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Friday-December 31, 2010

MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Athens, Tennessee

3 Charged In I-75 Bridge Drops

• Three young men have been arrested in connection with at least three instances of objects being thrown from I-75 overpasses in McMinn County over the past two months. The suspects are Casey Thomas, 18, of Athens; Barry Burbank, 20, of Sweetwater; and Jeremy Mulkey, 19, of Athens. (Photos below right) All three have been charged with 3 counts of reckless endangerment, 2 counts of felony vandalism, and 1 count of conspiracy to commit reckless homicide. Mulkey also is charged with 18 counts of attempted reckless homicide for dropping the electric fan motor which hit a bus carrying The Voices of Lee singers from Lee University, injuring the driver.

• Sheriff Joe Guy says all three suspects confessed to their involvement in three incidents. The first took place on Nov. 16 when a mailbox was thrown from the County Road 326 overpass. It struck the windshield of a truck, injuring the driver. The second incident took place on Nov. 29th when the motor was dropped from the County Road 130 overpass and hit the bus. The third incident occurred on Dec. 22 when another mailbox was thrown from the County Road 255 overpass and hit the cab of a tractor trailer. Sheriff Guy says one of the suspects also admitted a fourth incident that occurred on the County Road 264 overpass, but no vehicles were struck.

• Sheriff Guy says the suspects said their motive was "stupid fun." The sheriff says the crimes affected the safety of McMinn County residents and other drivers traveling through the county. He said this type of crime borders on terrorism. Sheriff Guy says the arrests followed a joint effort involving the McMinn and Bradley County Sheriff's offices, the Athens Police Department, and the TBI.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

- ◆ The number of people applying for unemployment benefits fell to its lowest point in nearly two and a half years, a sign that the job market is slowly improving.
- ◆ New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg acknowledged Thursday that the city's response to the blizzard that dropped 20 inches of snow was "inadequate and unacceptable."
- ◆ Former Israeli President Moshe Katsav was convicted Thursday of raping an employee when he was a Cabinet minister. It's the most serious criminal charge ever brought at a high-ranking Israeli.
- ◆ The Dow Jones Industrials closed down 15.67 at 11,569.71.

Thursday afternoon, the Bradley County Sheriff's Office announced that the three suspects in the I-75 object tossing incidents have also been charged with vandalism at the site of the new Cleveland Airport. On Nov. 16, construction workers discovered heavy damage had been done to a road grader, a bulldozer, and a dump truck. The three young men (pictured below) face charges of vandalism over \$60,000. Thomas was also charged with theft of construction equipment from Trio Equipment Company of Athens.



Jeremy Mulkey



Barry Burbank



Casey Thomas

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Restaurant Spotlight

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

Fri. & Sat. (All Day) 14 ounce Thick Cut RIBEYE with Potato, Bakery, & Dessert Bars, \$13.49. Dine-in only, no other discounts.



NEW YEAR SPECIAL:

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.

Sunday: Soup - Tomato Bisque

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 & ½ Gallon Tea or Lemonade, just \$19.99.



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PAGE TWO

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Friday-December 31, 2010

Athens, Tennessee

Who's New In Pink & Blue?

Giovanni Esteban Montealegre was born December 27th at Athens Regional Medical Center. He weighed 6 pounds and 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. His mother is Leila Montealegre of Athens.

Jadelyn Michelle Huff was born December 26th at ARMC. She weighed 9 pounds and 2 ounces and was 21 inches long. Her parents are Heather Lewis and Chad Huff of Delano.

Harmony Spears was born Dec. 26th at ARMC. She weighed 7 pounds and 9 ounces and was 19 inches long. Her parents are Jasmine and Dustin Spears of Athens.

Shelby Bryanne Carter was born Dec. 21st at ARMC. She weighed 8 pounds and 12 ounces and was 20½ inches long. Her parents are Renee and Bryan Carter of Niota.

Dylan Joseph Denton was born December 19th at ARMC. He weighed 6 pounds and 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. His parents are Laci Thomas and David Denton of Niota.

Brayden Wesley Flynn was born Dec. 18th at ARMC. He weighed 7 pounds and 10 ounces and was 21½ inches long. His parents are Christin and Wes Flynn of Athens.

LOOKING BACK ON 2010

~ The first baby of 2010 was Aubree Nicole Marbury, born January 2 at Athens Regional Medical Center.

~ Kirk Jordan, pastor of the North Sweetwater and Walnut Grove Baptist churches, was found shot to death in the kitchen at his home in Riceville on January 10. So far, no arrests have been made.

~ Burkett Witt was named Athens Man of the Year.

~ On March 1st, a man robbed the Athens Federal office on W. Washington Ave. He was caught moments later when he wrecked his get-away bicycle.

~ TWC President Stephen Condon resigned effective April 1st.

~ In June, Robert Greene was chosen Athens City Schools Director.

~ In July, Monroe County Election Commission Chairman Jim Miller's body was found in the trunk of his burned car. He had been shot several times. No suspect has been arrested.

~ Johnson Controls in Athens was sold to MIG Industries.

~ The popular Country Patch Restaurant in Athens was destroyed by fire in August.

~ Mike Bell was elected state senator; John Forgety was elected state representative; Bill Haslam was elected governor; Joe Guy was elected McMinn County Sheriff.

CHURCH NEWS

~ The Family Worship Center at 321 Maple Street, Athens, will have a special New Year's Eve Service at 6:30 p.m.

~ Tim Jamerson & Out of Ashes will be in concert New Year's Eve at the Cooke Ministry Center, 714 Walter St., Athens.

Obituaries: **Joyce Allison**, age 68, died unexpectedly on December 19th. A memorial service was held yesterday. Bordwine Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Clinard Boyce Swafford, age 73, of Athens, died Thursday at Athens Regional. He was a retired iron worker in Los Angeles. Funeral services will be at 7pm Monday at Ziegler Funeral Home with visitation from 5-7pm Monday at Ziegler.

WEATHER

Friday - Mostly cloudy.
High-near 60.

Friday night - Cloudy. 70%
rain chance. Low-48.

Saturday - Near 100% rain.
Breezy. High-upper 50's.
More wx at: www.wyxi.com

ONE MORE SNOW PHOTO BEFORE THE OLD YEAR ENDS. THIS IS CHASITY McINTURFF, A FARMER'S DAUGHTER.



WHEN RADIO WAS

**Old-time Radio Shows
6:05-7 pm Nightly
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Jack Benny (1945) &
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Leadership McMinn Alumni Seminar. Feb. 11th, 8 a.m. at McMinn Senior Citizens Ctr. Alumni \$10; Gen. Adm. \$15
Tickets at Athens Chamber of Commerce. 423-745-0334