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Brush Chipper Overturns Into Creek; Driver Transported, Hazmat Team Responds



On Monday, April 14 at approximately 5:00 p.m., on Highway 163 in Delano, a 2002 International 4700 chipper truck towing a 2016 Vermeer BC1500 brush chipper left the roadway and crashed, resulting in the brush chipper overturning into a creek. The driver was transported by AMR to Bradley Medical Center in Cleveland for evaluation. The accident led to a hydraulic oil spill, which was contained and cleaned up by the McMinn County Hazmat Team.




Emergency crews from Claxton Fire Department and Etowah Rural Fire Department responded to the scene, along with Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Caleb Ballard, who conducted the investigation. Lt. Jonathan Bartley of the Claxton Fire Department served as scene commander.


The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Photos courtesy of Etowah Rural Fire Department.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Friday - Sunny. High 83.
Fri. Night - Mostly Clear. Low 63.
Sat. - Partly Sunny. High 85. Low 65.
Sun. - Mostly Cloudy. High 84. Low 66.

More Weather at: wyxi.com

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Friday, April 18, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Schools to Host Senior Walk on May 13



Athens City Schools is inviting all graduating seniors who previously attended city schools to participate in the annual Senior Walk on Tuesday, May 13th. The event will begin at 8:15 a.m. at Athens City Middle School and continue through Athens City Primary School and Athens City Intermediate School.

A reception will follow to celebrate and honor all Athens City Graduates from the Class of 2025.

In addition, the district extends a special invitation to retired and former teachers of the graduating class — from Ingle-side, City Park, North City, Westside, or Athens City Middle — to return and help line the halls in celebration of this milestone moment.

Graduates and faculty alike are encouraged to take part in this meaningful tradition as the community comes together to cheer on the Class of 2025.

Source: [Athens City Schools - Facebook](#)

Leadership McMinn meets with WYXI Radio & Morning Fax Staff



On Wednesday, [WYXI Radio's](#), Mark Lefler, Stephanie Devine and J.P. Vasquez met with the Leadership McMinn class to teach the class about media and advertising opportunities provided by both Radio and Print Media and its influence on business development. They spoke about the history of their station and were able to share the many ways that advertising with local media can improve your businesses' brand exposure.

For information on advertising options with WYXI Radio and the Morning Fax, reach out to our Sales Rep., Stephanie Devine at radiostephaniedevine@gmail.com or by phone at (423) 462-5309.

You can meet with the staff of WYXI Radio **TODAY** as they will be at [Dooley Tractor Company](#) (109 N. Congress Pkwy, Athens) from 10:30am - 2:30pm broadcasting live from the showroom!

Photo Courtesy of Julie Simbeck, Athens Chamber

Dive into fun with MEDIC & Soaky Mountain Waterpark

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HAPPY EASTER

WISHING YOU ALL THE BLESSINGS THIS SEASON BRINGS





Friday, April 18, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **Conasauga Baptist Church** (649 County Road 475, Etowah) will host their **Easter Sunrise Service** on Sunday, April 20 at 7 AM. Breakfast will be served afterwards with the regular Easter service to begin at 10AM.
- **Highway to Heaven Church** (1413 Knoxville Ave., Athens) will hold a **Cross Walk** TODAY, Friday, April 18 beginning at 11 AM. Anyone wanting to participate is to meet at Harbor Freight (902 Decatur Pike, Athens). They will walk the Cross from Harbor Freight to Dominos and back.
- **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church** (1923 Pleasant Hill Rd., Ten Mile) is holding their Community Dinner from 12pm - 2pm TOMORROW, Saturday, April 19. The menu tomorrow features Pork Tenderloin, Chicken Drumsticks, Mashed Potatoes, Corn/Peas, Drink and Dessert. The meal is free and everyone is invited to join in fellowship!
- **East Etowah Church of God** (180 County Road 909, Etowah) will host a week of Revivals from Monday, April 21 - Friday, April 25. Services begin at 7pm nightly and will feature Brother Tim Wilson from Alabama. Their Homecoming Service is scheduled for Sunday, April 27 at 10:30am.
- **Cambria Baptist Church**, 305 County Road 875, Etowah, will have an Easter Play, TONIGHT, Friday, April 18 at 7PM. All are welcome.
- **Luminary Church** (3401 River Rd., Ten Mile) is holding a HUGE Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale on Thursday, May 1 from 2pm - 7pm and Friday and Saturday, May 2 & 3 from 9am - 2pm. Many great items for sale and clothing items at \$1 each. The youth program will sell ice cream and baked goods as well.
- **Mt. Harmony Baptist Church** will celebrate Easter at the Barn at Faith Farms (136 County Road 260, Athens) on Sunday, April 20 at 10:00am. *See their ad on Page 5*
- **North Englewood Missionary Baptist Church** invites you to join them for an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 19. The egg hunt begins at 1:00pm with Pizza and Snacks to follow. Their **Family and Friends Day** is set for Sunday, April 27. Morning Worship is at 11am and lunch is to follow the service. The church is located at 21 Pin St., Englewood.
- **Watts Bar Community Church** (1517 TN-68, Decatur) invites you to join them for their Easter production, "The Silence" Bring your family and friends to enjoy the story of Jesus' birth through the resurrection. Performance times are TONIGHT, Friday April 18 and tomorrow, Saturday, April 19 at 7PM, then Easter Sunday at 9AM and 11 AM.

More Church News & Events on Page 6

Come Worship with *First Baptist Church of Niota* **EASTER SUNDAY MORNING**

Easter service begins at 10:45
Message by Pastor Cullen Conner
Special Music will be presented
Everyone is Welcome!

Come Join Us!

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Easter Egg Hunt & Carnival:

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 19th
10am @ the L&N Depot Walking Park

Carnival will open @ 10:30am

Unlimited rides wrist bands for school aged youth: \$20

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Friday, April 18, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Unemployment Rate Sees First Decline Since May 2024



Tennessee's unemployment rate dropped slightly in March, marking the first monthly decline since May 2024, according to the latest figures from the Tennessee Department of Labor and

Workforce Development (TDLWD).

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March stood at 3.6%, a 0.1% decrease from February. Prior to the dip, the rate had held steady at 3.7% for six consecutive months. A year earlier, in March 2024, the rate was 3.1%.

Tennessee's unemployment rate remains well below the national average, which was 4.2% in March. The U.S. rate was 4.1% in February and 3.9% in March of the previous year.

Over the past year, the state added 8,700 nonfarm jobs, with the Government sector leading the way, followed by Leisure and Hospitality and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. However, between February and March, nonfarm employment declined by 1,300 jobs, with the Financial Activities sector seeing the most losses. The Education and Health Services and Manufacturing sectors also posted modest job reductions. *Source: [TN.gov](https://www.tn.gov)*

Starr Village CrossFit joins Athens Chamber

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, [Starr Village CrossFit](#), located at 408 East Ave., Athens.



Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right are: Stacey Hester (Chamber Diplomat), Stephanie Devine, Jill Kujala, Robert Kujala, Carrie Duran, Kelvin Duran (Owners, Starr Village CrossFit), Hugh Willson (Chamber Diplomat), Garret Frye (Congressman Fleischmann Field Rep.), John Rodriguez (Chamber Board), Wesley Skinner (Chamber Diplomat/Board). Back: Laken Farris, Tod Marner (Chamber Board), Jade Brooks, Jermon Garner, Hunter Starr (Chamber Board).

Photo Courtesy of Julie Simbeck, Athens Chamber

JOIN MT.HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH
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136 COUNTY ROAD 260, ATHENS
APRIL 20TH, 10:00AM
EVERYONE WELCOME



APRIL 26th, 10 AM - 4 PM & APRIL 27th, 11 AM - 4 PM

NIOTA TRAIN DEPOT



Friday, April 18, 2025

Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- **New Life Church** hosts weekly Prayer Meetings every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00pm. The church is located at 204 Fisher St. in Athens. All are welcome.
- **SRBC Kids presents: Kingdom Seekers** on Sunday Nights at 5:30pm at **Solid Rock Baptist Church** (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun) This event combines, God, music, games and fun into a very special all ages affair.
- **Solid Rock Baptist Church** (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun) invites you and your family to their Easter Sunday Service on April 20. Sunday School begins at 10AM and the service begins at 10:45AM. There will be no Sunday night service held on Easter Sunday.
- **The First Christian Church of Etowah** will hold a huge ***Indoor Yard Sale, Bake Sale and Hot Dog Luncheon*** at 701 Ohio Ave, Etowah on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 from 8AM to 6PM. Hot dogs with chili and slaw, chips and soft drink \$6.00. All proceeds will go to the First Christian Church Food Bank. For more info, please call Louis Rouse at the phone number 423-887-4256 or email: rousemarrk@yahoo.com.
- **Mt. Verd Baptist Church** (252 County Road 249, Athens) invites you to their Easter Drama, "Because He Lives" on Sunday, April 20 at 6PM. All are welcome.
- **First Baptist Church of Niota** (6 Main Street, Niota) is hosting their Easter Sunday service at 10:45AM. The message will be delivered by Pastor Cullen Connor and there will be special music presented as well. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend. ***See their ad on Page 3.***

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Friday, April 18, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 7

Athens, Tennessee

Etowah Carnegie Library Announces Easter Closure and Upcoming Events

The Etowah Carnegie Library, located at 723 Ohio Avenue, will be closed on **Friday, April 18**, and **Saturday, April 19** in observance of the Easter holiday. Regular hours will resume on **Monday, April 21** at 10 a.m.

The library has several events scheduled for the coming weeks, starting with its **monthly book club**, which will meet on **Thursday, April 22** at 6 p.m. All readers are welcome to join the discussion.

In celebration of **Earth Day**, the library will host a **family-friendly bird feeder craft and story time** on **Thursday, April 24**, beginning at 4 p.m. The event is open to all ages and encourages creativity and environmental awareness.

Also on Thursday, April 24, at 5 p.m., the **Cherokee Beekeepers Association** will present the **final session** in their spring educational series. This event is perfect for anyone interested in **honeybees, beekeeping**, or creating **pollinator-friendly gardens**.

For additional information about these programs, call the library at (423) 263-9475 or visit www.etowahlibrary.com.

Obituaries

Brian Edwin Price, 55, of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, April 15. He was a member of Decatur First Baptist Church. No formal services will be held. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Price Family.

Ivory Kidd Eaton, 91 of Niota, passed away on Thursday, April 17. She was a member of East Niota Baptist Church for 53 years where she served as a Sunday School teacher for 45 years. Graveside services will be held on Tuesday, April 22 at McMinn Memory Gardens at 11:00 AM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Ivory Kidd Eaton.

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: wyxiradio@gmail.com

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