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Friday, December 26, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Brush Fire Contained on County Road 602



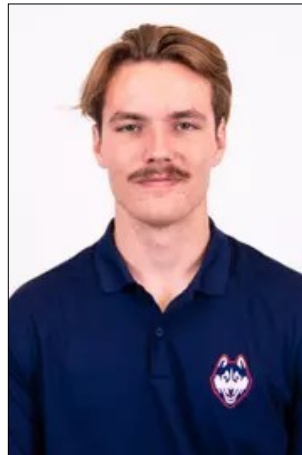
Fire crews responded Sunday night around 10:30 p.m. to a brush fire on County Road 602 after embers from an earlier burn reignited and spread.

The property owner had been burning brush earlier in the day before going inside. Remaining embers later ignited approximately a quarter acre of land.

Etowah Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, and Claxton Fire responded to the scene. Etowah Rural Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Elliott was in command. The fire was contained without further incident.

Photo provided by Etowah Rural FD

Former MCHS Football Player Appears at Fenway Bowl on Saturday



A name that's familiar to fans of McMinn County Cherokee Football will be participating in a College Football Bowl game this Saturday, December 27th. Spencer Sullins, a kicker and punter, is a member of the University of Connecticut Huskies Football team. U Conn, as they are known, will face the Black Knights of the U.S. Army Military Academy in the Fenway Bowl at Fenway Park in Boston. In a recorded interview airing today on WYXI RADIO Local Newscasts, Spencer said he

learned how to kick by playing soccer in Athens as a youth and later, transitioned to football at McMinn County High School. Sullins is 6'3" and weighs 210 pounds and his Jersey number is 35. The Fenway Bowl will be televised on the ESPN network this Saturday from Boston. Kickoff is at 2:15 pm Eastern. It can be seen on the ESPN Network, The ESPN App, HULU + Live TV, Fubo, Sling TV and Direct TV.

Photo Courtesy of U Conn

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EVERY WEEK

Friday, Dec. 26, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **St. Mary's Legacy Clinic** offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. 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.*
- **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.

Athens Area Council for the Arts Opens Registration for Winter Classes

The Athens Area Council for the Arts is now accepting registrations for several winter art classes, with offerings in pottery, drawing, and watercolor.

An **Intermediate Pottery Wheel** class with Patricia Shook is open to ages 16 and up and meets Mondays from Jan. 12 through Feb. 23, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The six-week class focuses on advanced pottery forms and decorative glazing techniques. Cost is \$225, with materials included.

Live Drawing Studio sessions are open to ages 16 and older and will be held the second Wednesday of each month, with the next session on Jan. 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The sessions offer untutored practice in gesture and portrait drawing using clothed models. Participation is free, though a cash contribution to the model is encouraged.

A **Watercolor Studio** class with Sandy Brown is open to ages 18 and older and meets Thursday, Jan. 15 and Jan. 22, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Designed for intermediate to advanced painters, the two-week class emphasizes critique, composition, and painting unity. Cost is \$40, and students must bring their own supplies.

Registration and instructor information is available at athensartscouncil.org/classes. Students may also register by phone at 423-745-8781 or in person at The Arts Center.

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

12-22-25

Brendan Moriarty, 37 of Newport, charged with child abuse, neglect, violent, child endangerment, reckless endangerment, and reckless driving.

Ginger Haynes, 39 of Sevierville, charged with child abuse, neglect, violent, child endangerment, reckless endangerment, Bond \$42,000.

Jeffrey Tudor, 50 of Englewood, charged with violation of an order of protection, and violation of probation for a domestic assault, Bond \$2014.95.

Scott Hayslip, 37 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for theft, \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Edith Downing, 56 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia, Bond \$1,291.45.

Jerry Hare, 67 of Riceville, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property over \$2,500 in Bledsoe County.

12-23-25

Trevor Coleman, 34 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for driving on a revoked license, Bond \$2,000.

Dylan Grooms, 27 of Athens, charged with casual exchange and possession of meth, over 300 grams, manufacturing, selling, delivery, and possession of fentanyl, unlawful carry, possession of weapon by a felon, and theft of property \$2,500 to \$10,000, Bond \$350,000.

Jessica Clayton, 36 of Ten Mile, charged with criminal trespassing, Bond \$1,500.

Jarrett Thomas, 46 of Gadsden, Alabama, charged with failure to appear for theft of property \$2,500 to \$10,000, Bond \$24,000.

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

Information gathered using Public Sources.

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Paul Daniel (Shot) Head, 86 of Athens passed away on Monday, December 22. He served in the United State Navy and retired from Bowater, Inc. in 2003. A funeral service will be conducted, 7:00 pm, Friday, December 26 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. Interment will be Saturday, December 27, 2025 in Cumberland View Cemetery in Jacksboro, TN at 1:00 pm. The family will receive friends at Smith Funeral Home Friday, from 5:00-7:00 pm prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Paul Daniel (Shot) Head.

Joann Elliott, 93 of Etowah, passed away on Sunday, December 22. Joann was a member of Etowah First Baptist Church where she raised her children. She was an expert seamstress, quilter, and dollmaker. In her spare time, she loved working in her flower garden. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, December 27 in Greenhill Cemetery. No formal visitation will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Lorene "Susie" Sue Miller Cook, 75 of McMinn County, passed away on Monday, December 22. A visitation will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Monday, December 29 at Ziegler Funeral Home, with funeral services at 1:00 PM. Interment will follow at 2:00 PM at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Lorene "Susie" Sue Miller Cook.

Kenneth R. Dulaney, 69, passed away on Tuesday, December 23. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Kenneth R. Dulaney.

Alan Brock, 43 of Athens, passed away on Sunday, December 21. An avid outdoorsman and adventurer, Alan enjoyed backpacking in the Smoky Mountains and traveling—especially to Zion National Park, a place he loved deeply. Receiving of family and friends will be held at Eastanallee Baptist Church on December 29th from 3:00–6:00 p.m., with a Celebration of his life immediately following. Family and friends are invited to gather to honor Alan's life, share memories, and celebrate the legacy of love and joy he leaves behind. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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