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Pickup Truck Damaged in Late-Night Crash on County Road 475



A 1992 Chevy pickup was heavily damaged Friday night after clipping a bridge and leaving the roadway on County Road 475 in Etowah. The crash happened

around 10 p.m., according to responders.

The driver was treated on scene by AMR but did not require transport. Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, and THP Trooper Leigha Jones responded and investigated the incident.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Utilities Board Budget and Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, May 21 at 11:30am. They will be reviewing April's financial statements as well as the Fiscal Year 2027 budget and 5-year plan. There will be time allotted for Public Comments from Pre-Approved Speakers
- Athens Parks & Recreation has eight fields across three facilities available for travel-team practices, with Heritage Park coming soon. Fields are located at Athens Regional Park, Fisher Field, and Prof Powers Park. Prices vary, lights are available, and bases/mounds will not be moved. Reserve a field online, by phone at 423-744-2704, or in person at Athens City Hall.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:
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- Mayfield Pop up Visitors Center
- Dairy Alliance Milking Demonstrations
- Axe Throwing
- Athens Lions Club MooRun at Eureka Trail
- Mayfield Photo Op
- Petting zoo by Little Country Farm
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Athens, Tennessee

Arts Center Opens Registration for Summer Camps; First Sessions Led by Local Educators



The Athens Area Council for the Arts is gearing up for a full season of Summer Arts Camps, and the first two weeks—Kids Arts Camp—will be led by a team of well-known local educators: (Pictured L-R, Back) **Patti Rae Bryant, Lisa Sharp, Kanden Barnett, Jodi Mull**, and (pictured front) **Kay Frank**.

These instructors will guide students through the opening sessions of the summer, which remain among the most popular programs offered at The Arts Center.

The 29th annual **Kids Arts Camp** offers daily classes in art, music, drama, and dance for grades K–6. Led by **Kay Frank** and **Lisa Sharp**, the camp runs 9 a.m.–2 p.m. and ends each week with a performance of *Wish Upon a Stage*. Tuition is \$125, with full and partial scholarships available through the **Marian Biddle Trew Scholarship Fund**.

Other Summer Camps at The Arts Center

- **Jr. Musical Theatre Camp** (Grades 1–6, June 15–26) Students prepare and perform *Finding Nemo KIDS* under directors Michael Webb and Ethan León.
- **Youth Theatre Camp** (Ages 11–17, July 6–17) A two-week intensive led by Kelly Borwick, Bob Borwick, and Pam Thigpen, ending with a performance of the

original musical *Wonderful*.

- **Visual Arts Mini Camp** (Grades K–5, July 20–24) Small-group workshops in multiple media, with an end-of-week exhibition.
- **Make Your Mark Camp** (Grades 6–12, July 27–31) A new visual arts camp led by Nancy Kyzer, focusing on master artists a personal expression.

Families may register or request scholarship applications by visiting The Arts Center, calling 423-745--8781, or emailing artsed@athensartscouncil.org.

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RSVP: May 23

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

May 18, 2026

Stephen Wilkerson, 51 of Athens, charged with attempted murder, armed and dangerous felonies, and unlawful carry or possession of a weapon, Bond \$750,000.

Avery Bruback, 30 of Athens, charged with schedule 2 meth, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$7,000.

Nicholas Sloan, 36 of Etowah, charged with violation of probation for theft of property, theft of property under \$1,000, and simple possession of schedule 2 hydrocodone, Bond \$10,748.

Joshua Millsaps, 39 of Riceville, charged with felony evading arrest.

Kathleen Green, 24 of Athens, charged with resisting arrest.

Rhonda Crowe, 48 of Etowah, charged with failure to appear for violation of an interlock device, Bond \$4,000.

Amanda Ellison, 43 of Ten Mile, charged with driving on a revoked license for DUI, failure to have a headlight on equipment, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2 and schedule 6, and violation of registration laws.

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using public sources.**

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Wednesday, May 20, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

James "Jimmy" Franklin Elder, 86, of Ooltewah, passed away on Sunday, May 17. He was a proud veteran of the United States Navy (4 years), holding the rank of PCSN E-3. He also served for two years in the Army Reserve. After his time in the military, Jimmy pursued a career as a Meter Technician for Tennessee American Water Company. He was also a member of Bethsadia Baptist Church. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m., on Friday, May 22 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Bethsadia Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Elder family.

Joyce "Joy" Crittenden Curtis, 70, of Riceville, passed away on May 16, 2026. Joy was a member of Fairview Baptist Church. A funeral service will be held on Sunday, May 24 at 5:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A visitation will be held prior from 3:00pm-5:00pm. A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at 11:00am at McMinn Memory Gardens. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Spencer L. Casteel, 86, of Etowah, passed away on Saturday, May 16. Spencer was known throughout the region as the owner and operator of Spencer's Grocery in Etowah, a business he proudly managed for 32 years. He was a member of the Etowah Church of Christ. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 21 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Conasauga Cemetery on Friday, May 22 for the 11:00 a.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

David Richard Martin, 69, of Calhoun, passed away on Friday, May 15. David was of the Baptist faith. A true homebody, he found peace and comfort at home and rarely ventured out unless necessary. The family will receive friends on Thursday at the Chapel of Companion Funeral Home in Athens, Tennessee, from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM, followed by a Celebration of Life Service at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow immediately after the service at Maple Springs Baptist Church Cemetery in Tellico Plains. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody Family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

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