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Wednesday, July 08, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Lecture to Explore Revolutionary-Era History of Hiwassee Old Town



Dr. Brett Riggs

The Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association will host a special installment of its Gems of the Past lecture series on Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m. at the Historic Gem Theater in downtown Etowah. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and admission is free.

Archaeologist and historian Dr. Brett H. Riggs, one of the nation's leading scholars of Cherokee history, will present "When the Revolution Came to Hiwassee Old Town." His program examines how the American Revolution reshaped life for Cherokee residents of the Overhill towns, using archaeological findings, historical documentation, and Cherokee accounts to trace how the conflict transformed the community at Hiwassee Old Town, located at the present-day Tennessee Tree Nursery on Highway 411 in Delano.

Riggs has spent more than three decades researching Cherokee settlements and the early colonial period across the Southern Appalachians, work that has significantly deepened modern understanding of the Overhill Cherokee and their role in early American history.

The event is sponsored in part by TN250, Tennessee's commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary, and aligns with statewide efforts to highlight the people and places that shaped Tennessee's early story.

Guests are also encouraged to visit the Nancy Cantrell Dender Gallery, connected to the GEM Theater, which will be open before the lecture. The gallery is currently displaying the Tennessee State Museum's traveling exhibit "Our American Story: Voices From Tennessee," a TN250 exhibition featuring influential Tennesseans whose lives helped shape both the state and the nation. The lecture is free, open to the public, and seating is first-come, first-served. For more information, contact the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association at 423-263-7232 or visit tennesseeoverhill.com



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Wednesday, July 08, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Head-On Crash Sends One to UT Hospital; F-150 Driver Taken Into Custody



A head-on collision on County Road 525 in Athens Monday morning left one person injured and another in custody, according to responding agencies. The crash occurred around 9 a.m. when a 2019 Ford F-150 and a 2024 Honda Civic collided.




A passenger in the Honda was treated at the scene by first responders and AMR, which then transported the patient to UT Hospital in Knoxville. The driver of the Ford F-150 was taken into custody by the THP.

Agencies on scene included Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and THP Trooper Andrew Metelits, who investigated the crash.

Photos provided by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens City Schools Board of Education will meet Monday, July 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building. The draft agenda and packet are available on the [ACS website](#). Individuals wishing to speak on an agenda item must sign up before the meeting begins, and delegations must select one representative to speak unless otherwise permitted by the board.
- Open to all business owners and leaders, the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce will host a keynote lunch with Justin Goodbread, bestselling author and serial entrepreneur, on Thursday, July 23, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at the Higher Ed Center, Athens. Cost is \$10 per person (includes lunch). RSVP by July 21 at 423-745-0334 or julie@athenschamber.org.
- The McMinn Area Resource Van will go out Thursday, July 9. Meet at the McMinn Sheriff's Office lobby at 8 a.m.; departure is by 8:30 and return by noon. Participants may bring agency materials for packets and submit client names/addresses for visits. RSVP to Dep. Tony Allman at tallman@mcminncountytv.com.




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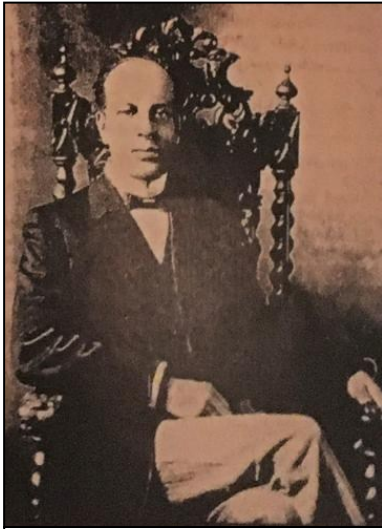


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Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Historic Exhibit Spotlights Local and State Contributions



William Richards, former mayor of the City of Athens

The Tennessee State Museum's traveling exhibit, "Our American Story: Voices from Tennessee," is now on view at the Nancy Cantrell Dender Gallery in downtown Etowah. The exhibition highlights Tennesseans whose lives and legacies shaped both the state and the nation. The gallery is open Thursday–Saturday, 1–7 p.m., or by appointment, and admission is free. The exhibit runs through July 28.

To complement the statewide display, the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association and Etowah Historical Commission developed a local exhibit focusing on influential figures from McMinn, Monroe, and Polk counties. Among those featured is William Richards, born in Athens, Tennessee. Richards made history in 1888 when he was elected mayor of Athens, becoming the first Black mayor elected south of the Mason-Dixon line. A graduate of Howard University School of Law, Richards built a distinguished career as a lawyer and educator, arguing cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, supporting the women's suffrage

movement, and teaching at Howard.

Together, the exhibits offer visitors a chance to explore how local and state leaders contributed to the broader American story.

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

June 28, 2026

Brian Martin, 28 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, and resisting stop, Bond \$3,000.

Jeffrey Armstrong, 56 of McMinn County, charged with child support.

Christopher Graham, 37 of Knoxville, charged with theft of property, Bond \$6,000.

Johnny McCarty, 48 of Etowah, charged with driving without a license, failure to have insurance, manufacturing, selling, delivery, or possession of a controlled substance.

Howard LaFave, 21 of Etowah, charged with cruelty to animals.

Chaston Walker, 38 of Decatur, being held on a custody hearing.

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

Information gathered using public sources.

Foster Village East Tennessee Hosting Volunteer Info Night

Community members are invited to learn more about supporting foster and kinship families at Foster Village East Tennessee's Volunteer Info Night, scheduled for Thursday, July 23 at 6 p.m. The event will be held in Etowah and is open to anyone interested in making a difference in the lives of children and caregivers.

Foster Village East TN is a nonprofit serving families in McMinn, Monroe, Meigs, and Rhea counties. The organization provides welcome packs, resource closets, beds, clothing, and infant gear to help foster families meet immediate needs. It also works to build connections among foster parents, biological families, and volunteers, creating a "village" of support beyond the foster care system. By reducing caregiver burnout and strengthening family networks, Foster Village East TN helps ensure children in foster care grow up in safe and stable homes.

The Volunteer Info Night will explain ways to get involved, from donating supplies to mentoring and hands-on support. Admission is free, and attendees can scan the flyer's QR code for more details.

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