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MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Thursday-January 24, 2013

Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ TOP POSTS FOR STATE'S U.S. SENATORS

Tennessee's two U.S. Senators have been named to important posts on major senate committees. Sen. Bob Corker will be the lead Republican or "ranking member" of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Corker has been a member of the Committee since 2007. Sen. Lamar Alexander will be the top Republican on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

◆ NEW TRIAL DENIED FOR KENNEDY

The woman convicted of taking part in the murder of Monroe County Election Commission Chairman Jim Miller has been denied a new trial. Judge Walter Kurtz signed the order denying a new trial for Jessica Kennedy. She was convicted last year of facilitating the crimes of murder, armed robbery, arson and abuse of a corpse. Miller was shot in the head three times, and his badly burned body was found inside the trunk of his burning car near Sweetwater. No one else has been charged, but authorities have said all along that others were involved and that the investigation is continuing.

◆ UPDATE ON U.S. 441 CLOSING

Federal highway officials hope to have a cost estimate and a repair timeline this week for the section of U.S. 441 on the North Carolina side of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that was destroyed by a landslide last week. The highway carries more than 2-million visitors each year. It may be months before the highway can be re-built.

World & National News

◆ Pentagon chief Leon Panetta is removing the military's ban on women serving in combat. This will open hundreds of thousands of front-line positions and potentially elite commando jobs for women.

◆ Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in one of her last acts as America's top diplomat, hit back hard Wednesday at Republican criticisms over the deadly Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. Clinton pounded the table in anger, laughed and offered clinical replies while vowing to do her utmost to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

◆ The RNC launched a website soliciting ideas and constructive criticism about what the party did wrong in 2012, and what it can do better over the next four years. The Republican National Committee's winter strategy session will focus in part on how to broaden the party's appeal to women and minority voters.

◆ A three-month extension of the debt limit in a bill that concurrently pressures lawmakers to adopt a budget or have their pay withheld was approved yesterday by The House of Representatives. The "No Budget No Pay Act bill of 2013" directs both chambers of Congress to adopt a budget resolution for fiscal year 2014 by April 15, 2013, or have their paychecks put into an escrow account starting on April 16 until that body adopts a budget.

◆ According to new research, lousy grammar and nonsense may help boost password strength. A strong password contains both lower and upper case letters as well as numbers and symbols.

7th Annual
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www.athenschamber.org

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Western Sizzlin Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike (745-2626)
Thursday (All Day): 8 oz. Sizzlin' Top Sirloin with Choice of Side Item, Bakery, and Dessert Bars, \$7.99. **Mon.-Thurs. (All Day)** 10 oz. New York Strip, Choice of Side Item, Bakery & Dessert Bars, \$11.49.

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WEATHER

Thursday - Sunny. Highs in upper 30s to lower 40's.
Thur. night - Cloudy. Chance of freezing rain/sleet. Low-29.
Friday - Sleet & light freezing rain in the A.M. High 35. 80% precipitation in the P.M.
 More Weather & Zoom Radar at: www.wyxi.com

Thursday-January 24, 2013

Athens, Tennessee

Restaurant Inspection Scores

The following Athens restaurants and eating establishments were inspected between December 20 and January 17. Scores of 70 and above are passing.

- Papaw's Place - 98
- Little Bit of Heaven Food - 96
- The Bakery - 96
- Domino's - 96
- Derby Downs Deli - 95
- The Flour Shop - 91
- Mexican Cuisine - 83
- Shoney's of Athens - 82

Obituaries

Sally Ann Trew, age 67, of Ten Mile died on Monday. She was a substitute teacher and was a member of the Meigs County Fair Association for 24 years. Funeral services were held Wednesday at Bowers Funeral Home.

Earl "Buck" White, age 78, of Riceville died Tuesday at Athens Regional Medical Center. He was an Army veteran. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Friday in Sullins Cemetery, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Ziegler Funeral Home.

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The Cowboy Church will meet at the East Tennessee Livestock Center in Sweetwater tonight for the weekly service. There will be food and fellowship at 6 p.m. and the Prayer time, Music, and Service begins at 6:45 p.m. Music tonight will feature the Reed Springs Quartet.
- ✓ Athens Regional Medical Center will present another "Joint Approach" workshop next Monday, January 28th, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Physicians Dining Room. The workshop is for patients planning or considering elective joint replacement surgery. Light refreshments will be provided. The workshop is free, but pre-registration is required. To register, call: (423) 744-3363.
- ✓ The third and final round of loose leaf collection in the City of Athens is underway and will continue through Feb. 8th. This is on a call-in basis only. You can call 744-2745 to be placed on the schedule for pickup of loose leaves.

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY-January 24
1848 - Gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California. News spread quickly and in 1849 thousands of "49'ers" rushed to California to establish gold claims.
1908 - The first meeting of Boy Scouts took place in England. Sir Robert Baden-Powell founded the movement, which spread all over the world.
1939 - Comedic singer Ray Stevens was born. His hits include "Ahab the Arab," "Southern Air," "The Streak," and "Everything is Beautiful."
1941 - Singer Neil Diamond was born. His hit records include "Song Sung Blue," "Sweet Caroline," and "Yesterday's Songs."
2003 - The new federal Department of Homeland Security officially opened as Tom Ridge was sworn-in as the first secretary.
2011 - Jared Lee Loughner pleaded not guilty in Phoenix to federal charges he'd tried to kill U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and two of her aides in a Tucson shooting rampage that had claimed six lives.


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 Monday through Friday
 *Half his brain is tied behind his back, just to make things fair.
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