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Englewood crash damages fire hydrant and power pole

A Sunday afternoon crash on South Amhurst Place at Englewood Avenue resulted in damage to a fire hydrant and power pole after the driver of a 2018 Ford Expedition lost control of the vehicle.

The incident occurred around 4:30 p.m. Emergency personnel from AMR transported both the driver and a passenger to Starr Regional Hospital in Etowah for evaluation.

Multiple agencies responded to the scene, including the Englewood Police Department, Englewood Rural Fire Department, Etowah City Fire Department, Athens Utilities Board (AUB), and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. THP Trooper Andrew Metelits is leading the investigation into the accident.

No further details about the cause of the crash or the condition of those involved were immediately available.

Photo Courtesy of Shawn Emery, Englewood Police Dept.



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Tuesday, June 3, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Widespread outage in Niota over weekend



More than 600 Athens Utilities Board customers lost power Saturday morning after a tree fell and broke a utility pole in Niota. Morning Fax Today's News. This Morning.

According to AUB, crews responded quickly and worked through the morning to restore power. With assistance from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), the tree was cleared by 6:51 a.m., allowing crews to begin repairs. Power was fully restored to the affected area by 11:00 a.m. The outage is one of several storm-related incidents to hit the region in recent weeks. *Source: [AUB - Facebook](#)*

Community News You Can Use

- [WYXI Radio](#) is taking it to the streets! This Saturday at the [National MooFest](#) in Downtown Athens, come and hang out with Cousin Mark, J.P., and Stephanie as they go LIVE between 11 am - 3 pm on FM 94.5 and AM 1390 as they cover all the events happening throughout the day! They'll be talking with different vendors and hosting some of the people responsible for putting MooFest together this year. They will be right across from [Mexi-Wing](#) at the [old Shade Tree Mechanic Shop](#). Come see them under the burgundy tent! Morning Fax Today's News. This Morning.
- The McMinn County Friends of the Library will once again be hosting their Annual Book Sale from Thursday, June 19 - Sunday, June 22. Hours vary by the day, so follow their Facebook page [HERE](#) for more information and see their event page [HERE](#) for additional details.

More Community News on Page 4



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Furoshiki Night wraps up a colorful cultural experience in Athens



The Athens Isahaya Sister City Committee hosted a vibrant **Furoshiki Night** last Friday at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, offering participants a hands-on lesson in the traditional Japanese art of cloth wrapping.

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Furoshiki, the practice of using decorative fabric to wrap gifts, lunch boxes, and more, blends beauty, function, and sustainability. Attendees learned not only how to tie intricate wraps, but also about the cultural significance of colors in Japan—red for celebration, navy or black for mourning, purple as a sign of respect, and green for everyday use.

In addition to being eco-friendly and endlessly reusable, Furoshiki cloths offer a compact alternative to bulky rolls of wrapping paper and gift bags. The event was part of the committee's year-long lecture series designed to strengthen cultural ties between Athens and its sister city, Isahaya, Japan.

The final event in the series will be an **Undokai**, or Japanese sports day, held at the Athens YMCA on **July 8**. Sign-ups will be available soon via the [Athens Isahaya Sister City Committee Facebook page](#).

LISTENING REMINDER: TODAY on *Main Street Moments*: Host Maggie Blaine invites **Cynthia Webb McCowan** to discuss **Juneteenth and The Free Hill Exhibit**. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TODAY on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5. *See ad on Page 4*

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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State Grad Builds Career Through Mechatronics and Hands-On Learning



Jonathan Leffew once thought he'd pursue engineering—until he discovered mechatronics, a field that combines mechanical, electrical, and computer systems used in advanced manufacturing and industry. Leffew enrolled at Cleveland State Community College, where he joined the Advanced Technologies Institute (ATI) and began interning with McKee Foods Corporation. The opportunity, he said, allowed him to earn while learning valuable hands-on skills.

After graduating from Cleveland State, Leffew transferred to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, earning his bachelor's degree in mechatronics this May. Throughout college, he continued his internship at McKee, working in various departments from mechanical systems to reliability engineering.

Jeff Carson, Maintenance Superintendent at McKee Foods, praised the ATI program and Leffew's development, noting that the internship helps companies identify and train future employees.

Leffew now returns to Cleveland State each spring to help judge senior capstone projects, having once led a team that built an automated can crusher during his time there.

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For more information about Cleveland State's mechatronics program, email advanced_technologies@clevelandstatecc.edu or call (423) 473-2447.

Community News (Continued)

- The McMinn County Highway Department announces the following street closure: McMinn County Road 118, Densmore Rd., will be closed Wednesday, June 4th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for **road construction**.

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2025 Athens Soap Box Derby Results

The 30th annual Athens Soap Box Derby was held on Saturday, May 31 with 23 racers in 2 divisions racing their way down Keith Lane toward Akron, Ohio and a spot in the 87 th Annual All-American Soap Box Derby World Championships on July 19th. The Soap Box Derby is a youth-oriented gravity car racing program which has been running in the United States since 1934.

In the Stock Car division, drivers aged 7 to 14 race in entry level cars where the car and driver race at 200 pounds.

The 2025 Athens Stock Car Champion is Silas Millsaps. At age 7, while small in stature, Millsaps proved to be a giant on the racetrack, in his first year of racing, winning undefeated in the double elimination format. Millsaps started his day with a bye and in the second round faced Madelyn Priestwood, who had defeated Danny Womac in the first round by .083 of a second. Millsaps defeated Priestwood by .298 sending her to the elimination bracket and him against Jace Kelso in round 3. Kelso defeated Mason Cook by .473 to advance to the matchup with Millsaps. Millsaps defeated Kelso by .078 to advance to the finals of the winner's bracket where he would race Elisha Hurst. Hurst had won three races to advance to the winners bracket final defeating Cage Jackson by .414, Haleigh Johnson by .404 and Charlie McLemore, in the closest race of the day at .001. McLemore had won his previous race against Chloe Mercer by .088 to advance. Mercer had a convincing round one win by .506 against Bladen Rogers before losing to McLemore. In the finals of the winner's bracket Millsaps narrowly defeated Hurst by .159 guaranteeing him no less than second and sending her to the elimination bracket.

Over in the elimination bracket racers found themselves in sudden death races and some of the closest races of the entire day were run there. Mason Cook defeated Cage Jackson by .008, Bladen Rogers defeated Madelyn Priestwood by .339 and Chloe Mercer defeated Danny Womac by .698 ending their day of racing. In the second round of elimination Haleigh Johnson defeated Mercer by .032 and Priestwood defeated Cook by .111. In the third elimination round Kelso defeated Johnson by .140 and McLemore Priestwood by .109. The next round of elimination saw McLemore defeat Kelso by .339 giving him 4 th place and moving himself into an elimination race against Hurst, who had been waiting since losing in the Winner's bracket final against Millsaps. In another very close race, McLemore defeated Hurst by .040, giving her third place and him a shot at Millsaps for the title. In the championship race, Millsaps defeated McLemore by .303 preserving his undefeated run and claiming the trip to the World Championship.

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Stock Car Division (from left to right)
 2nd place – Charlie McLemore (JTEKT)
 1st place – Silas Millsaps (Powerade/JTEKT)
 3rd place – Elisha Hurst (A&J Body Shop)

The official order of finish for the Stock Division is:

- 1st Place Silas Millsaps
- 2nd: Charlie McLemore
- 3rd: Elisha Hurst
- 4th: Jace Kelso

Athens Soap Box Derby Coverage Continues
Super Stock on Page 7

“In 1995 we started racing with only Stock cars as the Super Stock Division had not been introduced,” said Austin Fesmire, Race Director and former Director of Parks and Recreation. “It has always been a lot of fun watching the younger division as they get their first taste of Soap Box Derby. It is amazing how the seven-year-olds handle their cars and the pressure that comes with driving. There were several former Stock drivers at the track Saturday and it was great to see them as grown-ups coming back to support the race. It was incredible that the spectators witnessed a Stock race that was won by .001 of a second. That is literally a blink of an eye. Thank goodness for electronic timing.”



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City of Athens street closures

• The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closure:

Oxnard Dr. from Eaves Street to Alton Street. This closure will be on Wednesday, June 4 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Morning Fax Today's News. This Morning.

College St. from Baxter Street to Long Street. This closure will be on Thursday, June 5 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The street will be closed to thru traffic.

Motorists are advised to use extreme caution, watch for detour and traffic control signage, pedestrians, and work crews. Motorists should allocate additional time for traffic delays when traveling in this area. *The purpose of these closures is pavement repairs.* For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

Obituaries

Michael Wayne Ratledge, 68 of Athens, passed away on Thursday, May 29. Michael was a longtime employee of Heil Trailer and Maxwell Industries. He was a Deacon of East Athens Baptist Church. The family will receive friends on Thursday, June 5 from 3 - 6 P.M. at Good Samaritan Funeral Home with a Memorial Service at 6 P.M. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Betty Faye Swafford Jarvis, 88 of Decatur, passed away on Sunday, June 1. Betty was a faithful member of the Walnut Grove Baptist Church. She was a member of the Lions Club, Order of the Eastern Star Athenian Chapter #159, and the Meigs County Fair Association. The family will receive friends from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. A Graveside Service will be held at 3 p.m. in the Walnut Grove Cemetery. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Jarvis Family.




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2025 Athens Soap Box Derby Results

In the Super Stock division drivers and cars weigh a combined 240 pounds and the cars are larger to accommodate older, bigger drivers. In this division you often find past stock champions trying to pull off the career double winning both the Stock and Super Stock championships. There were 12 cars vying for the 30th anniversary Super Stock championship and the older racers ran incredibly close races. Arliss Douglas racing out of Tullahoma was the winner, going undefeated but barely.

In round one Douglas defeated Trinity Bevers by .555 advancing to round two where he raced and beat Matthew Davis by .487 to move to round three. Douglas then raced past Stock champ Zachery Newman who he beat by .433. This sent Douglas to the winners bracket final against Blair Hurst. Hurst arrived at the finals by defeating Cam Witt in round one



Super Stock Division (from left to right)
 2nd place – Raylen Hembree (JTEKT/A&J Body Shop)
 1st place – Arliss Douglass (Citizens Tri-County Bank)
 3rd place – Blair Hurst (A&J Body Shop/Elks Lodge)

“In the Super Stock Division, spectators were treated to one of the closest championship runs I have seen with Raylen and Arliss. Soap Box Derby is all about equality and their cars were a perfect example of how that works. People were literally holding their breath before the announcement of the winner as there was no way to tell until then.” - Austin Fesmire

by a tight .057, Serenity Veals in round two by .268 and Raylen Hembree in round three by .260. In the winner’s bracket final Douglas defeated Hurst by .419 dispatching Hurst to the elimination bracket.

Other action in round one saw 2024 Stock champion Titus Millsaps defeating Colin Grooms by .431, and Newman defeating Levi Brewster by .373. In the elimination bracket some of the best racing of the day occurred as drivers tried to keep their hopes for a championship alive. In

round two of the elimination bracket Cam Witt defeated Colin Grooms by .783 and Titus Millsaps defeated Levi Brewster by .700 to advance. In the next round of elimination Hembree defeated Witt by .576 and Millsaps defeated Newman by .490. Hembree then began a march to the championship run by defeating Millsaps by .402 and Hurst by .520, setting a crowd-pleasing championship with what appeared to be the best two cars, and they were not disappointed. Douglas and Hembree raced wheel to wheel to an exciting .021 championship run, won by Douglas.

The official order of finish for the Super Stock Division is:

- 1st Place Arliss Douglas
- 2 nd Place Raylen Hembree
- 3 rd Place Blair Hurst
- 4th Place Titus Millsaps

Written by: Austin Fesmire

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