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Friday-December 27, 2013

Athens, Tennessee

LOCAL & AREA NEWS

◆ MONROE SCHOOL DIRECTOR DIES

The director of the Monroe County Schools has died. Michael Lowry died unexpectedly at Sweetwater Hospital on Christmas eve. He was 60. He had served as an educator in Monroe County for almost 40 years. He had been a teacher, principal, and had been the Director of Schools since 2007. The family will receive friends from 5 to 8 tonight at Bierley-Hale Funeral Home in Madisonville.



◆ UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS IN AREA

The unemployment rate in the Athens area took a significant drop in November. The unemployment rate in McMinn County was 8.4 percent in November, down from 9.2 percent in October.

The jobless rate in Meigs County in November was 8.9 percent, down from 9.9 percent in October.

In Monroe County, the unemployment rate in November was 9.7 percent, down from 10.8 percent in October.

Bradley County's jobless rate was 6.4 percent in November, down from 7.6 percent in October.

The unemployment rate for the state of Tennessee was 8.1 percent in November, compared to the national unemployment rate of 7 percent.

NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS

◆ Piranhas on a Christmas Day feeding frenzy injured some 60 people in the Argentine city of Rosario. The region has been hit by a heat wave, prompting thousands of people to seek relief in the waters of a river which is packed with flesh-eating fish. The injured included a girl who lost part of a finger.

◆ A man was arrested after climbing a fence at the Phoenix airport on Christmas Day and running toward a plane that had just landed. Police say Robert Edward Bump got onto the taxiway Wednesday evening, ran to a Southwest Airlines plane, and started hitting one of its engines. Police say Bump showed signs of drug and alcohol impairment.

◆ Cracker Barrel officials say "we were flat out wrong" in removing Duck Dynasty items from their stores over fears the items might offend people. Cracker Barrel did an about face and put all the Duck Dynasty products back in their stores. A spokesman says their intent was to avoid offending, but "that's just what we've done." Cracker Barrel officials say their customers wrote, called, and took to social media to express their unhappiness.

◆ A country music legend plans to renew her vows after 50 years of marriage. Dolly Parton and her husband, Carl Dean, were married on May 30th, 1966, when Dolly was 20 years old. With their 50th anniversary coming up in two years, Dolly says she wants to say "I do" again. Dean and Dolly were married in Georgia. But, for their renewal, they will marry again at their plantation home in Tennessee.

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BIG AD

SMALL PRICE

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Friday-December 27, 2013

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- One Voice Ministries presents "Celebrating the Unity of the Faith," a New Years Eve Celebration, Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. at Athens City Middle School. The program will feature Pastors Kevin Harris, Angela Arnwine, Pervice Hardaway and Dr. Harold McCowan and will feature the East TN Mass Choir.
- Voices of Deliverance Church of God in Christ at 520 Old Riceville Road will have a watch night service next Tuesday, Dec. 31st, at 10 p.m.
- The Brittville Baptist Church will have a 5th Sunday Singing this Sunday at 6 p.m. Special singers will be the Neely Family. The church is located at 2650 Brittville Road off Highway 58 in Meigs County.

ETOWAH GIRL IS "JUNIOR FORECASTER"

A nine-year-old Etowah girl, Faith Goforth, was a "Junior Weather Forecaster" on Channel 3 TV on December 11th. Faith is in the 3rd grade at Mountain View School. She is the daughter of Tammy Goforth.



Obituaries

Michael Louis Lowry, age 60, of Madisonville died unexpectedly this past Tuesday night at Sweetwater Hospital. He had served as the Director of Schools for Monroe County since 2007. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church in Madisonville, with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at Bierley-Hale Funeral Home in Madisonville.

Paul Swafford, age 78, of Etowah died Wednesday at his home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Serenity Funeral Home of Etowah.

Betty Hunter VanHoose, age 83, of Rockwood and formerly of Decatur died Tuesday at her daughter's home in Rockwood. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday.

Kathleen Helen Smith Turpin, age 88, of Decatur died Dec. 18th. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Union Grove Baptist Church in Decatur, with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church.

ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKER ON WALL STREET!

The Dow Jones industrial average recorded its 50th record high this year on Thursday, closing up 122.33 at 16,479.88. The S&P 500 also closed at a record high, up 8.70 at 1,842.02. The NASDAQ closed up 11.76 at 4,167.18. Oil closed at 99.55, up .33. Gold closed at 1,212.30, up 9.00. Silver closed at 19.92, up .43.

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