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Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Truck Crashes Into Power Pole on County Road 321



Emergency crews responded Saturday evening to a single-vehicle crash on County Road 321 near County Road 327 after a 2021 Ford F-150 struck a power pole and came to rest in a gully.

When first responders arrived, no one was found at the scene. The driver later returned and told authorities he was not injured.

Niota, North McMinn, and Athens Rural Fire Departments responded, along with Sgt. Harrison of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, who is leading the investigation.

Photo by David Prater, Niota Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- E.G. Fisher Public Library would like to announce that the Noon Book Club will meet today at noon with Special Guest Speaker Shane Coleman. They will be discussing the books "Into the Wild" by Jon Krakauer and "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson.
- Construction crews will be paving the asphalt road surface on Mount Verd Road from Clearwater Road to Athens City Limits, and doing concrete repairs on Forrest Avenue from Ingleside Avenue to Madison Avenue from Wednesday, December 10 until Friday, December 12 from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. each day.
- Athens Utilities Board office will be closed on Wednesday (today) from 11:30-12:30 for their annual Christmas luncheon. They can still be reached for any utility emergencies at 423-745-3131.

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Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

TWU Celebrates Sam Goodin



This month, Athens native Sam Goodin will graduate from Tennessee Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a focus in Industrial Management. His academic success is remarkable, but it is his perseverance through profound adversity that has made a lasting impact on the TWU community. Sam, the son of Chad and Amy Goodin and brother to Katie and Jack, also credits his longtime girlfriend, Addison Smith, as an essential source of strength.

A 2022 McMinn County High School graduate, Sam excelled as a student-athlete in football, cross-country, and baseball, earning All-District Honors and helping lead his team to its first-ever state appearance. He also devoted more than 800 service hours through mission work, local charities, and summer programs. At 15, he launched Goodin Brothers Firewood, serving over 100 customers.

Sam grew up dreaming of playing college baseball, a dream briefly realized before life changed course. During his first year at TWU, he was diagnosed with Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor, a rare and aggressive cancer. For three years, he endured chemotherapy, radiation, and major surgeries while continuing his studies.

On December 12th, Sam will graduate as a symbol of hope and resilience. Now a Project Estimator at Erosion Solutions, he continues to inspire all who know him.

For the complete story, visit <https://www.tnwesleyan.edu/tennessee-wesleyan-university-celebrates-graduate-sam-goodin-a-story-of-perseverance-purpose-and-unbreakable-spirit/>

NOTE: Sam Goodin and his brother Jack were the Grand Marshals of the Jimmy Liner Christmas Parade held Monday night. See Page 5 for more.

Jimmy Liner Memorial Christmas Parade Float Winners

Business / Industrial:

1. Athens Utility Board
2. Dooley Tractor
3. Friendly City Garage Door

Civic clubs / Organizations / Schools:

1. Cub Scout Pack #177
2. American Heritage Girls & Trail Life Troops
3. Cub Scout Pack #616

Churches:

1. Woodward Avenue Church
2. Lighthouse Church International
3. New Zion Baptist Church

See PHOTOS on PAGE 5

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Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

12-08-25

Brittany Wood, 31 of Crossville, charged with state violation and probation in Blount County.

Holly Hunnia, 36 of Manchester, charged with state violation of probation for Meigs County.

Thomas Little, 54 of Athens, charged with domestic assault. Bond \$1,000.

Rebecca Wade, 42 of Etowah, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, simple possession of schedule 2 fentanyl for resale, casual exchange and possession of meth for resale, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$33,000.

Ian Walker, 22 of Athens, charged with domestic assault by intimidation. Bond \$1,000.

Jeremiah Biaz, 26 of Athens charged with violation of probation for driving on a suspended license. Bond \$1,100.

Antonio Massingale, 40 of Parrottsville, charged with drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana for resale.

Carlos Gates, 39 of McDonald, Tennessee, charged with DUI. Bond \$2,000.

Andrew Green, 34 of Rutland, Vermont, charged with public intoxication and resisting stop.

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using Public Sources.**

The Friendly Fellow Club has been providing food boxes at Christmas to families in need in McMinn County for nearly 90 years. The boxes contain enough food staples to help families through the winter. Because of a larger than normal number of applications for food boxes, the Friendly Fellow Club is seeking additional donations to ensure it can continue to meet needs this year.

Friendly Fellow Club is a 501(c)(3) organization. Not only are the donations tax-deductible, but because FFC operates under an all-volunteer board, 100 percent of all donations—every single penny—goes to help families in Athens and McMinn County. As always, only families residing within McMinn County are eligible for assistance, meaning your donations stay right here at home.

Online donations via credit/debit card or PayPal can be made by visiting friendlyfellows.org. Donations can also be mailed to P.O. Box 325, Athens, TN 37371-0325 or dropped off at The Daily Post-Athenian offices in Athens. Make checks payable to Friendly Fellow Club. Donations in honor or memory of a loved one are always a special tribute and are most welcome. Donors using the online payment portal can add an honorarium/memorial by including that information in the "Add Note" section of the donation portal.

Boxes will be packed and distributed at the National Guard Armory, located between Athens and Etowah off Highway 30. Boxes will be packaged on Monday, December 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. They will be distributed to members of eligible households at the same location on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. As always, community members are welcome and encouraged to come to the armory and aid with the packing.

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Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Samuel Lee (Big Sam) Black, Sr. 78 of Athens, passed away Friday, December 4 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and loved old cars and guitars. Family and friends will gather at 10:00 am for a graveside service at 11:00 am on Wednesday, December 10 (today) at McMinn Memory Gardens. The family received friends at Smith Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 9. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Samuel Lee Black, Sr.

Lukie Larry Broglin, affectionately known as Larry, 78 of Sweetwater, passed away on Wednesday, November 26 at home surrounded by loved ones. Larry enjoyed participating in the Senior Olympics, playing a game of bean bag toss or horseshoes and going fishing. There will be a graveside service with Military Honors on Friday December 19 @ 11:00 a.m. at Sweetwater Valley Memorial Park located in Sweetwater, TN. The family welcomes anyone who would like to attend to please do so. Companion Funeral Home of Athens, TN and the Cody Family are honored to assist the family with Larry's final Arrangements.

J.L. (Jay) Jones, 94 of Athens, passed away on Saturday, December 6. He was an Army veteran, lifelong educator, coach and hack golfer. A family graveside will be held on Sunday, December 21, at Cedar Grove cemetery in Athens. Arrangements are being handled by Laycock Hobbs Funeral Home.


Danny Lee Fagg, 76 of Riceville, passed away on Saturday, December 6 at Starr Regional Health and Rehab in Etowah. He was a former employee of Plastics Industries having retired after 47 years of service. Funeral services will be 7:00 PM Wednesday, December 10, in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM Thursday, December 11, 2025 at McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 4-7 PM Wednesday, December 10, 2025 prior to the service at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.


Wanda J. Allison, of Athens, passed away at her home on Sunday, December 7. She was employed at Keebler Baking Company for 30 years. Funeral services were held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 9 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family received friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at Four Mile Cemetery in Blount County on Wednesday, December 10 for the 11:00 a.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Billy Ray Swafford, 92 of Englewood, passed away on Sunday, December 7. He was a member of Dixon Avenue Baptist Church. Bill served in the United States Army in the Korean War. A graveside service will be held on Friday, December 12, at 4 p.m. at Cochran Cemetery in Englewood with Military Honors presented by the US Army. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody Family are honored to assist the family during this time.

Obituaries Continued on Page 5

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Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

John Barrett, 71 of Athens, passed away on Sunday, November 30. John spent two years running track and three years cross country during high school. He celebrated nearly 12 years of sobriety and had an amazing group of AA friends and family. Visitation will be held from 5:00-7:00, Friday, December 12th, at Good Samaritan Funeral Home. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Teresa Kay (Henry) Neusel, 56 of Meigs County, passed away on Sunday, December 7. To know Teresa was to know the soft heart of a hardened warrior. She loved deeply, and her soul was pure. She could have nothing and still find something to give to anyone in need. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2025 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 12 - 2 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Neusel family.

Mary Sue Shelton Harris, 72 of Athens, passed away on Monday, December 8 at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. She was a secretary for Independent Construction, was of the Baptist Faith and was a member of The Home Owners Association. Funeral services will be 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, December 16 in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will follow in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 11:00-1:00 P.M. Tuesday at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Ronald "Ronnie" Earl Gaynor, 85 of Ten Mile, passed away on Tuesday, December 9. He cherished his time spent in nature, particularly fishing and camping. Ronnie was a fervent reader and had a deep appreciation for history, often visiting the Meigs-Decatur Library for knowledge and inspiration. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Gaynor family.

Grace Martin Trew, 97 of Englewood, slipped peacefully into the arms of her Lord on Monday, December 8. Grace spent her entire life in the community she loved, surrounded by family, friends, and the familiar hills she called home. Grace devoted 40 wonderful years to teaching, pouring her heart into every child who entered her classroom. She loved deeply and unconditionally, and her gentle presence made every gathering warmer. Grace was also a talented artist, finding peace and delight in drawing and painting. Books were her constant companions, offering her endless worlds to explore. Funeral services will be held at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 14 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home.. The family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at McMinn Memory Gardens on Monday, December 15th for the 2:00 p.m. burial. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.



Top left photo shows Chris Liner on the left. Chris is the Athens Jimmy Liner Memorial Christmas Parade organizer and is the nephew of the late Jimmy Liner, founder of the Athens City Christmas Parade. To his right are Parade Grand Marshals Sam Goodin (middle) and his brother Jack Goodin.

Holding the banner is Scout Troop 118 from Keith Church which led the Christmas Parade.



Two of the winning floats in Monday night's parade were AUB at top and Dooley Tractor to the right.

Photos courtesy of Chris Liner, AUB and Facebook.

