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Today's News...This Morning

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Monday - December 13, 2010

Athens, Tennessee

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

♦ BURGLARS HIT K-MART CENTER SHOPS

Burglars struck several businesses in the K-Mart Shopping Center early Saturday morning. Athens police believe the burglars entered through the attic and left out the rear doors. The burglars broke into Sally Beauty Supply, the China Wok restaurant, and Catos. A safe was missing from Sally Beauty Supply.

♦ OLIN TO GO MERCURY-FREE

Olin Corporation in Charleston will be mercury-free in 2012. Olin has been Tennessee's #1 or #2 emitter of mercury for years. Olin says over the past year and a half there has been a steady increase of customers unwilling to accept products manufactured using mercury technology. With the help of federal stimulus bonds, Olin will install the equipment needed for mercury-free production.

♦ ATHENS DOWNTOWN RECEIVES GRANT

The Athens Downtown Business Association will receive an initial grant of \$13,000 to help attract businesses to downtown and to help continue the downtown festivals. DBA President Jim Bob Cucciarre says Athens received the Tennessee Downtowns grant, plus some free technical assistance, because of the progress made in keeping the downtown area alive and healthy for the last 20 years.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

♦ Blizzard warnings were in effect Sunday for Chicago and parts of Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Heavy snow collapsed the Metrodome in Minneapolis. Wisconsin authorities issued a statewide no-travel advisory.

♦ White House adviser David Axelrod predicts the President's tax-cut deal with Republicans will pass by year's end. A Senate vote is set for today. The package faces a tougher sell in the House, but Axelrod says the administration will prevail in the House.

♦ Auburn quarterback Cam Newton is this year's Heisman Trophy winner. Newton carried the top-ranked Tigers to the BCS national championship game against #2 Oregon.

♦ Yale University has issued its annual list of the best quotations. Number one is Delaware senate candidate Christine O'Donnell's "I am not a witch" declaration. That tied with BP CEO Tony Hayward's "I'd like my life back" comment after the Gulf oil spill. Number three was airline passenger John Tyner's remark to a security guard at San Diego Airport: "If you touch my junk, I'm gonna have you arrested." Also on the list, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's comment: "We have to pass the health care bill so you can find out what is in it."

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Monday- December 13, 2010

Athens, Tennessee

More Local News...

◆ PREVENTING I-75 BRIDGE TOSSES

Steps are already being taken to lessen the problem of people throwing objects off the I-75 overpasses in McMinn County. The Tennessee Department of Transportation has begun clearing away the trees and underbrush from both sides of the I-75 bridges so it will be easier to see anyone who is on the bridge. A long-term solution would be installing fencing at the top of the bridges that would prevent anything from being thrown over. But that comes with a price tag of \$60,000 per bridge. TDOT doesn't have the money to do that right now.

◆ OFF TO "LEARN" IN THE BIG APPLE

Now that finals are over at Tennessee Wesleyan College for the fall semester, Dr. Dick Pelley and several students are in New York for six days of "continuing education experience." The students are shown near the Statue of Liberty. They'll attend the David Letterman Show tonight.



OBITUARIES

Georgie Belle Crabtree Waldrop, age 89, of Riceville died last Thursday. Funeral services were held Saturday night at Bordwine Funeral Home.

LOCAL NEWS CONTINUED...

◆ MORE BEAR SIGHTINGS

There were more black bear sightings in Athens Saturday night. Athens police responded to a call about a bear between Wal-Mart and the Athens Regional Park. An officer spotted the bear momentarily at the edge of the woods near the old bowling alley on Decatur Pike. A short time later, a motorist reported almost hitting the bear on Decatur Pike near the Regional Park.

◆ DRIVER WRECKS DURING POLICE CHASE

A Maryville woman, Rachel Kaufman, was airlifted out after wrecking her car on Highway 411 in Polk County Saturday night during a police chase. Police stopped her after she ran three traffic lights in Etowah. She sped away while the officer was writing the citation. She was clocked in excess of 100 mph during the chase. She lost control and wrecked south of the gliderport. (Photo by Jay Thomson)



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It's always fun at Christmas time to drive around and see the lights. The photo below was taken by Morning Fax photographer Cheri Harrison on County Road 260 in the Kingston Hills area.



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