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Wednesday, January 14, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Good Faith Clinic Honors Founder Dr. David Byrd for Decades of Service



The Board of Directors and volunteers of the Good Faith Clinic recently honored founder Dr. David Byrd with a plaque of appreciation, recognizing more than 30 years of service to uninsured residents of McMinn County.

Dr. Byrd founded the Good Faith Clinic in 1995, and his vision, compassion, and dedication have helped provide free primary medical care to thousands of patients over the past three decades. The clinic operates entirely through the efforts of volunteer medical professionals and staff.

A reception was held during normal clinic hours so that both volunteers and patients could participate in honoring Dr. Byrd and expressing gratitude for the care he has provided throughout the years.

The Good Faith Clinic has returned to its regular operating schedule, opening on the second, fourth, and fifth Thursdays of each month. The next clinic date is Thursday, January 22, with refills available beginning at 3 p.m. and doctor visits starting at 3:30 p.m.

The clinic serves uninsured adults ages 18 to 64 from McMinn and Meigs counties and is located on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 South Congress Parkway in Athens.

Photo: Michelle Crafton, chair of the GFC Board of Directors, presents Dr. David Byrd with a plaque honoring his 30 years of dedicated service.

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Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Gas Prices Fall; State Below \$2.50 Average



Gas prices across Tennessee continued to move lower last week, with the statewide average dropping six cents to **\$2.44 per gallon** — about 15 cents cheaper than a month ago and 29 cents less than a year ago, according to AAA.

AAA spokesperson Megan Cooper said drivers are seeing “seasonally low gas prices that we would expect this time of year,” noting that ample supply and lower winter demand are helping keep prices down.

Nationally, the average price of regular gasoline stands near **\$2.79 per gallon**, the lowest level in years.

Regional pump prices in Tennessee vary slightly, with Nashville and Jackson among the more expensive markets and areas like Morristown and Knoxville showing lower averages.

Locally, **McMinn County's average price is about \$2.41 per gallon** as motorists begin the new year with some of the most affordable fuel costs seen recently. *Source: AAA*

MEDIC Urges Blood Donations as O-Type Supply Reaches Critical Levels



MEDIC Regional Blood Center is urgently asking eligible donors to give blood as supplies of O-negative and O-positive blood types remain critically low. Officials report less than a three-day supply of O-negative blood and fewer than five days of O-positive blood currently available, following a significant increase in demand over the past week.

Donations are needed immediately at all MEDIC donor centers and mobile blood drives. Walk-ins are welcome at the Athens Center, located in the Ingles Shopping Center. Appointments can also be scheduled by calling **423-453-5846**.

To encourage donations, MEDIC is offering a **\$25 e-gift card** to all O-type donors who successfully give blood through **Friday, January 16**.

MEDIC officials emphasize that O-negative blood is especially vital, as it can be used in emergencies when a patient's blood type is unknown. Eligible donors are encouraged to donate as soon as possible to help ensure lifesaving blood is available when needed.

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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State Presidential Search Committee Appointed; Public Forum Set for Today

Cleveland State COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Tennessee Board of Regents has appointed the Search Advisory Committee that will lead the nationwide search for the next president of Cleveland State Community College, with a public forum on the search process scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 14.

The virtual public forum will take place at **10 a.m. ET on Jan. 14, 2026**, via Zoom and is open to the public. The forum will provide an overview of the presidential search process and allow participants to learn more about how the next college leader will be selected. Those needing assistance accessing the meeting may contact Cleveland State officials for support.

The 18-member Search Advisory Committee is chaired by **Tennessee Board of Regents Vice Chair Emily J. Reynolds** and includes two additional board members, along with representatives from Cleveland State's faculty, staff, students, alumni, and business and community leaders from across Southeast Tennessee.

The committee is responsible for reviewing applications and recommending finalists for the position. Finalists will be publicly announced and will participate in campus meetings and public forums. Following those sessions, **TBR Chancellor Flora W. Tydings** will conduct final interviews and make a recommendation to the Board of Regents, which has final authority to appoint presidents within the system.

The search is being assisted by **Academic Search Inc.**, an executive search and consulting firm. Additional information about the position, search criteria, and application process is available through the Tennessee Board of Regents website.

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Report

January 12, 2026

James Sperling, 42 of Etowah, charged with child support, Bond \$5,000.

Michael Massingill, 33 of Athens, charged with aggravated burglary and domestic assault.

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

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. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

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Obituaries

Kenneth "Fuzz" Jackson, 81 of Etowah, died Monday morning in a local hospital. Arrangements and Survivors will be announced at a later date. M.D. Dotson & Sons is in charge of arrangements.

Julia Deanne Edwards (Landers), 61 of Knoxville, passed away on Friday, January 9. Julia grew up in Etowah, TN, graduating from McMinn Central High School in 1982. She was a long-time employee at Cracker Barrel and a member of Calvary Chapel Knoxville. Receiving of friends will be held at Mynatt Funeral Home, Fountain City Chapel, on Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 4pm-6pm with a Memorial Service to follow. Burial will be on September 22, 2026 at Kirk Memorial Cemetery in Linden, TN. Mynatt Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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