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MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Friday-December 24, 2010

Athens, Tennessee

LOCAL & AREA NEWS

◆ WILL WE HAVE SNOW FOR CHRISTMAS?

Tennesseans may not have to dream about a white Christmas this year. Forecasters are predicting that snow will fall over much of the state this holiday weekend as a low pressure system moves up from the Gulf Coast. Forecasters say Nashville and Middle Tennessee could get 1 to 2 inches and parts of the Cumberland Plateau could get up to 4 inches. They're calling for possible "light snow accumulation" in the Athens area. The last measureable snow on Christmas Day in Southeast Tennessee was a dusting in 1989. You have to go back to 1969 for a significant Christmas Day snowfall--5 inches.

◆ TRAFFIC FATALITIES UP IN TENNESSEE

Traffic fatalities in Tennessee this year have already exceeded those for all of 2009, reversing a 3-year downward trend. So far this year, 1,005 people have died in wrecks in Tennessee. That's 16 more than were killed in all of 2009. The State Patrol says traffic fatalities are up in both the Chattanooga District and the Knoxville District. Both of those are considered rural areas with the exception of the cities of Chattanooga and Knoxville. Troopers say fatal wrecks in rural counties are going up and they blame it on less use of seat belts. Seat belt usage in the rural areas is under 80%. The state average is 87%.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ Package bombs exploded at the Swiss and Chilean embassies in Rome on Thursday, wounding the two people who opened them. Italian officials say the attacks bore similarities to bombings by anarchists in Greece last month.

◆ Economic reports out Thursday suggest that employers are laying off fewer workers, businesses are ordering more computers and appliances, and consumers are spending more confidently. The Dow Jones industrial average rose again, closing at 11,573.49; up 14.00.

◆ General Motors is recalling 109,000 Cadillac CTS cars for the model years 2005-2007 because a mat under the seat that senses the front passenger could break and disable the front air bag.

◆ A new study says eating too much fried fish may raise the risk of strokes. The survey showed that people living in the "stroke belt," which includes Tennessee and most other Southeastern states, are about 30% more likely to eat two or more servings of fried fish each week than those living in the rest of the country. Inhabitants of the stroke belt are 20% more likely to die from stroke than people living elsewhere. Residents of the stroke belt's "buckle," the coastal areas of the Carolinas and Georgia, are 40% more likely to die from strokes. Frying fish reduces their amount of omega-3 fatty acids.

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Western Sizzlin' Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike (745-2626)

We will close today at 4 p.m. and be closed tomorrow, Christmas Day. We will reopen Sunday, December 26. Merry Christmas !!

JIFFY CHRISTMAS DINNER SPECIAL:
7 til 11 40 pc. BROASTED CHICKEN, 7 pounds of
CORNBREAD DRESSING, 1 pound of GRAVY and 24
DINNER ROLLS, \$57.50. Must be paid and ordered in advance.

Stonehaus Deli & Bakery, 601 Madison Ave. (745-9116)

BBQ Pork Sandwich with French Fries, \$4.99; BBQ Potato, \$4.99;
Chicken Quesadilla and Soup or Salad, \$5.99; Soup: Chicken Tortilla.

Closed Sunday.

BOjangles Famous Chicken & Biscuits-S. Congress Parkway (744-5292) December Specials: Breakfast--2 Pork Chop Biscuits for \$4. Check-out 5 Meals for Just \$5 each for Lunch. Dinner: 12 piece Super Tailgate + 6 Biscuits & 1/2 Gallon Tea or Lemonade, just \$19.99.

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PAGE TWO

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Friday-December 24, 2010

Athens, Tennessee

Water Leak Closes Road

A major water leak on Old Grady Road just off Highway 411 in Etowah Tuesday afternoon closed the road and required motorists to detour to get to Woods Memorial Hospital and other points. EUB crews used three pumps and a backhoe in an attempt to lower the water to a point where the line could be repaired. When that attempt failed, crews had to wait until the nearby Dialysis Center closed to turn off the water and repair the leak.



(Photo by Jay Thomson)

Santa will make a quick trip to Athens this evening before he begins his Christmas Eve journey. The Athens Fire Department will drive Santa through the North City and City Park neighborhoods in a white pickup truck with red lights and sirens between 4 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Santa says Athens is one of his favorite places to visit because so many boys and girls have been good this year.

Obituaries

Alfred William Gosnell, age 57, of Decatur died Wednesday at his residence. He was a former employee of Kennesaw Transport. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mickey Dean Smith, age 55, of Riceville died Wednesday at his residence. He was a former employee of Whirlpool and was a musician who played in several bands. Graveside services were held Thursday. Ziegler Funeral Home was in charge.

Gary Lynn Yarber, age 49, of Madisonville died Wednesday at Sweetwater Hospital. He had lived in Englewood most of his life. No services will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Arthur Creed "A.C." Lockmiller, Sr., age 84, of Athens died Thursday at Athens Regional Medical Center. He was an automobile salesman for Wall Chevrolet and Guffey Motors and a salesman for Life and Casualty Life Insurance Company. Funeral services will be at 8 p.m. Sunday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m.

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given: and
the government shall be upon
his shoulder: and his name
shall be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

The Full Account of the Birth of Jesus
can be found in Matthew 1 & 2 and Luke 2
in the Holy Bible



MERRY CHRISTMAS
from the Morning Fax Staff