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Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State: 100% Pass Paramedic Practical Test

Cleveland State

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cleveland State Community College paramedic class recently achieved 100% pass rate on the paramedic state practical test.

All 15 paramedic students passed the state practical test. These students must also pass the comprehensive exam to earn their Tennessee paramedic license; 12 out of the 15 students have already passed the comprehensive exam and the remaining three students have exams scheduled in the coming weeks.

"The Paramedic program is rough physically, mentally, and emotionally, but our students continue to prove how much they are willing to give to make it to the finish line," said DeVette Carter, EMS Program Director. "We are proud to see how much they have grown and learned during their time with us at Cleveland State. These test results are a proud moment for our program, our students, and our instructors."

Paramedic students must already be licensed Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT) before beginning the 43-hour credit program that is completed over three terms. Class size is typically less than 16 students, and it is offered at the main campus in Cleveland. For more information about the paramedic program, email ems@clevelandstatecc.edu or call (423) 473-2337. *Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC*



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Athens, Tennessee

Englewood Police, Fire Respond to Thursday Evening Crash



A two-vehicle crash occurred around 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the intersection of North Amhurst Place and Tellico Street. The collision involved a **2016 Cadillac XTS** and a **2001 Ford F-150**. No injuries were reported.

The **Englewood Police Department** and **Englewood Rural Fire Department** responded to the scene, while **Tennessee Highway Patrol Sgt. Kyle Millsaps** investigated the accident.

Photo Credit: Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Utilities Board will meet **Wednesday, August 26, at 5 p.m.** Agenda items include pension plan management changes, financial reports, equipment purchase bids, and a United Way contribution. A public comment period for pre-approved speakers will also be held.
- Gas prices increased across nearly all of Tennessee's metro areas last week, with the state average now at **\$2.77 per gallon**, according to AAA. Knoxville was the only metro area to avoid an increase. Despite the recent uptick, prices remain nearly **20 cents lower than this time last year**. Nationally, the average price is **\$3.16**, up three cents from last week but 19 cents lower than a year ago. Crude oil inventories also declined by six million barrels, with U.S. reserves now 6% below the five-year seasonal average. Locally, averages are **\$2.76 in McMinn County**, **\$2.72 in Monroe County**, and **\$2.79 in Meigs County**.

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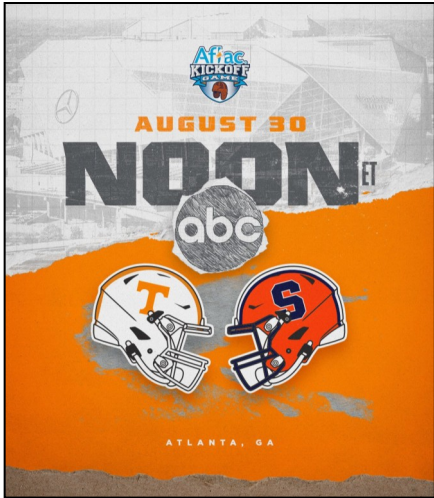
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No. 18 Tennessee, Syracuse Set to Clash in Season Opener at Mercedes-Benz Stadium



No. 18 Tennessee opens its 2025 football season Saturday against **Syracuse** in a neutral-site matchup at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. Kickoff is set for **noon EDT on ABC**, with former Vols linebacker **Al Wilson** serving as honorary game captain.

The Volunteers enter the game favored by **13.5 points** (FanDuel) and holding an **88.6 percent chance to win**, according to ESPN's FPI. Tennessee also leads the all-time series, **3-0**, including a 33-9 win in the last meeting on Sept. 1, 2001, at Neyland Stadium.

Both teams are coming off 10-3 campaigns in 2024, with Tennessee reaching the **College Football Playoff** and Syracuse claiming a **Holiday Bowl victory**. But both programs lost their star offensive leaders—Vols running back Dylan Sampson (NFL) and Orange quarterback Kyle McCord (NFL)—and are breaking in new quarterbacks.

For Tennessee, that's **Joey Aguilar**, a UCLA transfer who previously starred at Appalachian State, where he threw for 6,760 yards and 56 touchdowns in two seasons. Syracuse counters with **Steve Angeli**, a Notre Dame transfer known for his efficiency, completing 72.5 percent of his passes with 10 touchdowns to just one interception in limited action.

Defensively, Tennessee will again lean on one of the nation's top units, even without NFL first-round pick James Pearce Jr. Preseason All-American cornerback **Jermod McCoy** is expected to play limited snaps as he works back from an ACL injury. Syracuse will need Angeli's steady play to neutralize the Vols' pressure and secondary.

The season opener has been ranked the **third-best matchup of Week 1** by SEC Network's Peter Burns. While Tennessee is the heavy favorite, the neutral-site setting in Atlanta could give Syracuse an opening to keep things closer than the experts predict.

Sources: [Jordan Binkley](#), [BlitzSportsMedia.com](#)//[Dan Harralson](#), [Vols Wire](#)

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Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

8-24-25

Gerardo Rivas Castaneda, 40 of Englewood, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000

Caleb Partain, 34 of Athens, charged with resisting stop and shoplifting. Bond \$2,000

Brandon Langston, of Athens, charged with domestic assault.

Nicholas Donovan, 45 of Athens, held for child support in Loudon County.

Marissa Spangler, 30 of Etowah, charged with violation of probation for domestic assault. Bond \$1000

Blaise Brighton, 25 of Cleveland, charged with DUI. Bond \$2,000

Joseph Wingate, 37 of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation in Loudon County.

Donna True, of Niota, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth. Bond \$2,000

Anthony Plemons, 41 of Madisonville, charged with public intoxication. Bond \$2,000

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

Information gathered using
Public Sources.

Obituaries

Emma Grace Mason, 78 of Niota, passed away on Saturday, August 23. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM Wednesday, August 27 at McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM Wednesday prior to the service at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Louise Blevins Smith, 85 of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, August 24. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, August 27 from 4:00-7:00 PM at Sanford Baptist Church with a funeral service to follow at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held on Thursday, August 28 at 11:00 AM at Lower Spring Creek Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Louise Blevins Smith.

Norman Douglas "Doug" Burrell, of Decatur, passed away on Friday, August 22. He co-owned C&D Printing in Athens with his father for 25 years. He then joined the Morning Pointe of Athens team and later was a driver for CARTA and SETHRA. A funeral service will be conducted, 7:00 pm, Wednesday, August 27 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. The committal service will be 11:00 am, Thursday, August 28 in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 pm, Wednesday, August 27 at the funeral home prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Norman Douglas "Doug" Burrell.

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