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Today's News...This Morning

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Friday-March 14, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

LOCAL & AREA NEWS

◆ JANUARY JOBLESS RATES REPORTED

The unemployment figures for January in the Athens area have been released. The jobless rate in McMinn County was 7.9% in January, down from 8.1% in December. In Meigs County, unemployment in January was 9.3%, up from 8.9% in December. Monroe County's jobless rate in January was 9.5%, up from 9.3% in December. In Bradley County, the unemployment rate in January was up at 6.2%, compared to 6.1% in December.

◆ ETOWAH MAN DIES IN BRADLEY CRASH

Kevin L. Byrwa, 26, of Etowah was killed Wednesday morning in a three-vehicle crash on North Lee Highway in Bradley County. Police say Byrwa was traveling southbound when he crossed the centerline and collided with two northbound vehicles. He died at Erlanger Medical Center. The drivers of the northbound vehicles were both injured. They've been identified as Sandra Overs, 51, of Athens and Terry Hickman, 59, of Cleveland. All three drivers were trapped and had to be extricated.

◆ TIGERS ADVANCE TO SEMI-FINALS

The Meigs County boys basketball team will play Booker T. Washington in the semi-finals in the Class A state tournament in Murfreesboro this afternoon. The Tigers advanced to the semi-finals by defeating Columbia Academy, 83 to 68, in the quarter-finals Wednesday night.

REMINDER: Monday, March 17th, is St. Patrick's Day. Don't forget to wear something green.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

◆ U.S. officials have an indication the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner may have crashed in the Indian Ocean and say it is possible the plane kept flying after dropping off of radar. This is why they are continuing the search. The USS Kidd, a Navy Destroyer is moving to the area to begin searching.

◆ Rescue workers are searching through rubble using dogs and thermal-detection gear for victims of a gas explosion in New York that killed at least seven people. Investigators are trying to pinpoint the leak and determine whether it had anything to do with New York's aging gas and water mains, some of which date to the 19th century.

◆ Fast-food workers from Michigan, California, and New York are suing McDonald's, claiming a variety of wage theft practices, including forcing workers to clock out but remain at work, docking pay to purchase company-required uniforms and stiffing employees on overtime. If the courts grant the suits class action status, tens of thousands of more workers could join the suit.

◆ House Speaker John Boehner has invited Pope Francis to address a joint meeting of Congress. Boehner says in a statement that the pope has inspired millions with his pastoral manner and servant leadership. The speaker has extended an open and formal invitation to the pontiff.

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PAGE TWO

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Friday-March 14, 2014

Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- The Trinity United Methodist Church Youth Group is having a pancake breakfast at Applebee's tomorrow from 7 to 10 a.m. The cost is \$5.00, and all proceeds will go to mission projects.
- Allen Memorial United Methodist Church will have a BBQ Chicken Dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 22.. Tickets are \$10. The church is located at 800 Decatur Pike in Athens. The event is sponsored by the church's youth.
- St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church will observe its Annual Usher Day this Sunday at 3:30 p.m. The Rev. Leuty McDermott and the Church of God Sanctified will be the special guests.
- Tony Gore will be singing at 6 p.m. Sunday at Pope Avenue Baptist Church, 301 Pope Street, Athens.
- The group 2 by 2 will be singing this Sunday at 6:45 p.m. at West End Baptist Church in Athens.
- Members of the First United Presbyterian Church and their pastor, Rev. Dr. Wayne Williams, will conduct the mid-week Bible study every Wednesday through May 7th at the Cooke Ministry Center. The study will begin at noon and the public is invited. The Center is located at 714 Walter St. in Athens.
- The Prom Shop at Christ Community Church, 14 S. Congress Parkway, Athens, will be open to high school, home school, and 8th graders on Saturday, March 22nd, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with free formal wear for any girl or guy wishing to attend their prom, school dance, or banquet.

Obituaries

Laverne "Bun" Payne Lockhart, age 98, of Etowah died Wednesday at Starr Regional Medical Center of Athens. Family and friends will assemble Saturday at 10 a.m. at Bordwine Funeral Home and proceed to Coghill Cemetery for the 11 a.m. committal service. No formal visitation will be held.

Harry Lee Williams, age 80, of the Mt. Harmony Community near Niota died Thursday at NHC of Athens. Funeral Services will be Friday at 8 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home with visitation from 5-7 p.m. at Smith.

THURSDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks closed down sharply despite the release of positive economic reports including retail sales and jobless claims. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 231.19 at 16,108.89. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 21.86 at 1,846.34, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 62.91 at 4,260.42

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Athens Area Council for the Arts presents the 11th *Evening with the Stars, a Community Showcase of Talent*, tonight at 7:30 at The Arts Center. The show includes everything from singer-songwriters, to dancers, to pianists. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.
- ✓ Tribe Rugby will play its next games tonight at the MCHS football field, with the girls playing Bradley at 6:30 and the boys playing South Doyle at 8 p.m.

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TODAY IN HISTORY - MARCH 14TH

- 1794** - Eli Whitney received a patent for the cotton gin.
- 1802** - Congress authorized the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.
- 1804** - The famous waltz composer, Johann Strauss, was born in Austria. He wrote such famous waltzes as "Blue Danube" and "Tales From The Vienna Woods."
- 1864** - Casey Jones, the legendary railroad engineer, was born in Kentucky. On the night of April 29, 1900, he pulled out of Memphis on the "Cannonball Express." Around 4 a.m. the next morning near Vaughan, Mississippi, Jones spotted a freight train stopped on the tracks ahead. He shouted to his engineer to jump...and he rode the engine into the collision. When they found his body in the wreckage, one hand was on the whistle cord and the other was on the brake.
- BORN ON THIS DAY:** Band leader Les Baxter (1922), band leader Les Brown (1912), and western singer Michael Martin Murphey (1945).