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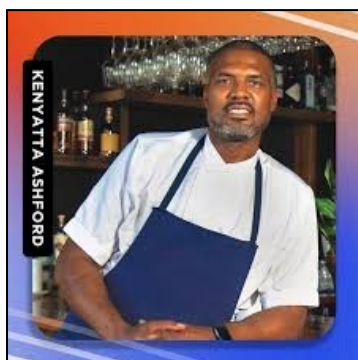
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Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Chef Kenyatta Dinner Sold Out



Downtown Athens will take on a New Orleans flair **TONIGHT** as Main Street Athens hosts a Mardi Gras celebration at the White Street Market which has been sold out. Kenyatta Ashford, a **CHOPPED** champion

chef, is partnering with Main Street Athens to present a private three-course dining experience featuring classic New Orleans cuisine and bold Creole flavors. Main Street Athens organizers say that more special events will be planned this year and encourage everyone to follow them online or continue reading the Morning Fax for details. For information on future events, visit and bookmark their website [HERE](#).

Community News You Can Use

- The Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library will hold their monthly meeting at the library today, February 17th at 5:30 pm. The meeting is open to the public.
- The McMinn County Election Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 5 p.m. in the conference room of the McMinn County Courthouse. Items on the agenda include certifying petitions and locking ballot boxes and bags in preparation for the May Primary. The agenda will be posted by Friday, Feb. 20, on the bulletin board at the election office and on the commission's website.
- The monthly meeting for the Cherokee Beekeepers Association will be on Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 P.M. The location of the meeting is the McMinn Senior Activity Center located at 205 McMinn Ave., Athens, Tn. The public is always welcome; you do not need to be a member to attend.
- The Tennessee Dirt Racing Hall of Fame will hold its 2026 Induction Ceremony on April 6 at Southern Events Venue, 298 W. Madison Ave. in Athens, with doors opening at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., and the ceremony to follow. Inductees include Roby Helm of Etowah, Dale McDowell, Mike Luna, Herschel Alfrey, Bobby Richey Sr., and Dave Wright. Advance tickets are \$35 and available by calling director Jack Harper at 615-347-8877. More information is available on the organization's Facebook page [HERE](#)

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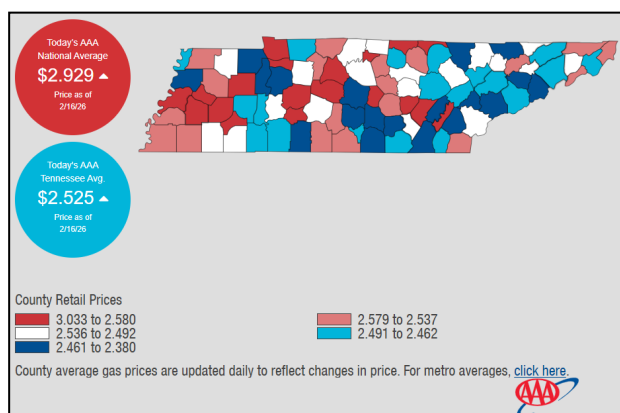
613 Congress PKWY N (Across from Enterprise)

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Gas Prices Dip as East Tennessee Drivers See Savings at the Pump



Drivers in McMinn County and across East Tennessee are continuing to see relief at the pump as gas prices remain well below this time last year, despite minor weekly fluctuations.

According to AAA - The Auto Club Group, Tennessee's average gas price fell three cents over the past week to \$2.52 per gallon. That is one cent more than a month ago but 27 cents cheaper than a year ago. Nationally, the average price stood at \$2.92 as of Feb. 16, still well below the \$3.15 average recorded one year ago.

Locally, McMinn County motorists were paying an average of \$2.46 per gallon. Surrounding counties reported Meigs County at \$2.63, Monroe County at \$2.52, Roane County at \$2.47, Polk County at \$2.55 and Bradley County at \$2.47.

Chattanooga and Knoxville were among the least expensive metro markets in the state at \$2.45 and \$2.46, respectively, while Jackson, Nashville and Memphis posted the highest averages.

New data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows gasoline demand and supply both increased last week, while crude oil inventories rose by 8.5 million barrels.

The Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library will hold their monthly meeting at the library TODAY, Tuesday, February 17th at 5:30 pm. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit www.etowahlibrary.com.

Even with expected seasonal fluctuations heading into spring, drivers in McMinn County and the surrounding region are paying significantly less than they were a year ago.

Source: AAAGasPrices.com

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Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

February 15, 2026

David Rogers, 44 of Decatur, charged with violation of probation for evading arrest, and violation of probation in Meigs County, Bond \$1,657.85.

Manuel Saucedo, 33 of Athens, charged with child support, leaving the scene of an accident, driving on a revoked license, and 3 counts of failure to appear, Child abuse, neglect, or endangerment, Bond \$14,000.

David Rodriguez, 32 of Charleston, charged with attempted murder, assault, simple possession of schedule 2, Bond \$514,000.

Kimberly Powers, 58 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, and shoplifting, Bond \$2,068.90.

Jamie Arnett, 46 of Englewood, charged with contempt of court.

Ashley Gamey, 33 of Englewood, charged with public intoxication, Bond \$7,500.

Christian Earhart, 34 of Englewood, charged with two counts of child support, Bond \$10,000.

Juan David Angel Hernandez, 37 of Sweetwater, charged with DUI, Bond \$2,000.

Clay Spangler, 47 of Athens, charged with disorderly conduct, Casual exchange, possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$22,500.

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

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Athens, Tennessee

Wind-Driven Brush Fire Burns Four Acres on Highway 30 East



A brush fire scorched approximately four acres Saturday evening along Highway 30 East in Athens after embers from a previously burned brush pile were reignited by gusty winds.

The fire broke out around 6:30 p.m. Authorities said the property owner had burned a brush pile several days earlier, but increasing winds caused lingering embers to spread into nearby woods.

Responding agencies included Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Etowah City Fire and Athens Rural Fire. Etowah Rural Deputy Chief Dustin Ruebush served as incident commander at the scene. No injuries were reported.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

Obituaries

Bobby Joe Price, 74, of Athens, passed away on Saturday, February 14. He loved fishing, hunting, playing cards, and spending time with his grandchildren. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, February 18 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Bobby Joe Price.

Trinity Danielle Scott, 21, passed away on February 11. Trinity was one of the most loving and compassionate souls anyone could ever know. Though she was born with a genetic disorder and faced illness throughout her life, she never allowed her struggles to define her. Instead, Trinity was always more concerned about the well-being of others than her own. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 21 at 1:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A visitation will be held prior from 11:00am-1:00pm. A graveside service will be held following the funeral at East Sweetwater Free Will Baptist Church Cemetery. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

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