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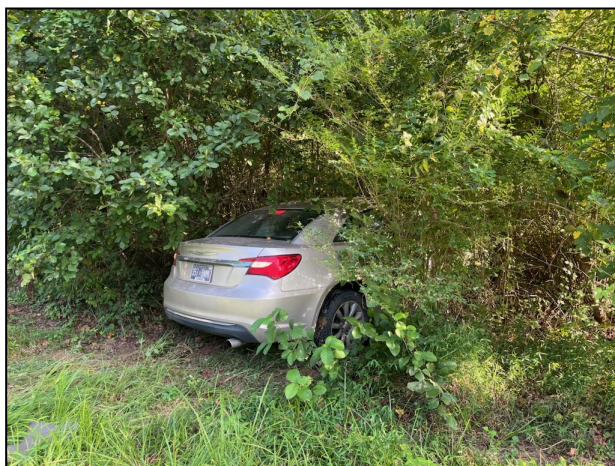
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**Thursday, September 4, 2025**

**Page 1**

**Athens, Tennessee**

# Motorcyclist Killed in Head-On Crash



A motorcyclist died Monday evening following a head-on collision on County Road 660 near Athens.

According to officials, the crash occurred around 5:30 p.m. when the driver of a 2013 Chrysler 200 crossed the center line and struck a 1987 Yamaha motorcycle.

First responders treated the motorcycle rider at the scene before transporting the patient by AMR ambulance to a landing zone at the Claxton Fire Department for a medical helicopter. However, as the patient's condition worsened, the helicopter crew joined the ambulance for transport to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens, where the rider later died. The

driver of the Chrysler sustained minor injuries but was not transported.

Responding agencies included Etowah Rural Fire Department, Claxton Fire Department, Riceville Fire Department, the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. THP's Critical Incident Response Team also investigated. Etowah Rural Fire Lt. Shamarie Ruebush served as incident commander.

*Photo courtesy of Etowah Rural Fire Department*

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## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

### Upcoming September Events

#### HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

The Scott Boys: A Civil War Novel-Inspired by actual events.

Join S. Scott Anderson for a discussion of his new book.

**Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> @ Noon - Free Admission**

History of The Constitutional Convention with Brett King

**Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 AM - Free Admission**

History of The Robert E. Lee Hotel with Tyler Boyd

**Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> @ Noon - Free Admission**

**HERITAGE SCHOOL:** Taiwan A to Z - 1, 2, 3 to 臺灣

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> @ 11:00 AM**

Stop by the museum for an introduction to Taiwan in this hands on workshop! Learn how to make dumplings among other fun activities. Please bring an apron or wear something you don't mind getting messy.

*This program is limited to 20 participants. \$5 or free for members.*

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens.

#### Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM  
Sunday - Monday: Closed

#### Admission:

Adults: \$5.00  
Senior 60+: \$3.00  
Students: \$3.00

#### More Information

522 W Madison Ave.

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[www.livingheritagemuseum.org](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.org)



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Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## State Forestry Division Offering Wildfire Mitigation Grants

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry is accepting applications for its Hazard Mitigation and Community Education Grant Program through **Oct. 14, 2025**.

The program provides funding for communities with a Community Wildfire Prevention Plan, or those developing one, to carry out hazard mitigation and education projects aimed at reducing wildfire risks.

"More than 85% of our state's population is exposed to wildfire risk," State Forester Heather Slayton said. "It is vital that we support Tennessee's communities in mitigating wildfire risk and educating citizens about how they can reduce the danger and impact of wildfires."

Last year, the program awarded \$136,000 to 19 Tennessee communities for projects such as wildfire protection planning, reducing hazardous vegetation, and promoting fire safety practices.

Applications and program details are available at:

[tn.gov/tnwildlandfire](https://tn.gov/tnwildlandfire)

## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn Senior Activity Center (205 McMinn Ave., Athens) will host its annual yard sale **Friday and Saturday, Sept. 5-6, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** All proceeds benefit at-risk senior citizens in the community. On Friday, shoppers can also enjoy lunch from **ROOTS Authentic Puerto Rican Food** starting at 11 a.m. Come out for great deals and a great cause!
- Join the Etowah Carnegie Library for their free Toddler Storytime, in partnership with *Nurture the Next McMinn*, for stories, play, and brain-building fun! Designed for kids 2-4. No registration needed. Program begins at 11 am on **Tuesday, Sept. 9!** For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit their website at [www.etowahlibrary.com](http://www.etowahlibrary.com).
- The Athens Area Council for the Arts opens its 2025-26 Black Box Concert Series with **Seth Mulder & Midnight Run** on **Friday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m.** Tickets (\$20-\$25) are on sale now. AACA will also host beginner-friendly **Arts-explorations theatre workshops** during Fall Break, **Oct. 6-10**, with registration due by **Oct. 3**.



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MINISTRIES

## Sheriff Guy Warns Residents About Bitcoin Scam



McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy is warning residents to be cautious of scammers using Bitcoin and ATM machines, often found in convenience stores, to trick victims into paying fake fines. Scammers typically call, text, or email victims claiming they owe money and must pay immediately to avoid arrest. Victims are then instructed to deposit funds into one of these machines.

*"If you are told to use one of these machines to pay fines or fees, we guarantee you are being scammed," Sheriff Guy said. "Do not send money. Call the real police, and let us investigate."*

Warning notices are being posted on machines throughout the county to help residents avoid becoming victims. Law enforcement reminds the public that police will never demand payment through Bitcoin or similar methods and encourages anyone receiving such messages to report them immediately.

Source: [Joe Guy - Facebook](#)

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

09-02-2025

- LaVon McSpadden**, 35 of Athens, charged with DUI, Bond \$2,000
- Elliot Higgenbotham**, 54 of Chattanooga, charged with unlawful carry or possession of a weapon, Bond \$100,000
- Raven Moore**, 28 of Etowah, charged with vehicular homicide by allowance and DUI by allowance.
- Jamara Williams**, 35 of Riceville, charged with violation of probation for reckless driving and driving on a suspended license.
- Chelsea Siler**, 29 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for introduction of contraband into a penal facility.
- Nicholas Woodruff**, 41 of Englewood, charged with public intoxication and child support, Bond \$6,500
- Jada Wilson**, 22 of Delano, charged with vehicular homicide, driving on a revoked license, and other traffic violations.
- Wesley Lawson**, 22 of Cleveland, charged with DUI, evading arrest, theft of property, possession, and / or carry of a weapon while in commission of a crime.

**Those accused are considered innocent  
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Information gathered using Public Sources.**

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**ON THE MORNING FAX**

**Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025**

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

**Athens, Tennessee**

## Vols Prepare for Home Opener; Three Players Earn Weekly Honors

As Tennessee gears up for its home opener against ETSU on Saturday, coaches and players are building on momentum from last week's 45-26 victory over Syracuse.

Offensive coordinator Joey Halzle said the Vols' trademark tempo will continue to be a key weapon. "Our tempo is a part of our identity," Halzle said. "We've worked all offseason to make sure it creates advantages and doesn't just become a regular thing."

On defense, secondary coach Willie Martinez pointed to the early emergence of freshman defensive back Ty Redmond, who impressed in the opener. "He is very focused, very locked in," Martinez said. "The moment is not ever too big for him."

Three Tennessee standouts earned recognition for their Week 1 efforts. Cornerback **Colton Hood** was named SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Week after recording four tackles, three pass breakups, and a fumble recovery touchdown. Wide receiver **Braylon Staley** earned SEC Freshman of the Week, leading the team with 95 receiving yards, including a 73-yard touchdown. Senior quarterback **Joey Aguilar** was named one of the Manning Award "Stars of the Week" after throwing for 247 yards and three touchdowns in his Tennessee debut.

Since head coach Josh Heupel's arrival in 2021, the Vols have collected 43 weekly SEC honors.

Tennessee now turns its focus to ETSU, an FCS program out of the Southern Conference. The 105th season of Tennessee football at Neyland Stadium continues Saturday, when the Vols look to stay unbeaten before diving into SEC play beginning against Georgia on Sept. 13.

Saturday's matchup marks the Bucs' first trip to Neyland Stadium since 2018, when the Vols earned a 59-3 victory. Kickoff against ETSU is set for 3:30 p.m. this Saturday on SEC Network+ and ESPN+.

*Source: UTSports.com*

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**September 18, 2025**

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