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Everyone is Invited!

McMinn County Historical Society Monthly Meeting

Sunday at 2:00 pm
in Blueroom of
Courthouse



Friday, October 30, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Englewood Driver Involved in Two Crashes Over Weekend



A 2016 Chevrolet Equinox was involved in two separate crashes in Englewood over the weekend.

The first occurred around 10 p.m. Saturday on Tellico Street near Nancy Street when the driver, while returning home from an earlier wreck, missed a turn and ran off the roadway. The driver was treated at the scene by first responders but declined EMS transport. Englewood Rural Fire Department personnel and Englewood Police Officer Shannon Liner responded, with Officer Liner investigating the crash.



The following evening, around 9:30 p.m., the same Chevrolet Equinox was involved in a collision at North Amhurst Avenue and Englewood Avenue after the driver of a 2022 Kia K5 reportedly suffered a medical emergency and lost consciousness. The Kia driver was treated at the scene and transported by AMR to Starr Regional Medical Center in Etowah. The Equinox driver declined medical transport. Englewood Rural Fire Department personnel and investigating officer Shannon Liner responded to the scene.

Photos by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD



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²The APR (currently 7.00%) is based on the WSJ prime rate and may adjust monthly. After the introductory period, the APR can range from 4.00% to a maximum of 18.00%. All loans are subject to approval. Restrictions may apply. Limited time offer, rates are subject to change without notice. Third party closing fees may apply, generally ranging between \$570 and \$1200.

Insurance is required. Visit any PBET location for complete details. NMLS #450164



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Friday, October 30, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

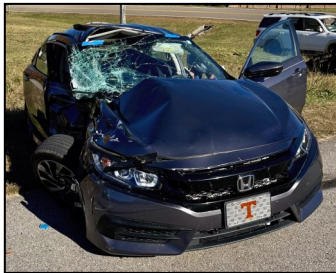
One Injured in Highway 30 East Crash



One person was injured in a two-vehicle crash Monday afternoon at the intersection of Highway 30 East and County Road 554 near Athens.

The collision occurred around 3:30 p.m. and involved a 2016 Honda Civic and a 2003 Toyota Sequoia. The driver of the Toyota was transported by AMR to Starr Regional Medical Center in Etowah for treatment, while the driver of the Honda declined medical transport.

Etowah Rural Fire Department, Athens Rural Fire Department and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department responded to



the scene. The crash was investigated by THP Trooper Caleb Ballard.

Photo by Etowah Rural FD

Scouts Clean-up Library Wetlands



The E.G. Fisher Public Library recently thanked Scout Troops 118 and 217 for their service during a wetlands cleanup project. The scouts, along with Friends of the Library board members Bo Perkinson, Chris Taylor and Joe Mishtal, worked diligently to help clean and improve the wetlands area surrounding the library.

Source: Friends of the Library - E.G. Fisher Public Library

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Saturday, November 14, 2026,
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Together We Can!

Early Voting Ended Oct. 29th Election Day Next Tuesday, Nov. 3rd

Registered voters who have not yet cast their ballots can do so next Tuesday, November 3rd. More than one million Tennesseans have already cast their ballots during early voting, which ended October 29th. Registered voters can find polling locations and hours, view sample ballots, check their voter registration status, download the free GoVoteTN app or visit GoVoteTN.gov. Those voting on Election Day must present a current or expired photo ID issued by the federal government or the State of Tennessee when voting in person. College student IDs, non-U.S. citizen IDs, and IDs issued by local governments or other states are not accepted.

Warming Center In Need of Volunteers: The McMinn County Warming Center is in need of some help. Please consider signing up on their website (McMinn Warming Center). They also need an overall overnight coordinator. That person is not responsible for staying overnight, they are to lead the group of volunteers in that area, making sure all the responsibilities are being taken care of. If interested please contact Executive Director Tina Marie at 208-241-7806. Thanks and God bless.

Church News and Events

- Keith Memorial United Methodist Church invites the community to the 10th annual Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving Day beginning at 8am. Register at this link [HERE](#)
- Athens Lutheran Church, 710 Forrest Ave., will host a community Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. The free event is open to all ages, and the church invites the community to come for treats and fellowship.
- The next Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will occur on Thursday, November 5 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Cafe in downtown Athens. This prayer breakfast is open to all men of Christian faith and those men who want to establish a relationship with Jesus. Please contact Marcus Guinn marcusguinn@gmail.com or call 423-507-7769 for more info. More Church News on Page 4

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UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, October 30, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **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 and Thursdays at **6:30pm** at **Spirit City Church North Etowah**.
- **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 Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- Union McMinn Baptist Church will host its Thanksgiving Day "Come to the Table" gathering on Thursday, Nov. 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 316 County Road 316 in Niota. Guests are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal, fellowship, worship and singing. The Leamon Family will provide special music. Everyone is welcome.
- St. Mark AME Zion Church will host its First Annual Cornerstone Chili Cook-Off community fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McMinn Senior Activity Center, 205 McMinn Ave., Athens. The event will feature chili, music, prizes, and a silent auction as part of efforts to help rebuild the church. For more information, contact Lila Robinson at 423-241-7117.
- Mt. Verd Baptist Church, 252 County Road 249, Athens, will host a Thanksgiving drive-thru meal on Nov. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meals will be available on a first-come, first-served basis without leaving your vehicle.
- On Friday November 10th world renowned Singer and Song writer Ivan Parker will be performing live and in concert starting at 6pm at the Athens Christian Church located at 802 South Matlock Ave. This event is free.

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Paid for by the Campaign to Elect Abby Burke Carroll
to Athens City Council, Treasurer Abby Burke Carroll

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The Morning Fax®
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Friday, October 30, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Report

October 28, 2026

Teresa Davis, 57, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for shoplifting theft of property. Bond \$3,000.

Paul Groff, 42, of Athens, charged with disorderly conduct. Bond \$2,000.

Jason Jones, of Philadelphia, charged with harassment in Knox County.

Donald McSpadden, 58, of Sweetwater, charged with driving on a revoked license, driving an unregistered vehicle on a roadway, misuse of registration, simple possession of schedule 6, and criminal impersonation. Bond \$10,000.

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

Information gathered using public sources.

Obituaries

Alan David Austin, 78, of Niota, passed away on Sunday, October 25. He was a member of the International Union of Painters and Allied trades (IUPAT) for 50 years. A graveside Service will be held at 2 p.m., on Friday, October 30 at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. The Family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. before the service in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. [Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services](#) is honored to serve the Austin family.

Lucille "Sally" Ratledge McKhean, 92, of McMinn County, passed away on Tuesday, October 27. The family will receive friends from 1:00 to 2:00 PM on Monday, November 2 at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at the funeral home at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow in Cedar Grove Cemetery. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) has been entrusted with serving the family of Lucille "Sally" Ratledge McKhean.

Carolyn Ann Pugh Arndts, age 83, of Ten Mile, passed away on Thursday, October 29, 2026. Carolyn was a dedicated educator, serving in the elementary school system and leaving a profound impact on the countless

students she guided throughout her distinguished career. Her commitment to education and her love for her students were hallmarks of her life's work. A devout member of the Kingston Church of Christ, Carolyn found strength and solace in her faith, fostering a sense of community and belonging that enriched the lives of those around her. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., on Monday, November 2, 2026, in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Twin Eagle Farms Cemetery. The family will receive friends 12 noon - 2 p.m., prior to the service. [Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services](#) is honored to serve the Arndts family.

Ray Price, 66, of Athens, passed away on Monday, October 26. He was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed playing cards and watching movies. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to assist with funeral expenses. The family plans to hold a private burial for Danny. [Companion Funeral and Cremation Service](#) is honored to assist the Price family.

More obituaries on Page 6.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

	VS		CLEVELAND @ FARRAGUT FRIDAY, OCT. 30 @ 7 PM
	VS		McMINN CENTRAL @ AUSTIN-EAST FRIDAY, OCT. 30 @ 7 PM
	VS		McMINN CO. @ EAST HAMILTON FRIDAY, OCT. 30 @ 7 PM
	VS		POLK CO. @ TELlico PLAINS FRIDAY, OCT. 30 @ 7:00 PM
	VS		EAST RIDGE @ SEQUOYAH FRIDAY, OCT. 30 @ 7:00 PM
	VS		WALKER VALLEY @ RHEA CO. FRIDAY, OCT. 30 @ 7 PM



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Obituaries

Thomas (Tom) Pikciunas, age 81, of Athens, TN, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, October 26, 2026. Born in Chicago to the late Pearl and John Pikciunas, he moved to Chattanooga at an early age and attended OLPH and Notre Dame High School. Tom proudly served four years in the U.S. Air Force after his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He made a career in the manufacturing field in the production of various products from yachts to stoves, to garbage trucks, to custom tank trailers. He retired after twenty years as Vice President of Operations for Heil Trailer International. He particularly enjoyed helping to expand the Heil operation in England, Argentina, and Thailand. Tom was a avid woodworker as well as a 52-year member of St. Mary Catholic Church where he served in a variety of roles. He was a firm believer in helping children to continue their education and served on the Educational Trust Board for the Diocesan of Knoxville for over twenty years. A Funeral Mass will be held 12:00 Noon, Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at St. Mary Catholic Church followed by interment at the church. Officiating Rev. Father Christopher Manning, Rev. Father Randy Stice, and Rev. Father Jim Vick. Visitation at the church from 11:00-12:00 prior to service. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Thomas L. Pikciunas.

Robert Lee "Bobby" Cox, 89, of Etowah, TN, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, in Etowah, surrounded by his wife and

sons. He was born on June 24, 1937, in Chatsworth, GA. He grew up in Etowah, TN, and attended Etowah High School with the Class of 1957. Bobby proudly served in the National Guard and later enjoyed a long career in maintenance at Huber Chemicals, where he worked until his retirement. He was a member of Calhoun First Baptist Church. Bobby's faith in Jesus Christ was the foundation of his life. He had a personal relationship with his Savior. He spent time with Him daily and assured his loved ones that he'd be in heaven when his earthly life ended, something that his family takes great comfort in. A graveside service celebrating Bobby's life will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Green Hill Cemetery in Etowah, TN. The service will be officiated by Bobby's niece, Rev. Dr. Katie Morgan-Harper, and Pastor Nathan Melton, pastor of Calhoun First Baptist Church. [Bordwine Funeral Home](#) of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Ronnie Lee Bohannon, age 34, of Niota TN, passed away October 28, 2026 at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. He was born in Etowah TN, and a current resident of Niota. He was a loving husband, father, brother and son, and would help and give the shirt off his back to anyone in need. He was a good ole county boy that loved to hunt and fish and everything in between. He gave the best bear hugs and never forgot anyone. He was the best evel knievel that ever lived. There will be no formal services at this time. Arrangements by [Lavcock Hobbs Funeral Home](#), Athens, TN.

**Jerri
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THIS MESSAGE IS APPROVED BY THE JERRI GREEN FOR GOVERNOR CAMPAIGN
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