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Tuesday, January 20, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

RAM Mini Clinic Scheduled for Feb. 21



The Good Faith Clinic, in partnership with the Lions Club of Athens, is preparing for its annual Remote Area Medical (RAM) medical, vision, and dental mini clinic on Saturday, February 21. The clinic is supported by an Athens Federal Foundation grant and is **by appointment only**.

Appointments are open to the public and are not limited to Good Faith Clinic patients or uninsured individuals. Services will include medical care (including women's health), vision services, and limited dental care (extractions only).

In-person sign-ups will be held from **3:00 to 4:15 p.m.** on **Thursday, January 22, and Thursday, January 29** at the GFC clinics, 18 S. Congress Parkway. Phone registration will be available from **4:30 p.m. until closing** on those same dates by calling **423-745-4541**. Individuals may also sign up family members by providing a reliable phone number.

Dental appointments are very limited, and those needing extractions are encouraged to arrive at **3:00 p.m.** for in-person sign-up, as dental slots are expected to fill quickly.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in called session on Tuesday, February 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence. The purpose of this meeting is for the selection of Melasawn Knight as Director of Schools.
- The Tennessee Highway Patrol will conduct a sobriety checkpoint in McMinn County on Sunday, March 29, beginning at 8:30 p.m. The checkpoint is scheduled for State Route 305 at County Road 250. The checkpoint is contingent upon available manpower and weather conditions.
- The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a ribbon cutting for Nick Maritato with Globe Life Insurance today at 1:30. It will be held at the Chamber Office downtown.

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Athens, Tennessee

Resident Injured in Englewood House Fire Friday Night



One person was injured Friday night in a structure fire on West Athens Street in Englewood.

Fire crews were dispatched to the scene shortly before 9:30 p.m., where smoke and flames were visible coming from the rear of the residence upon arrival. Firefighters rescued one resident from inside the home. The individual was transported by AMR ambulance to Erlanger Hospital and later transferred to a burn center in Georgia for further treatment.

The residence sustained heavy smoke, fire, and water damage.

Responding agencies included Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Athens City Fire, Athens Rural Fire, Madisonville City Fire, the Englewood Police Department, and the Athens Utility Board. Additional standby coverage was provided by Gudger Fire, Notchey Creek Fire, and Etowah City Fire.

Englewood Rural Fire Chief Billy Roach served as incident commander, with Englewood Rural Fire Lt. Caleb Martin overseeing firefighter ground operations.

Photos courtesy of Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

January 18, 2026

Brianna Jackson, 28 of Etowah, charged with drug paraphernalia, schedule 6 cannabis, schedule 3 suboxone, conspiracy to commit, and shoplifting, Bond \$18,000.

Willie Matlock, 65 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for driving on a revoked license, second offense.

Latoya Goodner, 44 of Athens, charged with assault, Bond \$1,000.

Tracy Barker, 59 of Birchwood, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, Bond \$1,800.

Marvin Collins, 56 of Riceville, charged with drug paraphernalia, simple possession, casual exchange of fentanyl, Bond \$7,000.

Jesse Gatsby, 41 of Maryville, charged with violation of probation for driving on a revoked license, Bond \$2,000.

Videla Goodner, 32 of Cleveland, charged with assault, Bond \$2,000

Tara Young, 52 of Knoxville, charged with failure to appear for violation of probation in Anderson County.

Dustin Green, 39 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for schedule II fentanyl for resale, and criminal trespassing, Bond \$1,500.

Jessica Green, 39 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for fentanyl for resale and criminal trespassing, Bond \$1,500.

Jose Jerez, 19 of Riceville, charged with DUI.

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

Annie



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Athens, Tennessee

Gas Prices Tick Up Slightly Across Tennessee



Gas prices across Tennessee rose modestly last week, increasing by an average of five cents to \$2.49 per gallon. Despite the uptick, prices remain about a penny lower than a month ago and

31 cents cheaper than this time last year, according to AAA.

Nationally, the average price for a gallon of regular gas rose a few cents to \$2.82, still well below last year's \$3.12 average. AAA notes that January prices are typically lower due to reduced demand and cheaper winter-blend gasoline, though global factors such as tensions involving Iran continue to be monitored.

In Tennessee, the most expensive metro areas last week were Nashville at \$2.59, Cleveland at \$2.54, and Jackson at \$2.54. The least expensive markets included Kingsport and Morristown at \$2.42, and Knoxville at \$2.43. The average gas price in McMinn County was \$2.46 per gallon.

Source: AAA

SPORTS NEWS: Indiana University defeated the University of Miami Hurricanes last night 27 to 21 to claim the College Football Championship; the first modern era team to win the championship with a 16-0 record. The last time it happened was in 1894 with Yale.

Obituaries

Sarah Ruth Watkins, 91 of McMinn County, passed away on Saturday, January 17. Sarah lived a quiet life rooted in faith, family and love. She was a longtime member of Pond Hill Baptist Church. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, January 21 at Ziegler Funeral Home in Athens. Interment will follow funeral services at Pond Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation prior to the service. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Sarah Ruth Watkins.

Howard Dewight "Moose" Crabtree, 80 of Niota, passed away on Friday, January 16 and was a member of Pisgah Baptist Church. He was a member of Thomas A. Hamilton Lodge #317 F. & A.M. in Riceville for over 39 years. A Masonic Funeral Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services, with a funeral service to follow. Interment will follow in the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12 noon - 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Crabtree family.

Beverly Kay Patton Lones, 69, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 16. Her church membership is with Goodsprings Baptist Church near Etowah. A memorial service for Beverly is scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Prior to the service, the family will receive friends from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of arrangements.

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