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Friday, March 4, 2016

Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ GIRL SCOUTS WITNESS ARMED ROBBERY

A group of Girl Scouts selling cookies at the Wilco-Hess truck stop in Niota Wednesday night got more than they bargained for. When a man approached the front door, the scouts asked him to buy some cookies, but he ignored them. Instead, he entered the business, walked to the cash register, brandished a handgun, and demanded cash. He escaped with less than \$200 and fled in a white Kia Optima with Alabama plates. He was described as a white male about 6'2" tall wearing black pants and a blue hoodie. No one was injured during the robbery. If you have any information about the incident call the McMinn Sheriff's Department at 745-5613.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Etowah Carnegie Library will host local author Julia Walker Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. She is the co-author of "Fireball." "Fireball" is the true story of a Tennessee plow girl who survived poverty, abuse, and 11 husbands with "wit, wisdom, and tenacity." Ms. Walker will be signing copies of her book.
- ✓ The Etowah Boy Scout Troop 74 will hold its annual BBQ Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in conjunction with the Cousin Jake Bluegrass Festival. BBQ will be served at the L&N Depot for \$7 per plate. Bulk meat will also be available for \$7 per pound.
- ✓ Cowboy Bingo, dinner, and a Silent Auction benefiting the American Cancer Society and the McMinn County Relay for Life will be held tomorrow at Allen Memorial United Methodist Church on Decatur Pike in Athens. The cost is \$20 per ticket. The dinner and silent auction begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the church or by calling Kim Rymer at 507-2575.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

- ◆ On Thursday, North Korea fired several short-range projectiles into the Sea of Japan just hours after the U.N. Security Council voted to impose tough new sanctions on the isolated state.
- ◆ Hillary Clinton's former staffer, Bryan Pagliano, has been granted immunity in a criminal investigation. Pagliano helped set up the controversial private email server Clinton used while secretary of state.
- ◆ U.S. Special Operations Forces have captured a significant Islamic State operative in Iraq. This was the first suspected raid by a new force sent in recently to target the jihadist group's fighters and leaders.
- ◆ Australian Cardinal George Pell, testified on Tuesday that he never notified his superiors in the 1970s about rumors of sexual abuse of children by clergy in the Roman Catholic Church. Pell is the highest-ranking Vatican official to testify on the case and his testimony to the Australian inquiry has taken on wider implications about the accountability of church leaders.
- ◆ President Obama says he and his family are likely to remain in the nation's capital for a couple of years after his presidency ends so his daughter, Sasha, can graduate from high school. He says transferring someone who is in the middle of high school is tough.
- ◆ U.S. stocks finished slightly higher as investors await today's job report. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 44.58 at 16,943.90. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 6.95 at 1,993.40, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 4.00 at 4,707.42.



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Friday, March 4, 2016

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

~ St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church will have a Men's Day Breakfast on Saturday, March the 12th, at 9 a.m. The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Jay Ferguson, pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church.
~ Free prom attire for any girl or guy wishing to attend their prom or dance will be at the Prom Shop, March 19th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., located at Christ Community Church.

ETOWAH GETS PRESERVATION GRANT

Secretary of State Tre Hargett was in Etowah several days ago to present a \$3,000 grant to the Etowah Historical Commission to be used to purchase archival supplies. The grant money comes from the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The purpose of the grant is to preserve historical records and improve the facilities where those records are stored. The photo below shows Secretary Hargett, along with State Rep. John Forgety, McMinn County Mayor John Gentry, Linda Gray, and others.



Obituaries

- **Reba J. Thomas**, age 77, of Athens, died Wednesday at her residence. She had worked as a lab technician for the City of Murfreesboro until retiring in 1998 and moving to Athens. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.
- **Virginia G. "Sissy" Oliver**, age 87, of Athens, died Wednesday at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. Funeral services will be Friday at 7 p.m. at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.
- **Connie Frances Freeman Fritts**, age 52, of Riceville, died Thursday at her home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Ziegler Funeral Home with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m.
- **William H. "Bill" Johnson**, age 79, of Englewood, died Thursday at his home. He had worked for the Coca Cola Company for 13 years and for Bowater for 23 years. A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at Bordwine Funeral Home with visitation from 2 to 3 p.m. at Bordwine.
- **Lendell Russell Armstrong**, age 79, of Etowah, died Thursday at McMinn Memorial Nursing Home. He was involved in the family business of trading cattle for over 50 years. He served as a City Commissioner. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

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