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Friday, October 10, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

TBI Investigating Death of Madisonville Man Following Confrontation with Officers



The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) is reviewing an incident that led to the death of a Madisonville man following an encounter with law enforcement on Sunday, October 5.

According to Monroe County Sheriff Tommy Jones, Madisonville Police Officer Jimmy Haynes was traveling to begin his shift around 5:18 p.m. when he came upon several vehicles stopped near the intersection of Turnpike Road and New Highway 68. Bystanders directed the officer's attention to a white Ford F-150 truck partially blocking the roadway, saying the driver might be in distress.

Officer Haynes activated his emergency lights and approached the driver, later identified as **62-year-old Michael Ray Stice of Madisonville**, who appeared disoriented and unresponsive to questions. When asked to place the vehicle in park, Stice initially refused before eventually complying. After the officer requested Stice to exit the vehicle, he refused and reached inside the truck, prompting Haynes to draw his weapon and issue verbal commands.

Monroe County deputies Todd Bible and Sgt. Bobby Queen arrived shortly after to assist. Stice fled on foot, and deputies pursued him. Multiple Taser deployments were made, but Stice reportedly continued to resist arrest. After a brief struggle, deputies were able to place him in handcuffs. Deputies then noticed that Stice was unresponsive and turning blue. They began CPR and continued life-saving efforts until Monroe County EMS arrived. Stice was transported to Sweetwater Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

A search of Stice's vehicle and clothing revealed a white powdery substance believed to be fentanyl, along with a scale. Sheriff Jones stated that preliminary findings suggest Stice may have suffered a drug overdose. Stice was known to law enforcement and the Tenth Judicial Drug Task Force from previous encounters related to fentanyl use and trafficking.

Sheriff Jones emphasized the importance of allowing the TBI's independent investigation to proceed without speculation or misinformation, noting that the agency will release officer body camera footage and other relevant materials once the investigation is complete. "Our commitment remains to transparency, accountability, and justice—based on evidence and facts, not assumptions and rumors," Jones said in a [statement](#).

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Friday, Oct. 10, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Historical Society Receives State Archives Grant



The McMinn County Historical Society and Archives has been awarded an Archives Development Grant from the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The funding will be used to purchase a new digital microfilm reader and additional rolling shelving for archival books, helping to expand access to local historical records.

The Society expressed its gratitude to the Tennessee Legislature for increasing support for library and archive grants, as well as to the City of Athens for ongoing financial assistance and the McMinn County Commission for covering utilities and providing office space. Society representatives also extended appreciation to the dedicated volunteers who keep the archives open throughout the week and assist visitors and members.

Left to right: Glenda Kelly, MCHSA volunteer; Rachel Lowe, wife of State Sen. Adam Lowe; Athens City Manager Randy Dowling; Laura Lenoir, MCHSA board member; Athens Mayor Larry Eaton; Tyler Boyd, MCHSA President; Athens Vice Mayor Jordan Curtis; Secretary of State Tre Hargett; State Rep. Mark Cochran; Steve Sherlin, MCHSA Corresponding Secretary and Athens councilman; Jason Wright, MCHSA Recording Secretary; Linda Edmonds, MCHSA volunteer; County Mayor John Gentry

Source: Tyler L. Boyd

Pedestrian Injured, Driver Arrested After Hit-and-Run in Etowah



A pedestrian was struck by a pickup truck Tuesday morning on County Road 890 near Starr Bethel Baptist Church in Etowah. The incident occurred around 9 a.m. when the truck came around a curve and hit the pedestrian before stopping briefly to let out a passenger, then fleeing the scene.

First responders from Etowah Rural Fire, Etowah City Fire, and Englewood Rural Fire Departments, along with McMinn County Sheriff's deputies and AMR, arrived on scene. The pedestrian was treated at the scene and transported by AMR to the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. The driver was later involved in a crash in Tellico Plains, where he was taken into custody by Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Travis Ryans, who is also leading the investigation. Etowah Rural Fire Lt. Austin Hancock was in command at the scene. *Photo courtesy of Etowah Rural FD.*



PUMPKINTOWN

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THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Oct. 10, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- 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. Come to the table for a free plate lunch. First Come, First Serve. The church is located right off I-75 exit 56.
- [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 in Athens. They also meet every [Thursday](#) at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. The clinic is run by a small staff and many volunteer physicians. Their goal is to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to rural East Tennessee. 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.*
- Clear Springs Baptist Church, 653 County Road 100 in Athens., will have a Red Back Hymnal Singing on Sunday, October 19 @ 6 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- East Niota Baptist Church, 301 East Farrell Street, will host a Yard Sale on Saturday, October 18, from 8 am to 2 pm. All proceeds will go to missions.
- Star Bethel Missionary Baptist Church presents *Community Celebrate Recovery*, a Christ-centered recovery ministry that helps individuals overcome their hurts, hang-ups, and habits. Meetings are held **Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at **Spirit City Church North Etowah**, located at **231 Pennsylvania Avenue, Etowah, TN 37331**. Childcare is available for children ages 11 and under. For more information, contact **Bro. Frankie Williams** at 423-462-5905 or **Min. Lesia Dunn** at 423-650-2681.

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Friday, Oct. 10, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

10-08-25

Joshua King, 33 of Riceville charged with state violation of probation for felony evading.

Angela Jorgensen, 61 of Athens charged with criminal trespassing.

Debra Norton, 42 of Ten Mile, charged with forgery, Criminal Simulation, and driving on a suspended license, Bond \$10,000

**Those accused are considered innocent
until proven guilty in a court of law.**

Information gathered using Public Sources.

USS Ware, Veterans, Pumpkintown & an Eagle!

It's going to be a busy and fun weekend here in Athens, Tennessee. Beginning today (Friday) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the McMinn County Airport, the annual reunion takes place for those sailors who served on board the USS Charles R Ware, a Navy Destroyer that was named in honor of an Athens native, Lieutenant Charles R. Ware. Ware was a WWII Hero and was a Navy Pilot that was lost during the Battle of Midway. You will be able to step back in time and witness history take flight when two WWII Warbirds will be at the McMinn County Airport today, in his honor. The Douglas Dauntless Dive Bomber and North American LT-6 Mosquito will be on display and available for the public to take a ride. The event is open to the public and tickets are available for flight rides at www.airbasegeorgia.org. On Saturday, October 11, the reunion attendees and all veterans are invited to the Athens Parks and Recreation Department Commemorative Brick Ceremony at Veterans Park, across from the Market Park Pavilion at 11 a.m. Source: [Friendly City Festivals Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/friendlycityfestivals)

The Athens Parks & Recreation Department Veterans Memorial Brick Ceremony will take place Saturday at 11 a.m. and will include the unveiling of 3 new monuments for those who fought in the Revolutionary War, World War I and World War II. On hand will be a special presentation of a bald eagle named "Challenger" who is known all over the world for flying in numerous stadiums during the National Anthem. "Challenger" (pictured below) has even flown inside the corridors of the massive Pentagon Building in Washington, DC and is being brought to Athens due to the generosity of Dollywood and the American Eagle Foundation. <https://eagles.org/> The names of the veterans whose loved ones have purchased a brick, will be read and honored during the ceremony. Quilts of Valor will also be presented. Those attending the ceremony are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

The Ware Reunion and the Brick Ceremony are in conjunction with the PUMPKINTOWN celebration taking place on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown Athens. Thousands of visitors will be there to enjoy the Scott Crisp Memorial Pow-Wow, the Mutt Strutt, Pumpkin Plinko, Food Trucks and Local Shopping, to name just a few of the fun things that will be taking place. There's not any admission charge either! See their ad on page 2.

For more details, go to: <https://friendlycityfestivals.com/>



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Friday, Oct. 10, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Jay Albert Jerome Hacker, Jr., 79 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, October 8 at his residence. After high school, he joined the US Army and served in the Vietnam War. In 1970, he started Hacker Sign Company. Funeral services will be Friday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Graveside services will be 11:00 AM Saturday, October 11, 2025 at McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 4-7 PM prior the service at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Susan Marie Steckley, 66 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, October 8 at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm on Sunday, October 12, 2025 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The family will receive family and friends from 1:00-2:00PM prior to the service.

Johnny Ray Aikman, 73, passed away peacefully at his residence surrounded by his family on Wednesday, October 8. Johnny was the proud owner of Vac N' Stitch in Athens for 40 years. He spent 20 years as a jet boat racer, chasing adventure and the thrill of the water. He also served faithfully as Chairman of the Election Commission in Meigs County for the past 14 years. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 13 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation. Interment will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14 at Rocky Springs Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5 – 7 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Aikman family.

We encourage you to e-mail results from local school sporting events for use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: wyradio@gmail.com



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