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Monday, April 28, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Blaze Destroys Shed, Camper, and Trailer in Englewood



On Sunday around 12:30 p.m., a resident on County Road 480 in Englewood noticed flames on their property and discovered their shed, a 14-foot 1998 Sportsman camper, and a 16-foot cattle

trailer fully involved in fire. All three structures were destroyed.

The cause of the fire remains undetermined. Englewood Rural Fire Department and Etowah Rural Fire Department responded to the scene.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department

Morning Fax
Today's News. This Morning.

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Parks & Recreation Dept recently announced that the Athens Regional Park Splash Pad will open for the season on Thursday, May 1. The Ingleside Recreation Complex Pool is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 24. You can reserve either location for a party by visiting athenstn.gov/parks
- **Morning Star Ministries** is hosting a **Mini-Golf-a-Thon** on Tuesday, May 6 from 10am - 12pm at **Midway Mini Golf** (2240 Hwy 30 E, Athens). Sponsor a student with a donation or pledge per hole and help support their mission. Businesses that sponsor will even get their logo featured on our event t-shirts! Donate in person at **The Lantern** (118 N. Jackson St.) or email them at morning-starministries25@gmail.com.

2 DUDES BBQ & CATERING
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- Thursday-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 - 2:00
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30
- Lunch set ups are different for the next few weeks due to private catering events!! We will be back on regular schedule week of May 19.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Monday - Mostly Sunny. High 78.
Mon Night - Mostly Clear. Low 62.
Tuesday - Partly Sunny. Slight chance of rain. High 74.
Tues Night - Partly Cloudy. Low 61.

More weather at: wyxi.com

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Monday, April 28, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

63rd Distinguished Young Women Program Set for May 3

The Optimist Club of Athens will host the 63rd annual Distinguished Young Women program on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Athens Middle School. The program begins at 7 p.m., with advance ticket holders admitted at 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. Advance tickets are available from contestants or at ACM next week from 7-9 p.m. Formerly known as Junior Miss, Distinguished Young Women awards scholarships and promotes leadership and personal growth. This year, \$4,000 in cash scholarships will be awarded, and Tennessee Wesleyan University will offer scholarships to all participating contestants. This year's contestants include; (L-R) Front Row: Ayleen Leon, Ametria Ellison, Ally Cooper, Kaliyah Williams, Sarah Thomas, Halle Newman, Emma Womack. Back row: Mia Sewell, Lorelai Ziegler, Makena Crockett, Macy Knox, Elizabeth Gunter and Kyla Moore. Not pictured: Rosa Andres, Jaylin Coffie, Rylee Martin and Anna Luallen. *Source: Joy Finch*

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Boy Scouts Tour Etowah Rural Fire Department

On April 21, members of the Boy Scouts of America toured the Etowah Rural Fire Department. Lt. Christian Spurgeon, Lt. Austin Hancock, and Firefighter Ben Lofland guided the Scouts through demonstrations of firefighting equipment and a tour of the department's fire trucks.

Etowah Rural Fire also offers an Explorer Program, open to boys and girls ages 14 to 18. Sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America, the program introduces young people to firefighting and emergency services, teaches valuable skills, and explores career opportunities in the fire service. *Photos courtesy of Etowah Rural Fire Department*



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Monday, April 28, 2025

Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

April 16, 2025

Andrea Canidate, 44 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

Chase Matoy, 34 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Shoplifting. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Joseph Duncan, 54 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Driving on a Revoked License and Traffic Violations. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Shannon Huff, 54 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Driving on a Suspended License. Total Bond: \$1,000.

April 17, 2025

John McCullough, 28 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Driving with a Suspended License, Failure to have Insurance, Casual Possession of Methamphetamine, Cannabis, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$9,000.

Dustin Duke, 31 of Knoxville, was arrested by the THP for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Taylor Humphreys, 28 of Cleveland, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$3,160.

Donnie McKheen, 29 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for DUI and Possession of a Schedule II Controlled Substance. Total Bond: \$14,000.

Collin Austin, 26 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Manufacturing, Delivery, Selling, Possession of a Controlled Substance. Total Bond: \$2,000.

April 18, 2025

Charles Blackmon, 35 of Englewood, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

Megan Gregg, 31 of Niota, was arrested by the MCSO for Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl for Resale, Driving on a Revoked License, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. No Bond.

Tracy Blackmon, 36 of Latta, SC, was arrested by the MCSO for Aggravated Assault, Child Endangerment, Vandalism, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$75,000.

Gary Wallace, 45 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Driving on a Restricted License. Total Bond: \$2,000.

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



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Monday, April 28, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Varsity Cherokees Walk It Off Versus Polk County Varsity Wildcats



It came down to the wire on Saturday, as McMinn County Varsity Cherokees grabbed the victory in walk-off fashion, 7-6, over Polk County Varsity Wildcats. The game was tied at six in the bottom of the seventh when Marshall Goodner hit a solo home run to left field.

McMinn County Varsity Cherokees built a 4-run lead in the fifth inning and then held off Polk County Varsity Wildcats's charge. Polk County Varsity Wildcats closed the gap by scoring on a walk and a grand slam.

A walk by Linc Brazzell put McMinn County Varsity Cherokees on the board in the bottom of the second.

Zanten Branham homered to left field, which helped Polk County Varsity Wildcats tie the game at one in the top of the fifth.

McMinn County Varsity Cherokees captured the lead, 5-1, in the bottom of the fifth after Brazzell homered to left field, Chase McDonald tripled to right field, Drake Frazier singled down the left field line, and Jack Goodin singled down the left field line, each scoring one run.

Polk County Varsity Wildcats flipped the game on its head in the top of the sixth, scoring five runs on one hit to take the lead, 6-5. The biggest blow in the inning was a grand slam to left field by Branham that drove in four.

McDonald hit a sacrifice fly, which helped McMinn County Varsity Cherokees tie the game at six in the bottom of the sixth.

Goodner led things off on the mound for McMinn County Varsity Cherokees. The right-handed pitcher gave up one hit and zero runs over three innings, striking out five and walking two. Tanner Silvers led things off on the mound for Polk County Varsity Wildcats. The pitcher surrendered one hit and one run (zero earned) over two innings, striking out two and walking two. JP Brannen tossed one inning of zero-run ball for McMinn County Varsity Cherokees in relief. The hurler surrendered one hit, striking out three and walking one.

McMinn County Varsity Cherokees amassed nine hits in the game. Goodin, Frazier, and Goodner each collected two hits for McMinn County Varsity Cherokees. McDonald and Brazzell each drove in two runs for McMinn County Varsity Cherokees. Frazier and Luke Lawson each stole multiple bases for McMinn County Varsity Cherokees. McMinn County Varsity Cherokees ran wild on the base paths, amassing five stolen bases for the game.

Branham went 2-for-4 at the plate and led the team with five runs batted in. Branham and Silvers each collected two hits for Polk County Varsity Wildcats. The McMinn County Varsity Cherokees play at home on Monday against East Hamilton in their next game.

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Monday, April 28, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Vida Mae Moses Franklin, 80 of McMinn County, passed away on Thursday, April 24. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at Ziegler Funeral Home from 1:00-2:00 PM with a funeral service at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Vida Mae Moses Franklin.

Joyce D. Richardson, 82, passed away on Thursday, April 24 at her home in Cleveland. Memorial services will be announced at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to M.D. Dodson & Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

Alfred L. Harrison, 76, passed Monday, April 21 at his home in Knoxville. Memorial services will be announced at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to M.D. Dodson & Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

Casandra Jo Murillo, 32 of Decatur, passed away on Monday, April 21. She enjoyed being outdoors, especially horseback riding, four-wheeling, and fishing. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Iowa. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Murillo Family.

Teresa Gail Smith, 64 of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday, April 22, at UT Medical Center in Knoxville surrounded by her loving family. A woman of deep faith, she found joy and strength in attending church, and she valued education, taking pride in being involved at the Tri-County Center in Athens for over 43 years. Teresa spent years competing in the Special Olympics and dedicated volunteer work at Tennessee Wesleyan University. Visitation took place on Sunday, April 27 in the chapel of M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home – Athens. A Celebration of life service will be held at the SpiritCity North Etowah Church Tuesday, April 29 at 1:00 p.m. The family will receive friends on Tuesday one hour before the service at the church from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow at New Zion Cemetery in Etowah. Services of Loving Memory entrusted to M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home – Athens, TN.



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