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Thursday, February 20, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Three dead following Riceville Fire

Three people died in an early morning house fire in Riceville on Tuesday, February 11, according to the Riceville Volunteer Fire Department. The fire happened on County Road 4 at 5:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Hillsview Rural Fire Department responded to the scene first; the Riceville Fire Department also aided in extinguishing the fire.

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A spokesperson with the Riceville Fire Department stated:

"Once the fire was put out, it was confirmed that a family of three had died," "The house is considered a total loss."

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is assisting, as the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Source: [WATE](#)

Fire destroys home on County Road 883 in Etowah



A home on County Road 883 was engulfed in flames late Thursday night, with fire crews responding to the scene at approximately 10 p.m. Residents were in the living room when they noticed flames near a window by the chimney. At the same time, a passerby

knocked on the front door, warning them that the roof was on fire.

The occupants attempted to extinguish the blaze, but it quickly became uncontrollable. By the time the first fire unit arrived, the structure was fully involved. Firefighters from multiple agencies, including Etowah Rural Fire, Etowah City Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, and EUB, worked to contain the blaze. The McMinn County Sheriff's Department also responded.

Etowah Rural Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Elliott led the emergency response. No injuries were reported, and an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the fire.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department



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More Information

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Thursday, February 20, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries


Carlos Hammond, 86 of Athens, passed away on Saturday, February 15. He spent over 60 years in the car business. The family will hold a private graveside ceremony on Friday, February 21st. A drop-in Celebration of Life will be held on March 16th from 2 - 4 pm in the Tyler Center of Central Baptist Church. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Carlos Hammond.

Charles Stanley "Plow" Key, 64, passed away on Saturday, February 15 in Loudon. Stanley had a passion for the Tennessee Volunteers and never missed an opportunity to cheer them on. He also enjoyed playing Rook, a game that brought out his competitive spirit. Memorial services will be held at a later date and announced by family. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody Family are pleased to assist the Key Family during this tough time.


Lonnie Eugene "Gene" Gates, 84 of Bradley County, passed away on Friday, February 14. Gene was a former employee of Magic Chef in Cleveland. He later co-owned Ed's Meat Packing and was also part-owner of G & H Stables, where he raised and trained racking horses. Gene was a devoted member of Cedar Springs Baptist Church. A Remembrance of Life Service celebrating Gene's life was held on Wednesday, February 19 at Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services Wildwood Ave. Chapel in Cleveland. The family held a visitation on Tuesday evening from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the funeral home. Following the service, Gene was laid to rest in the mausoleum of Sunset Memorial Gardens.

John Dale Woodcock, 67 of Knoxville and formerly of Athens, passed away on Thursday, February 18 in Franklin, Tennessee. Arrangements are incomplete at this time.


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WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday - Partly Sunny. High 26.
Thurs. Night - Mostly Clear. Low 15
Friday - Sunny. High 37.
Fri. Night - Partly Cloudy. Low 19.

More Weather at: wysi.com

Thursday, February 20, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional Hosts "Healthy Community Lunch & Learn"

Starr Regional Medical Center will host its first "Healthy Community Lunch & Learn" event for 2025 on **Friday, February 28 at 12 p.m.** on the Athens campus. February is American Heart Month and Maurice Alston, DO, FACC, interventional cardiologist, will discuss hypertension – its causes and treatment options. The event is free and lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is encouraged and those planning to attend may register at:

StarrRegional.com/event/104.

Starr Regional hosts the "Healthy Community Lunch & Learn" series monthly, typically on the third Wednesday at 12 p.m. The events feature discussion of a health-related topic and are open to anyone wishing to attend. The location alternates between the Athens and Etowah campuses.

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For more information on these events, go online to:

StarrRegional.com/events

or email: starr.cares@lpnt.net.

Last Call for Leaf Vacuum Collection



The City of Athens Public Works Department announces Leaf Vacuum Season last call for loose leaf pick up:

The City of Athens Public Works Department has finished the second round of leaf collection. The final round of loose leaf collection is from

Wednesday, February 19 through Friday, February 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Please place loose leaves curbside, 3 to 5 feet from the edge of yard and up into your yard now for pick up. Call **Morning Fax**[®]

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The City of Athens Public Works Department at 423-744-2745 to be placed on the list of pick-up locations. After Friday, February 28, 2025 leaves must be bagged for collection.

Bagged leaves are picked up throughout the year during the brush/junk route pick-ups.

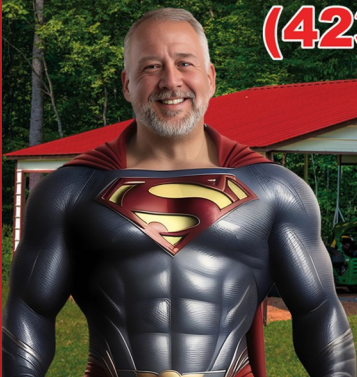
For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

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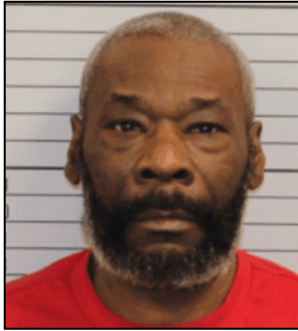
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Chattanooga Man Charged with Attempted Murder After Daycare Stabbing



A 50-year-old Chattanooga man has been arrested and charged with attempted first-degree murder after allegedly stabbing his sister eight times inside a daycare where she worked, with children nearby.

Hamilton County Sheriff's deputies took Reginald Dewayne Woods into custody on Tuesday. According to an affidavit, the attack occurred on November 4, 2024, at Creative Learning Academy on 4th Avenue. Authorities say Woods entered the daycare through an unlocked kitchen door and confronted his sister in an office, demanding money from a recent \$17,000 settlement.

Witnesses reported hearing the victim shout that she had already given Woods his money before screams for him to stop. Investigators say Woods then pulled out a knife and stabbed her multiple times in the chest and head.

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Following the attack, a witness saw Woods discard the knife in a nearby yard before fleeing in his SUV. Authorities later recovered the weapon. The victim survived the attack and provided information from the hospital. Woods now faces charges of attempted first-degree murder and aggravated burglary.

Source: [WTVC News Channel 9](#)

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BASEBALL: No. 2 Tennessee Crushes UNC Asheville 29-4 for Fourth Straight Run-Rule Win

The No. 2/4 Tennessee Volunteers continued their dominant start to the season with a commanding 29-4 victory over UNC Asheville on Tuesday night at Lindsey Nelson Stadium. The Vols (4-0) posted their fourth consecutive run-rule win, tying their highest single-game scoring mark under head coach Tony Vitello, matching the 29-run output against Iona in 2022.

Every Tennessee starter recorded at least one hit and scored at least one run, contributing to the offensive explosion. The Big Orange launched five home runs, with Dean Curley and Dalton Bargo each hitting two, while Gavin Kilen added his first in a Tennessee uniform.

Bargo played a pivotal role in the Vols' nine-run second inning, blasting a solo homer and a grand slam to give UT a commanding lead. He became just the fourth player in program history to homer twice in a single inning.

The Vols' pitching staff continued its dominance, tallying 12 strikeouts while allowing just one walk. Three pitchers—Nic Abraham, Tanner Wiggins, and Brayden Krenzel—made their Tennessee debuts, with Abraham earning the win in relief.

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Tennessee looks to keep its momentum going this weekend as it hosts Samford for a three-game series starting Friday at 4:30 p.m. All games will be streamed live on SEC Network+ and the ESPN app.

Source: UTSports.com

McMinn County District Game Times

The McMinn County Lady Cherokees will begin district tournament play this Thursday night vs. Rhea County at 7:30 PM. All district tournament games are at Walker Valley High School.

Morning Fax® The McMinn County Cherokees will begin their district tournament play this Friday night vs. Cleveland at 7:30 PM. All district tournament games are at Walker Valley High School.

Source: *Shane Sewell*

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

Brittany Campbell, 29 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$50,000

Bryan Martin, 27 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Criminal Trespassing. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Cheryl Crowe, 34 of Decatur, was arrested by the MCSO for Possession of Schedule II Meth for Resale, Possession of Schedule IV Klonopin, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$33,000.

Christopher Johnkins, 35 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the MCSO for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$4,000.

Jamie Shelton, 45 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Failure to Appear, Possession of Schedule II Cocaine, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Driving on a Suspended License, & Violation of Registration Laws. Total Bond: \$8,000.

Kristopher Flanders, 36 of Hiwassee, GA, was arrested by the THP as a Fugitive from Justice. No Bond.

Anthony Johnson, 38 of Riceville, was arrested by the MCSO for Driving on a Revoked License. No Bond.

Sierra Lowe, 25 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Violation of Probation, Evading Arrest, Reckless Endangerment,

Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$11,500.

Marcus Wallaren, 52 of Cleveland, was arrested by the MCSO for DUI. No Bond.

Blake Bivins, 28 of Knoxville, was arrested by the THP for Aggravated Burglary and Criminal Conspiracy, both crimes were from East Ridge. No Bond.

Thomas Massengale, 54 of Georgetown, was arrested by the THP for Possession of Meth for Resale, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Driving on a Revoked License, Identity Theft, Possession of Schedule II Meth, No Insurance, and Failure to Use Tail light. Total Bond: \$52,000.

Jack Headrick, 20 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the THP for DUI, Speeding, and Violation of Registration Laws. Total Bond: \$2,000

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

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