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Monday, December 16, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Intense Fire Destroys Etowah Home



A structure fire on County Road 905 in Etowah Saturday afternoon resulted in a total loss. Fire crews arrived at 1:30 PM to find the home fully engulfed in flames. The homeowner, who was present at the time, believes the fire may have started on the front porch, though the exact cause remains unknown.

The blaze was so intense that it ignited a natural gas line buried 19 inches underground, causing an explosion with flames shooting from the ground. Multiple agencies responded, including Etowah City Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, Madisonville City Fire, AMR, and EUB. Englewood Rural Fire Capt. Jack Ingram commanded the scene. Photo Credit: *Etowah City Firefighter Austin Hancock.*

Community News You Can Use

- Let's Read 20 is running low on their book inventory. They ask that as you make room for new Christmas items, that you consider donating your gently loved children's books to them! Donation bins are located in front of their office at 202 Hicks St., in Athens and in front of the Athens Food City. Monetary donations are always welcome as well.
- The Athens City Council will be meeting in the Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers at the Athens Municipal Building on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6 pm. Agenda items include a vote to get an appraisal on a building downtown that is being considered for a new Athens City Hall and confirming appointments to various boards and commissions.

2 DUDES BBQ & CATERING 423-829-4126

- Tuesday-Madisonville-Will Sav -10:30 - 1:30
- Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2:00
- Thursday-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 -1:30
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30

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Saturday, December 21, 2024

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Monday, December 16, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Daniel Glen Cagle, 64, passed away on Friday, December 13. He was a native of Highland, California, and moved to Tennessee in 1978. Daniel was formerly employed with Tennessee Packaging as a truck driver. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Daniel Glen Cagle.

We encourage you to e-mail results from local school sporting events for use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: wyradio@gmail.com



Donate with MEDIC to Win Tickets to Vols Playoff THIS WEEKEND

Medic Regional Blood Center would like to remind you that when you give local, you save local. By donating at a MEDIC office any day until December 18th, you will be entered to win two tickets to see the Vols vs. Ohio State in Columbus, OH this Saturday! You can enjoy watching to game from Section C, Row 29 at the Shoe, plus you will also get a \$300 Visa Gift Card to allow for expenses. The winner will be drawn on December 19th. Remember, when you give local, you save local.

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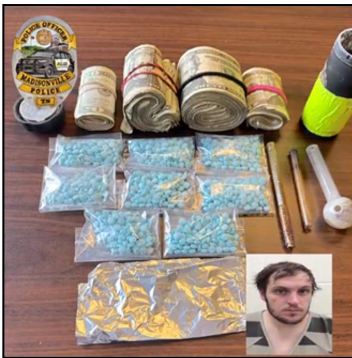
TWU TOWNSEND AUDITORIUM | 5-6 PM

Monday, December 16, 2024

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Man Charged in Madisonville Fentanyl Bust



The Madisonville Police Department said a man was charged after an investigation led to hundreds of fentanyl pills being seized.

According to MPD, Stephen Wattenbarger was charged for the sale and delivery of over 50 grams of fentanyl after a months-long investigation.

gation.

MPD said hundreds of fentanyl pills and several hundred dollars in cash were seized. "This operation is a crucial win for our community, helping to remove this dangerous substance from our streets," MPD said. Wattenbarger is being held without bond at the McMinn County Justice Center on other drug charges.

Story originally published by [Josh Jarnagin, WVLT](#)

Dryer Fire Causes Minor Damage in Englewood Home



A dryer fire at a residence on County Road 516 in Englewood late Tuesday night caused minor damage to the laundry room and light smoke damage throughout the house.

AMR personnel were first on the scene at 11 PM and extinguished the fire with a fire extinguisher. Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and the

McMinn County Sheriff's Department also responded.

Photo Credit: *Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.*

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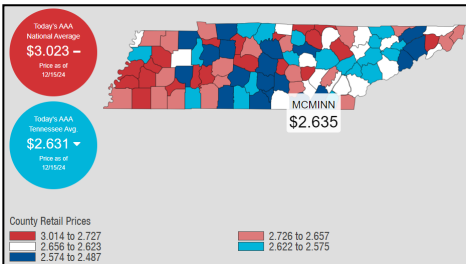
Monday, December 16, 2024

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

Athens, Tennessee

National Gas Prices Remain Steady at \$3.02

UT Men's Basketball Remains Undefeated



The national average for a gallon of gas remains nearly unchanged at \$3.02, with prices hovering near this level for five weeks. Despite low demand and cheaper oil, prices



The No. 1 Tennessee Volunteers secured a dramatic 66-64 victory over Illinois in their first non-conference true road game as the nation's top-ranked team. Senior guard Jordan Gainey led the way with 23 points, including the game-winning layup at the buzzer, as Tennessee improved to 10-0.

show little movement. However, 31 states now report averages below \$3.

Gasoline demand rose slightly last week to 8.81 million barrels per day, while domestic gasoline stocks increased by 5.1 million barrels, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

The EIA also reports that hybrid and electric vehicles hit a record 21.2% of sales in Q3 2024. The average cost for public EV charging remains 34 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Gas prices are five cents lower than last month and 11 cents less than a year ago. *Source: AAAGasPrices.com*

In a game featuring 14 ties and 13 lead changes, the Volunteers overcame foul trouble and a strong Illinois start. Tennessee led 31-30 at halftime after a first half dominated by free throws, with both teams shooting under 25% from the field.

Illinois (7-3) took a six-point lead in the second half, but Tennessee rallied behind Gainey's scoring and timely plays by senior forward Igor Miličić Jr., who had seven points and 14 rebounds. The Volunteers held Illinois without a field goal for the final 4:55 and committed no turnovers in the second half.

Tennessee returns home Tuesday to face Western Carolina as it begins a four-game homestand. *Source: UTSports.com*

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WEATHER FORECAST

Monday - Mostly Cloudy. High 63.

Monday Night - 70% Showers. Low 52.

Tuesday - 30% Showers. High 62

Tuesday Night - 50% Showers. Low 51.

More weather at: wysi.com

Monday, December 16, 2024

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Lady Vols Break Records in 139-59 Win Over NC Central



The No. 19/18 Tennessee Lady Volunteers put on a historic performance Saturday, shattering NCAA, SEC, and program records in a dominant 139-59 victory over North Carolina Central at Food City Center.

Tennessee, now 8-0 under first-year head coach Kim Caldwell, set a new NCAA single-game record with 30 three-pointers, surpassing the previous mark of 28. The Lady Vols attempted 63 shots from beyond the arc, another SEC record, and broke the program and conference record for points scored in a game.

Senior guard Samara Spencer led the offensive explosion, scoring a career-high 33 points and setting a Tennessee record with nine three-pointers. She also notched 10 assists, earning her first double-double as a Lady Vol.

Redshirt sophomore Talaysia Cooper and fifth-year guard Tess Darby added five three-pointers each, scoring 21 and 17 points, respectively. Tennessee's depth was on full display, with six players scoring in double figures.

The Lady Vols' defense was equally impressive, forcing NC Central into 44 turnovers—just shy of the program record. Tennessee capitalized on those miscues, scoring 73 points off turnovers.

How It Happened

Tennessee opened with a 20-0 run, overwhelming NC Central early and building a 33-10 lead by the end of the first quarter. By halftime, the Lady Vols led 69-18 and had already tied the school record for three-pointers in a game with 16.

The offense stayed hot in the second half, with Tennessee scoring 42 points in the third quarter, their second-highest total for a single period in program history. The team continued to pile on points, breaking the SEC and Tennessee scoring record late in the game with a three-pointer from Destinee Wells.

Up Next

The Lady Vols head to Memphis on Wednesday to take on the Tigers at FedExForum. Tipoff is slated for 8:30 p.m. ET (7:30 CT), with the contest televised by ESPNNews. Then the Lady Vols will travel to Florida for two games at the West Palm Beach Classic, meeting Richmond on Friday at 2:15 p.m. ET and following with an 11 a.m. ET tilt on Saturday vs. Tulsa before heading home.

Season Highlights

- Tennessee has reached the 100-point mark in four games this season.
- The team has forced opponents into 20 or more turnovers in six games, including four with over 30 turnovers.
- Eight different players have started a game this season, showcasing the Lady Vols' depth and versatility.

With their high-powered offense and tenacious defense, Tennessee continues to build momentum as one of the top teams in women's college basketball this season. *Source:* UTSports.com