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Today's News...This Morning

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Thursday, March 27, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

No Burning: Athens Burn Ban Continues



The [City of Athens](#) has issued a [ban on all outdoor burning until further notice](#) due to increased fire risks. The decision follows a combination of **dry atmospheric conditions and low fuel moisture levels**, which have significantly heightened the likelihood of wildfires across the region.

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Authorities emphasize that no burning permits will be issued at this time, as wildfire conditions remain favorable across Tennessee. Residents are urged to comply with the ban to prevent potential fire hazards.

For more info, contact the **Athens Fire Department** at 423-744-2789 or via email at fireadmin@athensn.gov. McMinn County residents can also call 423-263-7181 for additional updates.

Graphic Source: [Local 3 News](#)

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Board of Education will have a Workshop on Tuesday, April 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence. The Shpigler Group will be giving a presentation.

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- The City of Athens along with Medic Regional Blood Center will be hosting a blood drive. This will be Friday April 4th from 10:00-4:00 in the Athens City council chambers at City Hall. Donors get a pair of MEDIC socks, a Mayfield Dairy treat, Texas Roadhouse coupon and will be entered to win a pair of One Knox 5-game match masses. Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment.
- The Good Faith Clinic will be open TODAY, Thursday, March 27 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 now open the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, Thursdays of each month.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Events

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH @ NOON
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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
Students: \$3.00

More Information

522 W Madison Ave.

Athens, TN 37303

423-745-0329

www.livingheritagemuseum.org

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday - Mostly Sunny. High 69.

Thurs. Night - Partly Cloudy.
Low 49

Friday - Mostly Cloudy. High 80.

Fri. Night - Mostly Cloudy. Low 56.

More Weather at: wvxi.com

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Kym Renee Cameron Goins, 66 of Cleveland, passed away on Thursday, March 20. She enjoyed gathering with her family and considered it a source of great joy. Some of her hobbies included reading, traveling, listening to music, writing (especially poetry), playing the piano, knitting, and photography. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

TODAY IS:

- **National Joe Day**
- **National Scribble Day**
- **National Spanish Paella Day**

TVFCU Announces Key Leadership Promotions



Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union (TVFCU) has announced two key leadership

promotions, effective Jan. 1. Kathy Hall has been promoted to the role of branch director, and Jason Waller will take on the position of director of training. These advancements recognize both individuals exceptional contributions, longstanding dedication and leadership within the organization. Also, TVFCU's Jessica Parrish, mortgage loan originator, has been named the 2025 president of the Chattanooga Mortgage Bankers Association (CMBA). Jessica's appointment marks an exciting achievement in her career and reflects her strong leadership within the local mortgage industry.

Source: Gaby Mejia, TVFCU Community Engagement Intern



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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State Grand Opening: George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Cleveland State Community College recently celebrated the Grand Opening of the new George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation on the Cleveland State main campus. With a donation from the George R. Johnson Family Foundation, the George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation was created to encourage and support entrepreneurial learning among students, alumni, faculty and the community. The Center will connect current and future entrepreneurs with the resources needed to create, launch, and grow business. The Center can be reserved and includes a private workspace, a **Morning Fax®** podcast booth and a conference area for collaboration or training.

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Participating in the ribbon cutting are (left to right) Dr. Andy White, CSCC President; Dr. John Squires, CSCC Vice President of Economic and Institutional Development; Julia Johnson Scoggins, Mark Johnson, and Beverly Johnson with the George R. Johnson Family Foundation; Mike Griffin, CSCC Board of Trustees; Sandra Godsey, CSCC Dean of Business and Healthcare; and Dr. Corey Campbell, CSCC Vice President of Academic Affairs.



Beverly Johnson (right) with the George R. Johnson Family Foundation provides remarks at the opening. Dr. Andy White, CSCC President (center) and Mike Griffin, CSCC Board of Trustees (left), listen to the presentation.

Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC Public and Media Relations Manager

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Athens, Tennessee

Father charged after several children found in U-Haul on I-75 living in poor conditions



A Nevada father is facing charges after East Ridge Police found 7 children in a U-Haul on I-75 Tuesday, 5 of which were in the back storage compartment. Police says the man and his children were living out of the U-Haul. East Ridge Police responded to the area after receiving a report of children being loaded into the back of a U-Haul. An immediate search by several ERPD officers led to the U-Haul being found on I-75 North Bound.

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A traffic stop was conducted at the I-75 off ramp, exit 3A. Police found 7 juvenile females in the U-Haul (2 in the front cab, and 5 in the back storage compartment of the box truck). The East Ridge Police Department interviewed the driver and verified that he had custody of the children.

Police say these verifications took some time and involved reviewing documents from courts outside Tennessee, contacting family members in California and Georgia, and contacting the TBI and FBI. The driver, and father of the children, **Brandon Blount** of Nevada, was taken into custody. Originally, ERPD says Blount rented a car when they left Nevada. When that rental ended, he moved himself and the children into a U-Haul.

East Ridge Assistant Chief Josh Creel says the truck smelled of urine and that some of the children had lice. He says their ages ranged from 3-12. Blount is facing multiple counts of child endangerment and child neglect. CPS was notified and the children were all transported by EMS for medical evaluation.



Written by: [Jakai Spikes, WTVC NewsChannel9](#)



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