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Today's News... This Morning

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Friday, March 14, 2025 **Page 1** **Athens, Tennessee**

Brush Fire ignites in Englewood after mowing incident



A routine roadside mowing operation by the McMinn County Highway Department took an unexpected turn Wednesday afternoon when a spark from a mower blade striking a rock ignited a fire along County Road 508.

The fire quickly spread to a nearby property, burning approximately one-fifth of an acre before the Englewood Rural Fire Department responded to the scene and extinguished the flames.

The incident occurred around 2 p.m., highlighting the potential fire hazards posed by dry conditions and roadside maintenance work. No injuries were reported, and crews were able to prevent the fire from causing further damage.

The Englewood Rural Fire Department urges residents and workers to remain cautious, especially during dry weather, as even a small spark can lead to a fire hazard.

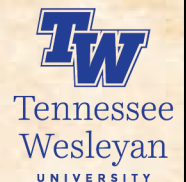
Photo credit: Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department



An Evening With Women in Ministry

Tuesday, March 18 | TWU's Colloms Campus Center
Desserts at 6 p.m., the program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

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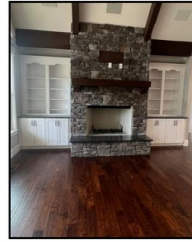
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Friday, March 14, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Carlos Hammond, 86 of Athens, passed away February 15, 2025. He was in the car business for over 60 years. The family held a private graveside ceremony on February 21st. A drop-in Celebration of Life will be held this Sunday, March 16th from 2 - 4pm in the Tyler Center of Central Baptist Church of Athens. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Carlos Hammond.

Beverly Marcellus Farmer, 62 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, March 11. Beverly enjoyed spending her time listening to music. She loved her three dogs and above all else, she enjoyed spending her time with her family. A Funeral Service will be held on Monday, March 17 at 7:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A Visitation will be held prior from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Companion Funeral Home in Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

Leonard Smith Holt, 59 of Decatur, passed away on Monday, March 3 after a courageous battle with cancer. Known for his love for life, the outdoors, his motorcycle, fishing, his dog Chewey, his sense of humor and his contagious laughter- Leonard was a beacon of light to anyone around him and will be missed tremendously. Companion Funeral Home in Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

Gilbert Alan Roberts, 70 of Niota, passed away on Tuesday, March 11. He worked at Bowater Paper Mill for more than 30 years. He was of the Baptist faith. At Alan's request, there will be no formal service. Covenant Funeral & Crematory of Chattanooga is in charge of arrangements.

Nicole Alyson Endy, 42, of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, March 11, as a result of a lifelong condition. Nicole was a Certified Medical Assistant and worked with doctor offices in the Gettysburg, PA area before moving to Athens. She fell in love with the peace, tranquility, and nature of the Athens countryside while living near to her mother and stepfather, Cindy and Jeff Anderson. Companion Funeral Home in Athens, TN and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

Obituaries (Cont'd)

Sherri Lynn Cardin, age 56, of Sweetwater, passed away at Sweetwater Hospital after an emergency on Wednesday, March 5th, following a lengthy illness. Sherri was born in Knoxville and grew up in Englewood. She attended Englewood School and McMinn Central High School. Sherri enjoyed playing with cats, visiting with friends, listening to music and watching the Dallas Cowboys and the LA Lakers. There will be no planned services for Sherri. Companion Funeral Home in Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn Senior Activity Center invites you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 14 (today) from 7 pm to 9pm with the St. Patrick's Day Dance. The dance is from 7 pm-9 pm and doors open at 6:45 pm. Tickets are \$5 for singles and \$8 for a couple at the door or you can buy tickets at the Senior Center in advance Monday - Friday from 8am to 2pm. Funds raised will support the many social services offered to at-risk McMinn County senior citizens, including the Senior Advocate program, which provides in-depth assistance to seniors and their caregivers in accessing vital services and resources that seniors can't access or might not know they qualify for.
- The McMinn County FCE (Family & Community Education) is hosting a **Saint Patrick's Day Party** with games, crafts, prizes and refreshments on **Monday, March 17** from 1pm - 2pm at the **McMinn Senior Activity Center** (205 McMinn Ave., Athens). Bring a friend and find out about FCE Clubs for adults of all ages.

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Friday, March 14, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **First United Presbyterian Church** will have a special missions service this **Sunday, March 16th at 10:00 AM**. Rev. Anita Paye from **Peace Baptist Church in Decatur, GA** and church consultant with **TMS Global** will be their guest preacher.
- **Englewood First Church of God** (1340 Hwy 39 E, Englewood) will be hosting a **Red Back Hymnal Singing** on **Thursday, March 20** beginning at **7:00PM**. Everyone is welcome! Call 423-263-7232 for more information.
- **The Greensons** will be singing LIVE at **Solid Rock Baptist Church** (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun) on March 23 at 10:45am.
- **Trinity Trio** will be singing at the "Bill Hollander Gospel Barn" in McDonald on Sunday, March 16 at 6:00pm.
- **Zion Hill Baptist Church** (269 County Road 516, Englewood) announces the next **Men's Prayer Breakfast** on Saturday, April 5 at the TWU Cafeteria in Athens. The Speaker will be Dr. Jeff Laborg from Fairview Knox Church and will include testimonies from Miracle Lake. Breakfast will begin at 8:00 am with the service immediately following at 9:45 am. Register Online at zhbc.com/breakfast
- **SRBC Kids presents: Kingdom Seekers** on Sunday Nights at 5:30 pm at **Solid Rock Baptist Church** (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun) This all ages event combines, God, music, games and fun into a very special All Ages event. (See ad on page 6)
- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- **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
- **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.



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Friday, March 14, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

KARM joins Athens Chamber



A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, KARM Stores, located at 921 Decatur Pike, Athens. KARM Stores are a thrift store with a mission. When you enter one of their stores, you will find a friendly staff, encouraging music, and unique secondhand treasures you can't find in big box stores. Donations are used to support the work of Knox Area Rescue Ministries. 100% of their profits go directly to provide meals, job training, life, skills, healthcare, and more. Shown here are chamber and business representatives, city and county officials, and the staff of KARM Stores.

Source: Julie Simbeck, Program Director, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast in Decatur

All veterans are invited to a [free appreciation breakfast](#) on Wednesday, March 26 at 9:00 a.m. The event will take place at 200 Smith Ave. in Decatur and is open *exclusively* to veterans from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Sponsored by the [Meigs County Historical Society](#), the breakfast aims to honor and recognize the service of local veterans. The event will also feature a **program presentation** by the Alexander Keith Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR).

This gathering provides a meaningful opportunity for veterans to connect, share experiences, and be recognized for their service.

For more information, contact the [Meigs County Historical Society](#).

Source: Mignonne Pendergrass, Member, Meigs County Historical Society

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Friday, March 14, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

Wanted Suspect Joseph Nowotnik Apprehended by U.S. Marshals



Joseph Nowotnik, previously featured in a Monroe County Sheriff's Office "Wanted Wednesday" post, has been apprehended by the U.S. Marshals Service and transported to the Monroe County Justice Center.

Monroe County Sheriff Tommy Jones expressed gratitude for the efforts of the U.S. Marshals in taking Nowotnik into custody. He also thanked the community for their continued assistance and anonymous tips that contributed to the arrest.

Nowotnik was wanted on charges stemming from a Newbill indictment, including **rape and incest**.

Source: [Tommy Jones - Facebook](#)

Meigs County has sixth-highest unemployment as rates rise across TN

Tennessee's unemployment rates rose in **87 of 95** counties in January, with *Meigs County recording the 6th highest rate at 5.8%*, according to the [Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#).

Statewide, **82 counties remained below 5%** unemployment. Williamson County had the lowest rate at **2.8%**, while Perry County reported the highest at **7.6%**.

Tennessee's overall unemployment rate stayed at **3.7%**, with the national rate at **4%**.

A complete analysis of the January 2025 county unemployment data is available [here](#).

Job seekers can access free career resources through [American Job Centers](#), and older Tennesseans can benefit from the [Senior Community Service Employment Program \(SCSEP\)](#).

The state will release February unemployment data on Thursday, March 27.

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Friday, March 14, 2025

Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn, Meigs, and Monroe MS Support Group Raises Awareness for Multiple Sclerosis

In recognition of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month, the McMinn, Meigs, and Monroe Multiple Sclerosis Support Group wants to draw attention to an unpredictable often disabling disease of the central nervous system which currently has no cure. An estimated 1 million people live with multiple sclerosis in the United States.

Symptoms vary from person to person and range from numbness and tingling to mobility challenges, blindness and paralysis. Most people are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50 and it affects women three times more than men.

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

The National MS Society, founded in 1946, funds cutting edge research, drives change through advocacy, and provides programs and services to help people affected by MS live their best lives.

Discover the many ways you can make a difference in the MS movement by visiting: www.nationalmssociety.org/Get-involved or you can email the local group at mswarriorsof-tenn@gmail.com

DENSO Athens, Maryville Recognized for Commitment to Veterans



DENSO North America in Athens, has been honored with the Tennessee Veteran Ready Business Recognition Award at the Silver Level for its outstanding efforts in recruiting, hiring, and retaining service members, veterans, and their families.

Local leaders including Athens Mayor Larry Eaton and McMinn County Mayor John Gentry, attended the award ceremony, showing their continued support for veteran employment initiatives.

Additionally, DENSO's Maryville, TN, facility received recognition at the Bronze Level for its commitment to veterans.

Businesses interested in learning more or applying for this recognition can visit www.tn.gov/veteran. Source: TN Dept. of Veterans Services

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