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**Today's News...This Morning**

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Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Athens, Tennessee

## State & Local News

### ◆ FIRES WREAK HAVOC IN GATLINBURG

TEMA reports that hundreds of structures have been destroyed by the wildfires in Sevier County. Black Bear Falls reportedly lost every cabin. Westgate Resorts is said to be gone, with more than 100 buildings burned. Three people have now died from severe burns. Several firefighters from the Athens area are helping to battle the fires. The Athens Fire Department sent a crew and its ladder truck. Firefighters from Englewood, Niota, and Meigs County are also helping. Several thousand people have been evacuated from the Gatlinburg area. Governor Haslam visited Gatlinburg on Tuesday afternoon and got a briefing on the fires.



Photo courtesy  
of TEMA

## NATIONAL-WORLD NEWS

◆ ISIS on Tuesday claimed that the Ohio State University attacker was one of its "soldiers." A Facebook post suspected of being written by the assailant just before the attack, failed to mention the terror group.

◆ On Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard rescued a mariner stranded in a sailboat that had run aground near Cape Puget, Alaska. The sailboat was drifting toward rocks 209 miles north of Kodiak, according to the Coast Guard's 17th District.

### ◆ BURRIS SAYS HE WANTS TO PUT "FRIENDLY" BACK IN THE "FRIENDLY CITY"

The new mayor of Athens, Chuck Burris, says he is very humbled to have been chosen unanimously to serve as mayor. He says his first goal is to bring unity to the city and to put "Friendly" back in the Friendly City. He says he wants citizens to get involved and he says the City Council needs to listen to them. He says he wants to assure the people that their voice will be heard. Mayor Burris says the first order of business for the new council is finding replacements for City Manager Mitch Moore, Public Works Director Shawn Lindsey, Police Chief Chuck Ziegler, and Human Resources Director Rita Brown.

**G**

### Need special personalized Christmas gifts?


Author Christy Jordan will be in the shop Dec. 1st, from 4-7pm signing her new book, *Sweetness*.

Greeks Bearing Gifts • Downtown Athens on the Square • If you're not able to come, call and pre-order! 745-2642



Jordan

  
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**THURSDAY - SATURDAY**  
**9 to 5 - ATHENS LOCATION**  
 at former American Bedding Building  
 276 Dennis St., Athens

**McMinn County FFA**  
**announces oranges are in!!!**  
**Pick Up Times:**  
 November 30th 12pm-6pm  
 December 1st 8:30am-6pm  
 December 2nd 8:30am-6pm  
**Location:**  
 2103 Congress Pkwy S  
 in the Ag Shop  
*Look for the open shop door!!*

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**All Aboard Santa's Holiday Train**

The Hiwassee River Rail Adventure and Tennessee Overhill are offering rides on "Santa's Hiwassee Holiday Train" during the Christmas season. The first train ran this past Saturday. Other trips will take place on Dec. 3rd, 10th, and 17th. You can purchase tickets by calling the L&N Depot, 263-7840. The photo shows a group of riders on the front of the train with Santa. (Photo by Tennessee Overhill)



**UPCOMING CHRISTMAS PARADES:**  
 The Etowah Christmas Parade will be Dec. 1st, starting at 7 p.m. The Englewood Parade will be Friday at 6:30 p.m. and the Athens Parade is next Monday, Dec. 5th, at 7 p.m.

**UNITED WAY OFFERS TEXT OPTION TO DONATE**  
 The United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties is offering a text option to anyone who wants to donate to help evacuees and first responders in the Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge area. Anyone who wants to donate can text SMOKYMOUNTAINS to 41444.

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**Obituaries**

• **Katlyn Elliman Nicole Baxter**, age 17, of Niota, died last Saturday. She was a senior at McMinn County High School. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Englewood Church of God, with visitation from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the church. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



**EVERY DAY IS A CLASSIC CAR SHOW IN CUBA**

John and Vicky Proffitt of Athens are in Havana, Cuba, this week. They are among the first U.S. tourists to go to Cuba. John has been sending back photos from Cuba. One that caught our attention was this picture of two old cars. Havana is well-known for the old cars from the 1940's and 50's that the Cubans manage to keep running, despite a shortage of parts.



**Today In History, November 30th**

**1874** - British statesman Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire. He became a British statesman, soldier, and author, and the first man to be made an honorary citizen of the United States (by an act of Congress on April 9, 1963).

**1782** - The United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris, ending the Revolutionary War.

**1835** - Author Mark Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens in Florida, Mo.

**1966** - The former British colony of Barbados became independent.

**1993** - President Bill Clinton signed into law the Brady bill, which requires a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

**1940** - Lucille Ball and Cuban musician Desi Arnaz were married. Lucy filed for divorce the day after their final TV show was filmed in 1960.