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Thursday, January 2, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Driver Airlifted Following Serious Crash on Highway 411

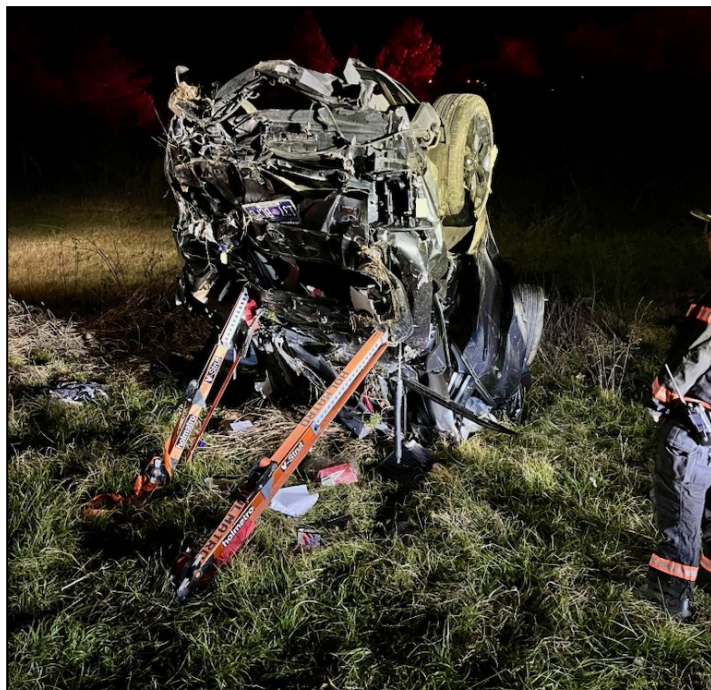
A single-vehicle crash on last Thursday night left a driver seriously injured after their 2021 Kia Sorento veered off Highway 411 near County Road 858.

The accident occurred around 10 p.m. when the vehicle, traveling north, crossed the median into the southbound lanes, broke through a guardrail, and rolled multiple times down an embankment before coming to rest in a field. Emergency responders extricated the driver from the vehicle before AMR paramedics provided on-site medical treatment. LifeStar airlifted the patient to the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville for further care.

The Etowah City Fire Department, Etowah Rural Fire Department, Englewood Rural Fire Department, and McMinn County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene, with Etowah Rural Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Elliott leading the effort.

Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Jackson Mowrer is investigating the incident.

*Photo credit: Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department*



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

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Michael Thomas "Tommy" Nipper**, 56 of Athens passed away on December 29. Tommy was a member of the Spring Creek Church of Christ. He was a truck driver for 20+ years and was most recently driving for C&H trucking. The family will have a graveside service at Upper Spring Creek Cemetery (357 County Road 117, Riceville, TN) on Thursday January 2, 2025 at 11am. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: [wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)

## High-Speed Chase Ends in Madisonville, Suspect in Custody



A high-speed chase that began in Murray County, Georgia, came to a dramatic end in Madisonville late Thursday night after crossing into Tennessee on Highway 411.

The Madisonville Police Department's Bravo Patrol Shift joined the pursuit just after 11 p.m., deploying "stop sticks" near the Good Shepherd Cen-

ter to successfully deflate the suspect's tires. Despite the deflated tires, the chase continued, with the suspect briefly veering into oncoming traffic before coming to a stop at the intersection of Wayman Road and Highway 411. The driver was taken into custody without further incident. Authorities are confirming the suspect's identity and have indicated that they will face multiple charges related to the pursuit.

The operation was a coordinated effort involving the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Tennessee Highway Patrol, McMinn County Sheriff's Office, and Chatsworth Police Department in Georgia. Law enforcement officials commended the teamwork and quick response of all agencies involved.

Source: [Madisonville Police Dept. - Facebook](#)

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Thursday, January 2, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

### Mobile Home Destroyed in Saturday Fire Near Etowah



Fire crews faced a busy Saturday as a mobile home fire broke out on County Road 527 around 2:45 p.m. while personnel from

Etowah Rural Fire and Englewood Rural Fire were already responding to a separate structure fire on County Road 905. The mobile home, located within the Etowah Rural Fire District, was declared a total loss. Emergency crews from Claxton Fire, Madisonville City Fire, Athens City Fire, Athens Rural Fire, the Etowah Utilities Board (EUB), and AMR also responded to the scene. AMR personnel evaluated the home's occupant, but no injuries were reported. Claxton Fire Chief Mike Stewart commanded the scene.

*Photo credit: Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department*

### Train Strikes Stalled Vehicle in Collegedale; No Injuries Reported



A collision involving a train and a stalled vehicle occurred Friday evening at the railroad crossing near College Drive East and Apison Pike, halting traffic in the area.

According to authorities, the vehicle became stuck on the tracks just moments before the crossing arms lowered for an approaching train. Fortunately, all occupants evacuated safely before the train struck the vehicle. Debris from the vehicle, including scattered plastic fragments, was visible at the scene. No injuries were reported, and emergency crews worked swiftly to clear the area.

The crossing reopened to normal traffic. Collegedale Police and the Tennessee Highway Patrol are investigating the incident and will provide updates as they become available.

Source: [WDEF.com](http://WDEF.com)

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Thursday, January 2, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

## A Year to Remember: Tennessee Athletics Shine Bright in 2024



The University of Tennessee experienced an extraordinary 2024, solidifying its place as a powerhouse across collegiate sports. The Vols baseball team claimed its first-ever College World Series title, becoming the first No. 1 seed to win the tournament since 1999. The men's basketball team reached the Elite Eight for just the second time in school history, and the football program made its first College Football Playoff appearance after a strong 10-win season.

Tennessee's football team delivered notable victories over Florida, Alabama, and a ranked Oklahoma team in the Sooners' inaugural SEC game. Freshman quarterback Nico Iamaleava shone in the Citrus Bowl, leading Tennessee to a 35-0 victory over Iowa, marking the beginning of a promising era. Meanwhile, men's basketball star Dalton Knecht became a first-round NBA Draft pick, and the Lady Vols basketball program thrived under new head coach Kim Caldwell, starting the season 12-0 with a high-scoring, fast-paced style.

Tennessee also excelled in women's softball, repeating as SEC regular-season champions, while its baseball team saw two first-round MLB draft picks and continued its dominance under coach Tony Vitello. Off the field, Tennessee was at the forefront of NIL developments, with a successful lawsuit against the NCAA that secured greater flexibility for athletes. The Vols capped off their achievements with a third-place finish in the Directors' Cup standings, the best in program history, and continued to attract top talent with major recruiting victories, including commitments from five-star football prospects. Tennessee Athletics lived up to its "Everything School" mantra, with 11 of its 20 teams finishing in the top 10 nationally during the 2023-24 academic year.

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### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday - Sunny. High 44.**  
**Thurs. Night - Partly Cloudy.**  
Low 29.  
**Friday - Partly Sunny. High 45.**  
**Friday Night - Mostly Clear.**  
Low 20.

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