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# MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Thursday-December 29, 2011

Athens, Tennessee

## State & Local News

### ◆ CHOP SHOP CASE LED TO SHOOTING

McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy says when one of his deputies was forced to use his handgun against a suspect this past Monday, the officers were trying to serve grand jury indictments on a large-scale chop shop operation. Sheriff Guy says the indictments were related to a case dating back to July 7th, when deputies discovered a quarter-million dollars worth of stolen vehicles and other property while checking out a tip at the residence of Allan and Leah Shepherd on County Road 250.

Among the vehicles found were two rollback wreckers, a Ford F-250 truck, and a Kubota tractor. They also found stolen shotguns, tools, and airbags.

The case against the Shepherds was presented to the grand jury earlier this month. On Monday, Sergeant Mike Hayes and Deputy Blake Witt went to the Shepherd residence to serve the indictments. Shepherd ran into the woods with two handguns. He pulled one of them on Deputy Witt. After repeated warnings, Witt fired his weapon, killing Shepherd. Sheriff Guy says his officers appear to have reacted as they should have in the situation. Guy describes it as a "tragic set of circumstances that Shepherd set in motion."

## NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ Three miners who were trapped 800 feet underground after a fire started in a zinc mine near New Market in Jefferson County, Tennessee, Wednesday were brought to safety by a rescue team. The fire happened at the Young Zinc Mine on U.S. Highway 11E. Fifty-four miners were underground when the fire started in a drilling rig. Two miners were hospitalized for smoke inhalation. The three miners who were trapped were in a "safe area."

◆ The year 2011 is going down as the safest year for air travel around the world than any year since the International Civil Aviation Organization began collecting data in 1945. Globally, there have been only 22 fatal accidents with 486 fatalities. In the U.S., there have been no fatal airline crashes this year.

◆ The U.S. Navy is warning Iran that any attempt to shut down the Strait of Hormuz, the waterway through which a large amount of the world's oil passes, "will not be tolerated." Iran's navy chief says closing the Strait would be "easier than drinking a glass of water."

◆ Stocks fell 1 percent on Wednesday as investors appeared to shift focus to what many expect will be a difficult start to 2012. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 139.94 at 12,151.41

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Any 8" Sub, plus fry & drink, only \$5.99. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
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# PAGE TWO

## Morning Fax™

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Thursday-December 29, 2011

Athens, Tennessee

### Chapman To Appear In Athens

Noted Christian singer Steven Curtis Chapman will be in concert in Athens on May 19th in conjunction with next year's MooFest. Chapman has sold over ten million records, has received five Grammy Awards, 56 Dove Awards, and has recorded 45 #1 hit records. He has performed at the White House and on multiple national television shows.



Chapman and his wife, MaryBeth, created The Shaohannah's Hope Ministry after bringing Shaohannah, their first adopted daughter home from China. Now known as Show HOPE, the ministry's goal is to help families reduce the financial barrier of adoption.

Tickets go on sale January 9th at the Athens Chamber of Commerce office, 13 N. Jackson Street. Phone 745-0334.

### When Do Classes Resume?

Athens City Schools, McMinn County Schools, the Etowah City School, Fairview Christian Academy and Christ's Legacy Academy return to classes next Tuesday, Jan. 3rd.

Meigs County Schools resume classes next Wednesday, Jan. 4th.

### Be Safe New Years Eve

New Years is an alcohol-related holiday with parties, drinking, and driving. The Athens Police Department reminds you that even though not everyone drinks alcohol, anyone can have his or her life touched by a person who has been using alcohol.

Athens police say if you drink, DON'T drive. Instead use a designated non-drinking driver or give your vehicle keys to a non-drinker. If you are drinking at a place where you can spend the night, you should make arrangements to stay.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be out in force New Year's Eve with bar checks and driver license and sobriety checkpoints. One of those sobriety checkpoints will be on State Highway 305 (Ingleside Avenue) at Tellico Avenue in Athens. That is scheduled for late Saturday night. There will also be a sobriety checkpoint Saturday evening at State Route 68 and U.S. 11 in Monroe County.



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**WEATHER**

**Thurs. - Sunny.** Highs in the lower to mid 50s.  
**Thurs. night - Partly cloudy.** Lows in the mid 30s.  
**Friday - Mostly sunny.** Highs in the upper 50s.  
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