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MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Athens, Tennessee

Monday-January 20, 2014

Local and State News

◆ WATTS BAR UNIT 2 IS ON SCHEDULE

TVA says its Unit 2 reactor at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant should be generating electricity within the next two years. TVA officials say 3,300 employees and contractors are working around the clock, and the work is now 82 percent finished. Officials say the plant should be licensed by the end of 2015.

◆ DECATUR RE-THINKING METH ORDINANCE

Decatur officials are having to reconsider the city's ordinance requiring a doctor's prescription in order to buy cold medications containing pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in manufacturing meth. State Attorney General Robert Cooper has issued an opinion stating that only the state legislature has authority to pass such laws. As a result, the Decatur city attorney, Bill Buckley, has advised Decatur's board of aldermen not to enforce the ordinance.

◆ GETTING "READY TO WORK"

The "Ready to WORK" program at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Athens will take place Feb. 4-27. The sessions will help prepare prospective workers for manufacturing jobs. The program is free, but applicants will go through a rigorous application process. For details, call Scott Packett at 744-2814.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ Russian President Vladimir Putin is defending his country's new anti-gay law, saying it aims to protect children and does not discriminate against anyone. Putin says gay athletes will not be prosecuted during the upcoming Winter Olympics. He says people of all sexual orientations are welcome in Russia, as long as they "leave kids alone."

◆ The New York Times says the Obama administration is delaying enforcement of another aspect of ObamaCare. The paper says tax officials will not enforce until 2015 the provision of the law that prohibits employers from providing better health benefits to top executives than those being offered to regular employees.

◆ Three Americans were among 21 people killed in a Taliban attack on a Kabul restaurant popular with foreigners and affluent Afghans. One of the American victims has been identified as Lexie Kamerman, an employee of the American University of Afghanistan. The three attackers--a suicide bomber and two gunmen--were also killed.

◆ The polar vortex is returning to the U.S. with another blast of frigid air. The low temperatures in the Athens area are expected to be around 15 on Tuesday and 12 on Thursday.

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**WHEN RADIO
WAS**
Old-time Radio Shows
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**Alan Young Show &
Life With Luigi**

Monday-January 20, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

Brush Fires Keep Firefighters Busy

Volunteer firefighters in McMinn County had a busy weekend with several large brush fires. There was a four-acre fire Saturday afternoon on County Road 630 that got dangerously close to the home of Tommy Paul. About 26 firefighters from Claxton, Etowah, and Englewood battled the fire. The Tennessee Department of Forestry was also called to the scene. After putting out that fire, units were paged for another brush fire off County Road 550.

There was a brush fire on County Road 480 Thursday afternoon. The fire swiftly climbed a hill and involved about four acres. The Englewood and Etowah Rural Fire Departments and the Tennessee Department of Forestry fought the fire, which was described as suspicious because there were marks on County Road 480 that could have been made by a highway or railroad flare. (Photo by Jay Thomson)



Obituaries

Bobby Dewayne Ghorley, age 49, of Athens died last Tuesday at his residence. He worked for over 20 years at Mayfield Dairy Farms. Funeral services were held this past Saturday at Serenity Funeral Home in Etowah.

Mary Ellen Hill Shugart, age 82, of Athens died last Thursday at her residence. She was a graduate of Meigs County High School where she was Homecoming Queen. She was an entrepreneur, having been involved in real estate and related businesses. Entombment services will be at 2 p.m. Monday in McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

Carrie Mae Dennis Queen, age 67, of Athens died last Thursday at Starr Regional Medical Center-Athens. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

Thomas Geoffrey Cox, age 55, of Niota died last Friday at Starr Regional-Athens. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Monday in Union-McMinn Cemetery, with visitation from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The following sidewalks will be closed to pedestrian traffic starting today and continuing until Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m. White Street from Washington Ave. to the corner of the Edward Jones office and Washington Ave. from White Street to the corner of the art studio. The purpose is for the placement of scaffolding for building and roof repairs.



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