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Tuesday, June 30, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Driver Flees Scene After Jeep Overturns on County Road 477

Early Saturday morning around 7 a.m., first responders were called to County Road 477 in Englewood after the driver of a 2004 Jeep Cherokee lost control, went airborne, struck a power pole, and overturned several times.



Witnesses told authorities the injured driver climbed out of the wreckage, removed the vehicle's tag, and fled the scene before responders arrived.

McMinn County Sheriff's Department, Englewood Rural Fire, AMR, and AUB responded to the crash. Deputy Gabriel Drybread with the McMinn County Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident. *Photos by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*



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Tuesday, June 30, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Friendly City Festivals Presents Mendingwall Saturday, July 4



Friendly City Festivals announces the third concert in the 15th annual Sounds of Summer series will feature local favorites Mendingwall on Saturday, July 4th in conjunction with the Buddy Liner Drone and Fireworks Show at Athens Regional Park.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. on the soccer field at the Athens Regional Park. Concert goers are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets to enjoy this special concert before the Buddy Liner drone and fireworks show celebrating America's 250th! Concession stands will be open along with Kona Ice.

Mendingwall is a fun musical experience with roots in American, rock, jam, reggae and folk. The band is known for its positively influenced lyrics and is perfect for a toe tapping, hand clapping night of entertainment. Their last album "Famous" can be found on You Tube, Tidal, Spotify and Apple Music.

The City of Athens is pulling out all the stops with a full-blown drone show celebrating the United States' 250th Birthday!

The festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. at Athens Regional Park with a full arcade in the conference center, a model aircraft show, the free Sounds of Summer Mendingwall concert ending with the drone/fireworks show starting at 9:30 p.m.

The remaining Sounds of Summer line up is:

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

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

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

Sound is provided by Integrity Sound Solutions and media support by The Morning Fax, The Daily Post Athenian and the Monroe County Advocate Democrat.

This free to the public series is produced by Friendly City Festivals a 501(c)3 subsidiary of Willsontropic, Inc. and is made possible by the financial support of: The City of Athens Tourism Fund, McMinn County Tourism Board, Wolfenden Family Pharmacies, 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,

Press Release Written and Submitted by Meredith Willson, Friendly City Festivals

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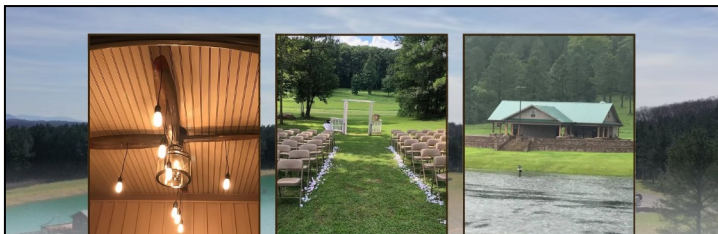
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McMinn County Arrest Reports

June 26, 2026

David Collins, 38 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for resisting.

Joey White, 62 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for violation of the sex offender registry.

Shane Kyker, 36 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

Jennifer Guatlebaum, 42 of Etowah, charged with driving on a suspended license, Bond \$1,000.

James Brock, 61 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for possession of Schedule II meth for resale.

The accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered using Public Sources.

Obituaries

Christine "Chris" Harrison Riggins, 86, a native of McMinn County, passed away at her home on Friday, June 26, 2026. She was of the Baptist faith. Chris enjoyed sending cards to her family and friends for all occasions, playing games with her family, watching birds at her bird houses, and watching her flowers growing in her flower beds. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 11:00 AM at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Christine "Chris" Harrison Riggins.

Dawn Marie Coulter, 61, of Englewood, Tennessee, passed away unexpectedly on June 26, 2026, at Fort Sanders Medical Center in Knoxville. Dawn will be remembered for the love she shared with her family and friends. Her presence will be deeply missed, and those who knew her will forever hold their memories of her close to their hearts. Currently, no formal services are planned. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

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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Join us for a
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Come pray with us on Wednesday July 8 at 2:00 in the Blue Room inside the downtown Athens Courthouse.

Please join us for a 30 minute prayer for repentance and revival in McMinn County.