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Today's News...This Morning

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Monday, April 27, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

LOCAL & AREA NEWS

◆ UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS IN AREA

The unemployment rate fell in every county in the Athens area in March. The McMinn County jobless rate was 6.6%, down from 7.2% in February. Meigs County's unemployment rate in March was 7.9%, down from 8.7% in February. The jobless rate in Monroe County was 6.6% in March, down from 7.2% in February. Bradley County's unemployment rate in March was 5.3%, down from 5.9% in February. Unemployment was down in March in 88 of Tennessee's 95 counties.

◆ NEW ATHENS SCHOOL DIRECTOR CHOSEN

Dr. Melanie Miller will be the new Director of the Athens City Schools. Dr. Miller was the unanimous choice of the School Board. She was chosen over the other three finalists, including Mike Simmons, principal of Athens City Middle School. Dr. Miller currently serves as Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction for the Athens schools. She will succeed School Director Robert Greene, who is retiring this summer. Dr. Miller began work with the Athens City Schools last July. Before that, she served as the Sweetwater School Director. Previously, she had been a principal, assistant principal, and guidance counselor in Sweetwater. She also served as a Spanish teacher at Sequoyah High School.



NATIONAL & STATE NEWS

◆ The death toll from Saturday's magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Nepal has topped 3,700. A powerful 6.7 aftershock shook the Kathmandu region on Sunday. The first quake triggered an avalanche on the slopes of Mount Everest that buried part of the base camp packed with climbers preparing to attempt the climb the summit. At least 17 people died there.

◆ The New York Times says e-mails to and from President Obama were read by Russian hackers last year in a breach of the White House's unclassified computer system. The hackers also got into the State Department's unclassified system. Sources say the unclassified systems contain much highly sensitive information, such as schedules and e-mail exchanges with ambassadors and diplomats.

◆ MORE STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

✓ It is now legal to carry your gun in a Tennessee park as long as you have a handgun carry permit. Governor Bill Haslam has signed the so-called "Guns in Parks" bill into law. The bill takes away the authority of local governments to ban guns in parks, playgrounds, and ball fields.

✓ The earth shelter building at the Athens Recycling Center on Rocky Mount Road has a new name. Since the structure was erected, it's been called several things, including the "Hobbit House." The new and official name is now the Connie Allen Education Center. The Athens City Council voted to name the building in honor of Keep McMinn Beautiful's longtime director, the late Connie Allen.

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WEATHER

Monday - Sunny, with a high of 67.

Monday night - Mostly clear, with a low of 45.

Tuesday - Mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

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Monday, April 27, 2015

Morning Fax Page Two

Athens, Tennessee

RINGING IN AT 3RD PLACE

Fairview Christian Academy's Handbell Ensemble finished in third place at the recent American Association of Christian Schools Fine Arts National Competition at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC. (The Ensemble is shown in the photo to the right. Top, l-r: Avery Patterson, Will Wilhoit, and Andrew Rogers. Bottom, l-r: Allie Foote, Abigail Newberry, and Abby Ranck)



Obituaries

• **Harold Decker**, age 79, of Riceville died Sunday at his home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The City of Etowah will be testing its warning sirens tomorrow at 1 p.m., weather permitting. Etowah currently has two warning sirens. They will be sounded two times just to make sure they are operating properly.

✓ The Living Heritage Museum Guild will be accepting donations for their upcoming Trash and Treasure Sale today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the former Wiggins and Sons Hardware building on Congress Parkway. The sale begins Tuesday with a Premiere Party from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission to the Premiere Party sale is \$10. The sale will be open at no charge to the public Wednesday through Saturday. The hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. to Noon on Saturday.

✓ The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce will present the 2015 Prime Time BUSINESS SHOWCASE this Thursday, April 30, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The location will be the Market Park Pavilion in Downtown Athens. The event gives all chamber members an opportunity to showcase their businesses to the community. There will also be food, music, and fun.

✓ Registration for the Athens City Schools Pre-K and Kindergarten programs will be held this Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Ingleside and City Park schools.

"THUNDER" THORNTON SPEAKS AT TWC

John "Thunder" Thornton was the speaker at Tennessee Wesleyan College's 2nd annual Dr. Morris D. Goodfriend lecture series last Tuesday. Thornton (shown to the left) is a TWC alum and a real estate developer. He spoke about business ethics and the importance of doing what is right and of doing what you say you will do.



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