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MORNING FAX™

Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, December 31, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

Local & State News

- ◆ **THP TO BE OUT IN FORCE FOR NEW YEAR**
 The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting a "no refusal" traffic safety enforcement campaign over the New Year's holiday period. "No refusal" allows law enforcement officers to obtain search warrants for blood samples in cases involving suspected impaired drivers. The enforcement period goes from 12:01 a.m. December 31st through 11:59 p.m. this coming Sunday. State Troopers will perform saturation patrols, seat belt, sobriety, and drivers license checkpoints, and bar and tavern checks during the holiday. Last year, 16 people were killed in traffic crashes in Tennessee over the New Year's holiday. Alcohol was involved in six of the traffic deaths and seven victims were not wearing seat belts. One fatality was in Bradley County and one in Polk County. Troopers will be conducting sobriety checkpoints New Year's Eve on Highway 30 at Denso Drive and again Friday night on Highway 30 (South White Street) across from C&D Tire. Troopers will also be checking for seat belt usage early New Year's morning on I-75 north of Exit 42. Early Saturday morning, troopers will hold a drivers license checkpoint at State Highway 304 and Pen Hook Ferry Road in Meigs County.
- ◆ **TENN. FLU OUTBREAK NOW WIDESPREAD**
 The Centers for Disease Control has now placed Tennessee in the Widespread Flu Outbreak category. The CDC says six children have died in Tennessee from flu this year. Two of them were from East Tennessee and the other four were from middle Tennessee.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

- ◆ A young mother was shot and killed by her 2-year-old son Tuesday in an Idaho Walmart. The boy was sitting in the shopping cart when he pulled the handgun from his mom's purse and pulled the trigger. The victim was 29 years old.
- ◆ A case of red measles, also known as Rubeola, was diagnosed earlier this week in Mooreville, North Carolina. Health officials are concerned about the renewed threat of measles in the U.S. The infected person was unvaccinated and had recently returned from a trip to India.
- ◆ On Tuesday, the United Nations Security Council voted against Palestinian statehood.
- ◆ Now that investigators believe they have zeroed in on the AirAsia jetliner crash area, they will treat the area like a crime scene as they try to recover bodies and then determine whether they will have to raise the submerged plane to find out what caused the catastrophe. The AirAsia jetliner plunged into the Java Sea Sunday with 162 people on board.
- ◆ There will be no live animal in the box when Brasstown, North Carolina, holds its annual New Year's Eve Possum Drop. This year, after complaints from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), the organizer says they'll not be using a live possum. Instead, it will either be a road-kill possum or perhaps a pot of possum stew. The annual event in Brasstown involves enclosing a possum in a tinsel-covered plastic box and lowering it to the ground at midnight, then releasing the animal. PETA says the lights, noise and crowd can harm a possum's nerves and health.

Happy New Year!

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WEATHER
Wednesday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower to mid 40's.
Wed. night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower to mid 20's.
Thursday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40's.
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Wednesday, December 31, 2014

Morning Fax™...Today's News This Morning

Athens, Tennessee

POLICE ARREST ROBBERY SUSPECT

Athens police have arrested a man who allegedly robbed and beat another man in the bathroom of the Subway sandwich shop on South White Street. Police say they were called to the Subway because of a fight. They found Gabriel Davis behind the building with serious injuries. Davis told them he was jumped in the bathroom by a man he identified as Nicholas White. He said White beat him in the head and face, stole \$50 from him, and then fled in a black Impala. Police located the Impala and the driver said he dropped White off at an apartment building. Police arrested White Monday night. He's been charged with aggravated robbery and possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ Nominations for the McMinn County 2014 Mother of the Year are now being accepted by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. Nomination forms and guidelines are available at the Chamber of office, 13 N. Jackson St., in Downtown Athens.
- ✓ Effective immediately, the McMinn County Circuit Court Clerk's Office has new hours. The office will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ✓ The Englewood Public Library is now operating on the winter schedule. The library will be open on Mondays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and will be closed Saturdays and Sundays.

Obituaries

- **Dixie Dunn Wilson**, age 92, of Etowah, died Monday. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Coghill Baptist Church Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Serenity Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.
- **Gordon Lee Miller**, age 72, of Niota, died Sunday at Starr Regional Medical Center of Athens. He was a well-known gardener. Funeral services will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Kyker Funeral Home in Sweetwater, with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m.
- **Maxine Harwood**, age 85, of Etowah, died December 19 at Starr Regional Nursing Home in Etowah. She was very active in the Etowah community, working on the restoration of the L&N Depot and helping to organize the Fourth of July celebration. She was named Woman of the Year by the Etowah Chamber of Commerce in 1987, she was elected Tennessee State Committee Woman for the Republican Party, and was a founding board member of the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association. She also helped her husband operate Etowah Welding and Parts, worked for the Bowater Credit Union, and worked in the McMinn County Executive's office as the Head of Tourism. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **James Russell "Rusty" Harbison**, age 59, of Benton, died last Friday at his home. He was a retired welder and a member of the Boiler Makers Union. A Memorial-Graveside service will be held at a later date with Bordwine Funeral Home in charge.
- **Mildred Armstrong Smith**, age 104, of Athens, died Tuesday evening at NHC Health Care of Athens. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Smith Funeral and Cremation Services of Athens.



Happy New Year !

No Morning Fax on Thursday. See you on Friday!

TODAY IN HISTORY – DECEMBER 31

- 1879** - Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, N.J.
- 1909** - The Manhattan Bridge, spanning the East River between Manhattan and Brooklyn, was officially opened to vehicular traffic.
- 1943** - Singer John Denver was born. Among his hit records were, "Annie's Song," "Back Home Again," and "Take Me Home, Country Roads." He was killed in a crash while flying his experimental airplane.
- 1946** - President Harry Truman proclaimed the official end of World War Two, more than one year after the surrender of Germany and Japan.
- 1985** - Singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six other people were killed when a fire ignited on board a DC-3 airplane that was flying the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.