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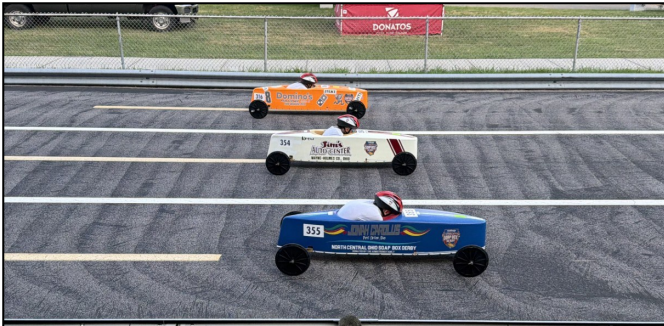
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Monday, July 20, 2026**Page 1****Athens, Tennessee**

Athens Racers Wrap Up Season at 88th FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby



The 88th FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby concluded Saturday in Akron, Ohio, bringing race week to a close under ideal conditions after days of smoke and heat. Overcast skies and a cool breeze made for smooth racing at Derby Downs, even with a modified shotgun start following the loss of Friday's prep day. Staff ensured the event remained a rewarding experience for all champions, though Athens' racers saw their 2026 season end earlier than hoped.

In the second race of the morning, local stock champion Hannah Johnson (Car #316, top picture) headed straight to the starting blocks with little time for nerves. Racing in lane 3, she narrowly fell to Krew Moore of Wayne-Holmes County, Ohio and Jonah Carolus of Mansfield, Ohio, with Moore winning the heat and ending her run. Johnson remained a positive presence throughout race week, making friends and showing Northeast Ohio the spirit of Athens, the Friendly City. Later in the morning, Raylen Hembree (bottom picture) made her World Championship attempt in the Super Stock division. Racing from lane 1, she was part of one of the closest heats of round one, falling to William Pickens of Indianapolis, Indiana by just two thousandths of a second, while Matthew Mohr of Portage County, Ohio won the heat by a hundredth. Hembree described the trip as a once-in-a-lifetime experience, proud to represent Athens on the national stage. *Source: Derek Philips, City of Athens*

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Monday, July 20, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Council Set to Address Grants, Infrastructure Projects, and New Ordinances at July 21 Meeting



The Athens City Council will convene for its regular session on Tuesday, July 21 at 6 p.m. in the Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers at City Hall, with a full agenda that includes presentations, grant approvals, infrastructure bids, and several first-reading ordinances.

Council will hear three scheduled presentations: Jennifer Sheppard on a proposed downtown mural, Police Chief Fred Schultz with a Chief's Award recognition, and Parks & Recreation Director Matt Siniard providing a recap of the July 4th celebration and previewing upcoming events.

A substantial consent agenda is set for consideration, including participation in the Judy Housley Safety Partners Matching Grant, awarding the View Street and North Jackson Street roadway improvements bid to Wilson Construction Group, and multiple professional services agreements with Kimley-Horn for updates to the Parks Masterplan, Cook Park improvements, and engineering work for the Lee Erwin Road/Decatur Pike intersection. Council will also review materials testing services for Fire Station #3, proposed purchases for municipal court software, police vehicles, and vehicle equipment, the declaration of a 2008 Ford Expedition as surplus, and participation in a Fire Equipment Antitrust Litigation class action.

Under new business, council will take up Resolution 2026-18, outlining intent to reimburse up to \$15 million in future municipal and Athens Utilities Board project expenditures. Members will also review TDOT entrance improvements at Congress Parkway and Lee Drive, and hold first readings for Ordinance 1159, establishing compensation for the mayor and councilmembers, and Ordinance 1160, which proposes rezoning property off Spruce Street from I-1 to R-2. A letter of recommendation for Dr. Randall Dowling and a review of the city's travel policy are also on the agenda.

Department reports from Community Development, Finance, Fire, and Police will be presented before the city manager's update and closing citizen comments.

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Monday, July 20, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

July 16, 2026

Phillip Pirkle, 55 of Etowah, charged with shoplifting, theft of property, assault, and aggravated burglary, Bond \$34,000.

April Young, 25 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for paraphernalia, Bond \$3,715.85.

Corvus Jones, 60 of Athens, charged with oral harassment.

William Monroe, 52 of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, simple possession of schedule 2 meth, and public intoxication, Bond \$22,500.

Parker Morgan, 29 of Etowah, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

James Womack, 46 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$590.95

Sean Beasley, 37 of Athens, charged with public

July 17, 2026

intoxication, and resisting stop, Bond \$3,000.

Corey Smith, 49 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for felony evading.

Jordan Whited, 22 of Athens, charged with evading arrest, driver's license violations, and failure to have insurance, Bond \$6,000.

Amador Camacho Miranda, 48 of Etowah, charged with attempted aggravated arson, Bond \$40,000.

Curtis Chapman, 30 of Jefferson City, charged with leaving the scene of an accident, Bond \$1,000.

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

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Monday, July 20, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Unemployment Dips to 3.5% in June, Matching Year's Low

Tennessee's unemployment rate fell to 3.5% in June, reaching its lowest point of the year, according to new data from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The seasonally adjusted rate is down one-tenth from May and unchanged from June 2025, continuing to sit well below the national rate of 4.2%.

Over the past year, employers across the state added 25,300 nonfarm jobs, led by growth in health care and social assistance, leisure and hospitality, and administrative and support services.

Month-to-month job gains totaled 2,500 positions, with the largest increases in private education and health services, durable goods manufacturing, and professional, scientific, and technical services.

Source: TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development

Obituaries

Chaz Michael Falgout, 37, a native of Houma, Louisiana, and longtime resident of Athens, passed away on Saturday, July 11. There will be no formal services at this time. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) has been entrusted with serving the family of Chaz Michael Falgout.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: wyxiradio@gmail.com

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