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Thursday, July 10, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Mobile Home Debris Fire Spreads in Calhoun, Prompting Multi-Agency Response



A controlled burn on County Road 750 got out of hand Monday afternoon, drawing a response from multiple fire departments and law enforcement agencies.

Around 1 p.m., the occupant of the property was burning debris from a dismantled mobile home when the fire spread beyond control. Crews from Claxton Fire Department, Calhoun Fire Department, and Etowah Rural Fire Department responded to the scene. Claxton firefighter Dexter Key served as incident commander, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department also assisted.

Fire officials quickly brought the fire under control, preventing further damage. They also issued a reminder to the public that burning construction materials or remnants—including mobile home debris—is illegal under EPA regulations.

Photos courtesy of Etowah Rural Fire Department.

◆ Today on *Hope From the Well*, Julie Tillis invites Connie McIntosh back to the program to discuss *"The Excellent Woman."* *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum



Upcoming July Events

HISTORY FOR LUNCH
History of the American Revolution Part 1
with Brett King
Saturday, July 12th @ 11 am
Free Admission



HERITAGE SCHOOL:
Tragedy in Tin Can Holler book discussion
hosted by Veronica McCoy
Sat., July 5th @ 11am \$5 or free with membership
Plantain Salve Making Class with Christina Debusk
Sat., July 26th @ 11am \$5 or free with membership

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:
Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
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More Information

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

Athens, Tennessee

Leadership McMinn Applications Available



Applications for Leadership McMinn's Class of 2025-2026 are currently available. The program, sponsored by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, is a great way to learn about our wonderful community and make personal and business contacts that will last a lifetime. More than 600 people have graduated from Leadership McMinn since the program's inception in 1988.

The picture is last year's graduation class at The Lost Sea in June for a graduation celebration. Anyone interested in applying can contact the chamber at 423-745-0334 or email: Julie@athenschamber.org. You can also pick up an application at the Chamber office.

Community News You Can Use

- The Etowah Senior Center is having an Old-Fashioned Sock Hop this Friday night, July 11 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Music is provided by The Right Mix. Donations will be accepted at the door. The center is located at 435 Cooper St in Etowah.
- The Good Faith Clinic will be open **TODAY**, Thursday, July 10 at 3 p.m. for refills and at 3:30 p.m. for doctor visits. The Good Faith Clinic is free primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, ages of 18-64, who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic meets on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 S. Congress Parkway in Athens. *REMINDER: The Good Faith Clinic is open the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, **Thursdays** of each month.*
- The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.
- The Athens City Schools Board of Education will meet on Monday, July 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the ACS Administration Building. A draft agenda can be viewed on the Athens City Schools website.

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Thursday, July 10, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Battle of Athens Festival returns to The Friendly City

The Battle of Athens Festival Committee is excited to announce the 5th annual Battle of Athens Festival! The event will take place on Saturday August 2, 2024 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM at Market Park in Athens.

The emphasis of this year's festival is the Downtown Walking Tour, which will be offered four times. The first two tours will be at 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM (Beat the Heat) and again at 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM (Sunset Tours). The tours will include photographs of the buildings and landmarks as they once appeared and the people involved in this amazing story. A new stop has been added to this year's tour!

The festival will feature displays with photos and information about the Battle, including the individuals involved, the issues of the campaign, and the back-story that led to the conflict. Memorabilia, artifacts, primary source materials, and resources that give multiple perspectives on the Battle will be included. Descendants of Battle participants will be among the guest speakers. Two large HD television screens will display a slideshow of photographs, various newspaper headlines, and more. A sound system will play audio interviews of Battle participants, as well as audio from the Battle itself, including the gunshots as broadcast live by local radio stations. Local historians will host a Q&A session.

Food trucks and historical/educational/cultural vendors will not be present at this year's festival, but plans are being made for their return next year, when we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Battle. However, the organizers will still be selling festival t-shirts and have a door prize drawing. Also, bottled water will be available at a very cheap price!

The festival committee invites all individuals and families to join the celebration and learn more about the Battle of Athens. The committee hopes that everyone who attends the festival will develop a passion for local history as they commemorate the most important event in McMinn County's history.

Source: *The Battle of Athens Festival Committee*

4th Annual Golf Tournament

August 4th, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Jeffrey "Jeff" Alan Withrow, 60 of Athens, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, July 8. Jeff was a graduate of McMinn County High School, went on to graduate from Donelson Police Academy. He then continued to serve his community as a deputy for McMinn County Sheriff's Department, working under Sheriff D.T. Nation and Sheriff Steve Frisbee. Later, he went to the Athens Fire Department as an engineer and was a member of the McMinn County Rescue Squad. He went to join a team as a Director of Maintenance with Life Care Center of Ooltewah. Visitation will be held on Friday, July 11, 2025, from 5:00-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home with a funeral service to follow at 7:00 PM. Grave-side services will be held on Saturday, July 12 at 11:00 AM at Sullins Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Alan Withrow.

Today in History

1890 - Wyoming was admitted into the Union as the 44th state.

1907 - The famous Grandview Hotel in Athens was struck by lightning and burned. The hotel was nicknamed the "Red Elephant." It was located near North Jackson Street and Woodward Avenue.

1925 - The John T. Scopes "Monkey Trial" opened in Dayton, TN. Scopes was a teacher who was charged with teaching evolution. He was defended by lawyer Clarence Darrow. Williams Jennings Bryan was a witness for the prosecution. Scopes was found guilty and fined \$100.

1930 - France beat Mexico 4-1 in the first match of soccer's inaugural World Cup tournament in Montevideo, Uruguay.

1933 - Jerry Herman, composer of "Hello Dolly," was born.

1960 - John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Los Angeles.

1991 - After 1,000 years, the Russian people were finally permitted to elect a president. Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office this day, after he had resoundingly defeated the Communist Party candidate.



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