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Friday, March 7, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Watts Bar Cleanup scheduled March 22



The [Watts Bar Lake Association's 25th annual Spring Shoreline Cleanup](#) is Saturday, March 22 from 9:00 AM – 12:00. The WBLA is partnering with the TN RiverLine RiverTown Communities of Spring City and Meigs County, TVA and Responsible Stewardship.

They are looking for participants and team leaders for this year's event. This is an opportunity to have a fun time, meet wonderful people and take part in keeping Watts Bar Lake beautiful. The WBLA will provide gloves, grabbers, and bags.

Contact Peter Giroux for any questions at 404-304-1115 or pgiroux@comcast.net. More information can be found at: wattsbarlakeassociation.org in Upcoming Events and also on their Facebook page [HERE](#).

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County High School Dance team has announced the "Egg My Yard" Fundraiser taking place from now until April 19. Prices range between \$15 and \$35 depending on how many dozens of eggs you would like. Filled, plastic eggs will be placed in your yard before Easter, so your kids can wake up and see the Easter Bunny has been there. To reserve your spot, call gmoore@mcminnschools.com
- The McMinn Senior Activity Center invites you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 14 from 7 pm to 9 pm with the St. Patrick's Day Dance. The dance is from 7 pm - 9 pm and doors open at 6:45 pm. Tickets are \$5 for singles and \$8 for a couple at the door or you can buy tickets at the Senior Center in advance Monday - Friday from 8am to 2pm. Funds raised will support the many social services offered to at-risk McMinn County senior citizens, including the Senior Advocate program, which provides in-depth assistance to seniors and their caregivers in accessing vital services and resources that seniors can't access or might not know they qualify for.

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Diana LaVar Trout Bedwell, age 61, of Cleveland, passed away on Wednesday, March 5. She was a member of the Lighthouse Church International in Charleston, TN. Visitation will be held at the Lighthouse Church International in Charleston, TN, from 2:00 PM until 3:30 PM on Sunday, March 9. Funeral services will be at 3:30 PM at the church. Interment will follow at South Liberty Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Diana LaVar Trout Bedwell.

Larry Yarber II, 28 of Etowah, passed away on Saturday, February 22. After high school, Larry went on to join the Army, was stationed at Fort Riley and served for three years, receiving numerous awards and medals. He was currently employed at HBR Powersports in Athens. A celebration of life is being held on Sunday, March 16th, 2025 at 3:00 pm at Athens Elks Lodge. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Daniel Everett Taylor, 53, passed away on Saturday, March 1. The family wishes for everyone who knew Daniel to cherish your time you had with him. Daniel may be Gone but he will certainly never be forgotten. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with his arrangements.

Preschool Registration Opens for Local Schools

Public schools across the region are gearing up for preschool registration, offering families an opportunity to give their children an early start in education. While preschool is not mandatory in Tennessee, it is a voluntary program available to children who will be 4 years old by August 15. Parents interested in enrolling their children will need to provide a birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of residency. Registration dates vary by school district:

- **Athens City Schools** – Registration is currently open at the Central Office on Crestway Drive.
- **Etowah City School** – April 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. More appointments are available by calling the school office.
- **McMinn County Schools** – April 7 at Calhoun, E.K. Baker, and Rogers Creek, and on April 8 at Englewood, Mountain View, and Niota.

Educators emphasize the importance of early childhood education in promoting healthy brain development and social skills. Preschool provides children with a structured environment where they can engage in imaginative play, storytelling, singing, and early learning activities, setting the stage for future academic success.

For more information, parents are encouraged to contact their local school offices.

Source: Ginger Robinson, Executive Director, McMinn County Education Foundation

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Spring Break Hours Update

March 2: Closed
March 9: Closed



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Friday, March 7, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **Grace Baptist Church** (517 Washington Ave., Etowah) invites you to meet Roger & Vivian Bayona, missionaries to the Philippines that are visiting their church on Wednesday, March 12 at 7pm.
- **The Greens** will be singing LIVE at **Solid Rock Baptist Church** (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun) on March 23 at 10:45am.
- **Zion Hill Baptist Church** (269 County Road 516, Englewood) announces the next **Men's Prayer Breakfast** on Saturday, April 5 at the TWU Cafeteria in Athens. The Speaker will be Dr. Jeff Laborg from Fairview Knox Church and will include testimonies from Miracle Lake. Breakfast will begin at 8:00 am with the service immediately following at 9:45 am. Register Online at zhbc.com/breakfast
- **TWU's Chorale** will sing a traditional choral evensong service on Monday, March 10, at 5:30 pm, at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** in Athens. There's no admission charge and open to the public.
- **SRBC Kids presents: Kingdom Seekers** on Sunday Nights at 5:30 pm at **Solid Rock Baptist Church** (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun) This all ages event combines, God, music, games and fun into a very special All Ages event.
- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Christ Community Church** will open the Prom Shop on Saturday, March 29 from 9 am - 3 pm. The Prom Shop provides Prom Formal wear at no cost for any student to attend their prom or dance. Christ Community Church is located at 14 S. Congress Pkwy in Athens. For more information, email promshopathens@yahoo.com.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00 P.M. at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00 P.M. at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? **Clearwater Baptist Church** (964 County Road 180, Athens) is beginning a new session of GriefShare helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. Beginning on Thursday, March 6th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm there will be an ongoing (in 13 week rotations) grief support group that you can join at any time and is open to the community. For more info visit: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share
- **New Life Church** hosts weekly Prayer Meetings every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00 pm. The church is located at 204 Fisher St. in Athens. All are welcome.

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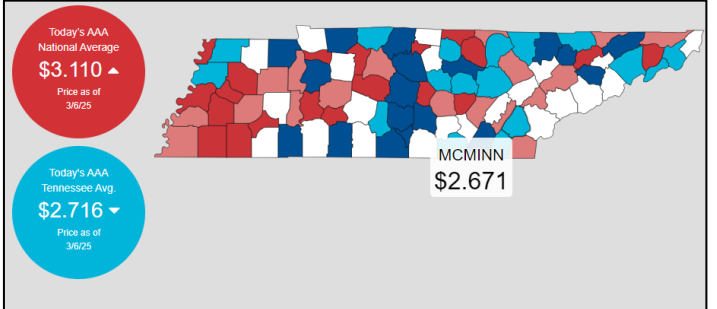
Tea Ceremony at TCAT



The [Athens Isahaya Sister City Committee](#) hosted a free tea ceremony class at TCAT on Tuesday, March 4. Twenty-four members of the Athens community attended and learned 'the way of tea'.

The next Japanese culture class will be at TWU at Colloms Center on April 8th at 6pm, and will be about Japanese Business Etiquette. It is free and open to the community. More information can be found at the Athens Isahaya Sister City Committee Facebook page.

Gas Prices Drop Slightly; McMinn County Sees Lower Averages



The national average price for a gallon of gas has dropped by a penny since last week, now sitting at **\$3.11**, thanks in part to lower oil prices. However, some drivers may experience fluctuations at the pump as markets and retailers respond to tariff news and the transition to summer-grade gasoline, which is more expensive to produce.

As of Thursday, the national average for gas is **2 cents lower than a month ago and 27 cents lower than this time last year**. In McMinn County, the average price per gallon is significantly lower than the national average, standing at **\$2.67**.

Source: AAAGasPrices.com

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Friday, March 7, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Chargerettes win 4th consecutive region title with Karina Bystry's record-breaking performance



The McMinn Central Chargerettes defeated Meigs County 70-28 to win their 4th consecutive region title. Karina Bystry scored 31 points and led the team with 5 assists. She moved past Oneida's Brynae Laxton (914 in 1993-94) for 4th place in single season scoring.

Her 923 points this season place her 1 point shy of Upperman's Akira Levy (924 in 2017-18). Malea Masingale scored 11 points and led the team with 5 steals. Camryn Loden and Reagan Baker both scored 9 points, and Baker led the team with 8 rebounds.

The Chargerettes host the sectional Saturday at 7pm against Region 1-2A runner up Alcoa who lost to Gatlinburg Pittman 72-63 in OT. The sectional winner advances to next week's Blue Cross Championships on the campus of MTSU in Murfreesboro.

Camryn Loden, Reagan Baker, Alahna Powell, Malea Masingale, and Karina Bystry (MVP) were named to the All Region 2-2A team.

McMinn Central Coverage By: Todd Loveday, WYGO 99.5FM's Voice of the Chargers

Lady Vols Dominate Texas A&M in SEC Tournament Opener



No. 18/17 Tennessee shook off a slow start to overpower Texas A&M with a dominant performance, securing a 77-37 victory in the opening round of the SEC Women's Basketball Tournament on Wednesday at Bon Secours Wellness Arena.

Redshirt sophomore Talaysia Cooper, returning from a lower-body injury, led the Lady Vols with 19 points, eight rebounds, three assists, and three steals off the bench. Jewel Spear and Zee Spearman added 11 points each, while Samara Spencer chipped in 10.

After trailing 13-11 at the end of the first quarter, Tennessee took control in the second, outscoring the Aggies 21-6 to take a 32-19 halftime lead. The Lady Vols continued to dominate in the second half, going on multiple scoring runs and shooting 55% from the field in the third quarter to extend their lead to 60-28. By the final buzzer, Tennessee had outscored A&M by 42 points over the last three quarters, sealing a decisive 40-point win.

The victory advances the No. 9 seed Lady Vols (22-8) to the second round, where they will face No. 8 seed Vanderbilt (21-9, 8-8 SEC) at 11 a.m. ET on Thursday. The game will be televised on SEC Network and available via Lady Vol Network radio stations and UTSports.com audio stream.

Source: UTSports.com

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