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# MORNING FAX™

## Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

## Local & State News

### ◆ ARSON IS PRELIMINARY CAUSE OF FIRE

The preliminary investigation indicates that arson was the cause of the Sunday morning fire that destroyed Alvin Shoemaker's Wrecker Service along with a mobile home in the Union Grove community. A tip line has been set up in hopes of gathering information about the fire. Anyone who saw any suspicious activity near the Wrecker Service early Sunday morning is asked to call: 781-1409. In addition, accounts are being set up at two banks, Athens Federal and Capital Bank, for reward money and for donations to Shoemaker, who had no insurance. Meantime, a community meeting has been scheduled for this Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. at Pisgah Church on Highway 68 for citizens in the Union Grove and Clearwater Fire Districts to talk about possible changes that might improve fire protection in the area and improve the departments' ISO ratings.

### ◆ SHOT WHILE REACHING FOR A HANKIE

The man who was accidentally shot inside the Athens Wal-Mart Monday afternoon told police that he was carrying a pistol in a wallet-type holster in his back pocket. Timothy Vermaas of Riceville was in the men's apparel section. He said he reached into his pocket for a handkerchief and accidentally grabbed the trigger. The gun discharged, with the bullet going downward through the back of his leg and exiting the front. It landed in the floor just a few feet away. He was holding the bullet when officers arrived. He was taken to the hospital for treatment. Police say Vermaas does have a handgun carry permit.

## NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ The IRS budget has been slashed to the lowest inflation-adjusted budget in nearly two decades. The IRS says that means slower tax refunds, fewer identity-theft protections, worse customer service, and 46,000 fewer tax audits.

◆ It's the beginning of the end for Microsoft Windows 7. Microsoft stopped free support on Tuesday. Security patches will continue.

### ◆ HIGHWAY 30 FOUR-LANE PROJECT UPDATE

We'll have to wait a few more months before the Highway 30 four-lane project between Athens and Etowah is finished. The Tennessee Department of Transportation had said the job should be done by the end of November. That deadline passed. Now, TDOT says the estimated project completion date is this spring. TDOT says the final 3.8 miles from County Road 609 to the four-lane in Etowah still has to be paved and marked. They say that will have to wait until the temperatures warm up this spring.

### ◆ SENATOR BELL TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Supreme Court Justice Holly Kirby administered the Oath of Office to State Senator Mike Bell yesterday, to begin the 109th General Assembly at the Capitol. Bell represents the 9th District which includes McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Bradley, and Polk Counties. The Senate's organizational session ends on Thursday. (Submitted Photo)



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## RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



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**HEAR HERE CAL THOMAS**

Commentary  
11:40 a.m. & 5:25 p.m.  
Weekdays



**WEATHER**  
**Wednesday** - Mostly cloudy. Patchy drizzle in A.M. & early P.M. Highs-lower to mid 40's.  
**Wed. night** - Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20's to lower 30's.  
**Thursday** - Partly sunny. 20% rain in P.M. Highs-mid 40's.  
 More Weather & Zoom Radar at: [www.wyxi.com](http://www.wyxi.com)

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## Morning Fax™

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Wednesday, January 14, 2015

**Morning Fax™...Today's News This Morning**

Athens, Tennessee

### Happy 90th Birthday Helen Brown!

Visitors from around the region packed the Englewood Textile and History Museum last week in celebration of Helen Brown's 90th birthday. Brown is a founding member of the Community Action Group of Englewood (C.A.G.E.), an organization dedicated to the preservation of Englewood's history and heritage. She was an educator in the McMinn County School System for over 30 years. She is pictured with board members of C.A.G.E. Back row, L-R: Blake McCaslin, Linda Caldwell, Phil Tuggle, & Frances Powers. Front row, L-R: Virginia Key, Bobbie Dickson, Huberta Williams, Eva Moses, Gail Anderson, Sheila Holden, & Mark Cochran.



### Obituaries

- **Joe Moates**, age 85, of Etowah died Sunday at Parkwest Medical Center. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Bordwine Funeral Home.
- **Flora Hawkins Cannon**, age 91, of Athens died Tuesday at her home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Smith Funeral Home.
- **Meda Rebecca Anderson Wicker**, age 86, of Niota died Monday at her residence. She was a former employee of Crescent Hosiery Mill. Funeral services will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Union McMinn Baptist Church, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. at the church. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.
- **James Edward Riden**, age 67, of Athens, died Tuesday at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. He was a former employee of Texas Hydraulics and Athens Products. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving in the U.S. Army. Funeral services will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Laycock-Hobbs.

#### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The McMinn/Meigs Ag Roundtable will meet Thursday at 7 a.m. at Shoney's. The guest speaker is Dr. Deana Hayes, DVM, Tennessee State Veterinarian. Breakfast is Dutch treat. The public is invited.



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The Daily Post-Athenian's 10th Annual

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 Woodward Church of God

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