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## Today's News. This Morning.

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Thursday, July 23, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## Athens VFW Riders Escort Former National VFW Commander to Final Resting Place



The Athens VFW Riders traveled to Middle Tennessee to honor one of the nation's most respected Veterans of Foreign Wars leaders, escorting John Furgess, former National Commander and Tennessee State Commander, to his final resting place at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery in Madison on June 25.

Riders participating in the escort included Tom Bressert, Monty Simmons, Ed Blackman, Jim Garrity, Russell Bennett, Ryan Mason, and Tugboat. Commander Terry Huskey and Quartermaster Jim Haney also attended the funeral service, representing the Athens VFW Memorial

Post 5146 in paying tribute to Furgess' decades of service to veterans across the country.

Furgess, widely known for his leadership, advocacy, and commitment to veterans' issues, was honored with a full escort and ceremony as fellow VFW members and riders ensured he received a dignified farewell.

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**HOPE FROM THE WELL**  
HOSTED BY JULIE TILLIS  
THURSDAYS AT 8:15 AM  
"If you have Jesus in your life, you will always have hope."  
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WOMEN'S WELL MINISTRIES



## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum



### Upcoming Summer Events

**HISTORY FOR LUNCH:**  
THE HISTORY OF DRAGGING CANOE WITH JOE GUY  
THURSDAY, JULY 23 @ NOON  
FREE ADMISSION

**HERITAGE SCHOOL:**  
INTRO TO BATS WITH TN BAT WORKING GROUP  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 @ 11:00  
\$5 OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

**TRASH AND TREASURE RECEIVING DAY**  
JULY 25TH FROM 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

**Museum Hours:**  
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM  
Sunday - Monday: Closed  
**Admission:**  
Adults: \$5.00  
Senior 60+: \$3.00  
Students: \$3.00

### More Information

522 W Madison Ave.  
Athens, TN 37303  
423-745-0329

[www.livingheritagemuseum.org](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.org)

SEE WEBSITE  
FOR FULL  
PROGRAM  
INFORMATION

**JumpStart  
NIGHT**  
6th Grade and Any New Families  
JULY 30 **6PM**  
athenscitymiddleschool

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Thursday, July 23, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Motorcyclist Seriously Injured After Tire Blowout on County Road 609



A motorcyclist sustained serious injuries Thursday afternoon after a tire blowout caused a crash on County Road 609 near the intersection of County Road 792 in Etowah.

According to responders, the driver of a 2014 Honda CBR lost control when the motorcycle's

back tire blew out, leaving the roadway and ejecting the rider over the handlebars. First responders and AMR treated the driver at the scene before transporting the patient to New Bethel Baptist Church, where LifeStar established a landing zone and airlifted the rider to UT Medical Center in Knoxville.

Agencies responding included Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, and THP Trooper Jaylon Skipper, who is investigating the crash. *Photo courtesy of Etowah Rural FD.*

## Driver Extricated After Late-Night Crash in Englewood



A 2013 GMC Sierra was heavily damaged late Monday night after the driver lost control on County Road 461 in Englewood, striking a utility pole and several trees head-on. The crash occurred around 11 p.m., knocking down the pole and leaving the driver trapped inside the vehicle.

Emergency crews from Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department worked to extricate the driver, who was then treated at the scene by AMR before being transported to Bradley County Medical Center. AUB also responded to replace the downed utility pole. The accident is under investigation by THP Trooper D.J. Taylor. *Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

Emergency crews from Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department worked to extricate the driver, who was then treated at the scene by AMR before being transported to Bradley County Medical Center. AUB also responded to replace the downed utility pole. The accident is under investigation by THP Trooper D.J. Taylor. *Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

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*Entire Month of July!*



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*Thank you,*  
**ETOWAH**



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JOIN THE MCMINN COUNTY  
REPUBLICAN PARTY



# LINCOLN DAY DINNER

THURSDAY  
JULY 30, 2026

THE BARN AT FAITH FARMS  
6PM

## SCOTT JENNINGS

*CNN Conservative  
Commentator*



*Marsha Blackburn*



*Monty Fritts*



*John Rose*

To buy tickets visit:  
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Thursday, July 23, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

**July 21, 2026**

**Caleb Latham**, 27, charged with felony aggravated domestic assault.

**Ashley Bootram**, 35 of Athens, charged with being a fugitive from justice.

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

**TODAY IS:**

- **National Lemon Day**
- **National Vanilla Ice Cream Day**
- **Gorgeous Grandma Day**

## Obituaries

**Dolores Mynatt Reynolds**, of Englewood, passed away Tuesday, July 21 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#).

**Maggie Lea Crabtree**, 95, of Riceville, passed away Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. She was a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County and the Claxton community. She helped to establish J.H. Kellman Company in Cleveland. A Funeral Service will be held at 12:00 p.m., on Friday, July 24, 2026, at [Bordwine Funeral Home](#) with visitation from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Friday prior to the service. Interment will follow at Jones Chapel Cemetery.

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

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## BENEFIT

### For David & Shannon Self

Due to unforeseen health challenges, they are facing significant medical expenses and ongoing treatments

### Cruise-In Food Auction

Bring your family and friends for an evening of great food, classic cars, and exciting auction items while helping support David and Shannon Self.

**Saturday, July 25  
2:00pm - 7:00pm**

**Englewood First Baptist Church  
13 Church St., Englewood**

All proceeds and donations from this event will help ease the financial burden for David and Shannon. Every donation, no matter the size, helps lighten the load and reminds them they are not alone on this journey. Together we can make a difference!