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**Wednesday, June 25, 2025**

**Page 1**

**Athens, Tennessee**

## Monroe County Corrections Officer Fired, Arrested in Jail Contraband Case



A Monroe County corrections officer has been fired and arrested after allegedly smuggling drugs into the jail by hiding them inside a Bible. Sheriff Tommy Jones said the incident was discovered Saturday when a suspicious Bible, meant for a specific inmate, was found to contain Suboxone, a drug used to treat opioid addiction. The Bible had been brought to the attention of the sheriff's office by a transition coordinator, prompting an investigation. The officer, Joshua Duncan, was fired and charged with conspiracy to introduce contraband into a penal facility. Three inmates — Timothy Albert Fields, Gregory Ray Cathey, and Steven Stone Costner Jr. — face the same charge.

Additional charges are possible as the investigation continues.

## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Board of Education will meet on Friday, June 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence. They will begin with a workshop, and ten minutes after its conclusion, they will convene in a special called meeting for the possible selection of the Director of Schools.
- The McMinn County Commission will meet in a called session on Monday, June 30 at Noon in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse.
- Join **Jim's Mattress & More** on **Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 10 AM – 3 PM** at 4 E. Washington Ave., Downtown Athens for the **Grand Opening of their new Athens location!** Enjoy storewide discounts, free swag bags for the first 200 guests, door prizes, and a chance to win a **\$500 gift card**. Ribbon cutting at **1:30 PM** with the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. Live broadcast by WYXI

**Due to a Technical issue on Tuesday, Main Street Moments will air TODAY.** On this episode of *Main Street Moments*: Host Maggie Blaine invites **Chef Alex** to discuss the **Home-makase event at the Food Hub!** The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TODAY on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

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Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Friendly City Festivals Presents: Run Katie Run, Saturday, June 28

Friendly City Festivals announces the second concert in the 13th Annual Sounds of Summer series will feature Georgia based band Run Katie Run on Saturday, June 28th. The concert will be held at Market Park Pavilion at 106 S. Jackson St. in downtown Athens, Tennessee starting at 7:00 p.m. Concert goers are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs, blankets, family and friends for a toe tapping-hand clapping night of entertainment. Food trucks for the evening will include Kona Ice and The Traveling Lunchbox.

Kate Coleman may be front and center in Run Katie Run but the band's 2023 debut album Cowboy Boots with Fishnet Tights reflects the group as a whole. The band's Americana rock roots covers the good, the sad, the inspired and everything in between about relationships of all kinds. As RKR performed throughout 2024, the five friends who met at an open mic night in Georgia have played all over Metro Atlanta and the South East including Atlanta, Dogwood Festival, Wire and Wood Songwriters Festival, Dollywood Harvest Festival and this will be their third appearance at Sounds of Summer. With a warm inviting sound enriched by bassist Stephen Quinn, banjo player Adam Pendlington and drummer Ian Pendlington their music captures a playful mix of folk, pop and Americana.

The remaining lineup in the 2025 Sounds of Summer series is:

**Friday, July 4** - Sweet Georgia Sound; 6:45 p.m. before fireworks at Athens Regional Park

**Saturday, July 19** - Authentic Unlimited Band

**Saturday, August 9** - Kinslee Melhorn

**Saturday, August 16** - Nate Viele and Mendingwall

This free to the public series is produced by Friendly City Festivals, a 501(c)3 subsidiary of Willsonthropic, Inc. and is made possible by the financial support of: The City of Athens Tourism Fund, McMinn County Tourism Board, Madison Avenue Pharmacy, Tennessee Overhill Association, Tennessee Arts Commission, Mayfield Dairy Farms, DENSO, Tonya Phenix Insurance Consultant, VEC Customer Shares, Citizens National Bank of Sevier County, Valley Oil, Starr Regional Medical Center, Kona Ice, Simmons Bank, Simmons Wealth Management Group, WarrenJackson CPAs, Athens Kiwanis Club, Athens Insurance and The Retirement Guys.

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Click here for full job description and application information.



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Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

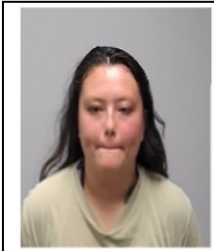
### AUB Releases Water Quality Report, Urges Power Conservation Amid Extreme Heat

The Athens Utilities Board (AUB) has published its 2024 Annual Water Quality Report, highlighting the sources, treatment, and testing of the local water supply. AUB's water—drawn mainly from Ingleside Spring, groundwater wells along Oostanaula Creek, and supplemented by the Hiwassee River—met or exceeded all state and federal standards throughout the year. The report is available at [www.aub.org](http://www.aub.org), at AUB's drive-thru, or by request.

Meanwhile, AUB and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) are urging customers to reduce electricity use due to extreme heat straining the region's power supply. **Customers are asked to turn off unnecessary lights and appliances, set thermostats to at least 78 degrees, postpone hot water use, and limit all cooking.** These steps aim to prevent service interruptions as TVA operates all generating plants at full capacity. Updates will be shared through local media.

Source: Amy McDonald, AUB

### Bradley County Woman Charged in Animal Cruelty Case After Dozens Found Neglected



CASH, LINDSEY CARTER

A Bradley County woman is facing multiple charges after deputies discovered dozens of neglected animals — including several dead — at a residence on 8th Street NE.

On Saturday, June 21, the Bradley County Sheriff's Office responded to a welfare check at 1325 8th Street NE. Deputies

Morning Fax<sup>®</sup> found about 15 dogs in outdoor kennels, many severely malnourished and without proper food, water, or shelter.

Additional dogs were roaming the property in poor condition. Inside the home, deputies found more dogs, along with reptiles and small mammals — many of them dead. In total, roughly a dozen deceased animals were recovered.

The resident, identified as Lindsey Cash, admitted ownership of the animals and told deputies she had become overwhelmed. She was arrested at the scene and charged with six counts of aggravated cruelty to animals and 24 counts of cruelty to animals. All surviving animals were removed and placed in the care of the SPCA. [Source: WDEF](#)

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Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Good Faith Clinic Celebrates 30 Years of Service

Volunteers and supporters (top right) gathered Monday, June 23, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Good Faith Clinic, which has provided free health-care to uninsured residents of McMinn and Meigs counties since 1995. The event was held at Christ Community Church in Athens, where the clinic currently operates.

Clinic founder Dr. David Byrd (pictured center right) credited the clinic's long-term success to the dedication of its volunteers, calling them the backbone of the operation. He also shared a story reflecting the compassion shown by clinic staff over the years.

During the celebration, McMinn County Mayor John Gentry (bottom left) officially proclaimed June 23, 2025, as "Good Faith Clinic Day."

State Representative Mark Cochran and State Senator Adam Lowe (bottom right) were also on hand to commemorate the clinic's milestone and its continued service to the community. [Tanasee Photography](#)



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