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MORNING FAX[®]

Today's News...This Morning

(Feel free to copy, post or otherwise distribute)
 (Phone: 746-1390 Fax: 744-1390 e-mail: wxyi@bellsouth.net)

League of Extraordinary Little Ones
 Ages: 4 years old
 Signups now - Dec. 30th
 League activities held Thursdays, Jan. 14 - Feb. 6th (4 weeks)
 Basketball drills, fundamentals & rules, plus fun game all at the YMCA Gym
 Members: \$20 per child ; Non-Members \$40 per child • **423.745.4904**

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

Local & State News

- ◆ **SILVER ANNIVERSARY FOR CRANE FESTIVAL**
 The Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival will celebrate its Silver Anniversary next month. The 2016 Sandhill Crane Festival will be held January 16th-17th at the Hiwassee Refuge. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is the primary sponsor of the festival, which is a celebration of the thousands of sandhill cranes that migrate through or spend the winter on and around the Hiwassee Refuge in Birchwood. The recovering population of eastern sandhill cranes began stopping at the Hiwassee Refuge in the early 1990's on their way to and from their wintering grounds in Georgia and Florida. Now, as many as 12,000 birds spend the entire winter where the Tennessee and Hiwassee rivers meet. Various vendors will be at the Birchwood Community Center. Music, special programs, and children's activities will take place throughout both days.
- ◆ **COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:**
 ✓ The Etowah City Hall and Etowah Public Works Department, including the Convenience Center, will be closed this Friday in observance of New Year's Day. Residential refuse collection will be collected on its usual Monday-Thursday schedule this week. If you have any questions, call 263-7031.

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NATIONAL-WORLD NEWS

- ◆ Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley held a Monday evening campaign event in the tiny town of Tama, Iowa and only had one person attend his event.
- ◆ Texas officials are convinced that Ethan Couch, the teen who killed four people in a drunken-driving wreck in 2013 and only received probation, fled the country with the help of his mother. Couch and his mother were nabbed in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
- ◆ After clinching a landmark victory against the jihadists, Iraq declared the city of Ramadi liberated from the Islamic State group and raised the national flag over its government complex. Pockets of jihadists remain, but the army said it no longer faced any resistance in the city and that its main task is to defuse countless bombs and traps.

TENNESSEE NEWS HEADLINES

- ✓ A lot of Tennesseans found drones under their Christmas tree. The rapid growth in the popularity of drones has prompted state Rep. Daniel Byrd of Waynesboro to introduce legislation that would make it illegal to attach a gun, grenade, rocket launcher or other weapon to a drone. Law enforcement would be exempted from the law.
- ✓ State Rep. Rick Womick is proposing that Tennessee eliminate marriage licenses completely. Womick is a strong opponent of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision authorizing gay marriages. He says Tennessee should revert to being a common-law marriage state and stop issuing marriage licenses. Womick says that would take the state out of the marriage business. He says that way, Tennessee cannot be forced to issue same-sex marriage licenses.

WEATHER
Wednesday - Cloudy. 70% rain. Highs in the upper 50's.
Wed. night - Mostly cloudy. 30% rain chance. Lows in the lower 40's.
Thursday - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50's.
 More Weather & Zoom Radar at: www.wxyi.com

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT
BOJANGLES **DECEMBER Specials**» 2 Country Ham Biscuits \$3.33
 12pc Box & 6 Biscuits \$12.99 • 5 Meals for \$5 ea
 • 32 oz tea 99¢ • **IT'S BO TIME!**
 Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits **BOJANGLES** South Congress Parkway 744-5292
WESTERN SIZZLIN' **Western Sizzlin' Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike**
WEDNESDAY: (11a-4p) Petite Sirloin, \$6.69.
Steak of the Week: 9 oz. Angus Thick Top Sirloin, \$9.99 (All Day)

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Wednesday, December 30, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

More Rescue Squad Honors

Annual awards were presented at the Etowah Rescue Squad and Rural Fire Department's annual banquet. The photos below show Dorothy Frost, who received the Chief's Citation, and Russell Loyd, Top Responder for Medical. In the photos, the recipients are flanked by Assistant Chief Kevin Elliott on the left and Chief Brandon Frost on the right.
 (Photos by Jay Thomson)



Tuesday's Market Report


U.S. stocks were higher, restoring the S&P 500's positive gain for the year, helped by stabilization in oil prices and other commodities. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 192.71 at 17,720.98. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 21.86 at 2,078.91, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 66.95 at 5,107.94.

AUB DEALS WITH 2 POWER OUTAGES

AUB crews found themselves having to deal with two power outages at the same time Monday night as a result of weather and a traffic accident. Around 7:20 p.m., a large dead tree fell and broke a power pole near the North Athens substation, knocking out power to the area around the Northridge Industrial Park and the Highlands subdivision. Then, a traffic accident on Eastanalle near Hicks Street took down another power pole and knocked out power to customers on another circuit from the North Athens substation. Service was finally restored to most customers by 12:30 a.m.

WALKER VALLEY BAND MARCHES IN LONDON


Walker Valley High School in Charleston will be featured in the London (England) New Years Day Parade. The Walker Valley band, choir, and about 100 parents and chaperones will be spending six days in London. The highlight will be marching in the big London New Years Parade. Director Alan Hunt has taken the band to London four times before. They've gone every three years since 2004.



5 YEAR PLAN SURVEYS

The Athens City School Board is currently working on updating the Five Year Plan for Athens City Schools and would like for you to provide valuable input in designing the Five Year Plan.

Parent and Community Surveys
 Available on-line from
 Dec 15th-Jan 31st.
www.athenscityschools.net



TODAY IN HISTORY - December 30

1851 - Asa Candler was born in Georgia. In 1887, he purchased the formula for a soft drink called Coca-Cola and began producing the syrup base for the drink. He made it into the most popular soft drink in the U.S.

1865 - British author Rudyard Kipling was born. He wrote "The Jungle Book," a favorite among children.

1931 - Country singer Skeeter Davis was born. Her hit records included "The End of the World," "I Forgot More Than You'll Ever Know," and "My Last Date."

1937 - Paul Stookey, member of the folk music group "Peter, Paul, and Mary" was born. In 1971, he had a major hit recording as a solo artist, "The Wedding Song."

1972 - President Nixon ordered a halt in the bombing of North Vietnam and announced that peace talks with the Hanoi government would resume within a few days.

1978 - Ohio State University fired Woody Hayes as its football coach, one day after Hayes punched a Clemson University player, Charlie Bauman, during the Gator Bowl game.