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Today's News...This Morning

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Monday, January 5, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

LOCAL & AREA NEWS

WORLD & NATIONAL NEWS

◆ **McMINN DEPUTY HURT IN CAR CRASH**

Deputy Jeremy Harrison with the McMinn County Sheriff's Office received minor injuries when his patrol car crashed on Interstate 24 near the 4th Avenue exit in Chattanooga Saturday afternoon. Harrison had just dropped off a patient at Moccasin Bend and was on his way back to Athens when his car hydroplaned. Sheriff Joe Guy says his injuries were minor.

◆ **LEAF PICKUPS--ROUND TWO**

The Athens Public Works Department begins the second round of curbside Loose Leaf vacuum collection today. Pickups will continue during the month of January. You are asked to rake your remaining leaves to the edge of the street, but keep them 3 to 5 feet behind the curb. Do not place leaves in the road.

◆ **TWO ACCEPT OFFER FOR FREE RIDE HOME**

McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy says two people took advantage of his offer to provide free rides home on New Year's Eve for anyone who had too much to drink. It was the third year the Sheriff's Office has provided the free ride home service.

◆ **FLU HITS TENNESSEE HARD**

Tennessee is one of the hardest-hit states as the flu season continues. The Walgreen's Flu Index lists Chattanooga as the top city in the nation for flu cases. Knoxville is fourth, followed by Nashville and the Tri-Cities. Paducah, Kentucky, and Dallas, Texas, are also in the top five. Doctors say if your children are sick with flu, don't let them return to school until they're well.

◆ Investigators are trying to determine what caused the crash of a small plane in the woods of southwest Kentucky Friday night. 7-year-old Sailor Gutzler was the only survivor. She managed to walk about a mile in the dark through thick briar patches, a creek bed, and over a hill to a house where she asked for help. She suffered a broken wrist. Her parents, her sister, and a cousin all died in the crash. They were all from Nashville, Illinois. The plane had reported engine trouble and lost contact with air traffic controllers a short time before the crash.

◆ Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee announced Saturday that he is leaving the Fox News network after over six years as host of "Huckabee." He says he will make a decision about a possible 2016 presidential run by late spring.

◆ Country music legend Little Jimmy Dickens died last Friday in a Nashville hospital, eight days after suffering a stroke. He was 94 and had performed on the Grand Ole Opry since 1948. His last appearance was December 20th. Dickens was only 4-feet, 11-inches tall. His hit records include "Take An Old Cold 'Tater (And Wait)," "Country Boy," "Out Behind The Barn," and his biggest, "May The Bird Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose."




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Burns & Allen (1944)**

Monday, January 5, 2015

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Morning Fax™

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Athens, Tennessee

Looking Back On 2014

Like any other year, 2014 was a year of bad news like fires, wrecks, and deaths. But it was also a year of good news. Some of the year's events are listed below:

Two restaurants were badly damaged by fires--the Western Sizzlin' and Joe's Italian Restaurant. The Western Sizzlin' has now re-opened after being closed for restoration for several months. Joe's relocated to the former Zesto building on Ingleside Ave. The restaurant's former location on West Madison Avenue has since been leveled.

The long-awaited Veterans Clinic finally opened last April.

Bob Foster was named Man of the Year at the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet last January.

The Rails To Trails project opened along an old railroad bed running from Athens to Englewood, creating a walking and biking path.

Death claimed former Athens City Council member Charlie Myers and Billie Gilliam, a member of the first all-female Niota City Commission known as the "Golden Girls."

We'll have more of 2014's news stories tomorrow.

Obituaries

• **Jeff Johnson**, age 47, of Englewood died Wednesday at UT Medical Center. Funeral services were held this past Saturday at Bordwine Funeral Home.

• **Edna M. Housely**, age 101, of Athens died Sunday at Etowah Health Care. Arrangements will be announced by Smith Funeral Home.

PRES. OBAMA TO VISIT KNOXVILLE

President Obama will travel to Knoxville this coming Friday. A White House press release says he will talk about helping more Americans go to college and will highlight his administration's efforts to create new, good-paying manufacturing jobs. Vice President Biden will be with him.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The Athens Area Council for the Arts presents the cast of Athens Community Theatre's production of *Pippin*, tomorrow, Jan. 6, at noon. It's the next Arts on the Side lunch-time program, where the community is invited to bring lunch and enjoy a free concert or arts demonstration. The cast will present a preview of songs from the upcoming Feb. 19-March 1 production of *Pippin*, which will be directed by Art Kimball.

✓ Public schools in the Athens area will resume classes tomorrow. Fairview Christian Academy and Christ's Legacy Academy students go back to school today.

VOLS BRING HOME 1ST BOWL TROPHY IN SEVEN YEARS!

The UT Vols won their first bowl game in seven years when they clobbered Iowa, 45 to 28, in the Taxslayer Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida, last Friday. Jalen Hurd scored two touchdowns. Quarterback Josh Dobbs ran for two TD's and threw one TD pass. Coach Butch Jones is shown holding the trophy as jubilant team members look on.

