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Today's News... This Morning

Live Nativity Scene at

Union McMinn Baptist Church
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 6pm - 9pm
 314 County Road 316 Niota, TN

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 (Phone: 746-1390 Fax: 744-1390 e-mail: wysi@bellsouth.net)

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

Remembering a Tragedy

Twenty-eight years ago today a major tragedy took place on Interstate 75 at the Calhoun exit number 36. Ninety-nine vehicles were involved in a chain-reaction crash in extremely dense fog. Several of the vehicles caught fire and burned. Twelve people died and 51 were injured. The disaster was blamed on the fog and involved 27 separate accidents. Soon after the wreck, the Tennessee Department of Transportation installed a fog detection system. When it is activated, drivers are alerted with warning signs, flashing lights, and lowered speed limits. The system even automatically lowers gates on the entrances to I-75 to prevent vehicles from getting onto the interstate. The I-75 fog zone accident still ranks as the worst traffic accident in Tennessee history. (The photo below is courtesy of WTVC-TV, Chattanooga)



National News

- ◆ The man suspected of sexually assaulting and killing 13-year-old Hania Aguilar in North Carolina could face the death penalty if convicted. Michael McLellan, 34, is accused of abducting and killing Hania in November.
- ◆ French president Emmanuel Macron addressed the nation in a recorded TV speech on Monday and announced new economic measures in response to weeks of violent protests across the country due to increases in fuel taxes which Macron championed.
- ◆ A major winter storm that pummeled the Southeast has become a "nightmare and a tragedy" in North Carolina, claiming at least two lives. The storm has dropped staggering amounts of snow, ice and rain across North Carolina, with a year's worth of snow falling in some places in just one day.
- ◆ British Prime Minister Theresa May says she is calling off a key Brexit vote in Parliament scheduled for Tuesday that has been building for weeks amid increased infighting among politicians within and across all major political parties.
- ◆ **FATAL TRUCK-PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT**
 A pedestrian was killed early Monday morning in front of the McMinn County Justice Center on Highway 30 when he apparently stepped in front of a tractor trailer rig. Athens Police say the man was dressed in all dark clothing, was standing in the center two-way turn lane, and upon the approach of a truck he stepped in front of it and was struck. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Athens police are not releasing his name at this point pending notification of the next of kin.

TODAY IN HISTORY— DECEMBER 11th
 1816 - Indiana became a state on this date.
 1941 - Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, four days after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.
 1944 - Singer Brenda Lee was born. Her hit records included "I'm Sorry," "Fool Number One," and the Christmas favorite, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."
 2008 - Financial manager Bernard Madoff was arrested, accused of running a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that destroyed thousands of people's life savings and wrecked charities. (Madoff later pleaded guilty and is serving 150 years in federal prison)

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Obituaries

♦ **Lieutenant Colonel Arnett E. Kilpatrick, (USAF Retired)** age 100, of Riceville, died Sunday. He served as a Navigator on B-17s during World War II. He trained B-29 navigators during the Korean War. Later, he worked with the Space Program at NASA, retiring in 1977. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Smith Funeral Home, with visitation from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks rebounded, following last week's 4.5% market decline. The technology sector was the best performer as recent weakness has created attractive buying opportunities. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 34 points or 0.1% to 24,423. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 5 points or 0.2% to 2,638, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 51 points or 0.7% to 7,021.69.

♦ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce monthly "Business Before Hours" will be this Thursday, Dec. 13th, from 8 to 9 a.m. at Crye-Leike Realtors, 580 Congress Parkway S.
- ✓ Nominations are now being accepted by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce for McMinn County's 2018 "Mother of the Year." Nomination forms and award guidelines may be obtained at the Chamber office in the basement of the McMinn County Courthouse. The deadline is January 11th.

Mobile Home Burns on CR 356

The Niota, Englewood, and Athens Rural Fire Departments responded to a fully involved structure fire on County Road 356, Sweetwater, early last Friday morning. The mobile home was a total loss with all occupants escaping without injury. Niota Rural Fireman Travis Newberry was in charge at the scene.

(Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department)



Welcome

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