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K-9 Alert Leads to Meth Seizure in Monroe County



A traffic stop in the early morning hours of April 15 led to the seizure of a large quantity of methamphetamine and the arrest of one individual, according to the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities said agents with the sheriff's office narcotics division, along with the Tactical Narcotics Team, conducted the stop following an investigation that began March 26. Investigators had developed information indicating illegal drugs were being transported from Knoxville into the Tellico Plains area. During the stop, K-9 Deputy Freya was deployed after the driver refused consent to search the vehicle. The K-9 alerted to the presence of narcotics, leading to a probable cause search. Officers located methamphetamine packaged for resale along with cash.

One suspect was taken into custody and booked into the Monroe County Jail on charges including possession of methamphetamine for resale and possession of drug paraphernalia. Officials said the individual is being held without bond. The investigation remains ongoing, and no additional information has been released.

Source: [Sheriff Tommy Jones, Facebook](#)

Community News You Can Use

- The Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library will hold their monthly meeting at the library on Tuesday, April 21st at 5:30 pm. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit www.etowahlibrary.com.
- Registration for summer and fall classes is available at Cleveland State Community College. Cleveland State offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs. Classes begin on Tuesday, May 26 for both the full summer session and the first short session. Classes begin on Sunday, June 28 for the second summer session. Fall classes begin on Monday, August 24. For more information about registration, visit mycs.cc/registration or contact the Enrollment Services office at (423) 473-2310.

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TWU Spring Choral Concert

Dr. Andrew Owen, Director
Ms. Sylvia Gossett, Accompanist

Allen Memorial United Methodist Church

Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 7 p.m.

Free admission




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McMinn County Arrest Reports

April 19, 2026

Cody Williams, 35 of Athens, charged with criminal trespassing and resisting arrest, Bond \$2,000.

Kimberly Duff, 48 of Melbourne, Florida, charged with public intoxication, Bond \$2,500.

Amanda Johnson, 46 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for possession of schedule 6.

Matthew Klein, 40 of Jefferson City, charged with driving on a suspended license, evading arrest, resisting stop, tampering with evidence, simple possession of schedule 3, and use of a stolen or lost vehicle license plate, Bond \$21,000.

Jason Roberts, 48 of Delano, charged with being a fugitive from justice for manslaughter, Bond \$225,000.

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

AACA Opens Annual Photography Exhibits at The Arts Center



The Athens Area Council for the Arts will host two photography exhibits beginning April 20 at The Arts Center, highlighting both regional talent and the work of an award-winning photographer.

The annual EXPOSURE exhibit, a juried competition featuring amateur and professional photographers, will showcase 45 images taken within the past two years. Awards for Best in Show and top placements in both categories will be presented by this year's judge, photographer Wayne Setser.

Setser will also present a companion exhibit, *Things I've Seen: Fifty Years of Analog Photography*, featuring a collection of his work spanning decades. Organizers say the exhibit reflects not only what Setser captured through the lens, but the emotions and experiences behind each image.

"Wayne has been a contributor to our Exposure exhibit for years and has consistently been awarded our top prizes," said Holly Doucette, AACA program director.

Both exhibits will run through May 22 at The Arts Center, with a joint reception and awards ceremony scheduled for Friday, May 8 at 5 p.m. Viewing hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as during special events.

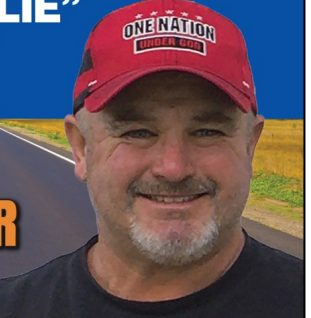

American Legion Post 68
Freedom Run
 May 9 @ 9am **5K/1K** EUREKA TRAIL ATHENS, TN

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Tuesday, April 21, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

JC Foxx, 82, of Athens, passed away on Saturday, April 18. JC was a faithful member of Westview Baptist Church of Athens. A Memorial Visitation will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026 from 5:00pm-7:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist with these arrangements.

Thomas "Tommy" Gather Burger, 83, of McMinn County, passed away on Friday, April 17. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home from 1:00-3:00 PM on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, with a funeral service held at 3:00 PM. Interment will follow at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Thomas "Tommy" Gather Burger.

Mildred Scroggins Hickman, 91, of Meigs County and longtime resident of Ooltewah and Decatur, passed away on Saturday, April 18. She had been a member of Harrison Methodist Church and Goodfield Methodist Church. She retired from Provident Life & Accident Insurance Company having worked in many different departments. In 1987, she and her son, Tim, opened the first Badcock Furniture Company in the state of Tennessee, in Athens. Graveside services will be held at Decatur Cemetery on Friday, April 24 at 2:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Mildred Scroggins Hickman.

Douglass Scott Riedel I, 75, of McMinn County, passed away on Saturday, April 18. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 PM on Thursday, April 23, 2026, with a funeral service held at 2:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Douglass Scott Riedel I.

Patti Jane Archer, 68 of Loudon, formerly of Niota, passed away on Saturday, April 18. She was a member of The ACT and was of the Baptist Faith. Graveside services will be 2:00 P.M. Wednesday at McMinn Memory Gardens. There will be no formal visitation. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens, Tenn. in charge of arrangements.

Sara (Pat) Frances Smith Keaton, 82 of Athens, passed away on Sunday, April 19. She attended Riceville Church of God in Riceville TN. for the last 25 years, but was a life-long member of Coneross Church of God in Walhalla, SC. Funeral Services will be 5:30 PM Wednesday, April 22, 2026 in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The visitation will be from 4:30 to 5:30 PM prior to the funeral service. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens, is in charge of arrangements.

Eddie "Ed" Dean Thoreson, 76, of Athens, passed away on Sunday, April 19. Ed proudly served his country in the United States Army for eight years. Following his military service, he dedicated his career to the railroad, where he worked as an engineer until his retirement. A Memorial Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 23 from 5:00-7:00 at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist with these arrangements.

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