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# The Morning Fax®

## Today's News. This Morning.

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Tuesday, January 13, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## Niota Man Reports Contractor Failed to Deliver Shed After Payment

A McMinn County resident says he is still seeking a refund months after paying a contractor to build an outdoor shed that was never constructed.

Dan Beebe of Niota said he paid \$2,750 — half the quoted cost — to Nexgen Structures owner Sam Coleman for a 12-by-30-foot shed after finding the business on Facebook Marketplace. Beebe said the work was scheduled to begin in late September 2025 but never started.

According to Beebe, Coleman provided multiple explanations for delays and later promised a refund if the project could not move forward. Despite those assurances, Beebe said neither the shed nor the refund has been delivered.

Court records show Coleman was previously charged with theft and contractor fraud in Sevier County in 2023 and is awaiting trial. Authorities in another county are also reviewing additional complaints involving Coleman.

Beebe said he hopes to recover his money and is sharing his experience to alert others considering hiring contractors online.

*Source: [WATE 6 News](#)*

## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Highway Department has announced the following road closures: McMinn County Road 708, (Billy Womac Rd.), will be closed Tuesday, January 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for road construction. McMinn County Road 516 (Zion Hill Spur Rd.), will be closed Thursday, January 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for road construction.
- The McMinn County Board of Commissioners will hold its regular meeting on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse in Athens. Prior to the regular session, a public input meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. to gather community feedback on the McMinn County Forest Master Plan and the proposed Shooting Sports Complex. Both meetings are open to the public.



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Athens, Tennessee

## Early-Morning Trailer Fire Destroys Fifth Wheel, Damages Barn in Englewood



An early-morning fire destroyed a fifth wheel trailer and caused additional property damage Saturday on County Road 550 in the Englewood area.

Around 6:30 a.m., the owners of a 2021 Solitude Grand Design fifth wheel were awakened by smoke detectors inside the trailer. Upon waking, they heard popping sounds and discovered flames coming from the area near the refrigerator. The occupants attempted to extinguish the fire using a fire extinguisher but were unsuccessful and safely escaped without injury.



The fire ultimately destroyed the trailer. Flames also spread to an adjacent barn, causing damage to the structure, a Kubota side-by-side vehicle, and other contents inside.

Multiple agencies responded to the scene, including Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Etowah City Fire, Athens City Fire, Madisonville City Fire, AMR, and Athens Utilities Board. Englewood Rural Fire Chief Billy Roach was in command of the incident.

*Photos were provided by the Englewood Rural FD*



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Athens, Tennessee

## Chamber Celebrates Ribbon Cutting for The Barrel Room in Athens



The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its newest member, The Barrel Room, located at 1084 Highway 30 West in Athens. It is a new event venue designed to host a variety of gatherings, including corporate seminars, private parties, community events, rehearsal dinners, and wedding celebrations.

Those attending the ribbon cutting included chamber representatives, business leaders, family members, and the venue's owners, John Henry and Haley Cabrera, who welcomed guests and shared details about the new space. *Source: Julie Simbeck, AAC*

## Two Injured in County Road 265 Rollover Crash



A Sunday afternoon crash on County Road 265 resulted in minor injuries to two people after a vehicle left the roadway and overturned. The crash occurred around 3 p.m. in the 200 block of County Road 265 when a 1997 Ford Explorer traveling south ran off the road and overturned, coming to rest in a ditch. There were four occupants in the vehicle at the time of the incident.

Two of the occupants sustained minor injuries and were transported by AMR ambulance to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens for evaluation. Niota Rural Fire, North McMinn Fire, Athens Rural Fire, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene. The Tennessee Highway Patrol is investigating the crash, with Trooper Caleb Ballard assigned to the case.

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## OPEN INTERVIEWS

Friday, January 16, 2026  
Saturday, January 17, 2026

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
5020 Highway 11 South  
Calhoun, Tennessee

**Registration  
(mandatory)**  
**7:30 AM - 8:15 AM**

Interviews will be conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. You must arrive during Registration in order to obtain a slot; late arrivals will not be eligible. To be considered for employment, you must bring the following required items: a valid driver license, your resume, and a copy of your GED or high school diploma. Candidates who do not meet these requirements will not be eligible for hire.

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Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

**January 11, 2026**

**Angela Jorgensen**, 62 of Athens, charged with criminal trespass.

**Laura Cheek**, 35 of Hixson, charged with DUI, drug paraphernalia, possession of legend drugs, simple possession, casual exchange of schedule 2, simple possession, casual exchange of Schedule 3. Bond \$26,000.

**Jose Medrano**, 29 of Cleveland, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000.

**Christian Frost**, 69 of Athens, charged with failure to appear, Bond \$1,000.

**Matthew Duncan**, 22 of Seymour, TN, charged with simple possession, casual exchange of fentanyl, simple possession, casual exchange of Schedule 6 marijuana, violation of interlock device, and DUI, Bond \$19,000.

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**

Information gathered using public sources.

## Obituaries

**Janet Lee White McDermott**, 60 of McMinn County, passed away on Friday, January 9. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, in the chapel of Ziegler Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Hampton Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. prior to the service on Wednesday. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care and arrangements for Janet Lee White McDermott.

**Jodie Lynn Sitzler**, of Athens, passed away on Saturday, January 10. She was a devoted follower of Christ and a member of New Hopewell Baptist Church. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, January 13 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in the Meigs County Memorial Gardens Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m., prior to the service on Tuesday. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Sitzler family.

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