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Driver Taken Into Custody After Rollover Crash in Englewood



A single-vehicle crash early Monday morning on Highway 411 resulted in a rollover and the driver being taken into custody, according to officials.

The accident occurred around 3 a.m. near the intersection of Highway 411 and County Road 508 when the driver of a 2008 Ford Sport pickup lost control, causing the vehicle to overturn multiple times.

The driver was treated at the scene by AMR but did not require transport to a medical facility.

Responding agencies included Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Scott Freeman is leading the investigation.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Parks and Recreation Department is accepting applications to host baseball or softball tournaments on the new turf fields at Athens Regional Park. To request an application, please reach out by calling the Parks and Recreation Office at 423-744-2704 or by email at: recreation@athensstn.gov.
- The McMinn Senior Center will have adult (18+) line dancing class this Friday, May 8th from 6 to 8 pm. The cost is \$5 cash per person. The Senior Center is located at 205 McMinn Ave in Athens.
- Athens Community Theatre (ACT) will kick off its 2026–27 season with *Mean Girls*. Auditions will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, June 9–10 at 6:00 PM at The Arts Center. Callbacks are scheduled for Thursday, June 11 at 6:00 PM. The production is seeking a diverse cast of performers ages 16 and up. All auditionees should be strong movers, with lead roles requiring experienced vocalists. Ensemble members do not need prior singing experience. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and shoes for movement and be prepared to learn a short song and dance combination. Those interested in any production role are encouraged to attend. Please bring full availability for June 12–August 30, 2026. *Note: The show is rated PG-13 for language and adult themes.*

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

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Thursday, May 07, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Weekend Bridge Demolition to Impact I-75 Traffic in Monroe County



The Tennessee Department of Transportation announced a planned bridge demolition that will affect traffic on Interstate 75 in Monroe County later this month.

Beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 15, crews will demolish the old State Route 322 bridge over I-75. During the work, interstate traffic will be diverted to the ramps at Exit 62 in Sweetwater to exit and re-enter the highway. Flaggers will be on site directing traffic, with priority given to I-75 motorists.



The closure is expected to remain in place through 6 a.m. on Monday, May 18. TDOT officials said the full weekend shutdown will help avoid months of intermittent rolling roadblocks throughout the summer.

Drivers seeking alternate routes can use State Route 322, State Route 2, or State Route 68. Northbound I-75 traffic will be routed to Exit 60 in Sweetwater, while southbound drivers will detour via Exit 68 in Philadelphia.

Motorists should expect delays and use caution in the area, as workers will be present throughout the project. **Source: TDOT**



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Fire Damages Etowah Home Friday



Firefighters responded to a residential structure fire Friday morning on County Road 796, where flames were visible on an exterior wall extending into the attic.

Crews arrived on scene just before 8 a.m. and quickly worked to contain the fire. The homeowner was not at the residence at the time, but upon returning, told firefighters he had been experiencing ongoing issues with the home's electrical panel. The home sustained minor fire damage but heavy smoke damage throughout, according to officials.

Responding agencies included Etowah City Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, and Etowah Utilities. Austin Hancock with Etowah Rural Fire served as incident commander. *Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

TVEC Program Expands Reach as It Celebrates 6th Graduating Class

The Tennessee Valley Early College (TVEC) program at Cleveland State Community College recently celebrated its 6th graduation, marking a decade of growth since its inaugural 2016 cohort of Cleveland High School freshmen. Designed to help students earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree simultaneously, the program now serves a diverse group of students from home schools, Bradley Central, Cleveland, Walker Valley, Meigs, and Polk County schools, with its 11th cohort set to begin this fall.



Back row, from left to right: Davis Hobbs, Nathaniel Barton, Braddock Tippit, Cecilia Green, Ryder Hinson, Anastasia White.

Middle row, from left to right: Patrick Dunn, Anderson Bennett, Johnny Brafford, Abigail Moorhouse, Kati Hodges, Christopher Ownby, Jillian Frady, Leah Beaty.

Front row, from left to right: Brody Tinsley, Nick Shifley, Madalyn Dauphinais, Paige Featherngill, Karma Kirkpatrick, Piper Grosick, Evelyn Crick, Emma LaBean.

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Thursday, May 07, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Arts Center to Host Friday Reception for Photography Exhibits



The Athens Area Council for the Arts will host a reception Friday, May 8, at 5 p.m. for its annual *EXPOSURE* photography exhibit and *Things I've Seen: Fifty Years of Analog Photography* by Wayne Setser.

EXPOSURE features 45 photographs from amateur and professional photographers, with awards to be presented during the event. Setser, a frequent past winner, is serving as this year's judge while also showcasing his own retrospective exhibit.

Both exhibits are on display at The Arts Center through May 22. Gallery hours are weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with additional viewing during special events.

McMinn County Arrest Reports

May 05, 2026

Heath Oaks, 29, charged with theft of property up to 1,000 in Knox County.

Amy Balzai, 41 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for DUI.

Troy Teets, 53 of McMinn County, charged with failure to appear for aggravated assault.

Lawrence Bowers, 47, charged with DUI, and simple possession of Schedule 6.

Kayla Dixon, 35 of Sweetwater, charged with shoplifting, and theft of property.

The accused remain innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using Public Sources.



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 Psalm 51:10 KJV

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Thursday, May 07, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Local Events Planned for National Day of Prayer

Community members across the area will gather Thursday, May 7, to observe the National Day of Prayer, a longstanding national tradition dedicated to reflection and prayer.

This year marks the 75th observance, themed "Glorify God Among the Nations," drawn from 1 Chronicles 16:24. The annual event, formally established by Congress in 1952 and observed on the first Thursday of May, invites Americans of all faiths to pray for the nation.

In Etowah, a series of gatherings are planned throughout the day at multiple locations:

- A Prayer Breakfast will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Spirit City North Etowah, located at 231 Pennsylvania Avenue.
- A midday Prayer Gathering is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. at the L&N Depot Pavilion, 831 Tennessee Avenue.
- The day will conclude with a Prayer and Praise Service from 6 to 7 p.m. at the GEM Theater, 700 Tennessee Avenue.

Organizers say the events are open to the public and aim to bring the community together in unity and reflection.

The National Day of Prayer has its roots in early American history, with calls for national prayer dating back to the Continental Congress. The modern observance was solidified in the mid-20th century and continues annually as a day for communities across the country to gather in prayer.

Source: Etowah Ministerial Association

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