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Thursday, December 12, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Fire Burns Five Acres on Highway 163 in Calhoun



A fire erupted on the roof ridge of a structure along Highway 163 in Calhoun on Saturday evening, burning approximately five acres before being contained. The cause of the blaze remains undetermined.

Multiple fire departments responded to the scene, including Calhoun Fire, Claxton Fire, Riceville Fire, Athens Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and the Tennessee Division of Forestry. Additional support was provided by AMR and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department.

The operation was led by Calhoun Assistant Fire Chief Justin Evans. Thanks to the coordinated efforts of all involved, the fire was brought under control. Investigations into the fire's cause are ongoing.

Photo Courtesy of Kenny Kirksey, Englewood Rural Fire Department.

◆ This week on *Hope From the Well*, **Connie McIntosh** and **Robin Nation** discuss the "Wonderfully Made Well Banquet." *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday - Sunny. High 46.
Thurs. Night - Partly Cloudy. Low 29.
Friday - Partly Sunny. High 52.
Friday Night - Partly Cloudy. Low 33.

More Weather at: wyxi.com

20th Annual Etowah Community Christmas Concert

Thursday, Dec 12 @ 7 pm
First Baptist Church Etowah

FEATURING

Etowah Town Band
Etowah Community Choir
Saxophone Ensemble

FREE ADMISSION

Bring non-perishable food or monetary donations to help the Etowah Cooperative Food Pantry.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Events

Heritage School:

Take Your Cooking to the Next Level with Paul Semenoff
Saturday, Dec. 14th @ 11:00 AM
Learn how to make sauces to make your meals fantastic.
Heritage School is \$5 or free for members

HISTORY FOR LUNCH

JOE GUY WILL SPEAK ON THE HISTORY OF CALHOUN FROM ITS BEGINNING AS A CHEROKEE RESERVATION, ITS PLACE AS A CHEROKEE AGENCY AND LAST HOME OF GOVERNOR JOSEPH MCMINN, TO ITS ROLE IN THE FOUNDING OF MCMINN COUNTY AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRAIL OF TEARS.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH @ NOON - FREE ADMISSION

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Thursday, December 12, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Authorities Identify Victim in Fatal RV Fire in Madisonville



The Monroe County Sheriff's Office has identified the victim of a fatal RV fire that occurred on Friday, December 6, on Highway 411 in Madisonville. Officials confirmed on Wednesday, December 11, that 71-year-old Sherill Witt tragically lost her life in the blaze.

Emergency responders, including deputies and firefighters from multiple agencies, arrived at the scene in the 6200 block of Highway 411 to combat the fire. The

RV, which was being heated with propane, caught fire, leading to the fatal incident.

Sheriff Tommy Jones initially announced the active fire scene with a fatality on social media shortly after noon on December 6. The exact location of the incident was not immediately disclosed, but investigators from the Criminal Investigation Division were also present.

The sheriff's office has stated that no foul play is suspected in the case. The community mourns this tragic loss.

Source: [WATE 6 News](#)

East Athens Baptist Church

301 Central Ave Athens, TN 37303
Rev. Mike Dannel Dr. Brian Trapp
Worship Pastor/Director Senior Pastor

Sunday, December 15th at 10:45 am
The Sanctuary Choir presents
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Sunday, December 22nd at 10:45 am
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during morning worship

Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service

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Thursday, December 12, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Santa Claus Coming to Athens

The Athens Fire Department has arranged for Santa Claus to tour the city and visit local children before his big Christmas Eve journey. Santa will make his rounds in Athens on December 20th and 21st from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., traveling north of Decatur Pike on the first night and south of Decatur Pike on the second.

The Athens Fire Department will escort Santa in a UTV outfitted with red lights, giving his reindeer a well-deserved rest and allowing his elves to prepare his sleigh for Christmas. Live updates on Santa's location will be shared on the City of Athens Facebook page on this post [HERE](#) during the event.

United Adds Nonstop Flight for CFP Game

United Airlines just added a nonstop flight from Knoxville to Columbus, Ohio ahead of the playoff game between the University of Tennessee and Ohio State, [McGhee Tyson Airport announced Wednesday](#). This flight leaves Dec. 20 and returns Dec. 22. The pricing and schedule are available at [United's website](#).

Tennessee is currently a No. 9 seed and Ohio State is a No. 8 seed. The game is on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 8 p.m. and will be broadcast on ABC. This game will be the first time Tennessee competes in the CFB playoff. The winner will go to the quarterfinals to play No.1- seed Oregon.

McGhee Tyson Airport concluded its tweet with a sentiment many in the region share: "GO VOLLS!"

Source: [WATE 6 News](#)

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Thursday, December 12, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

April Young, 23 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for DUI, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange of Methamphetamine and Violation of Probation—State. Total Bond: \$24,000.

David Wood, 24 of Charleston, was arrested by the MCSO for Reckless Driving and Evading Arrest. No Bond.

Sandra Buckner, 54 of Calhoun, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$2,300.

Christopher Cook, 48 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Assault and Disorderly Conduct. Total Bond: \$2,500.

Stephanie Ainley, 46 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. No Bond.

Jeremy Lipps, 33 of Etowah, was arrested by the MCSO for Theft of Merchandise and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$6,000.

Austin Little, 39 of Roswell, GA was arrested by the MCSO for DUI. Total Bond: \$3,000.

James Sparks, 45 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Resisting Arrest, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Domestic Assault, and Assault against a law enforcement officer. Total Bond: \$4,500.

Nicholas Arnwine, 36 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Possession of a Schedule IV Substance. No Bond.

Joseph Green, 39 of Niota, was arrested by Niota PD for a warrant in Loudon Co. No Bond.

Christopher Millsaps, 38 of Cleveland, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

Courtney Smith, 37 of Madisonville, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$12,000.

Continued on Page 6



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Thursday, December 12, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

No. 1 Tennessee Defeats Miami 75-62 at Madison Square Garden



In their first game as the nation's No. 1 men's basketball team, the Tennessee Volunteers defeated Miami 75-62 on Tuesday night in the Jimmy V Classic at Madison Square Garden. With the win, Tennessee improved to 9-0 this season.

Fifth-year guard Chaz Lanier led the way with 22 points, including four three-pointers. Tennessee dominated defensively, holding Miami scoreless for the final eight minutes of the first half and forcing multiple turnovers. The Volunteers took a commanding 38-25 lead into halftime and extended their advantage to 18 points early in the second half.

Despite a late push by Miami, Tennessee sealed the win with a strong closing performance led by Lanier, who scored seven points in the final minutes. Sophomore forward Cade Phillips contributed key baskets, and senior forward Igor Miličić Jr. added 16 points and nine rebounds. Senior guard Zakai Zeigler recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 assists.

Miami's Lynn Kidd led his team with 14 points and 12 rebounds, but the Hurricanes couldn't overcome Tennessee's consistent defense. The Volunteers held Miami to just 39.3% shooting from the field and a 24.2% success rate from beyond the arc.

Now 9-0 for the first time since the 2000-01 season, Tennessee looks ahead to their next challenge against Illinois on Saturday in Champaign. The game will be broadcast live on FOX at 5:30 p.m. ET. **Source:** [UTSports.com](https://www.utsports.com)

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Thursday, December 12, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports (Continued)

Richard Clower, 40 of Englewood, was arrested by the THP for DUI and Violation of Implied Consent. Total Bond: \$1,000

Daniel Mack, 59 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Possession of Meth, Fentanyl and Cannabis. Total Bond: \$35,000.

Christopher Vincent, 37 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Public Intoxication, Criminal Impersonation, Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Possession of Schedule IV Cannabis. No Bond.

Brigit Robinson, 37 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Violation of Probation. No Bond.

Timothy Harris, 54 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for DUI and Violation of Order of Protection. No Bond.

Johnny Parson, 35 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Shoplifting, Resisting Arrest, Possession of Sched-

ule II Meth and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$25,000.

Michael Benson, 48 of Decatur, was arrested by the MCSO for Two Counts of Evading arrest, Resisting Arrest, Stolen Property, and State Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$12,000.

Chelsie Siler, 29 of Athens, was arrested for Two Counts of Unpaid Child Support and Introduction of Contraband into a Penal Facility. Total Bond: \$15,000.

Ellis Hughlett, 34 of Chattanooga, was arrested by the MCSO for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$1,000.

Dicky Hamilton, 52 of Benton, was arrested by the MCSO for Improper Turn, Possession of Schedule II Meth and Schedule VI, four counts of Unpaid Child Support. Total Bond: \$15,000.

The accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from Public Sources.



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