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Great American Smokeout Highlights Ongoing Tobacco Risks in Tennessee



Cancer patients, survivors, and advocates across Tennessee are marking the American Cancer Society's 49th annual Great American Smokeout on Thursday, November 20, urging elected officials to take stronger action to reduce tobacco use. The observance encourages people who smoke or use any form of tobacco—including e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches—to create a plan to quit.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of disease and death in Tennessee. Smoking is linked to at least 12 types of cancer, including lung, liver, and colorectal cancer, and more than 11,400 Tennesseans die each year from smoking-related illnesses. Despite these well-documented risks, CDC data show that 17% of adults in the state continue to smoke. Officials note that tobacco products are highly addictive, making quitting extremely difficult once regular use begins.

Advocacy groups point to concerning youth trends as well. Tennessee high school students use e-cigarettes at nearly three times the national average, underscoring the need for prevention programs that reduce initiation and support individuals who are already addicted.

Research consistently shows that strong tobacco control policies are effective in reducing tobacco use. With the closure of the federal Office of Smoking and Health following CDC budget cuts earlier this year, state-level funding and support are considered more crucial than ever. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is urging lawmakers to fund and protect evidence-based tobacco control programs, emphasizing that fewer tobacco users will result in reduced suffering, illness, and death from tobacco-related diseases.

Free quitting resources are available through the American Cancer Society's [Empowered to Quit](#) program and the [Tennessee Tobacco Quitline](#).

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Events

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This diamond painting class is great for all ages.
Saturday, Dec. 6th @ 11:00 AM
\$5 or free for members.

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:
The Final Offensive: How the B-29 Closed WWII with Bob Roseberry
Thursday, December 11th @ Noon
Free Admission

SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL PROGRAM INFORMATION

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Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
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www.livingheritagemuseum.org

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Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Council Accepting Applications for Vacant City Council Position

The Athens City Council is accepting applications for the vacant city council position created by the resignation of Dr. Dick Pelley. This position will fill the vacancy until the next election on the third Tuesday in November 2026. All interested parties are encouraged to submit an application by the deadline of Monday, December 1, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Eligibility requirements and applications are available on the city's website at www.athenstn.gov, at Athens City Hall, or by email admin@athenstn.gov. Applications can be submitted to the Office of the City Manager, City of Athens, TN, 815 N. Jackson Street, Athens, TN 37303 during normal office hours of Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. prior to the deadline.

The City Council will conduct a special-called meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at noon at City Hall, 815 N. Jackson Street, to review the submitted applications, appoint a candidate, and the candidate will be sworn in at that time to participate in the December 8, 2025 work session.

Citizens will have the opportunity to provide public comments. Prior to the start of the meeting, all individuals wishing to address the City Council must sign in on the sheet provided at the entrance to the Council Chambers. For additional information, please contact the Office of the City Manager at (423) 744-2702.

Upcoming Athens Street Closures

- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closure: The area to be affected is **Thompson St.** from *Shoemaker Street* to *W. Madison Avenue*. This closure will be on Thursday, November 27, 2025, from 6:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The purpose of this closure is for Keith Memorial United Methodist Church's Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk.
- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closures:

White Street from College Street to Bank Street

Madison Avenue from Church Street to Green Street

Washington Ave from Church Street to Green Street

Hornsby Street from Church Street to Green Street

Jackson Street from College Street to Highway 30

Long Street from Washington Ave to Madison Ave.

Baxter Street from Washington Ave to Highway 30

These closures will be on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for 2025 Old Fashioned Downtown Christmas.

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Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Living Heritage Museum Launches Front-Landscape Revitalization Project



The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum has begun a major front-landscape revitalization project, supported by \$4,900 in community funding. The effort replaces decades-old, overgrown shrubs that had obscured the museum's historic façade with colorful, low-maintenance flowering plants and native-friendly shrubs designed to create a more welcoming entrance for visitors, school groups, and event attendees.

The project was fully funded through three contributions: a \$1,900 gift from the Kanunsita Garden Club of Athens, a \$1,000 grant to the club from the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, and a \$2,000 personal donation from Museum Trustee and longtime community supporter Susan Buttram.

Founded in 1926, the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs (TFGC) brings together more than 250 clubs statewide to promote gardening education, floral design, conservation, civic beautification, historic preservation, and native plant stewardship. The organization is a charter member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Kanunsita Garden Club President Martha Culvahouse said the group is grateful for the Endowment Trust Fund grant that supported the effort, adding that the museum "is the heart of McMinn County's history."

Museum Director Brett King said the transformation reflects a shared commitment to preserving Athens' heritage and enhancing the visitor experience.

The Living Heritage Museum is located at 522 West Madison Avenue in Athens and is open Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.



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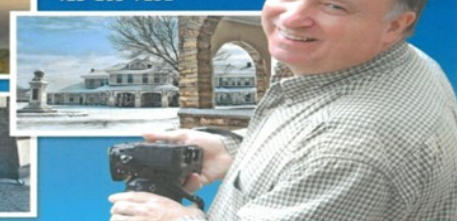
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Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Two-Vehicle Crash in Englewood Sends One to the Hospital



A 2015 Ford Mustang and a 2006 Ford F-250 collided on County Road 435 in Englewood at around 8:30 a.m. Monday. The driver of the Mustang sustained minor injuries and was transported to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens by AMR.



Englewood Rural Fire Department and Etowah Rural Fire Department responded to the scene, and Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Travis Ryans investigated the

crash. *Photos by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD.*

Annual TWU Tree Lighting, Lessons and Carols Set for Dec. 2



Tennessee Wesleyan University invites the community to come together as the campus ushers in the Christmas season with its annual Tree Lighting Celebration on Monday, December 2 at

5:30 p.m. in the Quad.

Guests are encouraged to mark their calendars for an evening filled with festive activities, including letters to Santa, hot chocolate, s'mores, and joyful Christmas carols and scripture readings performed by TWU's talented students. The event will culminate in the beloved tradition of lighting the campus Christmas tree.

Directly following the tree lighting, make sure to attend the Service of Lessons and Carols at Allen Memorial United Methodist Church at 7:00 PM. Children and families are warmly welcomed to join in this cherished TWU holiday tradition!

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Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

11-18-25

Jason Witt, 47 of Englewood, was charged with a violation of order of protection.

Melvin Siler, 42 of Sweetwater, charge with state violation of probation for theft of property, state violation of probation for aggravated assault in Meigs County.

Charles Williams, 59 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth; \$1,800 bond.

Brittany Cook, 30 of Etowah, charged with parole violations for possession of meth with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver.

Clint Staples, 39, Madisonville, charged with violation of probation; \$1,500 bond.

John Michelaney, 33 of Sweetwater, charged with violation of probation for driving on suspended license; \$700 bond.

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

Information gathered using Public Sources.

Obituaries

Perry Lee Raper, 64 of Sweetwater, passed away in his home on Wednesday, November 12. He accepted Jesus at an early age, while attending Notchey Creek Church in Madisonville, TN. As a young boy, Perry enjoyed being a boy scout, poet, and a baseball player. Later in life, his interests were focused on farming roosters, as well as buying, selling, and collecting Hot Wheels. Perry received a high school diploma, Associates degree from Hiwassee College, and an electrical certificate. Perry was an employee of Stephen's Store, Athens Stove Works, Massey Electric, and Tellico Manufacturing Factory. Perry will be remembered as a hard-headed father who always had a great profound love for his family. Perry's family would like to thank Companion Funeral Home in Athens, TN for their support during this difficult time. A celebration of life will be planned in Perry's honor at a later date, shared through family, friends, and Facebook.

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