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Tuesday-February 4, 2014

# MORNING FAX™

**Today's News...This Morning**

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## Local and State News

### ◆ STARR REGIONAL GOES TOBACCO FREE

Starr Regional Medical Centers of Athens and Etowah are now tobacco free. New signs have been posted outside both hospitals stating that no tobacco use is allowed on hospital property. The ban applies to patients, their families, visitors, and hospital staff. CEO John Workman says that restricting the use of tobacco products on the hospital campuses, Starr Regional is demonstrating its commitment to a healthier life-style.



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### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public meeting Wednesday at 7 p.m. to talk about safety violations found at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant last year. The plant was cited for not being prepared in the event that dams upstream failed and the nuclear plant was flooded. The meeting will be at the Comfort Inn on Decatur Pike in Athens.
- ✓ The McMinn County Commission will meet in a special called session this Friday at 12 noon to appoint someone to fill the vacancy on the commission due to the death of Gary Mason. Applicants must submit their names prior to or at the called meeting. The person selected will serve until August.

## NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ In a private meeting with Members of Congress, Secretary of State John Kerry said that he has lost faith in his own administration's Syria policy. Kerry said he believes the regime of Bashar al Assad is failing to uphold its promise to give up its chemical weapons according to schedule, the Russians are not being helpful in solving the Syrian civil war, and the Geneva 2 peace talks that he helped organize are not succeeding. Kerry believes that the time has come for the United States to drastically alter its approach to the Syrian civil war.

◆ Nelson Mandela, the former South African president and anti-apartheid hero, left his \$4.1 million estate to family members, the ruling African National Congress, former staff, and several local schools. Another round of squabbling is expected among members of his large and factious family over the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's financial legacy.

◆ U.S. regulators may eventually require cars and trucks to be able to communicate with one another in order to avoid accidents and traffic jams. Vehicle-to-vehicle technology represents the next generation of auto safety improvements. It is unknown how long it will be before this communication is required, but the DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it will soon take initial steps to make rules regarding vehicle-to-vehicle communication.

◆ Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman was found dead in his New York apartment in Greenwich Village Sunday. Investigators found about 65 bags of heroin and used syringes inside his apartment. An autopsy will be held to determine the cause of death.



Are you searching for hope, meaning and purpose in your life? Plan now to attend this inspiring chapter-by-chapter journey through the book of Revelation. Begins Tuesday, Feb. 4th at Georgia Gilbert Hall, 235 Delay St., Athens. More information or to register go to [revelationseminar.eventbrite.com](http://revelationseminar.eventbrite.com)

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**Joe's Italian Cuisine, 601 W. Madison Ave., Athens (453-5111) M.-Sat. 11a-9p; Sun. 10:30a-4p.** Starting today-**Homemade breakfast, 7-10:30am., free coffee all week.**  
**SPECIAL VALENTINE MEAL** - Dinner for 2, Includes 2 Salads, 2 entrees, 2 desserts & 2 drinks. (4 entree choices & variety of dessert choices) Call to make reservations.



**Tuesday (11a-4p)** 6 oz. Chicken Breast + Salad, Side Item, Bakery, & Dessert Bars, \$7.99. Mon.-Wed. (All Day) 8 oz. Angus Sizzlin' Top Sirloin with Side Item, Rolls, Bakery, & Dessert Bars, \$7.99. **1804 Decatur Pike 745-2626**

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## Morning Fax™

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### WEATHER

**Tuesday** - Partly sunny. 60% rain. High - lower to mid 50's.  
**Tuesday night** - Near 100% rain chance. Breezy. Low- mid to upper 40's.  
**Wednesday** - Partly sunny. 30% rain. High-upper 40's to lower 50's.  
More Weather & Zoom Radar at: [www.wyxi.com](http://www.wyxi.com)

Tuesday-February 4, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

## Rain Causes Highway 163 Sinkhole

The heavy rain we received early Monday apparently caused a large sinkhole to develop on Highway 163, the Bowater Road, about two miles west of County Road 750. The sinkhole was about 10 feet across and six to 10 feet deep and blocked the eastbound lane. Two or three vehicles hit the sink hole, damaging the tires of at least one car.

The McMinn County Highway Department brought heavy equipment to the scene. They had not reached bedrock after digging down 15 feet from the pavement. Traffic was down to one lane while repairs were being made. (Photo by Jay Thomson)



## Obituaries

**Gus T. "Tommy" Roberts**, age 92, of Athens died last Friday at his residence. He was employed with the Tennessee Department of Employment Security until his retirement and was also a partner in Roberts Brothers Motors. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II as a fighter pilot. A memorial service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Smith Funeral Home, with visitation from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday at Smith Funeral Home.

**Billie Jean Pratt**, age 82, of Englewood died Sunday at her residence. She was an original member of the Englewood Church of God. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bordwine.

**Kathy Geraldine Walden Partin**, age 59, of Decatur died Sunday at Erlanger. She was a native of Athens and was retired from Shaw Industries. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at Ziegler.

**MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT:** U.S. stocks closed sharply lower after weak manufacturing activity around the globe was reported. U.S. Treasury prices closed higher in reaction to the weak economic data and sell-off in the equity markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 326.05 at 15,372.80. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 40.70 at 1741.89, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 106.92 at 3,996.96. In commodity markets, the spot price of gold rose \$12.33 to \$1,256.88. The spot price of silver rose \$0.17 to \$19.35, and crude oil prices fell \$0.77 to \$96.72 per barrel.

## MONEYWISE

With **Howard Dayton & Steve Moore**

**W Y X I - 1390 AM**

3:30pm  
Daily,  
M-F  
6:30am,  
Sat.



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## THIS DAY IN HISTORY - FEBRUARY 4

**1789** - Electors unanimously chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

**1861** - The Confederate States of America was formed at a convention in Montgomery, Alabama. Jefferson Davis was elected president of the Confederacy.

**1902** - Aviator Charles Lindbergh was born. He became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

**1906** - Christian theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in Germany. His strong stand against Hitler cost him his life. He was hanged by the Nazis.

**1944** - Florence LaRue, one of the members of the singing group, The 5th Dimension, was born.

**1983** - Singer Karen Carpenter died at the age of 32. The cause of death was heart failure due to anorexia nervosa. She and her brother, Richard, had such hit records as "Close to You" and "Top Of The World."

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