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Wednesday, September 17, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Dale Earnhardt Jr. to Headline Athens Chamber Benefit in 2026



The Athens Chamber of Commerce has announced that NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt Jr. will be the featured speaker at its 19th Annual Benefit on July 16, 2026. The event will take place at McMinn County High School, with doors opening at 6 p.m. Tickets went on sale Tuesday morning and are available online at <http://www.itickets.com/events/483928.html>, by calling 423-745-0334, or at the Chamber office in downtown Athens.

Earnhardt Jr., a third-generation racer, is one of NASCAR's most celebrated figures. Over his career, he captured 26 NASCAR Cup victories, including two Daytona 500 titles (2004, 2014), and earned a record 15 consecutive Most Popular Driver awards. His success on and off the track led to his 2021 induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Beyond racing, Earnhardt Jr. has become a successful businessman, author, and broadcaster. His ventures include JR Motorsports, which has won three NASCAR Xfinity Series championships, and Hammerhead Entertainment, a television production company. He also co-owns FilterTime and the CARS Tour, and is the voice behind the popular podcast network Dirty Mo Radio.

In addition to his career achievements, Earnhardt Jr. is known for his charitable work through The Dale Jr. Foundation, which supports youth and underprivileged communities.

The Chamber's annual benefit is one of the largest events of the year, and organizers expect strong demand for tickets with Earnhardt Jr. as the keynote speaker.

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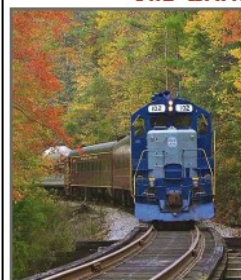
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Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Driver Injured After Vehicle Overturson Highway 163



Emergency crews from Claxton Fire Department, Calhoun Fire Department, and Etowah Rescue and Rural Fire Department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Highway 163 near County Road 967 around 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15.

According to officials, the driver reported swerving to avoid a deer that entered the roadway. The vehicle, traveling east-bound, crossed into the westbound lane before overturning and coming to rest on its top along the embankment.

The driver sustained minor injuries and was transported by AMR for treatment. Calhoun Fire Department Assistant Chief Justin Evans served as incident commander at the scene.

Photo provided by Claxton Fire Department Public Information Officer Kayne Watkins

Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closure: The area to be affected is ROCKY MOUNT ROAD from Dennis Street to Sterling Road. This area will be closed to thru traffic on Thursday, September 18, 2025, from 8:30 am until 3:00 p.m. The purpose of this closure is for street repairs. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.
- The City of Athens Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting originally scheduled for September 24 has been cancelled.
- Join the McMinn County 4-H Saturday, Sept. 27, at 9 a.m. at AgCentral Co-op in Athens for the McMinn County 4-H Chick Chain Show and Sale. Rhode Island Red, Black Sex Link, and Ameraucana laying hens will be auctioned as 4-H'ers complete their Chick Chain Project. All buyers welcome. For details, call 423-745-2852.

Pickleball Tournament

United Way of McMinn Meigs Counties
September 27, 2025

SCAN HERE!



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to sign up!

WHO BAKES THE BEST APPLE PIE?

The Tennessee Overhill & Etowah Chamber of Commerce want to know.

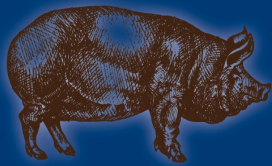
APPLE PIE CONTEST OCTOBER 4

AS PART OF THE 2025 ETOWAH FALL FESTIVAL

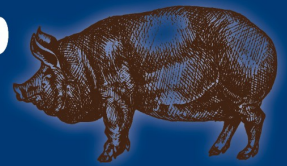


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Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Constitution Week Events Begin in McMinn County



Constitution Week will begin in McMinn County with a ceremony at the courthouse on Wednesday, Sept. 17, (TODAY) at 3:30 p.m. Bells will ring at 4 p.m., marking 238 years since the original bell ringing that followed the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

Mayors from Athens, Calhoun, Englewood, Etowah, and Niota, along with other dignitaries, are expected to attend and have issued proclamations. Eighth-grade students will receive pocket-sized copies of the Constitution and bells, while other participating students will receive flags. The event is open to the public. The program is sponsored by the Hiwassee Chapter, Tennessee Society Sons of the American Revolution, and the Alexander Keith Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. For more information, call 863-258-1717 or 423-369-1745.

Source: Fred Underdown

Additional Constitution Week events include:

- Meigs County Courthouse – Wednesday, Sept. 17, 11:30 a.m. (Mayor Eddie Jewell)
- McMinn County Courthouse – Wednesday, Sept. 17, 3:30 p.m. (Mayor John Gentry)
- Monroe County Courthouse – Thursday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m. (Mayor Mitch Ingram)
- Greenback Museum – Thursday, Sept. 18, 3 p.m. (Mayor DeWayne Burchfield)

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Jocelyn Annette King, 56 of Cleveland, passed away on Friday, September 12 at her residence. She was a former employee of Duracell in Cleveland and also delivered Meals on Wheels to the elderly. She attended Mt. Lebanon Church in Calhoun. Funeral services will be held Thursday, September 18, 2025 in the chapel of M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home – Cleveland at 12:00 noon. The family will receive friends one hour before the service at the funeral home from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Interment will follow the service at Fort Hill Cemetery. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home of Cleveland in charge of arrangements.

Patricia Ann (Klein) Bailey, 86 of Athens, passed away September 10, 2025 at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. She was baptized in 1953 as one of Jehovah's Witnesses and was an avid student and teacher of the Bible for the rest of her life. After she moved to Tennessee, she was a member of the English Athens congregation for the last 10 years. Burial arrangements will be privately handled by the family and Companion Funeral and Cremation Service. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.



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wondering what comes next .

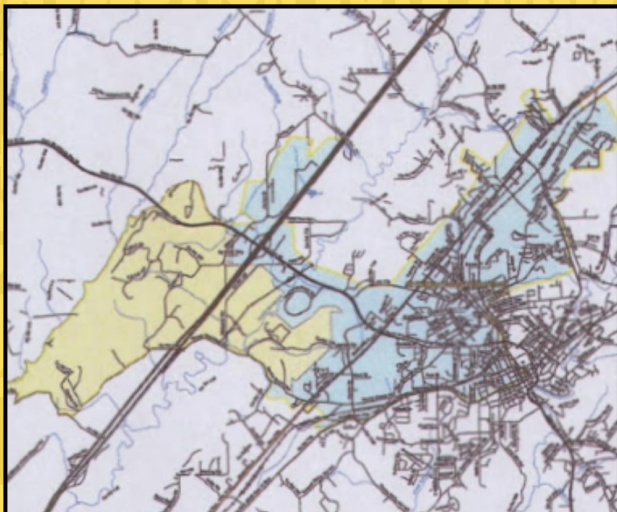
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We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: wyradio@gmail.com



Notice to Voters

On August 26, 2025, the McMinn County Election Commission voted to combine Precinct 12 (Allen Memorial) with Precinct 10 (McMinn High School). From now on, both will be known as Precinct 10 – McMinn County High School, and all Election Day voting will take place at:

McMinn County High School
2215 Congress Parkway
Athens, TN 37303

New voter registration cards are being mailed to voters who were in the Allen Memorial precinct.

The County Primary Election will be May 5, 2026. Please make sure your name and address are up to date. Changes can be made in-person at the Election Commission Office:

- 6 E. Madison Ave, Athens, TN 37303
- By mail: PO Box 746, Athens, TN 37371-0746
- Or online: www.govotetn.gov

For questions, call 423-745-0843.