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Friday, September 18, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Vehicle Goes Airborne in Riceville Crash, One Injured



One person was injured Wednesday morning after a vehicle left the roadway and crashed along Highway 163 in Riceville.

According to the Etowah Rural Fire Department, the driver of a 2013 Chevrolet Equinox lost control of the vehicle at approximately 11 a.m. The SUV left the roadway, went airborne and came to rest on the side of a nearby driveway.

First responders arriving at the scene located an occupant of the vehicle walking along the highway. The injured person was treated at the scene by AMR personnel before being transported to Starr Regional Medical Center-Etowah for further treatment.

Responding agencies included the Etowah Rural Fire Department, Claxton Fire Department, McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and Trooper James Cathey of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, who investigated the crash.

The cause of the accident was not immediately available. *Photo by Etowah Rural FD*

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SUNDAYS AT 9 AM



Friday, September 18, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

TWU Highlights Economic, Educational Impact in New TICUA Report



Tennessee Wesleyan University generates \$220 million in total economic activity, supports 1,311 jobs, and contributes \$9 million in state and local tax revenue each year!

These findings from the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities (TICUA) recent Economic Impact Report illustrate the important role the institution plays as an economic and workforce partner in the Athens community and across Tennessee.

Collectively, Tennessee's private colleges and universities generate more than \$22 billion in economic activity and contribute over \$695M in state and local sales and property taxes, making those institutions a vital economic and workforce partner.

Community News You Can Use

- Covenant Pediatrics of Athens is encouraging parents to ensure children are up to date on MMR vaccinations following reports of measles in the area. Parents are asked to call 423-744-8755 before bringing in a child experiencing fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes or a rash.
- McMinn County Senior Activity Center will host a Decades Dance on Friday, Sept. 18, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$5, and adults age 50 and older are invited to enjoy music from the 1950s through the 2000s.
- Athens Parks & Recreation will host a free Kids Halloween Movie in the Park on Friday, Oct. 2, at 6 p.m. at the Athens Regional Park Lake Pavilion. Families are invited to bring chairs or blankets and enjoy screenings of It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown and Hocus Pocus, with concessions available for purchase.
- The Parkstown community, south of Etowah, will host a celebration on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. featuring food, music, games and opportunities to learn about the history of Parkstown. Attendees are encouraged to bring historical photos related to the community.

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Ella Langley: The Dandelion Tour

Donate between Monday, September 21st, and Wednesday, September 23rd, for an opportunity to win two tickets to the Ella Langley concert Thompson-Boling Arena at Food City Center on Thursday, September 24th!



UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

SEND YOUR EVENTS BY
THURSDAY MORNING TO BE FEATURED HERE
EMAIL: WYXIRADIO@GMAIL.COM

THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

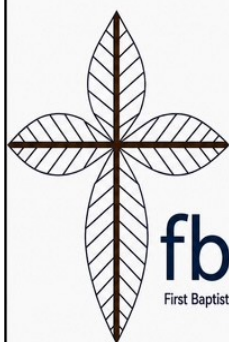
Friday, September 18, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- [Celebrate Recovery](#) meets every [Tuesday](#) at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens. They also meet every [Thursday](#) at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur and Thursdays at 6:30pm at [Spirit City Church North Etowah](#).
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- Englewood First Church of God will host a Grandparents & Grandkids Night on Saturday, Sept. 19, 3-5 p.m. in the church gymnasium. Admission is \$12 per adult; children 17 and under attend free. Proceeds benefit the church's inclusive playground and recreational field project. Register at: [Facebook.com/englewoodfcog](https://www.facebook.com/englewoodfcog).
- Marshall Hill Baptist Church will host a free Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, Sept. 19, beginning at 4 p.m. at 621 County Road 255 near Niota. Families can receive backpacks, school supplies and clothing while enjoying free hamburgers and other activities. See ad on page 5 for more info.
- Mt. Verd Baptist Church invites you to their fall revival featuring Evangelist Brenton Carr, September 20-23 with special performance by The Carr Family. Worship Times 10 am and 6 pm on Sunday and Monday - Wednesday at 7 pm. (See ad below).
- GodSong Ministries will host WOW Night (Women of Worship) on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at The Barn at Faith Farms, 136 County Road 260 in Athens. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker Teresa Norman of Cleveland will lead the evening of worship and fellowship. Admission is free and open to the public, though registration is requested at www.godsongministries.com.
- Luminary Church in Ten Mile will host "Living in the Spirit Revival 2026" Sept. 24-27 at 3401 River Road. The four-day revival will feature guest speakers and worship leaders each evening at 6 p.m., with a Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free and the public is invited.
- Mount Olive Church in Etowah will celebrate its 140th Annual Homecoming this Sunday, Sept. 20th, with an 11 a.m. service featuring a message from Rev. Angellica Sweat, followed by a fellowship meal.



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MT. VERD BAPTIST CHURCH

invites you to their Fall Revival
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September 20-23

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Friday, September 18, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

Good Shepherd Center Receives \$1,000 Bowater Credit Union Grant



Pictured from Left to right: Odalis Ponce, Bowater CU Member Service Associate; Shelby Mathews, Bowater CU Marketing Coordinator; Mike Engelhaupt, Bowater Member and GSC Board President; Tina Smith, GSC Community Outreach Director; Eli Patton, Bowater CU Member Service Associate; Nicole Andrino, Bowater CU Marketing Specialist

The Good Shepherd Center in Madisonville has been awarded a \$1,000 grant through Bowater Credit Union's Pay It Forward program after being nominated by credit union member Mike Engelhaupt.

The nonprofit, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary, serves more than 650 Monroe County families each month through programs including a food pantry, clothing assistance, household essentials, and emergency aid for medical, dental and utility expenses.

In response to transportation challenges facing many clients, the organization recently launched a mobile food pantry in partnership with local churches. Since beginning two months ago, the program has assisted about 40 families each month by delivering food boxes to residents in need.

The grant marks the third Pay It Forward award presented by Bowater Credit Union in 2026. Created in 2010, the program allows members to nominate local nonprofits serving Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe and Polk counties. Since its inception, the program

has provided more than \$61,000 to charitable organizations across the region.



**McMinn County
Living Heritage Museum**

WE ARE HIRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The McMinn county Living Heritage Museum is seeking a dynamic and visionary individual to join our team as the Executive Director. We are looking for someone who is not only appreciative of McMinn County's history and artifacts but also possesses strong leadership skills and a passion for community engagement.

- Strategic thinker and problem solver
- Program and grant writing experience
- Budget experience
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Application Deadline: September 30th
Send resume & references to:
bking.livingheritagemuseum@gmail.com

For More information please visit our website:
livingheritagemuseum.org
423-745-0329



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Friday, September 18, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

September 16, 2026

Cameron Lacey, 35, of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, and assault. Bond \$3,000.

Rente Davis, 37, of Athens, charged with schedule 6 marijuana, schedule 2 meth, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$60,000.

Mary Maupin, 32, of Athens, charged with assault. Bond \$2,000.

Kirby Davis, 34, of Charleston, charged with simple possession of schedule 2 fentanyl, and simple possession of schedule 1 heroin. Bond \$40,000.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered using public sources.

Obituaries

Earl John "John" Henderson, 90, of Athens, passed away on Thursday, September 10. John was known for his outgoing personality and never met a stranger. He was a member of Pond Hill Baptist Church. Per his request, there will be no formal services. [Companion Funeral and Cremation Service of Athens](#) is in charge of these arrangements.

Deidre Michelle Spradling, 63 of Mascot, TN, passed away on Saturday, August 30. Deidre was born in McMinn County and has lived in Knox County for a number of years. She was a graduate of McMinn County High School. The family will hold services at a later date. Arrangements by [Cremation Options, Inc.](#)

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