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Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday-January 3, 2012

Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY TURNS DEADLY

A New Year's Eve celebration turned deadly at a bonfire near Calhoun. McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy says Jeffery Watson, 48, of County Road 20 was with some friends outside his residence celebrating the New Year around midnight Saturday. Witnesses present said Benjamin David Ware, 31, was firing a 12-gauge shotgun into the woods when it exploded. Sheriff Guy says Watson was standing a few feet behind Ware when the shotgun exploded and a piece of the barrel struck him in the neck. Watson died at Athens Regional Medical Center. At this point, no charges have been filed.

◆ NEW STATE LAWS NOW IN EFFECT

Now that the new year is here, several new laws in Tennessee are taking effect. One requires Tennesseans to have a government-issued photo ID such as a driver's license or a passport in order to vote. Another law requires employers to use E-verify to make sure their employees are legally authorized to work in the U.S. Employers with five or fewer employees are exempted from using E-verify, but they must keep a copy of the new employee's drivers license on file. Another law taking effect seeks to curtail the production of methamphetamine by requiring pharmacists to use a state-wide electronic logbook to record purchases of over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines containing pseudoephedrine. And previous DUI offenders will be required to take a breathalyzer test. If the officer has reason to believe that a driver has been convicted previously, he will also be required to take a blood alcohol test.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ The Iowa caucuses get underway today. The latest survey from Public Policy Polling shows a statistical dead heat among Mitt Romney, Ron Paul, and Rick Santorum. With a margin of error of plus or minus 2.7 percentage points, Romney leads with 19%, followed by Paul with 18% and Santorum with 17%. Santorum appears to have the most momentum of all the candidates with an eight point surge over the past week. Forty-one percent of Iowa caucus voters say they have not yet made up their minds.

◆ Authorities at Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state say the body of an Iraq war veteran suspected in the shooting death of a Park Ranger has been found in the park. They say 24-year-old Benjamin Colton Barnes apparently died after trudging into chest-deep snow while trying to elude snow-shoe wearing SWAT team members and other police who were on his trail. The gunman fled into the woods after shooting Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Sunday morning. He sped past a checkpoint that was set up to make sure vehicles had tire chains. Anderson, 34, was shot and killed when she eventually blocked the road to stop the driver.

◆ Los Angeles police are questioning a "person of interest" in connection with the dozens of car fires that have hit the city since last week. Twelve more suspected arson fires were started early Monday. The developments came a day after police distributed DVD's featuring surveillance video footage of a man in his 20's with a receding hairline and a shoulder-length ponytail.

◆ Iran test-fired a surface-to-surface cruise missile Monday in a drill it said was to prove that Tehran controls the Strait of Hormuz.

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Restaurant Spotlight
Western Sizzlin Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike (745-2626)
 Tuesday, (11a-4p) 6 oz. Chicken Breast + Salad, Potato, Bakery, & Dessert Bars, \$7.99. Enjoy the "Whole Thing" Buffet for Lunch (11a-4p) for just \$6.99.
Toscano Pizza & Italian Grill, Ingles Shopping Center, Athens 746-9900. LUNCH SPECIAL: 11am-2:30pm - Pick up or dine-in only ! Spaghetti, Ravioli, Manicotti, Stuffed Shells. Salad not included. \$5.99.
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Tuesday-January 3, 2012

Athens, Tennessee

Etowah Residents Hurt in Train Crash

A 10-year-old Etowah girl, April Young, and her grandfather, Ronnie Young, were injured in a collision between their car and a train in Delano last Friday. It happened on Needle Eye Lane at Delano Road south of Etowah. State troopers say their car stopped after crossing the railroad track and then, for some reason, backed into the oncoming CXS train. Several Amish men who were working in the immediate vicinity pulled the young girl and her grandfather from the car. April was airlifted to Erlanger with a head injury. Ronnie Young was taken to Woods Memorial Hospital with minor head injuries. (Photo by Jay Thomson)



Obituaries

Julia Ann Ratledge Hughes Eaton, age 87, of Athens died last Thursday at Woods Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were held last Friday at Ralph Buckner Funeral Home of Etowah.

Robert E. Ward, age 82, of Delano died last Friday at Woods Memorial Hospital. He served in the U.S. Navy and retired from Bowater after 37 years. Funeral services were held on Monday. Bordwine Funeral Home was in charge.

Jo Ann Largent Sneed, age 81, of Delano died last Friday at McMinn Memorial Nursing Home. She was a retired nurse and worked for Dr. Thomas Williams for 29 years and was the Industrial Nurse for Beaunit Fibers for 2½ years. Funeral services were held Monday night at Bordwine Funeral Home.

Bertha Fay Oliver Womac, age 91, of Calhoun died Sunday at a Cleveland Healthcare facility. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home; visitation 1 to 2 p.m.

Mrs. Ira Lee (Airalee) Moore Fugate, age 87, of Calhoun died Sunday. She served as manager for the Calhoun Elementary School cafeteria and later served as a cook at the combined schools. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Hiwassee Baptist Church in Calhoun; visitation 5- 8pm Tuesday at Ziegler.

William Jess "Billy" Whitted, age 33, of Denver, NC, died Wednesday, Dec. 21, in Denver, NC. He was a 1997 graduate of McMinn Co. High School and worked for Fiberglass Fabrications in Denver, NC. Visitation for the family will be Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

WEATHER

Tuesday - Sunny. Highs in the lower to mid 30s.
Tuesday night - Mostly clear. Lows around 19.
Wednesday - Sunny. Highs in the upper 40s.
More Weather & Zoom
Radar at: www.wysi.com

THIS DAY IN HISTORY-Jan. 3

1892 - J.R.R. Tolkein, author of the fantasy novel "Lord of the Rings," was born.


1918 - Maxine Andrews, one of the singing Andrews Sisters, was born. The trio had many hit records in the 1940's and early 50's, including "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Winter Wonderland," and "(I'll Be With You In) Apple Blossom Time." They also recorded several hit records with Bing Crosby.

1938 - The March of Dimes campaign to fight polio was started. It was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. It financed the research that produced the Salk and Sabin vaccines, which helped to prevent polio.

1945 - Singer Stephen Stills was born.

1959 - Alaska became the 49th state. The U.S. bought Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million which amounted to about 2-cents per acre.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY



with
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9:30 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.

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