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PUDDING



Wednesday, April 08, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

AUB Releases 2025 Water Quality Report



The Athens Utilities Board has released its annual Water Quality Report for 2025, detailing the sources, treatment, and testing of the community's drinking water.

According to the report, AUB's water met or exceeded all state and federal standards during the year. Officials say testing is conducted year-round at water sources, the treatment plant, throughout the distribution system, and at select homes and businesses to ensure safety and reliability.

AUB's water supply comes from Ingleside Spring and wells drawing from an aquifer near Oostanula Creek, with additional treated water provided by the Hiwassee Utilities Commission from the Hiwassee River.

The report is available online, and printed copies can be picked up at AUB's office on New Englewood Road or requested by phone. *Source: Amy McDonald, AUB*

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Historical Society & Archives will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m. in the Blue Room of the courthouse in Athens. Guest speaker, Linda Espinoza Edmonds, will present a program titled "Athens TN – A Destination for Genealogy Research: Using Resources of Family Search and Full Text Search." The presentation will highlight tools and resources available for those interested in tracing family history. The event is open to the public. For more information, visit mcminntnhistorical.org or call 423-744-3911.
- Grace Johnson, with the Better Living Center, will host a hands-on gardening workshop on Sunday, April 12, from 2 to 5 p.m. at 235 Delay St. in Athens. The event will feature interactive learning, opportunities to share gardening experiences, and tips for participants of all skill levels. All are welcome to attend.
- The Athens City Schools Board of Education will hold their monthly board meeting on Monday, April 13th at 5:30pm at the ACS Administration building. The draft agenda can be viewed on their [website](#).

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Wednesday, April 08, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens Police Warn of Ongoing Text Message Scam

The Athens Police Department is warning residents about an ongoing scam involving fraudulent text messages that could lead to significant financial losses.

In a social media post Monday night, officials said the messages may appear official but often contain clear signs of fraud, including incorrect state seals, grammatical errors, and inaccurate addresses. Police urge anyone receiving suspicious texts not to respond or send money, but instead contact local law enforcement to verify legitimacy.

Authorities emphasized that the department will never send text messages from personal or unknown numbers demanding payment. Department-issued phones will display a local (423) area code, and officers only use text communication for limited purposes such as returning calls or providing case updates.

Officials added that officers will never request payment or discuss fines via text message.

Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to contact Detective Blake Witt at 423-744-2730. Police also urge residents to remain vigilant and share the warning to help protect others in the community.

Source: [City of Athens - Facebook](#)

MEDIA RELEASE

FAKE COURT NOTICE / TRAFFIC VIOLATION SCAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April, 6 2026

STATE OF TENNESSEE
IN THE GENERAL SESSION COURT
OF GREENSBORO COUNTY, TENNESSEE
TRAFFIC DIVISION

Judge Michael Rodriguez
CASE NO. 19126 TR 27306

FINAL NOTICE — COURT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The state requires you that if you do not receive an enforcement action, including your registered vehicle within the State of Tennessee, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are not in violation of any traffic laws. Failure to do so may result in a suspension of your license and other penalties.

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED:
You must take one of the following actions within 10 days:
- Pay the amount of the violation.
- Request a hearing in court.
- Request a hearing in court to contest the violation.

FAILURE TO ACT OR APPEAR WILL RESULT IN:
- Suspension of your driver's license.
- Suspension of your vehicle's registration.
- Suspension of your vehicle's title.
- Suspension of your vehicle's insurance.
- Suspension of your vehicle's registration.

COURT HEARING INFORMATION

Residents are being targeted with fraudulent court notices via text messages or phone calls claiming unpaid tolls or traffic violations.

WARNING SIGNS:

- Mentions out-of-state violations (e.g., Missouri) while you live elsewhere)
- Demands immediate payment
- Includes QR codes for payment
- Threatens license suspension or legal action if you don't act fast
- Lists suspicious or mismatched court details

DO NOT:

- Scan the QR code
- Send money or provide personal information
- Click links or call unknown numbers on the notice

REMEMBER: Government Agencies do NOT demand payment via QR codes, gift cards, or threats! If you receive one of these notices, report it immediately. Help protect your community!

Steel Magnolias
by Robert Harling

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Wednesday, April 08, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Sheriff to Present on Cherokee Leader at Gems of the Past Lecture



The Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association will host a special edition of its Gems of the Past lecture series on Thursday, April 16, at the Gem Theater.

McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy will present a [program on Dragging Canoe](#), a Cherokee war leader who resisted colonial settlement in the late 1700s. Dragging Canoe led a breakaway group known as the Chickamauga Cherokee and played a significant role in conflicts along the Tennessee frontier.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the lecture beginning at 7 p.m. Organizers say the program will offer a straightforward look at a key historical figure who helped shape the region.

The Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association serves McMinn, Monroe, and Polk counties by promoting local history, arts, and heritage tourism through community events and preservation efforts. *Source:* [Tennessee Overhill](#)

“Evening with the Stars” to Close Out House Blend Concert Series



The Athens Area Council for the Arts will close its 2025–26 House Blend Concert Series with *Evening with the Stars* on Friday, May 8 at 7 p.m. at The Arts Center.

Directed by Andrew Kimball, the annual showcase highlights regional talent of all kinds, including singing, dancing, acting, and more. Auditions will be held Thursday, April 30 at 6 p.m. at The Arts Center, with participants asked to come prepared to perform. A pianist will be available for accompaniment, and performers should bring sheet music if needed.

The event has a long history of featuring emerging artists, including performers such as EmiSunshine, Kinslee Melhorn, and Raegan Graves. Rehearsals will include support from the AACA house band, September Song.

The performance will take place in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Tickets for House Blend events typically range from \$15 to \$40, with some shows including food options.

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

April 06, 2026

Thomas Fisher, 36 of Sweetwater, charged with violation of probation for shoplifting, Bond \$1,159.44

Mark Avella, 49 of Decatur, charged with casual exchange and possession of meth, driving on a revoked license, and drug paraphernalia.

Shane Martinez, 31 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000

Clarence Macon, 48 of Sweetwater, charged with violation of an order of protection, Bond \$1,000

Katie Buckner, 32 of Niota, charged with child support, Bond \$3,065.12

Michael Casteel, 42 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for evading.

Joshua Harper, 40 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for two counts of burglary.

Christopher Everett, 32, charged with driving without a license and resisting stop.


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

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Ralph Junior Moore, 73 of Ten Mile, passed away on Monday, April 6, Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Thursday, April 9 from 12:00-2:00 PM. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Moore Cemetery in Decatur. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Ralph Junior Moore.

Ann Carolyn Warf Thomas, 84 of Cumming, GA, passed away on Sunday, April 5. The family will receive friends from 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Thursday, April 9 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow at 7:00 PM. A graveside service will be held 3:30 PM, Friday, April 10 in Lexington City Cemetery, Lexington, KY. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Wanda Victoria Joiner Atkins, 80 of McMinn County, passed away on Tuesday, April 7. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Friday, April 10 from 12:00-2:00 PM. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM at the funeral home. Interment will follow at New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in Etowah. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Wanda Victoria Joiner Atkins.

Hazel C. McCall, 101, of Athens, passed away on Monday, April 6 at U.T. Medical Center in Knoxville, She was a member of First Baptist Church of Athens, part of the "card ladies" in multiple women's social clubs, and an active volunteer for many organizations. A graveside service will be at 2 pm on Friday, April 10 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Active pallbearers will be family. The family will receive friends from 12:30-1:30 pm on Friday before the service at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

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