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**Wednesday, July 30, 2025**

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**Athens, Tennessee**

## McMinn County Man Arrested After Allegedly Firing at Sheriff's Deputy



A McMinn County man is behind bars after allegedly firing a handgun at a sheriff's deputy during a confrontation Monday evening.

According to Sheriff Joe Guy, the incident occurred around 8 p.m. on July 28 after Corporal Nathan Stiles was approached by a concerned citizen at the Dollar General in Riceville. The individual reported that **Stephen R. Goins**, 44, was acting erratically and firing a gun outside his home on Highway 11 South. When Corporal Stiles arrived at the residence, he spotted Goins standing near a maroon Chevrolet Tahoe in the driveway.

"Corporal Stiles identified himself multiple times as a deputy with the Sheriff's Office," said Sheriff Guy. "Despite that, Goins pointed a silver revolver at him and fired."

Stiles returned fire in self-defense and took cover as Goins retreated into the residence. A brief standoff followed, with additional deputies and Sgt. Caleb Latham arriving on scene. Goins was ultimately taken into custody without further incident.

He remains held at the McMinn County Justice Center and faces multiple charges, including Attempted First Degree Murder, Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Dangerous Felony, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Resisting Arrest. Sheriff Guy praised his officers' quick response and restraint.

"This is yet another example of the dangers our officers face every day," Guy said. "We're fortunate no one was hurt, but let this be clear: if you shoot at one of our deputies, we will shoot back." *Source: Press Release - McMinn Co. Sheriff Joe Guy*

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**Wednesday, July 30, 2025**

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**Athens, Tennessee**

## Athens City Council to Hold Special Session Tomorrow

The Athens City Council will convene a special session on **Thursday, July 31, at 5:30 p.m. in the Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers at the Athens Municipal Building.**

The agenda includes a public hearing and possible action on a certificate of compliance for a proposed retail package store at 312 Congress Parkway South.

Council members will also consider updates to Article V (City Council) and Article XX (Department of Education) of the Athens City Charter. Proposed amendments to Title 13-III of the Athens City Code, which addresses dilapidated and unfit structures, will also be discussed.

As with all meetings, the session will begin with an invocation, pledge of allegiance, roll call, and an opportunity for public comments related to agenda items.

◆ Tomorrow on *Hope From the Well*, host **Julie Tillis** invites Robin Nation to the program to discuss "Scripture Memorization." *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

## Early Morning Fire Damages Etowah Home



Firefighters responded to a structure fire early Monday morning on Washington Avenue in Etowah after flames broke out in an exterior kitchen area, spreading into the home.

The Etowah City Fire Department was dispatched around 1:30 a.m. and requested mutual aid. Crews arrived to find fire extending from the exterior wall into an interior bathroom. The homeowner reported seeing a glow through a window before safely evacuating the household. No injuries were reported.

Firefighters quickly brought the blaze under control with assistance from Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, Etowah City Police, AMR, and EUB. Etowah City Fire Chief Adam Hafley was in command at the scene. *Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

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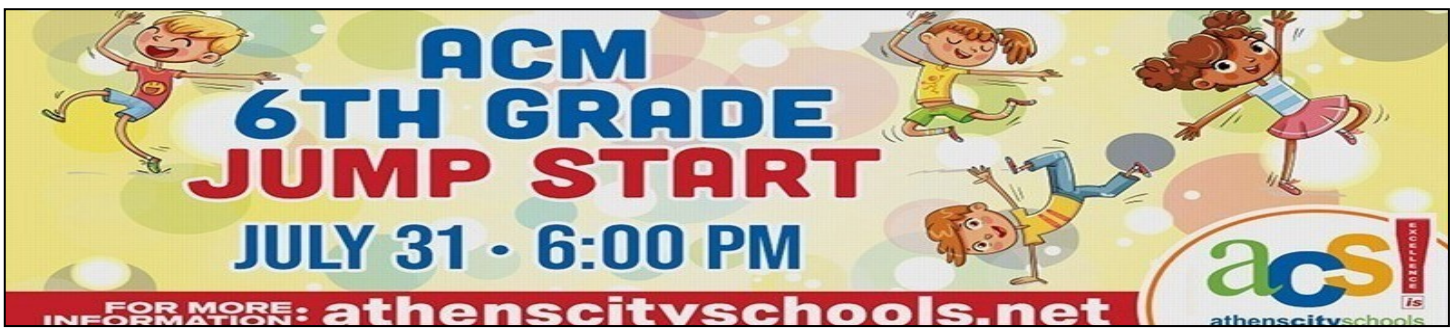
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Wednesday, July 30, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Music City Loop Proposed for Nashville, Promises Innovation—But Raises Big Questions



Governor Bill Lee announced Monday that The Boring Company, founded by Elon Musk, plans to build the **Music City Loop** in Nashville—an underground, all-electric transportation system linking downtown to the airport in just eight minutes. The project, touted as a privately funded leap forward for infrastructure, will begin its public planning process immediately, with hopes to break ground in the near future and open the first segment by Fall 2026. Promoted as a **zero-emissions, congestion-reducing system**, the 10-mile loop will operate beneath state roads without costing taxpayers a dime. State and local officials, along with business leaders, praised the move as a visionary example of public-private partnership. *Source: [TN Governor's Office](#)*



However, while the proposal has drawn applause for its **innovation and funding model**, it also carries a number of **well-documented criticisms** based on The Boring Company's Vegas Loop project.

### Capacity and Efficiency Concerns:

In cities like Las Vegas, where the company's Loop system is already running, critics argue the system functions more like a Tesla-powered novelty than true public transit. Unlike buses or trains, the system currently uses individual Tesla vehicles—often with human drivers—limiting capacity and raising questions about congestion and bottlenecks *inside* the tunnels themselves.

*Source: [Vice](#)*

Despite the criticism, the Music City Loop continues to move forward, with strong political and industry support. Whether it becomes a **trailblazing model for urban mobility** or a high-profile misstep remains to be seen. Public input and planning will play a crucial role as the project develops. *Photos Courtesy of The Boring Company*

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Karen Hutsell Sullivan**, 58 of Athens, passed away on Monday, July 28 at her home. She was a member of Clear Water Baptist Church. She was a graduate of McMinn County High School and was associated with the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce as the Membership Services Director. A memorial service will be conducted 7:00 pm, Thursday, July 31 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. The family will receive friends Thursday from 5:00-7:00 pm at the funeral home prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Karen Hutsell Sullivan.

**Carolyn Dean Whaley Burris**, 83 of Calhoun, passed away on Monday, July 28. She retired from Citizens National Bank with over 50 years of service as a loan officer and vice-president. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 31 at Meadow Fork Cemetery. The family would like to offer special thanks to the staff of NHC for the love and care they have shown to Carolyn. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Carolyn Dean Whaley Burris.

**Lisa Ann Hillebrand**, 53 of Athens, has passed away. She leaves behind a husband and two children. Lisa could walk into any room or situation and make everyone light up and smile, earning her the nickname "Sunshine". There will be no formal services at this time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Lisa Ann Hillebrand.

**Kimberly Moore**, 52, of Athens, passed away, Monday, July 28, 2025. Kimberly enjoyed being a nurse and helping people. She loved her family and her fur dog Rya dearly. Kimberly was an amazing Nana, her grandchildren were her whole world. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 31, 2025, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home with Dr. Vant Hardaway officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday prior to the service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

**We encourage you to e-mail results from local school sporting events for use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: [wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)**

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