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Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Hiwassee SAR to Hold Memorial Day Veterans' Grave-Marking Ceremonies



The Hiwassee Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will host its annual Veterans' Grave Marking and American flag placement on Saturday, May 23 in observance of Memorial Day and the upcoming America 250 commemoration.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with a brief patriotic ceremony at the Riceville Community Cemetery, located at the crossroads of County Roads 79 and 78 above the Riceville Post Office. Following the ceremony and flag placements there, participants will continue to the South Liberty Community Cemetery on County Road 679.

Members of the Hiwassee Chapter SAR, the Alexander Keith Chapter DAR, the Patriots of Liberty CAR, descendants of the veterans being honored, and the public are invited to attend. Organizers encourage community participation and note that event signs will be posted in the area.

Source: *Hiwassee TNSSAR Chapter*

Community News You Can Use

- A Foster Parent Information Session will be held Monday, June 1 at 6:00 p.m. by The McMinn County Foster Care Association at 1008 Knight Road, Suite A, Athens. Current workers, supervisors, and foster parents will be on hand to answer questions and explain what it means to become a foster parent. **You can make a difference in a child's life.**
- The next Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the newest business to join the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce will take place TODAY, Tuesday, May 19 at 1:30 pm. at the A.D Fencing Company located at 4643 New Highway 68, Madisonville, TN

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

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Athens, Tennessee

Bradley Tree Service Recognized in TVFCU's Idea Leap Grant Awards



During National Small Business Week, the Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union awarded \$225,000 in grants to 15 entrepreneurs through its annual Idea Leap Grant Competition, pushing the program's lifetime total past \$1 million. More than 420 small businesses applied, with finalists advancing through months of pitches, site visits, and evaluations.

Among this year's honorees was Bradley Tree Service, named a runner-up in the Ocoee Region, highlighting the company as one of the area's standout small businesses. The recognition places Bradley Tree Service alongside other top regional finalists and underscores its role in the local business community.

Regional grand-prize winners included Heat N Eat in the Ocoee Region, Windy City Eatz in Chattanooga, and Rise Wellness in Northwest Georgia. Second-place winners received \$15,000, while runners-up—such as Bradley Tree Service—were awarded \$10,000 to support continued growth.

The 2026 competition has now concluded as TVFCU prepares for next year's milestone 10th anniversary. *Source: TVFCU*

McMinn County Health Council Reviews Community Needs, Upcoming Events

The McMinn County Health Council met on May 7, sharing updates on local services, upcoming events, and ongoing community needs ahead of its next meeting on June 4.

Barret Yost, Data and Evaluation Manager with the Office of Strategic Initiatives, delivered the meeting's featured presentation. Members also highlighted Mental Health Awareness Month and several resource events scheduled in the coming weeks, such as the upcoming Unity Is the Bridge programs in August and September.

Local agencies reported active initiatives and needs. Head Start is enrolling for the new year, CASA Corridor is seeking volunteers (churt@casacorrior.org), and Women at the Well announced a Well Sale on May 28-30 at The Baptist Center in Athens. The Department of Children's Services shared current caseloads, noting 34 foster homes and 57 foster care cases, along with multiple juvenile justice and Child Protective Services cases.

Representatives from TN Voices announced expanded children's mental health coalitions and ongoing training opportunities, including "Question, Persuade, Refer" suicide prevention programs and Mental Health First Aid.



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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

May 17, 2026

Jamar Williams, 36 of Riceville, charged with DUI, driving on a suspended license, resisting arrest, and failure to have insurance.

Addie Thomas, 36 of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$1,000.

Alyssa McLeod, 18 of Cleveland, charged with DUI, violation of the open container law, simple possession casual exchange of Schedule 6.

Jeffrey Graham, 40 of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$1,000.

Shannon Huff, 55 of Englewood, charged with assault and resisting arrest.

Avery Bruback, 30 of Athens, charged with possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$7,000.

James Hester, 82 of Athens, charged with DUI.

Ryan Burns, 26 of Benton, charged with simple possession casual exchange of schedule 6 fentanyl, Bond \$2,000.

Christina Hall, 45 of Riceville, charged with driving on a suspended license, being a fugitive from justice, violation of registration laws, Bond \$51,000.

Christopher Dawson, 53 of Athens, charged with theft of property, Bond \$6,000.

Continued on Page 4

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
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Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

May 17, 2026

Jamie Shelton, 46 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of cocaine, and failure to appear for possession of a weapon, Bond \$2,000.

Keyshawn Robinson, 20 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

Daniel Schooley, 40 of Athens, charged with DUI, violation of an interlock device, simple possession casual exchange of schedule I mushrooms, and admission of a drug or alcohol test. Bond \$10,000.

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

Obituaries

Nadine Thompson Jarvis, 90, of Decatur, passed away at her home on Saturday, May 16. Nadine graduated from McMinn County High School and dedicated much of her professional life to the insurance industry. She was a member of Rogers Creek Baptist Church. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Hearth Hospice of Cleveland for their care of Nadine. Per Nadine's request, no formal services will be held. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Jarvis family.

James "Jim" "Jimmy" Taylor Brackett, 69, of Etowah, passed away Tuesday, April 28. Jim grew up in Old Fort, TN, and attended Polk County High School. He worked for many years as an automotive technician before becoming the owner and operator of Jim's Automotive Repair in Etowah. Jim loved his family deeply, honestly, and enjoyed drag racing and spending time with friends and fellow racers. A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, June 6th, 2026, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Brainerd Motorsports Park in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for family, friends, and fellow racers. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Brackett family.

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