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## Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

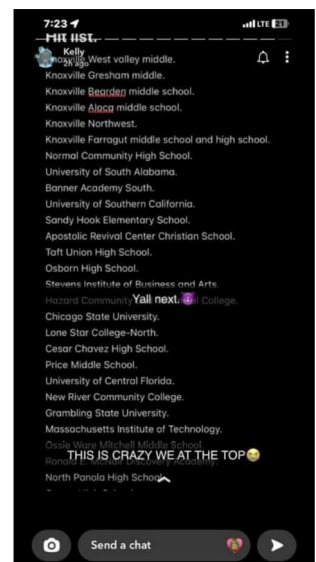
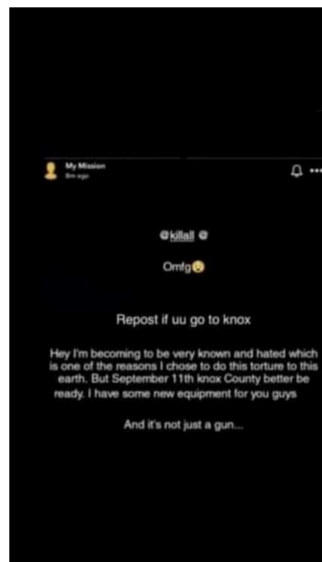
# West Valley Middle School Student Arrested After "Hit List"

A seventh-grade student at West Valley Middle School was arrested on Tuesday for posting an online threat, according to the Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). Detectives determined that the student was one of several people responsible for an online threat listing multiple Knox County schools. The arrest took place around 4 p.m.

Sheriff Tom Spangler praised the efforts of the Juvenile Detectives Unit, led by Lieutenant Angela Parris, and thanked Knox County Schools and Tennessee Homeland Security for their assistance.

This incident is part of a growing number of school threats throughout the country. Earlier on Tuesday, Knox County District Attorney Charme Allen reported that 10 people are facing charges for similar threats, just one month into the school year. Last week, back-to-back threats at Halls High School prompted Sheriff Spangler to issue a warning to both students and parents.

See Snapchat screenshots to the right. Story continued on Page 5



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**TN WESLEYAN SUNDAY BRUNCH**

Start your Sunday off right with our delicious and decadent Sunday Brunch on the TN Wesleyan Campus! Join us for a wide variety of brunch classics and new favorites to satisfy your cravings. Served all you care to eat style!

**Date: Every Sunday**  
 "When school is in session."  
**Time: 10am-1:30pm**  
**Location: Sherman Dining Hall**  
 204 E College Street  
 Athens TN 37303

Scan and select the upcoming Sunday from the brunch meal period.

**AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY**

**Friday, Sept. 13**  
**5-7 PM @ VFW**  
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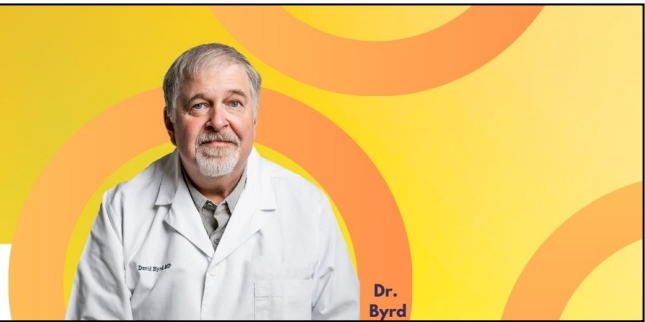
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Dr. Byrd

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 Morning Fax@...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Community Partners Needed for Library Event

“Trick-Or-Treat in the Wetlands” returns this year! The event will be held on Thursday, October 24th, from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM at the E.G. Fisher Public Library (1289 Ingleside Ave., Athens). Local businesses and organizations are invited to set up a table and hand out treats or tricks to attendees. Bring individually wrapped snacks or candy, a table, and any promotional materials you'd like to share with the community. Last year, the event attracted around 600 people. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Rain or shine, the event will go on, with a backup plan to move indoors if necessary.

This year, there will also be a Table Decor Contest for participants, with the winner receiving a prize basket for their creative display! If you're unable to set up a table but still want to contribute, candy donations are being accepted at the library's front desk. Don't miss out on this ghoulishly fun event! For more information or to participate, please contact the library at (423) 745-7782 or in person.

## Community News You Can Use

- The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is having their Annual Turkey Shoot beginning on Saturday, September 14, from 8am -12 Noon each Saturday through November 23 at VFW Post #5146 at 706 North Congress Parkway in Athens. They are raising funds for their Christmas baskets to be distributed to Veterans & spouses. For more information, call 423-745-8387.
- The McMinn County Commission's Emergency Services Committee will meet on Monday September 16th, 2024, at 5:45 pm, in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is to purchase fire supporting system.
- The McMinn County Junior Dairy Show is this Thursday, September 12th at the old show barn near the Health Department beginning at 6:30pm. There will be a little buddies class for anyone who wants to give showing a cow a shot! On Monday, September 16, the County Sheep Show will take place at the McMinn County Show Barn on Highway 30 starts at 6:00pm.

◆ This week, *Hope From the Well* will feature **Robin Nation** discussing Part 2 of “Women and Parables”. *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.



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**Athens Kiwanis Club**  
**72nd Annual BBQ Sale**  
**Friday, September 13**  
**11am to 7pm**  
*(or until sold out)*

**Due to the threat of  
inclement weather  
Market Park Pavilion in  
Downtown Athens ONLY**

**\$12 for one package\* of BBQ**  
**\$6 bottle of Gus Bagley's Famous BBQ Sauce**

*Tickets sold in advance by Kiwanis members,  
cash and check accepted at location.*

**Proceeds benefit the Youth of McMinn County**

*\*packages are approximately 1lb each.*

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

**Wednesday** - Partly Sunny w/ light winds. High 82.  
**Wed. night** - Mostly Cloudy. Low 63.  
**Thursday** - 60% Chance of Storms. High 77.  
**Thurs. night** - 60% Chance of Storms. Low 66.  
More Weather at: [wyxi.com](http://wyxi.com)

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## Today's News...This Morning

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with DR. CHARLES STANLEY

Weekdays  
10:00 am - 10:30 am

Sundays  
Noon - 12:30 pm




Wednesday, September 11, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

# McMinn County Senior Activity Center Hosting *Golden Gala*

Travel down the road and back again to celebrate the McMinn Senior Activity Center

## Golden Gala

### 50th Anniversary Celebration

Dinner & Trivia

**September 21, 2024**  
6pm-9pm | Tickets \$20

*Thank you for being a friend*

Picture it....you're at a great event with great food, friends, and 80s & Golden Girls Trivia while supporting senior citizens in your community.

[www.mcminnseniors.com](http://www.mcminnseniors.com) | 423-745-6830 | 205 McMinn Ave | Athens, TN  
The McMinn Senior Activity Center is a not-for-profit organization 501(c)(3)



The McMinn Senior Activity Center is excited to announce its first-ever Golden Gala, celebrating its 50th anniversary, on Saturday, September 21, from 6 PM to 9 PM. This event will feature dinner, 80s-themed activities, and Golden Girls trivia, where the winner will take home their own "Stanley" Cup.

"We're celebrating the Center's 50th-our golden-Anniversary this year and to thank McMinn County for being our friend. Picture it...it's Athens, 2024 and you get the chance to live the dream to dress like Blanche, live like Rose, think like Dorothy, and speak like Sophia while supporting senior citizens in the community. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a fun evening with dinner as well as 80s, and, of course, Golden Girls Trivia where the winner will win their own "Stanley" Cup," said Diane Hutsell, Executive Director. "Tickets are incredibly affordable at just \$20-while still available, so get yours today-at the Center or from Center staff or volunteers."

All proceeds will support McMinn County senior citizens, a demographic facing growing financial challenges. "Seniors in Tennessee are experiencing the highest poverty rate in over a decade, with more than 10% living below the poverty line," Hutsell noted. In 2023, the Center provided over 9,000 meals and distributed 1,200 pounds of food to food-insecure seniors.

The McMinn Senior Activity Center offers a wide range of programs, including congregate meals, health education, volunteer opportunities, and recreational activities like yoga, art classes, and book clubs. The Center also offers crucial resources, including the Senior Safe at Home program, which provides financial assistance to seniors facing sudden economic hardship.

To learn more about the McMinn Senior Activity Center or to purchase tickets for the Golden Gala, call 423-745-6830 or visit the Center at 205 McMinn Ave, Athens, TN.

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Sat. 6:30 am

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

### Student Arrested (continued)

"We have a small percentage of individuals who are making these threats," Spangler said Friday. "Parents, this is a notice to you as well. If you're having a problem with a child and you know about it but you're not letting [Knox County Sheriff's Office] know about it, we're going to come after you as well."

The threats, including a "hit list" naming six Knox County schools and others that have experienced school shootings, appeared on social media app Snapchat with the caption "Y'all Next."

This was accompanied by a post that said "Hey I'm becoming to be very known and hated which is one of the reasons I chose to do this torture to this earth. But September 11th Knox County better be ready. I have some new equipment for you guys. And it's not just a gun." *(Screenshot on Page 1)*

The schools named included West Valley, Gresham, Bearden, Alcoa, Northwest, Farragut Middle Schools, and Farragut High School. While West Valley Middle informed parents that law enforcement found the threat to be unsubstantiated, Knox County Schools sent messages to parents on Tuesday, stating that KCS security and local law enforcement are investigating the situation further.

### Grand Re-Opening Celebration



The Athens Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a grand re-opening ceremony celebrating the completion of the renovated tennis and pickleball facility at the Ingleside Recreation Complex on Tuesday, September 17th at 4:00pm.

"This is a monumental event for both the Parks and Recreation Department and the citizens of Athens" said Parks and Recreation Director Matt Siniard. "I want to thank all of those who were involved with this project from its conceptual stages, planning stages, and those who were supportive of our department the entire way. None of this would have been possible without their investment in our community."

The newly renovated Ingleside Recreation Complex tennis and pickleball courts feature six dedicated pickleball courts and six tennis courts. The courts will be available to the public on a first come, first serve basis for local play. Reservations for tournaments can be made by completing a tournament packet provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. Additional parking has been created for the courts on the corner of Ingleside Avenue and Forrest Avenue. A new sidewalk has been created to connect the court parking lot to the walkway alongside Ingleside Avenue. For more information, please contact the Office of Parks & Recreation at (423) 744-2704.



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