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United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties

MORNING FAX[®]

Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

Local & State News

◆ AUB RATES TO RISE IN JUNE

The cost of your electricity bill will be going up slightly in June. AUB's Wayne Scarbrough says June begins the four-month summer rate period in TVA's program, and that means higher base rates. Scarbrough says the higher rate in June will mean a difference in the average residential customer's bill of about \$3.55.

◆ LOCAL POLICE ARMED WITH MILITARY GEAR

The Obama administration announced recently that it was prohibiting federal agencies from providing local police departments with certain types of military equipment, such as grenade launchers, high-caliber weapons, and bayonets, in the wake of controversy over "militarized" police responses to unrest. Local police agencies have access to military gear using grants. Some police departments have used the program every chance they get, and others don't bother getting any of the surplus equipment. A Department of Defense list shows a tracked personnel carrier went to the Claiborne County Sheriff's Office, 50 bayonets to Roane County, and a grenade launcher went to the Blount County Sheriff's Office and Newport police. In McMinn County, the list shows the equipment that went to the following police departments:

- Athens Police** - eight 5.56 millimeter rifles and two 7.62 millimeter rifles
- McMinn County Sheriff's Office** - forty-one 5.56 millimeter rifles, twenty 7.62 mm rifles, and seventy-two .45 automatic pistols
- Englewood Police** - two 5.56 mm rifles
- Etowah Police** - six 7.62 mm rifles

NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS

◆ NASA flight controllers are preparing to relocate a storage module at the International Space Station today, marking the biggest change to the space outpost's structure since the module was installed in 2011. This will allow NASA to clear an area for additional commercial spacecraft to dock at the station. Boeing and SpaceX could begin ferrying astronauts to the International Space Station as early as 2017.

◆ The U.S. Capitol Building was evacuated Tuesday afternoon because of an audible alarm. U.S. Capitol Police and the D.C. Fire Department are investigating what caused the audible alarm. There were no signs of smoke or fire.

◆ The Dow suffered its worst day in a month on Tuesday as all of the sectors of the S&P 500 continued to drop after the holiday weekend.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

- ✓ The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life presents "Tackling Cancer," featuring former UT offensive lineman Jacob Gilliam. The event will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction, and will be held at the Citizens National Bank Financial Center, 1612 S. Congress Parkway. The cost is \$20. Call Citizens National Bank at 745-0261 for tickets and information.
- ✓ Registration is underway for the Athens Area Council for the Arts' Youth Theatre Workshop, "Shaking Up Shakespeare," to be held July 6-17. The workshop is a two-week intensive theatre camp for students ages 12-17 and will be led by Pam Thigpen and Bob and Kelly Borwick. Tuition is \$135 per camper. For information, call 745-8781.

Memorial Day Sale, May 22-30
 Let us pay your sales tax on our already discounted prices: all wood rustic furniture, outdoor furniture, occasional tables, dining room tables & chairs




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Thursday @ AgCENTRAL Co-Op Athens from 10:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Call 829-4126
"Our Butts R Smokin" 2dudesBBQ.com



Registration now OPEN
Camp begins May 26th
and runs until
first day of school.
Call 423.745.4904
for more information.



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WEATHER
Wednesday - Mostly cloudy. 60% rain & t'rstorms. Highs in the lower 80's.
Wed. night - Mostly cloudy. 30% rain & t'rstorms. Low-Mid 60's.
Thursday - Mostly cloudy. 60% rain & t'rstorms. High - Lower 80's.
 More Weather & Zoom Radar at: www.wyxi.com

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Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

The Day the Bait Farm Exploded!

An explosion at a bait farm in Polk County took place on this day in 1983, killing 11 people. The bait farm was actually an illegal fireworks factory. Workers were inside gearing up for the Fourth of July fireworks rush when something touched off an explosion. The cause was never determined. However, it triggered a federal investigation that uncovered a nine-state illegal fireworks ring. More than a dozen people went to prison, including Dan Lee Webb, the owner of the Polk County factory. The hillside where the bait farm and fireworks factory were located is now the site of a whitewater rafting business.

IS THIS WORTH \$46,000?

The state of Tennessee recently paid \$46,000 to a marketing company to design a new state logo to be used on signs and on letter heads. It will replace the familiar logo with three stars. The two logos, old (left) and new (right), are shown below.



Obituaries

- **Bob Duncan**, age 60, of Athens died May 22nd at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. He was retired from Volunteer Electric. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday at his residence, 151 County Road 357, Sweetwater.
- **Donna Carter**, age 74, of Etowah died Monday at her home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Serenity Funeral Home of Etowah.

PAYING HONOR TO A FALLEN HERO

Three members of the 589th Engineer Battalion Association-Vietnam were in Athens this past Sunday to place flowers on the grave of Freddie Sherlin at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Sherlin was a 1967 graduate of McMinn County High School. He was killed in Vietnam on August 8, 1969. He was 21 years old. Shown left to right: Tommy McLain, Rich Comiso, and Doyle Breeden.

(Photo by Cheri Harrison)



OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, May 27th
 10am-1pm
 McMinn County Justice Center Lobby

Southeast Tennessee

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