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Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

Local & State News

◆ ATHENS MAN KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

A McMinn County man, 61-year-old Gary Church, was killed in a plane crash this past Saturday in Polk County. Church's home-built kit plane crashed nose-first while he was trying to take off from the Chilhowee Glider Port alongside Highway 411 in Benton. Church had been a pilot for many years and was a supporter of the McMinn County Radio Control Association.

(Photo by Charlotte Church Buff)



NATIONAL-WORLD NEWS

◆ Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl will face charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy and faces a possible life sentence in a court-martial over desertion. Bergdahl was released by the Taliban in exchange for five former leaders of the militant group held in Guantanamo Bay.

◆ President Obama said progress needs to speed up against Islamic State militants. The president is calling on allies to increase their military contributions to coalition efforts to destroy the group in Iraq and Syria.

◆ THREE SIGN TAX ROLLBACK PLEDGE

Three members of the Athens City Council have signed pledges to vote to remove this year's property tax increase if voters approve a sales tax increase next March. Mayor Ann Davis, Vice Mayor Bo Perkinson, and Council member Yvonne Raper signed the pledge. So far, Councilmen Dick Pelley and Chuck Burris have not signed. They both voted against placing the sales tax increase on the ballot.

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Tuesday, December 15, 2015 Morning Fax®..Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

APD Investigating Double Shooting

Athens Police are investigating a Sunday night shooting at an apartment house (shown below) on Forrest Avenue near Green Street. Police were called to the apartment around 11 p.m. Two people there told them two men had entered the house and started shooting. Police say Katherine Morris, 24, was shot in the hand. Keith Tyler, 51, was also wounded. They described their attackers as black males. Police are trying to identify the two suspects. (Photo by Ian Cullen)



Obituaries

- **Gary Wayne Church**, age 61, of Athens, died in an airplane accident last Saturday in Polk County. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Serenity Funeral Home in Etowah, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Donna Lee Putnam Janzen**, age 64, of Etowah, died last Friday at St. Thomas-Midtown in Nashville after an extended illness. She was retired from Cox Communications in Las Vegas and was the past director of the Etowah Senior Center. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 8 p.m. this Saturday, December 19th, at Serenity Funeral Home, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Carol J. Harris**, age 77, of Etowah, died Sunday at NHC of Athens. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Ann W. Campbell**, age 83, of Athens, (and formerly from Athens) died Monday at NHC Assisted Living in Farragut. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.
- **Lee "Milkman" Barnette**, age 53, of Cleveland, died last Saturday. He was a transport supervisor at Mayfield Dairy with 26 years of service. Funeral services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Fike-Randolph & Son Funeral Home in Cleveland, with visitation from 4 to 7 p.m.
- **Mary Jack Marks Hicks**, age 91, of Athens and Ten Mile, died Monday. She worked as a traveling economist after graduating from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and later taught home economics at McMinn County High School. A memorial service to celebrate the life of Mary will be held Friday at 11 a.m. at Keith Memorial United Methodist Church with visitation from 5-7 p.m. Thursday at Smith Funeral Home of Athens.

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