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Today's News...This Morning

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Friday, February 21, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Ambulance Crashes into Tree on Hwy 411N, Driver Extricated



A 2021 Ford E45 AMR ambulance crashed into a tree head-on early Tuesday morning on Hwy 411N in Englewood. The accident occurred around 5:30 a.m., requiring emergency responders to extricate the driver, who

was then transported by AMR to Starr Regional Medical Center in Etowah.

Multiple agencies responded to the scene, including Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and THP Trooper Travis Ryans, who is leading the investigation.

*Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department*

## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Commission will hold their Annual Strategic Planning Session on February 28, 2025, 5:30 pm. at the McMinn Higher Education Center on Denso Drive, Athens, TN.
- The Athens Arts Council is announcing their Annual Arts Gala will be taking place on Saturday, March 8 from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm. Enjoy a night of dinner, dancing with the Nashville Soul Experience and an auction featuring special items like original artwork and one-of-a-kind experiences all to support the arts. This is a formal event; dressy attire is suggested, black tie optional. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased at the link [HERE](#).
- The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Beekeepers Association will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. The meetings are held at the AgCentral Farmers Co-operative located at 920 Congress Pkwy. N., Athens, Tn. You do not need to be a member to attend.

### TN WESLEYAN SUNDAY LUNCH

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#### Spring Break Hours Update

March 2: Closed  
March 9: Closed



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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Phillip Mark Justice**, 62, passed away on February 19. Formerly of Raccoon, KY, he lived in Johnson City and was a resident of Athens for 3 years. He was employed with Bizzack Construction as a truck driver. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Phillip Mark Justice.

**Kenny Lee Letner**, 69 of Ten Mile, passed away on Wednesday, February 19. He was a member of the Pentecostal faith. He enjoyed golfing, playing his guitar, and singing. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., on Monday, February 24, 2025, in the Roberts Cemetery. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Letner Family.

**Ralph L. Martin**, 77 of Englewood, passed away on Sunday, February 16 at Parkridge Medical Center in Chattanooga. Ralph enjoyed gardening and was a carpenter. He loved bird hunting and fishing. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, February 23 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Sunday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in Mars Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**Carol Ann Kiser**, 70 of Monroe County, passed away on February 17. There will be a Celebration of Life at 5:00pm on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at The Way to Calvary Tabernacle (143 Durkee Road, Cleveland). Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are in charge of these arrangements.

**Tara Jean (Torbett) Knox**, 66 of Niota, went to be with the Lord on February 18. Tara loved spending her time riding horses. The family will have a Visitation on Monday February 24 from 4:00-7:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A Funeral Service will follow at 7:00pm. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are in charge of these arrangements.

**Patricia Florence Scott**, 77 of Calhoun, passed away on February 18, 2025 at her residence. Patricia was a member of Remnant Kingdom Fellowship of Athens. A Funeral Service will be held on Sunday, February 23 at Remnant Kingdom Fellowship (414 Lynman St, Athens) at 2:00 pm. A Visitation will be held prior from 12:00-2:00pm. A Graveside Service will follow the funeral at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are in charge of these arrangements.

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**Friday, February 21, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee**

# Fire Destroys Abandoned Warehouse and Duplex in Etowah



A massive fire broke out at midnight on Tuesday, February 18, at the intersection of 5th Street, County Road 631, and County Road 628 in Etowah. Upon arrival, Etowah City Fire Department found an abandoned warehouse and duplex fully engulfed in flames. The fire spread to a nearby abandoned storage building, which sustained minor fire and smoke damage.

Multiple agencies responded to the scene, including Etowah City Fire Department, Etowah Rural Fire Department, Englewood Rural Fire Department, Athens City Fire Department, and Madisonville City Fire Department. Bradley County Fire Department and West Polk Fire Department stood by at Etowah Rural Fire Department, along with AMR Ambulance and Etowah Utility Board. Captain Ryland Hearn of the Etowah City Fire Department led the response efforts.

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Athens, Tennessee

## Church News & Events

- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Christ Community Church** is once again opening the Prom Shop on Saturday, March 29 from 9 am - 3 pm. The Prom Shop provides Prom Formal wear at no cost for any student to attend their prom or dance. Christ Community Church is located at 14 S. Congress Pkwy in Athens. For more information, email [promshopathens@yahoo.com](mailto:promshopathens@yahoo.com).
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00 P.M. at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00 P.M. at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? **Clearwater Baptist Church** (964 County Road 180, Athens) is beginning a new session of GriefShare helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. Beginning on Thursday, March 6th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm there will be an ongoing (in 13 week rotations) grief support group that you can join at any time and is open to the community. For more info visit: [clearwaterbc.org/grief-share](http://clearwaterbc.org/grief-share)
- **New Life Church** hosts weekly Prayer Meetings every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00 pm. The church is located at 204 Fisher St. in Athens. All are welcome.
- **Widowhood Workshop Ministry** is hosting their February **Widowhood Fellowship on Saturday, February 22** beginning at 11AM at **Athens Church of Christ** (1016 North Avenue, Athens) All widows and widowers are invited to join for an uplifting time, chili lunch and speaker Dean Miller, founder/Director of Widowhood Workshop Ministry. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please call (423) 745-0554 or (423) 618-0439
- TWU will host their Heritage Day Convocation on Monday, Feb. 24 at 7pm in the Johnson Event Center in the Colloms Campus Center and again on Tuesday, Feb. 25th at 11 am in Townsend Auditorium. This year's speaker will be Rev. Dr. Dennis Dickerson, professor of History at Vanderbilt University and official historian of the AME Church.
- The McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association will host a Community Revival at First Baptist Church of Athens from March 2 - 5 beginning at 6:30 pm nightly. Childcare will be provided for Children up to 5 years old.
- Miracle Lake will be singing at Cambria Baptist Church, 305 County Road 875, Etowah, on Sunday, February 23rd at 6:PM. Everyone is welcome.
- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Ten Mile invites you to their Community Dinner, This Saturday, February 22 from 12 noon until 2 pm.



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Athens, Tennessee

## TWU Bulldog Sports Block



The exciting times continue for Tennessee Wesleyan Athletics. The basketball programs have had a strong finish to the end of the regular season, the baseball team and the men's and women's tennis teams have had great starts, the seasons for the spring sports have all started. Here are the latest updates:

The baseball program have won six of their last eight games, including wins over No. 17 IU Southeast, Montreat College, and Spartanburg Methodist College. The last win came against Spartanburg Methodist College on Tuesday, a 19-1 win in seven innings. After a 10-strikeout effort on the mound, Justin Jackson of the baseball team was named the Appalachian Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week.

The men's tennis team, who jumped up to No. 2 in the NAIA rankings, have won their first three AAC matches with 7-0 scores against Johnson University, Truett McConnell University, and Columbia College. The women's tennis team, ranked No. 7 in the NAIA, are on a four-match winning streak after 7-0 wins against Johnson University and Truett McConnell University and a 6-1 win against Columbia College.

Both basketball programs have qualified for the upcoming AAC Tournament, set for Feb. 26-March 1 in Kingsport, Tenn. Seeding has not been finalized yet.

The indoor track and field programs won four individual conference titles at the AAC Championships. The men's team were the winners of the 4x800m Relay and the Long Jump while the women's program won the High Jump and 60m Hurdles. The teams are sending four individuals to the NAIA National Championship Meet. Ke'Andrae Campbell and KT Buchanan both qualified in the Men's 60m Dash, Dakota Caldwell will compete in the

Men's 3000m Race Walk and Samantha DeGrace will compete in the Women's High Jump.

Six individuals were inducted into the Tennessee Wesleyan University Athletics Hall of Fame as a part of the 2024 Class. Amy Brackett (Softball), John Ferguson (Men's Basketball), Josh Lindstrom (Baseball), Curtis Blair (Men's Soccer), Greg Vandagriff (Football), and Toby Brooks (Coach for Softball and Volleyball) are the newest members of the Hall of Fame. The 2024 Team of Honor was the 2005 Softball Team.

Landyn Sanders was named the Mid-South Conference Men's Bowling Bowler of the Year while John Brooks was named the MSC Men's Bowling Freshman of the Year.

### Upcoming events:

#### Away:

Feb. 21-23 Men's / Women's Bowling at Mid-South Conference Championships in Bowling Green, Ky.

#### Home:

Fri. Feb. 21 Baseball vs. Columbia International University at 2:00 PM  
Sat. Feb. 22 Baseball vs. Columbia International University (DH) 12:00 PM / 2:30 PM

Sat. Feb. 22 WBB/MBB against Truett McConnell University at 2:00 PM (WBB) and 4:00 PM (MBB)

Sun. Feb. 23 Women's Lacrosse vs. Warner University at 11:00 AM

Sun. Feb. 23 Men's Lacrosse vs. Concordia University Ann Arbor at 2:30 PM

Source: Chris Berry, TWU Director of Sports Information

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