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# The Morning Fax®

## Today's News. This Morning.

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**Thursday, January 08, 2026**

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**Athens, Tennessee**

## Student Charged After Weapon Found on MCHS School Campus



A McMinn County High School student will face charges after a weapon was discovered in the student's vehicle on school property, according to McMinn County Schools.

School officials reported that administrators and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department conducted searches of several vehicles in the student parking lot Wednesday following reports of suspicious activity. During the search, deputies located and confiscated a weapon from one of the vehicles. The student involved will be charged in McMinn County Juvenile Court with possession of a weapon on school grounds and will also face disciplinary action in accordance with school district policy.

District officials emphasized that there was no danger to the school community during the incident. "At no point during this incident was there a threat to students or staff. The situation was handled promptly and safely," McMinn County Schools stated. No additional details have been released.

## Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and Animal Shelter will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Those buildings will re-open Tuesday, January 20, 2026, during regular business hours. Residential garbage routes for Monday, January 19 will be picked up on Tuesday, January 20. All other residential garbage routes will be on regular schedule.
- The Athens City Schools Board of Education will meet Monday, January 12 at the Athens City Middle School auditorium. The draft agenda and packet are available on the Athens City Schools website. The meeting will include recognitions for the 2025–2026 Girls Soccer Team, RISE Award winners, Teachers of the Year, Principal, Supervisor, Novice Teacher of the Year, and a tenure announcement. An official board photo will also be taken for School Board Appreciation Week. Individuals wishing to address the board on agenda items may sign up prior to the meeting, in accordance with Board Policy 1.404.



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## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum



### Upcoming January Events

#### HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

Director Brett King continues his American 250th lecture series this month with a discussion on Article 1-7 of the U.S. Constitution  
Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> @ Noon - Free Admission

Origins of UTK's Body Farm with Frank Murphy  
Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> @ Noon - Free Admission

#### HERITAGE SCHOOL:

Cooking Healthy in the New Year with \*  
Shelley Morgan of Mountain Medicine Farm  
Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am \$5 or free with membership

Chemistry Magic Show with Dr. Al Hazari - fun for all ages!  
Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am \$5 or free with membership

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

Hours:  
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM  
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:  
Adults: \$5.00  
Senior 60+: \$3.00  
Students: \$3.00



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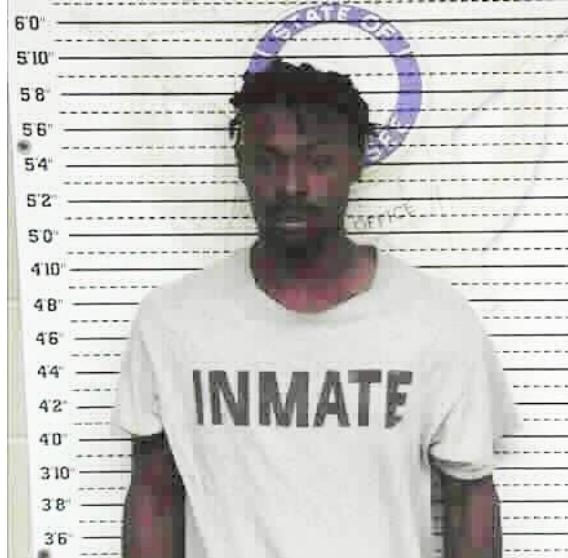
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Athens, Tennessee

## Child Rapist Receives One of Tennessee's Longest Prison Sentences

District Attorney General Stephen Hatchett, of Tennessee's 10th Judicial District, announced on Wednesday that 29-year-old Kenterrius McGuffie, of Athens, (in photo) has been sentenced to 10 consecutive life sentences without parole, with an additional 16 years in prison by District Judge Sandra Donagh, one of the longest criminal sentences handed down in the State of Tennessee. McGuffie pleaded guilty to a total of 27 charges: 13 counts of Aggravated Rape of a Child, 12 counts of Especially Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, one count of Continual Sexual Abuse of a Child, and one count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor. "There are few crimes, if any, that destroy lives like sexual abuse of children. Innocence is killed in these children, and had this crime occurred after the law changed I would have sought the death penalty," said General Hatchet. "This case involved horrific sexual abuse that was not only committed but also filmed, and the sentence imposed reflects the horrible nature of the crime. Sexual predators in the 10th Judicial District will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible, and this case should stand as a warning to anyone who would harm children in our community." McGuffie was arrested in 2024, after agents first received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, concerning child sexual abuse material being uploaded by a Snapchat user. "That user was later identified as McGuffie. These charges are based on videos that were collected on the defendant's electronic devices and on Snapchat. They were submitted as evidence and reviewed by Judge Donagh for the sentencing hearing. This case involved multiple agencies including the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force, Athens Police Department, McMinn County Sheriff's Office, Metro Nashville Police Department, and the 10th Judicial Children's Advocacy Center. The 10th Judicial District of Tennessee serves Bradley, McMinn, Monroe and Polk Counties in Tennessee." **SOURCE: Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference**



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Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

January 6, 2026

**Lawton Williams**, 65 of Calhoun, charged with manufacturing, selling, delivery, possession of controlled substance.

**Allen Carraway**, 75 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

**Joshua Bergner**, 45 of Cleveland, charged with state violation of probation for identity theft and forgery.

**Jeffrey Redd**, 34 of Benton, charged with failure to appear for drug paraphernalia.

**Jessica Coronta**, 49 of Etowah, charged with violation of probation in Knox County.

**Thomas Johnston**, 46 of Athens, charged with Schedule II, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$25,000.

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from Public Sources.**

## Obituaries

**Lawrence Edwin Wilson**, 90, a long-time businessman and civic leader of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday January 6. He was the former President of Arnav Industries and later the owner of M. Johnston Factory Outlet in Etowah. He was proud to be a Shriner and past Master of Etowah Masonic Lodge 653 where he was a loyal member for over 60 years and was its oldest living member. A masonic service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, January 11 the in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Sunday prior to the service. A graveside service will follow the service in Green Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

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