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Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Athens Racers on the National Stage for Soap Box Derby Championship Radio Coverage All Week on WYXI FM 94.5 / AM 1390



Two of Athens' finest young racers are gearing up to represent their hometown on the national stage in Akron, Ohio for the 87th FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship, taking place on **Saturday, July 19**. Local champions **Arliss Douglas** (Super Stock Division) and **Titus Millsaps** (Stock Division) earned their tickets to Akron after winning their divisions at the **Athens Soap Box Derby** on **May 31**. Douglas was sponsored by **Citizens Tri-County Bank**, while Millsaps raced under the banner of **Powerade and JTEKT**. They'll now join racers from across the country and beyond during **Race Week**, which started **Sunday, July 13** and concludes **Saturday, July 19**, culminating in Saturday's national-international championship at Akron's legendary **Derby Downs**.

Local fans won't miss a moment of the action. **WYXI Radio** (FM 94.5 / AM 1390) will provide **exclusive coverage all week**, which began **Monday, July 14**, with reports, interviews, and updates from Akron. The station's coverage is proudly sponsored by **A&J Body Shop & Wrecker Service**, **Dooley Tractor Company**, **Athens Barn Center**, **Athens Utilities Board**, **Starr Cardiology Associates**, and **Domino's Pizza**.

The Soap Box Derby, now in its 87th year, has long been a showcase for creativity, skill, and sportsmanship. For Douglas

and Millsaps, it's the culmination of months of preparation—and a chance to bring home a championship.

*Tune in all week on WYXI as Athens rallies behind its racers on the road to Akron.*

**LISTENING REMINDER: TODAY** on *Main Street Moments*: Host Maggie Blaine invites **Lena Perkins, LMT** to discuss her Massage Therapy business! The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. **TODAY** on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5. *See ad on Page 4*

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Tuesday, July 15, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Unattended Fire Destroys Truck on County Road 550



A 2004 Chevy Silverado was destroyed by fire Saturday night on County Road 550, after an attempt to start the vehicle ended in flames.

According to the owner, the truck had not been

started since March 2024. Around 10 p.m., he and several friends tried to get it running but were unsuccessful. During the process, a piece of burning paper accidentally fell into the truck bed, which contained trash. The fire spread rapidly.

Attempts to extinguish the flames were hampered by a short water hose, and the fire quickly consumed the vehicle. The truck was deemed a total loss.

Firefighters from Englewood Rural Fire Department and Etowah Rural Fire Department responded to the scene.

*Photo courtesy of Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept*

## Fire Destroys Corn Crib, Threatens Chicken Coop in Etowah



A corn crib was destroyed in a fire early Sunday morning on County Road 804 after it collapsed into smoldering embers from a previous burn.

The incident occurred around 7:30 a.m., while the property owner was in the process of demolishing the corn crib.

During the teardown, the structure shifted and fell into the remains of a recent fire that still contained hot embers, igniting the wooden structure. Flames quickly spread and threatened a nearby chicken coop, prompting a multi-agency response. Etowah Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, and Englewood Rural Fire all responded to the scene, with Etowah Rural Fire Captain Ryland Hearn in command.

Crews worked to contain the blaze and protect nearby structures. The corn crib was a total loss.

*Photo courtesy of Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept*



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Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

## Jim's Mattress & More joins Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber member Jim's Mattress & More, located at 4 E. Washington Ave., Athens. Shop their downtown Athens store for quality mattresses, area rugs, and beautiful home décor at amazing prices. Shown here are chamber and business representatives, county officials, and the staff of Jim's Mattress & More Jim Edmonds (Owner), April Edmonds (Owner), Kelsea Edmonds. *Photo Courtesy of Julie Simbeck.*



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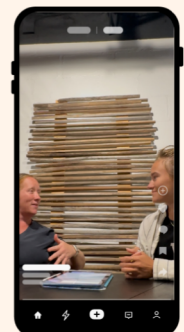
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Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

**Athens, Tennessee**

## Vehicle Fire on Eastanaula Road Sparks Emergency Response



A 2000 Chevy Blazer was destroyed by fire Sunday evening on Eastanaula Road after a cigarette accidentally ignited a blaze inside the vehicle.

The fire was reported around 6 p.m., after the owner, who was smoking inside the vehicle, attempted to extinguish her cigarette in the ashtray. The cigarette sparked a fire, and while trying to put it out and remove it from the vehicle, it fell onto the floorboard, quickly igniting the interior. Christianburg Fire Department requested mutual aid, and Englewood Rural Fire Department responded alongside the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. Emergency crews were able to extinguish the fire, but the vehicle was a total loss.

*Photo courtesy Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

## Peoples Bank Announces Leadership Updates in Tennessee and North Georgia

Peoples Bank of East Tennessee has announced several leadership changes aimed at strengthening its team and continuing its commitment to exceptional customer service and community engagement.

Diane Belcher, a Peoples Bank team member since 2010, will return to the Main Office as Assistant Vice President, Loan Officer, and Loan Processor. She previously served as Loan Officer and Branch Manager at the Vonore Branch and brings years of experience to her new role.

**Becky Duncil has been named Branch Manager of the Vonore Branch.** She joined the bank in April 2024 and has quickly become a key team member with a strong background in lending. She will continue to work with both in-house and secondary market loans.

Shelby Hunt, who began with the bank in 2021 as a Teller, has transitioned into a new role focusing on Mortgage Loan Review and Real Estate Adverse Actions under the leadership of Melanie Baxter. Her new position will support and strengthen the bank's lending operations.

In North Georgia, Maureen Price has joined the Blue Ridge location as AVP/Loan Officer Assistant. With over 18 years of experience in banking, lending, and customer service, she brings valuable expertise and leadership to the growing team at Peoples Bank of North Georgia.

Read more about the staff changes at the People's Bank of East Tennessee website [HERE](#).



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Tuesday, July 15, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Bobby Darrell Cooley**, 77 of Athens, Tennessee, passed away on Sunday, July 13. He served in the United States Navy and was a member of Conasauga Baptist Church in Etowah. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Bobby Darrell Cooley.

**Annette "Sue" Woody**, 66, passed away on Tuesday, July 8. She enjoyed gardening, cheering on her favorite sports teams, and making memories with loved ones. A celebration of Sue's life will be held on Saturday, July 19 at Corvin Road Baptist Church. A memorial service will begin at 12:00 p.m. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

**Angela "Peeper" Roach**, 43 of Strawberry Plains, was surrounded by family as she passed away on Wednesday, July 9. In her youth, she was a very gifted athlete playing both basketball and softball. A private celebration of life will be held Saturday, July 19. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

**Harley James Moses**, 80 of Englewood passed away on Saturday, July 12. He was retired from Johnson Controls in Athens, where he was known as "Elvis". Harley was a member of Athens Free Saints True Holiness Church. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, from 4:00-6:00 PM at Athens Free Saints True Holiness Church (241 County Road 442, Slack Road, Athens) A funeral service will follow at 6:00 PM. The burial will follow the service in the church cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Harley James Moses.

**Judith (Judy) Gose Fleming**, passed away on Thursday, July 10 at Signature HealthCARE of Cleveland. She was a member of Beulah Chapel Church of the Nazarene. Family will receive friends Monday, July 21 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm at Beulah Chapel Church of the Nazarene. Funeral service immediately following. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to assist her family with these arrangements.

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