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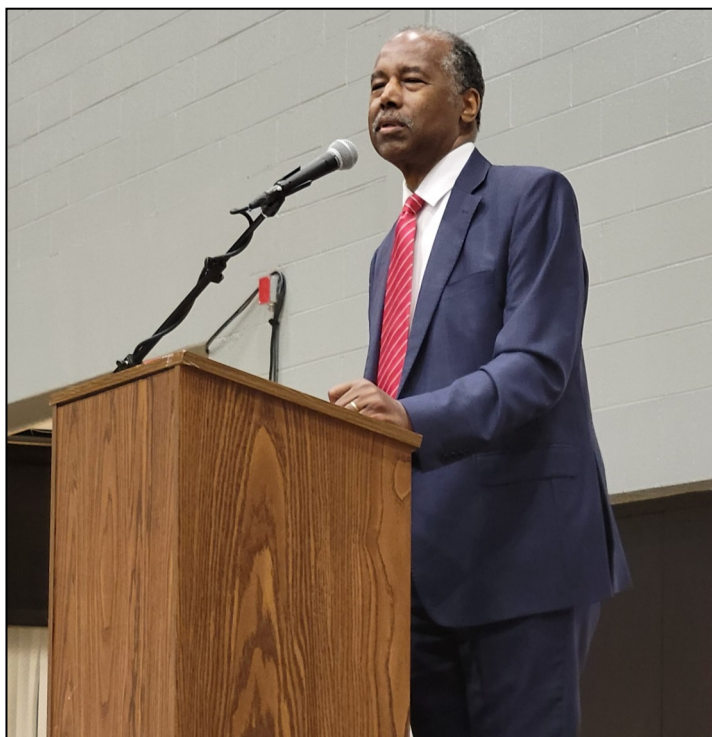
2412 Congress Pkwy South, Athens

Monday, June 16 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

The Doctor with 'Gifted Hands' visits Athens



It was a sell-out crowd Saturday night when famed pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson spoke to a large crowd at McMinn County High School. Carson was the former director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center. At the age of 33, he became the youngest to head the specialty in the U.S. He gained world wide fame after organizing a team of surgeons in the first-known separation of conjoined twins who were joined at the head. Carson gave a moving description of his life; growing up in poverty in inner city Detroit and being inspired by his mother and the book of Proverbs to obtain wisdom and knowledge. He received a full scholarship to Yale University and later earned an M.D. degree. Dr. Carson was also a Presidential candidate in 2015. He was the 17th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Carson spoke at the annual Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Fundraiser.

Photo by Mark Lefler, Morning Fax Staff

Monday – Closed
Tuesday-Athens Walmart 10:30-2
 Tuesday PM McMinn Co High Football Field 6-7:30/8ish
Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2
Thursday-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 - 1:30
Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30

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Athens, Tennessee

Truck Crashes Down Embankment Near Englewood; Driver Hospitalized



A single-vehicle crash sent one person to the hospital Friday afternoon after a pickup truck veered off the road and down an embankment.

According to authorities, the accident occurred around 3:30 p.m. shortly after the driver of a 2007 Chevrolet truck left the Marathon gas station at the intersection of

Highway 39 East and County Road 435. The driver lost control, and the vehicle left the roadway before coming to rest down the embankment. Emergency crews from Englewood Rural Fire Department and the McMinn County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene. The driver was transported by AMR ambulance to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. The crash is under investigation by Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Logan Ballew.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept..

Community News You Can Use

- The [annual McMinn County Friends of the Library Book Sale](#) is scheduled to take place from Thursday, June 19 to Sunday, June 22. The book sale will once again be hosted at the McMinn County High School Cafeteria. All proceeds of the book sale will go to benefit E.G. Fisher Public Library.
- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following holiday closure:

The Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and Animal Shelter will be closed on Thursday, June 19, in observance of **Juneteenth**. Those buildings will re-open Friday, June 20, during regular business hours. Commercial/Industrial garbage routes will be picked up on a limited basis. **ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON A 24-HOUR BASIS.** For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.
- The McMinn Senior Activity Center will be having Tai Chi classes on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. Call the center for more details at 423-745-6830.

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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State Included in Major Statewide Building Plan Approved by TBR

Cleveland State COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cleveland State Community College is set to benefit from a major statewide capital investment, following action taken by the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) during its quarterly meeting Friday at Northeast State Community College.

Among the \$449 million in proposed building projects approved by the board is a \$92 million plan to replace and renovate Cleveland State's Career Education Center. The project is part of the board's Fiscal Year 2026-27 capital request, which now goes to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for further consideration before potentially being included in the governor's state budget proposal next year.

Cleveland State's project is the largest single investment among the eight community college projects approved by the board, underscoring the institution's role in workforce development and technical education for the region.

The proposed renovations are part of the TBR's renewed focus on community college infrastructure after recent years saw over \$1.5 billion directed toward Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs).

In addition to capital projects, the board approved a new system-wide policy on artificial intelligence use, adopted revised policies impacting student organizations and learning support, and reviewed dual enrollment growth — with more than 38,000 high school students now earning college credit at TBR institutions.

The board also approved the system's preliminary \$1.5 billion budget for FY 2025-26 and recognized 173 community college faculty members for promotion. *More information on the board meeting and materials is available at:* tbr.edu/board/june-2025-quarterly-board-meeting.

Enrollment Events

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Monday, June 16, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Charles (Charlie) David Simpson, 78 of Athens, passed away Friday, June 13 at his home. Charlie was a member of the Sweetwater Church of Christ. He graduated from Arkansas State University with a degree in Business Administration. He worked at the U.S. Treasury Dept. He eventually moved into real estate brokerage and was active from 1983-2025. A memorial service will be conducted, 7:00 pm, Friday, June 20 at Sweetwater Church of Christ. The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 pm, Thursday, June 19 at Smith Funeral Home. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Charles David Simpson.

Charles Daniel Williams, 56 of Decatur, passed away on Sunday, June 8. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, fishing, and being on the water, hiking with his four-legged best friend, Grizz. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. at Decatur First Baptist Church on Saturday, June 21. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Williams Family.

Melissa "Missy" Lynn Fain, 51, passed away on Thursday, June 12. She attended Mount Harmony Baptist Church in Riceville. Missy had a joyful spirit and a love for life. She enjoyed canning, was learning to quilt, and took great pride in her growing collection of gnomes. A Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A Visitation will be held prior from 5:00pm -7:00pm. There will be a Graveside Service on Wednesday, June 18 at 1:00pm at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens and the Cody family are honored to serve the Fain family during this time of remembrance.

George Lee Harmon, 91 of Decatur passed away on Sunday, June 1. He was a life-long member of Clear Springs Baptist Church where he served as Sunday School teacher and Deacon. Funeral services took place on Thursday, June 5 at Clear Springs Baptist Church with interment in Clear Springs Cemetery. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens was in charge of the arrangements.

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