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Final Days to Vote for TVFCU's \$225,000 Idea Leap Grant Competition



Time is running out for community members to have their say in the People's Choice

Voting for TVFCU's Idea Leap Grant competition. Voting, which began on March 3, 2025, will close on Friday, April 4, at 5:00 p.m.

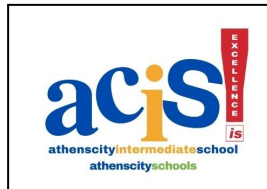
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The competition, awarding a total of \$225,000 in grants to small businesses across TVFCU's 17-county service area, allows the public to help select a People's Choice Finalist in each of three regional contests: Chattanooga, Northwest Georgia, and Ocoee. These winners will secure a spot in the upcoming pitch competitions and receive at least \$10,000, with the opportunity to win even more.

To vote, visit tvfcu.com/vote, watch the semifinalists' business videos, and choose a favorite. One vote per person per competition is allowed. Don't miss this opportunity to support local entrepreneurs—cast your vote before the April 4 deadline!

Source: *Tammy Zunbrun, TVFCU Community Relations*

ACIS Presents: Japan Fest 2025



The community is invited to celebrate the rich traditions of Japan at Japan Fest 2025, an evening of cultural exchange featuring games, crafts, music, food, and more. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 22, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at Athens Intermediate School, located at 255 Keith Lane, Athens, TN 37303.

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Attendees will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in various aspects of Japanese culture, including origami, shamisen (Japanese banjo) performances, Japanese drumming, and traditional toys. Guests can also participate in fun activities such as the Super Ball Scooping Game, writing their names in Japanese, and trying on a yukata for a special photo booth experience. Additionally, delicious Japanese food and drinks will be available, and visitors can test their skills in the Chopsticks Challenge.

This event promises to be a night of learning, entertainment, and community engagement. Everyone is welcome to join and experience the beauty and traditions of Japan right here in Athens!

Source: [Athens City Schools - Facebook](#)

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum
Upcoming Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL
 SLOW STITCH ORIGAMI WITH APRIL GREER
 SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH @ 11:00 AM \$5.00 OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

TRASH AND TREASURE 2025
 RECEIVING Donations Dates & Times : April 16 - 19 11AM-4PM
 PREMIERE NIGHT April 23 (Wed) 5PM - 8PM Admission \$10

SALE Dates and Times:
 *April 24 (Thurs) 10AM - 5PM
 *April 25 (Fri) 10AM - 5PM
 *April 26 (Sat) 10AM - 3PM

***Free entry!**

TWO GREAT LOCATIONS:

Lower-Level Museum
 522 W. Madison Ave.
 Athens, TN 37303
 (Furniture, Lamps & Jewelry)

Museum Annex
 408 W. Washington
 Athens, TN 37303
 (All Other Goods)

Please support your Museum! Hosted by the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum Guild. Sponsored by Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation

Hours:
 Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
 Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
 Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:
 Adults: \$5.00
 Senior 60+: \$3.00
 Students: \$3.00

More Information
 522 W Madison Ave.
 Athens, TN 37303
 423-745-0329
www.livingheritagemuseum.org

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Thursday, April 3, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

2025 Friendly City Festivals Line-Up

The highly anticipated Friendly City Festivals 2025 Festival Season is set to bring an incredible lineup of events, music, and community celebrations to Athens, Tennessee. This year's festival season will feature National MooFest, Pumpkintown, and the Sounds of Summer concert series, alongside other exciting local events.

National MooFest – June 7, 2025 (10 AM - 5 PM) A celebration of all things dairy, National MooFest returns to Athens, TN, for a full day of family fun, food, live entertainment, and community activities.

Sounds of Summer Concert Series Enjoy live music every Saturday at 7 PM throughout the summer, featuring:

June 7: Emi Sunshine

June 28: Run Katie Run

July 4: Sweet Georgia Sound (7 PM before the Regional Park fireworks show)

July 19: Authentic Unlimited

August 9: Kinslee Melhorn & September Song

August 16: Nate Viele & Mendingwall

Pumpkintown – October 11, 2025 (10 AM - 5 PM) Celebrate the fall season with arts, crafts, delicious seasonal treats, and entertainment for the entire family at this beloved autumn festival.

Source: [Friendly City Festivals](#)

Community News You Can Use

- CASA Corridor will host the Spring Fling Fashion Show & Luncheon at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Saturday, May 10 at 11:30 AM. The event will feature stylish designs from The Lily Pad and Relaxed & Refined Menswear, with a catered luncheon by Michael's Casual Dining. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at casacorridor.org/news-events.
- Join the McMinn Regional Humane Society (MRHS) for a fun-filled [Easter Market](#) on Sunday, April 6th, from 11 AM to 4 PM at 320 S. Jackson St. Enjoy pet photos with the Easter Bunny, Easter baskets for pets, and pet-friendly vendors. Support local animals and enjoy a festive day with your furry friends! Go online to: mrhumane.org for more details.



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Thursday, April 3, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Vols complete first Spring scrimmage of 2025

Tennessee football held its first scrimmage of 2025 on Monday night in Neyland Stadium to kick off its third week of spring practice. The Volunteers completed some special teams work and did both live tackling and thud periods that saw ones against ones, twos versus twos and threes versus threes.

Quarterback Nico Iamaleava was sharp and connected multiple times with second-year receivers Mike Matthews, Braylon Staley and Chris Brazzell II.

Iamaleava is going through his third spring on campus and his second as the starter. Head coach Josh Heupel said he continues to master the offense at a high level.

Quarterback Jake Merklinger found true freshman Travis Smith Jr. for a touchdown, and sophomore DeSean Bishop had multiple explosive runs.

The Vols will reviewed scrimmage video on Tuesday before they returned to the practice field Wednesday morning. Tickets for the Orange & White Game are on sale now at AllVols.com. Start time is 2 p.m. ET on April 12 in Neyland Stadium.

Read More at the Source: UTSports.com

High School Sports Hub

- [McMinn County Soccer](#) returns home TONIGHT, Friday April 3 as the Cherokees host the Rhea County Golden Eagles. Kickoff starts at 5pm/7pm at the McMinn Soccer Complex. [Roots Authentic Puerto Rican Food](#) will be on site for all your dinner needs!
- [Starr Performance Academy](#) is offering **six FREE training sessions** for CURRENT McMinn Central & McMinn County High School Athletes. The dates are between April 14 and June 23. Athletes will enhance their athletic performance through speed/agility training, balance and proprioceptive coordination and strength training. Online Registration is required. To register click [HERE](#)
- There will be an [informational meeting](#) for current students and rising 8th graders interested in playing football at Central High School for the 2025 season. The meeting will be on April 10th at 5:45 PM at the Central High Cafeteria. Topics include player expectations, schedules, athletic physicals, fundraising, and the booster club.

Athens, TN

June 7
Downtown Athens
10AM-5PM

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Drive Thru

April 4 & 5th
6:00-8:00 p.m.

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Thursday, April 3, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Records

Felicity Gray, 49 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Theft of Property (\$2,500 - \$10,000) and Financial Exploitation of an Elderly/Vulnerable Person. Total Bond: \$10,000.

Deanna Branson, 22 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Theft of Property (\$2,500 - \$10,000) and Financial Exploitation of an Elderly/Vulnerable Person. Total Bond: \$10,000.

Allison Brazzell, 29 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault and Driving on a Suspended License. Total Bond: \$4,000.

Noah Johnson, 26 of Englewood, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Two counts of Aggravated Assault, Possession of a Weapon by a Convicted Felon, Possession of Schedule II Meth/Fentanyl, Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance, Possession of a Schedule II Controlled Substance, Armed Felonies, and Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$78,820.45

Taryn Brown, 38 of Englewood, was arrested by the MCSO for Open Container and DUI (2nd Offense). Total Bond: \$12,000.

David Murphy, 30 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$2,000.

Gary Bain, 67 of Etowah, was arrested by the MCSO for Criminal Trespass. Total Bond: \$500.

Aaron Marion, 31 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$2,500.

Michael Short, 51 of Englewood, FL, was arrested by the THP for DUI. Total Bond: \$3,000.

Tony Yates, 44 of Sweetwater, was arrested by MCSO for two counts of Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$3,000.

Katelynn Oneill, 32, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$479.45

Tony Bell, 45 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Simple Possession of Methamphetamine, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia and Suspended Registration. No Bond.

Krystal Henley, 49 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for two counts of Domestic Assault and Resisting Arrest. No Bond.

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty.
Information gathered using public sources.**

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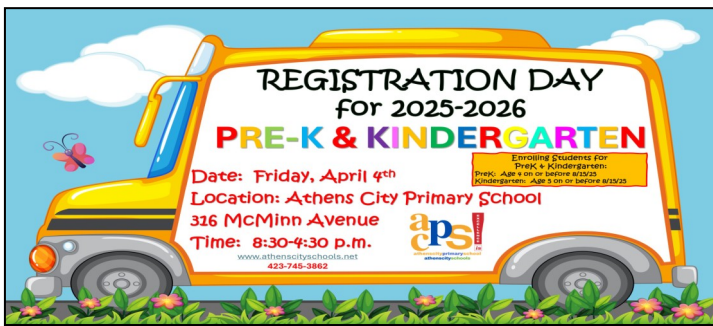
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Thursday, April 3, 2025 **Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5** **Athens, Tennessee**

Donate blood for chance to win One Knox passes



The [MEDIC Regional Blood Center](#) is giving donors an opportunity to win a pair of [One Knox](#) 5 Game Match Passes by donating blood between now and April 6. Two winners will be chosen, with all donors automatically entered into the drawing.

A [local donation event](#) will take place on Friday, April 4, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Athens City Hall (815 North Jackson St.). As a thank-you, donors will receive MEDIC socks, a Mayfield Dairy treat, and a Texas Roadhouse coupon.

Call the Athens center at 423-453-5846 to make an appointment or visit MEDIC's website: medicblood.org. Donate and make a difference while earning rewards!

Obituaries


Larry "Dawg" Howard, 75 of McMinn County, passed away on Tuesday, April 1, Larry was an active member of West End Baptist Church for the past 51 years. Larry retired from Norfolk Southern Railway in 2009 following a 35-year career. Visitation will be held on April 7 at Ziegler Funeral Home in Athens between 4:00-8:00 PM. Funeral services will take place at West End Baptist Church on April 8 at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow at the Coghill Baptist Church Cemetery in Etowah. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Larry "Dawg" Howard.

Sara Loutishia Jaquish, 72 of Riceville, passed away on Tuesday, April 1. Her love for music was inspired by singing bluegrass and gospel when she would stay in the mountains of West Virginia. Sara was active in the local Women's Pilot Club. She was a member of Trinity Grace Church of Athens. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, April 5 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Saturday prior to the service. A private burial will be held, Monday, April 7th in the Chattanooga National Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

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Tonight at 7:00 PM at the
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