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# MORNING FAX<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News...This Morning

(Feel free to copy, post or otherwise distribute)  
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**Starr Regional**  
MEDICAL CENTER  
The FastER, ClosER, BettER  
Emergency Department  
Athens • Etowah

Thursday, December 31, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

### Local & State News

#### ◆ VICTIM OF MENNONITE WAGON CRASH DIES

A 13-year-old Mennonite girl has died from injuries received when the horse-drawn wagon she was riding in was hit by a mini-van Tuesday afternoon on County Road 970, the Linsdale Road, just off the Bowater Road in Delano. The wagon was delivering a load of corn to a family on CR 970 when it was hit by the mini-van. Gloria Wanner was airlifted to Erlanger Medical Center and later died of her injuries. Her father, Daniel Wanner, was driving the wagon. He was not seriously injured. Police say the driver of the mini-van, 28-year-old Jason Shelton, kept going until the engine died, then fled on foot. Polk County deputies captured him. He faces a long list of charges, including vehicular homicide, DUI, leaving the scene of a crash with injuries, failure to render aid, and following improperly.

(Photo by Shannon Shackelford Sayne)



### NATIONAL-WORLD NEWS

◆ Ethan Couch and his mother, Tonya Couch won a delay in extradition from Mexico on Wednesday. Couch and his mother fled to Mexico where they were captured in the Mexican Pacific Coast city of Puerto Vallarta on Monday. A judge in Mexico will have up to 72 hours to consider the injunction, and they could still be deported within two weeks depending on developments.

◆ Officials in Missouri and Illinois are helping residents get to higher ground amid fears that already dire conditions could worsen as floodwaters begin spilling over the federal levees that protect some communities and farmland. Twenty deaths have been blamed on the flooding in Missouri and Illinois so far.

◆ The U.S. is accusing Iran of launching a "highly provocative" rocket test last week near its warships and commercial traffic passing through the Strait of Hormuz. Tensions between the two countries could escalate, even after their recent landmark nuclear deal.

#### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The McMinn County Historical Society holds the first meeting of the new year this Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The guest speaker will be author Ron Jones who will talk about his new historical novel, **Eight Years A Soldier**.

✓ It's back to school next Tuesday, January 5th, for students in the Athens City, Etowah City, McMinn County, and Meigs County school systems. Fairview Christian Academy and Christ's Legacy Academy will be going back to school earlier, on Monday, January, 4th.

**NEW YEAR'S WEATHER FORECAST**  
**Thursday** - Partly sunny. Highs in the lower to mid 50's.  
**New Year's Eve** - Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid to upper 30's.  
**New Year's Day** - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 40's.  
Zoom Radar at: [www.wysi.com](http://www.wysi.com)

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## Morning Fax®

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Thursday, December 31, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

### Some of 2015's Big Stories

- 2015 started off in Athens on January 3rd with the birth of the New Year's first baby, Diana Constance Storm.
- Fire destroyed Shumaker's Wrecker Service on Union Grove Road in January. The Union Grove Volunteer Fire Department was located next door. In the weeks afterward, the former treasurer of the Union Grove Fire Dept. was charged with writing \$5,000 worth of checks, signing Chief Alvin Shoemaker's name, and using the money for her personal use. Eventually, the Union Grove Fire Department was closed and the new North McMinn County Fire and Rescue Department was organized.
- In 2015, both DENSO and Resolute Forest Products announced major new expansions which will create several hundred jobs.
- Stan Harrison, golf coach and former women's basketball coach at TWC, was named the Man of the Year.
- An ice storm hit McMinn County in March, leaving 7,000 AUB customers without power.
- Dr. Melanie Miller was named Athens Director of Schools, replacing Robert Greene who retired.
- The Athens City Council raised property taxes, but promised to rescind the increase if a sales tax increase passes in a referendum which will be held on March 1st, 2016.
- The party barn at the Mashburn Lake Event Center on County Road 50 was destroyed by fire in August.

### Obituaries

- **Charles Edward Rowland**, age 79, of Athens, died Tuesday at Starr Regional Medical Center. He was an employee of the McMinn County Board of Education as a bus driver for 22 years and was a dairy and beef cattle farmer. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Wednesday's Market Report:** U.S. stocks closed lower, pressured by a decline in oil prices. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 117.11 at 17,603.87. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 15.00 at 2,063.36, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 42.09 at 5,065.85

### CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

- The Blackwood Brothers will sing this Sunday at 6 p.m. at Pope Avenue Baptist Church, 301 Pope Street, in Athens.
- Jones Chapel UMC Ladies Group will have their 11th annual Ladies Conference January 9th from 9 to 2. The guest speaker will be Beth Greene from Kingston. There is a \$10 charge, which includes soup or chili for lunch. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. For information, call 368-5480 or 920-1236.
- Greater Deliverance Ministries will host a year end revival tonight and Friday night. Tonight's service at 7 p.m. features Minister Erica Cox from Louisville, KY. Friday's service is at 10 p.m. with Pastor Jerry Upton from Knoxville. The church is located at 2329 Clearwater Road in Athens.

*As we stand at the doorway leading out of 2015 and into 2016, none of us knows what lies on the other side of that door.*

*What will the New Year bring?*

*It is our hope here at The Morning Fax that 2016 will bring you health, prosperity, and happiness.*



**Happy New Year !**

No Morning Fax on Friday. See you on Monday, January 4, 2016!