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Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Volunteers Collect Over 100 Pounds of Litter at EG Fisher Cleanup



Volunteers came together this past Saturday for a clean-up event at EG Fisher, organized by UT-Extension McMinn. Their hard work paid off, as they successfully collected over 100 pounds of litter, making a significant impact on the local environment.

Participants in the event included (left to right) Sara Smith (Litter Grant Education Coordinator), Brenleigh Smith, Kenzlei Plumley, Whitley Smith, Linda Dewitt, Angela Coleman, Teresa Littleton, and Yvonne Langjahr. Gail Sandjo also contributed but was not pictured.

This initiative highlights the dedication of local volunteers to Keep McMinn Beautiful.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Board of Education will have a Called Meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 5:30 pm. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.
- Starr Regional Medical Center's free Lunch & Learn on March 26 at 12 pm will cover diet and exercise. It will feature Jackie Berry, MS, RD, LDN. Pre-register at StarrRegional.com/event/108.

LISTENING REMINDER: TODAY on *Main Street Moments*: Host Sandra Kinney invites Maggie Aird to talk about the Food Hub opening happening this **Thursday**. The MSM broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TODAY on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

UT-Extension McMinn (located at 2345 Denso Drive, Athens) serves the citizens of McMinn County with educational programs in the areas of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, Community Resource Development, and 4-H Youth Development. They are an outreach branch of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, providing research-based solutions and information to the citizens of Tennessee.
Source: Sara Smith, Litter Grant Education Coordinator

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Obituaries

Tractor Destroyed in Fire on Co Rd 616

Jackie Allen Coleman, 87 of Etowah, passed away at his home on Sunday morning, March 23. Jackie retired from Webb Plumbing and Heating after many years of service. Funeral service will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 25 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday prior to the service, Family and friends will assemble at Conasauga Cemetery Wednesday, March 26th for the 11:00 a.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.



A 2010 New Holland 8030 tractor was completely destroyed in a fire Saturday evening while plowing a field on County Road 616 in Athens. The farmer operating the equipment noticed flames underneath the cab just before 5 p.m. The tractor was pulling a Great Plains Turbo Till, which was partially damaged in the fire.

Alfred Bertram Cate, Jr., 86 of Athens, passed away on Friday, March 21. He graduated from Memphis State with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master's in Latin America. Al served in the United States Army in the Vietnam War. A celebration of life will be held at Smith Funeral Home in Athens at 1:00 pm, on Thursday, March 27. There will be a visitation from 12:00-1:00 pm prior to the service.. Burial will follow in Sullins Cemetery in Athens immediately following the service. Smith Funeral and Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Alfred Bertram Cate, Jr.

Multiple fire departments responded to the scene, including Claxton Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and Athens Rural Fire, with Claxton Fire Chief Mike Stewart in command.

No injuries were reported, but the loss of equipment serves as a stark reminder of the risks farmers face while working in the field. *Photo Courtesy of Etowah Rural Fire Department*

More Obituaries on Page 5

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TUNE IN ON 94.5FM AND 1390AM
WEEKDAY MORNINGS
8:30 - 9:30

Charleston Beer Board Officials Indicted on Multiple Charges



The president and secretary of the Charleston Beer Board are facing multiple charges following a grand jury indictment in Bradley County.

The indictment, filed last Friday, names Beer Board President Stanton (Andy) Scoggins and Beer Board Secretary Jaime Scoggins, who are married to each other.

Jaime Scoggins has been charged with theft of property, three counts of false reports, and tampering with evidence, while Stanton Scoggins faces charges of theft of property and false report.

In addition to their Beer Board roles, Jaime Scoggins serves as the president of the Hiwassee Outreach Program, a nonprofit providing goods and services to those in need. Stanton Scoggins is listed as the secretary of the organization on its website. Authorities have not yet released further details regarding the investigation.

Source: [WTVC NewsChannel9](http://WTVCNewsChannel9.com)

Brush fire burns five acres in Etowah



A Sunday afternoon fire on County Road 625 spread quickly after strong winds carried embers from a burning pile of cardboard boxes, igniting nearby woodland.

The Tennessee Division of Forestry reported that approximately five acres burned, extending onto a neighboring property. Fortunately, no structures were damaged.

Fire crews from Etowah City Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and Englewood Rural Fire responded to the scene, with Etowah Rural Deputy Chief Dustin Ruebush leading the efforts to contain the blaze. Authorities remind residents to be cautious when burning outdoors, especially in windy conditions.

Photo Courtesy of Etowah Rural Firefighter, Karley Stewart

Meigs County Democratic Party to Elect New Leaders at Reorganization Convention

All County Democrats Welcome

Decatur, TN -- The Meigs County Democratic Party will hold a Reorganization Convention to elect new leaders on Saturday, March 29th. The meeting will take place at the Meigs County Courthouse, Decatur. Doors open for registration at 12:00 p.m., convention start time is 1:00 p.m.

All Democrats who are registered voters of Meigs County are urged to attend. During the Convention the voting delegation will adopt County Party bylaws and elect new leadership. Local Democrats will elect a Chair, Vice Chair(s), Secretary, Treasurer and the Executive Committee members from all areas of the county for a two-year term.

The County Party Reorganization Convention welcomes all Meigs County Democrats and independent voters. Attendees should arrive early to complete credentialing forms and be admitted to the convention prior to 1:00 p.m. when the meeting will begin.

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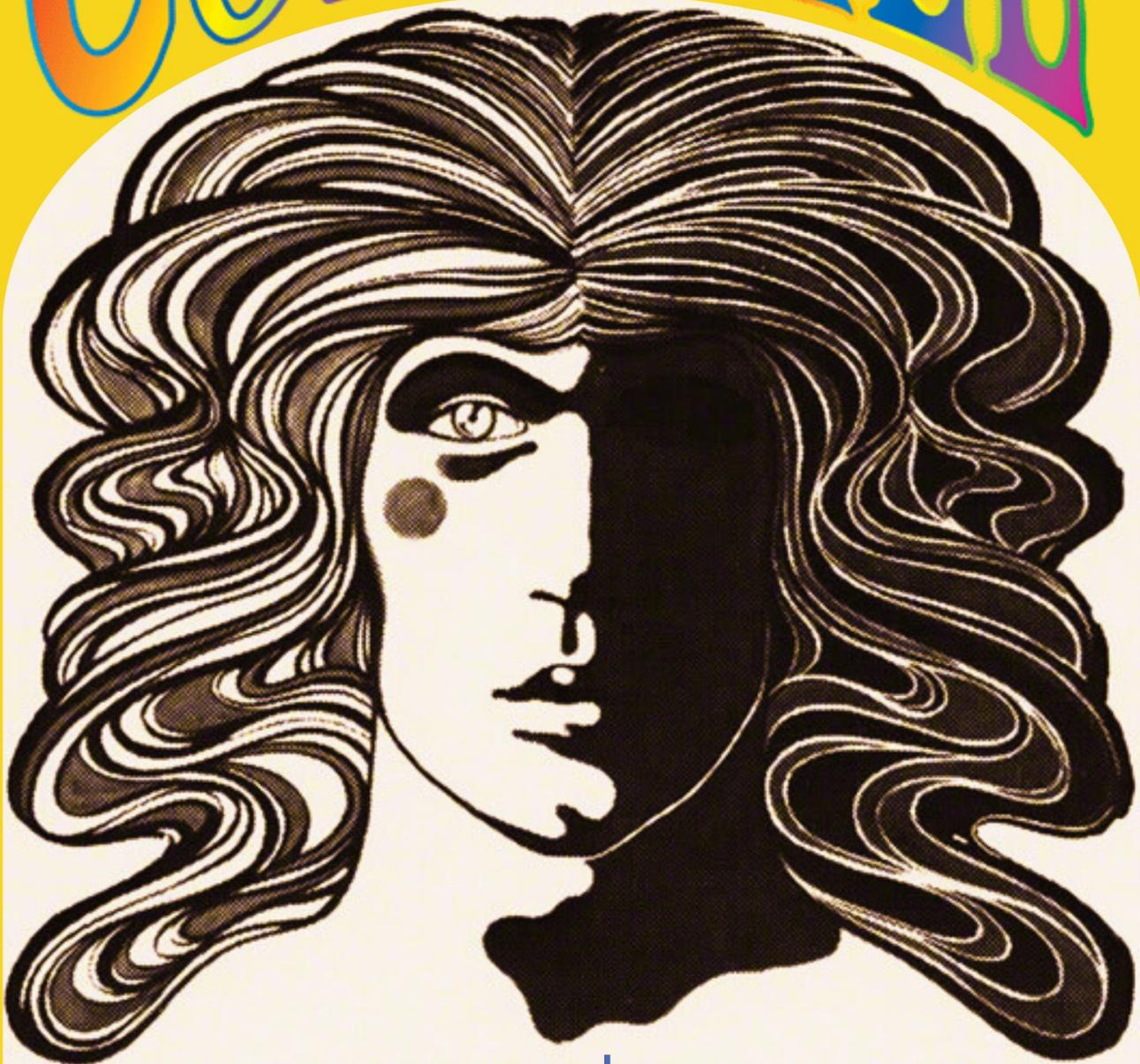
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Tuesday, March 25, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Jessie Lou Calhoun Plemons, 90 of Athens, passed away Saturday, March 22 at her home. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Tennessee Wesleyan College. She was a member of McMahan Calvary Baptist Church. A funeral service will be conducted 1:00 pm, Friday, March 28, 2025 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. Interment will follow at McMinn Memory Gardens where she will be laid to rest beside her husband. The family will receive friends 11:00am-1:00pm, Friday at the funeral home before the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Jessie L. Calhoun Plemons.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: send it to: wyxiradio@gmail.com

Athens Chamber announces new mural project



The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce has announced a new mural which will be on the chamber building facing Washington Avenue in downtown Athens. The mural will help commemorate President Ronald Reagan's visit to Athens on September 24, 1985. The Leadership McMinn class has decided to make the mural their class project. The mural will be painted in late April. Those wanting to support the project can bring or mail their donations to the chamber at [13 North Jackson Street](#) in downtown Athens. Donors contributing \$500 or more will be recognized at the unveiling and their names will be listed on the plaque to be displayed on the mural.

Source: Rob Preston, Athens Chamber CEO



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Brush fire burns three acres in Sweetwater



A Sunday afternoon brush fire on County Road 357 quickly got out of control, burning approximately three acres before being contained by multiple fire agencies.

Firefighters from Niota Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Riceville Rural Fire, North McMinn Fire, Clearwater Fire, Hillsview Fire, and Athens City Fire, along with the TN Division of Forestry, worked together to battle the blaze.

Niota Rural Fire Training Officer Chad Gates was in command of the scene, and Athens City Fire Battalion Chief Jonathan Parrott provided aerial support using a drone to assist with containment efforts.

Officials urge residents to exercise caution when burning outdoors, as dry conditions and wind can cause fires to spread rapidly. *Photo Courtesy of Englewood Rural Fire Dept.*

TWU dedicates new tennis center



Tennessee Wesleyan University recently dedicated the Ben and Cynthia Wilson Tennis Center – named in honor of two individuals whose names are synonymous with tennis in our community. The building recognizes and celebrates their decades of support to the sport, youth, and TWU. Completely funded by donor gifts, the building houses locker rooms for the men's and women's program, as well as restrooms and a storage area. Both programs are consistently ranked in the top ten of the NAIA national rankings. *Source: Blake McCaslin, TWU*

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