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**McMinn County Rabies Clinic  
On May 4-9**

The McMinn County Health Department has announced its annual rabies vaccination clinic will be held Monday, May 4 through Saturday, May 9, offering reduced-cost vaccinations for dogs and cats at participating veterinary offices across the county.

Rabies shots will be available during regular business hours at multiple clinics, including The Animal Clinic of Athens, Athens Small Animal Hospital, Family & Friend Pet Clinic, Mecca Pike Animal Hospital, Offutt Veterinary Clinic, and Sweetwater Veterinary Hospital. Vaccinations at these locations will cost \$12.

A \$15 vaccination will be offered at the McMinn Regional Humane Society Spay and Neuter Clinic for animals that have been spayed or neutered.

Officials encourage pet owners to call ahead to schedule appointments. The reduced pricing is only available during the clinic dates.

State law requires all dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies, with initial vaccinations recommended after three months of age. For more information, contact the McMinn County Health Department at 423-618-3189.

**Community News You Can Use**

- The McMinn Living Heritage Museum is asking Athens and surrounding communities for photos, newspaper or magazine articles, memorabilia, and artifacts relating to the Battle of Athens. Please call the Museum at (423) 745-0329 if you have any of those items or for more information.
- Country music singer Ronnie McDowell will bring his Red, White and Blue Tour to the Gem Theatre on Friday, April 24, joined by fellow artists Jeff Bates and Paulette Carlson. The show will feature a mix of classic country hits, tributes to legends like Elvis Presley and Conway Twitty, and a segment of gospel music. McDowell, known for numerous Top 40 hits, said the tour also celebrates American music and patriotism. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the concert beginning at 7 p.m. at the downtown Eto-wah venue. Tickets and additional information are [available online](#).



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EARLY VOTING APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>  
ELECTION DAY MAY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

for **MCMINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**



Friday, April 17, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Job Fair and Career Expo

The very first ever Tri-College Job Fair and Career Expo was held Thursday, April 16 at the McMinn Higher Education Center on Denso Drive, hosted by Tennessee Wesleyan University, Cleveland State Community College and Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology. It was a well attended Job Fair which provided opportunities for those in attendance to connect with top employers, explore job opportunities and grow their professional network with over 30 plus employers. See photos below of representatives from TCAT, CSCC, and TWU with Chef Raymond and representatives from McMinn County Schools.



L to R: Casey Piggot with TCAT; Sandy Leamon with CSCC; Chef Raymond from Chef Raymond Catering; Kim Ealy, Director of Career and Leadership at TWU; Stefanie West, Director of the McMinn Higher Education Center for CSCC; Fonda Vickery, Asst Director of McMinn Higher Education Center for CSCC



L to R: McMinn County Schools' Kim Bivens, Personnel Coordinator; Kylie Gentry, Administrative Assistant; Shelby Roberts, Coordinated School Health Supervisor; and Heath Frazier, Capital Projects Supervisor.

Source: Stephanie Devine, Morning Fax Staff

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Donate between April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> to get your ticket.

Tickets are valid between May 9<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



# UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

SEND YOUR EVENTS BY  
THURSDAY MORNING TO BE FEATURED HERE  
EMAIL: WYXIRADIO@GMAIL.COM

THIS WEEK  
NEXT WEEK  
EVERY WEEK

Friday, April 17, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Church News & Events

- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur and Thursdays at **6:30pm** at **Spirit City Church North Etowah**.
- **St. Mary's Legacy Clinic** offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- One Voice Choir will host a benefit concert on Sunday, May 3 at 2:30pm at Light of Life Ministries. This special concert is to show support for Basketball Great, Mr. Ronnie McMahan, who's awaiting a transplant. Come out and support the cause.
- The Etowah Christian Ministerial Association will host three community services on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 7, in Etowah. A prayer breakfast will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Spirit City Church, followed by a noon service at the L & N Depot Pavilion featuring group prayer and music from the Miracle Lake Singers and the Central High School Choir will perform. An evening service is set for 6 p.m. at the Gem Theater, with prayers led by local pastors

and music by The Men of Praise. For more information, contact ECMA President John Roberson at 423-263-2896.

- The New Hope Methodist Church will host its next Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 7 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Cafe in downtown Athens. The ecumenical gathering is open to men of all Christian faiths, regardless of church affiliation, as well as those seeking to build a relationship with Jesus. For more information, contact Marcus Guinn at [marcusguinn@gmail.com](mailto:marcusguinn@gmail.com) or 423-507-7769.
- Testimony Quartet will be in concert at Lakeview Baptist Church on Sunday, April 19 at 6 p.m. The church is located at 183 County Road 126 in Athens, beside Dynasty Spas. The public is invited to attend.

### SUNDAY LUNCH at Tennessee Wesleyan

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

**Date:** Every Sunday  
*"When school is in session."*  
**Time:** 11am-1:30pm  
**Location:** Sherman Dining Hall  
204 E College Street, Athens TN 37303



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



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FOR

★ CIRCUIT COURT CLERK ★



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Athens, TN

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Paid for by Committee to Elect Michael Hayes Sheriff

# McMinn County Arrest Reports

## April 15, 2026

**Donald Dawkins**, 45 of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation, for schedule 2 meth for resale.

**Nicole Walker**, 34 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, simple possession casual exchange of schedule II fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$10,000.

**Christopher Rodriguez**, 34 of Knoxville, charged with unlawful carry or possession of a weapon.

**Katelyn Lynn**, 20 of Niota, charged with public intoxication.

**Keith Williamson**, 29 of Riceville, charged with leaving the scene of an accident, reckless driving, driving without due care, DUI, and drug paraphernalia.

**Jason Roller-Brown**, 20 of Chattanooga, charged with evading arrest, criminal conspiracy to evade arrest, criminal conspiracy to sell and deliver schedule 2 fentanyl, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and false reporting, Bond \$54,000.

**Chemetrius Byrd**, 20 of Chattanooga, charged with evading arrest, tampering with evidence, criminal conspiracy to sell and deliver schedule 2 fentanyl, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, criminal conspiracy to evade arrest with a motor vehicle, Bond \$56,000.

**Edward Goldman**, 55, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property, from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

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

★ ★ ★ ★ VOTE ★ ★ ★ ★

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**STEPHANIE SWAFFORD**

**FOR MCMINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT STEPHANIE SWAFFORD



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Friday, April 17, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## Tennessee Senate Approves Biomarker Testing Expansion Bill

The Tennessee Senate has unanimously passed legislation expanding access to biomarker testing, sending the measure to Gov. Bill Lee for consideration. Senate Bill 0435, approved on a 30-0 vote, would require coverage of biomarker testing for patients on TennCare and state employee health insurance plans. A companion bill has already passed the Tennessee House.

Biomarker testing helps doctors identify the most effective treatments—particularly for cancer patients—by analyzing genetic and molecular markers. Advocates say the approach can improve outcomes, reduce ineffective treatments, and is increasingly used for other conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and arthritis. Supporters, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, say expanded coverage will improve access to life-saving care. Lung cancer survivor Stephen Huff of College Grove credited the testing with extending his life and allowing more time with his family.

If signed into law, Tennessee would join more than 20 states that have enacted similar legislation, expanding access to advanced diagnostic tools for patients statewide.

## Obituaries

**Leroy Barham**, 95 of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, April 15. He was a member of Short Creek Baptist Church and retired from Wright Brothers Construction Company. A visitation will be held from 5:00-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home on Tuesday, April 21, with a Celebration of Life service to follow at 7:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Leroy Barham.

**James Isaac Vess**, 24, passed away on Monday, April 13. He served in the United States Army as a combat engineer. He was a devoted movie buff, a talented musician, and loved skateboarding in his younger years. He attended Ascension Life Church. The family will receive friends at the Chapel of Companion Funeral Home in Athens on Friday, April 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, with a service to follow at 8:00 PM, Companion Funeral Home of Athens, TN and the Cody Family are honored to assist Isaac's family during this time.



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