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Today's News... This Morning

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Thursday, December 27, 2018

Athens, Tennessee

The Ground Shook in December

Nineteen earthquakes struck East Tennessee in December, according to the United State Geological Survey. Some of those quakes were actually "aftershocks," but all are categorized as earthquakes by the USGS. Quakes with magnitudes 1 to 2 are very minor. Earthquakes measuring 3 or higher are when people can really start to feel them. The Southern Appalachian Seismic Zone stretches from northeastern Alabama into East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. It is considered to be one of the most active earthquake zones in the eastern United States, but most of the tremors are small. The biggest quake in East Tennessee this month was magnitude 4.4 near Decatur on December 12th.

◆ ETOWAH RURAL TO GET NEW CHIEF

A change in leadership is coming to the Etowah Rural Fire Department. The current chief, Brandon Frost, is stepping down effective January 1st. He will be replaced by Jeremy Harrison. Harrison is a deputy with the McMinn County Sheriff's Department and will now take on the additional responsibilities as chief of the Etowah Rural Fire Department.



(Photo from Etowah Rural Fire Department Facebook page)

National & World News

- ◆ President Trump went to Al Asad Air Base in Iraq on Wednesday to meet with American troops. It was an unannounced visit and his first to an active combat zone since taking office in 2016. He was joined by First lady Melania Trump on the visit, breaking with precedent of former First Ladies not traveling to war zones.
- ◆ A desperate search is ongoing in the waters off the coast of Puerto Rico after a 20-year-old crew member of the Royal Caribbean cruise ship, Harmony of the Seas, apparently went overboard Tuesday evening.
- ◆ A major storm system is moving out of the west and will redevelop in the Plains, bringing severe storms to the south and heavy snow to the north. As the storm moves east, 15 states from Arizona to Michigan will be under winter storm warnings and advisories.
- ◆ A police officer in Louisville, Kentucky was killed by a driver allegedly under the influence while she was conducting a traffic stop on Christmas Eve.
- ◆ **COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:**
 - ✓ Wednesday's residential garbage route in Athens will be collected today, Thursday. Thursday's route will be picked up on Friday, along with the regular Friday route.
 - ✓ In Etowah, the Christmas Day garbage route will be picked up today. The Wednesday and Thursday routes will be collected on Friday.

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OBITUARIES

♦ **Mary "Sue" Hart Smith McMahan**, age 86, of Cleveland, died Saturday, December 22nd, at Life Care Center of Cleveland. She moved with her family to McMinn County in 1938 where her father became Dairy Farm Manager for the Mayfield Dairy. She was a lifelong educator working in Texas and the Dalton, Georgia, school systems. A celebration of life will be held this Saturday, Dec. 29th, at 4 p.m. in the Cleveland Chapel of Companion Funeral Home, with visitation from 2 p.m.

♦ **Johnny Allen "John" Boyd**, age 56, of Athens, died Monday in a Chattanooga hospital. He was an all-around handy man. A celebration of his life will be held Friday at 7 p.m. in the Athens chapel of Companion Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.

♦ **Johnny "Mark" Black**, age 56, of Athens, died Tuesday at U.T. Medical Center in Knoxville. He was owner and operator of J and S Embroidery. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Ziegler Funeral Home with visitation from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday at Ziegler Funeral Home of Athens.

♦ **Roberta W. Ogle**, age 96, of Athens, and formerly of Selma, N.C. and Rockwood, TN, died Wednesday at Renaissance Terrace Nursing Home in Harriman, TN. She owned and operated a florist in Rockwood for several years. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

♦ **Godfree Dolphious Wells**, age 78, of Athens, formerly of North Adams, Massachusetts, died Tuesday at his residence. He worked for McDonalds and the DPA as a paper deliverer. Memorial services will be at 5 p.m. on Friday at Riceville First Baptist Church. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

2018 Santa Run

The Englewood Fire Department held its annual Santa Run on Christmas Eve. The Santa Run began in 1990 with Santa riding around waving in the Brush truck. It then went to handing out candy. Now, it involves handing out toys along an advertised designated route inside the City of Englewood. The Englewood Police Department offers their assistance.

(Photo by Lynn Ingram with the Englewood Rural Fire Dept)



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