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Friday, November 21, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Rollover Crash on Highway 307 Injures Driver



A single-vehicle rollover on Highway 307 led to a second crash minutes later on Wednesday afternoon, according to first responders.

The initial accident occurred around 3:35 p.m., when a Nissan Rogue traveling south near County Road 364 dropped off the right side of the roadway. The driver overcorrected, causing the vehicle to cross the road, strike a ditch on the left side, and flip. A 24-year-old male occupant was evaluated at the scene by EMS but was not transported.

As crews prepared to clear the scene, a second accident occurred just north of the first, near County Road 362 on Highway 307. Further details on that crash appear on page 2. of Today's *Morning Fax*.

Source: David Prater, Niota Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Parks and Recreation Department has announced that the Eureka Trail will be closed for gravel resurfacing beginning Monday, November 24th, 2025 through Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025. There will be construction crews and heavy machinery throughout the entirety of the trail from the Athens Trailhead to the Englewood Trailhead. Signage will be posted at each parking lot. For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation Office at (423) 744-2704.
- The McMinn County Library Board will meet on Monday, November 24 at 6:00pm. The meeting will be held at the E.G. Fisher Public Library.
- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following traffic notice update: The signal maintenance contractor will resume working on retiming the traffic signals lights located on Decatur Pike/ Highway 30 from Milton Road to Holiday Drive, from Monday, December 1, at 7:00 a.m. until Friday, December 5, at 5:00 p.m.

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Holiday Hours Update

Nov 30: Closed

Dec 7: Last Sunday Lunch of 2025. Will resume on Jan 18, 2026!



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Friday, Nov. 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Two Injured in Serious Crash on Hwy. 307 in Niota

Two people were airlifted to UT Medical Center in Knoxville after a serious crash on Highway 307 near County Road 364 in Niota late Wednesday afternoon.

According to first responders, the driver of a 1982 Dodge Ram approached an existing accident scene (see Page 1) around 5 p.m. and was unable to stop. The truck left the roadway, went down an embankment, and crashed head-on into a culvert. The driver was ejected from the vehicle, and the passenger was partially ejected. *Neither was wearing a seatbelt.*

Emergency crews treated both patients while continuing to manage the earlier accident. The individuals were transported by AMR to LifeStar and LifeForce helicopters, which landed at Mt. Harmony Baptist Church before flying both patients to UT Medical Center. Niota Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, and Athens Rural Fire responded to the scene. The crash is being investigated by THP Sgt. Gordon Roberts.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD



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THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Nov. 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- West End Baptist Church, located on Clark Street, in Athens will be having their annual Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 30 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.
- Union McMinn Baptist Church (314 County Road 316, Niota) will be serving a free plate lunch for all on November 27th from 11am to 1pm. First Come, First Serve. The church is also a drop-off location for the Operation Christmas Child: National Collection Week. Hours are: Monday thru Friday 5:30 - 7:30pm on November 17 thru 21. Saturday, November 22, 9 - 10 am, Sunday, November 23rd, 2 - 4 pm & Monday, November 24th. 9:30 - 11:30 am. The church is located at [314 County Road 316](#) (I-75, Exit 56) in Niota.
- The Mid-East Tennessee Community Chorus will host its 3rd Annual *Messiah* Sing-Along on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at 4 p.m. at Allen Memorial United Methodist Church in Athens. Dr. Andrew Owen of Tennessee Wesleyan University will serve as guest conductor. Admission is free, and all are welcome to sing or simply listen.
- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (1923 Pleasant Hill Rd., Ten Mile) invites the entire community to their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27 from 12 noon until 2 pm. You may eat-in or take home, and even take home for others. The menu will include: Turkey, Ham, Dressing, Sweet Potato Casserole, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Mac and Cheese, Dessert, and drinks.
- Mt. Verd Baptist Church (251 County Road 249, Athens) will be offering the community a Drive-Thru Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, November 26 from 11am - 1pm.
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*



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Parade at 6:00

December 13th, 2025

Outdoor activities start at 2:00

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Friday, Nov. 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

CSCC Plumbing Bootcamp Graduation

Cleveland State Community College Workforce Development provided a Plumbing Bootcamp in the Cleveland State Plumbing Lab at the Partners in Industry and Education (PIE) Center in Cleveland. Partnering with City Fields, 13 students completed the 40-hour bootcamp and earned two National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) RIDGID certifications: Manual/Handheld Threading and Pressing for HVAC/Plumbing.



Pictured front row left to right: Marshall Smith, Mike Owens, Canaan Hopkins, Flavio Martinez, Kenneth Steen, Matthew Owens, James Hale. Back row left to right: CSCC Adult Education Career Coach Stephanie Conservo, CSCC Vice President of Economic and Institutional Development Dr. John Squires, Bradley Parker, Andrew Habian, William Moore, Kachur Sergio, Andre Falke, Frank Morgan, and Cleveland State Plumbing Instructor Jason Taylor.

ACT Presents "Annie" at the Arts Center in Athens

Athens Community Theatre (ACT) is pleased to present the Tony Award-winning, *ANNIE*, directed by Melonie Carideo with music directed by Ellen Kimball, February 19 - March 1, 2026. Friday February 20 ticket holders are invited to join us for "Where Are They?" Reunion Mixer with cast members of ACT's 2011 production of *Annie*, with catered hors d'oeuvres.

Based on the popular comic strip by Harold Gray, *Annie* has become a worldwide phenomenon and was the winner of seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The beloved book and score by Tony Award winners, Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse, and Martin Charnin, features some of the greatest musical theatre hits ever written, including "Tomorrow."

Annie is the next installment of the Athens Community Theatre Mainstage 2025 - 2026 season. Show dates and times are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, February 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28 at 7:00 PM, and Sundays February 22 and March 1 at 2:00 PM. Tickets are available now for AACA Arts Partners and December 5 for the general public. They are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students, except the catered event on February 20, which is \$25. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets early, as ACT events tend to sell out on, or before, the performance date.

Join us for Starr Regional Medical Center's annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Monday, November 24, 5:15 - 6 p.m.

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Friday, Nov. 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

11-19-25

Travis Benny, 35 of Athens, charged with domestic assault and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$3,000.

Sarah Lyne Weber, 27 of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, public intoxication, criminal trespassing, and disorderly conduct, Bond \$6,000.

Donnie Barrett, 42 of Old Fort, Tennessee, charged with drug paraphernalia, Bond \$1,000.

Heath Lowry, 33 of Madisonville, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$4,000.

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

Obituaries

David Robert Overley, 77 of Etowah, passed away on Sunday, November 16 at his residence. A memorial service will be held at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, November 25 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. No visitation will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.




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