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# Morning Fax®

Today's News...This Morning

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Thursday, May 30, 2019

Athens, Tennessee

## State & Local News

### ◆ OCOEE DROWNING VICTIM IDENTIFIED

The 26-year-old Cleveland man who drowned in the Ocoee River near the Whitewater Center in Polk County has been identified as Rondez J. Mee. Mee was walking along the river Monday evening and slipped and fell into the water. His friends tried to rescue him but were unable to get him out of the water. His body was found Tuesday evening about 150 yards downstream.

### ◆ CHURCH SHOOTER GETS LIFE IN PRISON

Emanuel Samson will spend the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole. The jury agreed with the prosecution that the Antioch church shooter should get the stiffest punishment, aside from the death penalty, for killing 39-year-old Melanie Crow-Smith. Samson, 27, was convicted of First Degree Premeditated Murder last Friday. He was also found guilty on an additional 42 charges related to the 2017 shooting rampage at Burnette Chapel Church of Christ. He was sentenced on Tuesday.

### ◆ SHOPLIFTING-FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR?

The Tennessee Supreme Court says it will decide whether a prosecutor can continue to charge some shoplifters with burglary. Three years ago, the Knox County district attorney began charging thieves who steal at least twice from Walmart and some other stores with burglary, which is a felony, instead of shoplifting which is a misdemeanor.

## Community News You Can Use

### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ Fairview Christian Academy's graduation ceremony will be Friday, May 31st, at 6 p.m.
- ✓ RAM (Remote Area Medical) will hold a Free Clinic this coming weekend at Cleveland High School. There will be free medical, dental, and vision services. No insurance is needed. The parking lot will open at midnight both Friday and Saturday nights. Ticket distribution will begin at 3 a.m. Patients will be served in numerical order when the clinic opens at 6 a.m.
- ✓ The UT Extension office in McMinn County will be offering "Freezer Meal Fridays" during June. The first session will be on June 7th and will teach you how to prepare Lemon Pepper Chicken and Caribbean Chicken. The cost per class is \$7 and you must bring your own meat and freezer bags. The class instructor will be Sarah Kite. The deadline to register is 8 a.m. on the Thursday before each class. Call 745-2852 to register.
- ✓ Super Social Saturday, an enrichment program for teen girls ages 13-18, will be held this Saturday, June 1st, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Arts Center on N. White Street. There will be music, food, and fun and it is free. For information, call (423) 405-8481. (This is not an AACA sponsored event)
- ✓ The Etowah Senior Center will be having a Yard Sale Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Center is located at 435 Cooper Street.

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### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



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## Union McMinn Baptist Church

Vacation Bible School

June 2nd - 7th

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Supper served nightly

423-568-2395



I-75 Exit 56

## McMinn Regional Humane Society



### Old Fashioned Carnival

June 8 | Prof Powers Park | 10-4 pm

.25 game tickets, vendors, food, prizes!

- 11 am: Small dog race, \$50 cash prize
- 12 pm: Litter scoop, wiggle butt, and dog trick contest
- 1 pm: Costume contest
- 2 pm: Demo with Starr Mountain Canine Training



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Thursday, May 30, 2019

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Larry Eugene Swafford**, age 73, of the Rogers Creek community near Athens, died Tuesday at his home. He was a veteran of the Army and a former employee of TVA at Watts Bar, Erin Steam Plant, and Yellow Creek Nuclear Plant in Mississippi. Most recently, he had worked at KB Manufacturing as an upholsterer. Funeral services will be at 5 p.m. Thursday at Short Creek Baptist Church with visitation from 3 to 5 p.m. at the church. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Raymond Bates**, age 84, of the Springtown Community, died Tuesday. He raised cattle in Reliance and Greasy Creek. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Towee Baptist Church, with visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Bordwine Funeral Home.

♦ **William Hoyt Shamblin**, age 94, of Etowah, died Wednesday at Parkridge Hospital in Chattanooga. He was retired from Kern's Bakery after thirty six and a half years of service. He was a World War II Veteran serving in the United States Army as a member of Co. "B" 276 Combat Engineers and as a medical technician in the European Theater, the Rhineland, Ardennes, Belgium, Holland, France and Germany. Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Bordwine Funeral Home with visitation from noon to 2 p.m.

♦ **Hazel Mae Hamilton Blessing**, age 89, of Murfreesboro and formerly of Pasadena, CA died Thursday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Chestua Methodist Church Cemetery with visitation from noon to 1:30 p.m. prior to the service at Bordwine Funeral Home.

## Ribbon Cut for Chamber Reopening

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for the grand opening of the Athens Chamber of Commerce office at 13 N. Jackson St. in Downtown Athens follow the fire in July of 2017. Pictured L to R: Michele Schumacher (DPA), Joanne Arnett and Jordon Curtis (Simmons Bank), Karen Raby (Chamber Diplomat), Becky Wattenbarger and Shayne Whaley (Chamber Board), Julie Simbeck (Chamber), Darrell Simbeck (Ascension Life Church), Dana Ferguson (Diplomat), Athens City Manager C. Seth Sumner, Lisa Dotson (Main Street), Fallon Lee (DPA), Luke Shepherd and Brittni Wright (Diplomat), Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Haley Duncan, Connie Woodcock, and Erin Blankenship (Diplomats), Kelly Blassingame (Chamber Board), Tonya Higgs (Athens Chamber), Kim York and Chris Anderson (Diplomats), Kathy Price (Economic Development Authority), Scott Cass (Chamber Board), Elaine Preston, Frank Preston Lisa Geren (Diplomat), Moses Contreras, Lisa Harrison (Diplomat), and Jona Garrett.



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