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Morning Fax[®]

Today's News... This Morning

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Feb. 2nd & Feb. 3rd from
 8 am - 4 pm at
 649 Co. Rd. 609 Athens,
 Women at the Well
 Ministries
 is having a \$10 clothing bag
 sale along with lots of house-
 hold items.
 This sale is designated to raise money for
 some of our interns needs, including a
 mission trip to Guatemala in February.

Thursday, February 01, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

School Safety New Technology

State Senator Mark Pody of Lebanon, announced important progress in ongoing efforts to improve school safety. A new security technology alert device is now eligible for school safety grants to cut down on response times in emergencies and help protect teachers and students. At the push of a button from teachers, the new technology can alert law enforcement and school administrators to threats while also providing real-time video footage of the classroom or surrounding area. After Pody filed legislation this year to make the new security technology eligible for school safety grants, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) agreed to approve the technology administratively. Now, instead of waiting on the months-long legislative process, the new technology is available to schools immediately. TDOE will be notifying school districts across the state that the school safety grant eligibility is expanded to cover this technology. Pody worked for months with teachers, administrators, school safety experts and technology developers to identify needs and make this life-saving technology available to schools and teachers. The legislation that resulted from these meetings laid out how the new device would work. Among the requirements in the bill are that the device must have GPS tracking along with real-time video and audio recording capabilities, which will be turned on when one of three color-coded buttons is pressed for respective emergencies. 1) Behavior issues - If a teacher is having a major or dangerous behavior issue with a student, one button will alert the school administrator and school resource officer (SRO) that a teacher needs immediate assistance. The recording will also give definitive proof of the incident, which can help parents or law enforcement address the specific behavior issue of the student.

Continued at right ⇨

School Safety Continued

2) Medical emergency - In the case of a medical emergency on school grounds, one button will require the immediate assistance of the school nurse and alert local EMS. 3) Active threat or active shooter - Another button will alert law enforcement, SROs and school administrators of an active shooter or active threat situation at the school. The real-time audio and visual recording will help law enforcement quickly track the threat and enable officers to work quickly and decisively to remove the threat. The funding for the school safety grants is a result of legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2023. Lawmakers approved over \$230 million in the budget to place a school resource officer (SRO) at every Tennessee public school, boost physical security at public and private schools, and provide additional mental health resources for Tennesseans.

AUB POWER RATES DECREASE: In a move that will be good for all of AUB's power customers, the wintertime power rate from Athens Utilities Board (AUB) for the coming month of February is falling as the TVA fuel cost drops. The local power rate will move from the current \$0.10120 down to \$0.09875 per kilowatt hour. AUB's winter base rate remains the same as January's base rate, but TVA has a lower fuel cost for February, thereby decreasing the effective rate. The February fuel cost from TVA is going down to \$0.02154 compared to January's \$0.02399. About 83 cents of every dollar that AUB's power division collects go to TVA for wholesale power.

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6th Annual
 Run for the Hills
 5K Trail Run

February 10, 2024

5K START TIME 8:00AM	ENTRY FEE (Includes Pancake Breakfast) \$45*
Pancake Breakfast 9:30AM - 12:00PM Kids: \$6, Adult \$10, All You Can Eat Pancakes: \$14	CHECK IN 7:00-7:45AM

For registration and complete details visit
www.camplivingstones.com
 *\$55 ON DAY OF RACE
 REGISTER BY JANUARY 27th TO RECEIVE A T-SHIRT
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Thursday, February 01, 2024

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦**James W Thompson**, age 86, passed away on January 29, at Dominion Senior Living where he had been a resident since August 2021. He was born in Daingerfield, Tx. He was a devoted husband and later caregiver to his wife, Verdine M (Ford) Thompson who preceded him in death January 2021 after fifty-seven years of marriage. He attended Perkins School of Theology at Southwestern Methodist University, TX, and worked as a Certified Director of Christian Education in Lufkin and Conroe United Methodist Churches. He married in 1963 and then attained his M.A. in Sociology at the University of Houston in 1971. Jim joined the faculty family at Tennessee Wesleyan College (now University), in 1971 and taught Sociology for 35 years until retiring in 2006. He was Behavioral Science Department Chair from 1981-2003 and Faculty Athletics Representative (NAIA) from 1982-2002 for which he received NAIA National Recognition. Other awards included the Optimist George R. Price Award and Achievement in Education Award, the Harry Steadman Award for service to the Holston UMC Conference, the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award and Emeritus Professor at TWC 2009. He was devoted to teaching, to TWC as an institution, to the Methodist Church, to the diaconate, consecrated as a Diaconal Minister in 1980, and the Christian faith and ethos. He was very supportive of TWC/TWU programs and activities, and an ambassador of the school. Jim was an active member and promoter of The Optimist Club of Athens for over 50 years. As a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Athens he participated in many mission and outreach programs. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:30 at Trinity United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 3. Visitation will be at 10:00 at Trinity. Smith Funeral and Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Crystal Freeman**, age 34, of Athens, passed away on January 7th. She was born in Lithia Springs, GA. Crystal loved to sing and dance; she had a fun-loving personality. Visitation will be from 12-2 Saturday, February 3rd at Good Samaritan Funeral Home, with a celebration of life service to follow. Good Samaritan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

♦**FaithAnn Dion**, age 83 passed away at home Saturday, January 27. She had a great passion for being a "mom" to all that entered her home. Through the years she took great pride in offering a loving home to many children in the foster system, while providing her four boys with an education in endless love. Faith was very proud of her family. She was a fantastic cook and went all out when it came to holiday baking. Continued at right ⇨

Obituaries - Continued

FaithAnn Dion Obituary Continued:

Mealtime at the Peck home was quite an event as she always prepared for the masses. She spent many years in the home health industry but was always happiest with her children and just being a great mom. A Celebration of Life Service will take place at Elmwood Cemetery in Bethel CT. in the spring of the year. Notification of this celebration is to come. Good Samaritan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

♦**Emma Lee Mapp**, age 86, passed away on January 19. Emma was born in Loudon. She graduated from J. L. Cook High School in Athens. She ventured off to Springfield, Massachusetts with a sister and two cousins and there she met her life partner Rufus. They married on August 1, 1964. Thus began her adventure of an Air Force wife. She traveled and lived in Selfridge, Michigan; Tripoli, Libya; Columbus, Ohio; Misawa, Japan; and San Antonio, Texas, which was their last duty station prior to retirement from the military. To this union, they welcomed Patti Lynne and Rufus Jr. They moved to San Antonio, Texas in 1979 and began civilian life. They joined Grace First Baptist Church where she was an active member of the Usher Board. She enjoyed hosting regular dinners for family and friends. She loved to cook and bake and provided dishes for showers, weddings, funerals, or whenever she was asked. She also always set extra place settings at the dinner table just in case someone dropped in. Family was most important to Emma. She made sure every summer the family made trips to Tennessee so that Patti and Rufus Jr. could be close to their grandparents and grew up with their cousins. One of her fondest memories was the Family Reunion she hosted in San Antonio. It was a true blessing for her to have her Tennessee family come to her home in Texas. Emma lost her love on March 12, 2023 and just ten short months later, she followed him home. She was a sister to Stanley Blair (Harriel) of Athens, TN; sister Joyce Fields of Loudon, TN. Visitation will be held from 10 to 11 AM on Saturday, February 3, at Liberty Live Church, Hampton, Va. in the chapel. A funeral service will follow at 11 AM. Burial will be at 10 AM on Monday, February 5, 2024 in Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. W. J. Smith & Son Funeral Home, Newport News, VA. is in charge of arrangements.

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\$5 FOR MEMBERS \$10 FOR NONMEMBERS
CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO 12

ITALIA ITALIAN LESSONS II WITH JOYCE SIMPSON
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH
11:00 AM -12:30 PM
LEARN HOW TO ORDER FROM A MENU. GREAT CLASS FOR BEGINNERS OR TRAVELERS! PART II/III
FREE FOR MEMBERS \$5 FOR NONMEMBERS

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NOON - 3:00 PM
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ATHENS, TN

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THURSDAY, FEB. 22ND @ NOON
BRING YOUR LUNCH & LISTEN TO DETAILS OF RESTORING HIS HISTORIC HOME.

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More Information
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