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Two Flee Crash Scene in McMinn County; THP Investigating



Two men fled on foot after a single-vehicle crash late Wednesday morning in McMinn County.

The crash occurred around 11:30 a.m. on June 25 when a 2009 Dodge Challenger traveling south on County Road 316 near County Road 276 appeared to lose control, cross the center line, and overturn. The vehicle came to rest on its roof.

Witnesses reported seeing two male subjects running from the scene toward the Pilot station at Exit 56.

During the investigation, authorities discovered a handgun, drug paraphernalia, and several forms of identification inside the vehicle.

Responding agencies included the Niota Rural Fire Department, North McMinn Rural Fire Department, McMinn County Sheriff's Office, AMR, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. THP is leading the investigation.

Photo by Tonia Willis, Niota Rural Fire Department

Photo by Tonia Willis, Niota Rural Fire Department

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We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

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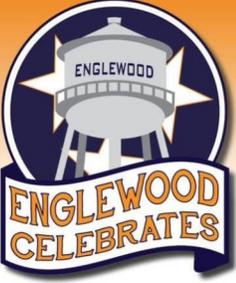
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Friday, June 27, 2025 **Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2** **Athens, Tennessee**

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Board of Education Executive Committee will meet on Monday, June 30 at 9:00 a.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence to review, end of the fiscal year budget items.
- The City of Athens 4th of July Fireworks Celebration is scheduled to take place at 9:30pm. However, this year, before the fireworks, the park will be hosting Friendly City Festivals and the Sounds of Summer Concert Series. Sweet Georgia Sound will be taking the stage beginning at 6:45pm and playing until 9pm. Concessions will be open at 6pm.
- Grace and Mercy Ministries would like you to join them for a Drive-Thru BBQ Fundraiser at Market Park Pavilion in Athens on July 24 from 11:30 am - 1 pm. They will be serving Pulled Pork, Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips and a Dessert for \$10 per plate. You may pay with either Cash or through PayPal. Call 423 -920-1367 for any pre-orders.

McMinn County Sheriff's Office Apprehends Fugitive Wanted by SPD



The McMinn County Sheriff's Office recently apprehended a convicted felon wanted by the Sweetwater Police Department following a vehicle pursuit.

Brandon Tindle, who was being sought by SPD, was located and arrested with the help of McMinn County deputies after a coordinated effort between the two agencies.

Tindle had fled following a recent pursuit, prompting the joint operation to bring him into custody.

The Sweetwater Police Department expressed gratitude to Sheriff Joe Guy and the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for their assistance and ongoing collaboration.

Authorities emphasize that all suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Source: [Sweetwater PD - Facebook](#)

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Friday, June 27, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Ten Mile is once again hosting their community meal from 12pm - 2pm on Saturday, June 28. They will be serving Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Peas and more. This event wishes to bring the community together through fellowship and a shared meal. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The next Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will occur on Thursday, July 10 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Cafe in downtown Athens. This ecumenical prayer breakfast is open to all men of Christian faith plus those who want to establish a relationship with Jesus. Please contact Marcus Guinn at 423-507-7769 or marcusguinn@gmail.com for more information.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.
- **Oak Grove Baptist Church** is holding a Women's Celebration on Saturday, June 28 from 10:30am-1pm at the Niota Depot Event Center (201 E. Main St., Niota). Admission is \$20 and includes the ladies brunch, fellowship and sweet treats. For tickets, contact Lisa Dotson: (423) 368-2069 or Lisa Dotson at (423) 829-5305.
- **The Etowah Area-Wide Annual Gospel Meeting** will be held at the Etowah Church of Christ, 501 Athens Pike, Etowah. The meeting will be held on June 27, & 28 every day at 7pm. Speakers include Mike Williams (Liberty Hill), Mark Stephenson (Etowah), Stephen Null (Madisonville), Aaron Pope (Liberty Hill), and Lee Cox (Union Grove). Services are available online at youtube.com/@etowahchurchofchrist.
- 2x2 Quartet will be singing at Lakeview Baptist Church on Sunday June 29 at 10:45am with lunch to follow. Everyone is welcome. The church is located at 183 County Road 126 in Athens beside Dynasty Spas.
- Brookhill Baptist Church in Etowah will be hosting Vacation Bible School for children from Pre-K through 8th grade on July 13-16 nightly between 6:00pm to 8:00 PM. A free meal will be provide each night.
- Are you struggling with the loss of your spouse? Clearwater Baptist Church will be holding a one day event for Loss of Spouse Saturday, July 12th from 6pm-8pm. For more info. or to register please visit: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share (Notify us in advance if childcare is needed.)
- **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. Sign up soon to secure your spot. To register, visit <https://www.campinthecommunity.org/host/niota>

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Friday, June 27, 2025 **Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4** **Athens, Tennessee**

UT Extension to Host Opioid Awareness Day in McMinn County

MCMINN COUNTY OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY 2025
PLEASE JOIN US AUGUST 31, 2025 3-6PM AT ATHENS MARKET PAVILION

HELP US HONOR THOSE WE HAVE LOST BY SUBMITTING A PHOTO TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE EVENT



The UT Extension – McMinn is organizing an Opioid Awareness Day event this summer to raise awareness about the impact of overdoses and honor those lost

to addiction.

The event will take place on Sunday, August 31, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Market Park Pavilion in Athens. The community is invited to attend for an afternoon of remembrance, resources, music, and food.

Organizers are currently seeking agencies and organizations to host resource tables, offering services and information to those attending. In addition, the Extension is collecting digital photos of loved ones lost to overdose for a memorial banner that will be displayed during the event.

For more information or to participate, call 865-228-0321.

Landyn Giles Named to Tennessee's "League of Extraordinary Teens"



Landyn Giles, a student at McMinn Central High School, has officially joined the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation's *League of Extraordinary Teens*—a statewide initiative that empowers teens to support Imagination Library programs in their communities.

The son of Leighann and Josh Giles, Landyn is known for staying active both in and out of school. He plays on McMinn Central's football and basketball teams, works as a lifeguard at the Englewood Pool, and teaches a youth class at his church. Now, he's taken on a new role—promoting early childhood literacy in McMinn County.

As part of the League, Landyn is working to register local children for the Imagination Library, a program that delivers a free book each month to children from birth to age five. He's also raising funds to cover the cost of one year of books per child, supported locally by the McMinn County Education Foundation. To help cover these expenses, Landyn got creative—using a secret family recipe to make and sell homemade preserves.

Local teens interested in joining the League of Extraordinary Teens can apply by contacting the McMinn County Education Foundation at mcminncef@gmail.com.

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Athens, Tennessee

Quilts of Valor Presented to Local Veterans at Optimist Club Meeting



At this week's meeting of the Optimist Club of Athens, veterans Charlie Senn and Bill Sikes were honored with Quilts of Valor in recognition of their military service.

The quilts were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cassem as part of the national *Quilts of Valor* program, which has awarded over 400,000 quilts to veterans across the country since it began in 2003.

Senn served in the U.S. Marine Corps, while Sikes served in both the Navy Reserves and the U.S. Army. The ceremony served as a heartfelt tribute to their dedication and sacrifice.

AUB Customers Can Resume Normal Power Use as TVA Stabilizes Grid

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has stabilized its power supply, allowing Athens Utilities Board (AUB) electric customers to return to normal electricity usage.

The recent call for reduced power came in response to extreme temperatures that placed significant strain on the TVA power system. Thanks to the cooperation of more than 10 million consumers across the region, further disruptions were avoided.

Throughout the shortage, TVA and AUB implemented energy-saving measures such as adjusting thermostats, reducing lighting, and encouraging voluntary conservation during peak hours. TVA also maximized output from all available plants, purchased additional power from neighboring utilities, and temporarily curtailed service to large industrial customers on interruptible contracts.

Crews from both TVA and AUB worked around the clock to maintain service and restore full capacity. AUB extends its thanks to the community for its patience and cooperation during the high-demand period.

Source: Amy McDonald, AUB

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