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# MORNING FAX™

## Today's News...This Morning

(Feel free to copy, post or otherwise distribute)  
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Athens, Tennessee

Thursday, April 2, 2015

### State & Local News

- ◆ **GUNS IN PARKS BILL PASSES SENATE**  
The state Senate has approved a bill to allow handgun-carry permit holders to go armed in local parks across Tennessee. The Senate vote was 27 to 7. Senators added an amendment to the bill to allow permit holders to carry their guns into the State Capitol, Legislative Plaza, and War Memorial offices. The bill had already been approved by the House, but the amendment forces it to return to the House for either approval or rejection of the amendment. The bill removes provisions in state law that allow city councils and county commissions to ban guns from city and county parks under their control.
- ◆ **INSURE TENNESSEE BILL FAILS AGAIN**  
Governor Bill Haslam's Insure Tennessee proposal has failed once again. The proposal to extend taxpayer-funded health insurance coverage to 280,000 low-income Tennesseans was defeated by a 6 to 2 vote in the Senate Commerce Committee.
- ◆ **DEAD PEOPLE GETTING JOBLESS PAY?**  
Dead people, prisoners, and even current state employees are among those receiving unemployment benefits in Tennessee. The state Comptroller's Office has released an audit saying that Tennessee paid \$98 million in unemployment benefits over the past six years to people who did not qualify to receive the benefits.
- ◆ **UT GETS NEW BASKETBALL COACH**  
Former Texas coach Rick Barnes has been hired as UT's new men's basketball coach. He'll be paid \$2.25 million per year for 6 years.

### NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

- ◆ Gov. Mike Pence and other supporters of Indiana's "Religious Freedom Restoration Act" have made a simple point in defense of their law stating that a slew of other states including the federal government have the same law on the books and that Barack Obama as a state senator voted for it in Illinois.
- ◆ After a noose was found hung on the Bryan Center plaza at Duke University, an investigation is underway on the campus. Larry Moneta, Vice President of Student Affairs called the hanging of the noose a "hateful and stupid act" and vowed that the Duke community would not allow the incident to create fear.
- ◆ Some McDonald's employees will see their wages increase later this year. McDonald's just announced new benefits for workers at its company-owned restaurants.
- ◆ According to the Mexican-owned Pemex oil company, an explosion and ensuing fire on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico left four dead and injured at least 16 others on Wednesday.
- ◆ As California continues to struggle with a prolonged drought that has lasted for more than four years, Gov. Jerry Brown Jr. announced a set of mandatory water conservation measures, including that the State Water Resources Control Board implement mandatory water reductions across California by 25 percent.

**WEATHER**  
**Thursday** - Mostly cloudy. 50% rain. Highs in the lower 70's.  
**Thursday night** - Mostly cloudy. 30% rain Highs- upper 50's.  
**Friday** - Partly sunny. 60% rain. Highs in the mid 70's.  
More Weather & Zoom Radar at: [www.wxyi.com](http://www.wxyi.com)

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**BOJANGLES South Congress Parkway 744-5292**

**East Athens Baptist Church**  
**Good Friday Service**  
Noon-12:50, Music/Message  
**Easter Sunday Services**  
April 5 10:45AM: Sanctuary Choir "He Lives Medley" and "Love Won"  
"It Is Finished, Rev. Mike Dannel  
Messages AM/PM: Dr. Jon Hathcock  
Evening Service 7pm  
The Handbell Choir Rings Praises

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**Actually**  
**How to Enjoy Being a Christian**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**at Athens City Middle School 10:30am**

**2 DUDES BBQ**  
**TODAY** we will be at Valley Farmers CO-OP, Congress Parkway, Athens from 10:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. "To-Go" Call 829-4126  
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# PAGE TWO

## Morning Fax™

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Thursday, April 2, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

### Springtime in Athens

The tulips and other spring flowers are now in blossom, along with the Bradford Pear trees and Cherry trees. Jennifer Hardison sent us this photo of a Yoshino Cherry blossom from a tree in her front yard in the Highlands. This is the same type of cherry tree that grows around the basin in Washington, D.C.



### Obituaries

- **Clara Ann Tharpe**, age 83, of Athens died Monday at Heritage Senior Living Home in Dayton. She was a native of Grandview, but had lived in McMinn County most of her life. Funeral services will be at 11 .m. Thursday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.
- **Sandra Underdown Melton**, age 72, of Athens passed away Wednesday at U.T. Medical Center in Knoxville. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.
- **JoAnn "Jo" Burns Costner**, age 76, of Athens died Wednesday at her residence. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.
- **J.C. McDonald**, age 64, of Athens died Wednesday at his residence. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

#### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Athens Ministerial Association Holy Week Service today is at 12:05 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The speaker will be Father Randy Stice, Pastor at St. Mary Catholic Church. Friday's service will be held at Trinity Methodist Church. The speaker will be Father Hendree Harrison, Pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
- ✓ Pilots from four nations are arriving in Athens this week for the first Pan American Gliding Championships to be held next week at the McMinn County Airport. Practice begins tomorrow. The gliders will be towed aloft, will fly across the mountain ridges of East Tennessee, and then return to the airport in late afternoon.
- ✓ The Heritage School at the McMinn Living Heritage Museum this Saturday will feature an exhibit of art works by Meghan O'Connor titled "Coming Home." The event will take place from 1 to 3 p.m.

## Michael's



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*Beginning at 11 a.m*

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### TODAY IN HISTORY - APRIL 2

- 1513** - Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon landed in Florida.
- 1792** - Congress passed legislation authorizing the U.S. mint to coin money, all to be inscribed with the Latin words, "E Pluribus Unum" which means "Out of Many, One."
- 1805** - Danish storyteller Hans Christian Anderson was born. His best-known stories are "The Ugly Duckling" and "The Emperor's New Clothes."
- 1917** - President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy."
- 1947** - Singer Emmy Lou Harris was born.
- 1961** - Singer Buddy Jewell was born. His biggest hit is "Help Pour Out the Rain."
- 1962** - Country singer Billy Dean was born.
- 2009** - A 19-count federal racketeering indictment was returned against former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who denied doing anything illegal. He is currently in prison.