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ACS Warns Tobacco Progress at Risk

As the Great American Smokeout marks its 50th anniversary today, November 19, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is urging lawmakers to strengthen tobacco prevention efforts amid concerns that decades of progress in reducing smoking rates could be at risk.

The organization said smoking rates have dropped significantly since the campaign launched in 1976, saving millions of lives. However, ACS CAN warns that cigarettes are increasingly being portrayed as fashionable and nostalgic on social media and in entertainment, potentially appealing to younger audiences.

A new ACS CAN report found cigarette-related content on TikTok and Instagram can make smoking appear attractive while downplaying its health risks. The group also expressed concern about declining tobacco control infrastructure and the continued authorization of new flavored tobacco products.

In Tennessee, tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of disease and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 15% of Tennessee adults smoke, and more than 11,400 Tennesseans die each year from smoking-related illnesses.

Free quitting resources are available by texting "QUIT" to 615-795-0600, calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW, or go online to: tnquitline.com.

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Utilities Board Combined Budget and Finance Committee and Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, November 19 at 11:30 a.m.
- The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting two sobriety checkpoints in December. The first will be on Saturday, December 5 at 9:00 p.m. on State Route 305 @ County Road 250 in Athens. The second will be on Thursday, December 31 at 9 p.m. on Highway 11 at the Bradley County Line. These scheduled checkpoints are contingent upon manpower and weather conditions.
- The Athens-McMinn Family YMCA will be closed on Thanksgiving day. They will reopen on Friday 11/27 for their regular business hours.

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Free Beekeeping Course Planned in Athens



Anyone interested in learning the basics of beekeeping will have an opportunity to do so during a free educational program hosted by the Cherokee Beekeepers Association next month in Athens.

The organization will hold a Free Beekeeping Short Course on Saturday, Dec. 5, at Ag Central Farmers Co-Op, located at 920 Congress Parkway. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the course scheduled from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The event is designed for beginners as well as anyone interested in learning more about honey bees and the role they play in the environment. Participants will receive an introduction to beekeeping, including reasons to become a beekeeper, the parts and functions of a beehive, and the structure of a honey bee colony, including queens, workers and drones.

The course will also feature a live smoker-lighting demonstration and information on how to get started in beekeeping, including where to purchase bees and equipment.

Organizers say the course is completely free and open to the public. Residents interested in producing their own honey, supporting pollinators or simply learning how a hive operates are encouraged to attend.

No experience is required, and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about preparing for the upcoming spring beekeeping season.

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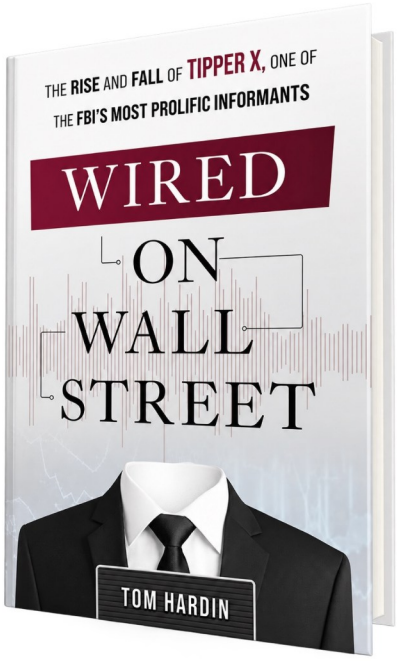
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204 E. College Street • Athens, TN 37303
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McMinn County Arrest Report

November 17, 2026

Sharnay Ware, 26, of Detroit, Michigan, charged with failure to appear for theft of merchandise, $1,000 to $2,500.

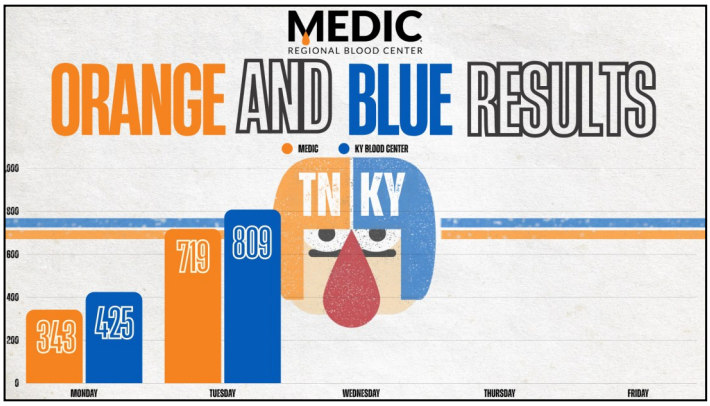
Keith Phillips, of Mecosta, Missouri, charged with aggravated assault. Bond $90,000.

Jonathan Slager, 41, of Riceville, charged with violation of probation for fentanyl possession. Bond $11,800.

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



Kentucky Holds Early Lead in Orange and Blue Blood Drive Competition



The 39th Annual Orange and Blue Blood Drive Competition is underway, and Kentucky Blood Center has jumped out to an early lead over MEDIC Regional Blood Center.

Through the first two days of the weeklong rivalry blood drive, Kentucky donors have contributed 809 units compared to 719 units donated by Tennessee supporters.

The annual competition between MEDIC and Kentucky Blood Center uses the longtime Tennessee-Kentucky football rivalry to encourage blood donations ahead of the holiday season, when blood supplies often face increased demand and donor turnout can decline. Now in its 39th year, the drive has helped collect thousands of lifesaving blood donations across the two states.

MEDIC is seeking to reclaim the competition trophy for East Tennessee after not winning the event since 2021. Donors who participate during competition week receive the event's commemorative Orange and Blue sweatshirt, along with several promotional items and incentives.

Local residents who would like to help Tennessee close the gap can donate at the MEDIC Athens donor center, located at **927 Decatur Pike, Athens, TN 37303**, or at other participating donation locations throughout East Tennessee.

Appointments are encouraged but not required. Additional information and appointment scheduling are available at MedicBlood.org.

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Obituaries

Gary Stephen Mosher, 74, of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, November 17. He dedicated over 25 years of his life to the Athens Housing Authority, where he worked in maintenance and took great pride in his contributions to the community. He enjoyed watching the 49ers and Syracuse sports teams, mowing his yard, and took special delight in caring for the birds that visited his home. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Cedar Grove Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12 noon - 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Mosher family.

Michael C. Tabor, 86, of Athens, passed away at Life Care Center of Athens, Monday, November 16. Mr. Tabor was born on April 24, 1940, to the late Mark and Helen Tabor of Etowah, TN. He was a retiree of CSX Railroad. A graveside service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 20 at Green Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Lana Rae Eaton Scoggins Powell, 76, of Madisonville, passed away on Friday, November 13. At 19, Lana was called to minister on the beautiful Hammond Organ in revival that started a lifelong journey as an anointed organist. There will be a visitation on Friday, November 20 from 4:00pm-6:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, November 21 at 1:00pm at The House of Deliverance Church (157 Middle Rd NE, Ranger, GA 30734). A visitation will be held prior to the funeral from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Directly following the funeral service, a graveside service will be held at The House of Deliverance Cemetery. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.
If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:
wyxiradio@gmail.com



