

Morning Fax®

Today's News...This Morning

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Thursday, February 8, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

♦ DECEMBER JOBLESS RATES IN AREA

The unemployment rate in December was under 5% in 89 of Tennessee's 95 counties. In McMinn County, the jobless rate in December was 3.8%, down from 4% in November. In Meigs County, unemployment in December was 4.1% in both November and December. The jobless rate in Monroe County in December was 3.4%, down from 3.5% in November. Polk County's December unemployment rate was 3.7%, down from 3.8% in November. Bradley County posted a 2.7% jobless rate in December, down from 3% in November.

ETOWAH CHAMBER BANQUET PLANS

The Etowah Area Chamber of Commerce announces the 56th

Annual Banquet will be held on March 6th this year. The event will begin with a "Silent Auction" at 6 p.m. The evening will include award presentations for the Business Person of the Year, the R. Frank McKinney Distinguished Service Award, and the Joe Ouirk Educator of the Year. The speaker at this year's banquet will be Ralph Hood. He grew up among the marshes and beaches of



coastal Georgia and became a pilot and aircraft salesman in Alabama. He is an author and is now a full-time professional speaker. For tickets, contact the Etowah Chamber office.

National & World News

- ◆ Las Vegas authorities are searching for a gunman suspected of shooting four people and killing two of them. The shootings are random and target the homeless. Three of the four victims were homeless and three of the four were sleeping at the time they were
- ◆ Military veterans, parents and students are demanding that California high school teacher Gregory Salcido be fired because he told his students that the U.S. Armed Forces are for the "lowest of the low." Salcido's anti-military rant was recorded by a senior who was confronted by the teacher about a Marine tee shirt he was wearing.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The McMinn Senior Activity Center is taking appointments for free AARP tax assistance on Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursdays. You do not have to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use this service. Call 745-6830 to schedule your appointment.
- ✓ The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum will have a Valentine's Extravaganza this Saturday from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes dinner and dancing.
- ✓ Tonight is English-Español Conversation Night at E.G. Fisher Public Library. Meet at 6 p.m. and practice your Spanish or English language skills with a partner who speaks the language you are trying to learn. The sessions take place on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month and are free.



RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT

Western Sizzlin' Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike Thursday ALL DAY: 8 oz Sizzlin' Top Sirloin w/ Salad Bar \$12.49. Senior Buffet (55+): Mon-Friday 2 to 4 p.m. \$5.99 -745-2626



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Thursday, February 8, 2018

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

or Buffy @ 423-435-8714

- Connie Rene Manor, age 58, of Powell, died Monday at Tennova Healthcare. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at Mars Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.
- Dr. Terry Sherman, of Decatur, died Monday at his home. He had been a longtime family practice physician. He was a Major in the U.S. Air Force and a Flight Surgeon in Spain. Funeral services will be held on Monday, February 12th, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Athens.
- Betty Lou Vincent, age 89, of Athens, died Tuesday at Starr Regional Medical Center of Athens. She had worked for Athens Products. She was also the original switchboard operator for Bowater Paper Company during the plant's beginning. Graveside services will be 3 p.m. Thursday at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.
- Eddie Lee Newman, age 47, of Decatur, died Saturday at his home. The family is planning a private service at a later date. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.
- Norman Harry Krauss, age 84, of Athens died Saturday at NHC of Athens. He was born in Baltimore Maryland and was retired from the U.S. Navy and later retired from Olin Chemical Company. Graveside services are planned for Friday at 1 p.m. in the McMinn Memory Gardens with full military honors. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

The Way It Used to Be

February is African-American Month and a good time to learn about life for Blacks during the days of segregation in the south. Stanley Blair of Athens remembers those days well. He was born



and raised in Loudon. He had to walk to school because the school buses would only pick up the white students. He said restaurants refused to serve blacks. They would have to go to the backdoor to order their food and take it with them. They had to sit in the balcony at the movie theater. Blair remembers his cousin from Philadelphia, PA, who came to visit. His cousin went into a drug store in Loudon one day and sat on a

stool at the lunch counter. He was beaten by the owner with a fly swatter. After elementary school, Blair attended J.L. Cook High School in Athens. A bus was provided through a joint agreement between the Loudon and McMinn County School Boards. He says the days were long, because it was dark when they left home and dark when they returned home. He played baseball one year at J.L. Cook. When he had practice or a game, he had to ride public transportation home. He recalls having to go to the side door at the Athens Bus Station where there was a sign for Colored People to sit. When he got on the bus, he had to sit in the back. After graduation, he joined the Air Force, and then worked for TVA for 35 years. His wife, Harriel, is a retired school teacher. Blair is also co-host of the Sunday morning Gospel Jubilee show heard on WYXI Radio.





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