Thursday, March 14, 2019

Moving Day for the Chamber

The staff members of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce have been busy this week moving back into their newly renovated office on North Jackson Street across from the McMinn County Courthouse. The Chamber has been operating from temporary offices on the ground floor of the Courthouse ever since the fire in July of 2017 which caused extensive smoke and water damage to their office. The fire also caused heavy damage to Johnson’s Home Furnishings and Greek’s Bearing Gifts, which were able to re-open several months ago. The fire started in the Jim Logan law office building at the corner of Jackson and Washington. That building has since been torn down with a grassy area where it used to stand. The new Chamber office should be open for business on Monday.

(Straff Photo)

Sawing Logs in Nashville

This past Tuesday was Ag Day at the State Capitol in Nashville. The activities included crosscut competition. State Sen. Mike Bell of Riceville wearing a red ball cap (on the right in photo below) and Sen. Bo Watson of Hamilton County (with the bow tie) were picked by Senate Speaker Randy McNally to represent the senate in the crosscut saw competition against Representative Curry Todd and House Speaker Glen Casada. Bell and Watson won by 9 seconds!

(Photo Courtesy of Senator Mike Bell)
A big birthday celebration was held this past Sunday for Martha Prichard on her 100th birthday. The party was held at Athens Place where she now lives. Martha was born at the foot of Starr Mountain. She grew up in Athens and worked at Van Raalte Hosiery Mill, Athens Furniture, and Athens Products, retiring three times. From the age of 75 to 95, she worked as a greeter in the lawn and garden department at Walmart. She has two children, three grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. The photo shows Athens City Manager C. Seth Sumner presenting her with a Proclamation from the Athens City Council. The birthday girl is in the center, and her daughter, Linda Morrow, is on the right. (Photo courtesy of Linda Morrow)