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Fire Damages Englewood Home on Melrose Avenue



Fire crews responded to a reported structure fire on Melrose Avenue in Englewood around 5 p.m. Saturday, where they discovered a bedroom fully engulfed in flames.

The blaze caused extensive fire, smoke, and water damage to the bedroom, while the rest of the home sustained smoke and minor water damage. No one was inside the residence at the time of the fire.

Englewood Police, Englewood Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, AMR, AUB, and EUB assisted in the response.

Photo from Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

LISTENING REMINDER: TODAY on *Main Street Moments*: Host Maggie Blaine invites Brett King from The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TUESDAY on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

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Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Controlled Burn Sparks Outbuilding Fire in Etowah



Fire crews were dispatched shortly after 12:30 p.m. Saturday to reports of black smoke in the area of County Road 813. Upon arrival, firefighters found an outbuilding fully engulfed in flames.

Investigators said the blaze started when a controlled burn on the property spread, accidentally igniting the structure. The building was declared a total loss.

Responding agencies included Etowah City Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, and EUB. Etowah Rural Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Elliott served as incident commander.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

McMinn EDA Hosts Annual Meeting, Honors Community Leaders

The McMinn County Economic Development Authority (EDA) held its Annual Meeting on Aug. 26, recognizing key projects, partnerships, and individuals who have contributed to the region's growth.



Awards were presented for Community Revitalization, Community Spirit and Engagement, Tourism Impact, Destination Development, and Catalyst Project of the Year. Service recognitions included Phil Tuggle, honored for more than a decade on the Industrial Development Board, along with outgoing EDA board members Will Estes, John McClain, Shayne Whaley, and Connor Zabo.

The meeting also marked a leadership transition as Randy Dunlop passed the gavel to incoming EDA President Drew Holbrook. Sponsors and partners—including local governments, utilities, and area businesses—were recognized for their ongoing support.

"This annual gathering is a reflection of the incredible partnerships and people who make McMinn County thrive," said Lindsey Ferguson, executive director of the EDA. "We're excited about the momentum and grateful for the support that makes our work possible." *Source: Aryn Stewart, McMinn EDA*

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Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens Planning Commission to Meet Today at 12 p.m.

The Athens Municipal-Regional Planning Commission will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 12 p.m. in the Athens City Council Chambers. The agenda includes approval of minutes from the July 7 regular meeting and the July 28 work session. Items of new business include:

- Final plat approval** for Christian M. and Cayla A. Medders to reconfigure four lots into two on South Jackson Street (Tax Map 066 H, Group B, Parcels 028.00, 029.00, 030.00, and 031.00).
- Final plat approval** for Mesana Investments LLC for a 40-lot development on 8.43 acres located off Shadows Lawn Drive (Tax Map 057, Parcel 086.00).
- Plan of services recommendation** for the annexation of the remaining 2.35-acre portion of Parcel 47K, Group A, Parcel 022.00, located off Lee Drive.
- Rezoning request** by the City of Athens to rezone 2201 Decatur Pike (Tax Map 056, Parcel 009.00) from B-3 Intensive Business District to R-2 Medium Density Residential District. The property covers approximately 1.08 acres.
- A proclamation honoring the Late Janice Hardaway** for 12 years of service on the Planning Commission.

Source: Anthony Casteel, City of Athens

High Tea and Historic Tour Planned at Forest Home



The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum is inviting the community to step back in time with a special afternoon of history and elegance

at Forest Home, one of Athens' most treasured historic residences. **The event** will be held **Saturday, Sept. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m.** and includes a private tour of the Greek Revival home, a historical presentation by museum director Brett King, and a traditional high tea catered by Ambiance.

Forest Home, once owned by members of the Keith family—early settlers of McMinn County—offers guests a rare opportunity to explore one of the area's most beautiful historic homes. Tickets are **\$125** and seating is limited. Reservations can be made in person at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum or by calling **423-745-0329**.

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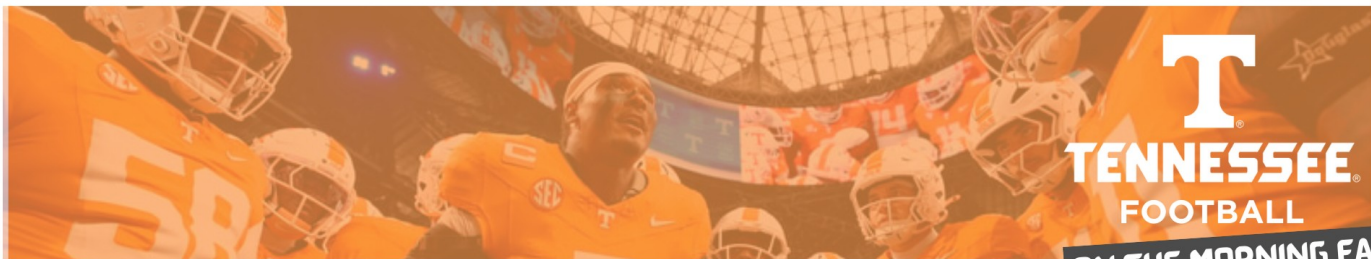
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Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Vols Roll Past Syracuse in Season Opener 45-26, Turn Focus to ETSU



No. 24/18 Tennessee opened its 2025 football season with a statement win Saturday afternoon, powering past Syracuse, 45-26, in the Aflac Kickoff Game at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The Volunteers (1-0) jumped out early with 17 first-quarter points, highlighted by a 2-yard touchdown run from sophomore Peyton Lewis and a defensive score from transfer cornerback Colton Hood, who scooped up a forced fumble and returned it 22 yards.

Quarterback Joey Aguilar, making his debut in orange and white, kept the offense rolling. After Syracuse closed the gap to 24-14 late in the first half, Aguilar connected with Braylon Staley for a 73-yard touchdown strike, and DeSean Bishop added a 1-yard score just before halftime to give Tennessee a 31-14 cushion.

The defense delivered again to open the second half as linebacker Jeremiah Telander intercepted a tipped pass, setting up Aguilar's 7-yard touchdown toss to running back Star Thomas. Syracuse cut the margin to 12 early in the fourth quarter, but Aguilar answered with a two-yard touchdown pass to Miles Kitselman to put the game away. Aguilar finished 16-of-28 for 247 yards and three touchdowns. Staley

led receivers with 95 yards on four catches, while Thomas and Bishop combined for 174 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Defensively, Arion Carter posted nine tackles, including a sack, while the Vols piled up five sacks and seven tackles for loss overall. Tennessee totaled 493 yards of offense and was a perfect 5-for-5 in the red zone.

Head coach Josh Heupel praised his team's effort against Syracuse but emphasized the need for growth.

"Pleased with the win from Saturday, but today's about how we get better and move forward," Heupel said Monday. "ETSU, you look at how they performed on Saturday, a bunch of yards, a bunch of points, and they did some really good things on the defensive side of the ball too."

Aguilar drew praise from his coach for his calm decision-making and composure in his debut. The running game also shined, churning out 246 yards as all three primary backs reached the end zone. Tennessee will look to extend its streak of season-opening victories to six years when it takes the field at Neyland Stadium against East Tennessee State University on Saturday, Sept. 6 at 3:30 p.m., SECN+/ESPN+. **Source:** [UTSports.com](https://www.utsports.com)

McMinn County Historical Society & Archives

Grandparents' Day

Saturday, September 6, 2025 Noon to 2:00 PM

107 W. College Street Athens, TN 37303

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

8-28-25

Shane Stanley, 24 of Decatur, charged with evading arrest.

Autumn Burgess, 28 of Athens, charged with aggravated burglary and vandalism, Bond \$32,000

Lamont Kendall, 36 of Philadelphia, charged with criminal trespassing, Bond \$1,000

Brent Rogers, 47 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$620.95

8-29-25

Brian Armstrong, 48 of Etowah, charged with driving on a revoked license and simple possession or casual exchange.

Carla Walker, 47 of Flintstone, GA, charged with violation of probation for retaliation for past action. Bond \$1,200

Hunter Gleeton, 29 of Athens, charged with violation of probation in Meigs County.

Antonia Sinecard, 26 of Athens, charged with burglary, for theft of property, Bond \$50,000

Logan Sutton, 28 of LaFollette, charged with driving on a revoked license, and, violation of probation.

Karen Dotson, 56 of Etowah, charged with theft of property under \$1,000, Bond \$1,000

Patrick Walker, 43 of Etowah, charged with possession of schedule II drugs for resale.

Donald Smith, 47 of Freeport, Florida, charged with being a fugitive from justice.

Michelle Johnson, 48 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of drug paraphernalia, Bond \$1,600

Mark Lamb, 61 of Madisonville, charged with 9th offense of driving on a revoked license. He is being held without bond.

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

Information gathered using Public Sources.



We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

If you take a newsworthy photograph,

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Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Randy "Pudge" Brooks, 79 of Rockford, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, August 27. He was a proud graduate of Englewood High School's Class of 1963, Randy held a special place in local sports history as the last living survivor of the legendary Englewood Rams "Dirty Dozen Plus One" football team, which achieved a memorable 6-4 season. He went on to serve in the Marine Corps. Family and friends will assemble at McMinn Memory Gardens for a graveside service celebrating Randy's life which will be held on Thursday, September 4 at 11:00 a.m. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Narvelene Smith, 79 of Etowah, passed away on Thursday, August 28. She was a member of Corinth Baptist Church in Reliance. She enjoyed working puzzles, coloring, fishing, and gardening in her free time. A funeral service was held on Sunday, August 31. Interment followed the service in Etowah Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah was in charge of arrangements.

Dave Einerson, 83, of Etowah, passed away on Friday, August 29. Private services will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

J.B. Wilson, 88 of Athens, passed away on Saturday, August 30 at Starr Regional Medical Center of Athens. He was a member of North Athens Baptist Church. A graveside service will be 11 am Wednesday, September 3 at McMinn Memory Gardens Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.

Robert John "Bob" Carlson, 87 of Athens, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Saturday, August 30. Bob was a military veteran of the U.S. Army in 1962 for 8 years. He had a home business as a master woodworking craftsman and after moving to Athens, Bob worked at Mills Products for 11 years, then retired. Funeral Service will be held at Good Samaritan Funeral Home on Thursday September 4, at 7 PM. Visitation will be from 5 pm to 7 pm prior to the service. Interment will be at McMinn Memorial Gardens on September 5 at 2 pm. Friends and Family will assemble at the Funeral Home on Friday at 1:00 pm to proceed to the cemetery. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Lenard Ray Harris, 74 of Madisonville, passed away on Sunday, August 31 at Sweetwater Hospital. He attended Glorybound Church. He loved to sing and play his guitar as well as working at Legends Music Shop. Funeral services will be at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 3 at Biereley-Hale Chapel in Madisonville. Interment will be 11:00 A.M. on Thursday at Lands Chapel Cemetery. Family will receive friends between 4-7:00 P.M. on Wednesday at Biereley-Hale Funeral Home in Madisonville. Biereley-Hale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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