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Wednesday, February 18, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Two Injured in Highway 30 East Crash Monday Afternoon



Two drivers were injured in a crash Monday afternoon at the intersection of Highway 30 East and County Road 637 in Etowah.

The accident occurred around 3 p.m. when a 2019 Kia Sorento collided with a 2024 Lexus RX 350. Both drivers sustained injuries. The driver of the Lexus was transported by AMR to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens for treatment.

Responding agencies included Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department. Chandler Lamar with the Tennessee Highway Patrol investigated the crash.

Photos provided by the Etowah Rural Fire Department



We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: wyxiradio@gmail.com



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Deadline: March 20

Nominations may be sent to Crescent at
P.O. Box 669, Niota or by email to:
sbboyd@crescent-inc.com or
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Location: Sherman Dining Hall
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Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

Sign-ups Continue for McMinn County

- The McMinn County Branch of The NAACP will host their Freedom Fund Banquet on Friday February 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Keith United Methodist Church. The speaker will be State Rep. Sam McKenzie. Tickets are \$65.00 which includes a one year membership to the McMinn County Branch. For tickets call 423-507-4452.
- The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce invites members to “Business Before Hours” on Thursday, February 19 at 8 a.m. This month BBH is hosted by E.G. Fisher Public Library (1289 Ingle-side Ave., Athens). Enjoy refreshments while networking and bring a business card to enter the door prize drawings. AACC reminds its members if they would like to promote their business, to bring door prizes for this event.



Registration is underway for the 2026 McMinn County Little League and T-Ball programs, with sign-ups continuing through March 1.

The league offers divisions for ages 3 through 12, including Tee Ball, Coach Pitch and youth baseball. Families may register online on the organization's website at: www.mcminncountylittleleague.com by phone through the Athens Parks and Recreation Office at 423-744-2704, or in person at Athens City Hall, 815 N. Jackson St.

For assistance with registration, contact the Parks and Recreation Office at 423-744-2704.

Source: City of Athens



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Athens, Tennessee

“Annie” Debuts on the ACT Stage Tomorrow



Athens Community Theatre (ACT) is pleased to present the Tony Award-winning, ANNIE, directed by Melonie Carideo with music directed by Ellen Kimball and Matthew Crabtree, accompanist, February 19 - March 1, 2026. Friday February 20 ticket holders are invited to join a “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 - 26 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. 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.

Athens Community Theatre Mainstage Series includes multigenerational productions, dramatic classics, and celebrated musicals, in their Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Prices for ACT tickets range from \$15 to \$25. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets early, as ACT shows tend to sell out on, or before, show dates.

Source: Lauren Brown, Executive Director, AACAA

Women's Conference

March 7, 2026
10:00am-2:00pm

Join us for a powerful time of testimony, uplifting music, and delicious food as women come together to share, grow and celebrate faith and sisterhood.

Guest Speakers: Stephanie Dunn
Brittany Duggan
Singer: Cayci Leamon

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Church
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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

February 08, 2026

James Brown, 40 of Riceville, charged with failure to appear for a sex offender violation.

Carlos Rosales Contreras, 28 of Maryville, charged with driving without a license, Bond \$3,000.

April Saffles, 45 of Athens, charged with driving without a license, Bond \$1,000.

Lawrence Taylor, 29 of Riceville, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000.

Joshua Thomas, 37, charged with theft of property under \$1,000.

Dwayne Armstrong, 56 of Cleveland, charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license second offense, and child support, Bond \$5,645.95.

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

Cleveland State Announces High School Art Invitational

Cleveland State Community College will host the third annual High School Art Exhibition. The juried invitational show is open to all high school students, grades 9-12. The deadline for submission is March 9, 2026. Artwork may be submitted in any media, and applications are free. Students can enter their own artwork or be nominated by an art teacher. There will be cash prizes awarded for exceptional skill and original work.

Submissions will be juried by the CSCC art faculty and local artists. The selected works will be included in an exhibition in the CSCC Art Studio Gallery, April 3-11, 2026. An Exhibition Reception will be held on Friday, April 3, 6-8 p.m.

Bethany Coffin, CSCC Assistant Professor of Art, said, "It is so important for young adults to have opportunities to share their voice, ideas and perspectives. We are excited to be exhibiting student work again. We had a great turn out last year, and I am hoping for even more participation this year. I love to meet local art students and always enjoy when they can visit our art studio." For more information about competition requirements and submissions, contact Bethany Coffin at:

bethany.coffin@cscctn.edu.

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