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McMinn County Middle Schoolers Invited to Free MADE Camp This Summer

Middle school students in McMinn County can explore future careers this summer at MADE (Manufacture, Assembly, Design, & Engineer) Camp, a free weeklong program for rising 6th-8th graders. The camp runs June 9-12 at the McMinn Higher Education Center in Athens, with full days from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., a half day on Friday, and early drop-off at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are included. Space is limited to 30 campers.

MADE Camp introduces students to local industries through presentations, hands-on activities, and field trips to manufacturing facilities. Campers will also tackle STEM projects, team challenges, and a week-long showcase project, which will be presented during Friday's graduation event with awards and superlatives.

The camp is organized by the McMinn County EDA in partnership with local schools, colleges, and businesses, including DENSO Manufacturing, Tennessee Wesleyan University, Cleveland State Community College, and the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. DENSO serves as Title Sponsor, with Simmons Bank and IronCraft Attachments as Platinum Sponsors, and Cleveland State hosting as a Gold Sponsor.

Registration is free but limited. Families are encouraged to enroll early to secure a spot: <https://forms.gle/WxnXrsRezUvdNd9v6>.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County High School Class of 1970 will host a reunion gathering on Saturday, May 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the MCHS cafeteria. The event will feature casual dress and light refreshments, with an admission cost of \$10 cash per person payable at the door. Classmates, their significant others, and members of other graduating classes are invited to attend. Those planning to participate are encouraged to notify organizers through the "[MCHS Class of '70](#)" Facebook page to assist with event planning and refreshments.
- The City of Athens Public Works Department has announced a temporary street closure on Jackson Street from Green Street to Madison Avenue on Friday, April 3, from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. for the Carry the Cross 5K hosted by Trinity United Methodist Church. During this time, runners and spectators will also be present along Jackson Street, Washington Avenue, Madison Avenue, Keith Lane, Crestway Drive, McMinn Avenue, Elizabeth Street, and White Street. Motorists are advised to use caution, watch for pedestrians, and allow extra time for travel delays.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Spring Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL:

CHEMISTRY MAGIC SHOW WITH DR. AL HAZARI
SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH @ 11:00 AM

CHATTANOOGA AUDOBON SOCIETY PRESENTS - BEAK, FEET, FEATHERS
JOIN US TO LEARN ALL ABOUT BIRDS FROM JESSICA WHITEHORN
SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH @ 11:00 AM

DUTCH OVEN COOKING - PAM AND WARREN ARE BACK FOR ANOTHER COOKING CLASS! THIS TIME LEARN HOW TO COOK A DELICIOUS CAST IRON LASAGNA OVER AN OPEN FIRE!
SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH @ 10:00 AM

ALL HERITAGE SCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE \$5 OR FREE FOR MEMBERS.

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

Museum 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

SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL PROGRAM INFORMATION

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Thursday, April 02, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

ACT Announces Spring Comedy Table Reads in Athens



The Athens Community Theatre will continue its 2025–26 Table Read season with two upcoming comedy readings at The Arts Center in Athens.

The first event, *Noises Off*, will be held Tuesday, April 28, led by director Bob Borwick, followed by *Play On* on Tuesday, May 19, led by ACT member Sauni Reinhart. Both readings begin at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Organizers describe the table reads as informal, allowing participants to either read roles or simply observe. The events offer a relaxed introduction to community theatre while showcasing comedic works for potential future production. Additional table reads are planned throughout the year, giving community members ongoing opportunities to get involved, explore scripts, and experience live theatre in a casual, welcoming setting. *Source: The Arts Center*

McAlister's joins Athens Chamber



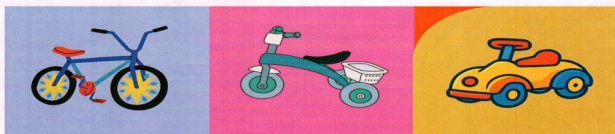
A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, McAlister's Deli, located at 1515 Congress Parkway South, Athens. Shown here are Chamber and business representatives, county and city officials, and the staff of McAlister's Deli.

Source: Julie Simbeck, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

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Arts & Crafts / Food Trucks @ The Carnival

Friday - Saturday
 April 3rd, 4th
 10am - 8pm
 Etowah Depot

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday - April 4th
 11am - Etowah Depot Walking Park



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Thursday, April 02, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

Athens Awarded Grant for Heritage Park Walking Trail Project



The City of Athens has been awarded a \$9,990 grant from the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semi-quintcentennial to support development of a historical walking trail at Heritage Park.

The project, titled *Footsteps Through History: America 250 at Heritage Park*, will feature a series of permanent interpretive signs along a designated walking path. Each sign will highlight key periods from 1776 through 2026, connecting national, state, and local history while offering an educational experience for residents and visitors.

The trail will be built as part of ongoing renovations at Heritage Park, including a new ADA-accessible walking path. Completion of the project is expected to coincide with both the park's 50th anniversary and the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.

City officials said the grant will be supplemented with additional local funding to fully complete the project. The initiative is part of a statewide effort to commemorate America's semiquintcentennial through community-based historical and cultural projects. *Source:* City of Athens



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McMinn County Arrest Reports

March 31, 2026

Stephen Reeder, 37 of Athens, charged with resisting, assault, and disorderly conduct.

Ricky Williams, 61 of Ten Mile, charged with failure to appear in Monroe County.

Shania Walker, 34 of Decatur, charged with simple possession casual exchange of marijuana, Bond \$2,000.

Kimberly Crabtree, 56 of McMinn County, charged with theft of property under \$1,000.

Melissa Hodge, 36 of Athens, charged with failure to appear.

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

Obituaries

Lois Eloise Cunningham, 91 of Athens, passed away on Monday, March 30. Arrangements will be announced at a later time. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Tennessee Awards Funding to Upgrade Livestock Markets

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has announced the recipients of the Agricultural Enterprise Fund (AEF) Livestock Market Improvement Initiative, a program designed to strengthen the state's livestock economy.

The initiative provides support for upgraded infrastructure, equipment, and technology at livestock markets to improve safety, animal welfare, and operational efficiency. Eligible projects include enhancements to handling facilities, pens, scales, loading areas, roofing, and technology systems.

"Through the AEF Livestock Market Improvement Initiative, we're investing in the facilities and infrastructure that keep these markets safe, efficient and competitive," said Agriculture Commissioner Andy Holt.

Among the recipients is the Athens Regional Stockyard in McMinn County, which will benefit from these improvements.

MOMENTS
of Praise

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SUNDAY | 8:00 AM

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