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Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

LOCAL & STATE NEWS

◆ HOMELESS IN McMINN COUNTY

Just over a year ago, the Athens community came together to take a serious look at what can be done about homelessness in McMinn County. The McMinn Homeless Task Force was formed. With the help of nearly 40 volunteers, they conducted the county's first "Point in Time" assessment of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and without permanent housing. The assessment determined that on January 28, 2015, McMinn County had 46 homeless people. The study revealed that 39 of those individuals were permanently disabled, 30 suffered from mental illness, and 23 had addictions. The figures showed that many of the individuals had a combination of mental illness, addiction, or disability. Of the 46 individuals, they used the local hospital emergency rooms 160 times in just six months. With the average cost of a routine emergency room visit estimated at \$1,386, in a year that means a loss for local hospitals of nearly a half-million dollars. The Homeless Task Force has now evolved into a group known as Community Resource Agency of McMinn, or CRAM, directed by Priscilla Rutherford. If you would like to learn more about CRAM, call Ms. Rutherford at 423-443-7675.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

- ◆ The man accused of killing three people and wounding nine in a shooting rampage at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs now faces first-degree murder charges. Formal charges will be filed at a court appearance scheduled for Dec. 9.
- ◆ The White House announced changes to the U.S. visa waiver program so that security officials can more closely screen travelers from 38 countries allowed to enter the United States without obtaining visas before they travel. The new measures were prompted by the November 13th attacks in Paris by Islamic State militants.
- ◆ During a visit to the Middle East, Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson says the Syrian refugees he met while there, don't want to come to the United States, they want to return home.

CREATIVE WAY TO USE A SNOWFLAKE

Scott Duckworth has come up with a creative way to use one of the old snowflake decorations being sold by the Athens Downtown Business Association. He attached it to his ham radio antenna. At night, the snowflake even lights up.



(Photo by Scott Duckworth)

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Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Athens, Tennessee

Volunteers Are Recognized

Coordinated Charities recently recognized two of their volunteers. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Art Hamman and Gladys Fortsch for their 15 years of volunteering in the Community Food Bank at Coordinated Charities. Together, they have packed tens of thousands of packages of groceries for people in the community. They have helped provide food for people in need since 1999. Both Art and Gladys are members of St. Mary Catholic Church. Pictured below: (L to R) Board Chairman Alan Gentry, Art Hamman, Gladys Fortsch, and Executive Director Kevin Lane.



Obituaries

- **Clyde Henry Lee**, age 76, of Reliance, died unexpectedly last Saturday at Starr Regional Medical Center. No formal service or visitation will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.
- **E.C. Barker**, age 89, of Decatur, died Sunday at his home. He was a retired electrician and served in the U.S. Navy. Interment will be by cremation. Bowers Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
- **Buddy Phillip Holland Mitchell**, age 48, of Etowah, died Monday at his residence. He had worked at Textron and was an Eagle Scout. A memorial service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Bordwine Funeral Home with visitation from 5-7 p.m. at Bordwine.

MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks were little changed as investors assess the impact of several economic reports. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 78.57 at 17,719.92. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 9.70 at 2,080.41, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 18.86 at 5,108.67.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The McMinn High School Band will have a Christmas Concert at 7 tonight in the gymnasium. Admission is free.
- ✓ The Christmas Parade lineup for the area is as follows:
Thursday, Dec. 3rd, 7 p.m.--The Etowah Parade
Friday, Dec. 4th, 6:30 p.m.--The Englewood Parade
Monday, Dec. 7th, 7 p.m.--The Jimmy Liner Memorial Christmas Parade in Downtown Athens.

WEATHER

Tuesday - Near 100% rain.

Highs in the lower 60's.

Tuesday night - 90% rain.

Lows in the upper 40's to lower 50's.

Wednesday - Cloudy. 60% rain. Highs in the mid 50's.

More Weather & Zoom Radar at: www.wyxi.com



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the Web!!
(6a-7p)

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