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Today's News...This Morning

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Thursday, March 29, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

◆ STATE TO ASSESS SCHOOL SECURITY

Governor Haslam has approved recommendations from the school safety working group he appointed earlier this month to make immediate enhancements to school safety. The working group identified three immediate priorities:

- 1. A review and risk assessment of all school facilities to identify vulnerabilities.
- An increase in available resources to help secure school resource officers.
- A statewide technology application for anonymous reporting of security threats.

Haslam has directed the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security to work with the Tennessee Department of Education and local officials to immediately begin development and implementation of a statewide assessment of every public elementary and secondary school in the state to identify areas of risk. This was the working group's first priority. The governor has asked the state agencies to ensure completion of the assessments before students return to school for the 2018-19 school year. The group's second priority is the availability of trained school safety personnel or SRO's. The governor's proposed budget and school safety plan doubles the amount of recurring school safety grant funding for schools, which can be used toward SRO's or other facility security measures.

National & World News

- ◆ A 13-year-old boy was taken into custody under Florida's Baker Act and allegedly told investigators that he wanted to become the "next school shooter." The teen was taken into custody early Saturday after someone called 911 to report a "young man" who was barefoot and passed out drunk on the sidewalk in the City of Davenport.
- ◆ French President Emmanuel Macron announced Tuesday that France will make it compulsory for children to attend school starting at the age of 3 years old rather than 6 and will be effective September, 2019.
- Caroline Sunshine, 22, a former Disney Channel star, is joining the White House as a press assistant. Sunshine was born in Atlanta Georgia, but was raised in Orange County California, where she currently resides. She joins other newcomers: John Bolton who is the new National Security Advisor and Larry Kudlow who will lead the National Economic Council.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum will be receiving items for the upcoming Trash & Treasure Sale next week, April 2-6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and April 7 from 9 to 3 p.m. Items for the sale should be dropped off at the former American Bedding warehouse at 276 Dennis Street.
- Today's Holy Week Service will be at 12:05 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Minister Tommy Allen will preach. Friday's service will be at Trinity United Methodist Church, and Dr. Wayne Williams will be the preacher.



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Thursday, March 29, 2018

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

- Mary Emert Davis Willson, age 98, of Athens, died Monday at Brookdale in Hixson. She was born in Pigeon Forge. She attended TWC where she played basketball, and was a beautiful May Queen. She later worked at Athens Plow Company, where she met and married William P. (Bill) Willson in 1944. A Celebration of Life service will be held Friday at 3 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home with visitation from 1 to 3 p.m.
- Luther McDonald of Etowah, died Wednesday. Arrangements will be announced by Bordwine Funeral Home.
- Everleigh Parker Rhyne, infant daughter of Brooklyn Michelle Rhyne and Brandon Kelly Rhyne of Etowah, died last Saturday. Graveside services will be held Friday at 2:30 p.m. at the Conasauga Baptist Church Cemetery, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. at Serenity Funeral Home.
- Mary Louise Coleman Parrott, age 83, of Englewood, died Sunday at her home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 29th, at Serenity Funeral Home in Etowah.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks closed down, extending the recent sell-off. The energy and materials sectors were the worst performers. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 9 points to 23,848. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 8 points 2,605, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 60 points to 6,949.

Vietnam Vets to be Recognized

Today, March 29th, is Vietnam Veterans Day. The day will be observed with a special ceremony at 11 a.m. today at the McMinn Senior Activity Center. Vietnam veterans and all other veterans are invited to attend. The McMinn County Honor Guard will present the colors to open the ceremony. The keynote speaker will be Frank Hill of Etowah. He is an Army veteran of Vietnam and a Purple Heart recipient. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann is scheduled to attend, along with a representative from Senator Bob Corker's office. McMinn County Mayor John Gentry is expected to speak. The ceremony will include the Missing Man Table Ceremony which pays tribute to POWs and MIAs. The table is set for one and includes a red rose, a lemon, a candle, a black napkin, and a Bible. Each of those items has a special significance. The Starr Mountain Quilters will present handmade Quilts of Valor to several Vietnam veterans. The public is invited to attend and express thanks to the Vietnam vets who, after the war did not receive the level of support that veterans of previous wars did. In fact, many were mistreated and even called "baby killers" when they returned home. Lunch will be served after the recognition ceremony.



