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Thursday, January 29, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Knox County Man Charged With First-Degree Murder In Ten Mile



An investigation conducted by special agents with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the Roane County Sheriff's Office, has led to a first-degree murder charge against a Knox County man.

According to the TBI, agents began investigating on Jan. 27 at the request of 9th Judicial District Attorney General Russell Johnson after statements were made by Zachary Lowe, 27, concerning a murder. During the investigation, authorities located a body inside an abandoned structure near the 4600 block of Decatur Highway in Ten Mile.

The identity of the victim has not been released as officials work to notify next of kin.

As a result of the investigation, agents obtained a warrant charging Lowe with one count of first-degree murder. He was taken into custody and booked into the Roane County Jail, where he is being held without bond.

The charge is an allegation, and Lowe is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

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Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Vendor Registration Opens for National MooFest 2026



Vendor registration is now open for the 2026 National MooFest, set for Saturday, June 6, in Historic Downtown Athens. Organizers with Friendly City Festivals are inviting vendors to apply to showcase their products and services during one of the community's largest and most popular events.

National MooFest is part of the Friendly City Festivals 2026 season, which also includes the Sounds of Summer concert series and Pumpkintown later in the year. The annual MooFest draws thousands of visitors to downtown Athens for a day of food, shopping, and family-friendly entertainment.

Vendors interested in participating are encouraged to complete the festival application and submit it to info@friendlycityfestivals.com. Additional information about the festival season and vendor opportunities is available at friendlycityfestivals.com and on social media by following @FriendlyCityFestivals on Facebook and Instagram.

LOCAL WEATHER: Cool with Slight Chance of Wintry Mix Friday

Weather in McMinn County will remain cold this week as chilly air persists across the region. Forecasts from the National Weather Service in Morristown show temperatures staying brisk, with highs generally in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

Thursday is expected to be cold with periods of clouds and sunshine. Friday will remain mostly cloudy with a **slight chance of snow or a wintry mix**, especially later in the day into the evening, before temperatures dip further overnight. This aligns with NWS pointers to occasional winter precipitation chances as colder air persists across East Tennessee.

Residents are reminded to stay weather aware, as even light snow or icy conditions can make roads slippery during cold spells.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE: The McMinn County Historical Society monthly meeting will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Blueroom of the courthouse. Everyone is invited to attend. Guest speaker will be Linda Espinoza Edmonds.

Tennessee Wesleyan University invites qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

Obituaries

January 27, 2026

Laura Bowers, 42 of Athens, charged with felony aggravated assault, Bond \$45,000.

Allen Robinson, 46 of Madisonville, charged with violation of probation in Monroe County.

Kyle Harmon, 29 of Loudon, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, Bond \$2,100.

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

Doris Elaine Stewart, 80 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, January 27. Elaine faithfully volunteered with the McMinn County Election Commission for more than 50 years. She was a devoted member of New Zion Baptist Church of Athens. Visitation will be held at New Zion Baptist Church in Athens on Thursday, January 29 from 2:00pm-3:00pm. A Graveside Service will be held directly after at New Zion Baptist Church Cemetery. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Kelley Colvin, 56 of Maryville, passed away on Tuesday, January 27. A graveside service will be held 11:00 am, Saturday, January 31, 2026 in McMinn Memory Gardens in Athens. A celebration of Kelley's life will be held in Maryville, TN at a later date. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.



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