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Today's News...This Morning

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Monday, August 17, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

LOCAL & STATE NEWS

◆ WATTS BAR READY TO LOAD FUEL

TVA has asked regulators for an operating license to load fuel in its Unit 2 reactor at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. TVA sent a letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission informing them that construction of Unit 2 is "substantially complete." Pending final tests of containment and emergency systems, TVA says it should be ready to load fuel into the reactor this fall and begin power generation before the end of the year.

◆ FUTURE OF BELK IS UP IN THE AIR

The future of the Charlotte, North Carolina-based Belk Department Store chain is uncertain. The Charlotte Observer says Belk announced in April it was considering selling itself. The newspaper interviewed 10 industry analysts and insiders who agreed that the uncertainty could end in one of three ways: acquisition by a private equity company, a sale to another department store chain such as Macy's, or keeping the company in family hands. Most of the insiders believe a sale to a private equity is the likeliest outcome. If that were to happen, it might mean closing some of Belk's under-performing stores. Belk has 297 stores in 16 states, including a store in Athens.

◆ ATHENS POLICE MAY GET TAZERS

Athens police officers may soon be armed with Tazers. Police Chief Chuck Ziegler has asked the city council to approve the purchase of Tazers for each officer at a cost of \$62,000. The Tazers would be equipped with cameras that would start recording automatically.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ Vice President Joe Biden pulled no punches when he spoke at Saturday's memorial service for the five servicemen who were killed in a shooting rampage in Chattanooga on July 16th. The Vice President blamed the attack on extreme Islamists, and called the shooter "a perverted jihadist." Defense Secretary Ashton Carter told the crowd "We will do what it takes to protect the servicemen and women who protect us."

◆ Civil rights leader Julian Bond died Saturday after a brief illness. He was 75. Bond helped found the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and later served as chairman of the NAACP.

◆ **The Old Farmer's Almanac** is predicting a super cold winter with a slew of snow for much of the country. The annual book of household tips, articles, and recipes predicts above-normal snow in New England and icy conditions in parts of the south.

◆ SHERIFF'S DEPT. SOLVES BURGLARIES

McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy says the arrest of two people wanted in other states has led to solving at least two burglaries in north McMinn County. Sheriff Guy says deputies responded to a report of stolen tools and received information about a suspicious van with South Carolina tags. The van was located, and deputies arrested the owner, Donovan Stewart of Kentucky, and his girlfriend, Tanya Galloway of South Carolina. They were both wanted by authorities in their home states. When officers searched the van, they found narcotics and stolen tools which had been taken from a job site and other locations.

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Monday, August 17, 2015

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Athens, Tennessee

Loving Their Neighbors

Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, TWC's Center for Servant Leadership is a busy place. Cars fill the parking lot, and people wait in line outside. They are greeted by AmeriCorps VISTA members and TWC student volunteers. These are the afternoons for Tennessee Wesleyan College's "Love Thy Neighbor Project" Food Bank. The food bank provides needy people in the community with food from Bi-Lo in Etowah, an on-campus food bank, and donations from other community partner agencies. Over the past year, the TWC food bank has provided over 36,000 pounds of food to 411 families. (The photo below shows TWC student volunteer Chase Freeman, class of 2017, as he organizes food)



Obituaries

- **Fannie Fairbanks**, age 97, of Athens died last Thursday at Brookewood Nursing Center in Decatur. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Zeigler Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Alice Irene Wade**, age 83, of Englewood died Friday at her home. Graveside services were held this past Saturday. Smith Funeral Home was in charge.
- **Leonard Moss**, age 51, of Etowah died last Thursday at a Chattanooga hospital. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Serenity Funeral Home of Etowah.
- **Donna L. Hart**, age 76, of Englewood died Saturday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 12 noon to 2 p.m.
- **Alma Lee Martin Whitner**, age 78, of Etowah died Saturday at her residence. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Clovia Burns**, age 62, of Athens died last Wednesday at her home. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
- **George Leslie Sims, Sr.**, age 73, of Englewood died Saturday at his residence. He served in the Navy for 10 years in a submarine service unit during the Vietnam War. He retired from Hiwassee Land Company after 33 years. Graveside services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Chattanooga National Cemetery, with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Smith Funeral Home.

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