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Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Pickup Overturns on Highway 30 East; Driver Treated at Scene



A driver escaped serious injury Monday afternoon after a pickup truck overturned along Highway 30 East near County Road 637 in Etowah.

The crash occurred around 4 p.m. when the driver of a 1997 Toyota Tacoma left the roadway and overturned into the median. The driver was treated at the scene by AMR personnel but declined transport to a medical facility.

Responding agencies included Englewood Rural Fire Department, Etowah Rural Fire Department and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Trooper Jake Delmootte investigated the accident.

*Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

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Athens, Tennessee

## Niota Seeks Public Input on Proposed City Park Improvements

Residents will have an opportunity next week to help shape the future of Niota City Park.

The City of Niota will host a public input meeting on March 3 at 3:30 p.m. at the Niota Community Building, 107 Green St., to discuss proposed improvements to the park.

City officials are preparing to submit a grant application to the Tennessee Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) and are encouraging residents to share their ideas and feedback as part of the planning process.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for citizens to comment on potential upgrades and to discuss recreational needs within the community. Public input is a key component of the grant application process.

Mayor Lois Preece said community participation is strongly encouraged as the city works to plan improvements that reflect the needs and priorities of local families.

## Arts Center seeks "Exposure" Entries through March 18

Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) is pleased to present its annual photography exhibit, EXPOSURE, for amateur and professional photographers. The entry deadline is Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

The exhibit has two divisions: digital and film. Digital entries are \$10 per photo, while film entries are \$5 per photo. Information about how to enter, including detailed prospectus and exhibit timeline, is available at [athensartscouncil.org/exposure-prospectus](https://athensartscouncil.org/exposure-prospectus).

This year's judge is Wayne Stetser. "Wayne has been a contributor to our Exposure exhibit for years and has consistently been awarded our top prizes for his photography," says Holly Doucette, AACA Program Director. "Apart from allowing him the space to show more of his work, our Visual Arts Committee thought it was only natural to have him judge this year's competition."

EXPOSURE will be on display in the Willson Exhibit Room and Hallway Gallery at The Arts Center, April 20 through May 22, 2026. The Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony is Friday, May 8, at 5:00 PM. Viewing hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and during special events.

Source: Athens Arts Council

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**Scouts Tour Englewood Fire Department, Learn About Fire Safety Equipment**



Members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 118 and Cub Scout Troop 177 visited the Englewood Fire Department last Tuesday for a behind-the-scenes tour of the station.

During the visit, Fire Chief Billy Roach and Firefighter Adam Cook explained the purpose of the department's fire trucks and demonstrated various pieces of emergency equipment used in responding to calls.

The scouts also brought refreshments to share with firefighters during their visit.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

**Sign-ups Continue for McMinn County Little League.**



This is the final week for families to register for the 2026 McMinn County Little League and T-Ball programs, with the deadline set for March 1 and the final day to register in person or over the phone being February 27.

The league, operated in partnership with the City of Athens, offers divisions for children ages 3 through 12. Available age groups include 3/4 Tee Ball; 4/5/6 Coach Pitch; 6/7/8 Coach Pitch; 8/9/10 Baseball; and 10/11/12 Baseball.

Online registration is available now at [www.mcminncountylittleleague.com](http://www.mcminncountylittleleague.com). Phone registration can be completed by contacting the Athens Parks and Recreation Department at 423-744-2704. In-person registration is available at Athens City Hall, 815 N. Jackson St., Athens. Officials note that phone and in-person registration are not available on holidays or weekends.

League officials encourage families who have not yet signed up to do so before the March 1 deadline.

Source: City of Athens

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Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Medication-Assisted Treatment at McMinn County Jail Aims to Curb Opioid Crisis

An innovative medication-assisted treatment program at the McMinn County Jail is showing promising results in the fight against opioid addiction, according to Joe Guy.

Over the past two years, qualifying inmates at the jail have been receiving Vivitrol, a non-narcotic medication designed to reduce cravings for opioids and help individuals maintain sobriety. The program begins while inmates are in custody, where they receive Vivitrol injections and meet with a clinician. After release, participants continue receiving monthly injections along with structured treatment.

In 2024, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System secured a \$3.9 million grant to expand access to Vivitrol for inmates in several area facilities, including jails in McMinn, Polk, Bradley, Monroe and Meigs counties. Since the program's launch locally, more than 90 inmates at the McMinn County Jail have received the medication and additional recovery services.

Unlike some other forms of medication-assisted treatment, Vivitrol does not produce a high and cannot be misused within the jail setting, Sheriff Guy said. Nationally, fewer than 13 percent of jails offer medically assisted treatment for opioid use disorder.

Research from the National Institute of Health indicates inmates who receive treatment while incarcerated are significantly more likely to continue care after release and face a lower risk of overdose, death and reincarceration.

Sheriff Guy said early data from participating counties shows about 75 percent of released inmates remain in the treatment program — a figure he called remarkable. He added that law enforcement leaders hope the initiative will help curb opioid addiction locally and serve as a model for other communities battling what he described as one of the most powerful and destructive drugs facing the nation.

Source: McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy

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Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

### February 23, 2026

**Eric Burton**, 36 of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation for meth for resale.

**Renee Morgan**, 48 of Athens charged with violation of probation for meth for resale

**Joseph Vann**, 27 of Decatur, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$4,000.

**Roxanne Moses**, 60 of Athens, charged with simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2 fentanyl and schedule II meth, simple possession, casual exchange, of schedule II xanax, drug paraphernalia, driving on a revoked license, and violation of registration laws, Bond \$29,000.

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

## Obituaries

**Sherry Long**, 63 of Etowah, passed away on Friday, February 20. Sherry was a Harley Davidson enthusiast who embraced life with passion, and a zest for adventure. Sherry was known for her free-spirited nature and lived her life to the fullest, embodying her philosophy of treating people right and maintaining a clean heart. Funeral Services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 24 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Cane Creek Cemetery on Wednesday, February 25 for the 1:00 p.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**David "Round Man" O'Daniel**, 75, a native of Athens and resident of Cleveland, passed away on Sunday, February 22. Visitation will be held from 5:00-8:00 PM on Tuesday, February 24 at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at 12:00 PM at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Clear Springs Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of David "Round Man" O'Daniel.

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