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Today's News...This Morning

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**WHEN RADIO
WAS**
Old-Time Radio Shows
6:05-7 pm Nightly
WYXI 94.5 FM & 1390 AM
Tonight:
**Academy Award Theatre
& Baby Snooks**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Athens, Tennessee

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

◆ UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN ATHENS FIRE

It's been nearly two weeks since fire destroyed the former Cantrell law building at Jackson and Washington in Downtown Athens. The fire also caused major smoke and water damage to Johnson's Home Furnishings, the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, and Greek's Bearing Gifts. Building inspectors have concerns about the structural integrity of the walls adjoining Johnson's and the Chamber. At this point, Johnson's says the damage they suffered was far more extensive than they first thought. The interior and contents were a total loss. The entire showroom inventory is being removed due to smoke and water. From floor to ceiling, the interior will receive a complete renovation which will be a lengthy process. In the meantime, Johnson's Home Furnishing will be operating from their warehouse at 204 East Madison Avenue, just behind their store. They will be open for business to meet your furnishing needs. Johnson's has been operating in Athens since 1932. Emmette Johnson quoted his grandfather who used to say, "Our ship is anchored in Athens." The situation is still unclear for Greeks Bearing Gifts. Patti Greek says they might be able to re-open in 8 to 10 weeks, but she says they really have no idea at this point. The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce is operating temporarily in the basement of the McMinn County Courthouse. The Chamber has met with structural experts. A decision will have to be made on whether the wall between the Cantrell and Chamber buildings will have to be removed.

National - World News

- ◆ Eleven-year-old Brodie Brooks was fishing on Lake Hartwell in Anderson, South Carolina when reeled in, what he thought was a big fish, but it turned out to be a woman's purse. The purse had been zipped up so most of its contents were still intact, despite lurking around the 29-foot-deep lake for 25 years.
- ◆ An iceberg almost the size of Delaware has broken away from Antarctica. The massive iceberg, measures 5,800 square kilometers and weighs more than 1 trillion metric tons.
- ◆ The Australian government is telling tobacco giant Philip Morris to pay up. The government ordered Philip Morris to pay millions of dollars in legal costs after the company unsuccessfully sued the country over its "plain-packaging" laws.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

- ✓ The Rotary Park in Downtown Etowah will be dedicated at 6:30 p.m. today, Thursday. The fountain will be dedicated in memory of Watty Smith and in honor of his wife, Helen Ann. There will be refreshments and a ribbon cutting. Everyone is invited to attend.
- ✓ The Gem Players will hold auditions for their upcoming fall production of the hilarious comedy, *The Sugar Bean Sisters*, this Sunday, July 16th, at 3 p.m. and Monday, July 17th, at 6 p.m. at the Gem Theater. The cast calls for four females and one male, ages 30 to 70.
- ✓ AUB advises that people trying to call their main number, 745-4501, from an AT&T landline phone are getting a constant busy signal. Cell phones and Comcast work fine. AT&T landline users may call AUB's toll free number: (888) 745-8845.

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday - Partly cloudy. 20% rain. High 88.

Thursday Night - Scattered t'storms. Low 70.

Friday - Mixed sunshine & clouds. Possible t'storms. High 87.

More Weather at: wysi.com

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Etowah Arts Commission

ArtSummer Nights

ArtSummer Nights
Join us for a fun and fundraising evening to benefit the Etowah Arts Commission.

July 21, 2017
6:00 - 10:00 pm
Savannah Oaks Winery
Tickets \$40
(Includes 2 drink tickets)
Advance reservations required.
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Thursday, July 13, 2017

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

Athens, Tennessee

House Fire on CR 436

A house on County Road 436 was destroyed by fire early Wednesday morning. The house belonged to the Billy Morrow family. It was fully involved in flames as volunteers from Englewood, Athens, and Etowah Rural Fire Departments. Englewood Captain Derek Ingram was in charge of the scene.

(Photo by Lynn Ingram with the Englewood Rural Fire Dept.)



Obituaries

♦ **Nellie Faye Metzger**, age 80, of Athens, died Wednesday at her residence. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. at Laycock-Hobbs.

♦ **Gregory Bell**, of Decatur, died Monday at his home. Funeral arrangements will be announced later by Companion Funeral Home.

♦ **Steven Stokes**, age 46, of Decatur, died Wednesday at his home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home.

Here's another photo of the County Road 436 house fire submitted by Keith Price.



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