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**Driver Escapes Serious Injury in Englewood Rollover Crash**



A 2005 Subaru Forester flipped upside down after striking a ditch and tree during a curve on County Road 550 near County Road 545 Friday evening around 5:30 p.m.

The driver sustained minor lacerations but declined EMS transport. Responding agencies included Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department. Englewood Rural Fire Chief Billy Roach was in command, and THP Trooper Rodney Best investigated the crash.

*Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

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## Tennessee Wesleyan Celebrates Third Consecutive Record Enrollment



Tennessee Wesleyan University is celebrating a historic milestone and is excited to announce record enrollment for the third consecutive semester. This fall, the university welcomed 1,398 students, the highest enrollment in its history.

Some of the areas of growth include the dual enrollment programs (up 96% from last year), graduate programs (up 59%), and the 4+1 programs (up 27%). In total, Tennessee Wesleyan enrollment grew by 19% from 2024 to 2025 across all programs.

The continued growth of the university reflects the strength of its academic programs and student culture. The steady increase in student enrollment also reflects the university's focus on the future, not only for the school itself but for its students. Enrollment has climbed steadily over the past year, with this fall marking the largest student body in the university's 168-year history. *Source: Chrisi Jackson, TWU*

## Community News You Can Use

- There will not be a McMinn County Commission Meeting for September 2025. Their next scheduled meeting will be October 20, 2025.
- The Mid-East Tennessee Community Chorus is launching a new Children's Chorus for 2nd–8th graders, no audition required. Orientation and first rehearsal will be Monday, Sept. 15, 5:30–6:30 p.m. at TWU's Sherman Hall. The group's debut performance will be at the Old Fashioned Downtown Christmas on Dec. 6. Register at <https://forms.gle/CijNip3cFojx2xZz6>
- The E.G. Fisher Public Library Noon Book Club will meet Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 12 p.m. to discuss *The Shadow of the Wind: A Novel* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón. The discussion will be led by Becky Penney.

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**TENNESSEE FOOTBALL**  
**ON THE MORNING FAX**

**Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025**

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**Athens, Tennessee**

## Vols Set Records Against ETSU, Rise to No. 15 Ahead of Georgia Showdown

Tennessee football put on a record-setting show in its home opener Saturday, rolling past ETSU 72-17 before a sold-out Neyland Stadium crowd of 101,915. The Vols (2-0) piled up 717 yards of offense, a modern-era program best 41 first downs, and set a new scoring mark with 48 points in the first half.

Quarterback Joey Aguilar led the way with 288 passing yards and two touchdowns in just two quarters before turning things over to reserves Jake Merklinger and George MacIntyre, who also found the end zone. Running back Star Thomas tallied three scores on the ground, while wideouts Chris Brazzell II and Mike Matthews each topped 100 receiving yards. Tennessee's defense limited ETSU to just 49 rushing yards and 10 first downs on the day.

The victory vaulted Tennessee to **No. 15 in both the AP Top 25 and Coaches Poll**, making the Vols the week's biggest riser. It also set the stage for one of the season's marquee matchups as **No. 6/3 Georgia** comes to Knoxville this Saturday for both teams' SEC opener. The game, set for **3:30 p.m. on ABC**, will feature the return of "Checker Neyland" and national coverage from **ESPN College GameDay**, on campus for the first time since 2022.

The program will also honor former Vol great **John Henderson**, who is set to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame later this fall.

Head coach Josh Heupel said his team is excited but focused. "This is our conference opener against a great opponent, and it's going to be a great atmosphere," Heupel said. "For us the preparation is going to be important, focusing on the details and being assignment sound. You can't give a great opponent anything."

With a sold-out crowd, national spotlight, and the stakes of a top-15 showdown, all eyes now turn to Rocky Top for Saturday's clash.

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## HS FOOTBALL #RESULTS

McMinn Co.	<b>42-54</b>	Walker Valley
Sweetwater	<b>22-27</b>	Tellico Plains Bears
Meigs Co.	<b>24-6</b>	York Institute
Sequoyah	<b>8-20</b>	Polk Co.
Bradley Central	<b>49-0</b>	Hardin Valley Academy
Cleveland	<b>20-39</b>	Tullahoma

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Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Barn Destroyed in Early Morning Fire Near Athens



Firefighters from multiple departments battled a barn fire on County Road 608 early Sunday morning after a 911 call came in shortly before 4 a.m.

When crews arrived, the structure was already fully engulfed in flames. Despite efforts from several agencies, the barn was declared a total loss.

Responding units included Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, and Athens Rural Fire, with Etowah Rural Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Elliott in command at the scene. The EUB and McMinn County Sheriff's Department also provided assistance.

*Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

## Cleveland State Leaders Correcting Fees Collection Error

Leaders at Cleveland State Community College are reaching out to more than 300 area students who have been contacted by a collection agency after the college mistakenly provided the firm their names and contact information. The students being contacted by college leaders were mistakenly included on a list of students with outstanding balances.

The inadvertently-affected students were among more than a thousand students that took dual enrollment courses with the college last year. Cleveland State is working with the collection agency to cancel the collection actions to ensure the credit record of students and their families are unaffected.

Community members with questions can contact the college at (423) 473-2395.



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**Athens, Tennessee**

**Verifiable August Home Sales in McMinn  
County via [tvas.com](http://tvas.com)**

**McMinn County Arrest Reports**

**9-7-25**

8/1/2025	\$379001	County Road 29	Riceville
8/1/2025	\$224100	County Road 110	Athens
8/5/2025	\$327000	County Road 783	Etowah
8/6/2025	\$825000	County Road 728	Riceville
8/7/2025	\$590000	County Road 484	Englewood
8/8/2025	\$285000	County Road 658	Athens
8/8/2025	\$255000	Cedar Springs	Athens
8/8/2025	\$265000	Brookhill	Etowah
8/11/2025	\$220000	County Road 42	Athens
8/13/2025	\$416000	County Road 580	Athens
8/13/2025	\$365000	Pinecrest Drive	Athens
8/13/2025	\$550000	County Road 451	Athens
8/13/2025	\$160000	Shoemaker	Athens
8/13/2025	\$385000	County Road 100	Decatur
8/14/2025	\$268000	Belle	Athens
8/14/2025	\$392500	Village Cove Circle	Englewood
8/15/2025	\$208000	Highway 411	Etowah
8/15/2025	\$227500	County Road 2	Riceville
8/15/2025	\$184400	County Road 269	Niota
8/18/2025	\$199000	Sherwood Avenue	Athens
8/18/2025	\$215000	County Road 564	Englewood
8/18/2025	\$245000	Scott St	Athens
8/20/2025	\$185000	County Road 172	Athens
8/22/2025	\$345000	County Road 712	Athens
8/22/2025	\$322000	County Road 967	Riceville
8/22/2025	\$262650	George	Athens
8/22/2025	\$220000	Sequoia	Etowah
8/22/2025	\$197000	County Road 856	Delano
8/22/2025	\$248000	Richardson	Athens
8/25/2025	\$180000	Lee Highway	Athens
8/27/2025	\$199900	Warren Street	Athens
8/28/2025	\$397000	County Road 722	Athens
8/28/2025	\$600000	Linden Circle	Athens
8/28/2025	\$449900	County Road 229	Niota
8/29/2025	\$460000	County Road 750	Riceville
8/29/2025	\$275000	Crescent Circle	Niota
8/29/2025	\$655000	Breckenridge	Athens
8/29/2025	\$238000	Kellar Court	Etowah
8/29/2025	\$200000	Lynncrest	Calhoun

**Jeffrey Garrett**, 63 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, Bond \$1,500

**Matthew Teffeteller**, 27 of Decatur, charged with state violation of probation in Meigs County.

**Mikella Shelton**, 53 of Athens, charged with failure to appear. Bond \$2,000

**Michael Smith**, 35 of Englewood, charged with simple possession and casual exchange of Schedule VI drugs. Possession of Schedule II meth, Possession of Schedule II, and Schedule IV drugs. Bond \$25,000

**Travis Savage**, 31 of Athens, charged with possession of Schedule II fentanyl, possession of Schedule II meth, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond \$14,000

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**

**Information gathered using Public Sources.**

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Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Clinton Ray Moore**, 65, passed away on Friday, September 5, at a local Athens hospital. Survivors and arrangements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Services in charge of arrangements.

**Sandra "Sandy" Pyle**, 73, of Englewood, passed away on Saturday, September 6. She was of the Baptist faith and loved her family dearly. The family will hold a service at a later date. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**Charlene Richesin Wade**, 88 of Athens, passed away on Sunday, September 7, at Decatur Wellness and Rehab Center in Decatur. Charlene worked for several years at the hosiery mill and later at Westinghouse. She was a member of North Athens Baptist Church and the Athenian Chapter No. 159 since 1960. The children have requested a private burial service. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

**Nelsie Waldrop Sisson**, 89 of Etowah, passed away in a Knoxville hospital on Friday, September 5. She worked for many years as a secretary and bookkeeper for insurance agencies in Etowah and Benton before retiring from State Farm Insurance in Etowah. She was a member of Wetmore Baptist Church at the time of her death. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 9 at Wetmore Baptist Church, 9801 Highway 411 in Delano. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday prior to the service at the church. Family and friends will assemble at Green Hill Cemetery, Wednesday, September 10 for the 11:00 a.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**David Vernon Neil Jr.** passed away on Monday, September 8, in a Knoxville hospital. Survivors and arrangements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Services in charge of arrangements

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