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Today's News... This Morning

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## PRIME TIME FIREWORKS

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Monday, July 3, 2017

Athens, Tennessee

## Fire Destroys Cantrell Building

A part of Downtown Athens history went up in flames Saturday morning. A passerby saw smoke and flames coming from the roof of the former Larry Cantrell law office building at the corner of Jackson and Washington on the Courthouse Square at 5:30 a.m. The Cantrell building was destroyed, but firemen were able to prevent flames from spreading to adjoining buildings. However, Johnsons Home Furnishings, Greeks Bearing Gifts, and the Athens Chamber of Commerce office received substantial smoke and water damage. The Cantrell building had been undergoing remodeling, and was to have been the location of attorney Jim Logan's new Athens office. Logan says he will rebuild. Saturday afternoon, authorities made the decision to remove the top floor of the building due to safety concerns. The building was constructed in 1876 by Emily McKeldin. She was the widow of Andrew McKeldin, who had moved to McMinn County from Ireland. The building was home to the McKeldin store. Later, Proffitt's Department Store was located there. Fire inspectors have determined that the fire started in the back interior corner of the building. They say it does not appear to be arson. Firefighters from 15 fire departments responded: Athens City, Cleveland, Etowah City, Calhoun, Madisonville, Decatur, Englewood Rural, Etowah Rural, Athens Rural, Riceville Rural, Tri-Community, Meigs County, Signal Mountain, Highway 58, and East Ridge fire departments. Athens Utilities Board cut power and natural gas, and pumped 4100 gallons of water per minute throughout the morning.

## More Fire Photos

Several photos of the fire are shown below and on page 2. Thanks to Bob Mizer at East-West Media, Cheri Harrison of The Morning Fax staff, and Lynn Ingram of the Englewood Rural Fire Department for the photos.



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**HAPPY 4th OF JULY**

NOTICE: THE MORNING FAX WILL NOT PUBLISH ON TUESDAY, JULY 4TH. HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY!

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Monday, July 3, 2017

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

Athens, Tennessee

## LOTS TO DO ON THE 4TH!

**ATHENS:** The American Legion invites everyone to Celebrate the 4th in Downtown Athens from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with free hotdogs and hamburgers. "The Beaters" will entertain.

The annual Fireworks Show at Athens Regional Park begins at 9:30 p.m. Michael's Casual Dining will have a Pie Eating Contest at 9 p.m. Members of the McMinn County Radio Control Association will have flying demonstrations starting at noon, and will have a Flight Simulator set up. Members of the Radio Control Association are pictured below, L to R: David Kropff, Secretary Bob Miller, Dale Williams, Vice Pres. Tom Miller, Don Morelan, Dana Thornton, Tony Jack, Sid Averett, Randy Miller, Davis Mason, Pres. Richard Weir, Thomas Fortsch, & Alice Frye.



**ETOWAH:** Etowah's July 4th Celebration kicks off at 7:30 a.m. with the Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast at the L&N Depot. The Zeta Kappa Sorority Beauty Pageant is at 10 a.m. There will be music by various individuals and groups from 3 to 9 p.m. The Gem Players will have a Patriotic Program at 9:15 p.m. and the Fireworks Show starts at 9:45 p.m.

## Obituaries

♦ **Lee Daniels**, age 78, of Decatur, died Friday at his home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home & Crematory.

♦ **Wanda June Simpson**, age 81, of Lenoir City, died Friday at NHC of Athens. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at McMinn Memory Gardens. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Burnell Harris**, age 73, of Etowah, died Sunday. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home.

### STILL MORE FIRE PHOTOS

The photo on the left below is from Durant Tullock and shows the Cantrell building as it appeared in the late 19th Century. The photo on the right by McMinn County Mayor John Gentry shows firefighters from the Athens Fire Department and Englewood Rural Fire Department working side-by-side to man a fire hose.

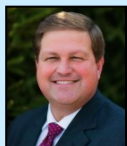


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