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# MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Monday-January 7, 2013

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Athens, Tennessee

## Local and State News

### ◆ JUDGE SETS HEARING IN GUSSIE VAN CASE

A federal judge has set January 30th as the court date in connection with a \$20-million lawsuit filed against McMinn County by prison inmate Gussie Willis Vann. Vann was convicted in the death of his 8-year-old daughter in 1992 and sentenced to death. However, the conviction was later overturned. His lawsuit claims that McMinn County detectives Jerry Tate and Gary Cullins held him without probable cause for 48 hours and then denied him access to a lawyer for 10 months. Both Tate and Cullins have since died, but Vann's attorney says the McMinn County government can be held responsible for their actions against his client.

### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ Free Chronic Disease Self-Management Classes for Diabetes, Arthritis, COPD, etc., will be held at the U.T. Extension Building in Decatur starting tomorrow, Jan. 8th, and will be held each Tuesday through Feb. 12th. The times are 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. To register, call Meagen Brown at 334-5781 or Beth Delaney at 634-1947.
- ✓ The Athens Public Works Department says the second round of curbside loose leaf vacuum collection is underway and will continue until January 18th. You should separate brush and leaves.

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## NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ The mainstream news media mostly ignored an incident that happened Dec. 17 in San Antonio, Texas, just two days after the Connecticut school shooting. A 19-year-old man opened fire inside a Chinese restaurant where his former girlfriend worked. Frightened employees ran to an adjacent movie theater. The gunman then ran into the theater and started shooting. He was shot four times by an off-duty police officer who was working security at the theater. Sgt. Lisa Cuello Castellano was awarded a Medal of Valor for her quick action, which prevented any loss of life.

◆ It's official--Tyler Bray will not be playing quarterback for the UT Vols next season. Bray has hired an agent and has declared for the NFL draft. Bray says he's hearing projections that he'll go anywhere between the second and third round.

◆ A Knoxville woman is a big winner on "Wheel of Fortune." Tina Arwood, a 7th grade Bible teacher at Grace Christian Academy, walked away with nearly \$57,000, including a Ford Edge SUV. She taped the show last October. It aired this past Friday night.




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# PAGE TWO

## Morning Fax™

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Monday, January 7, 2013

Athens, Tennessee

## Up Close With A Rat Snake

The Etowah Carnegie Library recently held a Wildlife Educational Program. Ranger Brad Hamby from the Ocoee Ranger District brought along several creatures, including the rat snake being examined by a young lad below.

(Photo from  
Lorie Waters,  
Etowah library  
director)



## Obituaries

**Lonnie Ray Belcher**, age 48, of Niota died on December 28th at his home. The family will hold a private memorial at a later date. Companion Funeral and Cremation Service in Cleveland is in charge.

**JoAnn Watson**, age 72, of Athens died last Friday at Parkwest Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Michael "Willie" Scott Williams**, age 47, of Etowah died last Wednesday at his home. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Goodsprings Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

**Donna Jean Smith**, age 74, of Red Bank died last Friday in Austell, Georgia. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Idlewild Baptist Church, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. at the church. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

### ◆ THIS AND THAT IN THE NEWS:

- ✓ There will be a Relay for Life Team Captain meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at Allen Memorial Methodist Church on Decatur Pike in Athens. A light meal will be served. All those interested in the fight against cancer are welcome.
- ✓ In the Upward Sports basketball game at the Niota gymnasium this past Saturday, the Mavericks defeated the Pacers, 33 to 24, in the 3rd and 4th grade division.



Art Classes  
BEGIN  
January 7th!  
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[athensartscouncil.org](http://athensartscouncil.org)

## This Day In History, January 7

**1789** - The first national elections were held in the United States. Voters unanimously elected George Washington as President and John Adams as Vice-President.

**1800** - Millard Fillmore, our 13th President, was born in Locke, New York.

**1927** - Regular trans-Atlantic telephone service began between New York and London.

**1927** - The famous Harlem Globetrotters basketball team was founded. (Remember their theme song, "Sweet Georgia Brown?")

**1930** - Country singer Jack Greene was born. His hit records include "There Goes My Everything" and "Statue Of A Fool."

**1988** - A snow storm dumped 8½ inches of snow on the Athens area, closing roads and schools for several days.



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