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Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Constitution Day Observances Planned in Athens, Decatur, Etowah

Local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution will host three Constitution Day commemorations in McMinn and Meigs counties as part of the national "Bells Across America" observance.

Events are scheduled for Sept. 17 at the McMinn County Courthouse in Athens, with gathering at 11:30 a.m. and bell ringing at noon; Sept. 17 at the Meigs County Courthouse in Decatur, with gathering at 3:30 p.m. and bell ringing at 4 p.m.; and Sept. 18 at the Carnegie Library in Etowah, with gathering at 3:30 p.m. and bell ringing at 4 p.m.

All ceremonies will conclude with the Pledge of Allegiance. Organizers encourage attendees to bring a bell and note that period attire is suggested but not required. Eighth-grade students attending will receive pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution, while younger children at select events will receive American flags.

The events are sponsored by local DAR, SAR and Children of the American Revolution chapters and are open to the public rain or shine.

Table Graces to Host Fifth Annual Run to the Table on Sept. 19

Table Graces Food Pantry will host its fifth annual **Run to the Table** event on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Market Park Pavilion in downtown Athens as part of Feeding America's Hunger Action Month.

This year's event will feature a Family Fun Day theme with more than two dozen activity stations designed for participants of all ages. Activities will include a downtown scavenger hunt, craft table, water activities and other family-friendly games. Individuals and groups attending will also have the opportunity to enter prize drawings featuring items donated by local businesses.

Organizers suggest a \$25 donation per family, with proceeds benefiting Table Graces Food Pantry. The ministry currently provides weekly grocery boxes to more than 200 families facing food insecurity throughout the community.

Food will be available for purchase during the event, including lunch plates served by Elks Lodge No. 1927 and snow cones from Sno-Biz of Athens.

Organizers encourage families to come enjoy a day of fun while helping support the pantry's ongoing mission of feeding local families in need.

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Wednesday, September 16, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Community Rallies Around Longtime Teacher Battling Cancer

Friends, colleagues and community members are coming together to support longtime McMinn County High School English teacher **Kristine Beasley** as she continues her fight against Stage IV metastatic breast cancer.

A silent auction fundraiser is scheduled for **Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, from noon to 4 p.m.** at the **McMinn Senior Activity Center**. Proceeds will help offset treatment expenses and assist with maintaining health insurance coverage while Beasley is on a leave of absence from teaching.

Beasley's cancer journey began after a bicycle accident in July 2024 left her with two fractured ribs. What initially appeared to be injuries requiring time to heal turned into months of persistent pain. After nearly five months, medical imaging revealed cancer. Following additional tests, scans and biopsies, she was diagnosed with **Stage IV metastatic breast cancer, officially known as adenocarcinoma**, which had spread to her ribs, hip, pelvic ring, peritoneal cavity, liver and spine. Organizers noted that despite annual mammograms, the cancer had not been detected.

Treatment began in August 2025, and through radiation treatments, infusions, surgeries and numerous medical appointments, Beasley continued teaching. After more than 20 years in the classroom, she hoped to return following the summer of 2026, but worsening spinal pain ultimately forced her to step away.

"It's not fair to only give 50% of myself to my kids while fighting an incurable disease," Beasley said.

Beasley continues pursuing treatment options through MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and Tennessee Cancer Specialists in Knoxville. Friends and family say she remains determined to return to teaching when her health allows. Throughout her diagnosis and treatment, she has leaned heavily on her Christian faith and draws strength from Jeremiah 30:17: "I will restore you to health and heal your wounds."

Organizers say Beasley has spent more than two decades investing in students and the community, and they hope the fundraiser will give others an opportunity to return that support during one of the most difficult chapters of her life. The silent auction is open to the public, with all proceeds benefiting Beasley and her ongoing medical needs.

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Wednesday, September 16, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 **Athens, Tennessee**

McMinn County Arrest Reports

September 14, 2026

Rachel Heiser, 51, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation.

Brandon Rakeem, 30, of Athens, charged with disorderly conduct. Bond \$3,000.

Lily Myers, 24, of Niota, charged with criminal trespassing, and aggravated assault. Bond \$93,000.

Charles Carroll, 41, of Tellico Plains, charged with failure to appear for possession of meth for resale.

James Yates, 60, of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license, and failure to have insurance. Bond \$2,000.

Stephen Yoder, 57, of Dayton, charged with domestic assault.

Militia Brown, 56, of Birchwood, charged with domestic assault.

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

ACT Announces Auditions for 'Ragtime'

Athens Community Theatre will hold auditions for the Tony Award-winning musical "Ragtime" on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 26-27, at 6 p.m. at The Arts Center. The production, directed by Tyler Peaden with music direction by Matthew Crabtree, is scheduled to run Feb. 19-28, 2027.

The production is seeking a large cast of performers ages 16 and older from a variety of backgrounds, including several prominent roles for Black performers. Auditionees should prepare 18 bars of a song, read from the script and be prepared to take simple direction. Those using accompaniment tracks should email them to operations@athensartscouncil.org with their name and song title in the subject line.

Anyone interested in performing or helping with the production is encouraged to attend. Participants should bring work, school and family schedules covering Oct. 28, 2026, through Feb. 28, 2027.

Set in turn-of-the-century New York, Ragtime weaves together the stories of an upper-class wife, a Jewish immigrant and a Harlem musician as they navigate the challenges and promise of a changing America.

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Wednesday, September 16, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Jimmie Marie Baxter Webb, 80, of Athens, passed away on Monday, September 14. She was a lifelong resident of Athens and was a member of Wildwood Baptist Church. She was associated with Dr. Bill Emendorfer in his Dental Office and later at Restaurant Concepts for over 40 years. A graveside service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 17 at Wildwood Cemetery. There will be no visitation. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services](#) of Athens is honored to serve the family of Jimmie Marie Baxter Webb.

Ronald Dale James, 70, of Decatur, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 8. Ronald lived a life filled with adventure and a passion for the open road. As a dedicated truck driver in the freight industry, he navigated countless highways, but what truly set his heart racing was riding his beloved Harley Davidson. Ronald had a creative spirit, once attending school for taxidermy where he gained recognition for his skill. No formal services will be held per Ronald's wishes. [Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services](#) is honored to serve the James family.

Charlotte Owens, 70, passed away on Sunday, September 13 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. Survivors and funeral arrangements to be announced. [M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Services](#) in charge of arrangements.

Chapman Laune "C.L." Jolley, 93, passed away on Saturday, September 12. His passion for farming and working with tractors brought him immense joy, as did his time at the sawmill. A faithful member of the Baptist faith, C.L. cherished the time spent with loved ones, especially during the yearly Jolley family homecoming, where laughter and love abounded. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, September 17 at 6 p.m. in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m., prior to the service. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 18 in the Meigs County Memorial Gardens. [Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services](#) is honored to serve the Jolley family.

Janice Marie Cox, 62, passed away on Saturday, September 12. Jan or "Mamaw Jam" as she was known to her grandkids, was a bright light that shone with brilliance and resilience. She never refused to feed anyone who was hungry. She opened her home to anyone in need and made countless meals for everyone at her table. Receiving of friends will be on Thursday, September 17 from noon until 2:00 pm in the Sweetwater Memory Chapel. The funeral will follow at 2:00 pm. Burial will follow the service at the Sweetwater Memorial Park. [Kyker Funeral Home](#) is honored to serve the Cox family.

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