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Today's News...This Morning

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Athens, Tennessee

Monday-February 3, 2014

Local and State News

◆ TEEN DRUG/ALCOHOL USE DOWN IN McMINN

A new survey by MADCAT (McMinn Anti-Drug Coalition) shows alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco use among teenagers is down significantly compared to the results of the last survey two years ago. About half of the 10th and 12th graders at McMinn High and Central High Schools took part in the confidential survey. According to the survey, 24% of the students said they had used alcohol during the past 30 days. That was down from 29% in 2011. The percentage of students using tobacco in any form was 10%, down sharply from 23% in 2011. The percentage of students using marijuana was 14% in the latest survey, down from 22% in 2011.

MADCAT Executive Director Mike Womack says the latest survey also shows drug and alcohol use among 12th graders in McMinn County was significantly lower than the national average. Nationally, 39% of 12th graders reported using alcohol in 2013, compared to 27% in McMinn County. Nationally, 23% of seniors reported using marijuana, compared to 14% in McMinn County.

Dr. Womack credits the McMinn County reductions to education, law enforcement, cooperation by convenience store managers and clerks, state legislation making it illegal to place drug paraphernalia such as glass pipes for sale on store counters, and the efforts of parents, MADCAT members, the McMinn Health Council, and the teens themselves who said no to alcohol and drug use.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ In Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Sunday, meaning six more weeks of winter. But, groundhogs in the Athens area did not see a shadow, so spring is around the corner.

◆ The University of Tennessee's Sex Week will return in March. This year's Sex Week will feature such events as an aphrodisiac cooking class and a condom scavenger hunt. Last year, university funds for the event were revoked after state lawmakers expressed outrage. However, a last-minute fund-raising effort brought in enough money to allow the event to take place.

◆ The weekend warm-up melted the remaining snow and it's back to school today. However, thanks to social media and the Internet, rumors are flying that we may be in for a major winter storm toward the end of this week, with up to 12 inches of snow. Something called the European Forecast Model is making the rounds on social media. However, the National Weather Service is not falling for those rumors. The NWS is forecasting a 30% chance of rain and snow for this Friday with no mention of any accumulation.



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WEATHER

Monday - 40% chance of rain before 10 a.m., then cloudy with a high of 51
Monday night - 20% chance of showers, low of 36
Tuesday - 70% chance of rain, high of 54
See our Zoom Radar at:
www.wyxi.com

Monday-February 3, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

More Chamber Award Winners

Shown below are the winners of some of the awards presented at last Thursday night's Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. Top, L-R: Teacher of the Year-Janice Anderson and Mother of the Year-Pam Thigpen (with presenter Paul Willson). Below, L-R: Young Man of the Year-Blake McCaslin, Farmer of the year-Blaine Arwood, and Business Woman of the year-Sandra Boyd



Obituaries

Phillip Mark Lunsford, age 57, of Athens died last Thursday at UT Medical Center. He had been an employee of Heil since 1977. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday in McMinn Memory Gardens, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Ziegler Funeral Home.

Truman Scott Gabbard, age 69, of Englewood died Jan. 28th at his residence. He worked for AT&T for 35 years and was a volunteer for CONTACT for several years. He served in the U.S. Army for eight years, in Germany, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at St. Mary Catholic Church. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

Lynn L. Ferguson, age 82, of Knoxville (and formerly of Niota) died last Friday at a Lenoir City nursing home. He retired from Combustion Engineering and later worked with Athens Furniture. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Smith Funeral Home, with a brief service at the end of the visitation.

Gus T. "Tommy" Roberts, age 92, of Athens died last Friday at Starr Regional Medical Center. Arrangements will be announced by Smith Funeral Home.

Rudy M. Partain, age 66, of Athens died last Thursday. He was retired from L&N Railroad and from Lay Realty. Funeral services were held Saturday night at Smith Funeral Home.

Melinda Gail Bivens, age 38, of Tellico Plains (the daughter-in-law of Monroe Co. Sheriff Bill Bivens) died last Thursday after a long illness. Services were held Saturday at Biereley-Hale.

COUNTY RD 804 CRASH ➡

Shortly after 12 noon last Friday, the Etowah Rescue Squad was dispatched to a rollover accident on County Road 804 in the Carlock Community.

Daryl Moore was traveling north on CR 804 when he ran off the road and his Chevy Trailblazer overturned.

Moore had to be extricated from the vehicle, but was unhurt and refused transport by AMR paramedics. He is the father of Etowah City Fire Chief Michael Moore.

(Photo by Jay Thomson)

