

**FARRELL'S CUSTOM CABINETS & TOPS**

Custom Cabinet & Countertop Solutions for Every Space

931 County Road 172, Athens

(423) 462-4238

farrellscabinets.com

**The Morning Fax**

Today's News. This Morning.

Okay to distribute (with attribution)

Click here to send your stories to [wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)

CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN

**TERESA CONGIOLOSO**

FOR

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 1

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

AUGUST 6, 2026



PHOTO BY THE COURTESY OF MICHELLE BAKER-LINDAL, THEBIZBOSS

Monday, April 06, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

**FBI: Athens Woman Accused of Laundering Millions in Romance Scam Case**

Federal investigators say an Athens woman allegedly laundered more than \$2.3 million as part of an online romance scam that also defrauded a Minnesota nonprofit of approximately \$2.6 million.

According to the FBI, Linda Winder was used as a “money mule” by an individual she knew as “Joe Milano,” transferring large sums of money through bank accounts and cryptocurrency transactions between 2021 and 2023. Authorities say much of the stolen money originated from a business email compromise scheme targeting a nonprofit that provides transportation and home-based services to individuals with disabilities.

Investigators allege Winder moved funds through multiple financial institutions, including Wells Fargo and ORNL Federal Credit Union accounts, before converting large portions into cryptocurrency through a Coinbase account and bitcoin kiosks. Officials say she also withdrew significant amounts of cash and conducted numerous transactions under false descriptions to conceal the source of the funds.

The activity was uncovered after a family member found receipts tied to Bitcoin deposits totaling more than \$160,000 and alerted authorities. The FBI says Winder had also taken out personal loans and sent tens of thousands of dollars of her own money to the individual as part of the scheme.

Federal agents have since frozen and seized hundreds of thousands of dollars in cryptocurrency, with legal action ongoing to recover additional funds tied to the alleged fraud. *Source: [The Chattanooga](#)*




**2 DUDES BBQ & CATERING**  
423-829-4126

- Monday - @ Decatur Meigs HS (in front of the Baker Dome) 5-8
- 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
- Sat - @ Holt Farm Barn Sale @ The Grain Bin, 5209 Holt Rd Sweetwater 10 - 2:30ish

BEST OF BEST



Let Traci help with your 401K rollover.



Traci White  
Athens Branch Manager  
1314 Decatur Pike  
Athens, TN 37303  
423-634-8310

**tvfcu**

Federally insured by NCUA

VINYL SIDING DOORS WINDOWS ROOFING



**All Things Exterior**

**BUFFY** 423-435-8714 **MICAH** 423-506-1249

723 Congress Parkway S. Next to B J's Snack Bar.

WE HAVE 19 COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM. MOST ORDERS READY WITHIN 24 HRS. WE OFFER PICK UP AND DELIVERY.

Your One Stop Shop For All Your Metal Roofing Needs!

Come See Us and Check Our Prices Before Buying!

We Want To Earn Your Business!



**MCMINN TANK & PIPE**



We offer same day & next day delivery!

- 1,000 gal Tank & Lowboys
- 1,000 & 1,500 gal Pump Tanks
- 2' & 3' Chamber Pipe
- 3" Schedule 40 Pipe
- Risers in Lids for Easy Pumping

423-507-9487  
423-744-0121

If it's not listed, call us!

**OSMENT FLOORING AND CABINETS**

(423) 252-0316

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Stretch Your Tax Refund TODAY!

LVP starting at \$1.29/sq.ft.  
Carpet starting at .69/sq.ft.

High Quality Flooring & Cabinets WITHOUT THE RIDICULOUS MARKUP

Ask about our "Match & Beat ANY Price" Policy

2412 Congress Pkwy South, Athens



100 Decatur Pike, Athens  
(423) 745-4704

**WANT TO ORDER CABINETS BUT YOUR SPACE  
ISN'T QUITE READY?**

**WE CAN GO AHEAD AND ORDER AND STORE THEM  
FOR 30 DAYS UNTIL YOUR PROJECT IS READY!**

**WE'LL BRING THEM TO YOU AND DELIVERY IS ALWAYS  
INCLUDED IN QUOTES!**

Monday, April 06, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

## Decatur Man Arrested in Meigs County Shooting Death

An investigation by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Meigs County Sheriff's Office has led to the arrest of a Decatur man in connection with a fatal shooting over the weekend.

Authorities say the incident occurred Saturday evening at a residence in the 400 block of Shiloh Road. Deputies responding to the scene and found Jeffery Kendall Barton, 57, suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. He was transported to a hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

At the request of 9th Judicial District Attorney General Russell Johnson, TBI agents joined the investigation. Officials identified Tyler Steven Meadows, 31, as the suspect in the case.

Meadows was arrested and charged with second-degree murder and booked into the Meigs County Jail.

Authorities emphasized that the charge is an accusation, and Meadows is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. *Source: [TBINewsroom.com](http://TBINewsroom.com)*

## Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces that paving and milling work on Dennis Street—from Decatur Pike to Congress Parkway—will begin Monday, April 6, and continue for about one week, weather permitting. Work will take place daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Dennis Street closed to thru traffic in three phases affecting access near Walmart, Layman Road, and Congress Parkway. Some business entrances will be temporarily impacted, but alternate access will be available. For more information, call 423-744-2745.
- The Athens Municipal-Regional Planning Commission will meet today, April 6, at 12pm in the conference room (assuming a quorum). Agenda items include approval of previous meeting minutes and continued discussion on a proposed historic preservation overlay in the downtown business district. New business includes review of a preliminary subdivision plat on East Madison Avenue and a proposed zoning amendment addressing parking requirements for drive-through oil change facilities.

## WATCH SAVINGS BLOOM

NEW AUTO  
RATES AS LOW AS **3.99% APR\***

USED AUTO  
RATES AS LOW AS **4.99% APR\***

 **Bowater**  
Credit Union  
Better Begins Here

\*Terms and conditions may apply. Rates shown are the lowest available and may vary based on creditworthiness, debt ratio, and collateral. Rates subject to change. Membership required.



**VOTE  
JOE  
GUY  
SHERIFF  
MAY 5**

Paid for by the committee to Elect Joe Guy  
Dana Jaquish, Treasurer

**DS**  
DYNASTY SPAS  
7revi

103 DYNASTY WAY  
**ATHENS**  
423-745-1425

**POOL**  
Pre-Season  
Pool Chemicals  
in-house only  
*Sale*

UP TO  
**50%** off

BROWSE OUR MODELS & ORDER YOUR SPA CHEMICALS ONLINE  
[WWW.DYNASTYSPASSTORE.COM](http://WWW.DYNASTYSPASSTORE.COM)

**GoComics**

**WYXI RADIO**  
The South Mountain Community  
FM 94.5  
AM 1390

**f**

LIKE & FOLLOW  
US ON FACEBOOK

CLICK HERE OR VISIT  
[FACEBOOK.COM/WYXIAM1390](http://FACEBOOK.COM/WYXIAM1390)

Monday, April 06, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

# McMinn County Arrest Reports

## April 02, 2026

**Reginald Fletcher**, 45 of Schriever, LA, charged with simple possession casual exchange of schedule six, Bond \$6000.

**Edward Fletcher**, 43 of Thibodaux, LA, charged with driving on a suspended license, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 6, Bond \$9,000.

**Roy Hope**, 26, charged with failure to appear in Pickett County.

**Randall Collins**, 33 of Athens, charged with evading arrest, reckless driving, and reckless endangerment.

**James Hester**, 82 of Athens, charged with DUI and violation of the open container law, Bond \$2,000.

## April 03, 2026

**Cody Richeson**, 35 of Chattanooga, charged with theft of property, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$24,000.

**Deontay Watson**, 24 of McMinn County, charged with state violation of probation.

**Mandy Kane**, 46, of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation, Bond \$1,000.

**William Luke**, 50 of Old Fort, TN charged with evading arrest, reckless endangerment with a deadly weapon, casual exchange possession of meth, drug paraphernalia, simple possession casual exchange of marijuana, Bond \$28,000.

**Steve Borden**, 51 of Athens, charged with schedule 6, and disorderly conduct, Bond \$1,500.

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

**WHEN MARGINS ARE LEAN,  
YOU NEED A LENDER  
THAT GETS FARMING.**

GET AN OPERATING LOAN  
CALL THE ATHENS OFFICE AT  
**423-745-1683**

**farm CREDIT**  
MID-AMERICA

**RE-ELECT  
DAN  
EVANS**  
HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

**PROVEN LEADERSHIP  
TRUSTED RESULTS**

Advertisement Paid For By Candidate



**Leadership. Integrity. Service**



EARLY VOTING APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>  
ELECTION DAY MAY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026



*Vote*  
**DOUG  
BAILEY**  
PAID FOR BY THE CANDIDATE

**MCMINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**

Monday, April 06, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

# McMinn County Arrest Reports

## April 05, 2026

**Cody Williams**, 35 of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$2,000.

**Ashlyn Ponthier**, 29 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia, and failure to appear, Bond \$929.

**Thomas Carruthers**, 29 of Spring City, charged with violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia, Bond \$2,219.45.

**Ethan Rutland**, 36 of Athens, charged with public intoxication, Bond \$500.

**Dylan Johnson**, 21 of Etowah, charged with violation of probation and simple possession casual exchange of schedule 6, Bond \$2,688.90.

**Zachary Lane**, 22 of Athens, charged with domestic assault. Bond \$1,000.

**Stephanie Evans**, 41 of Knoxville, charged with violation of probation for shoplifting, Bond \$781.45.

**Jeremy Bennett**, 33 of Loudon, charged with state violation of probation.

**Cheryl Rummel**, 48 and Niota, charged with state violation of probation for possession of meth.

**Andres Lopez**, 34 of Athens, charged with DUI, and driving without a license, Bond \$1,500.

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

**Information gathered using public sources.**

## ETOWAH HOUSING AUTHORITY MAINTENANCE POSITION AVAILABLE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT INDIVIDUAL TO FILL OUR MAINTENANCE POSITION. THE RIGHT CANDIDATE WILL HAVE THE PROPER ATTITUDE NEEDED TO WORK IN A CUSTOMER SERVICE-RELATED FIELD. ADDITIONAL SKILLS THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL INCLUDE GENERAL CLEANING, PAINTING, PLUMBING, HEAT AND AIR, REFRIGERATION SKILLS.



STARTING PAY: \$35,000/YEAR  
BENEFITS: 401K PLAN  
SICK AND VACATION TIME  
HEALTH/DENTAL INSURANCE  
HOURS: MON-FRI 8AM TO 4PM  
SOME OVERTIME AVAILABLE

IF INTERESTED, STOP BY OUR OFFICE TO PICK UP AN APPLICATION.

OFFICE LOCATED AT:  
400 SUNSET DRIVE, ETOWAH



**SPRING MARKET AT  
THE NOTCH**

APRIL 11TH, 2026  
10AM-3PM

**SHOP WITH LOCAL  
ARTISANS  
10AM-3PM**

**ANTOJOS  
DELICIOSO FOOD  
TRUCK 10AM-3PM  
OR SOLD OUT**

For more info about Happenings at The Notch, text "LIVE" to 423.417.9463

Tsali Notch Vineyard  
162 Harrison Rd.  
Madisonville, TN  
423-506-9895  
info@tsalinotch.com  
tsalinotch.com | @tsalinotch





## Compassionate Service in Your Time of Need

**I**n times of grief, making difficult decisions about how best to honor the memory of someone so important can be overwhelming. We are here to help with complete, professional and compassionate funeral planning services to meet your needs and respectfully celebrate the life and legacy of your loved one.

# Ziegler Funeral Home

521 W. Madison Avenue • Athens, TN

423-745-3123

[www.zieglerfuneralhome.com](http://www.zieglerfuneralhome.com)

Monday, April 06, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Karen Ann (Nelson) Brown**, 89, passed away on Tuesday, March 31. She worked at the Social Security SSI department for 30 years. A private family memorial will be held at a later date. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**Nancy Jane Rashotte**, 87, of Decatur, passed away on Monday, March 2. As a gifted poet and published author, Nancy was most proud of being one of Jehovah's witnesses since 1972. A Memorial Service will be held in her remembrance on Saturday, April 25 at 3:00 pm at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Cleveland. Companion Funeral Home & Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

**Kayla Renee Johnson** passed away on Wednesday, March 29. She was a powerhouse on both the softball field and the basketball court. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 25 at 1:00 PM at Crossroads Baptist Church in Sweetwater. Companion Funeral Home & Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

**Gary Dwight Vincent**, 76 of Athens, passed away on Thursday, April 2. He once owned and operated a deli, where he shared his love of cooking, and later owned a real estate business for many years. Gary was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church. In accordance with Gary's wishes, a private family memorial will be held at a later date. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is honored to assist the family during this time.

**Jimmy Donald Weir**, 82 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, April 1. He was a farmer and a member of Mt. Verd Baptist Church. Funeral services were held over the weekend with interment at Valley Road Baptist Church Cemetery. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens, Tenn. in charge of arrangements.

**Harold "Jeff" Jeffrey Dixon**, 59, of Calhoun passed away on Wednesday, April 1. He was an avid outdoorsman and skilled trapper, founding his own business, Allied Wildlife Management, where he was a licensed professional. A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, April 7 at 2:00pm at Calhoun Community Cemetery with Pastor Mike Allen officiating the service. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist the family during this time.

**Lonnie Gene Houghton**, 80 of Englewood, passed away on Wednesday, April 1. After leaving the U.S. Navy, he obtained his HVAC certification, graduated from West Virginia Tech and later gained his electrician's license. There will be a Celebration of Life Service in the Chapel of Companion Funeral Home in Athens on Monday, April 6 at 4 PM. The family will receive guests for visitation from 3-4 PM. Burial will follow at Hiwassee Memorial Gardens in Charleston. The U.S. Navy will provide military honors. Companion Funeral Home are honored to assist the family during this time.

**Mark Edward Levesque**, 63, passed away on Saturday, March 14. The family will have a private memorial at a later date. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

**Mary Helen Axley McMillan**, 82 of Athens, passed away on Friday, April 3. She retired from Goins Creations and was a member of Highway To Heaven Church. Funeral services will be 12:30 P.M. Thursday April 9 in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will follow in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 11:30 - 12:30 pm prior to the service at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Knowledge. Experience. Passion to Serve

- ✓ 10 Years - Circuit court clerk's office
- ✓ 4 Years - Paralegal at local law firm
- ✓ Associate degree in business management
- ✓ Associate degree in business technology



To serve the people of McMinn County with

★ **PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY**

## STEPHANIE SWAFFORD

**FOR MCMINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT STEPHANIE SWAFFORD

HARVEST TIME MINISTRIES & WORSHIP

*invites you to*

## SPRING REVIVAL

Come expectant and leave transformed at this life-changing Holy Ghost filled time of worship, hope, and revival.

**APRIL 6TH-10TH**

🕒 7:00PM NIGHTLY

📍 MCMINN COUNTY EXPO CENTER  
2405 Decatur Pike | Athens, TN 37303

FOOD EACH NIGHT! COME HUNGRY FOR THE WORD AND DINNER!

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."  
John 3:17 KJV