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Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Council to hold Special Called Session Thursday



The City of Athens will hold a **Special Called Session** of the Athens City Council at **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2025**, at **Athens City Hall**, 815 North Jackson Street. According to a notice signed by **Mayor Larry Eaton**, the meeting will include several key items involving council policy, citizen participation, and personnel matters.

The council will discuss and take action to **restore a Code of Conduct for Council Members**, **revise the Citizen Comment Rules** governing how citizens speak at public meetings, and **establish a policy and procedures** for handling complaints made against city staff, employees, and council members. Members will also consider **engaging in mediation** with **Glenn Whiting** to resolve all past and current disputes, including issues surrounding the removal of writing on the Downtown Walls Forever building and allowing a mural to be painted over it.

In addition, the agenda includes a **reading of a letter** recognizing **Councilmember Dr. Dick Pelley** for his "Years on the Council," followed by official **acceptance of his retirement**, which becomes effective at the adjournment of the meeting. The council will also consider action to **approve one year of salary minus taxes**, to be paid to Dr. Pelley in a **lump sum in November 2025**, totaling **\$3,504.52**. Another item calls for **authorization for the City Attorney** to prepare and file documents to **dismiss the ouster suit** involving Dr. Pelley upon his retirement.

Citizens attending the meeting will be allowed **five minutes to speak** on each agenda item as it is addressed. For additional information, residents may contact the **Office of the City Manager** at **(423) 744-2702**.



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Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Rare Railroad Documents Donated to Etowah Depot Museum

The Etowah Depot Museum has received two historic additions thanks to a donation from Jason Knox. The rare documents include the original 1899 charter for the Grand International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Hiwassee Division No. 547, originally based in Blue Ridge, Georgia, whose members later transferred to Etowah around 1906.



The second item is the original 1945 charter for the Firemen and Trainmen Grand Lodge No. 960, representing another key piece of the region's rich railroad heritage.

Pictured are Etowah Historical Commission Chair Jim Caldwell (Left) and Jason Knox with the donated documents, which are now on display at the Etowah Depot Museum for public viewing.

Combine Destroyed in Field Fire Near Englewood



A 1994 John Deere 9500 combine was heavily damaged by fire Saturday evening after the operator reported a fuel tank issue that ignited flames around the tank area. The incident occurred around 5 p.m. in a field just outside the Englewood city limits on Highway 39 East.

The blaze caused significant damage to both the combine and a grain table located nearby. Responding agencies included Englewood Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Gudger Fire, and Madisonville City Fire, with assistance from the Englewood Police Department and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department. Englewood Rural Fire Chief Billy Roach was in command of the scene.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department

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Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional Performs First Leadless Pacemaker Implant



Starr Regional Medical Center has completed its first implantation of the Micra[™] leadless pacemaker, marking a major advancement in local cardiac care. The procedure was performed by Dr. Yasir Akhtar and the hospital's cardiac catheterization team, offering patients with bradycardia (slow heart rate) a safer, less invasive treatment option.

Unlike traditional pacemakers, the Micra device is implanted directly into the heart through a catheter, eliminating the need for leads and allowing for quicker recovery and fewer complications.

The milestone highlights Starr Regional's continued investment in advanced heart care. Since opening its cardiac catheterization lab in 2023, the hospital has provided diagnostic, interventional, and rehabilitative cardiovascular services, serving as the only facility within a 30-mile radius to offer such specialized care.

For more information, visit StarrRegional.com/heart.

Pictured are Cardiac Cath Lab team members (front, L to R): Eugene Trzaskowski, Environmental Services; Kati Parker, RN, Cardiac Cath Lab nurse; Kassidy Jordan, RCIS, Cardiovascular Technologist; (back, L to R) Kelly Kales, RN, BSN, CVRN-BC, Cardiac Cath Lab charge nurse; and Yasir Akhtar, MD, Interventional Cardiologist.

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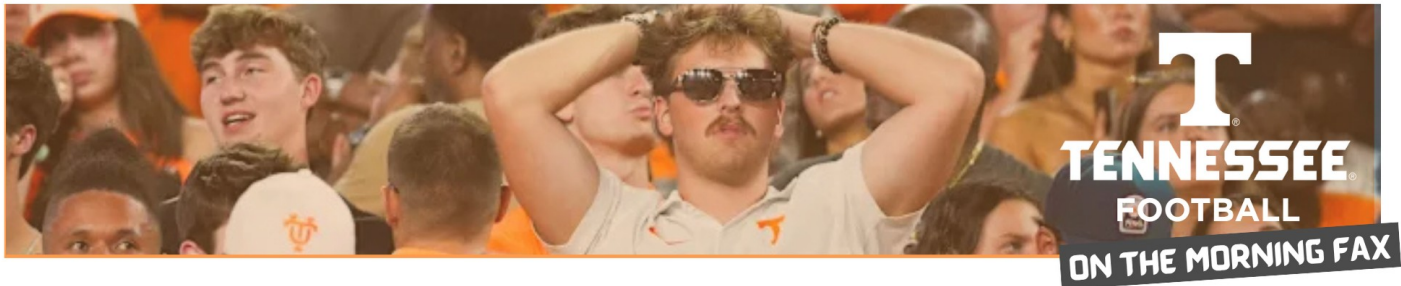
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Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Vols Fall to Alabama, Turn Focus to Rivalry Clash at Kentucky

The 11th-ranked Tennessee Volunteers saw their College Football Playoff hopes take a major hit Saturday night, falling 37–20 to No. 6 Alabama at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Costly penalties, missed tackles, and a 99-yard interception return before halftime proved too much to overcome as the Vols dropped to 5–2 (2–2 SEC).

After falling behind early, quarterback Joey Aguilar led a 10-play, 78-yard scoring drive capped by a 2-yard touchdown pass to Braylon Staley to even the score at 7–7. Alabama quickly regained control with a safety, a short touchdown run, and the backbreaking interception return by Zabien Brown as time expired in the first half, sending Tennessee into the locker room trailing 23–7.

Running back DeSean Bishop provided a spark early in the third quarter with a 44-yard touchdown run to trim the deficit to 23–13, but Alabama responded with a 99-yard drive capped by an 11-yard touchdown pass from Ty Simpson to Rico Scott. Bishop added another short touchdown late, though the Tide's Daniel Hill answered with a 4-yard run to put the game away.

Aguilar completed 28 of 44 passes for 268 yards and a touchdown, extending his FBS-leading streak to 31 consecutive games with at least 200 passing yards. Staley hauled in 10 catches for 92 yards, while Bishop rushed for 123 yards and two touchdowns on 14 carries. Edrees Farooq led the defense with seven tackles, and Tennessee's front managed four tackles for loss, but defensive lapses at key moments hurt their chances.

With the loss, Tennessee's playoff hopes are fading fast. To stay in the mix, the Vols will likely need to win out — a tough task with road trips ahead, including a late-November visit to Florida, where Tennessee hasn't won since 2003. Still, head coach Josh Heupel urged his team to move forward.

"You have to flip it forward," Heupel said. *"Whether you win or lose, you watch the video, learn from it, and get ready for the next one."*

That next one comes Saturday night as the Vols head to Lexington to face Kentucky at Kroger Field (7:45 p.m. ET, SEC Network). Heupel is 4–0 against the Wildcats and owns a 12–2 record following a loss during his tenure. A win would not only extend that streak but also secure bowl eligibility for a fifth straight season — something Tennessee hasn't done since 2000–2004.

Source: atozsports.com//UTSports.com

HS FOOTBALL #RESULTS

McMinn Central	35-21	Tellico Plains	
McMinn Co.	11-21	Red Bank	
Walker Valley	63-7	Lenoir City	
Meigs County	22-12	Scott	
Polk County	65-7	Eagleton Academy	

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	7		13
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Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

10-19-25

Gary Hamby, 63 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for theft, Bond \$1,183.45

Joey White, 61 of Riceville, charged with violation of sex offender registry, Bond \$10,000

Catherine Keaton, 36 of Riceville, charged with violation of probation for driving on a revoked license, Bond \$2,179

Felix Carrillo Alfaro, 37 of Englewood, charged with felony aggravated assault, Bond \$60,000

Armas Rivera, 43 of Knoxville, charged with violation and probation for DUI, Bond \$2,000

William English, 40 of Chattanooga charged with criminal impersonation, and introduction of contraband into a penal facility.

Donna Wade, 60 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for schedule IV drugs, Bond \$2,000

Trayvon Vanover, 20 of Hopkins, South Carolina, charged with DUI, open container law, speeding, simple possession, casual exchange of schedule VI drugs, Bond \$6,000

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

Obituaries

Tressia Works Totherow, 68 of Etowah, died at home on Saturday, October 18, surrounded by her family. Funeral services will be 1 PM Tuesday, October 21 at Ziegler Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Delano Cemetery. The family will receive friends Tuesday, October 21, 2025 from 12:00 pm until 1:00 pm, prior to the funeral service at Ziegler Funeral Home. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Tressia Works Totherow.

Michael Thomas Hall, 33 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, October 14. Michael was a graduate of Powell High School. A visitation will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 12:00-2:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home with a Celebration of Life service to follow at 2:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Michael Thomas Hall.

Catherine (Cacky) McIntyre Wentworth-Johnson peacefully passed away on Saturday, October 18, at her home. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Tennessee Wesleyan College in piano performance as well as education. Cacky was a church musician for fifty-seven years and worked with adult and children's choirs. She was the producer for a morning radio show on WCPH in Etowah in the 1980's. At her request, there will be no formal service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Carolyn Josephine (Gordon) Pratt, 85 of Sweetwater, passed away on Saturday, October 18th. After graduating high school, she moved to Knoxville to work at the Standard Knitting Mill. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, October 23 at Conasauga Cemetery, Englewood. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

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