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MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Monday-April 7, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ BURGLARY SOLVED WITH BEER BOTTLE

McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy says a recent home burglary was solved with a combination of old-fashioned police work and technology. In May of 2013, Detectives Greg Earps and Tim Carver responded to a home on County Road 4 which had been burglarized. Detectives collected evidence including a beer bottle and a Family Dollar store receipt. The detectives took the receipt to the Family Dollar store and were able to identify Paige Price on store video. She was located at a residence in Etowah, along with several stolen items. DNA found on the beer bottle led detectives to Micheal Bailey. Last month, the McMinn County Grand Jury indicted both Price and Bailey on charges of burglary and theft over \$10,000.

◆ GREENE TO STAY ON AS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Robert Greene has changed his mind, and has agreed to remain on as the Athens City Schools Director. Greene had announced his retirement earlier this year. However, at the encouragement of several school board members, he has agreed to rescind his resignation and keep working under his present contract which goes through June of 2016.

WORLD & NATIONAL NEWS

◆ U.S. sailors have rescued a family with an ill one-year-old baby from a sailboat that broke down hundreds of miles off the Mexican coast. They were transferred to a San Diego-bound Navy ship so the girl could get medical treatment.

◆ Three separate but fleeting sounds from deep in the Indian Ocean have offered new hope in the hunt for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet. Navy ships from Australia and China are trying to determine whether they were signals from the plane's black boxes before their beacons fall silent.

◆ Kansas legislators have given final approval to a bill that would nullify city and county gun restrictions and ensure that it's legal across the state to openly carry firearms, a measure the National Rifle Association sees as a nationwide model for preventing local officials from attempts at nullifying the Second Amendment.

◆ Afghanistan's presidential election ended amid relief that attacks by Taliban fighters were fewer than feared. It was a vote that will bring the first-ever democratic transfer of power in a country plagued by conflict for decades. It will take six weeks for results to come in from across Afghanistan's rugged terrain and a final result to be declared.

◆ Kentucky faces Connecticut tonight at 9:10 p.m. on CBS for the men's NCAA national championship title.

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- How does Social Security fit into my retirement income plan?
- When should I start taking benefits?
- What about taxes?

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

When: April 22, 2014 - 6 pm
Where: Jenkins Grille, Athens, TN
Dinner will be served

Call Barbara or Holly at: 423-745-9100 by April 8, 2014 to reserve your seat for this event

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PAGE TWO

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**American Cancer Society
Relay for Life Silent Auction
& Bake Sale Sponsored by
McMinn Republican Women
Thursday, April 10th,
4-6 p.m. at
Market Park Downtown Athens
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Candidates Too!
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Monday-April 7, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

Crime Information Revisited

Last Friday's MORNING FAX contained an article where we listed crime clearance rates for local and surrounding law enforcement agencies, as compiled by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, for the year of 2012. Later on Friday, McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy issued a release in response to our article. In it, he said: "The TBI statistical category labeled "Cleared" does not specifically mean that a case has been "Solved". This stat refers to how a report is handled, not necessarily the disposition of the crime itself. This statistic is easily manipulated and easily misrepresented. For example, many agencies request "Exceptional Clearance" for numerous reasons, such as when victims refuse to prosecute, death of the offender, if a suspect is already in custody, or if the suspect was a juvenile. The McMinn Sheriffs Office rarely requests Exceptional Clearances, and rather allows cases to remain open so that further efforts can be made to solve a case, locate stolen property, or make an arrest at a later date. "Cold" cases remain important to the victim, as well as to our investigators, and therefore are not "cleared" out. Finally, the TBI, on the front page of it's crime website, specifically cautions against comparing "crime rates" with other agencies and jurisdictions, due to the fact that different agencies "clear" reports in different ways. The statistic is very useful, however, in comparing trends within the same agency. A closer look at specific crimes reported in the same agency reveals this to be true. For example, in the McMinn Sheriffs Office, a higher percentage of burglaries were cleared in 2011 than had been in the previous 4 years. It is also of note that overall reported crimes in McMinn County are down an average of 1000 less crimes per year since 2010. Less reported crimes mean less crimes requiring "clearance".

Editor's Note: You can access the TBI report by clicking [HERE](#).

Obituaries

Henry "T-Model" Culberson, age 83, of Etowah died last Thursday at his home. He had worked as a grave digger at Green Hill Cemetery, worked at Hamby's Gulf Service Station, retired from J.M. Huber in 1992 and from Wal-Mart in 2012. Funeral services were held Sunday at Bordwine Funeral Home.

Danny Stephen McDonald, age 54, of Etowah, died last Thursday in North Carolina. He was a current employee of Haren Construction Company of Etowah. Prior to that, he was a law enforcement officer for 26 years, serving with Etowah P.D., McMinn Sheriff's Department under Sheriffs Larry Wallace and George Rogers, Athens P.D., and was the former Chief of the Englewood P.D. He was also active as an adult leader of Boy Scout Troop 74 and the Venture Crew 308. Funeral services will be at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Bordwine Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Bordwine.

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WEATHER

Monday - Cloudy. 70% rain & T'storms. High-upper 60's.
Monday night - Mostly cloudy. Breezy. Low-43.
Tuesday - Mostly cloudy. 20% rain. High-low 60's.
See our Zoom Radar at:
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RIBBON CUT FOR STRAIGHTWAY MINISTRIES

The Etowah Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony recently for Straightway Ministries Furniture store located at 824 Tennessee Avenue in Etowah. In the photo: (L-R) Chamber Director Durant Tullock. Chamber President Russ Blair, Don Webb, Cat Pate, Rhonda Whaley, Manager Lisa Wolfe, Thom Johnson, owner Bob Hampton, Frances Hampton, Jack McKee, Marvin Taylor, Jean Bunel, Sandy Lambert, and Leeann Hammonds.

