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Monday, February 23, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Remote Area Medical to Offer Free Telehealth Clinics in Athens

Remote Area Medical will host two free acute medical clinics in Athens later this month as part of its recurring telehealth outreach program.

RAM will be at the Better Living Center, 407 New Englewood Road, on Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and at Table Graces at Market Park Pavilion on Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Services are provided on a first-come, first-served basis with no appointments required.

Free acute medical services include medication refills, second opinions on diagnoses, blood sugar and diabetes education, and evaluation and prescriptions for common ailments such as colds, flu, sinus infections and urinary tract infections. While medical visits are free, patients are responsible for the cost of any prescriptions issued.

The events are part of RAM's ongoing presence in the community, with clinics currently held at the Better Living Center once per month and at Table Graces twice per month.

RAM uses a hybrid telehealth model that operates out of mobile units equipped with exam rooms, medical supplies and Starlink internet connectivity. Patients meet inside the unit, where a volunteer nurse handles intake and vital signs before connecting them virtually with a volunteer physician for consultation.

Organizers say the program is designed to expand access to care and provide convenient, no-cost medical services to area residents.



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- Monday: Closed
- Tue: Madisonville Wil Sav 10:30 - 2
- Wed: Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2
- Thu: Athens Family Dollar 10:30 - 2
- Fri: Sweetwater Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30





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Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Election Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 5 p.m. in the conference room of the McMinn County Courthouse.
- The McMinn County Commission will meet in Regular Session on Friday, February 27, at 11:00 am at the McMinn Higher Education Center on Denso Drive in Athens. The board will hold their Annual Strategic Planning Session on the same day at 12:30 pm at the same location.
- The Athens Utilities Board will be meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, February 24 at 5:00 p.m. Among the topics on the agenda, they will be discussing the Replacement of Truck #34 in the Gas Division.
- The Athens Board of Zoning Appeals will meet in the City Council Chambers of Athens City Hall on Wednesday, February 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Etowah Chamber Now Accepting Nominations for Annual Awards

The Etowah Area Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for its annual community awards, recognizing individuals who have made lasting contributions during 2025.

Nominations are open for the R. Frank McKinney Volunteer of the Year Award, the Joe Quirk Educator of the Year Award and the Business Person of the Year Award. The honors celebrate outstanding service, leadership and dedication to the Etowah community.

Nominations must be submitted by Sunday, March 8, 2026, by emailing director@etowahcoc.org.

Winners will be recognized at Etowah's 62nd Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Whispering Winds Event Venue, beginning at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact the chamber at 423-920-5659.

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Monday, Feb. 23, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Domtar Installing High-Speed Converting Line at Calhoun Mill



Domtar has begun installing a new high-speed tissue converting line at its Calhoun facility, a move company officials say will increase production capacity, improve efficiency and position the operation for long-term growth.

The investment at the Calhoun mill is designed to better align tissue production with converting capabilities, strengthening overall performance as the company serves the U.S. tissue market. In addition to the new converting equipment, the site is expanding its warehouse space for parent tissue rolls to support the upgraded operation.

Company leaders say the added warehouse capacity will improve inventory management and provide greater flexibility while ensuring the infrastructure can support future production and business needs.

“This investment underscores the company’s continued commitment to operational excellence and future growth in the U.S. tissue market,” said Tony Sanders, vice president of sales and marketing.

According to Domtar, the upgraded converting technology is expected to enhance product quality in response to growing market demand, while the warehouse expansion will help ensure sufficient space and logistics capacity as operations scale at the Calhoun site. *Source: PapNews.com*

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Monday, Feb. 23, 2026

Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

Two Separate Vehicle Fires Reported Friday Night in Niota Area



Emergency crews responded to two separate vehicle fires late Friday night in the Niota area, with no injuries reported in either incident.

The first call came around 10 p.m. on Highway 68 when the driver of a 2011 Dodge Ram (*top*) reported flames coming from the vehicle's radio area. Firefighters from Niota, North McMinn and Clearwater responded to the scene. Chase Layman served as incident commander. Sgt. Amber Cook with the McMinn County Sheriff's Department led the investigation into the cause of the fire.



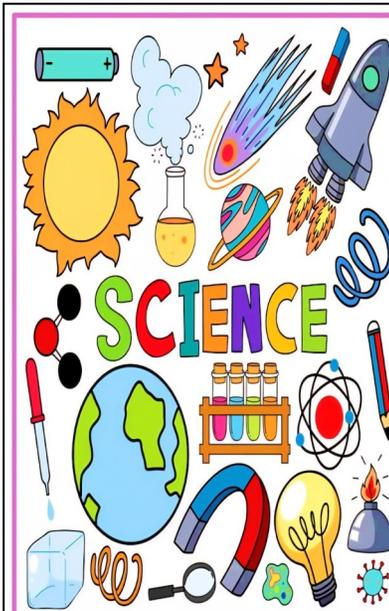
Just after midnight, crews were dispatched again after a 2023 Ford F-450 (*bottom*) traveling southbound on Interstate 75 near mile marker 57 reported smoke coming from under the hood. The truck was pulling a flatbed trailer and had two occupants inside. No injuries were reported.

Responding agencies included Niota and North McMinn fire departments along with the McMinn County Sheriff's Department. Stephen Capua was in command of the scene. Jaylon Skipper investigated the interstate incident.

Photos provided by David Prater, Niota Rural FD

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HEALTHY HABITS STEAM NIGHT

Join us for a Healthy Habits Family Steam Night with the MUSE from Knoxville, ACS STEAM Department, and TWU Education Department!

When: Thursday, February 26, 2026
Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Where: Athens City Primary School
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Monday, Feb. 23, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

February 19, 2026

Jesse Appleby, 44 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property \$2,500 to \$10,000, and felony vandalism.

Raymond Harrison, 35, of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation for possession of schedule II cocaine for resale.

Noah Johnson, 27 of Englewood, charged with bringing contraband into a penal facility. schedule 2 for resale, aggravated assault, armed and dangerous felonies, unlawful carry or possession of a weapon, casual exchange, possession of meth, simple possession schedule II fentanyl, simple possession schedule IV xanax, Bond \$78,000.

Dustin Raper, 35 of Etowah, charged with violation of an interlock device, Bond \$500.

Janet Clowers, 63 of Athens, charged with resisting stop, criminal trespassing, and disorderly conduct, Bond \$2,000.

Tasha Wilson, 45 of Athens, charged with schedule 2 meth and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$7,000.

February 20, 2026

Michaela Smith, 36 of Englewood, charged with theft of property and motor vehicle over \$1,000, and Violation of probation for marijuana, Bond \$6,421.90.

Joshua Dixon, 34 of Niota, charged with public intoxication, and assault, Bond \$2,500.

Angie Shahan, 48 of Decatur, charged with violation of probation for Schedule 4, Bond \$1,617.

Ralph Elliott, 45 of Decatur, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$1,000.

Dylan Grooms, 27 of Athens, charged with casual exchange and possession of meth, more than 300 grams, manufacture, sell, delivery, and possession of fentanyl, unlawful carry or possession of a weapon by a felon, theft of property \$2,500 to \$10,000, Schedule II meth for resale of more than 26 grams possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, A felon in possession of ammunition, possession of a firearm with the intent to go armed, drug paraphernalia, theft of a firearm over \$2,500, and theft of property under \$1,000, Bond \$850,000.

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

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Monday, Feb. 23, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Bonnis Murphy, 89, of Etowah, passed away on Thursday, February 19. A graveside service took place on Sunday, February 22. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah was in charge of arrangements.

Elizabeth "Liz" Carroll, 88, of Delano, passed away on Friday, February 20. Liz was a devoted member of Hiwassee Union Baptist Church. Funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 24, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Tuesday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service at Green Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Donnie Edward Tuttle, 67, of Sweetwater, passed away on Thursday, February 19. He was of the Baptist faith. The family will receive guests at the Chapel of Companion Funeral Home in Athens, TN on Monday, February 23 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the Celebration of Life Service starting at 7:00 p.m. A graveside service will take place on Tuesday, February 24 at 11:00 a.m. at Christianburg Baptist Church Cemetery in Sweetwater. Companion Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Maudie L. Thompson, 91 of Etowah passed peacefully on Monday, February 16. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, February 28 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Englewood Christian Church located at 308 Englewood Ave., Englewood. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Troy Franklin Giles, 85, of Athens, passed away on Thursday, February 19. He graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan College, where he played basketball and baseball, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1987. He was a devoted member of Trinity United Methodist Church. After retiring from Bowater following 32 years of dedicated service, he continued to invest in his community through his work at the YMCA earning the Joseph T. Frye award, and by serving 34 years on the Board of Directors of Bowater Credit Union. Receiving of friends will be held on Wednesday, February 25 from 4:00-6:30 pm at Smith Funeral Home followed by a memorial service at 7:00 pm in the chapel. A graveside service will be conducted at 11:00 am, Thursday, February 26 at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Troy Franklin Giles.

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