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Today's News...This Morning

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Monday-April 1, 2013

Athens, Tennessee

Local and State News

◆ ATHENS VA CLINIC STILL MONTHS AWAY

The long-awaited Veterans Clinic in Athens is still coming, but it may be several months away. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann tells WYXI Radio and The Morning Fax that the Veterans Department is still deciding on a location for the clinic. He says he expects shovels to be in the ground by the end of the year.

◆ JOBLESS RATE DIPS SLIGHTLY IN AREA

The unemployment rate in February went down in 87 of Tennessee's counties, including counties in the Athens area. The jobless rate in McMinn County was 9.4% in February, down from 9.6% in January. In Meigs County, unemployment in February was 10.2%, down from 10.6% in January. Monroe County's jobless rate in February was 10.9%, down from 11.1% in January.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

The CASA Benefit Golf Tournament will be Monday, April 8, at Springbrook Golf & Country Club; lunch starts at 12 Noon, shotgun start at 1 p.m. The charge is \$50 per person or \$150 per team. To register, call Springbrook Pro Shop at 568-2161 or CASA office at 746-9037 or 506-6393. Prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin and 3 finishing positions. The deadline to register is April 5th.

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NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ The National Transportation Safety Board will try to determine what caused a pilot to fall to death from an airplane in Bradley County this past Friday. The body of David Richardson was found in south Bradley County Saturday morning. Richardson was an experienced pilot who had just bought an experimental plane known as a Zodiac. An instructor was teaching him how to fly his new plane. They had just taken off from the Collegedale Airport when the plane went into a nose-dive at 2,500 feet. During the nose dive, the canopy flew off and Richardson tumbled out. Apparently he was not wearing his safety harness. The instructor managed to get the plane under control and fly it back to Collegedale for a safe landing.

◆ A non-profit group is planning to hand out free shotguns to residents of Tucson, Arizona, in an effort to show that more guns mean less crime. Each weapon will be a single-shot and the recipients will have to undergo training.

◆ New York City will start sifting through earth and debris recovered from the World Trade Center today to look for the remains of victims from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Out of 2,752 people killed, the remains of only 1,634 have been identified.

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Western Sizzlin' Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike (745-2626) Monday: (All Day) 8 oz. CHOPPED SIRLOIN, Choice of Side, Bakery & Dessert Bars, \$6.49. Mon-Thu: (All Day) 10 oz. NEW YORK STRIP, Choice of Side, Rolls, Bakery & Dessert Bars, \$11.99.

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Monday-April 1, 2013

Athens, Tennessee

Fire Hits Taner Timber

Taner Timber on County Road 316, Niota, was heavily damaged by a fire this past Friday. Nearly 100 firefighters from seven volunteer fire departments battled the blaze for three hours. Firefighters say the fire started after a hydraulic pump shorted out, causing sparks which ignited sawdust. Nobody was injured. However, between 15 and 20 employees may lose their jobs. Taner Timber has been in business since 1991 and supplies hardwood veneer and saw logs worldwide.

(Photo courtesy of WTVG-TV)



Obituaries

Warren Gilbert Harding Davis, age 92, of Etowah died last Friday at his residence. He was a retired millwright from Alcoa with 42 years of service and served in World War II in the Pacific. He also helped build the Goodsprings Community Center. Funeral services were held Sunday night at Bordwine Funeral Home.

Lela Maxine Lee, age 73, of Niota died Friday at her home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday.

Betty Thomson, age 78, of Etowah died Saturday night at Woods Memorial Hospital. She was the wife of Jay Thomson, photographer for The Morning Fax. They had been married for 46-and-a-half years. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Serenity Funeral Home of Etowah.

WATCH OUT FOR THOSE SNEAKY SNAKES

Now that Spring is here, it won't be long before the snakes begin to stir. Stephen Nelson, the snake expert at the Knoxville Zoo, says snakes were already crawling by this time last year. But, he says the recent cold snap may cause them to remain in hibernation for a few more weeks. Nelson says in East Tennessee, garter snakes are the earliest to emerge. Then come the ringneck snakes, worm snakes, and water snakes.



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THIS DAY IN HISTORY - April 1st

Today is April Fool's Day. The observance originated in France after a new calendar was adopted in 1564. Until then, the New Year was celebrated on April 1st. When it was changed to January 1st, some people still celebrated it on April 1st. They came to be known as **April Fools**.

1873 - Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff was born. He composed the "Second Piano Concerto," which contained the melody for the song, "Full Moon and Empty Arms."

1932 - Actress and singer Debbie Reynolds was born. Her biggest hit record was "Tammy."

1934 - Singer Jim Ed Brown was born. He and his two sisters performed as "The Browns," and had such hits as "The Three Bells" and "Scarlet Ribbons."

1945 - American troops swarmed ashore the island of Okinawa to fight the Japanese.