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Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday-January 24, 2012

Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ **BELL SPONSORING 10 COMMANDMENT BILL**
 State Senator Mike Bell of McMinn County is the Senate sponsor of a bill that would allow local governments to display the Ten Commandments in county courthouses and on public groups. Bell's proposal would authorize counties and cities to set up displays of "historical documents and monuments and writings" that have been "recognized to commemorate freedom and the rich history of Tennessee and the United States." The list of allowable documents includes the Ten Commandments, England's Magna Carta, the Pilgrims' Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Tennessee Constitution. Bell points out that several counties, including Meigs County, already have historical documents, including the Ten Commandments, posted at their courthouses.

◆ CRIME DROPS IN McMINN COUNTY

McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy has released crime data that shows an overall decrease in crimes and traffic fatalities in McMinn County over the last two years. The total number of crimes in the county in 2011 was 1,291. That compares to 1,730 in 2010 and 2,336 in 2009. Burglaries, thefts, and assaults were the highest crime categories in all three years. Drug crimes dropped from 284 in 2009 to 145 in 2010, but rose slightly in 2011 to 159. The percentage of crimes solved went up from 25% in 2009 to 31% in 2010.

Sheriff Guy says McMinn County's traffic fatalities dropped from 20 in 2010, to 11 in 2011.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ Severe storms and possible tornadoes pounded the South on Monday, injuring more than 100 people and killing at least two in Alabama. Homes were flattened in Oak Grove, a community near Birmingham. An 82-year-old man died in Oak Grove and a 16-year-old girl was killed in the nearby community of Clay.

◆ New polls released as the Republican candidates begin campaigning in Florida show Newt Gingrich in the lead. A Rasmussen poll shows Gingrich leading Mitt Romney at nine percentage points. A poll by Insider Advantage shows Gingrich with 34 percent and Romney with 26 percent. And Public Policy Polling shows Gingrich and Romney "neck and neck."

◆ The Supreme Court has ruled that police attachment of a GPS device to monitor a suspect's vehicle without a warrant violates constitutional privacy rights. The justices upheld an appeals court ruling that police must first obtain a warrant to use a GPS device for an extended period of time to covertly follow a suspect.

◆ Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky was detained at the Nashville airport Monday after refusing a security pat-down. Paul says the incident occurred after an alarm went off when he walked through a scanner. TSA agents refused his request to walk through the scanner again, and he refused their demand for a pat-down. Paul was eventually allowed to board another flight after a different screening.

◆ Two guns seized from gangsters Bonnie and Clyde in 1933 after a deadly Missouri shootout with police have sold at auction. One of them, a .45-caliber "Tommy gun," sold for \$130,000.

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Restaurant Spotlight

Western Sizzlin Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike (745-2626)
 Tuesday, (11a-4p) 6 oz. Chicken Breast + Salad, Potato, Bakery,
 & Dessert Bars, \$7.99. Monday-Thursday (All Day) 10 oz.
 RIBEYE STEAK with Potato, Bakery, & Dessert Bars, \$11.99.

Tosceno Pizza & Italian Grill, Ingles Shopping Center, Athens
746-9900. LUNCH SPECIAL: 11am-2:30pm - Pick up or
dine-in only ! Spaghetti, Ravioli, Manicotti, Stuffed Shells.
Salad not included. \$5.99.

BOjangles Famous Chicken & Biscuits-S. Congress Parkway
(744-5292) January Specials >>> STEAK BISCUITS 99¢ each.
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WEATHER

Tuesday - Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Tuesday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Wednesday - Mostly cloudy. 30% rain. High near 60.

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Radar at: www.wyxi.com

PAGE TWO

Morning Fax™

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WHEN RADIO WAS

Old-Time Radio Shows
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WYXI AM-1390

Tonight:
**Jack Benny Program &
Frontier Gentleman**

Tuesday-January 24, 2012

Athens, Tennessee

Who's New In Pink & Blue?

Bentley Nathaniel Jerome Waldrop was born January 19th at Athens Regional Medical Center. He weighed 8 pounds and 12 ounces and was 22 inches long. His parents are Megan and Dustin Waldrop of Athens.

Arieonna Nichole Simpson was born January 18th at ARMC. She weighed 5 pounds and 13 ounces and was 18 inches long. Her parents are Christie and Jeffrey Simpson of Niota.

SORTING OUT YOUR LIFE

One of the best and most humorous speakers in town, Beth Tullock, will speak at Athens Regional Medical Center's monthly program this Thursday morning at 9 a.m. in the Physicians Dining Room. Beth, who is Director of the Daystar Counseling Center, calls her presentation: "This is Mine. That is yours. The other must be someone else's...Sorting out Your Life." To register for this free event, call Chris Hari at 744-3269.



Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The 2012 Athens Soap Box Derby informational meeting will be held tonight at 6 in the Court Room at the Athens Municipal Building. The meeting is designed for those interested in racing in the June 2nd Soap Box Derby. Potential drivers ages 7 to 17 and a parent are encouraged to attend the meeting.
- ✓ E.G. Fisher Public Library will offer a Basic Computer Skills class on January 27th and 30th from 1 to 5 p.m. The two-part class will cover computing basics including word processing skills and navigating the internet. The class is intended for beginning computer users and is open to the public at no charge. Call 745-7782 to reserve your space.
- ✓ McMinn County High School will present the 5th annual Winterfest this Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the high school. There will be food, exhibits, and entertainment. Admission is free, but you will be given the opportunity to make a donation to The Hope Center.
- ✓ The Athens Public Works Department advises that Sweetfield Valley Road will be closed from Cedar Springs Road to County Road 704 Wednesday, Jan. 25th, from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. for street repairs.
- ✓ The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting driver license roadside safety checkpoints in McMinn County this week.
- ✓ The McMinn and Meigs County Health Departments continue to offer free flu shots for adults 19 and older. To make an appointment, call 745-7431 or 334-5185.

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EVERY WEDNESDAY

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The skies opened up Sunday night and dumped heavy rains over Southeast Tennessee. Bruce Hari sent us this photo of the flooding on County Road 60 near Rogers Creek School Monday afternoon.

