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Wednesday, May 06, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Election Results

In yesterday's GOP Primary Election, the race for the Highway Commissioner has a new nominee; Charles Slack, who beat 12 year incumbent Dan Evans 3,408 to 2,451 respectively. Slack has served as a member of the McMinn County Commission in District 4.

In the Sheriff's race, long time Sheriff Joe Guy received the nomination with 3,456 votes over challenger Michael Hayes who received 2,593 votes.

The Circuit Court Clerk's race saw 4 candidates vying for the nomination. Amanda Carr Howard won that race with 44% of the votes cast.

In the County Commission contested races:

District 1 saw incumbent Tad Simpson ousted by Scott Williams and incumbent Brent Carter was re-nominated.

District 2 was a 6-way race with both incumbents Jerry Millsaps and J.W. McPhail re-nominated.

There were no contested races in the Democratic Primary as no candidates qualified to run.

The General Election will be held on August 6th.

Community News You Can Use

- Registration for 4-H Junior Camp (May 25–29, 2026) has been extended, but the final deadline is **Friday, May 8 at 3 p.m.** The camp is open to all 4th–6th graders, with a cost of \$295 per child. For questions, call 423-745-2852. You can reserve a spot online at the following link: <https://www.mcminn.tennessee.edu>
- The Athens City Schools Board of Education will meet on **Monday, May 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Administration Building. The draft agenda and meeting packet are available on the [Athens City Schools website](#). The following retirees will be recognized during the meeting: Connie Brackett, Alison Barnett, John Dyer, Patti Rae Bryant, Walter Dotson, Lesa Allmon, and Dorothy Bell.

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Athens, Tennessee

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



The 2025–26 House Blend Concert Series will wrap up with *Evening with the Stars* on Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m. The annual showcase, directed by Andrew Kimball, highlights a wide range of regional talent and performances.

For more than 30 years, the event has welcomed emerging performers to the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater stage, including past participants such as EmiSunshine, Kinslee Melhorn, and Raegan Graves. While known for its vocal performances, the showcase is open to all types of talent, including dance, acting, and other forms of entertainment.

This year’s concert features a mix of new, returning, and longtime performers. Making their Black Box debut are Kayla Disspain and Brystal Holland, a mother-daughter duo, along with The Stained Glass Panes, featuring William McCormick, John Murphy, Sean McCormack, and Emma Stratton. They will be joined by returning performers James Richard Brooks, Austin Conner, Alan Payne, and Daisy Cranfill, as well as longtime participants Lauren Duggan, Chrissy Baker, Josh Bragg, Cooper Howard, Sophia Lauterbach, Charity Lawson, Larry Malone, Amanda Reynolds, and Christen Webb.

Musical accompaniment will be provided by Brittany Duggan, assisted by Matthew Crabtree, along with The Arts Center’s house band, September Song, led by Kimball and featuring Kyle Littleton on guitar and Joe Littleton on bass.

All House Blend Concert Series performances take place at the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$40, with select shows offering catered options that may include light hors d’oeuvres or a full dinner.

Source: Lauren Brown, Executive Director, The Arts Center

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Athens, Tennessee

Vehicle Fire Reported at Highway 68 Intersection



A vehicle fire Monday night resulted in a total loss after a driver reported smoke coming from inside the SUV.

The incident occurred around 9 p.m. at the intersection of Highway 68 and County Road 316. The lone driver of a Honda Pilot noticed smoke coming from under the dashboard and stopped the vehicle.

Fire crews from North McMinn and Niota responded and quickly extinguished the fire, but the vehicle was deemed a total loss.

Additional agencies on scene included the McMinn County Sheriff's Office.

DJ Taylor of the Tennessee Highway Patrol is leading the investigation.

Photos courtesy: David Prater, Niota Rural FD



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Wednesday, May 06, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

May 04, 2026

Charles Hawk, 51 of Madisonville, charged with child support, Bond \$5,000.

Ashton Eubank, 30 of Sweetwater, charged with failure to appear for Schedule II fentanyl for resale.

Susan Crumley, 28 of Englewood, charged with state violation of probation for maintaining a drug dwelling.

Jamaris Thornton, 23 of Athens, charged with disorderly conduct, and felony aggravated assault, Bond \$15,500.

Keagan McDermott, 19, of Athens, charged with aggravated assault by domestic, Bond \$15,000.

William White, 57 of Athens, charged with casual exchange possession of meth.

Christopher Bennett, 50 of Decatur, charged with disorderly conduct, and assault by intimidation, Bond \$5,000.

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

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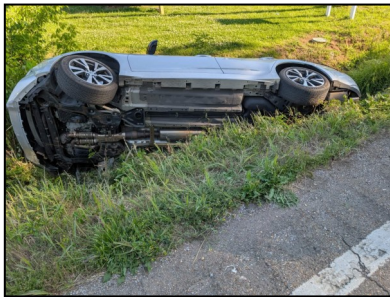
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Athens, Tennessee

Teen Driver Involved in Niota Crash Sunday Evening



A 15-year-old driver with a learner's permit was involved in a single-vehicle crash Sunday afternoon after failing to negotiate a turn onto Wilson Street, according to authorities.

The crash occurred around 5:30 p.m. The teen was driving a Nissan Maxima with three passengers at the time of the incident. One passenger sustained minor injuries and was taken to the hospital by private vehicle.

Emergency responders from the Niota Fire Department and AMR were dispatched to the scene.

Caleb Ballard of the Tennessee Highway Patrol is leading the investigation into the crash.

Photos courtesy: Niota Rural FD

Obituaries

Marcia McCleary passed away Friday, May 1. Arrangements to be announced by M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

Jerry Robert Davis, 61, native and lifelong resident of McMinn County, passed away on Monday, May 4. He was an independent over-the-road truck driver for several years. Jerry attended Triumphant Baptist Church. The family would like to offer special thanks to the Athens group at Hospice of Chattanooga for their loving care of Jerry. Family and friends will meet for graveside services at 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 9 at Sullins Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Jerry Robert Davis.

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