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Friday, December 6, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Garage Fire Destroys Classic Corvette



Early Wednesday morning, a fire broke out at a residence on County Road 420 in Athens, resulting in the total loss of a garage, a 1981 Corvette, and its contents. The

vehicle, being prepared for a Christmas parade, had been started to warm up when the homeowner heard a popping sound from outside. Upon investigation, the garage was found engulfed in flames.

Firefighters from Englewood Rural, Niota Rural, Athens Rural, Etowah Rural, and AUB responded quickly, successfully preventing the fire from spreading to the main residence. A nearby detached garage sustained damage but was saved. Englewood Rural Fire Chief Billy Roach commanded the scene. No injuries were reported. *Credit: Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

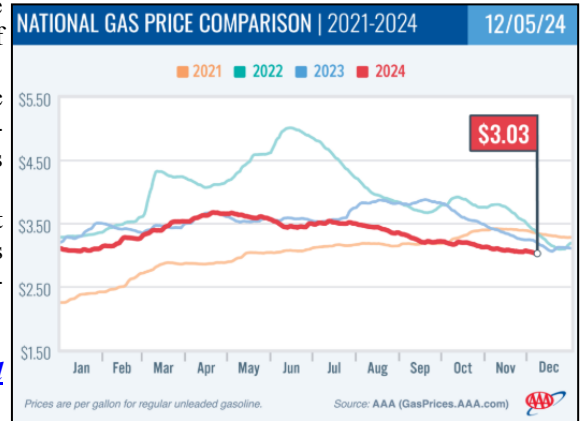
National Gas Prices Plunge to Three-Year Low

The national average for a gallon of gas has dropped to \$3.03, just shy of the \$3 mark for the first time since May 2021. While prices have fallen three cents in the past week, the decline has been slow.

AAA reports that 32 states already have averages below \$3, with Hockley County, Texas, posting the lowest at \$2.30. Gasoline demand rose slightly last week, while production decreased, and domestic stocks grew modestly.

Compared to last month, the national average has dropped by seven cents and is 19 cents lower than this time last year. Meanwhile, the cost of electricity at public EV charging stations remains steady at 34 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Source: AAA Fuel Prices



TN WESLEYAN SUNDAY LUNCH

Start your Sunday off right with our delicious and decadent Sunday Lunch on the TN Wesleyan Campus! Join us for a wide variety of lunch classics and new favorites to satisfy your cravings. Served all you care to eat style!



Holiday Hours Update

- Dec 1: Closed
- Dec 8: Open
- December 9 - January 11: Closed
- January 12: Open



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WEATHER FORECAST

- Friday - Sunny. High 34.
- Fri. Night - Mostly Clear. Low 20.
- Sat. - Sunny. High 47. Low 28.
- Sun. - Partly Sunny. High 53. Low 42. 80% Chance of Showers Overnight
- More Weather at: wxyi.com

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Friday, December 6, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Freddie Ralph Lee, 79, of Sweetwater, passed away at his home on Wednesday, November 27th. He worked in road construction and as a boat mechanic. Following cremation, no memorial services will be held at this time. Companion Funeral Home and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

James Willard "John Boy" Walden, 74 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, December 4 at his residence. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, a Purple Heart recipient and was a member of Monroe County VFW Post 5156. He was retired from Bowater after 32 years of service. Funeral services will be 7:00 PM Saturday, December 7 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Graveside services will be 1:00 PM Sunday, December 8 at Ten Mile Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 4-7 PM Saturday prior to the service at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Roger Dale Higdon, age 69, passed away on Monday, December 2, 2024. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Roger Dale Higdon.

Carolyn E. Bryan, 71 of Benton, passed away on Wednesday, December 4. Funeral services will be held at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, December 7, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Saturday prior to the service. Interment will be held at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, December 8 in Campground Cemetery, Reliance, TN. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Janet Marie Sexton, 73 of Ludowici, Georgia, passed away on Saturday, November 23. A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2024, in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will follow in the Shiloh Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Sexton Family.



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Friday, December 6, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- Union McMinn Baptist Church Live Nativity Scene will be December 6 and 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. They are located off I-75 Exit 56 in Niota.
- Celebrate Recovery meets every Tuesday at 6:00 P.M. at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens).
- Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- St. Mark AME Zion Church is holding services at 11:00 am on Sundays at Keith Memorial UMC. Sunday School is at 9:45 in Ensminger Hall. Rev. Tiki Dixon is the pastor of St. Mark.
- First United Presbyterian Church is holding church services every 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 10:00 am. Minister Juanita McClure Lewis is the Interim Pastor.
- "The Isbells Celebrate Christmas" 2024 Concert Tour makes a stop at Athens Church of the Nazarene (1908 W. Madison Ave., Athens on Friday, Dec. 6th. Doors open at 6pm and the concert will begin at 7pm.
- Trinity Grace Church will be hosting their Christmas Eve Service at TWU Townsend Auditorium from 5 - 6pm on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. All are Welcome.
- North Etowah Baptist Church (231 Pennsylvania Avenue, Etowah) invites you their Live Nativity on Friday, December 13, 5:30pm-8:30pm. Park and walk through the quietness and beauty of the serene and peaceful scene of the night of Christ's birth while enjoying hot cider.
- Solid Rock Baptist Church (4975 Hwy 11, Calhoun) is holding a Drive-Thru play "For God So Loved" from 6:30pm - 8:00pm Today and Tomorrow, Friday December 6 and Saturday, December 7.
- Trinity UMC (100 E. College St., Athens) presents "Walk-Through Bethlehem", a free community event on Sunday, December 22 from 3 - 5pm. Witness Jesus' birth story with live characters. You will end in the sanctuary with a beautiful live nativity. They will have complimentary hot chocolate and apple cider as you walk from scene to scene.

HOLIDAY MARKET AT THE NOTCH · DECEMBER 14TH · 10AM-3PM



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Friday, December 6, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

No Injuries in Two-Vehicle Collision on Monday



A 2019 Ford F-150 and a 2013 Jeep Patriot collided Monday afternoon at the intersection of County Road 516 and Highway 411 in Englewood. Both drivers, who were wearing seatbelts, escaped without injury.

Responding agencies included the Englewood Police Department, Etowah Rural Fire, and Englewood Rural Fire Departments. The accident was investigated by THP Trooper Dean Conk.

Photo credit: Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept.

Athens Christmas Parade Grand Marshals

The Grand Marshals of Monday's Athens Christmas Parade were retired "Voice of the Cherokees" Johnny Coffman and his Granddaughter Kenadee Coffman. Making a plaque presentation to the Coffman's is Chris Liner, parade organizer and nephew of the late Jimmy "Crow" Liner, the parade's founder. Photo courtesy of Julie Simbeck / Athens Area Chamber of Commerce



Niota Christmas Parade

Saturday, Dec. 14th at 6pm
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Pastor Scott Martin



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Athens, Tennessee

Lady Vols Topple Seminoles, Remain Undefeated



Tennessee (6-0) narrowly defeated Florida State (8-2) in a thrilling 79-77 victory Wednesday at the Food City Center in Knoxville, maintaining their perfect season under first-year head coach Kim Caldwell.

Talaysia Cooper led the Lady Vols with 22 points, shooting 10-of-17 from the field. Cooper,

Alyssa Latham and Samara Spencer each grabbed seven rebounds, while Spencer and Ruby Whitehorn tallied four assists apiece.

Tennessee showcased team depth with 22 bench points and dominated in the paint with 46 points. They also added 21 points off turnovers, 19 second-chance points, and 16 fast-break points.

Tennessee hits the road for its first game outside of Food City Center, when it travels to Brooklyn, N.Y., to face No. 17 / 20 Iowa on Saturday night in the Shark Beauty Women's Champions Classic. FOX will televise the game from the Barclays Center at 7 p.m. ET, and the Lady Vol Network and SiriusXM will have a radio broadcast and audio streams as well.

Blowout in Championship Games Remain Tennessee's Last Hope to Host



Tennessee's chance to host a College Football Playoff first-round game hinges on decisive outcomes in Saturday's SEC and Big Ten title games. Ranked No. 7 in the latest CFP poll, the Vols (10-2)

would need lopsided losses from No. 5 Georgia (10-2) or No. 3 Penn State (11-1) to move up to No. 6 and secure a home game at Neyland Stadium.

Georgia's 31-17 win over Tennessee earlier this season is a significant head-to-head factor, while Penn State's weaker resume could lead to a drop if Oregon dominates the Big Ten championship. Although the path is narrow, CFP committee chair Warde Manuel stated that results from the title games will determine any ranking shifts. Tennessee is locked into the 12-team playoff, with matchups to be announced Sunday.

First-round games are set for Dec. 20-21 on campus sites, followed by bowl-based quarterfinals and semifinals, culminating in the national championship in Atlanta on Jan. 20.

Photo by: Andrew Nelles / The Tennessean

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