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Tuesday, March 17, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Driver Uninjured After Rollover Crash Near Etowah



A driver escaped injury after a single-vehicle rollover crash Friday morning on Tennessee State Route 30 near County Road 637 in Etowah, Tennessee.

Officials said the driver of a 2006 Honda Accord lost control around 10 a.m., causing the vehicle to leave the roadway and overturn.

The Englewood Rural Fire Department responded to the scene. Eddie Cundiff, a trooper with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, investigated the crash. The driver was not injured.

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Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- The [McMinn Regional Humane Society](#) will host its first-ever [Spring Paw-looza](#) on Friday, March 20, from 3 to 7 p.m. in Athens. The free, family-friendly event will feature a bake sale, prizes, kid-friendly games, local vendors, and dogs and cats available for adoption, giving residents a chance to support local shelter pets while enjoying a fun afternoon with the community.
- Bank Street from Jackson Street to White Street will be closed until Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Motorists are advised to use extreme caution and watch for detour and traffic signage, workers, and pedestrians. The purpose of this closing is for sewer line repair. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

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Tuesday, March 17, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

AUB Recognizes National Gas Utility Workers Day



The Athens Utilities Board will join utilities across the country in observing National Gas Utility Workers Day on March 18, honoring the employees who help deliver natural gas safely and reliably to the community.

The observance commemorates the New London School Explosion, a tragedy that led to the widespread practice of odorizing natural gas and strengthened industry safety standards.

AUB's Natural Gas Department includes 12 employees who serve about 6,774 customers and maintain roughly 450 miles of distribution lines throughout McMinn County. Crews also respond to underground utility location requests through the 811 "Call Before You Dig" program, completing nearly 5,000 requests last year to help prevent damage to gas lines.

AUB officials say the department plays an important role in providing dependable energy to homes, businesses and industries across the area while helping communities move toward a more efficient and sustainable energy future. *Source: Amy McDonald, AUB*

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Driver Airlifted After Crash Near Riceville



A driver was airlifted to the hospital after a single-vehicle crash Friday night on County Road 775 near Riceville, Tennessee.

Officials said the driver of a 2012 Chevrolet Express lost control around 9:30 p.m. and

crashed, requiring firefighters to extricate the driver from the vehicle.

Responding agencies included the Claxton Fire Department and Etowah Rural Fire Department. American Medical Response treated the driver at the scene before transporting him to the Claxton Fire Hall, where he was airlifted to Erlanger Health System by LifeForce Air Medical.

The McMinn County Sheriff's Office also responded, and Leigha Jones with the Tennessee Highway Patrol investigated the crash.

Photo by the Etowah Rural FD

McMinn County Arrest Reports

March 15, 2026

Ashley Gammy, 33 of Englewood, charged with disorderly conduct, Bond \$2,000.

Justin Deverys, 37 of Decatur, charged with violation of probation.

Michael Roberts, 26 of Ten Mile, charged with driving on a revoked license third offense.

Roblero Velasquez, 44 of Athens, charged with DUI, and driving without a license, Bond \$1,500.

Emmett Adams, 29 of Sweetwater, charged with DUI, violation of implied consent, and speeding, Bond \$2,000.

Zachary Swanson, 31 of Etowah, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

Austin Burke, 26 of Etowah, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

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

2:00 MATINEE ONLY

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Brush Fire Spreads to Neighboring Property in Englewood



Firefighters responded to a brush fire Saturday afternoon on Englewood Avenue in Englewood, Tennessee after a property owner's brush burn got out of control.

The fire began around 3:30 p.m. and burned approximately one acre, spreading onto a neighboring property before crews brought it under control.

Responding agencies included the Englewood Rural Fire Department and the Etowah Rural Fire Department.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

Obituaries

Billy Allen Belcher, 49, a native of Sweetwater and longtime resident of McMinn County, passed away on Friday, March 13. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Tuesday, March 17th from 6:00-8:00 PM. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, March 18 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Billy Allen Belcher.

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:

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