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Monday, February 10, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Plot at MCHS Foiled by Parent

Two male juveniles face charges after a possible planned attack on other McMinn High School students was discovered Thursday night. According to Sheriff Joe Guy, a phone call he received from a parent of one of the juveniles around 1030pm Thursday, discovered something disturbing. "The parent was very concerned over a video recording he had discovered on a device belonging to his son," said Sheriff Guy. "The recording was made in November by his son and another student, dressed in masks and making statements that implied their planning of a school-shooting type attack, and naming certain students as possible targets. The parent felt it was his duty to report it as soon as possible." "Although the video had been made almost three months ago, statements were made regarding a planned attack with firearms, so of course we felt that the situation demanded quick attention. I immediately notified School Safety Supervisor Justin Wallace, McMinn High School SRO Sgt Jeremy Moore, and our local Homeland Security Agent." Sheriff Guy said that within an hour, School Safety Supervisor Wallace had spoken with the suspects' parents and arranged for the student suspects to be suspended from school beginning on Friday and scheduled them to undergo threat assessments and evaluations. Mr. Wallace, along with School Resource Officers and a Homeland Security Agent, worked throughout the day Friday to review the video, interview both suspects, began the investigation and collected evidence. Additional statements and evidence were located on the student's phones and prosecutors from the District Attorney General's Office were consulted regarding criminal charges. Both juveniles are charged with Conspiracy to Commit Acts of Terrorism, and are undergoing psychological evaluations and counseling. One is already in custody at the Bradley County Juvenile Detention Center, and the other is completing some treatment in a mental health facility and will be transferred to the Juvenile Center upon release. Their phones and devices have been sent for digital forensic evaluation to see if there is more information that's related to the planning of the incident. Both sets of parents are cooperating in the investigation. The investigation has not revealed any other suspects involved in the incident. Sheriff Joe Guy said trust, communication, and working together were all key in the successful intervention. ⇨

Community News You Can Use

The Athens City Council will meet for a work session TODAY at 5:00 pm in the Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers of the Athens Municipal Building. According to their agenda, items up for consideration include: City Hall Renovations/Relocation, Road and Railroad safety improvements, and other items up for discussion.



In the photo L-R: School Director Lee Parkison, School Safety Supervisor Justin Wallace, School Resource

Officer Sgt Jeremy Moore, Sheriff Joe Guy and District Attorney General Stephen Hatchett. Photo by Mark Lefler, Morning Fax Staff.

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- Monday – Closed
- Tuesday-Deatur beside Southeast Bank at the Boys and Girls Club -10:30 - 2:00
- 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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Monday, February 10, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Larry William Bettenhausen, 92, passed away on Thursday, January 6. He moved to Athens in 1999. He was a native of North Dakota, retired as an engineer and served in the US Army Airborne during the Korean war. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Larry William Bettenhausen.

Francis "Joann" Trusley Wilcox, 79 of McMinn County, passed away on Friday, February 7. She was of the Baptist faith. Visitation will be held on Monday, February 10 from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, February 11 at 11:00 AM at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Niota Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Francis "Joann" Trusley Wilcox.

Judith Ferguson, 81, passed away on Friday, January 7. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Judith Ferguson.

Marjorie Wade Guffey, 89 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, February 5. She grew up in the Clearwater Community. She loved to cook and bake. Marjorie was an active member of Allen Memorial UMC. A memorial service for Marjorie will be held at Smith Funeral Home on Thursday, February 13. Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 with service to follow in the Chapel at 7:00. A graveside service will be conducted 11:00 am, Friday, February 14, 2025 at Clearwater Cemetery. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Marjorie Wade Guffey.

Walter "Bruce" McMinn, 53 of Etowah, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, February 4 at Starr Regional Medical Center. A receiving of friends and family will be Saturday, February 15th from 1-3pm at Companion Funeral Home in Athens. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements. *More Obituaries on Page 4*

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Athens, Tennessee

Car crashes into Athens Women's Clinic



The City of Athens Fire Department responded to a crash at Athens Women's Clinic in the 800 block of Cook Drive near Starr Regional Medical Center on Friday Morning.

Photos from a local resident show a hunter green Toyota Camry crashed through the front wall of the clinic.

Details are limited at this time.

Originally Reported by Local 3 News

Storm Kills at least two in East TN



A tornado struck Morgan County, Tennessee, on Thursday night, killing a mother and daughter in the Deer Lodge and Sunbright areas. Emergency crews are assessing the damage and clearing roads,

while Wartburg Central High School has been opened as a shelter.

The storm system triggered tornado warnings across East Tennessee, briefly disrupting events like a high school basketball game and a Lady Vols basketball game in Knoxville.

An EF-1 tornado with 110 mph winds was confirmed in Grainger County, causing damage in Bean Station and Thorn Hill. In Fountain City, a tree fell on a church, but no injuries were reported. Crews are working to restore power and clear debris as officials urge residents to stay cautious.

Source: WBIR



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Monday, February 10, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Krista Dawn Williamson Phillips, 30, passed away on Monday, January 27. She was a member of Standfield Baptist Church. Funeral Services will be held on Monday February 10, at 2:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A visitation will be held prior from 1:00pm - 2:00pm. A graveside service will be held on Tuesday February 11, at 11:00am. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Matthew Kyle Stovall, 30 of Niota, passed away on Saturday, February 1. Matthew was a beloved member of East Niota Baptist Church. He loved to assist in feeding the homeless with his church family. Visitation was held Sunday, February 9th from 1:00pm-2:00pm with a Memorial Service that followed at 2:00pm at Companion Funeral Home in Athens. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

Robert Michael "Mike" Redmond, 60 of Niota, passed away Friday, February 7 after a lengthy illness. He was a member of Meigs Lodge #213 F. & A.M. He worked for Charles Blalock & Sons Construction in Sevierville, TN for over 30 years. No formal services will be held, per Mike's request. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Redmond family.

LISTENING REMINDER: Tomorrow on *Main Street Moments*: Host Sandra Kinney invites Lauren Brown from The Athens Area Council for the Arts. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TUESDAY on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

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Mallori will be discussing the importance of estate planning to prepare for mental incapacity, the importance of having those documents in place, and the details of how a conservatorship works.

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Tennessee Dominates Oklahoma in 70-52 Victory

Tennessee dominated Oklahoma 70-52 on Saturday, using a scorching first-half shooting performance to build a commanding lead. The Vols (20-4, 7-4 SEC) hit 15 of their first 17 shots, including 5-of-5 from beyond the arc, and led by as many as 28 points. Chaz Lanier led Tennessee with 21 points, while Zakai Zeigler added 17 points and nine assists. The Vols went into halftime with a commanding 45-25 lead. Despite a brief push from Oklahoma (16-7, 3-7 SEC), cutting the gap to 49-34 early in the second half, Tennessee maintained control. Oklahoma was held to just 32.1% shooting, while the Vols finished at 60.4%. The Volunteers play their second consecutive road game Tuesday at 7 p.m. at No. 14 Kentucky, live on ESPN from Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky. *Source: UTSports.com*

Nuwer Makes History in Tennessee Debut; Mardjetko Shines in First Start



Freshman pitcher [Erin Nuwer](#) (Top) and sophomore pitcher [Sage Mardjetko](#) (Bottom) delivered dominant performances in their first starts as Lady Vols Friday at the NFCA Leadoff Classic, leading Tennessee to a pair of run-rule victories over Bethune-Cookman and Iowa. Nuwer, making her first career start, fired a five-inning no-hitter against Bethune-Cookman in a 10-0 win. Nuwer joined legendary pitcher Monica Abbott as the only Lady Vols to throw a no-hitter in their Tennessee debut. The right-hander struck out eight and allowed only one walk, coming in the third inning. Her no-hitter marked the 59th in Tennessee history. Mardjetko, in her first start as a Lady Vol, was equally impressive in game two against Iowa. After giving

up an early run in the second inning, she escaped a bases-loaded jam and went on to dominate the Hawkeyes lineup. Mardjetko surrendered just two hits, walked one, and recorded a career-high 11 strikeouts.

Originally Reported and Continued at: UTSports.com

Lady Vols Upset No. 5 UConn in Thrilling 80-76 Victory



The **No. 19/17 Tennessee Lady Vols** secured a **major upset** over **No. 5 UConn** on **Thursday night**, defeating the Huskies **80-76** in front of a raucous **16,215 fans** at **Food City Center**. The victory snapped a **four-game losing streak** against UConn and marked Tennessee's **first win over the Huskies since 2007**.

ies since 2007.

Zee Spearman led the Lady Vols with **16 points**, including a crucial layup with **12 seconds left** to seal the win. **Samara Spencer** contributed **14 points**, while **Jewel Spear** and **Talaysia Cooper** added **12 and 11 points**, respectively. Cooper also led the rebounding effort with **eight boards**, as Tennessee out-rebounded UConn **46-34**.

The **back-and-forth battle** saw Tennessee build a **nine-point lead** in the third quarter before UConn rallied to tie the game at **74-74** with just over **two minutes remaining**. However, Tennessee held strong, using **clutch free throws** and key defensive stops to hold on for the victory.

The win is head coach **Kim Caldwell's biggest at the Division I level** and gives the Lady Vols their **second ranked win this season**, following their victory over **No. 17/20 Iowa** in December.

Source: UTSports.com

