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Today's News... This Morning

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Thursday, March 16, 2017

Athens, Tennessee

Surprise "Blizzard" Hits McMinn

A "blizzard" hit northern McMinn County by surprise before day-break Wednesday, covering roads with snow and ice. The heavy snowstorm didn't last long, but temperatures were so cold that roads were quickly covered by snow. The Tennessee Highway Patrol says vehicles slid off the road on I-75 between mile markers 52 and 58. One was an 18-wheeler that jackknifed, closing one southbound lane for several hours. There were several wrecks on U.S. 11, Highway 307, and Highway 39. The primary problem areas were from Niota to Englewood to Etowah and northward. The snow quickly turned to "black ice," creating extremely slippery driving conditions. The McMinn County and Etowah City schools were cancelled for the day. A reader sent us this photo of the snow in Englewood. (Photo by Graham Judd)



National - World News

- ◆ Falling temperatures and icy conditions were major concerns in much of the Northeast. On Wednesday a late winter snowstorm from Washington, D.C., to New England, halted school, work, and travel for millions of Americans. Five people are dead as a result of the severe conditions.
- ◆ U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, called for peace in Syria as civil war enters the seventh year.
- ◆ A woman suffered burns to her face after the battery-operated headphones she was using on a recent flight to Australia caught fire. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau did not say how severe the woman's injuries were, and they concluded that the batteries in the headphones sparked the fire.
- ◆ President Donald Trump put the brakes on Obama-era auto emissions and fuel regulations in his visit to Ypsilanti, Michigan on Wednesday. Trump announced a restart of the review of vehicle fuel efficiency rules, or CAFE standards, that the auto industry has been seeking.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks closed higher, after the Federal Reserve increased its benchmark interest rate a quarter point amid rising confidence that the economy is poised for more robust growth. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 112.73 at 20,950.10. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 19.81 at 2,385.26, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 43.23 at 5,900.05.



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Women of the Well Annual Banquet
Rivers of Living Water
WOMEN at the WELL BANQUET
FRIDAY, MARCH 17 6:30pm
at Woodward Church of God
507 Woodward Ave., Athens
with guest: Bob Sorge
Silent Auction 6pm
\$50pp; \$400 table of 8
More Info: 745-0010

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WEATHER FORECAST
Thursday - Sunny. High 48.
Thursday Night - Clear. Low 28.
Friday - Cloudy. 40% rain. High 58.
Friday Night - T'storms. 90% rain. Low 48.
More Weather at: wysi.com

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Athens, Tennessee

TWU Professor Starts Scholarship Fund

Tennessee Wesleyan University Professor Dr. Bill Watts and his wife, Suzi, have established the Willard W. Watts, Sr., Criminal Justice Endowed Scholarship Fund. The fund honors Dr. Watts' father, who served much of his life as a police officer. The fund was announced on February 8th, which marked the 100th birthday of Willard Watts. The fund will be used to provide scholarships to a deserving criminal justice student. Dr. Watts recalls that while his father was a police officer, he always put his children and family first. He says his father even took him camping the weekend after President Kennedy was assassinated.

(The photo shows left to right:

Suzi Watts, TWU Professor Dr. Bill Watts, and TWU President Dr. Harley Knowles)



Obituaries

- ♦ **Wanda Pauline Ball**, age 72, of Etowah, died Tuesday at her home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m.
- ♦ **Roger "Bodge" Gill**, age 63, of Ten Mile, died Tuesday at UT Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Bowers Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ **James (Jim) Clemette Reid, III**, age 60, of Athens, died Tuesday at his residence. He was an Environmentalist and OSHA Specialist. He was an Eagle Scout. A Celebration of Life service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Trinity United Methodist Church. A luncheon will follow in the church fellowship hall. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Leave Cancer Behind 5K Run/Walk will be held this Saturday at Eureka Trail. The Colorectal Cancer Awareness event benefits the American Cancer Society and is sponsored by Starr Regional Medical Center. Register at: starregional.com
- ✓ The U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus will present a free concert next Monday, March 20th, at 7 p.m. in the McMinn County High School Gymnasium. The concert is sponsored by the Daily Post-Athenian. Tickets are available at the DPA's temporary office located in the basement of SouthEast Bank, 1878 South Congress Parkway, Athens.



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