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Monday, August 03, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Driver Airlifted After Medical Emergency Crash on I-75



A 2020 Lincoln SUV traveling southbound on I-75 left the roadway Friday around 11:30 a.m. near the 59 mile marker after the driver, a man in his 50s, suffered a medical incident.

The vehicle ran off the interstate and struck a roadside sign, with airbags deploying on impact. Two children, ages 9 and 10, were passengers in the SUV and were not injured, according to responders. The driver was airlifted to UT Medical Center in Knoxville for treatment.

Agencies responding included Niota Fire, North McMinn Fire, Athens Rural Fire, the McMinn County Sheriff's Office, AMR, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. THP Trooper Edwin Cundiff is leading the investigation.

Photos by David Prater, Niota Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- Madison Ave. from White St. to Jackson St. will be closed Aug. 6 from 6–11 p.m. for the Primary County Election. The reason that Jackson St. from Washington Ave. to Hornsby St. was closed Aug. 1 from 9 a.m.–10 a.m. was for the moving of a food trailer. More info: 423-744-2745.
- The Athens Municipal-Regional Planning Commission meets today, August 3rd at noon in the City Hall conference room, assuming a quorum is met. Agenda includes approval of July 27th work session minutes and July 6th regular minutes, followed by a final plat request for Jeffery K. Nichols and Bryan Templeton (Tax Map 066H Group C Parcel 036.00) on Old Englewood Road, creating two lots from one on a 0.98-acre R-2 property. The meeting concludes with audience petitions and staff reports.



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- Tue: Loudon: 600 Gamble St (Old FOOD CITY) 10:30-2
- Wed: Etowah Across from Johnsons 10:30-2
- Thu: Athens Family Dollar by Ingles 10:30-2
- Fri: Sweetwater: Little Drugs/Sav-A-Lot 10:30-2:30

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Monday, August 03, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Bright Beginnings Hosts Safety Awareness Day with Local First Responders



Bright Beginnings Child Care Center, located at 616 N. Congress Parkway, held a Safety Awareness Day on Friday, giving children and staff an up-close look at how first responders handle emergencies.

Representatives from AMR Ambulance, the McMinn County Sheriff's Office K9 unit, the Niota Police Department, and the Niota Fire Department spent the day teaching children about emergency response, equipment, and safety practices. Center owners Jennifer Lakes and Carolina Toomey thanked the agencies for taking time to visit and engage with the children.

Source: Niota Fire and Police Depts.

Jukebox Lounge to Launch AACA's 26-27 House Blend Concert Series

The Athens Area Council for the Arts will open its 2026-27 House Blend Concert Series with Jukebox Lounge, a one-night-only performance on Friday, August 14, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater.

Directed and arranged by acclaimed pianist Wendel Werner, the show kicks off AACA's America 250 season, spotlighting uniquely American sounds, stories, and voices. The set list reimagines familiar hits across decades and genres — from samba and ragtime to Andrews Sisters-style harmonies and smooth jazz — all presented through a nightclub lens. Audiences can expect fresh takes on classics ranging from Springsteen and Beyoncé to 90s boy-band favorites and 70s power ballads.

Performers include Lauren Brown, Austin Conner, Michelle Dannel, Lindsey "Lu" Kimball, Julie Offutt, Amanda Reynolds, Stephanie Roberts, and Werner himself. Werner was last seen at the Black Box Theater in ACT's *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

All House Blend concerts are staged in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25.

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- [NATIONAL GEORGIA DAY](#)

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REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS

Property: 100 Highland Avenue, Athens, TN 37303

Owner: Tennessee Wesleyan University

Minimum Bid: \$175,000

Tennessee Wesleyan University invites any interested purchaser to submit a Sealed Bid for the purchase of the real property described below. All due diligence and inspections are the responsibility of interested purchasers and must be completed before the bid submission deadline. The real property itself and the structure on it will be open for inspection on the 4th day of August 2026 between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. Bids must be equal to or greater than \$175,000.



Property Address	100 Highland Avenue, Athens, TN 37303
County / Tax Map / Parcel ID	056L B 036.00
Acreage / Lot Size	Approximately .38 ac
Zoning	Confirm with the City of Athens
Improvements (Buildings/Year Built)	Frame house over 30 years
Utilities	Athens Utilities Board



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Monday, August 03, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

July 30, 2026

Christopher Jackson, 54 of Etowah, charged with community corrections violation for possession of meth for resale.

Johnny Highsmith, 46 of Athens, charged with resisting stop, Bond \$1,000.

Donald Call, 48 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for felony evading, and possession of schedule 2 meth, Bond \$18,000.

Michael Pendland, 44 Batavia, Ohio, charged with public intoxication, Bond \$500.

Amanda Smith, 37 charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$4,000.

July 31, 2026

Jeremiah Grafe, of Blue Ridge, Georgia, charged with unlawful carry or possession of a weapon, and failure to appear for possession of meth, Bond \$18,000.

Eddie Soto, 41 of Knoxville, charged with casual exchange and possession of meth in Loudon County and introduction of contraband into a penal facility in Loudon County, being held without bond.

Joseph Goins, 25 of Decatur, charged with reckless driving, evading arrest, and driving on a suspended license, Bond \$13,000.

Patricia Smith, 56 of Etowah, charged with shoplifting, and theft of property in Knox County.

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

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Monday, August 03, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Lillie V. Davis, 97, of Athens, passed away on Friday, July 24 at NHC Healthcare of Athens. She was of the Baptist Faith. She was a former employee of Newton's Restaurant and ABB where she retired. Memorial Services will be 6:00 PM Saturday, August 8 at Woodward Ave. Church of God. Graveside Services will be 11:00 AM Monday August 10 at Cedar Grove Cemetery. [Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens](#) is in charge of the arrangements.

Linda Sue "Susie" Shelton, 57, of Athens, passed away suddenly on Thursday, July 30. She was born in Murfreesboro, TN. A Celebration of Life was held on Sunday, August 2. [Companion Funeral Home of Athens](#) and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

John Haden Joines, Jr., 67, of Athens, passed away on Thursday, July 30 at his residence. He was a 1976 graduate of Central High School, a former employee of TVA, spent 22 years at Textron and retired from Arch Chemicals. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy serving aboard the USS Denver. He loved to travel visiting all 50 states and many foreign countries. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date. [Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

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: wyradio@gmail.com

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