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Monday, September 14, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Florida Man Dies in Boating Accident on Watts Bar Reservoir



A 72-year-old Florida man died Thursday afternoon following a boating accident near Sand Island on Watts Bar Reservoir.

According to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Stephen Mason of Homosassa, Florida, was boating with his wife and friends when he sustained injuries after falling overboard from a pontoon boat that was underway. Officials said Mason was not wearing a life jacket and was pronounced dead at the scene.

TWRA game wardens responded to a 911 call received shortly after 2 p.m. along with the Rhea and Meigs County Sheriff's Offices, Rhea and Meigs County EMS, and several volunteer agencies. Mason's body was transported to the Meigs County Medical Examiner's Office.

The incident marks Tennessee's 16th boating-related fatality of 2026.

Source: [WVLT](#)



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- Tue: Niota 388 Hwy 309 11:00 - 6
- Wed: Closed
- Thu: Athens Family Dollar 10:30 - 2
- Fri: Sweetwater Main St Marketplace 10:30-8:30ish



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Monday, September 14, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Juvenile Injured in Friday Morning Athens Crash



A juvenile passenger was injured in a two-vehicle crash on County Road 778 in Athens Friday morning.

According to responding agencies, a 2015 Kia Optima and a 2024 Kia Sportage collided around

7:30 a.m. The juvenile passenger in the Optima was treated at the scene before being transported by AMR to Claxton Fire Hall, where LifeStar air medical personnel transported the patient to the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. The driver of the Sportage was treated at the scene by AMR but declined further transport.

Etowah Rural Fire Department responded to the crash along with Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Travis Ryans, who investigated the accident.

Photo courtesy of the Etowah Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- Athens Parks and Recreation is accepting baseball and softball tournament applications for the 2027 season at Athens Regional Park. The facility features artificial turf infields, a playground and splash pad. Applications can be submitted to recreation@athensstn.gov. For information, call 423-744-2704 or visit the Parks and Recreation office at 122 Regional Park Drive.
- Athens Area Council for the Arts is pleased to announce registration for Artsplorations visual and performing arts workshops for school-aged youth Tuesday, October 13, 2026. All workshops are beginner-friendly.

We encourage you to e-mail us community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

Any items you would like us to consider, e-mail: wyradio@gmail.com

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Monday, September 14, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

September 10, 2026

Jessica Heverly, 26, of Athens, charged with failure to appear. Bond \$1,000.

Stacy Clabo, 52, of Cleveland, charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license. Bond \$6,000.

Angela Goins, 55, of Athens, charged with casual exchange and possession of meth.

Jamie Carruth, 49, of Athens, charged with aggravated assault in Bradley County.

Maya Smith, 27, of Athens, charged with DUI, Bond \$2,000.

John Wilson, 32, of Niota, charged with violation of an interlock device, and driving on a revoked license. Bond \$3,000.

Ethan Gooch, 29, of Etowah, charged with domestic assault. Bond \$1,000.

September 11, 2026

Christopher Robinson, 41, of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia. Bond \$4,000.

Lacey Weidman, 43, of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 4, introduction of schedule 2 meth into a penal facility. Bond \$16,000.

Bryant McDermott, 30, of Charleston, charged with state violation of probation for sexual exploitation of a minor.

Brandon Croft, 18, of Georgetown, charged with reckless driving. Bond \$2,000.

Jeremy Phillips, 42, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for failure to appear, and drug paraphernalia.

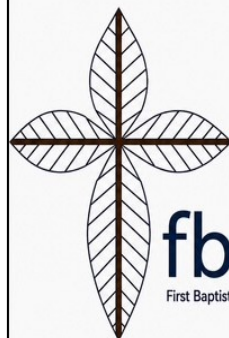
Joseph McNeese, 32, of Etowah, charged with failure to appear and drug paraphernalia.

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

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

 VS 	MCMINN CENTRAL VS. MEIGS CO. (W) 7-42
 VS 	CLEVELAND VS. MARYVILLE (W) 0-33
 VS 	(W) BRADLEY CENTRAL VS FARRAGUT 42-0
 VS 	POLK CO. VS. SWEETWATER (W) 0-41
 VS 	(W) MCMINN CO. VS. LENOIR CITY 52-13
 VS 	SEQUOYAH VS. HOWARD TECH 28-0
 VS 	(W) WALKER VALLEY VS. CHATTANOOGA CENTRAL 56-0



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Monday, September 14, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

Mountain View Baptist Church Sustains Heavy Damage in Fire



A fire at Mountain View Baptist Church on Mountain View Road Thursday afternoon caused heavy smoke and fire damage to the front of the building and smoke and water damage throughout the re-

mainder of the church.

West Polk Fire Department responded to the call around 12:30 p.m. after a neighbor reported seeing smoke and flames. Fire officials said the blaze originated near the breaker box.

West Polk, Etowah Rural, Englewood Rural and Bradley County fire departments responded, along with EUB, VEC and AmeriPro EMS. Capt. Chris Jones of West Polk Fire commanded the scene.

Photo by Etowah Rural F.D.

Obituaries

David Alan "Bubba" Leamon, 65, of Athens, passed away on Friday, September 11. His was the last graduating class at Calhoun High School in 1979. Bubba retired from AUB after 30 years' service in the Gas Division. He was a member of Clear Springs Baptist Church. A visitation will be held on **Monday, September 14, 2026**, from 4:00-7:00 PM at Clear Springs Baptist Church. Funeral services will follow at 7:00 PM. A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, September 15 at 11:00 AM at Clear Springs Baptist Church Cemetery. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) has been entrusted with serving the family of David "Bubba" Alan Leamon.

Verlin James Alvin Peals, 87, of Etowah, passed away on Thursday, September 10. He was a member of Hillcrest Church in Etowah. He owned Peals Concrete Works for over 50 years. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 15 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 16 and proceed to Brown Hill Cemetery for the 12:00 p.m. committal service. [Bordwine Funeral Home](#) in charge of arrangements.

David William Fedwea, 88 of Etowah, passed away on Saturday, September 12. A complete obituary will be posted at a later date. No formal services will be held. [Bordwine Funeral Home](#) in charge of arrangements.

All proceeds benefit Table Graces Food Pantry



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