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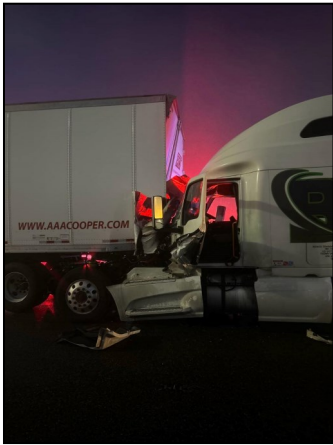
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**Monday, February 3, 2025**

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**Athens, Tennessee**

## I-75 Re-opened after early morning crashes



Heavy fog led to multiple wrecks on both northbound and southbound lanes of Interstate 75 at Hwy 30 near Athens on Saturday. Emergency crews, already responding to a structure fire on Milton Road, were met with poor visibility as reports of accidents began flooding in.

A unified command post was set up at Subway near the Athens exit, with Mutual Aid Chief Billy Roach coordinating response efforts. Multiple emergency agencies, including fire departments, law enforcement, and hazmat teams, responded to the scene to assist.

Authorities are urging drivers to use caution in hazardous weather conditions and remain alert for sudden changes in visibility. *Source: [Tri-State Mutual Aid - Facebook](#)*

## Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Municipal-Regional Planning Commission will meet TODAY, Monday, February 3 at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room of the Athens Municipal Building. New business includes: Public Comments and Final Plat approval for Haley and Collin Shull property shown as part of Tax Map 064 Parcel 082.00 on the [Tennessee Real Estate Property Assessment Data Website](#). The Urban Growth Boundary property is located off County Road 132 and 134 and contains 4.98 acres and three (3) lots.
- There will be a called meeting of the Athens City Council on Tuesday, February 4 beginning at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Athens Municipal Building.

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• Monday – Closed  
• Tuesday-Madisonville-Will Sav -10:30 - 1:30  
• Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2:00  
• Thursday-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 -1:30  
• Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30

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**ETOWAH HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Due to HUD funding, the Section 8 Waiting List will be **CLOSED** until further notice. We are unable to accept any new applications at this time. When Section 8 re-opens, we will give 10 business days notice before handing out or accepting new applications. Call 423-263-2674 Option #3 with questions.

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Monday, February 3, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Dorothy Mae (Amen) Belk**, 98 of Athens, passed away on Friday, January 24. Dorothy worked at the McMinn Senior Center as the Congregate meal coordinator and was awarded the *McMinn County Senior Center Volunteer of the Year* several times and was the former Senior News Reporter on WYXI RADIO. Dorothy was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Englewood. Family and friends were received at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral home in Athens on Monday, January 27. Internment occurred on Tuesday at the McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**Trula Mae Davis Patterson**, 82 of Athens, passed away on Saturday, February 1. She was an active member and pianist for Brookhill Baptist, Wildwood Baptist and currently a member of Sanford Baptist. Funeral services will be 12:00 pm Tuesday, February 4 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The interment will be at McMinn Memory Gardens immediately following the service. The family will receive friends from 10 am-12 pm Tuesday before the service. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.

## Chicken Coop Catches Fire in Etowah



A light inside this chicken coop caught it on fire around 11:30 Thursday morning on County Road 792 in Etowah, according to the owner. The owner had most of the fire extinguished upon arrival of fire personnel. Etowah Rural and Claxton Fire both responded. *Photo by Etowah Rural Fire Department*

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## Driver Crashes into Tree in Etowah



A driver lost control of his 1989 Mercury Grand Marquis after swerving to avoid a deer on Co Rd 623 in Etowah

around 10 p.m. Friday night, crashing into a tree. The driver sustained minor injuries but declined medical treatment.

Etowah Rural Fire, Etowah City Fire, and McMinn County Sheriff's Deputy Bryan Powers responded to the scene. Deputy Powers is investigating the accident. Photo by Etowah Rural Fire Department

## Classes Coming to the Arts Center

Athens Area Council for the Arts has announced registration for a variety of art classes. **Participants should register three days before class starts.**

**Get Your Hands Dirty: Build a Cup** with Patricia Shook is open to participants ages 16 and older. The class meets Saturday, February 8, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Students learn how to make their very own pottery! This one-day class is perfect for those who have never made pottery and want to try hand building techniques, or are looking for a refresher. **The one-day workshop is \$75 and all materials are provided for up to 3 items.**

Information about the instructors, as well as links to register for all classes, is available online at [athensartscouncil.org/classes](http://athensartscouncil.org/classes).

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Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

**Walter Byas**, 44 of Athens, was arrested by the APD for Simple Possession/Casual Exchange of Schedule II Fentanyl. Total Bond: \$6,000.

**Pamela Liner**, 32 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation and Introduction of Contraband into a Penal Institution. Total Bond: \$2,400.

**Tina Starr**, 38 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation and Falsification of a Drug Test Result. No Bond.

**Susan Crumley**, 26 of Etowah, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation, Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Simple Possession of Schedule IV Xanax, and Possession of Schedule I Heroin. Total Bond: \$34,000

**Mercedes Sanders**, 31 of Decatur, was arrested by the MCSO for DUI, Reckless Endangerment, Legend Drugs, Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine for Resale, and Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl. Total Bond: \$49,500.

**Jessica Womack**, 26 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation, Failure to Appear, Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine for Resale, Possession of Schedule II Oxycodone, and Possession of Schedule IV Alprazolam. Total Bond: \$70,000

**Ashley Chadwick**, 33 of Niota, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$14,000.

**Lillie Ihrke**, 25 of Ten Mile, was arrested by the MSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$3,800

**Herbert Hickman**, 75 of Decatur, was arrested by the MCSO for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$2,000.

**Kristal Lea Simpson**, 35 of Riceville, was arrested by the Athens PD for DUI, Possession of a Handgun under the Influence, Indecent Exposure, and Resisting Stop. No Bond.

**Yamaria Santos**, 43 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for DUI and Possession of a Handgun under the Influence. Bond Unclear.

**The accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.  
Information gathered from Public Sources.**



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Monday, February 3, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Central Basketball Round-Up



McMinn Central basketball hosted district 3-2A foe Kingston on Friday night. The Chargerettes jumped out to a 12-2 lead that stretched to 49-17 at the half in route to a dominant 84-31 win. Karina Bystry scored 35 points and led the team with 5 assists and 6 steals. Reagan Baker added 15 points,

3 assists, and 3 steals, and tied Malea Masingale for the team lead with 7 rebounds. Malea Masingale scored 14 points. Alahna Powell added 10 points off the bench. Camryn Loden scored 6 points and tied Bystry with 6 steals. The win improves the Chargerettes to 24-1 overall as part of a 23-game win streak. They are now 8-0 in district play and have clinched the top seed in the district tournament.

The Chargers built a 34-24 lead in the second quarter lead over the top 5 ranked Yellowjackets, but Kingston closed out the half on a 6-0 run to tie the game at 38 at the half. Kingston surged ahead 55-44 in the third quarter, but the Chargers' 13-2 run tied the game at 57. Unfortunately, Kingston had the final surge in the fourth quarter and defeated the Chargers 91-80. Will Benton recorded a double-double with 20 points and 13 rebounds. Daylen Spradling scored 18 points, grabbed 8 rebounds, and led the team with 5 assists. Ray McCarty scored 18 points, grabbed 7 rebounds, and dished out 4 assists. Carter Anderson scored 14 points. The loss drops the Chargers' record to 8-16 overall and 3-5 in district 3-2A.

McMinn Central hosts district opponent Sweetwater Tuesday night. The girls game begins at 6:00pm.

*McMinn Central Coverage Provided by Todd Loveday, WYGO Voice of the Chargers.*

## No. 8 Tennessee Stuns No. 5 Florida with Dominant 64-44 Win



Despite missing two key starters, No. 8 Tennessee delivered a statement victory over No. 5 Florida, 64-44, on Saturday at a sold-out Food City Center. The Volunteers, playing with only seven scholarship players, extended their SEC record to six consecutive home wins against AP top-five opponents.

Tennessee (18-4, 5-4 SEC) was without senior guard Zakai Zeigler (knee) and forward Igor Miličić Jr. (illness), but their teammates stepped up in a big way. Chaz Lanier led all scorers with 19 points, going 5-for-9 from three-point range, while Jordan Gainey contributed 16 points, five assists, and three steals. Felix Okpara and Jahmai Mashack anchored the paint with eight rebounds each, while Cade Phillips added seven points and three blocks in a career-high of just 28 minutes.

Both teams struggled offensively early, with Tennessee missing its first four shots and Florida missing its first five. The Gators led 6-2 before the Vols responded, taking a 14-13 lead on a Lanier three-pointer. Tennessee then held Florida scoreless for 5:45 and forced six consecutive missed shots. The game remained tight through halftime, with the Vols leading 24-21, despite both teams shooting under 30% from the field in the first half. The Volunteers came out on fire after the break, opening with a 6-0 run and extending it to 14-2 to push their lead to 30-21. A three-pointer by Gainey made it 43-30 with 12:59 remaining, and Tennessee's defense continued to smother the Gators, forcing five straight misses over a six-minute span. A 9-0 Vols run extended the lead to 19 points (52-33) with 6:46 left, effectively sealing the victory. Lanier hit back-to-back threes to push the margin to 21 before Tennessee coasted to the 20-point win.

Tennessee's defense shut down Florida, holding the Gators to just 24.5% shooting (13-of-53) and 14.8% from three (4-of-27)—their worst shooting performance in two decades. Florida's 44 points marked their lowest scoring total in nearly 35 years (since 1990).

The Volunteers wrap up their three-game homestand against No. 20 Missouri on Wednesday at 7 p.m. on the SEC Network.

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

**We encourage you to e-mail results from local school sporting events for use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: [wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)**