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TWU Wins First AAC Volleyball Tournament Title



Tennessee Wesleyan University captured its first-ever Appalachian Athletic Conference Women's Volleyball Tournament championship Saturday, defeating Reinhardt University in five sets, 25-22, 25-12, 23-25, 19-25, 15-8.

The Bulldogs took the first two sets before Reinhardt rallied to force a fifth. Tied 6-6 in the deciding set, Tennessee Wesleyan scored six straight points and clinched the title on a match-winning kill by Quincie Hrinik.

Hrinik led the Bulldogs with 13 kills, while Nyah Hudson added 12 and Peyton Grabowski finished with 11. The victory earns Tennessee Wesleyan an automatic berth in the NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship. ***Read More:*** ***AACSports.com***

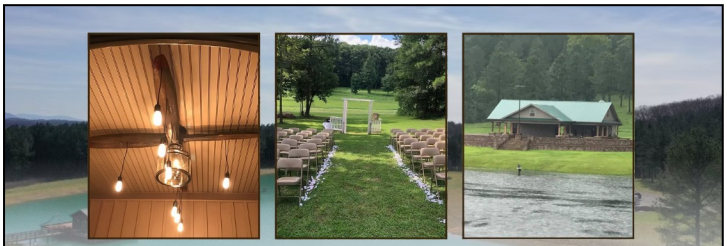
Community News You Can Use

- **Ingleside Avenue** will be **closed** between *Congress Parkway and Lee Highway* from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, 11/16 and Wednesday, 11/17 as AUB crews install new streetlights for the City of Athens. Detours will be posted, and drivers are encouraged to use alternate routes.
- The Athens Area Council for the Arts will host Arts on the Side **TODAY**, Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m., featuring a free dinner and free arts programs for the community.
- Englewood United Methodist Church will collect donations for Copperhill / McCaysville disaster relief on Nov. 18 from 5-7 p.m. and Nov. 22 and Nov. 29 from 10 a.m. to noon. Donation pickup is available in the Athens, Englewood and Etowah areas on Nov. 20 and Nov. 27. ***To schedule a pickup, call Jennifer at 423-886-1307.***

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Vols Carry Momentum Into Kiffin's Return to Knoxville

Tennessee heads into this weekend's showdown with LSU riding the momentum of a 22-7 road win over Texas A&M. The Vols' defense dominated the Aggies, holding them to just 179 total yards and shutting them out in the second half.

The aftermath in College Station was nearly as notable as the game itself. Texas A&M coach Mike Elko publicly apologized to fans following the loss and described his offense as "pathetic" and "completely non-functional," underscoring how thoroughly Tennessee controlled the game.

Now the Vols return home for a matchup that carries plenty of emotion beyond the SEC standings.

LSU arrives in Knoxville led by first-year coach Lane Kiffin, whose lone season at Tennessee in 2009 remains one of the most discussed chapters in program history. Kiffin's departure for USC after just one season sparked outrage among Vol fans, and his return to Neyland Stadium always draws added attention.

The schools also share a history of memorable games, including LSU's controversial win in Baton Rouge in 2010 and Tennessee's 40-13 rout of the Tigers during the Vols' breakthrough 2022 season.

For Tennessee, the focus will be on continuing the formula that worked against Texas A&M. If the Vols can control the line of scrimmage and generate the same kind of defensive pressure they showed last week, they'll put themselves in position for another significant SEC win.

But make no mistake: this week's story starts with Kiffin. His return to Knoxville ensures LSU's visit will have plenty of extra energy long before kickoff.



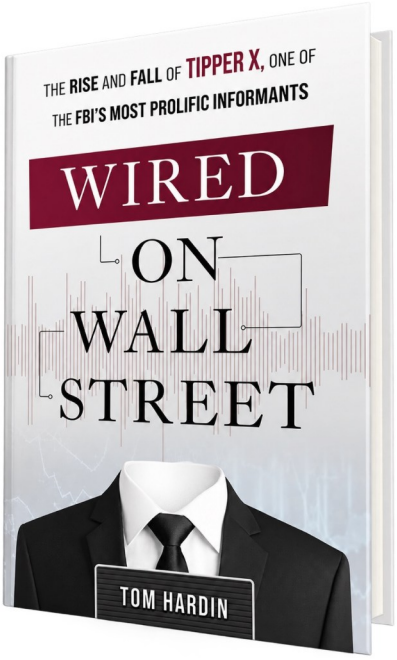


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McMinn County Arrest Report

November 15, 2026

Zachariah Sinitsky, 22, of Riceville, Charged with DUI.

Mark Philpott, 56, of Athens, charged with disorderly conduct. Bond $500.

Donald Bergen, 67, of Sweetwater, charged with DUI, and open container law. Bond $4,000.

Timothy Mosier, 39, of Athens, charged with domestic assault, and interference with 911 calls. Bond $4,000.

Samuel Raffi, 45, of Chattanooga, charged with simple possession casual exchange, of schedule 1 cocaine. Bond $60,000.

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

Twilight Tales Brings History to Life



Members of the McMinn County Historical Society and Archives hosted their annual "Twilight Tales in Cedar Grove" cemetery walking tour on Saturday, Nov. 14, with local historians and actors portraying notable individuals buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Pictured, from left, are Joe Guy as Sheriff Joseph McCulley, Tiffany Stephens as Lillian Hutsell, Bradley Bowling as Clem Jones, Mike Houston as James Gettys, Brad Mayfield as Nelson Gettys, Audrey Mayfield as Lillian Evans, and Dennis Stewart as Judge Thomas N. Van Dyke. ***Source: Tyler Boyd***

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Obituaries

Ernest "JR" Thanuel Womack, Jr., 62, of McMinn County, passed away on Friday, November 13. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard and was a member of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church in Riceville. The family will receive friends on Thursday, November 19 from 5:00-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held on Friday, November 20 at 2:00 PM in the funeral home. Interment with full military honors will follow the funeral services at Upper Spring Creek Cemetery in Riceville. Ziegler Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ernest "JR" Thanuel Womack, Jr.

Angela Call, 50, of Delano, peacefully passed away Sunday, November 15. She found happiness in the simple things, especially planting and watching things grow. Angela immensely enjoyed fishing in her spare time. She was known for her homemade herbal concoctions. Funeral services will be held at Old Salem Baptist Church, Friday, November 20 at 2:00 p.m. The family will receive friends from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Friday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in Cog Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Dennis Higginbotham, 71, of South Daytona Beach, FL, passed away on Sunday, November 1. Graveside and Burial services will take place on Monday, November 23, 1:00 p.m. at Foster Cemetery, in Niota (next to Rockview Baptist Church). Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the services.

David Gary Tackett, 77, passed away on Monday, November 2. David was a hard worker who retired and settled in Athens, Tennessee in 2023. His last project was constructing the house in Athens where he and his wife retired. A celebration of life will be held at 2:00 pm on Friday, November 27th at Avenue Church, 1720 Perry St SE, Cleveland. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Wesley "Lane" Williams, 62, of Englewood, passed away on Saturday, November 14. There will be no formal services. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.



