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Today's News... This Morning

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Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Athens, Tennessee

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

- ◆ **FORMER OFFICERS FACE NEW CHARGES**
Former Calhoun Police Chief Julie Tanksley and officer Charles Godsey face four more counts of extortion. They are accused of seizing personal property of individuals they arrested, and then refusing to return the property until the individuals contributed money to the police department's drug fund. They are scheduled to go on trial on January 9th.
- ◆ **SNOW IN THE SMOKIES**
A late fall snowstorm created a winter wonderland in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park this past weekend. Bruce and Chris Hari visited over the weekend and snapped this photo.



National & World News

- ◆ A man accused of detonating an explosive in the New York City subway system Monday morning had the bomb strapped to him while he rode from Brooklyn to Manhattan. The explosion occurred in an underground passageway near the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Only three people suffered minor injuries. Governor Andrew Cuomo called the explosion "one of our worst nightmares."
- ◆ Rian Rodriguez, 27, the high school soccer coach who allegedly ran away with one of his students, a 17-year-old girl, is being extradited to Florida.
- ◆ Beginning January 1st, the Pentagon is preparing to allow transgender individuals to enlist in the U.S. military in compliance with a federal court ruling from two weeks ago.

- ◆ **COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:**
 - ✓ Trinity United Methodist Church will hold a Blue Christmas worship service Wednesday, Dec. 13th, at 7 p.m. for those who are grieving or struggling this holiday season. The church is located at 100 E. College Street in Athens.
 - ✓ B's Bakery/Party Rentals, will have an open house/grand opening this Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. Santa will be there, and there will be free treats from the bakery. The bounce house will also be open free of charge in exchange for a donation of an unwrapped toy for a needy child. The rescue squad will be distributing the toys.

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



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Obituaries

- ♦ **Willie Mae Stewart Bryson**, age 90, of Athens, died Sunday at her residence. A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday in Green Hill Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
- ♦ **John Franklin "Johnny" Dockins**, age 53, of McMinn County, died Sunday evening in a Nashville hospital. He was a heavy equipment operator for many years. He was an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Army. A funeral service will be held Thursday at 1 p.m. at Companion Funeral Home of Athens with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Companion.

MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks closed higher reversing early declines. Energy and tech stocks were among the best performers in the stock market. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 57 points or 0.2% to 24,386. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 8 points or 0.3% to 2,660, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 35 points or 0.5.

WATTS BAR TO HOLD EMERGENCY DRILL

An emergency preparedness exercise will be held at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Wednesday, Dec. 13th. The exercise will involve hundreds of personnel. Residents near Watts Bar may see emergency vehicles and hear sirens during the drill.

Ribbon Cut for New Hallmark

The ribbon was cut last week for Southern Charm Gift Shop, a new Hallmark Gold Crown Store, located at 23-B Congress Parkway. Pictured below: Front Row (L-R) Lisa Harrison (Chamber Diplomat), Carley Bledsoe (Employee), Stacey Bledsoe (Co-owner), Christy Ray (Co-owner), Valerie Ogle (Employee), Roxy Ray (Employee) & Kim York (Diplomat). Back Row (L-R) Rob Preston (Chamber President & CEO), Jesse Ray (Employee), Bo Perkinson (Athens City Council) (Photo by Cheri Harrison)



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