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Friday, June 12, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Car Crashes Into Ameritrust Finance Office; No Injuries Reported



Earlier this week, a vehicle crashed through the front entrance of the Ameritrust Finance Company on Congress Parkway South in Athens, across from Pizza Hut.

Witnesses said the driver stated to have accidentally pressed the gas instead of the brake, sending the car into the office and causing extensive damage to the storefront.

Despite the dramatic scene, no injuries were reported. Cleanup and repairs were underway at the business.

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Friday, June 12, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Taste of Soul Experience Set for THIS Saturday, June 13

Crash Reported at Englewood Intersection Friday Afternoon



JSM Legacy Group will host the Tennessee Taste of Soul Experience on Saturday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the McMinn Senior Activity Center

Event Hall in Athens, with doors opening at 6. The evening will feature soul food, live music, and a celebration of community and local history. Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door, with proceeds supporting restoration of the McMinn Legacy House and other local nonprofits. For more information, contact Jasmine McDermott at 423-829-2979 ext. 0 or:

jsmlegacygroup@gmail.com.



Around 1 p.m. Friday, a 2025 Buick Encore and a 2012 Mazda MZX collided at the intersection of County Roads 550 and 561 in Englewood. The Buick's driver was injured by the airbag and treated on scene but declined transport. Englewood Rural Fire, the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, AMR, TWRA, and THP Trooper James

Dalton responded, with Dalton handling the investigation. *Photos provided by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

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UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

SEND YOUR EVENTS BY
THURSDAY MORNING TO BE FEATURED HERE
EMAIL: WYXRADIO@GMAIL.COM

THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, June 12, 2026

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


Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

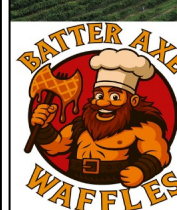
- Redemption to the Nations Church will be handing out free food boxes on **Friday, June 12** from 6:30–7:30 p.m. The church is located at 2329 Clearwater Road in Athens.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur and Thursdays at **6:30pm** at **Spirit City Church North Etowah**.
- **St. Mary's Legacy Clinic** offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madson Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- Cane Creek Baptist Church (136 County Road 498, Etowah) announces VBS: "Whosoever Includes You". Everyone is welcome June 15-19 6:30pm-8:30pm. See their AD on page 5 for details.
- A benefit fundraiser for **Cooke Ministries** will be held June 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Woodward Avenue Church of God in Athens. The event features BBQ plates, live singing, and both live and silent auctions, with all proceeds supporting utilities, repairs, and upkeep of the ministry center. Featured performers include Clarke and Sandie Kesler, Meadowfork Quartet, Faith, Hope and Charity, and others. Donations of funds or auction items may be made by contacting Ed Clowers at 423-506-3563.
- Lane's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church (904 County Road 264, Niota) welcomes Rev. Hugh Dixson and First Lady Priscilla Dixson back for their 13th year and will hold a special service on **June 14 at 4 p.m.** to consecrate new Deaconess **Etta Smith**; all are invited.
- Conasauga Baptist Church (649 County Road 475, "Old Mecca Pike" Etowah) will hold Homecoming on **June 14 at 10:30 a.m.**, with lunch and singing by the Southern Gospel trio *For Him*. Vacation Bible School runs **June 15–19 from 6 to 8 p.m.**, with supper at 6 and classes for kindergarten through adults. Everyone is welcome.

We encourage you to e-mail us community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

Any items you would like us to consider, e-mail: wyradio@gmail.com

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June 15-19, 2026
6:30 - 8:30 PM



Friday, June 12, 2026

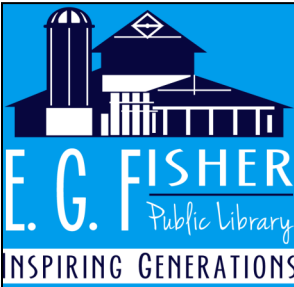
Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Friends of the Library to Hold Annual Used Book Sale Next Week

McMinn County Arrest Reports

June 10, 2026



The Friends of the E.G. Fisher Public Library will host their 2026 Annual Used Book Sale June 18-21 at the McMinn County High School cafeteria, with all proceeds benefiting the li-

brary. The sale is **CASH ONLY**. Times vary by the day. Check their flyer [HERE](#). Brother Barry and the WYXI Radio team will broadcast live from the sale on Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on FM 94.5, AM 1390, and streaming 24/7 on the [Live365](#) app, offering numerous giveaways and free Mayfield ice cream with no purchase required to register. Thousands of books across every genre will be available throughout the four-day event.

Jacob Allen, 28 of Decatur, charged with state violation of probation for two counts of forgery.

James Presley, 39 of Athens. charged with violation of probation for two counts of driving on a suspended license, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2 fentanyl, Bond \$7,886.

Christian Hammonds, 21 of Cleveland, charged with driving on a revoked license, and failure to have insurance, Bond \$2,000.

Charles Berger, 60 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for theft; \$2,500 to \$10,000, and Violation of probation for shoplifting, Bond \$660.

Dennis Butts, 43 of Etowah, charged with vandalism, Bond \$2,000.

Jason Johnson, 50 of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia.

Tracy Cantrell, 58 of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation for identity theft.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered using public sources.



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Friday, June 12, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Betty Jane McElhaney West, 84, of Meigs County, passed away on Monday, June 8. She was a longtime member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Visitation will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on Friday, June 12 at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church with a funeral service at 3:00 PM. Interment will follow at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Betty Jane McElhaney West.

William D. Gray, 33, of Athens, passed away at his home on Saturday, June 6. William was truly a "jack of all trades," known for his ability to fix anything with a motor and build whatever he set his mind to. Family and friends, and all those whose lives William touched, are invited to celebrate his life on Sunday, July 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lake Asbury Community Center, located at 282 Branscomb Road, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is honored to be entrusted with these arrangements.

Patricia "Pat" Jane Redman, 74, passed away on Monday, June 8. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered. Pat's wishes were for cremation. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, June 27th at 11:00am at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church (1803 Co Rd 250, Niota, TN 37826). Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Tina Rogers Atchley, 53, passed away on Monday, June 8. Tina dedicated more than 16 years as a volunteer firefighter and 10 years as a manager at Dollar General. The family will receive friends from 4 - 7 Sunday, June 14 at Clear Springs Baptist Church, Athens with the funeral at 7 P.M. Family and friends will assemble at Clear Springs Baptist Church at 10 a.m. Monday, June 15 and proceed to McMinn Memory Gardens for the 11 a.m. burial service. Good Samaritan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Ben Robert Kimpson, 75, passed away on the morning of Thursday, June 11 at his home in Calhoun. Survivors and funeral arrangements to be announced by M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

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