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Today's News...This Morning

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Friday-December 28, 2012

Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ CALHOUN RE-HIRES FORMER POLICE CHIEF

The town of Calhoun finally has a new police chief, after being without a chief since the entire police force was laid off in September because of budget problems. She is Julie Tanksley, who served as the Calhoun police chief for six years before being fired in 2009. She was hired last week at a called meeting of the Calhoun Commission by a vote of 2 to 1. You may recall that Julie Tanksley made news several years ago when she accidentally fired her service weapon inside a classroom at Riceville Elementary School while she was a deputy with the McMinn County Sheriff's Office.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ In observance of the New Year Holiday, the Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and Animal Shelter will be closed next Tuesday, January 1st, 2013. The residential garbage routes for Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be on the regular schedule. The Tuesday route will be picked up on Monday.

✓ If you plan to pay your county property taxes before the end of the year, the McMinn County Trustee's Office will be open today, Dec. 28th, and Monday, Dec. 31st, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You also may mail your payment or use the drop box located at the top of the steps on the Washington Avenue side of the courthouse. Property taxes may also be paid online. Go to: www.tennesseetrustee.com and then click on McMinn County and follow the instructions. If you have questions, call the Trustee's office at 745-1291.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ Retired General Norman Schwarzkopf, who commanded the U.S.-led coalition that drove Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait in 1991, has died. He was 78. He was given the moniker "Stormin' Norman" during the first Gulf War.

◆ Former President George H.W. Bush remains in the intensive care unit of a Houston hospital. His longtime chief of staff issued a reassuring message, urging the media and the public to "put the harps back in the closet."

◆ Longtime Democratic Congressman Edward Markey says he would pursue John Kerry's seat if the Massachusetts senator is confirmed as the next Secretary of State.

◆ Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to return to work next week, almost three weeks after being sidelined by a concussion.

◆ The Chicago Teachers Union has sued the nation's third largest school district, saying that Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's campaign to reform or close underperforming public schools discriminates against African-American teachers and staff.

◆ President Obama will meet with congressional leaders at the White House today in search of a compromise to avoid a year-end "fiscal cliff" of across-the-board tax increases and deep spending cuts.

◆ GOP House leaders informed their rank-and-file members on a conference call that they have to be back at work at a rare session that will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

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Commentary 11:40 a.m. & 5:15 p.m. Weekdays




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WEATHER

Friday - Mostly cloudy. 60% rain chance. High-near 50.

Friday night - Near 100% rain showers. Low-38.

Sat. - Mostly cloudy. 30% rain. High-upper 40's.

See our Zoom Radar at:
www.wyxi.com

Friday-December 28, 2012

Athens, Tennessee

\$160,000 Grant Announced

Lee Montgomery, the chair of the McMinn County Health Council, says that 'McMinn Living Well' has been awarded the "Together with Diabetes Grant" from Marshall University. The grant is for 4 years at \$40,000 per year and will be used to help combat Type 2 diabetes in McMinn County. The money is coming from a partnership entitled the Appalachian Diabetes Control and Translation Project, which is being supported by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation. Marshall University is in charge of the overall project. Beth Delaney, an official with the Southeast Tennessee Regional Health Office in Chattanooga, was instrumental in helping McMinn County obtain the grant.

"No Refusal" Enforcement Starts Tonight

The Tennessee Highway Patrol says that five people lost their lives in vehicular crashes on Tennessee roadways during last year's New Year's Eve holiday period. Sixty percent of those fatalities occurred in alcohol-related crashes. The THP will join with local law enforcement agencies to conduct another "No Refusal" DUI enforcement campaign beginning at 6 p.m. this evening and concluding at midnight on Tuesday, January 1st. "No Refusal" allows law enforcement officers to seek search warrants for blood samples in cases involving suspected impaired drivers. Tonight, the THP will conduct a Driver's License Checkpoint at the intersection of State Route 307 and County Road 350 here in McMinn County.

Who's New In Pink & Blue?

Hayden Andreas Jeremian Mosier was born on December 25th at Athens Regional Medical Center. He weighed 6 pounds and 7 ounces and was 18½ inches long. His mother is April Mosier of Athens.

Koty Louis Stoner was born on December 18th at ARMC. He weighed 6 pounds and 14 ounces and was 19 inches long. His mother is Jamie Stoner of Sweetwater.

Laney Ruth Wood was born December 17th at ARMC. She weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces and was 19½ inches long. Her parents are Coleen and Kevin Wood of Niota.

Obituaries

Richard Thomas "Dick" Martin, age 84, of Athens died Wednesday at his home. He retired from Hiwassee Sales in Sweetwater where he worked for 22 years. He was also a former employee of Alfred's IGA. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday in McMinn Memory Gardens, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Ziegler Funeral Home.

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY-December 28

1832 - John Calhoun became the first U.S. Vice President to resign. Calhoun was at odds with President Andrew Jackson.

1856 - President Woodrow Wilson was born. He led America during World War One.

1869 - Chewing gum was patented. It is made from a sticky substance found in various trees native to Mexico and Central and South America.

1945 - Congress officially recognized the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag of the United States. The words "under God" were added in 1954.

1956 - After five years on television, the last Ding Dong School was seen on NBC-TV. Miss Frances (Dr. Frances Horwich) rang the bell for one last time on this day.

2008 - The Detroit Lions completed an 0-16 season, the NFL's worst ever, with a 31-21 loss to the Green Bay Packers.

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