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Friday, June 6, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Head-On Collision Reported in McMinn County on Wednesday Afternoon



A head-on collision involving two vehicles occurred Wednesday afternoon, June 4, around 2:00 p.m., at the intersection of County Road 172 and County Road 180.

The crash involved a red Chevrolet Silverado 3500 dually pickup truck and a silver Ford Focus. Each vehicle was occupied by a single driver, and both sustained only minor injuries, according to first responders.



Preliminary reports indicate the Chevrolet truck crossed the center line, resulting in the collision.

Emergency personnel from the Clearwater Rural Fire Department, McMinn County Sheriff's Department, AMR, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol responded to the scene. Trooper Gordon Roberts of the THP is leading the investigation.

Photos by David Prater, Niota Rural Fire Department



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Friday, June 6, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn Senior Activity Center (205 McMinn Ave., Athens) will be hosting [Qigong classes](#) every Monday at 4:30p.m. The cost is \$3.00 per class. Qigong is an ancient Chinese practice that combines mindfulness, breathing, and movement to enhance physical and mental well-being.
- The McMinn Senior Activity Center (205 McMinn Ave., Athens) would like to invite the community to the "Celebrate Summer Dance" THIS EVENING, Friday, June 6 @ 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:45pm. The cost is \$5 per person.
- The Meigs County FCE will be hosting a Blood Assurance Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 17 from 9am - 1pm in the First Baptist Church Parking lot located at 240 N. Main St in Decatur. For appointments call 1-800-962-0628. Donors will receive a \$20 eGift card. One donation can save 3 lives

AUB Announces Changes to Service Cut-Off Procedures Effective July 1

The Athens Utilities Board (AUB) is updating its utility service cut-off procedures in an effort to streamline operations and ensure fair treatment for all customers. The new policies will take effect July 1, 2025.

Under the updated guidelines, all payment agreements must be finalized by the close of business the day before a customer's scheduled service cut-off date. AUB will no longer accept payment agreements on the day of a scheduled disconnection.

In addition, payments must be received by 7:29 a.m. on the morning of a customer's cut-off date in order to avoid service interruption and associated reconnect fees.

"This change will allow our accounting department to operate more efficiently and apply processes consistently across the board," said Michelle Millsaps, AUB Superintendent of Accounting. "We value our customers and are committed to providing fair and timely service to everyone."

AUB is encouraging any customers who may need to make payment arrangements to contact the office well in advance of their cut-off date to avoid disruption of service.

For more information or to discuss payment options, customers can call AUB directly at 745-4501 or visit the utility office during regular business hours. *Source: Amy McDonald, AUB*



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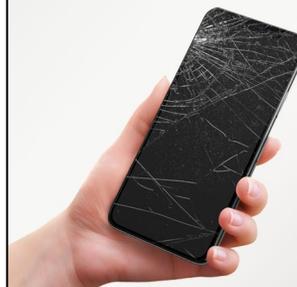
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Friday, June 6, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- **First Baptist Church Etowah** is seeking a part-time **Music Worship Leader**. To access more information, email: FBCoffice-mail@gmail.com, Call: (423) 263-2214, or Visit the Webpage at www.fbsetowah.org
- **East Athens Baptist Church** will have VBS June 8th through 10th from 5:30-7:30 PM. The location will be at Cook Park (414 Cook Drive.) Ages include Pre-K through 5th grade. Free supper included. See their ad on page 2 for more info and a link.
- **Niota UMC** will be hosting a free week-long summer camp on July 14-18 in partnership with Camp in the Community at their church in Niota. The summer camp is open to all children ages 5-14. The camp will run from 8:30-4:30pm (Friday ends at 2pm) and includes breakfast and lunch. Space is limited, make sure to sign up soon to secure your spot. To register, visit: <https://www.campinthecommunity.org/host/niota>
- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- **SRBC Kids presents: Kingdom Seekers** on Sunday Nights at 5:30pm at **Solid Rock Baptist Church** (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun) This event combines, God, music, games and fun into a very special all ages affair.
- Athens Lutheran Church (710 Forrest Ave, Athens) invites children ages 6-12 to their Vacation Bible School/ From June 23 - 27 from 9 a.m. to 12:30p.m. Lunch will be provided. Register online at AthensLutheranChurch.org
- Woodward Avenue Church of God invites you to their annual yard sale in support of their shoebox ministry. It is this weekend, with Friday's hours being 8am-5pm and Saturday's from 8am-12pm.
- East Niota Baptist Church will host a One Day Vacation Bible School for grades 1 - 6 on Saturday, June 21, 10 am - 5 pm. Lunch and snacks will be provided, along with a Family Program and dinner starting at 4:30 pm.
- There will be a benefit singing for Debbie Weddington THIS Saturday, June 7 at 12 noon. She has been diagnosed with cancer. This will help with travels and treatments. At The Gathering in Ten Mile Tn. Address is 29501 SR-58, Ten Mile. Singers are Recognized Southern Gospel, Meadow Fork Singers, and Good News Singers.

Continued on Page 4

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Friday, June 6, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

Green Street Closed in Athens

The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following traffic notice:

The area affected is **GREEN STREET** from College Street to N. Jackson Street. Tennessee Department of Transportation crews will be repairing the asphalt road surface from Thursday, June 5 through Monday, June 9 from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. daily. All lanes of traffic will be affected and there will be intermittent lane closures.

Motorists are advised to use extreme caution and watch for traffic signage, workers, and pedestrians. Motorists should allocate additional time for traffic delays when traveling in this area.

The purpose of this notice is for road surface improvements.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

More Church News & Events

- Englewood First Church of God is sponsoring a marriage conference hosted by Larry and Anna Lawrence on June 20-21st with child care provided. You can sign up at englewoodfcog.com. The cost is \$35 and includes a meal Friday night and a light breakfast on Saturday morning. The deadline for signing up is June 11th. Scholarships are available if needed to cover the cost.
- The Watts Bar Community Church monthly "Man Up Breakfast" is this Saturday June 7, 2025. Breakfast starts at 9:00 A.M. All men are welcome. Great Food and Great Fellowship with other Men. Church is located at 1517 TN-68 in Decatur.
- This Saturday, June 7, from 9 am until 2 pm, McMahan Calvary Baptist Church in Athens will host an uplifting community closet event. Bring a bag and fill it up with clothing for infants, toddlers, men and women. They have shoes, kitchen items, and infant toys to help the community. The church is located at 569 County Road 172 in Athens.
- Rogers Creek Baptist Church is hosting weekly prayer meetings on Wednesdays beginning at 7pm. These are 30-minute bible based studies on how to develop an effective prayer life with 15 minutes then allocated for personal prayer and reflection. The church is located at 510 County Road 180 in Athens.

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Friday, June 6, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Two Injured in Collision on Highway 411 South Near Etowah



Two people were injured Thursday when a pickup truck struck a trailer at the intersection of Highway 411 South and County Road 801 near Greenhill Cemetery.

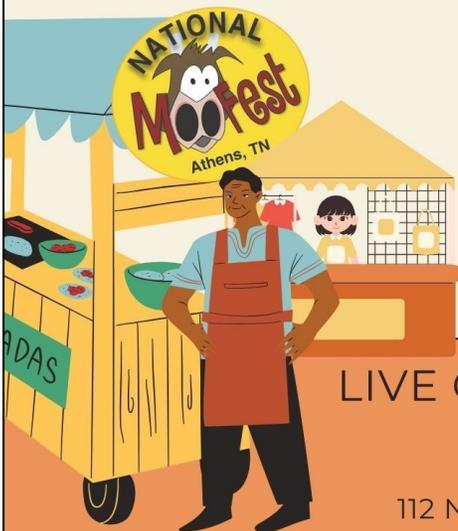
According to officials, the driver of a 1999 Ford F-350 pulling a trailer loaded with a Bobcat was exiting the cemetery when a 2002 Dodge Dakota collided with the rear of the trailer. The driver and passenger of the Dodge Dakota were transported by AMR to Starr Regional Medical Center in Etowah for treatment.



Emergency crews from Etowah Rural Fire Department, Etowah City Fire Department, Englewood Rural Fire Department, and the Etowah City Police Department responded to the scene. Etowah Rural Deputy Chief Dustin Ruebush was in command of the response.

The crash is under investigation by Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Travis Ryans.

Photos by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.



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Hay bale catches fire near Englewood



A roll bale of hay caught fire Tuesday afternoon in a field off County Road 435, prompting a response from the Englewood Rural Fire Department.

The incident occurred around 3:00 p.m. when a tractor pulling a Case International baler was operating in the field. The driver noticed the hay bale had ignited, reportedly due to overheated ball bearings.

Firefighters quickly extinguished the burning hay, and no damage was reported to the baler or tractor.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.

Obituaries

Randall Ward Sliger, 57 of Athens, passed away on Monday, June 2nd at Starr Regional Medical Center with his family alongside him. Radio was a lifelong passion for him. From his teenage years, Randy worked and studied alongside his father Jim Sliger operating WJSQ FM in Athens. He admired the work of The Grace House in Athens serving as a board member from 2019 until his death. Funeral services will be at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8 in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 9 at McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m. on Sunday prior to the service at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Donald Matthew Hall, 41, passed away on Friday, May 30. Matt was an accomplished Drafting Designer for the U.S. Department of Energy at Oak Ridge for over 15 years. He graduated from Cleveland State Community College with a degree in AutoCAD design in 2006, and was a graduate of Gateway Christian School in 2002. Matt was a talented architect who designed and helped build a custom log cabin on the family farm. A memorial service will be held at 3pm on Sunday, June 8th at Companion Funeral Home in Athens. Companion Funeral and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

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