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2412 Congress Pkwy South, Athens

Friday, August 15, 2025 **Page 1** **Athens, Tennessee**

Laughter and Country Hits to Light Up the Historic Gem Theater TOMORROW!



The Gem Theater, one of downtown Etowah's most beloved landmarks, is about to take center stage for an evening that blends belly laughs with the sweet twang of country classics. On Saturday, August 16, from 7 to 9 p.m., Comedy and Country Night will deliver a double dose of entertainment that organizers say is all about bringing people together.

The night begins with the quick wit and clean humor of **Big Rich Brock**, a Southeast favorite whose larger-than-life personality has made him a staple of the regional comedy scene. Known for his down-home style and knack for finding humor in everyday life, Brock is set to start the evening with a round of laughs that will echo through the historic venue. When the laughter fades, the spotlight shifts to the timeless sound of George Strait—brought to life by tribute artist **Howard Decker** and his band, Strait Country. From "Amarillo by Morning" to "Check Yes or No" and "The Chair," Decker delivers the King of Country's hits with such authenticity that fans often swear they're hearing the real thing.

"This is exactly the kind of night we want to bring to the Overhill region," said Adrian Lambert, Executive Director of the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association. "The arts have such a powerful way of bringing people together. Whether it's comedy, music, or history—we're excited to celebrate it all right here in Etowah."

Presented by local supporters—the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association, the Etowah Chamber of Commerce, Etowah Main Street, Builtwell Bank, and the Etowah Arts Commission—the event will unfold against the backdrop of the Gem Theater's historic charm. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the Tennessee Overhill and Etowah Chamber offices at the L&N Depot. Seating is limited, and doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Etowah Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association, or [visit the event's Facebook page](#). (See More Info on Page 4)

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Friday, August 15, 2025

Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Welding Graduates at

Cleveland State Community College Workforce Development recently completed a MIG Welding Bootcamp at the McMinn County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). Seven inmates completed the boot camp and earned their American Welding Society (AWS) certification.



Pictured above: Back row left to right: Kayla Crowder, MCJC Grants & Programs Coordinator; Jeff Simmons; Chad Laxton, CSCC Welding Instructor; Dakota Harris; Josh Tillman; Tyler McDonald; Oscar Anguiano; Christopher Ward; Chase Thurman; Kyle Sparks, Norfolk Southern Welding Inspector

and more complex facility. The Operational Excellence Award recognizes treatment plants that maintain compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements, allowing no more than one violation during a 12-month period. The North Mouse Creek plant treats up to 1.2 million gallons of wastewater daily, while the Oostanaula facility processes up to 6 million gallons, with peak capacities of 15 million gallons. AUB leaders credit the team's long-running success to proactive maintenance, constant monitoring, and seamless teamwork. While often unnoticed by the public, wastewater operations play a critical role in protecting public health and the environment. AUB's decades of recognition highlight the technical expertise, dedication, and cooperative culture that keep the community's waterways clean and safe year-round. **Source: Amy McDonald, AUB**

AUB Wastewater Team Earns State Awards for Decades of Excellence



Back row (L-R)- John Hurst, Stan Young, John Sullivan, Kyle Littleton, Tillmon Devaney
Front row-(L-R) Scott King, Russell Coleman, Jody Derrick Not pictured- Troy McDermott, Randy Millsaps, Jeremy Parsons, Barrett Paul

The Athens Utilities Board's wastewater operations team has once again been honored among the best in the region, earning multiple Operational Excellence Awards from the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association at the recent Water Professionals Conference. The North Mouse Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant received the award for the 29th consecutive year, while the Oostanaula Wastewater Treatment Plant earned its 20th straight recognition — a notable achievement for the utility's ger

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Friday, August 15, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Dollar General Recalls Clover Valley Instant Coffee Over Glass Contamination Risk



Dollar General Corporation has issued a recall for select lots of its Clover Valley Instant Coffee after concerns the products may contain glass fragments. The recall affects three lots of the 8-ounce Clover Valley Instant Coffee — UPC 876941004069 — sold exclusively in Dollar General stores between July 9 and July 21 in every state except Alaska and Hawaii. The affected lot numbers and best-by dates are: **L-5163 (12/13/2026), L-5164 (12/13/2026), and L-5165 (12/14/2026).**

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, ingesting glass fragments can cause serious injuries, including damage to teeth, cuts to the mouth or throat, and intestinal perforation. The recall was initiated after a customer reported the potential contamination. No injuries or illnesses have been reported as of August 12. Dollar General is investigating the source of the issue and urges customers who purchased the affected products to discard them and contact the company for a full refund. *Source: [Newsweek](#)*

Church News and Events

- Kevin Speer will be singing this Sunday at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Calhoun. See their ad below for more information.
- [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.
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? Clearwater Baptist Church (964 County Road 180, Athens) is beginning a new session of GriefShare helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. Beginning on Thursday, July 17th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm there will be an ongoing (in 13wk rotations) grief support group **that you can join at any time** and is open to the community. For more info. visit: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share (Notify them in advance if child-care is needed.)
- Rocky Mount Baptist Church (1002 Rocky Mount Rd., Athens) will be hosting their Homecoming service with Jerry and Janet Mitchell singing on Sunday, August 17 at 10 a.m. Service begins at 11 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon.



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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

8-10-25

Joshua Roberts, 32 of Decatur, charged with theft of property, 2,500 to 10,000, and Failure to refund home improvement money.

Ralph Piper, 63 of McMinn County, charged with simple possession, schedule 2 cocaine, and evading arrest.

John Tillery, 30, charged with domestic assault and resisting stop, \$2,000 bond.

Clifford Winstead, 44 of Athens, charged with violation of state probation for theft of property.

LaDonna Schmidt, 58 of Athens, charged with public intoxication, \$500 bond.

Keisha Lawson, 31 of Cleveland, charged with drug paraphernalia, \$1,000 bond.

Holly Crowley, 37 of Knoxville, charged with DUI, \$1,000 bond.

Ronnie Underdown, 61 of Athens, charged with driving on suspended license, \$1,000 bond.

Keith Grubb, 59 of Athens, charged with DUI and implied consent, \$2,000 bond.

Patrick Walker, 43, charged with DUI, implied consent, and speeding, \$2,500 bond.

8-11-25

Kevin Taylor, 21 of Athens, charged with violation of probation.

Ralph Guilford III, 46, charged with felony, aggravated assault.

Charles Lewis, 48, charged with driving on revoked license.

Robert Olsen, 52 of Benton, charged with violation of state probation.

The accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered from public sources.

Obituaries

Betty Jean Potter Kile, 80 of Chattanooga, passed away on Tuesday, August 12. A Graveside Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, August 18 in the Cottonport Cemetery. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Kile Family.

David Lee Hicks, 62 of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, August 13. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of David Lee Hicks.

Martha "Marty" Ann Mincy Cooper, 70 of Spring City, passed away on Tuesday August 12. No services will be held at this time. A Celebration of life will be held at a later date. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Carol McCroskey, 84 of Etowah, died on Thursday, August 14 at her residence. Survivors and arrangements to be announced by M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home.

Ella Rose Dahle, 5 of Chattanooga, died on Tuesday, August 5. A Celebration of Ella Rose's life will be held Saturday, August 16 at 5pm at Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services, North Ocoee Street Chapel in Cleveland. The family will receive friends Saturday from 4 until 5pm at the funeral home. The family requests attendees to wear vibrant colors.

Dorothy Virginia "Jenny" Dunn, age 67, of Madisonville, passed away on Thursday, August 7, 2025 at Monroe Health & Rehab. Graveside services and interment will be at 2 P.M. Sunday, August 17th, at Chestua Campground Community Cemetery with Curt Presley officiating. Bierley-Hale Funeral Home in Madisonville is in charge of the arrangements for Dorothy Virginia "Jenny" Dunn.

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