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Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Friendly City Festivals Presents September Song on Saturday, June 13

Friendly City Festivals announces the second concert in the 14th annual Sounds of Summer series will feature local favorites September Song on Saturday, June 13th.

The concert will begin around 7:00 p.m. at the Market Pavilion Stage at 106 S. Jackson St. Concert goers are encouraged to bring chairs and or blankets to enjoy this special evening. Featured food trucks will be Kona Ice, Batter Axe Waffles, Backroads fried pies and East Tennessee Sweet Stuff!



Andrew and Lindsey Kimball are the husband and wife team behind September Song and the full band line up includes: Joe Littleton on bass, Kyle Littleton on lead guitar and Matt Flowers on drums and percussion. Together they bring the perfect blend of energy, musicianship and personality to every show. September Song Entertainment is a full-service event music provider offering live band, DJ and acoustic duo options. They perform popular hits from the '60s to today spanning country, rock, funk, jazz and soul - think Stevie Wonder, Shania Twain and Bruno Mars.

Sounds of Summer opened the season with Cole Sitzlar at MooFest and the remaining line up is:

6:45 p.m. Saturday, July 4th-Mendingwall at Regional Park

7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 18th-Dexter Thomas Band-Market Pavilion

7:00 p.m. Saturday, August 8th-Scenic City Sound

7:00 p.m. Saturday, August 15th-Confederate Railroad at Regional Park-\$10/car admission fee

Sound provided by Integrity Sound Solutions and media support by The Morning Fax, The Daily Post Athenian, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce newsletter, McMinn County EDA and the Monroe County Advocate/Democrat. This free to the public series is produced by Friendly City Festivals, a 501(c)3 subsidiary of Willsonthropic, Inc. and is made possible by the financial support of: The City of Athens Tourism Fund, McMinn County Tourism Board, Madison Avenue Pharmacy, Tennessee Overhill Association, Tennessee Arts Commission, DENSO, VEC Customer Shares, Citizens National Bank, Simmons National Bank, Simmons Private Wealth Group, Mayfield Dairy Farm, Valley Oil, Starr Regional Medical Center, Kona Ice, WarrenJackson CPAs, Athens Kiwanis Club, Athens Insurance, Pendleton's Playground, Let's Bounce Rentals, Smile More Orthodontics, The Financial Mart, REMAX Freedom Realty, KARM Stores and River Valley Health.

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Wednesday, June 10, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Driver Injured After Crash on County Road 271



A 27-year-old man suffered a wrist injury late Monday afternoon after his 2017 GMC Acadia failed to negotiate a curve on County Road 271 near the 200 block, striking a guardrail that kept the vehicle from going into a nearby creek. The driver declined EMS transport. Niota Fire and North McMinn Fire responded, and the McMinn Highway Department was notified about the damaged guardrail. THP Trooper Chandler Lamar is leading the investigation.

Photo credit: David Prater, Niota Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- A magnitude 2.4 earthquake was recorded early Monday, June 8, at 2:02 a.m., with the epicenter located about 3.6 miles east of Eto-wah and 10.8 miles southeast of Athens. The quake occurred at a depth of 12 kilometers, according to the USGS, and no damage has been reported.
- Athens Parks and Recreation will host a grand re-opening of the newly remodeled Heritage Park on Friday, June 12, at 10 a.m., with the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce in attendance. The celebration marks the re-turn of the park's upgraded amenities, including a new playground, walking track, and youth baseball field, now open for the community to enjoy.

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Tennessee Losing Teachers Faster Than Any Other State

Tennessee

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in the nation

Tennessee is experiencing the highest teacher-loss rate in the nation, according to a new report from the National Education Association, which found the state saw a 10.36% decline in its teacher workforce between the 2023–24 and 2024–25 school years. That drop represents more than 7,400 educators, the largest percentage decrease of any state.

While Tennessee ranks 40th nationally in average teacher pay at about \$64,000, JC Bowman, executive director and CEO of Professional Educators of Tennessee, said salary is only part of the issue. He pointed to working conditions, student behavior, increasing workloads, and over-testing as major factors driving educators out of the classroom. Some teachers, he added, are being asked to manage young students who are not potty-trained, on top of academic responsibilities.

The shortage is costly for districts, with Bowman estimating it takes about \$15,000 to recruit a single teacher. The impact is already visible: the Tennessee Department of Education's job board lists nearly 2,200 open educator positions statewide. State leaders have taken steps to address the crisis, including raising the minimum starting salary to \$50,000 and allowing individuals with bachelor's degrees to obtain temporary teaching permits to help fill vacancies.

Source: [WKRN](#), Graphic Courtesy of the [National Education Association](#)

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Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

June 08, 2026

John Damewood, 62 of Powell, TN. charged with failure to appear in Knox County.

Pamela Smith, 46 of Powell, TN. charged with failure to appear in Knox County.

Michael Gable, 46 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation.

Gary Blankenship, 31 of Decatur, charged with simple possession of schedule 6, and public intoxication.

Joseph McCroskey, 34 of Chattanooga, charged with simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2 fentanyl, drug paraphernalia, DUI, and legend drugs.

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

Obituaries

Charlotte 'Char' Jane White, 79, of Athens, passed away on Sunday, June 7 at her residence. Survivors and funeral arrangements to be announced by M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

Mable "Estelle" Prince Powell, 82, of the Short Creek community, passed away on Sunday, June 7. She was a longtime member of Short Creek Baptist Church. Visitation will be held at Short Creek Baptist Church from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday with the funeral service to follow at 11:00 AM. Burial will then be in the Short Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Mable "Estelle" Prince Powell.

Billy Joe Clayton, 67, of McMinn County, passed away on Monday, June 8. He was a member of Walker Valley Community Church. Visitation will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 11 at Ziegler Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 12 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Billy Joe Clayton.

Wayne Wright Benson, 95, passed away on Sunday, June 7. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Niota. At this time, there are no formal services planned for Wayne. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is honored to be entrusted with these arrangements.



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