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MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday-December 31, 2013

Athens, Tennessee

Local and State News

- ◆ **THP GEARS UP FOR NEW YEARS**
 The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be out in full force over the New Years holiday. Last year, there were eight fatal crashes resulting in nine deaths across the state. Five of the fatalities occurred in alcohol-related crashes. Three of the seven victims were not wearing safety restraints. Two of the victims last New Years holiday were pedestrians. State troopers will be conducting a sobriety check point on Highway 30 (S. White Street) in front of Save-A-Lot on New Year's Day afternoon.
- ◆ **SENIOR CENTER TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN**
 The McMinn Senior Center in Athens is beginning a Capital Campaign to repay the loan on the house that they purchased at 318 Lafayette Street a year ago. The house is known as "Currier Cottage" and provides space for Medicare Counseling, offices, activity space, and Santa's Workshop. Letters are being sent out to the community asking for donations to help repay the loan.
- ◆ **S.E. TENNESSEE IS WETTER THAN SEATTLE**
 Seattle has a reputation for being rainy. But, Southeast Tennessee has been even wetter this year. In fact, we've had around 68 inches of rain so far this year, while Seattle has had just under 33 inches. The National Weather Service says 2013 was the 10th wettest year on record in Southeast Tennessee since record-keeping began in 1879. The good news is that all the rain gave TVA a record year for generating cheap hydroelectricity, and that brought down most everyone's electric bill.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

- ◆ Despite the two deadly suicide bombings in southern Russia that heightened concerns about the terrorist threat to the Winter Games, IOC President Thomas Bach expressed full confidence that Russian authorities will deliver a "safe and secure" Olympics in Sochi.
- ◆ If weather conditions improve, most passengers and some crew from a scientific expedition ship stranded off Antarctica will be evacuated by helicopter to a Chinese icebreaker. The area where the ship is trapped is experiencing winds of up to 30 knots and snow showers.
- ◆ This year's starting lineup for coaches fired on "Black Monday", the Monday after the last day of the regular season, includes: Mike Shanahan--Washington Redskins; Leslie Frazier--Minnesota Vikings; Greg Schiano--Tampa Bay Bucks; Jim Schwartz--Detroit Lions; Rob Chudzinski--Cleveland Browns. Gary Kubiak with The Houston Texans was fired earlier this month.
- ◆ The Federal Aviation Administration announced six states that will develop test sites for drones, a critical next step for the march of the unmanned aircraft into U.S. skies. Alaska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Texas and Virginia will host the research sites.
- ◆ Around the world in 2013, at least 70 journalists were killed on the job, including 29 who died covering the civil war in Syria and 10 who were slain in Iraq.
- ◆ Congress is letting a package of 55 popular tax breaks expire at the end of the year, creating uncertainty, once again for millions of individuals and businesses.

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MCMINN CO SENIOR CITIZENS, INC needs your support with its Capital Campaign! During 2014, help us repay the loan on the "Currier Cottage" where Medicare Counseling, offices, activity space, and Santa's Workshop are now located at 318 Lafayette Street. For information about making a tax deductible gift, please call us at 745-6830.

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Morning Fax™

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(Phone: 746-1390 Fax: 744-1390 e-mail: wysi@bellsouth.net)

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Tuesday-December 31, 2013

Athens, Tennessee

Reviewing Big Stories of 2013

The year started tragically when a father and his two children drowned in January when they were swept into the rain-swollen Conasauga Creek near the Mennonite community in Delano. Nick Alley and his 6-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter were members of the Mennonite community. Their bodies were found about three weeks later.

Lauren Brown Shepherd was named executive director of the Athens Area Council for the Arts, replacing Ellen Kimball who retired.

The first baby of the New Year in McMinn County was Lester Robert Dewayne Stockton, born on January 2nd.

Mike Bevins, Executive Vice President of Citizens National Bank and chairman of the Athens City School Board was named the Athens Man of the Year.

Kathy Knight was named the new Executive Vice President of the McMinn County Economic Development Authority, replacing Jack Hammontree.

A location for the new Athens VA Clinic was chosen. The Clinic will be in the Cates Corner Shopping Center, and is due to open next March.

Obituaries

John "Johnny" Douglas Russell, age 74, of Athens died Monday at Sweetwater Nursing Center. He had lived in Englewood and Athens since 1996 and had attended the McMinn Adult Activity Center. Entombment will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at McMinn Memory Gardens with visitation to be held from 1 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

Sandra Faye Lewis Pierce, age 65, of the Hillview Community, died Sunday at Erlanger. She was a school teacher for over 36 years. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Short Creek Baptist Church with visitation from 4-8 p.m. at the church. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 25.88 at 16,504.29. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 0.33 at 1841.07, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 2.40 at 4,154.20. Commodity Markets: The spot price of gold fell \$15.93 to \$1,197.42. The spot price of silver fell \$0.48 to \$19.60, and crude oil prices fell \$1.09 to \$99.23.

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEARS CELEBRATION. PLEASE DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE. WE WILL SEE YOU ON THURSDAY.

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