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Friday, September 12, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Monroe County 911 Services Restored After Battery Malfunction



Monroe County's 911 Center has fully restored operations after a technical malfunction forced emergency calls to be rerouted Tuesday around 11:30 a.m.

According to 911 Director April White, the center experienced issues when a pair of large backup batteries began overheating, releasing a toxic odor that triggered carbon monoxide alarms inside the building. Madisonville Fire Department responded, and it was determined the batteries posed a potential explosion risk. For safety, dispatchers evacuated and shifted into a contingency plan. Emergency calls were immediately re-

routed to McMinn and Loudon counties, with dispatchers working outside on portable radios and personal phones while staying in constant communication with neighboring 911 centers. *"All emergency communications are set up to instantly be rerouted if needed," White said. "At no point were citizens without 911 service."*

Multiple agencies responded, including Athens City Fire, Englewood Fire, Tri-Community Fire, Monroe County EMS, and the Highway Department. EMS personnel assessed dispatchers for exposure, while specialized crews removed the defective batteries. White praised the quick actions of Madisonville Fire Chief Todd Torbett, who led incident command, along with assistance from Sweetwater Fire Chief John Anderson and the county's IT staff.

"This isolated incident was caused by defective batteries and could not have been foreseen," White said. "We are grateful for the support of McMinn and Loudon counties and thankful to the community for helping us share updates." All emergency and non-emergency lines are now fully operational.

Source: [Monroe Co. Emergency Services-Facebook](#)

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Friday, Sept. 12, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State's Dedication of the Helen Darcey Room



Pictured left to right: Dr. John Squires, Vice President of Economic and Institutional Development; Robert Brewer, Professor of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries; Mark Smith, Foundation Trustee; Karen Wyrick, Dean of STEM; Denice King, Retired Professor; Mike Griffin, Foundation Trustee; Dr. Andy White, Cleveland State President; Mathai Augustine, Professor of Math; Cindy Freeman, Foundation Trustee, and Rick Platz, Foundation Trustee.

Cleveland State Community College Foundation recently dedicated a math room in the newly renovated Carl Hite Math and Science Building on the Cleveland campus in memory of Helen Darcey.

Ms. Darcey, Associate Professor of Math, retired after 30 years of teaching in 2009. She passed away in 2019 donating to the Foundation through her estate.

Community News You Can Use

- Starr Regional Medical Center will host a free Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 12 p.m. on the Athens campus. Dr. Waed Alswealmeen, general surgeon, will present "*Robotic-Assisted Surgery & Updates in Hernia Management.*" Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is encouraged by emailing strr.cares@lpnt.net or calling/texting **423.507.3659**. Lunch & Learn events are held the third Wednesday of each month at noon, alternating between the Athens and Etowah campuses.
- Property tax notices for the City of Athens have been mailed and should arrive in mailboxes soon. If you do not receive your notice by **Oct. 15, 2025**, contact the City Finance Department at **(423) 744-2710**. Payments may be made in person at **815 North Jackson Street** (Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.), by phone at the number above, online at www.athensn.gov, or by mail. All property taxes are due by **Feb. 28, 2026**.

MEDIC

REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER

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SEPTEMBER 15TH - 21ST

Donate blood with MEDIC and be automatically entered to win a pair of Zach Top tickets for his October 9th concert at the Thompson Bowling Arena at Food City Center.
(No purchase necessary)

MT. VERD BAPTIST CHURCH

REVIVAL

Sept. 14-17

Evangelist Brent Carr

Sun., Sept. 14 10:00am & 6:00 pm

Mon.-Wed., Sept. 15-17 7:00 pm

252 County Road 249, Athens
Pastor Donnie Dalton: (423) 506-4052

UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

SEND YOUR EVENTS BY
THURSDAY MORNING TO BE FEATURED HERE
EMAIL: WYXIRADIO@GMAIL.COM

THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Sept. 12, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. The clinic is run by a small staff and many volunteer physicians. Their goal is to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to rural East Tennessee. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- SRBC Kids began Sunday, September 7 and continues each Sunday from 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm. Children of all ages are invited to enjoy music, food and fun, while rejoicing in God at Solid Rock Baptist Church (4975 Hwy 11, Calhoun).
- [Celebrate Recovery](#) meets every [Tuesday](#) at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens. They also meet every [Thursday](#) at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.
- Mt. Verd Baptist Church invites you to Revival services beginning **Sunday, Sept. 14, at 6 p.m.** and continuing **Monday–Wednesday, Sept. 15–17, at 7 p.m. nightly.** Evangelist Brent Carr will be speaking. The church is located at 252 County Road 249, Athens. For more information, contact Pastor Donnie Dalton at 423-506-4052.
- [Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship](#) (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- *Real Southern Gospel Radio and Paul Belcher Concerts presents: **The Future is Here Concert.*** Friday, September 19 at 7pm at the Historic Gem Theater in Etowah. Be blessed with Gospel singing from The Williamsons and the Inspirational Quartet of Texas. **No tickets are required**, as there will be a love offering held for the artists.



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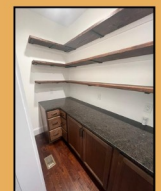


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Date: Every Sunday

"When school is in session."

Time: 11am-1:30pm

Location: Sherman Dining Hall

204 E College Street, Athens TN 37303

Scan and select the upcoming Sunday from the lunch meal period.



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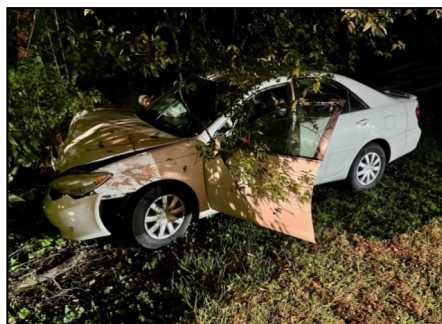
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Friday, Sept. 12, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Car Strikes Tree in Athens; No Serious Injuries Reported



A Tuesday evening crash on County Road 442 left a vehicle heavily damaged but resulted in no serious injuries, according to officials.

Around 8 p.m., a 2006 Toyota Camry left the roadway and struck a tree head-on. Both the driver and passenger declined medical transport after being evaluated at the scene. Responding agencies included Englewood Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, AMR, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department. The crash remains under investigation by Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Dean Conk.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

McMinn County Arrest Reports

9-10-25

Regina Ingram, 55 of Fort Oglethorpe, charged with driving on revoked license, DUI second offense, and violation of implied consent. Bond \$9,000

Daniel Yearwood, 44 of Cleveland, charged with possession of Schedule II meth, simple possession, casual exchange of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, failure to appear in Rhea County.

Richard Studebaker, 42 of Decatur, charged with driving on suspended license, failure to have insurance, and traffic violations. Bond \$2,000

Ethan Glassman, 21 of Charleston, charged with domestic assault and failure to appear in Bradley County.

Mark McGrew, 19 of Athens, charged with first degree murder.

Lawrence Whitman, 54 of Englewood, charged with driving on suspended license. Bond \$1,000

Anthony Martin, 25 of Athens, charged with violation of probation and misdemeanor. Bond \$973.45

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

All information was gathered using public sources.

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL TITLE I Meeting

Please join us for the Annual Title 1 Parent Meeting where we will discuss:

- What are the district and school goals?
- What is Title 1?
- What is Family Engagement?
- Resources available
- How can I get involved?

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Wednesday, September 17 at 5:00

Join us at 5:30 for ACIS Family Engagement meeting.

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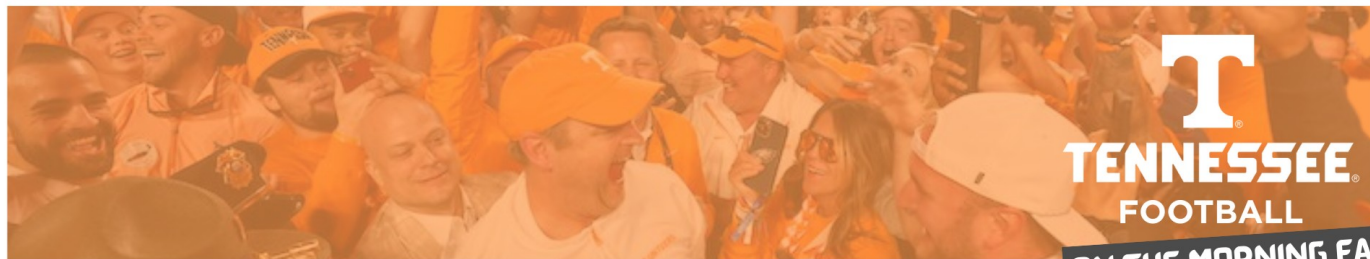
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To register: Scan the QR Code or go to
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Lunch will be provided





ON THE MORNING FAX

Friday, Sept. 12, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Vols Aim to Topple Georgia in Checker Neyland Showdown

Neyland Stadium will be rocking on Saturday as No. 15 Tennessee hosts No. 3 Georgia in a game that could tilt the balance of the SEC race. With 101,915 fans expected to “checker” the stadium in orange and white, the Volunteers are leaning on home-field advantage to finally get past a Bulldogs team that has dominated the series in recent years.

Tennessee enters the matchup at 2–0, fueled by an offense that has been both explosive and balanced. Quarterback Joey Aguilar has quickly gained command, throwing for 535 yards and five touchdowns without an interception while also connecting on deep strikes to Braylen Staley and Mike Matthews. Add in a ground game averaging more than 250 yards per contest, and the Vols look capable of testing Georgia’s vaunted defense like few teams have.

Georgia, also 2–0, has looked less convincing. Quarterback Gunner Stockton has shown poise in his first two starts, but the Bulldogs’ passing attack has lacked consistency. Against Austin Peay last week, Georgia managed just 34 points in a performance that raised questions about offensive firepower. While the Bulldogs’ defense, led by Cristen Miller and CJ Allen, has given up just one touchdown all season, they now face a Tennessee offense brimming with confidence and urgency.

The atmosphere in Knoxville could be the deciding factor. With the stadium split into checkerboard sections of orange and white, the Vols will count on noise and energy to rattle a Georgia team making its first road trip of the season.

Tennessee’s biggest challenge remains its thin secondary, missing top cornerbacks Jermod McCoy and Rickey Gibson. But the Vols believe their offense can outscore Georgia if Aguilar continues his efficient play and the run game establishes rhythm early. Georgia hasn’t allowed more than 17 points to a Josh Heupel-coached Tennessee squad, but this may be the game when that statistic is broken. Neyland has proven to be one of the toughest venues in college football, and with the crowd behind them, the Vols could make a defining statement.

Prediction: Tennessee 34, Georgia 27.



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Friday, Sept. 12, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

James Franklin "Frank" Wright, 79, passed peacefully at his home surrounded by his loved ones on September 10. James was a member of Cottonport Baptist church. He was a carpenter for much of his life building homes in the Meigs County area. A graveside service will be held at 12 noon on Friday, September 12, 2025 in the Cottonport Cemetery. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Wright family.

Laura Leigh Jerles, 56 of Athens, lost her battle with cancer on September 10, at Parkwest Medical Center with family by her side. There will be a visitation on Tuesday September 16, 2025 from 2:00pm-4:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A Graveside service will follow the Visitation at Cedar Grove Cemetery of Athens. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Wendilee Elaine McCord, 64, passed away on Friday, August 29. Her memory will be cherished by all who knew and loved her. Companion Funeral Home of Cleveland and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

Jacqueline Nadean Sharp, 79, passed away on Wednesday, September 10. Jacqueline was retired from Bowater Incorporated where she retired after 33 years of service. She worshipped at Second Street Church of Christ. Home going celebration service will be Sunday, September 14 at 1:00 p.m. at the Second Street Church of Christ in Cleveland. The family will receive friends one hour before the service on Sunday from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. Family will also receive friends on Saturday September 13 at M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home in Cleveland from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Interment will follow the service on Sunday at Fort Hill Cemetery. Services of loving memory entrusted to M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home - Cleveland.

Theresa Jean Daniel, 68 of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday, September 9 at her residence. She was a very dedicated grandmother to 5 grandchildren and great-grandmother to 3 great-grandchildren as well an avid reader and dog lover. A graveside service will be Saturday, September 13 at 1:30 PM at Sunset Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 12-1 PM in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Frank Bandy Howard IV, 41 of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, September 10. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Wednesday, September 17 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. A graveside service will be held at Idlewild Baptist Church at 12:30 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Frank Bandy Howard, IV.

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(front), Standing (L-R) Audrey Staton Hall, Licensed
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