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Monday, August 17, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Driver Injured After Late-Night Crash on I-75 Near 57 Mile Marker



Just before midnight Friday, a 2016 Honda Civic driven by a 26-year-old man ran off the northbound shoulder of I-75 near the 57-mile marker, crashing into a stand of trees. Airbags deployed, and the driver sustained minor injuries before being transported to a local hospital.

THP Trooper Preston Meadows handled the investigation. AMR, North McMinn, and Niota Fire responded to the scene, with Travis Newberry in command.

Photo credit: Tonia Willis, Niota FD

The Friendly Nook joins the Athens Area Chamber



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, The Friendly Nook Marketplace, located at 519

W Madison Ave., Athens. It's a new shopping spot in Athens; a community marketplace filled with unique finds from boutique treasures to handcrafted and custom goods.

Shown here are chamber and business representatives as well as the Co-owners and vendors of The Friendly Nook Marketplace.

Source: Julie Simbeck, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce



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|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| •Tue: | Loudon: 600 Gamble St (Old FOOD CITY) | 10:30-2 |
| •Wed: | Decatur (Location TBA) | 10:30-2 |
| •Thu: | Athens @ Family Dollar by Ingles | 10:30-2 |
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Monday, August 17, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Late-Night Fire Destroys Trailer on County Road 250



A large fire broke out around 11 p.m. Friday in the 1500 block of County Road 250 in Niota, prompting a 911 call and a multi-agency re-

sponse. First responders arrived to find a single-wide 1966 trailer fully involved with heavy flames showing.

The property owner told crews his son had been tearing down the trailer earlier in the day. The structure was declared a total loss, and the cause remains unknown.

North McMinn Fire Chief David Newberry led the scene. Niota Fire, Athens Rural Fire, and Clearwater Fire Department also responded.

Photo from David Prater, Niota Rural FD

Lightning Strike Sparks Basement Fire on County Road 436



A lightning strike during a recent thunderstorm, traveled through electrical wiring into a residence on County Road 436 in Athens, igniting several boxes in the basement. The homeowner acted quickly and extinguished the fire, limiting the incident to minimal smoke and fire damage. Englewood Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, and AUB responded to the scene.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

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Monday, August 17, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

August 13, 2026

Trevor Coleman, 35, of Decatur, charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license. Bond \$1,200.

Tasha Wade, 45, of Etowah, charged with violation of probation. Bond \$1,180.90.

Devin Collier, 30, of Athens, charged with public intoxication, and simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2. Bond \$14,000.

Joseph Guffey, 50, of Etowah, charged with driving on a revoked license, simple possession of schedule 2 meth, drug paraphernalia, simple possession of schedule 6 gabapentin, and possession of legend drugs. Bond \$16,000.

Sarah Lineweber, 28, of Athens, charged with theft of property and drug paraphernalia.

Michael Carter, 64, charged with DUI, and domestic aggravated assault. Bond \$2,000.

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

Obituaries

Jimmye Carol Ghorley Gardner, 71, of Meigs County, passed away on Wednesday, August 12. There will be no formal services at this time. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) has been entrusted with serving the family of Jimmye Carol Ghorley Gardner.

Edna Ruth West Carpenter, 95, of Decatur, passed away on Thursday, August 13. She attended Berry College, graduating in 1952. She began teaching Home Economics at Meigs County High School in 1960 and served 25 years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Decatur. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18 at Decatur First Baptist Church with a Funeral Service to follow at 1 p.m. Interment will follow in the Decatur Cemetery. [Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services](#) is honored to serve the Carpenter family.

Robert Lee Everhart, 68, of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, August 12. For more than 40 years, Robert made his living over the road as a truck driver. For the past 13 years, Robert faithfully attended Open Door Baptist Church. There will be a celebration of life service on Saturday, August 22 at 12:00 PM at Open Door Baptist Church. [Companion Funeral Home of Athens](#) is honored to assist the family during this time.

Jerry Dean Harris, 77, passed away on Thursday, August 13. Jerry honorably served his country by completing two tours in Vietnam, as a member of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Division. At the time of his death, he was employed by Britton Private Security, in Athens. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, August 19, with receiving of friends from 5-7pm, funeral to follow from 7-8pm, at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens. Graveside services will be at McMinn Memory Gardens, the funeral procession will leave the funeral home at 10:30am, on Thursday, August 20 for an 11:00am graveside where he will be laid to rest with full military honors. [Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) in charge of arrangements.

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