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Friday, February 7, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Sneezing Driver Flips Vehicle, Escapes Injury



A 2005 Cadillac Escalade overturned Tuesday evening around 7:30 p.m. after the driver lost control while sneezing. The accident occurred at the intersection of County Road 660 and County Road 618 in Athens as the driver was heading home from work.

The McMinn County Sheriff's Department requested AMR to evaluate the driver, who was found to be uninjured. Claxton Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and THP Trooper DJ Taylor responded to the scene, with Taylor leading the investigation.

Photo courtesy of Etowah Rural Fire Department

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Friday, February 7, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Marjorie Wade Guffey, 89 of Athens, passed away Wednesday, February 5 at her residence. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens.

Elizabeth Belle Dixon Green, 93 of Athens, passed away on February 4, 2025 at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. She worked on many farms and was a housewife. She attended Double Springs Baptist Church. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 3:30 PM in Double Springs Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of the 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, e-mail it to:
wyxiradio@gmail.com

Results of Athens City Council Called Meeting

The Athens City Council held a called meeting on Tuesday. Two points passed on the agenda.

1. Southeast Tennessee Development (SETD) will be helping the city obtain a \$1 million grant to help with safety concerns for the Downtown and Knight Park areas. This will help create crosswalks for TWU students and citizens to cross streets while ensuring safety when going to and from classes. This will also help the Arts Council when they have events and use TWU and surrounding private parking areas for overflow parking.
2. The City Council has chosen to shut down Facebook comments specifically on the live streams of the meetings, after a 3-1 vote. However, it is unclear if this will also extend to the rest of their social content.

Mayor Larry Eaton stated that these live streams were created so that people could stay informed of the events at the meetings whenever they were unable to physically attend. However, he stated, "Now people [are] making very bad comments and that isn't what it is for."

Source: Larry Eaton, Athens City Mayor



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Friday, February 7, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Community Pitch Competition at Cleveland State

The George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Cleveland State Community College will host a Community Pitch Competition on **Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 6 p.m.**

Modeled after the popular television show, Shark Tank, the winners of the competition will receive seed money to invest in their established business provided by the Lynn Jones Foundation. First place will receive \$7,500; second place will receive \$4,000, and third place will receive \$1,500.

The competition is open to any new business in Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe or Polk counties that has been in operation for at least six months but no longer than two years. Businesses interested in participating should complete the competition application at: <https://entrepreneurship.clevelandstateecc.edu/>. The deadline to apply is 12 p.m. on Friday, March 7, 2025.

The Community Pitch Competition is part of the Entrepreneurship Event at Cleveland State. The free event includes a Student Pitch Competition at 12 p.m. featuring current Cleveland State students. The event is open to the public and sponsored by the George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the Lynn Jones Foundation, the Cleveland Bradley Business Incubator and the Small Business Development Center. Rick Platz, George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Advisory Board Chairman, said, "We all know how important early financial support can be for small business start-ups. This is a great opportunity that shouldn't be missed. Apply now to compete for \$7,500!"

Established to encourage and support entrepreneurial learning among students, alumni, faculty and the community, the George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation assists individuals who are interested in building or growing their own enterprises. The intent of the center is to connect future and current entrepreneurs with the resources needed to create, launch and grow business. The center also supports the entrepreneurship concentration through the Cleveland State business degree program. For more information about the Community Pitch Competition, visit: <https://entrepreneurship.clevelandstateecc.edu/> Call (423) 478-6224 or email: entrepreneurship@clevelandstateecc.edu.

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Friday, February 7, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **Mars Hill Presbyterian Church**, Circle II, is sponsoring a **SOUP-ER BOWL LUNCHEON** as a Relay for Life fundraiser on Sunday, February 9, at noon. They will serve homemade soups, chili, cornbread, and homemade desserts. Everyone is invited to attend. The address is 205 North Jackson St., Athens.
- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Christ Community Church** is once again opening the Prom Shop on Saturday, March 29 from 9 am - 3 pm. The Prom Shop provides Prom Formal wear at no cost for any student to attend their prom or dance. Christ Community Church is located at 14 S. Congress Pkwy in Athens. For more information, email promshopathens@yahoo.com.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00 P.M. at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00 P.M. at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- The Hymnsmen Quartet will be singing at Cambria Baptist Church, [305 County Road 875 Etowah](http://305CountyRoad875Etowah), on Sunday Evening, February 9th at 6:PM. Everyone is Welcome.
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? **Clearwater Baptist Church** (964 County Road 180, Athens) is beginning a new session of GriefShare helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. Beginning on Thursday, March 6th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm there will be an ongoing (in 13 week rotations) grief support group that you can join at any time and is open to the community. For more info visit: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share
- Mount Olive A.M.E. Zion Church, Star Bethel Baptist Church, and Everlasting Life Christian Center are hosting a Fun, Food, & Fellowship event: “Old School Sunday”. There will be a “Dress in your Oldies” contest in celebration of Black History Month. Wear your oldest clothing and whoever has the most unusual outfit from each church wins a prize. This event will take place at 1:00 pm on Sunday, February 9 at Mount Olive.
- Star Bethel Missionary Baptist Church is hosting their Pastoral Installation Service on February 16 at 11am and 3pm. The church is located at 331 County Road 890, Etowah.
- The McMinn Senior Activity Center is pleased to announce a free Bible Study program every Thursday at 2 pm during February. They will study and explore the righteous attributes of great biblical women through the lens of Proverbs 31.

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Mallori will be discussing the importance of estate planning to prepare for mental incapacity, the importance of having those documents in place, and the details of how a conservatorship works.

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Friday, February 7, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session on Thursday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.
- The Athens Arts Council is announcing their Annual Arts Gala will be taking place on Saturday, March 8 from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm. Enjoy a night of dinner, dancing with the Nashville Soul Experience and an auction featuring special items like original artwork and one-of-a-kind experiences all to support the arts. This is a formal event; dressy attire is suggested, black tie optional. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased at the link [HERE](#).

“Tranquility” Art Class coming to Athens



Tranquility Community Center invites you to celebrate the holiday of love by creating an artistic masterpiece of your own. The Tranquility Community Center is at 807 County Road 220 in Athens (right off Hwy. 305) where you and your friends can create this “step-by-step” work of art and have your very own “Heart Tree” to take home. ***This class will take place this coming Tuesday, February 11 from 6:00pm***

to 8:00 pm. Art classes are currently scheduled for every second Tuesday of the month through October. These events are perfect for beginners and seasoned artists alike. The price per participant is \$20. All supplies are included for this experience. The proceeds from these art classes will go to benefit the continued operation of Tranquility Community Center. ***The last day to sign up is TOMORROW, Saturday, February 8. To register, call Kerry at (423) 920-0912.***

Art by [Brianna Carroll](#)

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Friday, February 7, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

TWU Athletic Report



It's been an exciting time in Tennessee Wesleyan University Athletics. The basketball teams are nearing the end of their regular seasons as baseball, men's and women's tennis, and men's lacrosse are starting their seasons for 2025. Here are the latest updates:

The baseball program finished their time in Florida at the East/West Challenge with three wins. The team defeated No. 24 University of British Columbia, No. 10 Arizona Christian University, and No. 2 Hope International University.

The men's tennis team made a run at the ITA NAIA Men's Team Indoor Championships. The team made it all the way to the championship match, defeating No. 14 Lindsey Wilson College and No. 2 Keiser University. The fifth-ranked Bulldogs fell in the title match to No. 1 Georgia Gwinnett. The sixth-ranked women's tennis team picked up a win against No. 18 Williams Woods University at the ITA NAIA Women's Team Indoor Championships.

The men's lacrosse team began their season with a 14-3 win against NCAA Division II opponent Shorter University. Kennedy Moore led the offense with five goals.

The men's basketball team tied a program record in their most recent home game against St. Andrews University. In the team's 125-78 win, the Bulldogs made 51 field goals to tie the record for most made field goals in a game. The women's basketball team have won three of their last four games, beating Welch College, Brenau University, and St. Andrews University.

Upcoming Events

Away:

Sat. Feb. 8 Men's Lacrosse at Southern Virginia University at 1:00 PM ET.

Home:

Fri. Feb. 7 Baseball vs. Indiana University Southeast (DH) at 12:00 PM

Home:

Fri. Feb. 7 Men's/Women's Tennis vs. Johnson University at 2:00 PM

Sat. Feb. 8 Baseball vs. Indiana University Southeast (DH) at 12:00 PM

Sat. Feb. 8 WBB/MBB against University of Pikeville at 2:00 PM (WBB) and 4:00 PM (MBB)

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Friday, February 7, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 7 Athens, Tennessee

Athens Isahaya Sister City Tea Ceremony



The Athens-Isahaya Sister City Committee met Tuesday night for a Valentine's Origami class. Several DENSO volunteers were present to support the event. Their next event will be a Tea Ceremony on Tuesday, March 4 at TCAT in Athens from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Registration is required and can be done at the link [HERE](#). This is part of a FREE monthly lecture series about different Japanese cultural topics. The classes will continue until July 2025, and are being held at different locations around Athens. Find more information on the Athens-Isahaya Sister City Committee Facebook Page [HERE](#).

McMinn County accepting Mother of the Year 2024 Nominations



Nominations are now being accepted by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce for McMinn County's 2024 Mother of the Year. Nomination forms and award guidelines may be obtained at the Chamber office located at 13 North Jackson St. in Athens on Mondays-Fridays between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm, or by calling 423-745-0334. The deadline for nominations is March 17th. The 2024 Mother of the Year will be announced at the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 24.

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Friday, February 7, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 8 Athens, Tennessee

Two Felony Suspects Captured After Pursuits



On Tuesday, February 4, officers attempted a traffic stop on a burglary suspect who fled, leading authorities on a pursuit through Loudon County. Deputies deployed spike strips, safely stopping the vehicle and

arresting the suspect.

Shortly after, a second wanted felon fled from officers on I-75 South, leading to another chase that ended in Meigs County after authorities disabled the vehicle.

The first suspect was driving a stolen short bus and had felony warrants in Hamilton County. The second, a convicted felon on probation, was wanted in Knox and McMinn counties. Both face multiple felony charges. Multiple agencies assisted in the arrests. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Source: [Sweetwater PD - Facebook](#)

Fatal Crash in Meigs County Claims Life of 24-Year-Old Man



A 24-year-old Tennessee man, **Austin Justice**, was killed in a single-vehicle crash early Thursday morning on State Highway 60 in Meigs County.

According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP), the crash occurred just before 7 a.m. when Justice, driving a 2006 Nissan Altima, left the roadway, entered a ditch, overturned, and struck a sign and mailbox before coming to a stop.

THP reports that Justice was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. The incident remains under investigation.

Source: [NewsChannel9](#)

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