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Tuesday, October 28, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Katherine Hall named President of State Family Medicine Association



Starr Regional Medical Center has announced that Dr. Katherine Hall, a board-certified family medicine physician, has been appointed President of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians (TNAFP). Her selection was made during the organization's annual conference, held October 22–25, 2025, in Franklin, Tennessee.

As president, Dr. Hall will chair the Academy's Board of Directors and lead its Executive Committee, helping to shape statewide initiatives that advance family medicine. Her appointment follows years of service within the organization, including two years as president-elect and multiple leadership and speaking roles.

Dr. Hall has been a well-respected provider in McMinn County since 2015, known for her compassionate approach to patient care. She practices at Athens Family Practice and serves as medical director of Starr Regional Medical Center's Advanced Wound Care Center.

A graduate of Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine, Dr. Hall completed her family medicine residency at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville.

Hospital officials praised Dr. Hall's leadership and commitment to improving healthcare both locally and statewide.

For more information about Dr. Hall or Starr Regional Medical Center, visit StarrRegional.com.

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Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

One Injured in Side-by-Side Accident Saturday Evening



One person was airlifted to a Knoxville hospital after a side-by-side accident Saturday evening in a field off County Road 602 near Athens.

According to officials, a 2024 Honda Pioneer carrying four occupants overturned around 6 p.m., ejecting one person from the vehicle. The injured individual was treated on scene by first responders and AMR paramedics before being transported to the McMinn County Airport, where a LifeStar helicopter airlifted the patient to UT Medical Center in Knoxville.

Responding agencies included Etowah Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, and Athens Rural Fire Departments. Etowah Rural Deputy Chief Dustin Ruebush served as incident commander.

Photo courtesy of Etowah Rural Fire Department.

Athens Street Closures

The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closures:

The area to be affected is WHITE STREET from Cook Drive to Coach Farmer Drive. This closure will be from Tuesday, October 28 at 7:00 a.m. until Friday, October 31 at 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of this closure is for Tennessee Wesleyan University's sports field lighting project.

The area to be affected is COLLEGE STREET from Jackson Street to Long Street. This closure will be from Friday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of this closure is for the Tennessee Wesleyan University's First-Generation College Student event.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

10-26-25

Jacob B. Alston, 33 of Athens, charged with assault against a first responder, and with resisting stop.

James Hatfield, 33 of Decatur, charged with Schedule II meth. drug paraphernalia, and driving on a suspended license, Bond \$8,000

David Pack, 55 of Dunlap, Charged with driving on a revoked license.

Stephen Belisles, 33 of Cleveland, charged with domestic assault Bond \$2,000

Justin Ferguson, 20 of Athens, charged with Assault against first responder, Bond \$1,000

Heaven Henry, 22 of Athens, charged with domestic assault and simple assault.

Jessica Green, 39 of Athens, charged with criminal trespassing, Bond \$1,500

Kobe Wyatt, 25 of Athens, charged with casual exchange, possession of meth, drug paraphernalia, and violation of probation in Polk County, Bond \$16,000

Juan Lopez, 36 of Athens, charged with altering serial numbers on a firearm, Bond \$500

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

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Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Rolls Past Kentucky, Sets Sights on Oklahoma

Quarterback Joey Aguilar led No. 17 Tennessee to a 56–34 win over Kentucky on Saturday night at Kroger Field, guiding an offense that posted 504 total yards and seven different touchdowns. Aguilar completed 20 of 26 passes for a season-high 396 yards and three scores, averaging nearly 20 yards per completion as the Vols (6–2, 3–2 SEC) improved to 17–0 under Josh Heupel when scoring 50 or more points.

Receivers Chris Brazzell II (138 yards), Mike Matthews (107), and Braylon Staley (105) each topped 100 yards — the Vols' first trio to do so since 2019. Running backs DeSean Bishop, Star Thomas, and Peyton Lewis all added touchdowns, giving Tennessee four rushing scores on the night.

Defensively, Tennessee forced two turnovers, including a 45-yard interception return for a touchdown by safety Edrees Farooq. Linebacker Edwin Spillman led all players with 15 tackles, and lineman Dominic Bailey notched a sack. The win marked Tennessee's fifth straight over Kentucky and fourth consecutive in Lexington.

Despite the victory, defensive struggles continued. Kentucky quarterback Cutter Boley threw for 330 yards and five touchdowns as the Vols allowed several long plays. Tennessee currently ranks near the bottom of the SEC in total and pass defense, though its 14 forced turnovers are tied for the league lead.

Heupel and his players acknowledged tackling and consistency remain key issues as the Vols prepare for their next challenge — a primetime showdown with No. 18 Oklahoma (6–2, 2–2 SEC) Saturday night at Neyland Stadium.

The “Dark Mode” game will feature Tennessee's return home and a chance to build momentum entering November. Heupel called on fans to make the “Neyland Effect” felt, saying the atmosphere will be crucial as the Vols look to stay in the SEC and playoff hunt.

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Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Dr. Julie Goodin, 43 of Englewood, unexpectedly passed away on Thursday, October 23. Funeral service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 28, 2025, in the gymnasium of McMinn Central High School, located at 145 County Road 461 in Englewood. The family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday prior to the service at the gym. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home on Wednesday, October 29th at 12:30 p.m. and go in procession to Green Hill Cemetery for the 2:00 p.m. committal service. There will be additional overflow parking at Spirit City Church North Etowah. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Don Harold Crowden, 81 of Madisonville, passed away on Saturday, October 25. He was an active member of Tree of Life Ministries in Cleveland. He was also an advanced ham radio operator "K04FH". A visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Saturday, November 1, from 12:00 PM-2:00PM with a funeral service to follow at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow funeral services at Valley Road Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Don Harold Crowden.

Cecil Ray Elliott, 88 of Athens, passed away peacefully on the morning of October 27. Cecil was a proud and loyal employee of Bowater, where he dedicated 45 years of his life. Beyond his career, Cecil was a devoted member of Sewee Church of God, where his faith guided his every step. Family and friends are invited to celebrate Cecil's life at Sewee Church of God, with services held on Sunday, November 2. Burial will follow at Sewee Church Cemetery at 2:00 PM. The family will receive visitors beginning at 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM at Sewee Church of God. Cecil will be remembered for his steady presence, his quiet humor, and the way he loved his family without reservation. His legacy of faith and devotion will live on in the generations who follow him. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

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