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Monday, January 22, 2017

Athens, Tennessee

Local & State News

◆ **POWER RATES TO REMAIN STEADY**
Local electric power rates for February will edge up compared to January, but very little. The local residential power rate for February for Athens Utilities customers will be \$0.08783 compared to January's \$0.08749. Both months are considered "winter" rate schedule months by TVA and, therefore, have the same base rate. AUB's Wayne Scarbrough says meter readers report that for the past couple of weeks energy use, as expected, was notably higher in response to the extremely cold weather. Scarbrough says you can save on your electric bill by keeping your thermostat set at 68 degrees rather than 72.

◆ **3 ATHENS TEENS JAILED FOR MURDER**
Three teenagers from Athens have been charged in a murder in Polk County that happened earlier this month. Robert Jerome Benton, 18, was taken into custody along with two juveniles. Police say the three victims knew the three suspects. Police say there was an exchange of property taking place when an argument broke out and a fight started. Then one of the three teens from Athens pulled a gun and started shooting at the home in the 9800 block of Highway 411 in Polk County. Timothy Maklain Lawson of Bradley County was killed. Charles Buffkin of Polk County was wounded. A third person, James Meeks of Bradley County, was not injured. The three Athens teens are charged with felony murder and especially aggravated robbery.

National and World News

◆ A new study finds clear evidence that the flu virus can be spread not only by coughing and sneezing, but also simply by breathing. The study says tiny virus particles can stay suspended in the air for minutes or hours. It suggests people may need to do more than just wash their hands. They also need to keep a distance from sneezing and coughing people to avoid catching the flu.

◆ The Tennessee Titans have a new coach--Mike Vrabel, defensive coordinator for the Houston Texans.

◆ **FRIDAY WRECK INJURES TWO**
A traffic accident involving two vehicles around 3 p.m. last Friday injured two people and tied up traffic at Congress Parkway and Velma Road in Athens. Ambulance and fire department personnel responded. (Photo by Micah Bush)



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Tuesday - Partly sunny, high of 47
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Monday, January 22, 2017 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Jimmy Lee Martin**, age 73, of Athens, died Sunday at Starr Regional Medical Center of Athens. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

♦ **Nellie L. Gray Clark**, age 87, of Athens, died Friday, January 19, 2018, at Starr Regional of Athens. She was retired from Athens Hosiery Mill. Graveside services were held Sunday in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Peggy Sue "Nana" Edgemon Boggess**, age 74, of Ten Mile, died Friday at her home. She was a Branch Manager for Meigs County Bank for 21 years. Funeral services were held Sunday night at Bowers Funeral Home. Burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday in Edgemon Cemetery in Ten Mile.

♦ **Edna Drake Shearman**, age 101, of Ten Mile, died Friday. She worked for Bell Telephone as an operator, worked at K-25 in Oak Ridge, was a high school and elementary school teacher, and assistant postmaster. Funeral services were held Sunday at Ten Mile Baptist Church. Interment will be Monday at 3 p.m. in Mt. Wesley Cemetery. Bowers Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Ribe Burns**, age 80, of the New Zion Community, died Saturday at his home. Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. Monday at New Zion Cemetery, with visitation from 2 to 3 p.m. Monday at Bordwine Funeral Home.

♦ **William Felts**, age 67, of Athens, died last Thursday at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home of Athens.

♦ **Zayden Alexander Correia**, 16 months, of Etowah, died Sunday, January 14, at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home of Athens.

♦ **Mabel Carter**, of Dayton, died Friday at her home. Arrangements will be announced by Companion Funeral Home of Athens.

♦ **Sara Elizabeth Grubb**, age 82 of Sweetwater, died Sunday, in McMinn Memorial Nursing Home. Arrangements will be announced by Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

Hiwassee River Rail Sets Record

The Hiwassee River Rail Adventure had a record breaking passenger year on the "Old Line" in 2017. The River Rail Adventure is a partnership of the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association and the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum. Ridership has increased 43.39% since 2014. The final count for 2017 was almost 17,000 passengers. One of the most popular features of the rail excursion is the luxury dome car (shown below). Plans are to add another dome car to the line this year. They are also looking at the feasibility of adding a diner car. Gerald Hodge, executive director of Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association, says he would like to see more than 20,000 passengers ride the train this year.



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