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# Decatur Woman Indicted in Deadly Athens Motorcycle Crash



Athens police say a Decatur woman has been indicted in connection with a July crash that left a 57-year-old man dead.

Officers responded to the intersection of Redfern Drive and Congress Parkway on July 18 following a collision involving a motorcycle. The rider, identified as Phillip Oswalt, was fatally injured at the scene. Investigators later determined that after the initial crash, Oswalt was struck while lying in the roadway by a dark-colored SUV that fled northbound on Congress Parkway.

With the assistance of local businesses, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the FBI, authorities located the suspect vehicle and its driver, **53-year-old Eileen Stapler of Decatur**, the same day. Stapler was questioned by police before being released to the custody of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department on unrelated charges.

Following a two-month investigation, the case was presented to the McMinn County Grand Jury on September 16. Jurors returned an indictment charging Stapler with reckless homicide. She was arrested on September 17 without incident, with bond set at \$25,000.

Athens Police Chief Freddy Schultz commended the department's work, calling the case "a great example of building a quality case and then making the arrest." *Source: City of Athens Police Department*

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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.



## THE FUTURE IS HERE CONCERT

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The Inspirational Quartet of Texas



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**Gem Theater ~ 700 E Tennessee Ave. Etowah, TN**



No Tickets Required ~ Love Offering Only  
[www.PaulBelcherConcerts.com](http://www.PaulBelcherConcerts.com)

**Friday, Sept. 19, 2025**

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

**Athens, Tennessee**

## DRC Printing Celebrates Grand Opening with Ribbon Cutting



DRC Printing, the newest member of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 114 E. Washington Ave. The event brought together Chamber members, local leaders, and community friends.

DRC Printing owners Jessica and Darren Casteel were joined by Chamber attendees Lisa Rhea (Chamber Diplomat), Wesley Skinner (Chamber Board/Diplomat), Staci Hester (Chamber Diplomat), Paul Semenoff (Chamber Diplomat), Todd Watson (Chamber Board), Doug Bailey (Chamber Diplomat), and Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO). Other community members in attendance included State Representative Mark Cochran, Hugh Willson, Walt Bowman, Stephanie Devine, and Jim Gumm. DRC Printing offers a full range of printing services. For more information, call (863) 330-0865 or visit [drcprint.com](http://drcprint.com).

## Tennessee Unemployment Holds Steady as Job Growth Continues



Tennessee's unemployment rate remained steady at 3.6% in August, well below the national rate of 4.3%. The state added 9,500 jobs between July and August, with the largest gains in transportation, warehousing, retail trade, and construction. Over the past year, Tennessee employers have added 34,400 jobs, led by government, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality. September is recognized as Workforce Development Month, highlighting the programs and partnerships that strengthen Tennessee's workforce. County-level unemployment data will be released on September 25.

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September 22nd - 28th

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Donors will receive a special edition t-shirt during UT vs. Florida week. As well as various coupons to local businesses, 2 tickets to the Kerbela Shriner's Circus, and entry to daily \$50 Food City gift card drawings.

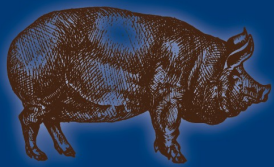
New donors get a \$25 e-gift card!

Visit [medicblood.org](http://medicblood.org) or call (865)-524-3074 to make an appointment.

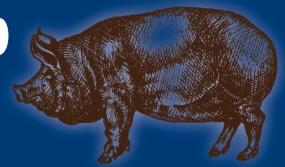
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# 73rd Annual Athens Kiwanis Club BBQ SALE



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## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 • 11AM - SOLD OUT

Drive Through Location at Market Park Pavilion (Downtown Athens)

*Proceeds will benefit the club's work to serve youth in Athens and McMinn County.*



# UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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THIS WEEK  
NEXT WEEK  
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Sept. 19, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Church News and Events

- **St. Mary's Legacy Clinic** offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. The clinic is run by a small staff and many volunteer physicians. Their goal is to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to rural East Tennessee. 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.*
- SRBC Kids begins this Sunday, September 7 from 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm. Children of all ages are invited to enjoy music, food and fun, while rejoicing in God at Solid Rock Baptist Church (4975 Hwy 11, Calhoun).
- **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.
- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- *Real Southern Gospel Radio and Paul Belcher Concerts presents: The Future is Here Concert.* Friday, September 19 at 7pm at the Historic Gem Theater in Etowah. Witness singing from The Williamses and the Inspirational Quartet of Texas. No tickets are required, as there will be a love offering for the artists.
- Pastor Dwayne Lee of Nonaburg House of Prayer in Englewood and his wife Laura are facing financial hardship due to a medical emergency. To show love and support, a benefit will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025, beginning at 11 AM at 99 Sunny Side Ave in Englewood. Friends, family, and the community are invited to bring a lawn chair and enjoy a day of singing, a cake walk, an auction, and plenty of food as we come together to help the Lees in their time of need.
- Mount Olive AME Zion Church of Etowah will celebrate its 139th Annual Homecoming on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 11:00 am with guest speaker, Rev. Tiki Dixon and congregation of St. Mark AME Zion church of Athens as their guests. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. Mount Olive's Annual Revival will begin on Zoom, Monday thru Wednesday, September 22-24, 2025 at 7:00 pm with Evangelistic Rev. Erica Haigler, Pastor of Spurgeon Chapel AME Zion of Oak Ridge. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4078260220?>
- Clearwater Baptist Church will host the 2026 Upward Basketball and Cheerleading program for children in PreK4 through 6th grade. **Online registration begins October 1st, with mandatory basketball evaluations scheduled for Friday, November 7th from 6 to 8 PM or Saturday, November 8th from 9 AM to 12 PM.** This is a great opportunity for kids to learn, grow, and have fun in a positive environment. For more information, call 423-507-2568
- This Saturday morning, September 20th at 8:30 a.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church will host the 4th annual "Run to the Table 5K" to benefit Table Graces Food Pantry, the congregation's weekly feeding ministry. The race will begin at the Market Park Pavilion downtown and will include a 1-mile walk option. Registration for the 5K or 1-mile color run is \$50 for adults and \$25 for students, and participants can sign up online at [stpaulsathens.org](http://stpaulsathens.org) or in person at the pavilion on race day.
- Solid Rock Baptist Church (4975 Highway 11, Calhoun) will host singer Bob Sellers for their homecoming service on October 5 for their 10:30 a.m. service.
- A Community Prayer Vigil, in honor of Charlie Kirk, will be held this Sunday, from 5:00-7:00 PM at the Athens Market Park Pavilion. According to the organizers, this will not be a political event, but a time for the community to come together in unity to remember and honor a great man of God and patriot. The evening will include: Children leading the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, words from youth, young adults, and community leaders, including State Representative Adam Lowe, a time of worship and prayer and a candlelight vigil (candles provided; glow sticks for children). All are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and bring a chair or blanket, as the event will be outdoors.

### HEALING HEARTS FROM THE INSIDE OUT

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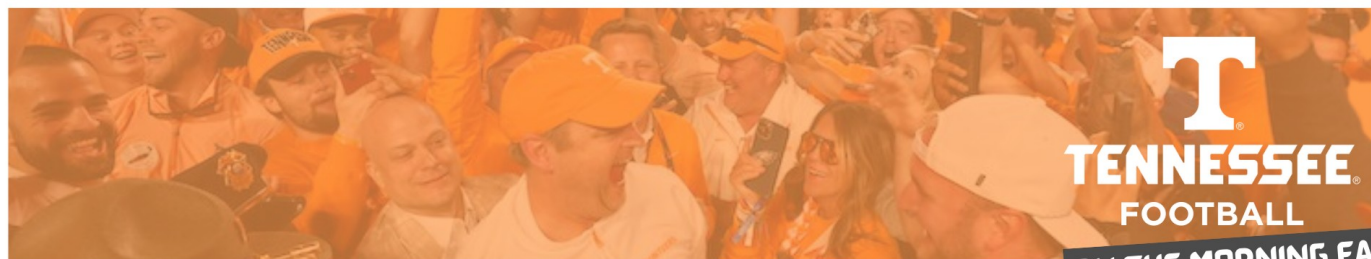
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH  
10 AM - 3 PM

This is a free kid's camp providing support and connection for children and teens who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

To register: Scan the QR Code or go to  
[clearwaterbc.org/upcoming-events](http://clearwaterbc.org/upcoming-events)

Location: 964 Co Rd 180, Athens, TN 37303  
Lunch will be provided



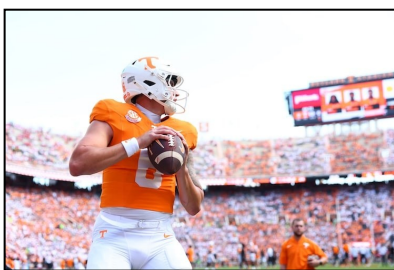


Friday, Sept. 19, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Aguilar's Record-Tying Night Sets Tone as Vols Eye UAB and Beyond



Tennessee may have fallen short against Georgia, but the Vols left last weekend's clash with plenty to build on. In a 44-41 overtime defeat, quarterback Joey Aguilar put together a record-tying performance inside Neyland Stadium, throwing for 371 yards and four touchdowns while adding a rushing score. He became the first Tennessee quarterback since Peyton Manning to post those numbers against a ranked opponent.

The offensive fireworks didn't stop there. Redshirt junior wideout Chris Brazzell II continued his breakout season with 177 receiving yards and three touchdowns, including a 72-yard strike that electrified the sellout crowd. Tennessee finished with nearly 500 yards of total offense, showing the kind of balance and explosiveness needed for the long SEC stretch ahead.

Now the Vols shift to Week 4, when UAB comes to Neyland Stadium for a 12:45 p.m. kickoff on SEC Network. Tennessee is 5-0 all-time against the Blazers, with the last meeting in 2019, but Saturday's game carries more importance than just maintaining an unbeaten record in the series. Along with the following week's contest against Mississippi State, these matchups give Tennessee a chance to fine-tune its offense and shore up defensive issues before a brutal stretch that includes road trips to Arkansas on October 11 and Alabama on October 18, following a bye on October 4.

That looming slate will help determine whether the Vols remain in the College Football Playoff race, but first things first: Tennessee must take care of business against UAB. Every game matters, and this weekend's contest offers a chance not only to get back in the win column but to keep building momentum — with full focus on the task at hand.

Source: [WBIR.com](http://WBIR.com)



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Friday, Sept. 19, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

9-17-25

**Desiree Marler**, 34 of Madisonville, charged with burglary, Bond \$40,000

**Austin Witt**, 24 of Athens, charged with burglary of a motor vehicle.

**Charles Proctor**, 56 of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license third offense, possession of meth, drug paraphernalia, and unpaid child support, Bond \$3,700

**James King**, 59 of Charleston, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$15,000

**Christy Parker**, 34 of Soddy Daisy, charged with failure to appear for violation of probation, failure to appear for theft of property, \$2,500 to \$10,000, Bond \$20,000

9-18-25

**George Miser**, 38, of Sweetwater, charged with driving on a revoked license and state violation of probation in Monroe County.

**Cheryl Rummel**, 47, of Madisonville, charged with state violation of probation for possession of meth for resale over 5 grams.

**Eileen Stapler**, 54 of Athens, charged with murder, Bond \$25,000

**Seth Labombardi**, 33, charged with aggravated assault.

**Gary Turpin**, 49 of Decatur, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**

**Information gathered using public sources.**



## Obituaries

**John Robert Johnson**, 79 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, September 17 at UT Medical Center. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens.

**Sarah Joyce "Tinker" Martin**, 87 of Englewood, passed away on Thursday, September 18 at her residence. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Englewood. She was an avid gardener with a green thumb, she loved nature and her family. She had been a Mary Kay Cosmetics consultant, loved working at Shelley's, was a volunteer at the Englewood Textile Museum and Company Store and sold advertising at WENR radio. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM on Sunday, September 21 at Zion Hill Cemetery. Family and friends are welcome to attend. There will be no formal visitation. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.