

Local & State News

♦ ARREST MADE IN DECATUR MURDER

An arrest has been made in a murder that happened in Decatur

last weekend. The TBI says a joint investigation with the Meigs County Sheriff's Department led them to arrest Randall Burnette, 41, of Decatur. (shown in mug shot) He's been charged with 2nd Degree Murder in the stabbing death of Michael Lee Joyner, 40. Joyner was found dead inside his home on Warren Lane. An autopsy revealed he died as the result of a stab wound. The TBI says Burnette was an acquaintance of the



victim. He's being held at the Meigs County Jail with a \$5 million bond.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ Residential garbage pickups in Athens will change next week due to the Christmas holiday. The Monday and Tuesday routes will be collected on Wednesday. Wednesday's route will be picked up on Thursday. Thursday's route will be picked up on Friday. The Friday route is unchanged.

National & World News

♦ House Speaker Paul Ryan emerged from a last-minute White House meeting Thursday between President Trump and House Republicans to say that the president told them he will refuse to sign a stopgap funding bill as it's currently written. Ryan told reporters that he and other GOP leaders were going to try to add more money on border security to the legislation.

◆ As travelers hit the roads before Christmas, the entire East Coast is bracing for flooding as a major storm hit Florida and the Carolinas on Thursday. Tornado watches were in effect for much of Florida on Thursday, from Daytona Beach to Fort Myers.

MORE COMMUNITY NEWS

✓ The City of Etowah refuse collection schedule for next week is as follows: Monday will be collected on Wednesday. Tuesday will be collected on Thursday. Wednesday and Thursday routes will be collected on Friday. The Recycling Center will reopen next Wednesday. You are urged to recycle your Christmas cardboard and paper this year.

✓ You are invited to bring your children to E.G. Fisher Library this morning at 10:30 to "Search for Santa in the Wetlands." If it's raining, the search will take place inside the library.





Church News & Events

• Patricia Ann Jacks, ("Patsy"), age 74, of Birchwood, died Dec. 14th at her home. Graveside services will be Friday at 1 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery in Chattanooga. Bowers Funeral Home of De-

Obituaries

catur is in charge of arrangements.
Jennifer Nicole Young, age 28, of Englewood, died Dec. 13th at Erlanger. A memorial service will be held Saturday at 4 p.m. at Companion Funeral Home of Athens with visitation from 2 to 4 p.m.

Gary James "Pinky" Hopper, age 65, died Saturday at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. He served in the U.S. Navy and was retired from the local Co-op. Funeral services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Freeman Chapel in Athens with visitation starting at 12 noon. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

On Wednesday, The Morning Fax published comments by Athens City Council member Dick Pelley in which he complained about the way committee and board appointments were made. Mayor Burris said the council members care deeply about making sure all people of the community are represented in the appointments, and a majority of Athenians are women. He said he wanted to make sure every Council member got an appointment and also have more diverse representation. On Thursday,

the city issued a news release listing those appointments: \sim Councilman Coker to the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Athens Utilities Board.

Vice-Mayor Perkinson to the Friendly City Sisters Cities committee and the Historic Preservation Commission.

Councilman Lockmiller to the McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services.

~ Mayor Burris to the McMinn County Economic Development Authority Board of Directors.

~ Councilman Pelley to the Athens Parks Foundation.

~ Former council member Yvonne Raper to the Senior Citizens Board.

Frances Witt-McMahan to the Athens Regional Planning Commission.

- The Athens Christian Church at 802 S. Matlock Ave. in Athens will have its Christmas program this Sunday from 11 to noon, with a holiday dinner afterwards. There will be a candlelight service from 6 to 7 p.m.

- Old Sweetwater Baptist Church will have its Christmas play this Sunday at 6 p.m.

Voice of Deliverance Ministry invites everyone to Christmas Dinner this Sunday at 1 p.m. following morning worship services.

- St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 123 S. Jackson St. presents: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. There will be Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Monday at 5:30 and 11 p.m., Choral Prelude at 10:30 p.m., and a Christmas Day Worship Service will be held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

- First Baptist Church of Etowah will have a Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service Monday at 5 p.m.

- First Baptist Church of Decatur will have a candlelight service at 7 p.m. Christmas Eve.

- Allen Memorial UMC will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30 p.m.

- Lane's Chapel Church at 904 County Rd. 264, Niota, will have a Christmas Program Monday at 6 p.m.

- Galyon Manufacturing invites you to "Journey Home," the 3rd Annual Singing at Union McMinn Baptist Church on County Road 316. Niota, on Saturday, December 29th. The Primitive Quartet will be the featured singers. The Singing starts at 6 p.m.

