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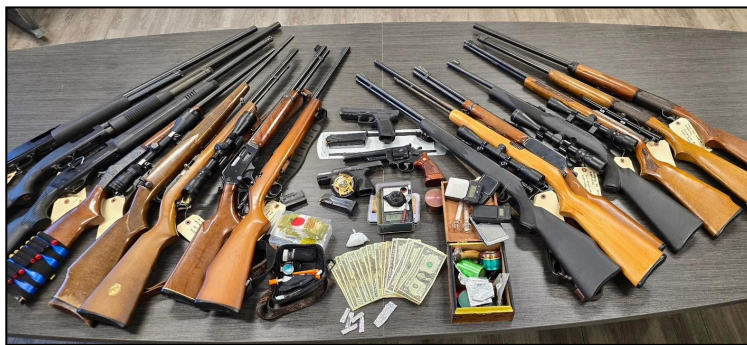
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Monroe County Drug Raids Lead to Fentanyl Seizures and Nine Arrests



The Monroe County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division, with support from the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force, conducted two narcotics-related raids on Monday, April 21, resulting in the seizure of dangerous drugs, firearms, and multiple arrests.

The first search warrant was executed in the Gamble Gap area of Tellico Plains, where detectives recovered approximately 4 grams of suspected fentanyl, along with firearms and other drug-related items.

Later that day, a second operation was carried out in the Brakebill Road community of Vonore, with assistance from the Vonore Police Department. Authorities seized over 20 grams of suspected fentanyl, as well as cash and additional narcotics-related materials.

In total, nine individuals were taken into custody and are being held at the Monroe County Justice Center on various drug charges. The Sheriff's Office emphasized its ongoing commitment to combating the spread of illegal drugs within the community.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Source: [Sheriff Tommy Jones - Facebook](#)

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Athens, Tennessee

Public Hearings Scheduled for Landfill Expansion Permits in Southeast Tennessee

The Southeast Tennessee Solid Waste Board will hold public hearings next month to discuss proposed expansion permits for two regional landfills. The hearings, organized in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), will take place on **Monday, May 12**, at the Southeast Tennessee Development District office, located at 1000 Riverfront Parkway in Chattanooga.

The first hearing, addressing the Birchwood Class III Landfill expansion, is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. It will be followed by a hearing for the *McMinn County Class III Landfill at 10:30 a.m.*

Immediately after the McMinn County Morning Fax hearing, the Solid Waste Board will convene its regular meeting to review and potentially approve the 2024 Annual Progress Report.

All members of the public and stakeholders are encouraged to attend and participate in the hearings.

Source: Jonathan Rush. Southeast TN Development District

Community News You Can Use

- *The City of Athens Fire Department would like to remind you that if you live within the Athens City Limits, you **ABSOLUTELY MUST** call the Athens Fire Department to get permission to burn anything. Call 423-744-2789 Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Failure to do so may result in citations.*
- ACS athletes hope for your support as they compete in the Special Olympics THIS SATURDAY, April 26th at McMinn County High School beginning at 10 a.m.
- E.G. Fisher Public Library has extended the deadline for poetry submissions for its upcoming *Voices of Resilience* spoken word event to Tuesday, April 29 at 12:00 PM. The showcase, celebrating the resilience and creativity of African American artists, will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 3:30–5:00 PM. Submissions—either original or written by others—should be sent to programming@fisherlibrary.org.



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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Varsity Cherokees face tough loss against Boyd-Buchanan



McMinn County Varsity Cherokees had trouble keeping up with Boyd-Buchanan in a 14-3 loss on Monday.

Boyd-Buchanan got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Brodie Lowe hit a sacrifice fly, and Logan Martin walked, each scoring one run. McMinn County Varsity Cherokees jumped into the lead in the top of the second when Jaxen Fugate doubled, scoring two runs, and Linc Brazzell singled, scoring one run. Boyd-Buchanan flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the third, scoring six runs on two hits to take the lead, 8-3. The biggest blow in the inning was an error that drove in one. Boyd-Buchanan scored

five runs on three hits in the bottom of the fourth inning. Xavier Embry singled, scoring one run, and Aaron Hise hit a grand slam to center field. **Morning Fax®**
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Max Roderick stepped on the hill first for McMinn County Varsity Cherokees. The righty allowed four hits and eight runs (two earned) over two and one-third innings, striking out one and walking four. Liam Cooper started the game for Boyd-Buchanan. The starter surrendered three hits and three runs over four innings, striking out three and walking two.

Jack Goodin, Chase McDonald, Cam Miller, Fugate, and Brazzell each collected one hit for the McMinn County Varsity Cherokees. Fugate and Brazzell each drove in one run for McMinn County Varsity Cherokees. McMinn County Varsity Cherokees turned one double play in the game.

Hise drove the middle of the lineup, leading Boyd-Buchanan with three runs batted in. The catcher went 2-for-2 on the day. Embry led Boyd-Buchanan with three hits in four at bats. Boyd-Buchanan had a strong eye at the plate, piling up eight walks for the game. Devin Shannon and Martin led the team with two free passes each. H. Jones stole two bases. Boyd-Buchanan ran wild on the base paths, tallying five stolen bases for the game. Boyd-Buchanan were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Caden Henry had the most chances in the field with six. McMinn County Varsity Cherokees will travel to Hardin Valley Academy for their next game on Thursday. [Copyright © 2025 GameChanger Media, Inc. All rights reserved.](#)



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Athens, Tennessee

The 4th Annual *Charger Classic Golf* Tourney tees off this Saturday

Golfers and sports fans alike are gearing up for the **4th Annual *Charger Classic Golf Tournament***, set to take place on Saturday, April 26 at Ridgewood Golf Course. Hosted by the Charger Football program, the event promises a day of friendly competition, community support, and exciting prizes.

The tournament will follow a 4-man select shot format, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. The entry fee is \$300 per team, which includes gift bags for each participant. For those looking to boost their odds on the course, mulligan packages will be available for \$20 per person.

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Beyond the game, participants will enjoy chances to win door prizes and take part in a 50/50 drawing, with all proceeds supporting Charger Football.

Organizers encourage early registration, as team spots are expected to fill quickly. Register at the link [HERE!](#)

For more information or to register, **contact Coach Ostrowski at (423) 839-4863.**

Source: Charger High School Football Boosters

Tennessee Lands QB Joey Aguilar After Iamaleava Departure to UCLA



The University of Tennessee has secured a new signal caller, landing quarterback Joey Aguilar, formerly of Appalachian State and UCLA, according to reports from ESPN.

Aguilar, who has one year of eligibility remaining, threw for an impressive 6,760 yards and 56 touchdowns during his two seasons as a starter at Appalachian State. He briefly transferred to UCLA but re-entered the transfer portal following the Bruins' addition of former Tennessee

quarterback Nico Iamaleava.

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The quarterback shuffle comes after a rocky end to Iamaleava's time at Tennessee. The highly touted recruit reportedly missed a practice ahead of the Volunteers' Orange and White spring game and stopped communicating with coaches and teammates. Iamaleava and his representatives had attempted to renegotiate his NIL deal, asking for an increase to the \$4 million range before the winter portal window closed. Tennessee declined to adjust the deal.

"I believe with all my heart that I gave my all as a Volunteer. I'm truly grateful for the time I had at UT," Iamaleava shared in an [Instagram post](#) confirming his transfer to UCLA.

With Aguilar now stepping in, Tennessee looks to reset its quarterback room and move forward with a seasoned leader at the helm.

Source: [Chris Low, ESPN](#) / [WBIR](#)



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Athens, Tennessee

Lawmakers Call for TSSAA Reform, Greater Accountability

State lawmakers are pushing for more transparency and accountability from the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA), the governing body for high school sports.

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Sen. Adam Lowe of Calhoun, Sen. Bo Watson, and Rep. Scott Cepicky held a press conference urging changes to how TSSAA operates, citing concerns about lack of oversight and parent involvement. Their call follows the introduction of legislation (SB 16 / HB 25) aimed at protecting student-athlete eligibility when transferring schools for valid reasons. The bill passed the Senate but was delayed in the House until 2026.

Lawmakers argue that families deserve a voice in TSSAA decisions and that reforms are needed to ensure fairness and responsiveness in student athletics governance.

Source: Molly Gormley, State of TN

Obituaries

Lanny Houston Crowe, 83 of Sweetwater, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Saturday, April 19 at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. Lanny was a Proud retired United States Air Force Master Sergeant who served our nation for 22 years and a proud Vietnam Veteran. The family will host a private family gathering at a later time and will announce to those they wish to invite at a later time. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

Cecil Carnell Lane Osborne Turner, age 86 of Philadelphia, passed away in the home of her son, Curtis Osborne, in Englewood, where she has resided the last few years. A small graveside service is today, Wednesday, April 23 at 2 pm for family and friends at Edgemon's Cemetery. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

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