

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday** - 80% rain. High near 54.

**Thursday Night** - Rain & Snow before 2 a.m. No accumulation expected. Low 27.

**Friday** - Sunny. High 38.

More Weather at: [wyxi.com](http://wyxi.com)

# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News...This Morning

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Thursday, February 1, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

### STATE & LOCAL NEWS

### More Local News

#### ◆ VEC LAUNCHES BROADBAND IN BRADLEY

Volunteer Energy Cooperative has launched broadband high speed internet service as a pilot program in part of Bradley County. The service began in December and offers broadband speeds of 25 mbps, 250 mbps, and 1,000 mbps to families in the Camelot subdivision and the Bigsby Creek Road area. TV and telephone combination packages are also being offered. The first internet package was installed at a home in the Camelot subdivision. The homeowners say it works well and it hasn't quit once since they got it. VEC plans to expand the pilot area in June.

#### ◆ WATTS BAR CRITIZED BY TVA AUDITS

Two new audits of TVA's employee concerns program show safety and workplace issues raised by employees at the Watts Bar and Browns Ferry nuclear power plants. Those resulted in costly delays and equipment fixes in the past and are still not getting proper attention and timely resolution. The reports were released by TVA's Inspector General. They said TVA still is not fully complying with regulatory orders to address employee concerns. The report on Watts Bar said TVA's approach did not assign accountability or provide oversight to handle the concerns. The reports do not identify any unresolved safety issues at the plants. The audits also found that 90% of the workers interviewed rated TVA's corrective action program for employee concerns as effective.

◆ Rep. Chuck Fleischmann was injured Wednesday morning when a train carrying Republican members of Congress to a retreat collided with a truck in Virginia. Fleischmann was on his way to the restroom when the collision occurred. He said he was thrown around upon the impact and suffered neck, back, and foot injuries. You may remember that Fleischmann was also injured last year in a shooting at a ball field near Washington.

◆ Meigs County Schools will close for the rest of the week due to widespread illness. School Director Don Roberts says 31% of the students are out sick. The rest of the week will be spent sanitizing the school facilities.

#### ◆ FIRE HITS MONROE CO. JUNK YARD

A fire last Sunday afternoon involved several vehicles at Copart, an automobile junkyard on Highway 411 in Monroe County. The Gudger, Tri Community, Notchey Creek, and Englewood Rural Fire Departments responded.

(Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept)



### Hear

#### Dave Ramsey



Daily  
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on **WYXI**  
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**Western Sizzlin' Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike**  
**Thursday ALL DAY:** 8 oz Sizzlin' Top Sirloin  
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### HEAR RUSH\*

Noon to 3 p.m.  
Monday  
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Week in Review 4-7 pm

\*Having more fun than a human being should be allowed to have  
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# All Things Exterior

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Thursday, February 1, 2018

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

- ♦ **April Kay Culberson Gibson**, age 45, of Englewood, died Tuesday. She was employed at McMinn Medical Imaging. A private Memorial service will be held for the family at home at a later date. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
- ♦ **Robert Garland Lankford**, age 72, of Decatur, died Tuesday at Starr Regional of Athens. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.
- ♦ **Brenda Shamblin** of Riceville died Tuesday at her home. Arrangements will be announced by Companion of Athens.
- ♦ **John Wiley "Johnny" Dykes, Jr.**, 91, of Athens, died Monday at his home. He was an insurance company underwriter manager and served in the Army during World War II. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday in Alma, Georgia. Smith Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.

### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Feb. 8th, at 12 noon at the McMinn Senior Activity Center. You are asked to RSVP by Feb. 6th by calling 745-9606.
- ✓ E.G. Fisher Public Library will observe African-American History Month with several special programs. The first will be this Saturday, Feb. 3rd, at 11 a.m. Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to learn the story of Ruby Bridges, a six-year-old girl who was the first African-American child to integrate a white school in the South. They'll also hear stories from Stanley Blair and Vant Hardaway of Athens about growing up in a segregated world.

## Meet Herb Kurz, Bomber Pilot

Herbert Kurz of Athens recently celebrated his 98th birthday. He still drives his car and lives alone since the death of his wife. Herb enjoys listening to the dozens of antique organs he has restored over the years. And he enjoys recalling his World War II days as pilot of a B-24 bomber in the South Pacific. Herbert was accepted for pre-flight training in the Army Air Corps in December of 1941, just a couple of weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Herb was 21 at the time. He put together his flight crew and they were passengers aboard a B-24 which was ferrying them to their assignment in Topeka, Kansas. En route, the plane lost an engine and went into a spin. Kurz and his crew members parachuted to safety, but three others on the plane were killed. Kurz and his crew made it to Topeka, and he was assigned his plane with the name "The Green Hornet" painted on it. They flew to the South Pacific where they were engaged in search and combat activity during 1943. After one bombing mission, the Japanese got so mad they staged a bombing attack on the B-24 base early the next morning, destroying planes on the ground and killing four of his crew members. Kurz got his first Purple Heart that day. The other Purple Heart came when his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire and when he landed, his brakes and wing flaps did not work, so the plane ran off the runway into shallow water. Life Magazine published a painting showing his plane in the June 26, 1944, issue (shown below). After the war, Kurz worked as an engineer and moved to Athens in 1964.

