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Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Fire Destroys Barn, Injures Renter on County Road 656



A large pole barn and its contents were destroyed Wednesday evening in a fire on County Road 656, leaving one person injured and resulting in a total loss of the structure.

The fire broke out around 5 p.m. and quickly spread through the barn, which housed a hay baler, equipment, and approximately 20 or more round bales of hay. Officials said the renter of the property sustained first- to second-degree burns to their arms when the fire spread underneath a tractor.

The injured individual was treated at the scene by American Medical Response (AMR) personnel and later transported by private vehicle to a local hospital.

Fire crews from Riceville, Athens Rural, Claxton, and Englewood rural fire departments responded to the scene and worked to contain the blaze. Riceville Fire Assistant Chief David Wright served as incident commander, while Athens Rural Fire Chief Chuck Burriss oversaw operations.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

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WaterGuard joins the Athens Chamber



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, WaterGuard, located in downtown Athens and surrounding area. WaterGuard can help you provide clean, safe water for your family by installing whole-home water filtration. Contact them at 423.205.1044. Shown here are Chamber and business representatives, Co-Owners of Water Guard Luke Dalton and Michale Moody and Jason Burger, water specialists.

Source: Julie Simbeck, Program Director, Athens Chamber

Communities Recognize 911 Dispatchers During National Telecommunicators Week

Communities across the United States are honoring the vital work of 911 dispatchers during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, observed April 12–18.

Often called the “first, first responders,” telecommunicators serve as the critical link between the public and emergency services, answering calls, gathering essential information, and coordinating police, fire, and medical response during times of crisis. Each year, millions of Americans rely on these professionals, who are trained to remain calm and provide life-saving assistance under pressure.

The national observance, established in 1981 and held annually during the second week of April, aims to highlight the demanding and often unseen role dispatchers play in public safety. Local officials are encouraging residents to take time this week to thank telecommunicators for their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to saving lives. *Source: Dana Mashburn, McMinn E-911*



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TBI Investigating Officer-Involved Shooting in Cleveland



The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is looking into the circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting that occurred early Friday morning in Cleveland.

At the request of 10th Judicial District Attorney General Stephen Hatchett, TBI agents began investigating the incident, which happened around midnight in the 3900 block of Adkisson Drive NW. Officers with the Cleveland Police Department responded to a call about a man reportedly armed with a gun.

According to preliminary information, officers encountered Danny Davis, 51, at the scene. For reasons still under investigation, the situation escalated when Davis allegedly brandished a weapon and pointed it at an officer. Two officers then fired their weapons, striking Davis. He was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

No officers were injured during the incident.

TBI agents are continuing to gather evidence and conduct interviews to determine the sequence of events. Their findings will be submitted to the District Attorney General, who will review the case and determine whether the officers' actions were justified.

The TBI noted that it serves as an independent fact-finding agency in such cases and does not make determinations regarding justification. The identities of the officers involved have not been released.

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TWU to Celebrate Grand Opening of Bobby Goodfriend Field at Athens Insurance Stadium



Tennessee Wesleyan University will officially open its new baseball facility, Bobby Goodfriend Field at Athens Insurance Stadium, on Friday, April 17, marking a major milestone for the Bulldogs baseball program and the university community.

The grand opening celebration will begin at 5 p.m. with a tailgate event featuring complimentary ballpark snacks for attendees. Pregame festivities are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m., followed by a special dedication ceremony at approximately 6:45 p.m. First pitch is set for 7 p.m. as the Bulldogs face Milligan University. The public is invited to attend all portions of the event.

University officials say the new stadium represents a significant investment in both athletics and campus life, building on the program's strong tradition of success, including NAIA World Series national championships in 2012 and 2019.

The upgraded facility includes modern features designed to enhance both player performance and fan experience. Improvements include stadium lighting for night games, a video-capable scoreboard, an expanded playing surface and outfield area, and upgraded seating throughout the venue.

Additional renovations to the concourse area include an improved press box, expanded concession stands, increased restroom capacity, and enhanced seating areas designed to better accommodate fans, families, and visiting supporters.

University leaders say the project reflects a long-term commitment to excellence in Bulldog athletics while also creating a more engaging and accessible environment for the community.

The stadium's grand opening will officially introduce the facility as the new home of Tennessee Wesleyan baseball, providing a modern setting for future seasons while honoring the program's championship history. *Source: Chrisi Jackson, TWU*

McMinn County FFA

Spring Plant Sale

Opening Day: April 14 8:30-5:00
April 15-17: 8:30-3:15

Location: McMinn County High School Greenhouse
(entrance off Dennis Street)

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Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

April 12, 2026

Courtney Smith, 38 of Madisonville, charged with drug paraphernalia, casual exchange possession of meth, and driving on a revoked license, Bond \$16,000.

Dennis Standridge, 26 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for criminal trespassing, casual exchange and possession of meth, Bond \$6,566.45

Savannah Ball, 28 of Knoxville, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$2,000.

Brittany Walton, 36 of Niota, charged with casual exchange and possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$2,000.

Justin Darrell, 35 of Englewood, charged with failure to appear in Blount County.

Octavio Alvarado, 48 of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, and simple possession casual exchange of schedule 6.

Crystal Hatley, 48 of Sweetwater, charged with state violation of probation.

Billy Curtis, 26 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$1,000.

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

Obituaries

Herbert Cass Hickman, 76 of Decatur, passed away on Thursday, April 9. There will be a celebration of life on Wednesday April 15 at Companion Funeral Home from 5pm-7pm with services being held at 7pm. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody Family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

wyxiradio@gmail.com

REAL PROPERTY SALE Friday, April 17, 2026

CITY OF ETOWAH

- 715 9th Street 10:00 AM On Location
- 8th Street & Wash. Ave. 10:30 AM On Location
- 906 Ohio Avenue 11:00 AM On Location
- 251 Wilkins Avenue 11:30 AM On Location
- 1012 Tennessee Ave. 12:00 PM On Location

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