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Thursday, February 5, 2015

MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ NORTH McMINN MAY GET NEW FIRE DEPT.

North McMinn County may soon have a new fire department. It would be named the North McMinn County Fire and Rescue Team, and would serve District 9. If approved by the McMinn County Commission, the new fire department would replace the Union Grove Volunteer Fire Department. County Commissioner J.W. McPhail says the recent arson fire at Union Grove Fire Chief Alvin Shoemaker's wrecker service and the theft of \$5,000 by a former treasurer of the fire department were wake-up calls. As a result, the county moved the fire trucks from the Union Grove Fire Station to a temporary location on County Road 285. McPhail says a resolution recognizing the North McMinn County Fire and Rescue Team will be presented at the next county commission meeting on February 16. Meantime, residents of northern McMinn County continue to receive fire protection from the Clearwater, Niota, and Union Grove fire departments.

◆ YOUNG ATHENS BOY DIES IN CRASH

A 7-year-old Athens boy has died from injuries received in a one-vehicle crash that happened last Sunday night near the McMinn-Monroe County line. State Troopers say Luke Shumate died when the mini-van he was riding in crossed the center line, ran off the road, hit a tree, and caught fire. The wreck happened on Highway 307 near Creek Road in Monroe County. A 9-year-old boy in the vehicle was injured, along with the driver, 31-year-old Raymond Shumate of Athens. Troopers say seat belts were not being used.

National & World News

◆ Jordan's King Abdullah vows to pursue Islamic State terrorists until his military "runs out of fuel and bullets." After the release of a grisley video showing a captured Jordanian pilot being burned alive in a cage by ISIS, Jordan responded swiftly by ordering the hanging of two convicted Al Qaeda terrorists.

◆ At least 26 people were killed Wednesday after a Taiwanese flight with 58 people on board turned onto its side shortly after takeoff, clipped a bridge, and crashed into a river in Taipei. The crash was captured in a dramatic dash-cam video by a driver who was traveling along a freeway when the plane went down in front of him.



◆ Ashton Carter, the nominee to be the next Defense secretary, said at his Senate confirmation hearing that he is inclined to provide lethal arms to Ukraine's beleaguered military. He also said that the important thing after defeating ISIS is to maintain a "lasting defeat" so the organization does not re-emerge in the future.

◆ Governor Haslam's "Insure Tennessee" Medicaid expansion was defeated late Wednesday afternoon in a senate committee. Senator Mike Bell of Riceville was 1 of 7 Republicans that voted Nay.

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Morning Fax™

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WEATHER
Thursday - Partly sunny. 20% snow in A.M. High mid to upper 30's.
Thursday night - Clear. Lows around 18.
Friday - Sunny. Highs upper 40's to lower 50's..
More Weather & Zoom Radar at: www.wyxi.com

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

December Unemployment

The unemployment figures for December have been released, and the jobless rate went up in most counties in the area.

In **McMinn County**, the unemployment rate was 6.9% in December, unchanged from November.

In **Meigs County**, the jobless rate in December was 8.2%, up from 7.8% in November.

In **Monroe County**, the unemployment rate in December was 7.5%, up slightly from 7.4% in November.

In **Bradley County**, the December jobless rate was 5.6%, down from 5.8% in November.

In **Polk County**, the unemployment rate in December was 7.2%, up from 6.9% in November.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ A Relay for Life Yard Sale will be held this Saturday from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at City Park School's cafeteria. Proceeds help fight cancer.
- ✓ The E.G. Fisher Public Library is having several events during February to celebrate African-American history. Next Tuesday, Feb. 10, Dr. Susan Eckelmann from UTC will discuss the role of children and teenagers during the Civil Rights movement.

Obituaries

• **Jo Ann Cole Russell**, age 83, of Athens, (and formerly of the Shoal Creek community in Tellico Plains) died Sunday at her home. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Bierley-Hale Funeral Home in Madisonville, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **Virgil "Bud" Crump**, age 90, of Delano died Tuesday at Etowah Health Care. He was retired from Jackson Manufacturing. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from noon to 2 p.m.

• **Helen Christine Cline Price**, age 74, of Athens, died Wednesday at NHC of Athens. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

◆ MORE COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The last day of loose leaf pickup in Athens will be Friday, February 13. Rake your leaves to the curb and call 744-2776 to be put on a list to have your leaves vacuumed up.
- ✓ The Athens City Council will conduct its Council Planning Session tomorrow, Feb. 6, beginning at 6 p.m. and on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. at the Red Brick House in the Athens Regional Park.
- ✓ Athens Community Theatre will present the Tony Award-winning *Pippin* Feb. 19-March 1 at The Arts Center. The play is the story of Pippin, the heir of the war-mongering Charlemagne the Great. It tells of the young Prince Pippin's efforts to find happiness. The cast includes Jennifer Nunley, Andrew Kimball, Dave Siklosi, Pam Thigpen, Mary Kennedy and several others. The production is directed by Art Kimball. The score is played by a live orchestra led by Ellen Kimball. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for students. Call 745-8781 for tickets or for more information.



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