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Mt. Juliet Traffic Stop Leads to Recovery of Stolen Merchandise, Arrests

A routine traffic stop in Mt. Juliet this week uncovered more than \$1,000 in stolen merchandise tied to a shoplifting incident at Bath & Body Works in Athens, according to the Mt. Juliet Police Department. Officers initially stopped the vehicle for a window-tint violation but soon discovered an unreported theft from Old Navy and a large amount of stolen goods in the car.



Police say the passenger was carrying a magnet commonly used to disable retail security devices and was wanted in Sevier County for felony shoplifting, as well as in Knox County for violating probation on a previous felony shoplifting conviction. The 40-year-old driver and 41-year-old passenger, both from Chattanooga, were charged in connection with the Old Navy theft, and the passenger also faced charges for the theft device and her outstanding warrants.


Officers credited alert, thorough police work for recovering the merchandise, addressing the warrants, and helping bring justice to affected businesses.

Source: [Mt. Juliet Police Dept. - Facebook](#)

2 DUDES BBQ & CATERING 423-829-4126

- Tue: Loudon: 600 Gamble St (Old Food City) 10:30-2
- McMinn Co HS Football Field 6 - 8
- Wed: Madisonville @ Sloans 10:30-2
- Thu: Athens @ Family Dollar 10:30-2
- Fri: Sweetwater @ Little Drugs 10:30-2:30

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Cane Creek Baptist Church June 15-19, 2026
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Monday, June 15, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Heritage Park Reopens After Major Renovation



Athens celebrated the grand reopening of Heritage Park with a ribbon-cutting alongside the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. The upgraded park now includes a new playground, youth baseball field, improved courts, a paved walking trail, better parking, and LED lighting.

Once home to the Starlite Drive-In, the park continues its role as a community gathering place and will host the 2026 Little League South Zone and District Championships. City leaders say the revitalized park is an investment in local families and the future of Athens. *Source: [City of Athens, Facebook](#)*

Motorcycle Crash on Highway 307 Sends Driver to Knoxville Hospital



A motorcyclist was seriously injured Friday around 1:30 p.m. after a motorcycle with a sidecar left the northbound lane of Highway 307 just past County Road 422 and overturned. According to responders, the bike went off the right side of the road into a ditch and struck a driveway culvert, causing it to flip. The driver sustained serious injuries and was transported by AMR to a Knoxville hospital. Englewood Fire's Billy Roach handled the incident, with Englewood and Niota FD, AMR, TNT Wrecker Service, and THP Trooper Drew Metelits responding.

Photo provided by Niota and Englewood FD

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

June 11, 2026

Joshua Morgan, 48 of Etowah, charged with DUI.

Jessica Christman, 37 of Athens charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, possession of schedule 2 meth for resale, simple possession of schedule 6, simple possession of schedule 4 alprazolam, maintaining a dwelling for drug use, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$54,000.

Caleb Gillespie, 43 of Etowah, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000.

Frieder Carrasquiel, 27 of Sanford, FL, charged with being a fugitive from justice, and driving without a license, Bond \$226,500.

Cody Isles, 34 of Pleasant Hill, TN, charged with DUI, simple possession casual exchange, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$28,000.

June 12, 2026

Jalen Tillman, 24 of Niota, charged with violation of probation for drug paraphernalia, evading arrest, drug paraphernalia, manufacturing sell, delivery, and possession of a controlled substance, and driving without a license, Bond \$20,339

Devin Graves, 24 of Cleveland, charged with failure to appear in Polk County.

Stacey Johnson, 43 of McMinn County, charged with failure to appear for leaving the scene of an accident.

Haley Martin, 30 of Etowah, charged with drug paraphernalia.

Philip Wilkerson, 37 of Etowah, charged with drug paraphernalia.

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

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Monday, June 15, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Ribbon Cutting for New Chamber Member



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Member, Appalachian Tileworks, located in Monroe County and surrounding area. Appalachian Tileworks specializes in custom Tile Showers and Backsplashes. Contact them at (423) 807-1848.

Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right are: Paul Semenoff (Chamber Diplomat/The Capitol Group Business Brokerage), Stephanie Devine (WYXI Radio), Stacey Hester (Chamber Diplomat/Citizens National Bank), Tina Mathis (Chamber Diplomat/Re/Max Freedom), Kirk & Pamela Shepler (Owner Appalachian Tileworks) John Rodriguez (3 Rivers Radio Group), Shannon Willis (Athens Chamber) . Back: Brett King (Chamber Diplomat/McMinn Living Heritage Museum), State Representative Mark Cochran, Doug Bailey (Chamber Diplomat/McMinn County Sheriff's Department), Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Edward Hall (Edward Jones).

Obituaries

Timothy Joe Dalton, 58, passed away on Thursday, June 11. He was a member of Pleasant Grove Church in Benton. Tim's passion for automobiles was more than a career-it was a calling. In keeping with Tim's wishes, there will be no formal funeral service. Instead, family and his closest friends will gather to celebrate his life, share memories, and honor the remarkable man he was. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist with these arrangements.

Arrants Ray Kennedy, 92, passed away on Thursday, June 11. He was a member of Athens Christian Church. He served in the military during the Korean War. He later worked 39 years for Bowater Corporation, retiring in 2000. After retirement, he assisted the McMinn County Election Commission with early voting until 2020. A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, June 16 at 11:00 am at McMinn Memory Gardens. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist with these arrangements.

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