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Cleveland State EMS Students Earn 100% Pass Rate on Skills Exams

Cleveland State
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cleveland State Community College announces the achievement of a 100% pass rate on the skills portion of the national registry exams by students in the Emergency Medical Technician Basic (EMT-B) and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) classes.

All 30 EMT-B students passed the Tennessee Department of Health Practical. These students must also complete the comprehensive exam in order to receive their Tennessee EMT license and then begin careers in the emergency medical services (EMS) field.

In addition, all 15 AEMT students passed the State Practical Exam. The majority of these students are working as EMTs with Bradley County EMS, Hamilton County EMS, or Rhea County EMS while taking the course. These students now have the opportunity to continue their education at Cleveland State and apply for the paramedic program starting in the Fall of 2026.

DeVette Carter, EMS Program Director, said, "The students have to be willing to do their part to meet this goal. We have been blessed to have those who are willing and ready to give it 100%. We are proud of our students."

The EMS program is offered at the main campus in Cleveland and the McMinn Higher Education Center in Athens.

Sandra Godsey, Interim Dean of Healthcare, said, "Our EMS students have demonstrated exceptional competence and readiness through their success on the state practical exam. This achievement speaks to the quality of instruction, rigorous training, and unwavering support that prepares them for lifesaving careers."

Graduates in the EMS field can find employment with fire departments, police departments, hospitals or ambulance services. The 16-hour program at Cleveland State is offered in the fall and spring semesters. For more information, email ems@clevelandstatecc.edu or call (423) 473-2337.

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Athens, Tennessee

ACT to Present Tony Award-Winning *Annie* in 2026 Mainstage Season

Athens Community Theatre will bring the Tony Award-winning musical *Annie* to the stage as part of its 2025–2026 Mainstage season, with performances scheduled from February 19 through March 1, 2026. The production is directed by Melonie Carideo with music direction by Ellen Kimball.

Based on the classic comic strip by Harold Gray, *Annie* is a seven-time Tony Award winner and features a book and score by Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse, and Martin Charnin, including the well-known song “Tomorrow.” The musical has become one of the most beloved productions in musical theater history.

Performances will be held Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7 p.m. on February 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28, with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on February 22 and March 1. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. A special performance on Friday, February 20, will include a “Where Are They?” reunion mixer with cast members from ACT’s 2011 production of *Annie*, featuring catered hors d’oeuvres. Tickets for that evening are \$25.

All performances will take place at ACT’s Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center, located at 320 North White Street in historic downtown Athens. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets early, as performances often sell out.

Main Street Athens Sets Regular Partner Meetings



Main Street Athens has announced a regular schedule for Main Street Partners meetings, which will typically be held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:00–7:00 p.m.

The meetings are intended to serve as an open, informal forum for downtown building and business owners to ask questions about Main Street programs, share concerns, and offer ideas on how Main Street Athens can better support the downtown community.

Discussions will also focus on opportunities, challenges, and future plans for downtown Athens. Additional information about the Downtown Improvement Grant will be presented at the January 22 meeting.



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THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Jan. 09, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- [Zion Orthodox Presbyterian Church](#), located at 1326 Cedar Springs Road in Athens, invites the community to a special service of thanksgiving on Sunday, January 11, at 5:00 p.m. The service will celebrate and praise the Lord for the provision of the church's new building. Refreshments will be served following the worship service.
- Southern Gospel Music Promotions will host [An Evening of Gospel Music](#), a benefit concert for Mary Ann Casey and her family, on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 2 to 6 p.m. The event will be held at the Athens City Middle School Auditorium, located at 200 Keith Lane in Athens. Featured groups include Psalms 51, Clear Vision (Grand Stage NQC), and Saved by Grace. Admission is \$5. If the event must be postponed, it will be rescheduled for February 21. For more information, contact Randy Key at 423-920-6044, Mark Greeno at 304-445-5396, or Sue Granger at 423-507-4631.
- The gospel singing group [The Lawsons](#) will be featured in concert on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Solid Rock Baptist Church, located at 4975 Highway 11 South in Calhoun. The event is open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend.
- [Celebrate Recovery](#) meets every [Tuesday](#) at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every [Thursday](#) at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

January 07, 2026

Laura Withington, 41 of Knoxville, charged with driving on a revoked license, violation of registration laws, drug paraphernalia, Schedule 6 and Schedule 2 for resale, violation of probation for possession of meth and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$8,000.

Ravonda Womack, 53 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of drug paraphernalia, Bond \$2,221.90.

Isaiah Wilkins, 24 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, false imprisonment, criminal trespassing, and harassment with oral threats, Bond \$15,000.

Robert Rummel, 48 of Knoxville, charged with parole violations in Knox County.

Daniel Hiltz, 37 of Knoxville, charged with drug paraphernalia and failure to yield right of way, Bond \$3,000.

David Burke, 34 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for DUI, and possession of meth for resale parole violation.

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

Information gathered using Public Sources.

Obituaries

Gerald F. Linton, 80 of Athens, passed away Tuesday, January 6 at his home. He was a member of Mars Hill Presbyterian Church. In his free time, Gerald loved the outdoors—fishing, camping, and hiking—and took great satisfaction in remodeling and improving his home. Funeral services will be Sunday, January 11, at 4 p.m. at Mars Hill Presbyterian Church in Athens, with a reception to follow in the fellowship hall. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens. is pleased to be serving the family of Gerald Linton.

Myrtle Irene Watson Culvahouse, 96 of Decatur, passed away on Thursday, January 8. She worked as a beautician up until her retirement. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Decatur. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13 in the Decatur Cemetery. No formal visitation will be held, per Irene's request. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Culvahouse family.

John Henry Goines, 90 of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, January 7 at NHC Healthcare of Athens. He was a hardworking man who found great joy in the outdoors. An avid gardener and outdoorsman, John was especially known for his love of growing watermelons—a pastime that brought him pride and happiness throughout his life. At this time, there are no traditional services planned. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the Goines' family during this difficult time.

Bobby Lee Shelton, 80, of Athens, passed away on January 2. There will be no formal services at this time. Companion Funeral Home is honored to serve the family during this time.

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OPEN INTERVIEWS

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Saturday, January 17, 2026
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