

FARRELL'S CUSTOM CABINETS & TOPS

Custom Cabinet & Countertop Solutions for Every Space

931 County Road 172, Athens

(423) 462-4238

Visit them on Facebook!

The Morning Fax
Today's News. This Morning.

Okay to distribute (with attribution)

Click here to send your stories to wyradio@gmail.com

MCMINN TANK & PIPE



We offer same day & next day delivery!

- 1,000 gal Tank & Lowboys
- 1,000 & 1,500 gal Pump Tanks
- 2' & 3' Chamber Pipe
- 3" Schedule 40 Pipe
- Risers in Lids for Easy Pumping

423-507-9487
423-744-0121

If it's not listed, call us!

Monday, June 08, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Former Rhea County Coach Indicted on Child Sex Abuse Charges



A former Rhea County High School girls basketball coach has been indicted on multiple child sex abuse charges, according to court records.

A Rhea County grand jury indicted **Tracy Kenneth Vest** on three counts of sexual battery by an authority figure and one count of continuous sexual abuse of a child.

The indictment alleges the offenses occurred in March 2026 and involved a minor between the ages of 13 and 17. Court records state Vest was in a position of trust or authority over the alleged victim at the time of the incidents.

The sexual battery charges stem from alleged unlawful sexual contact on separate occasions, including March 13 and March 26. The continuous sexual abuse charge alleges Vest engaged in three or more acts of sexual abuse involving the same child over a period of at least 90 days.

As of June 7, Vest was still listed as the girls varsity basketball coach on the MaxPreps website. However, Rhea County Schools confirmed that Vest is no longer employed by the district. The charges are allegations, and Vest is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in court. *Source: [WTVC](#)*

2 DUDES BBQ & CATERING
423-829-4126

- **Tue:** Loudon: 600 Gamble St (Old FOOD CITY) 10:30-2
- **Wed:** Etowah: Across from Johnsons 10:30-2
- **Thu:** Athens. Family Dollar 10:30-2
- **Fri:** Sweetwater: Little Drugs 10:30-2

SOAK UP THE SAVINGS!

- WATER TESTING
- QUALITY CHEMICALS
- SPAS AND SWIM SPAS

ORDER YOUR CHEMICALS ONLINE



FACTORY DIRECT EXIT 49



103 DYNASTY WAY • ATHENS
423-745-1425
www.dynastyspasstore.com

COME SEE US FOR YOUR METAL ROOFING NEEDS!

- VINYL SHAKES & STONE
- WINDOWS & SHUTTERS
- METAL ROOFING
- SHINGLES & CUTTERS
- DOORS
- DECKS
- VINYL SIDING

All Things Exterior

BUFFY
423-435-8714
723 CONGRESS PKWY S.

MICAH
423-506-1249
NEXT TO BJ'S SNACK BAR

Hiwassee
builders supply™
100 Decatur Pike, Athens
(423) 745-4704

**WANT TO ORDER CABINETS BUT YOUR SPACE
ISN'T QUITE READY?
WE CAN GO AHEAD AND ORDER AND STORE THEM
FOR 30 DAYS UNTIL YOUR PROJECT IS READY!
WE'LL BRING THEM TO YOU AND DELIVERY IS ALWAYS
INCLUDED IN QUOTES!**

Monday, June 08, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Driver Injured After Truck Strikes Hydrant and Power Pole in Etowah



Etowah City Fire and Etowah Rural Fire crews responded to a Thursday afternoon crash after a

2004 Ford F-150 left the roadway and struck both a fire hydrant and a power pole at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Street in Etowah.

The wreck occurred around 2:30 p.m., and the driver was treated on scene before being transported to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens by AMR. EUB personnel and Etowah City Police Officer Ben Christian, who investigated the crash, also responded.

Photo by Etowah Rural FD

Athens Council to Review Budgets, Purchases at June 8 Work Session

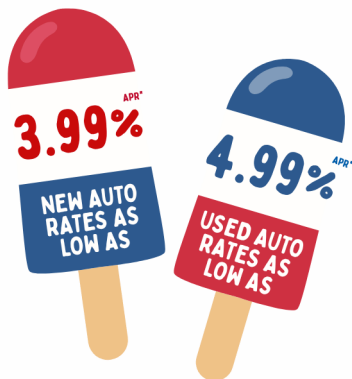
The Athens City Council will hold a work session Monday, June 8 at 5 p.m. to review school system budget amendments, the Athens Utilities Board's FY 2027 budget, and several major public safety purchases, including a new fire engine, two animal control trucks, and new police duty weapons.

Council will also consider a bid award for Fire Station No. 3, a grant application for the statewide SRO program, and updates to the Heritage Park and Cook Park projects.

Three ordinances are scheduled for public hearing and second reading, including a full rewrite of the city's towing services regulations, a rezoning request on Denso Drive, and adoption of the FY 2026–27 city budget and tax rate. An ordinance setting mayor and council compensation is also on the agenda.

The session will include discussion of the vacant City Manager position and individual councilmember items. Vacancies remain on the Board of Adjustments & Appeals and the Historic Preservation Commission.

**POPPIN'
RATES**



Bowater
Credit Union
Better Begins Here



*Terms and conditions may apply. Rates shown are the lowest available and may vary based on creditworthiness, loan term, and collateral. Rates subject to change. Membership required.

NATIONAL MAFEST
Athens, TN

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

ATHENS INSURANCE
smile more ORTHODONTICS
VALLEY OIL
make it in mcminn

DENSO Crafting the Core
RE/MAX FREEDOM
Window Works
TONYA PHENIX

CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE
CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK
Starr Regional
DRC PRINTING
Willsouthropic
VEC

TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION
TENNESSEE OVERHILL
WOLFFENDEN FAMILY PHARMACIES
Retirement Guys
WARREN JACOBSON
KONA ICE

FRIENDLY CITY FESTIVAL
PENPLETON'S PLAYGROUND
Simmons Bank PRIVATE WEALTH
Simmons Bank

FRIENDLYCITYFESTIVALS.COM

For a limited time, new business customers can

Earn \$400

by opening a new Core Business Checking account with SouthEast Bank and meeting requirements*

SouthEast bank

Member FDIC

*Click for details.

Monday, June 08, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

June 04, 2026

Brian Sledge, 49 of Athens, charged with possession of meth, drug paraphernalia, armed and dangerous felonies, unlawful carry or possession of a weapon.

Kobe Wyatt, 25 of Athens, charged with schedule 2 meth, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$13,000.

Matthew Hunt, 36 of Lebanon, Tennessee, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, Bond \$2,526.90.

Travis Conner, 47 of Atlanta, GA, charged with attempted forgery \$10,000 to \$60,000, and theft of property, \$10,000 to \$60,000, Bond \$30,000.

Lewis Sumpter, 64 of Reliance, Tennessee, charged with evading arrest, reckless driving, driving without a license, drug paraphernalia, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 4 xanax and clonazepam, and simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2 Fentanyl, Bond \$42,000.

Veronica Vanilla, 26 of Philadelphia, charged with being a fugitive from justice, Bond \$150,000.

June 05, 2026

Michael Case, 53 of Athens, charged with violation of probation.

Brian Stensel, 36 of Etowah, charged with DUI, and driving on a suspended license, Bond \$2,000.

Christopher Graham, 37 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$6,000.

Austin Arrowwood, 34 of Philadelphia, charged with driving on a suspended license 5th offense, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$28,000.

Kaylee Howard, 23 of Cleveland, charged with manufacturing, sell, delivery, or possession of schedule 6, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$6,000.

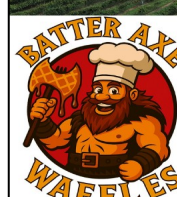
**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using public sources.**

With an estimated 10,000+ Daily Audience,
Advertise
with the Morning Fax and
We'll Show You to our Readers!

Contact: Stephanie Devine
Account Sales Representative

Email: radiostephaniedevine@gmail.com

Phone#: 423-462-5309



**POP-UP MARKET AT
THE NOTCH**

**JUNE 13TH, 2026
12PM-3PM**

**SHOP WITH LOCAL
CRAFTERS, ARTISANS, &
FARMS 12PM-3PM**

**BATTER AXE WAFFLES
FOOD TRUCK 12PM-3PM
OR SOLD OUT**

For more info about Happenings at
The Notch, text "LIVE" to 423.417.9463

Tsali Notch Vineyard
162 Harrison Rd.
Madisonville, TN
423-506-9895
info@tsalinotch.com
tsalinotch.com | @tsalinotch





The Morning Fax[®]

Today's News. This Morning.

Okay to distribute
(with attribution)

Click here to send your stories to
wyradio@gmail.com

SELL YOUR STUFF ON THE TRADING POST!

423-745-1390 or 423-746-1390
(from 8:30 am - 9:30 am WEEKDAYS ONLY)

tradingpost1390@gmail.com
(Anytime!)

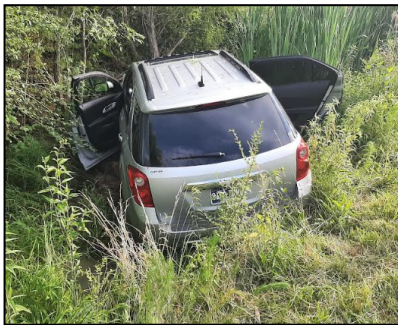
No email? No Problem! Click anywhere
on this ad to go to our Google Form
and we'll get your submission
INSTANTLY 24/7/365!

Monday, June 08, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Teen Driver Hospitalized After Medical Emergency Leads to Crash on Highway 68



An 18-year-old driver was taken to a local hospital Friday evening after suffering a medical emergency while traveling north on Highway 68 near County Road 297, causing his 2012 Chevrolet Equinox to cross into

the opposite lane and leave the roadway.

The vehicle traveled roughly 200 yards before coming to rest in a creek. The crash occurred around 6 p.m. The driver was evaluated on scene and transported by AMR for further medical assessment.

North McMinn Fire, Niota Fire, the McMinn County Sheriff's Office, and AMR responded. THP Trooper Logan Ballew is leading the investigation.

Photo courtesy of David Prater, Niota FD

Obituaries

Elizabeth Ann (Tootie) Dake Gentry, 94, of Athens, passed away on Friday, June 5. She worked at Citizens National Bank and later served for several years as secretary at Riceville Elementary School. Elizabeth was a member of Riceville First Baptist Church for 60 years. She was an active member of the Gideon Auxiliary for 34 years and a dedicated member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 56 years, serving with both the Calhoun and Athens Chapters. Funeral services will be 8:00 P.M. Tuesday, June 9, 2026, in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will be 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, June 10 in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 6-8 Tuesday in the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens, Tenn. in charge of arrangements.

Stacey David Marney, 42, of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, June 3. He attended church at Outreach for Calvary. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, fishing, or working on and riding motorcycles. No formal arrangements have been announced at this time. Companion Funeral Home and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

More Obituaries on Next Page

**THE BEST IN
YESTERDAY AND TODAY'S
Southern Gospel
Music**

WYXI RADIO
"The Friendly Voice of the Friendly City"
**FM 94.5
AM 1390**

On-Air since 1966

**FOCUS[®]
ON THE FAMILY**

**WEEKDAYS AT 9:30 AM/5:30 PM
ON
WYXI RADIO FM 94.5 AND AM 1390**

PRESENTED BY: **ATHENS AUTO LOGIC
BOOKOUT'S TIRE, LUBE & STORAGE
ROBERTS AUTO REPAIR**

JOHN FULLER **JIM DALY**



Compassionate Service in Your Time of Need

In times of grief, making difficult decisions about how best to honor the memory of someone so important can be overwhelming. We are here to help with complete, professional and compassionate funeral planning services to meet your needs and respectfully celebrate the life and legacy of your loved one.

Ziegler Funeral Home

521 W. Madison Avenue • Athens, TN

423-745-3123

www.zieglerfuneralhome.com

Monday, June 08, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Claud Swafford, 95, of McMinn County, passed away on Thursday, June 4. He was a logger, construction worker, dairy farmer, and truck driver. Claud also worked with the McMinn County Highway Department and Walmart. Claud was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church. A visitation will be held on Monday, June 8 from 3:00-7:00 PM, with a funeral service to follow at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held on Tuesday, June 9 at 11:00 AM at Oak Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Claud Swafford.

Jeremy Alexander "Alex" Gambrell, 52, of Etowah, passed away Thursday, June 4. He was currently employed with Ag-Central, was retired from The TVA Police and for 10 years he was general manager of Miracle Lake. A funeral service will be conducted 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 9 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. The family will receive friends Tuesday at the funeral home from 5:00-7:00 pm. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Jeremy Alexander "Alex" Gambrell.

Roxie Ann Colloms Harris, 76, of Athens, passed away on Friday, June 5 at The Groves of Athens Assisted Living. She retired from Creative Foam in Athens. The family will receive friends from 4-6 PM Tuesday June 9 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will be at the Veterans National Cemetery in Chattanooga where she will be laid to rest with her husband. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Evelyn Lousie West Boles, 87, of Ten Mile, passed away on Saturday, June 6. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, June 9 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Friendship Cemetery in Spring City, TN. The Family will receive friends from 12 noon to 2 p.m. prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Boles Family.

Mary Ruth Roberts, 76, passed away on Wednesday, June 3. Her life was full of love that she gave and received and she lived for her grandchildren and their children. She was a fortress and refuge to all those who knew her. There will be no formal arrangements. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is charge of arrangements.

Betty Ruth King Thomas Fritts, 93, of Athens passed away on Friday, June 5th. She served with multiple congregations before settling in Athens at the Woodward Ave. Church of God. The family will receive family, church family, and friends on Thursday 11 June at 5:30 pm at the Woodward Church of God. A funeral service will follow at the Woodward Church of God at 7.00 pm. Burial will take place on Friday June 12th at 11.00 am at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Reba Darlene Colbaugh, 65, passed away on Thursday, June 4th. Per Reba's Request, no formal services will be held. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Colbaugh family.

Never Miss an Update!
Don't forget to

SUBSCRIBE



The Morning Fax®
Today's News. This Morning.

THE TRADING POST

MORNING SHOW

WEEKDAYS 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

THE TRADING POST

BUY | SELL | TRADE

TUNE IN ON FM 94.5 & AM 1390

NOW AVAILABLE ON ALL PODCAST PLATFORMS

CALL IN AT (423) 745-1390 & (423) 746-1390

