weather Service Morristown Forecast Office.

The forecast calls for increasing clouds Friday before showers move into the area Saturday afternoon. Rain chances increase Saturday night, with showers and possible thunderstorms continuing into Sunday. High temperatures are expected to reach the lower to middle 70s over the weekend.

The National Weather Service also expects gusty winds Saturday and Sunday as the remnants of Hurricane Isaias move through the Tennessee Valley. Forecasters say heavy rainfall is possible across parts of southeast Tennessee, and breezy conditions could create travel concerns, especially in exposed areas.

Showers are expected to taper off Sunday night, with drier and cooler weather returning early next week.

Area High School Football Matchups

From region rivalries to key district contests, area high school football teams are back in action Friday night. See this week's games below.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL **THIS WEEK'S GAMES**

MCMINN CENTRAL @ SEQUOYAH
FRIDAY, OCT. 9 @ 7 PM

CAMPBELL CO. @ SWEETWATER
FRIDAY, OCT. 9 @ 7:30 PM

SODDY DAISSY @ BRADLEY CENTRAL
FRIDAY, OCT. 9 @ 7 PM

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THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, October 09, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- [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](#).
- [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.*
- Union McMinn Baptist Church will host its Thanksgiving Day "Come to the Table" gathering on Thursday, Nov. 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 316 County Road 316 in Niota. Guests are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal, fellowship, worship and singing. The Leamon Family will provide special music. Everyone is welcome.
- Union McMinn Baptist Church will host a night of worship featuring Jeff Tolbert and Primitive Road on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m. The church is located at 314 County Road 316 in Niota at the I-75 Niota exit. For more information, contact Jack Ingram at 423-404-3390.
- **October is Pastor Appreciation Month**, a time set aside to recognize and honor the pastors, ministers, and church staff who serve their congregations throughout the year. **Those wishing to share their appreciation publicly may contact Stephanie Devine at 423-462-5309 or radiostephaniedevine@gmail.com** for information about recognition opportunities in The Morning Fax.
- St. Mark AME Zion Church will host its First Annual Cornerstone Chili Cook-Off community fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McMinn Senior Activity Center, 205 McMinn Ave., Athens. The event will feature chili, music, prizes, and a silent auction as part of efforts to help rebuild the church. For more information, contact Lila Robinson at 423-241-7117.

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October 24

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Friday, October 09, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Etowah's *Murders on Main Street* Returns This Month



The Durant Tullock Memorial Foundation and the Gem Players will combine entertainment and local history on Oct. 22, 23 and 24 with its 12th annual presentation of *Murders on Main Street*, a lantern-lighted walking tour. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased by calling 423-263-3270 or 423-506-6067.

This historic interpretation revives the stories of six murders that occurred on Tennessee Avenue during Etowah's first 40 years, 1908-1947. Visitors will witness scenes of the crime while walking to the actual spots where the murders occurred and hear from those accused of murder and their victims as portrayed by actors from the Gem Players Association. The actors are costumed in period attire. The cast includes seventeen actors and numerous sound and lighting technicians.

Although the author of *Murders on Main Street*, Durant Tullock, passed away five years ago, both organizations will continue to honor and present his dedication to the history of Etowah.

Tullock believed that all of the murders are a unique part of Etowah's past. All of the events were taken straight out of the newspaper accounts and court documents to correctly adhere to what occurred at the time", said Tullock.

Tullock said the stories are part of local folklore, depicting "the events that many of us have heard over the years."

The first documented murder on Tennessee Avenue took place in 1908 when Etowah was in its infancy. The ruggedness that the new railroad town brought is evident in some of the earliest murders, he said.

Murders on Main Street is directed by veteran Gem Player LaMone Rose with Ruth Sowers as Technical Director. Both Rose and Sowers have been involved with the production since 2012.

The 10-block walking tours will leave every 15 minutes starting at 6:30 until 9 p.m. and reservations are required. Walk-ins are welcome but not guaranteed a time or space. Each tour will depart from the Historic L&N Depot on Highway 411 in downtown Etowah.



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Friday, October 09, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Athens Community Theatre Announces Auditions for Two Upcoming Musicals



Athens Community Theatre is seeking performers for two upcoming productions, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and the Tony Award-winning musical *Ragtime*, with auditions scheduled throughout October at The Arts Center.

Auditions for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 19, at 6 p.m. Director Christen Webb is seeking 12 performers ages 10 to 18. Performances are scheduled for Jan. 28-31, 2027.

Auditions for *Ragtime* will follow on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 26-27, at 6 p.m. Directed by Tyler Peaden with music direction by Matthew Crabtree. The production is seeking a large cast of performers ages 16 and older from a variety of backgrounds, including several featured roles for Black performers. Auditionees should prepare 18 bars of a song, read from the script, and be prepared to take direction. Performances are scheduled for Feb. 19-28, 2027.

Anyone interested in performing or assisting with either production is encouraged to attend auditions. Participants should bring their work, school, and family schedules to help with rehearsal planning.

Source: The Athens Area Council for the Arts

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Friday, October 09, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Report

October 07, 2026

Rebecca Jordan, 54 of Athens, charged with domestic assault.

Misty Kirkland, 48 of Madisonville, charged with violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia. Bond \$1,000.

Eni Chavez, 35 of Cleveland, charged with possession of meth for resale, introduction of contraband into a penal facility, felony attempted tampering with evidence, and Schedule II meth for resale. Bond \$90,000.

Mandy Cain, 47 of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation.

Nicole Walker, 34 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for vandalism, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$2,300.

Roy Perdue, 51 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for public intoxication. Bond \$600.

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

Upcoming Street Closure

The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closure:

The area to be affected is COLLEGE STREET from Jackson Street to Long Street. This closure will be from Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Motorists are advised to use extreme caution, watch for detour, and traffic control signage, pedestrians, and work crews. Motorists should allocate additional time for traffic delays when traveling in this area.

The purpose of this closure is for the *Tennessee Wesleyan University's Homecoming event*.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

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