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Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Three-Year-Old Mauled by Pit Bull in Englewood



An evening at a babysitter's home turned tragic when a three-year-old child was mauled by a pit bull on County Road 564 in Englewood around 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

According to reports, the dog had wandered to the babysitter's residence about a month ago in a malnourished state. The babysitter's boyfriend, who was outside working on a vehicle, heard the child screaming near a swing set and discovered the attack.

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The child sustained lacerations and puncture wounds to the face and head and was treated on the scene by AMR and Englewood Rural Fire Department. Lifeforce airlifted the child to Children's Hospital at Erlanger for further treatment.

McMinn County Animal Control removed the dog from the residence, and McMinn County Sheriff's Corporal Nathan Stiles is investigating the incident.

Photo Courtesy of Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept.

◆ *Hope From the Well* host, **Julie Tillis** invites you to tune in to the program this week. *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday morning at 8:15 am on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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Wednesday, March 19, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Alan Patrick Fanning, 74 of Ten Mile, passed away on Saturday, March 15. Alan earned a physics degree from Western Michigan University. His career in the nuclear industry included 22 years at the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Arizona and later, he contributed his expertise at the Watts Bar and Sequoyah Plants in Tennessee. He was a singer as well, having performed at Carnegie Hall and eventually lending his voice to the choir at Center Presbyterian Church in Tellico Plains. Per his request there will be no formal visitation or service at this time. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Alan Patrick Fanning.

Linda Fisher Prichard, 71, passed away on Friday, March 7. She earned a Bachelor of University Studies in Elementary Education from Moorhead State University in Kentucky. She had a gift for serving others that also reflected in her personality. A private funeral service will be held at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Linda Fisher Prichard.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Election Commission will hold a called meeting on Monday, March 24, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The agenda includes reviewing resumés and conducting interviews for the Administrator of Elections position as they prepare for the current administrator's retirement. Other election-related business may also be discussed.
- The Meigs Co. Historical Society and Museum will host Zach England as a guest speaker at its monthly meeting on Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m. He will present "The Founding Father Without a Father," a discussion on Alexander Hamilton. Attendees are invited to bring their favorite picnic foods for refreshments. **More Community News on Page 4**

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Wednesday, March 19, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Sweetwater Bus Driver Faces Assault Charges, Banned from Driving



A Sweetwater City Schools bus driver is facing assault and reckless endangerment charges after allegedly yelling at students, slamming the brakes, and grabbing a child's jacket during a morning route on February 28.

According to an affidavit of complaint, **Wendell Cleve Rice** was driving when security footage showed him yelling at a second and fifth grader, slamming the brakes, and later grabbing a student's jacket, pulling him closer, and demanding silence. The report also alleges that Rice threatened to punch another student if he didn't sit down.

Following the incident, Sweetwater City Schools stated that Rice, who was employed by KB Busing, was immediately banned from driving any school routes. The district notified parents, school resource officers, and the bus contractor, confirming that Rice will not be allowed to drive in the future.

Rodney Boruff, Director of Sweetwater City Schools released a statement detailing the events and pending investigation as well as saying that: "Sweetwater City Schools is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and will always advocate for all students to feel safe and valued."

Source: [WATE 6 News](#)

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WEATHER FORECAST

Wed. - Partly Sunny. High 73.
Wed. night - 90% Chance of Rain. Low 53..
Thurs. - Mostly Cloudy. High 51.
Thurs. night - Partly Cloudy to Clear. Low 31.
More Weather at: wyxi.com

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State to Host Entrepreneurship Event and Pitch Competitions

The George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at **Cleveland State Community College** will host an **Entrepreneurship Event on Tuesday, March 25**, featuring student and community pitch competitions and the grand opening of the new Center.

The Student Pitch Competition begins at 12 p.m., where five students will compete for cash prizes sponsored by the Lynn Jones Foundation and the Cleveland Bradley Business Incubator. At 6 p.m., seven local entrepreneurs will compete in the Community Pitch Competition, with \$13,000 in prizes awarded by the Lynn Jones Foundation. The competing businesses include Apex Pro Home Repair, Liberty Acres Dog Lodge, Ocoee River Distilling, and more.

The college will also celebrate the grand opening of the George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at 3 p.m. The new center, supported by a donation from the George R. Johnson Family Foundation, will offer workspace, a podcast booth, and a conference area for business collaboration and training.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit mycs.cc/entr, call (423) 478-6224, or email entrepreneurship@clevelandstatecc.edu.

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Utilities Board Budget and Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 11:30 A.M.
- The Great American Cleanup prompts individuals to take greater responsibility for their local environment by participating in public clean-up events. This community service project engages volunteers from all walks of life, college students, labor force, retired people and civic leaders. Litter is a problem that can be solved! Join the UT Extension - McMinn County at E.G. Fisher Library on Saturday March 22nd from 9:30am -11:30am to clean up outside the library and the wetlands. **Call the UT Extension and sign up at 423-745-2852.**

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

wyxiradio@gmail.com



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Wednesday, March 19, 2025
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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

Dennis Howard, 61 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Possession of Prohibited weapons/explosives, Tampering with Evidence, Armed Dangerous Felonies, Unlawful Carry/Possession of a Weapon, and Possession of Methamphetamine for Resale. No Bond.

Peyton Buckner, 22 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Criminal Trespassing. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Wanda Boggess, 46 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

Shannon Buckner, 48 of Niota, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. No Bond.

Christopher Graham, 26 of Nashville, was arrested by the Athens PD for Aggravated Assault and Disorderly Conduct. Total Bond: \$31,000

Dustin Fairbanks, 43 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for State Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$2,000.

Jakob Allen, 27 of Englewood, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

James White, 48 of Ten Mile, was arrested by the MCSO for 2 counts of Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$2,385.95.

Jeremy Scott, 23 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Mauricise Booker, 55 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Driving on a Revoked License (2nd Offense). No Bond.

Ethan Gooch, 28 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Possession of Methamphetamine, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$7,000.

Mark Dockery, 43 of Englewood, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Possession of Methamphetamine, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$7,000.

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



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