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Tuesday, April 07, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Teen Driver Escapes Injury in Easter Morning Crash



A 16-year-old driver escaped serious injury following a single-vehicle crash Sunday morning on Blue Springs Road near County Road 298 in the Sweetwater area.

According to officials, the teen was traveling south in a 2007 Dodge Caliber around 11 a.m. when she lost control, overcorrected, and struck an embankment and a mailbox before the vehicle overturned. She was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.



Emergency crews from the North McMinn Fire Department and Niota Fire Department responded to the scene, with Cody Millsaps of North McMinn Fire serving as incident commander.

The driver was evaluated on scene by AMR personnel and sustained only minor scratches. She was not transported for further treatment.

The crash remains under investigation by the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

Source: David Prater, Niota Rural FD

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Tennessee Unemployment Rate Dips to Start 2026



After a year of steady unemployment, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development reports the state began 2026 with a slight decline in joblessness.

Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 3.5%, down from 3.6% in December and matching the rate

from one year ago. The state continues to outperform the national unemployment rate of 4.3%.

Officials noted the unemployment rate remained stable throughout 2025, ranging between 3.5% and 3.7%.

Over the past year, employers added nearly 6,000 nonfarm jobs, with the largest gains in health care and social assistance, followed by state government and arts-related industries. In January alone, employment grew by 7,200 jobs, led by increases in private education and health services, professional and business services, and financial activities.

WYXI to Host Live Remote Broadcast at Dooley Tractor Company



WYXI Radio will host a live remote broadcast at Dooley Tractor Company in Athens this Friday, April 10th, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. during their annual Kubota Orange Days Sales Event! This is when Kubota offers **FANTASTIC deals** and **financing** on America's favorite compact tractor. The Kubota Sales Event will be all day; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to get a great deal on a new Kubota!

The event will begin with free coffee and doughnuts from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., followed by free BOJANGLES chicken sandwiches from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees can also enjoy free ice cream from MAYFIELD DAIRY FARMS, **all while supplies last!!**

WYXI RADIO listeners will have the opportunity to register for a variety of giveaways during the remote broadcast, including tools and items from DeWALT, tickets to Soaky Mountain Waterpark in Sevierville, and lots of additional prizes. No purchase is required to register for the giveaways. Come hungry! Don't miss the opportunity to possibly win a prize and meet "Brother Barry & Cousin Mark" from WIXIE RADIO!

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Tuesday, April 07, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

AACAA Announces 2026 Summer Arts Camps Lineup



The Athens Area Council for the Arts has opened registration for its 2026 Summer Arts Camps, offering a wide range of visual and performing arts programs for students of all ages at The Arts Center.

The summer begins with the 29th annual Kids Arts Camp, scheduled for June 1–5 and June 8–12 for students in grades K–6. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day and features classes in art, music, drama, and dance, concluding with a Friday performance. Tuition is \$125, with a registration deadline of May 18. Scholarships are available, with applications due May 11.


Junior Musical Theatre Camp for grades 1–6 will take place June 15–26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Campers will prepare and perform *Finding Nemo KIDS* in three performances June 26–27. Tuition is \$250, with registration due June 1 and scholarship applications due May 25.


Youth Theatre Camp, a two-week intensive for ages 11–17, runs July 6–17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students will receive in-depth instruction in acting, movement, and music, culminating in a performance of the original musical *Wonderful*. Tuition is \$300, with a June 22 registration deadline and June 15 scholarship deadline.

Visual Arts Mini Camp for grades K–5 is set for July 20–24, offering two-hour daily sessions by age group, with a final student showcase. Tuition is \$80. The new “Make Your Mark” camp for grades 6–12 will be held July 27–31, focusing on studying master artists and creating original work. Tuition is \$75.

Scholarships are available for select programs through the *Marian Biddle Trew Scholarship Fund*, and officials note that financial assistance may be available. Scholarships are given on a first-come, first-served basis, so do not delay. For more information, contact The Arts Center or visit athensartscouncil.org.

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Tuesday, April 07, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Gas Prices Top \$4 Nationwide as Oil Costs Surge

As of April 6, the national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline has climbed above \$4 for the first time since August 2022, reaching \$4.12, according to data from the Energy Information Administration.

The current average is up 10 cents from last week and more than \$1 higher than a month ago, driven largely by rising crude oil prices, which have surpassed \$100 per barrel amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East.

Despite the increase in prices, gasoline demand dipped slightly last week, while domestic supply and production also saw modest declines, according to federal data. U.S. crude oil inventories, however, rose by 5.5 million barrels and remain near the five-year average.

In Tennessee, prices remain below the national average at \$3.85 per gallon. Locally, McMinn County is averaging \$3.89, Meigs County \$3.86, and Monroe County \$3.88.

Officials note that similar price spikes occurred in 2022, when gas prices peaked at \$5 per gallon during the summer months.

Source: [AAA Fuel Prices](#)

Obituaries

Glenn "Raymond" Dills, 68, of McMinn County, passed away on Saturday, April 4. He was a longtime member of West End Baptist Church. For nearly 50 years, Raymond was a beloved part of the McMinn Cherokee family, serving as an honorary manager for Tribe Boys Basketball. Visitation will be held at McMinn County High School on Wednesday, April 8 from 4:30-7:00 pm, with a funeral service to follow at 7:00 pm. Interment will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, April 9 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Glenn "Raymond" Dills.

Harold Randall Radford, 71, of Etowah passed away on Saturday April 4. The family will receive friends from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesday, April 8 at Good Samaritan Funeral Home in Athens with the funeral at 7:00 pm. Interment will be on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 12:00 pm at Conasauga Baptist Church Cemetery, Etowah. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Reed Clayton "R.C." Truelove, 85, of Englewood, passed away on Sunday, April 5. Reed was a veteran of the United States Navy. He was a dedicated businessman, owning and operating Reed's Printing Service for over 30 years. A Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday April 8 at 7:00 pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. Visitation will be held prior at 5:00 pm until the service time. Those wishing to attend the graveside service are asked to meet at Companion Funeral Home of Athens at 10:00 am on Thursday, April 9 and travel in procession to Mars Hill Methodist Cemetery in Englewood, where the service will begin at 11:00 am. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is honored to assist his family with these arrangements.



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