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Morning Fax[®]

Today's News...This Morning

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Friday, December 29, 2017 Athens, Tennessee

2017's BIG NEWS STORIES

- The first baby of the new year in McMinn County was born on Jan. 1st at Starr Regional Medical Center. He was Jayden Dale Bryant Thomason, son of Megan Vann and Ryan Andrew Thomason of Decatur.
 - Clean up continued from the tornado damage in November 2016. During the coming months, Save-A-Lot was rebuilt, ground was broken on new facilities on the Fairview Baptist Church campus, the DPA moved back into its building on S. Jackson Street, and WYXI Radio resumed normal operations after equipment replacement and building repairs.
 - Dr. Vant Hardaway was named the J. Neal Ensminger Man of the Year at the annual Athens Chamber banquet.
 - Johnna Hampton, a member of the McMinn County School Board, died at the age of 51.
 - Dave Burris, founder of the Western Sizzlin' Steak House, died in July.
 - Dr. Jim Slowey died in November at age 75. He delivered over 7,000 babies during his practice in Athens.
 - Thieves stole vegetables and plants from the Coordinated Charities raised garden.
 - An early-morning fire on July 1st destroyed the Logan-Thompson law office building in Downtown Athens, and caused major damage to Johnsons Home Furnishings, the Athens Chamber of Commerce, Greeks Bearing Gifts, and the Prissy Closet. Greeks was able to reopen in late November, but the Prissy Closet did not reopen. Repairs are underway on Johnsons Home Furnishings and the Chamber buildings.
 - The body of 18-year-old Kelsey Burnette was found on the side of a street in Etowah. Her death was ruled a murder. No arrest has been made.
- (More of 2017 in review on Page Two)

National & World News

- ◆ Alabama's state canvassing board has officially certified the results of the Dec. 12th special election, declaring Democrat Doug Jones the winner in the U.S. Senate race.
 - ◆ Employees working the late night shift on Christmas Eve at an Ohio Waffle House got a huge surprise when a local church congregation went there to dine and left the staff a Christmas tip totaling \$3,577.
 - ◆ A big rig crashed onto a Texas highway Thursday and spilled about 40,000 pounds of avocados. The rig caught fire, and the condition of the driver has not been released.
- ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:**
- ✓ Samaritan House on U.S. 11 south of Athens is opening its doors to all males, men and boys, who need shelter from the cold weather this weekend. For information, call 252-0317.
 - ✓ The National Weather Service says a blast of arctic air is expected to hit the Athens area over the next several days, with lows in the low teens a couple of nights next week. Athens Utilities Board suggests you keep your thermostat at 68, open doors below sinks to allow heat from the home to circulate around the plumbing, allow an interior faucet to run slightly with lukewarm water, and disconnect all garden hoses. You should also have several heavy blankets, flashlights, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, and a well-charged cell phone in the event of power outages.

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As we stand at the doorway leading out of 2017 and into 2018, none of us know 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 2018 will bring you health, prosperity, and happiness.

Friday, December 29, 2017

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Kimberly Bledsoe**, age 54, of Etowah, died Thursday at Hospice of Chattanooga. She was owner and operator of Shelby's Restaurant in Etowah for the past 19 years. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home at 9:30 a.m. this Saturday and proceed to Brock Cemetery for the 11 a.m. graveside services. No formal visitation will be held.

♦ **James Allen Galyon**, age 67, of Athens, died recently. He worked as an auto body repair specialist all of his adult life in locations from Texas to Tennessee. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. this Saturday at the Athens Christian Church, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. at the church. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Estus Lee Newton**, age 100, of Athens, died Tuesday at NHC of Athens. He and his wife, Frances, owned and operated the former Newton's Bus Station and Restaurant. A celebration of life service will be conducted in the Spring of 2018 by Smith Funeral Home.

♦ **Susan Cole**, age 68, of Etowah, died Wednesday. Arrangements will be announced by Bordwine Funeral Home.

♦ **Gordon Owens**, age 71, of Ten Mile, and a native of Virginia, died Wednesday. The family will receive friends this Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at Bowers Funeral Home in Decatur. No funeral ser-

(More 2017 in Review)

- A RAM (Rural Area Medical) Clinic was held at the McMinn High School in July. Nearly 900 people received dental, vision, or medical services.

- The search for a big potbelly pig nicknamed "Pigfoot" kept several people busy for several weeks in August. "Pigfoot" was finally struck and killed by a truck in front of Starr Regional.

- More than 40,000 visitors came to McMinn County for the August 21st total eclipse of the sun. There were special events in Athens, Etowah, and Niota.

- The new Athens City Manager, C. Seth Sumner, started work on February 1st. New Athens Police Chief Cliff Couch was hired and assumed his duties in late September.

- There was a fire and explosion at the Wacker chemical plant in Charleston in September. Plant officials said that a technical defect prompted a hydrogen leak that caught fire. A cloud of low-level hydrogen chloride was released into the air. The explosion and chemical release briefly closed I-75 and resulted in shelter-in-place orders for nearby schools and residents.

- - The face of Downtown Athens changed, not only with the July 1st fire, but with the opening of Food City and the move of the Courthouse Annex to renovated buildings across the street from the County Courthouse.

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