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Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

Local and State News

◆ MAN KILLED ON OLD MECCA PIKE

A one-vehicle wreck on Old Mecca Pike (County Rd. 475) Sunday night left one person dead. The Tennessee Highway Patrol says the man was traveling east on Old Mecca Pike when he lost control in a curve and his vehicle slid sideways off the right side of the road. The vehicle struck two trees on the driver's side, then caught fire. The vehicle was engulfed in flames with the victim still inside when first responders reached the scene. An autopsy will be performed at UT Medical Center to make positive identification on the victim.

◆ 3-VEHICLE WRECK TIES UP I-75 TRAFFIC

Southbound traffic on Interstate 75 was shut down for several hours Monday afternoon following a three vehicle crash on I-75 southbound on the exit ramp at exit 49. One of the vehicles was a tractor-trailer rig. A helicopter landed at the scene to airlift at least one patient to the hospital. (Photo on right from Sam Natter) ➔

◆ ENGLEWOOD FIRE LEAVES 6 HOMELESS

A rental house on East Athens Street in Englewood was gutted by a fire last Friday night. Englewood firefighters say the blaze was electrical in nature. Two adults and four children lived in the house. No one was injured, but the family lost everything.

MORE STATE & LOCAL NEWS

◆ Governor Haslam has unveiled his Insure Tennessee plan. The two-year pilot program will provide health care coverage to Tennesseans who currently do not have access to health insurance, or who have limited options. The program rewards healthy behaviors, prepares members to transition to private coverage, promotes personal responsibility, and emphasizes preventative and routine care instead of unnecessary use of emergency rooms. The governor says he will call a special session of the legislature to deal with his proposal early next year.



Hey Parents: Holiday time is the perfect time to talk with your kids about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Try this site for help in starting the discussion: getsmartaboutdrugs.com



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WEATHER: Tuesday - Mostly cloudy. 30% rain. Highs in the lower to mid 50's. Tuesday night - Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30's. Wednesday - Sunny. Highs in the lower to mid 50's.
 More Weather & Zoom Radar at: www.wyxi.com



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Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Morning Fax™...Today's News This Morning

Athens, Tennessee

Etowah Rescue Squad Awards

The Etowah Rescue Squad and Rural Fire Department held its annual Christmas Dinner Awards Banquet last Saturday night. The photo to the right shows Hope Coe, who was presented the Chief's Citation.



The photo to the left shows Jason David, who was named Rookie of the Year. Also shown in the photos are Kevin Elliott, Assistant Chief, left, and Brandon Frost, right.

(Photos by Loretta Letner)

Obituaries

- **Bobby Ray Thurman**, age 63, of Decatur, died Sunday at his home after a lengthy illness. At his request, there will be no formal visitation or service. A private burial will be held at Short Creek Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.
- **Calvin Felton**, age 56, of Athens, died last Saturday at a Georgia hospital. Funeral arrangements will be announced by M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home of Athens.
- **Paul J. Baker**, age 74, of Riceville, died last Friday at his home. He retired from Honeywell Corporation after 20 years. Funeral services were held Monday at Fike Funeral Home in Cleveland.
- **Gloria Leach Varnell** of Athens, died last Saturday. Before moving to Athens, she was the dietitian at Hiwassee College for many years. Funeral services will be at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Biereley-Hale Chapel in Madisonville, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Janice Marlene Pressley Castillo**, age 55, of Athens died Sunday. A celebration of her life service will be conducted at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at Serenity Funeral Home of Etowah, with visitation from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- **Hester Kennedy Stephens**, age 86, of Athens died Sunday at her daughter's home. She was retired from Thomas and Betts after 36 years of service. Funeral services will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m.

MORE ETOWAH RESCUE SQUAD HONORS

In the photo below to the left, Scott Brazer (center) was honored by the Etowah Rescue Squad and Rural Fire Department as Top Responder and Fire/Rescue Tech of the Year. The photo on the right shows Nathan Coe, who was named Officer of the Year.

