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Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Athens, Tennessee

Local & State News

◆ McMINN MAN KILLED CUTTING TREES

A tree cutting accident on County Road 446 has claimed the life of 36-year-old Jimmy "Paul" Graham, Junior. The accident happened last Friday evening. McMinn County Deputy Todd Levi's report said that Jimmy Graham's body was discovered by his brother Jeffery Graham around 10:15 p.m. Jimmy Graham had apparently climbed down an embankment to cut a tree and a portion of it fell on him. Obituary information is on page 2.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:


- ✓ The McMinn County Board of Education regular monthly session meeting for March 10th, has been rescheduled to Thursday, March 17. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence on South Hill Street. The meeting is being rescheduled due to the McMinn Central High School Chargerettes appearance in the TSSAA State Basketball Tournament in Murfreesboro.
- ✓ The MCHS J-Teens, sixteenth annual community Easter Dinner will be Wednesday, March 30th at 6 p.m. in the MCHS cafeteria. You may sign up at Coordinated Charities, Goodwill, Sethra, Athens Housing, Senior Citizens Center, & Grace and Mercy Ministries. If you are unable to sign up at one of these locations, you may contact J-Teens sponsor, Cindy Studdard-Moses at 745-4142. Deadline for sign-up is Wednesday, March 16th.

NATIONAL-WORLD NEWS

- ◆ Sportscaster Erin Andrews was awarded \$55 million in a lawsuit over a nude video a stalker secretly recorded in her hotel room and posted online. Andrews said that she has been honored by all the support from victims around the world and their outreach helped her to stand up and hold accountable those whose job it is to protect everyone's safety, security and privacy.
- ◆ Hillary Clinton's work-related emails from her private account are now public. More than 52,000 pages detail her tenure as secretary of state but fails to resolve questions about how she and her closest aides handled classified information.
- ◆ Former Republican New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that he will not run for president as an independent. Bloomberg believes that a three-way race could result in no one winning a majority of electoral votes, which would send the race to the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, and therefore to one of the GOP front-runners. Bloomberg stated that this was not a risk he was willing to take.
- ◆ A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden fuel truck into a security checkpoint south of Baghdad on Sunday. At least 47 people were killed and dozens wounded.

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Cost: Members \$40 per player
Non-Members, \$60 per player
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Practice begins Week of March 28-April 1
Monday/Tuesday Games at 5:30pm
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WEATHER FORECAST
Tuesday - Partly sunny. Highs
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Tuesday night - Partly cloudy.
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Wednesday - Partly sunny.
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PAGE TWO

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Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Athens, Tennessee

TDOT-Dynamic Message Winner

Five winning messages have been selected from the Tennessee Department of Transportation's recent Dynamic Message Sign Contest. Nearly 3,000 message entries were submitted and more than 3,700 votes were cast for the 15 messages selected as finalists. The messages covered issues such as distracted driving, seatbelt usage, impaired driving, speeding and aggressive driving. The top five messages in order of votes are:

1. "Turn signals, the original instant messaging."
2. "Get the cell off your phone and drive."
3. "Practice safe text. Don't do it while driving."
4. "You're in Tennessee. Volunteer to drive safe."
5. "Ain't nobody got time for a wreck. Slow it down."

The #1 winning message, "Turn signals, the original instant messaging", will run on TDOT's overhead Dynamic Message Signs this week. That message, along with the other winning messages, will be placed in rotation to run on the overhead Dynamic Message Signs statewide throughout the year.

The purpose of the contest was to give the public a chance to partner with TDOT to raise safety awareness. A total of 190 Dynamic Message Signs are located in the state's four urban areas (Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville), and in some rural areas across the state. The main purpose of the signs is to alert motorists of incidents, lane blockages, hazardous road conditions, or Amber Alerts. In 2012, TDOT became the first DOT in the nation to display roadway fatality numbers on the overhead signs. In addition to the fatality statistics, safety messages are displayed during off-peak travel times.

Obituaries

• **Myrtle Elvira Mathis Ervin**, age 77, of Athens, died Saturday at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga. She had owned the Old Clearwater Market for many years. Funeral services will be Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

• **Jimmy "Paul" Graham, Jr.**, age 36, of Athens, died last Friday in a work related accident. The family will receive friends from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Thursday at Ziegler Funeral Home. A private graveside service will be held in Clearwater Cemetery.

• **James A. "Jim" Mayer, Jr.**, age 71, of Athens, died Sunday morning at his home. He was an independent truck driver until his retirement and served in the U.S. Army. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at McMinn Memory Gardens with military honors. A Memorial Service will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church at a later date. Smith Funeral Home is in charge.

• **Donald Norman Acquard**, age 78, of Decatur, died Thursday, March 3rd, at Rhea Medical Center. A Memorial Service will be held at noon Thursday at the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. Bowers Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

FAIRVIEW CHRISTIAN ACADEMY SWEEPS STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

Both of the Fairview Christian Academy's Varsity Basketball teams won their state championships this year. The Tennessee Athletic Association of Christian Schools hosted the annual tournament last week.

The FCA Falcons entered the state tournament with a 28-6 record and finished their season by beating Kingsport rival Cedar View 76 to 54 to claim back-to-back state championships. The All-Tournament Team members included: Tanner Harris, Riley Mason, and Jackson Heinrich. The Tournament MVP was Andrew Rogers.

After moving up to a AA status this season, the FCA Lady Falcons finished with a 32-2 season by defeating Tri-Cities Christian School 82 to 52, to claim their third consecutive state championship title. The All-Tournament Team members included: Ashley Rogers, Erica Massaro, and Sindy McElhaney. The Tournament MVP was Sandy McElhaney.

Both teams are coached by Joe McElhaney, a 1996 FCA graduate, who claimed his own state championship his senior year. Fairview Administrator Greg Ranck says "this is a very special time for the academy and its student athletes," and he thanks the Lord for the success of all the FCA ball teams this year.

