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Today's News... This Morning

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(FOR MORE NEWS SEE PAGE 3 IN TODAY'S EDITION)



Hugh Willson
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Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

MCHS Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach Suspended

◆ The MCHS boys' varsity basketball coach, Randy Casey, has been removed from his position after sending what's described as an inappropriate photo to team members. McMinn County Director of Schools, Lee Parkison said, "For the good of our basketball program, we have made a change in the leadership for our boys varsity basketball team at McMinn County High School." Parkison's statement comes after a parent raised concern of coach Randy Casey sending an inappropriate photo. The parent says he was outraged that an inappropriate photo would be sent by a coach to high schoolers. He says the photo was sent last Wednesday evening. Parkison said that there's an appeal process and former Coach Randy Casey can offer an explanation. So far, a police report has not been filed. It has been reported that assistant basketball coach, Jay Johnson, will now fill the head coaching position at McMinn County High School.....(from Local 3 news)

Community News You Can Use

✓ The McMinn County Library Board appointed Mrs. Rebeckah Coleman to be the next director of the E.G. Fisher Public Library during its meeting on December 12. Mrs. Coleman currently serves as the Circulation Librarian and Bookmobile Coordinator at the Cleveland Bradley County Public Library. She has been a member of the Cleveland Library team since 1998. Mrs. Coleman and her family live in Calhoun. She will begin her new position on January 15, 2024, succeeding the interim director, Mrs. Beth Jackson. McMinn County Library Board Chair, Dr. Tyler Forrest, shared, "Rebeckah is an excellent choice to be the next director of the E.G. Fisher Public Library. She brings to the position extensive knowledge of library operations, a strong background in serving library patrons, and lots of new ideas. The Library Board is excited about working with her and is most appreciative of the good work that our interim director, Mrs. Beth Jackson, has done during her tenure leading the Library."
✓ Habitat for Humanity of McMinn County's Christmas Vendor Appreciation Day will be December 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Athens Regional Conference Center. More community news on page 3.

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All Things Exterior

Closed December 21, 2023 - January 1, 2024! REOPEN January 2, 2024 REGULAR HOURS. We hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. The year 2023 has brought about chaos and challenging times for many of us. May we take time to reflect on Jesus the real reason for the season! He is our true help and comforter in times like these. Thank you to ALL of our customers for your business in 2023. It is greatly appreciated! We look forward to serving you in 2024! We are here to serve and help you in any way that we can with your home or business exterior needs. Our prayer for each person is that God blesses and prospers you greatly in 2024!

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Tuesday, December 19, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦**Roy E. "Eddie" Mason**, 70, of Niota passed away Sunday, December 17 at his residence. He was a lifelong resident of McMinn County. He was also preceded in death by a brother Gary Mason. He was a member of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church in Niota. He was a graduate of McMinn County High School class of 1971 and served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a conductor for CSX railroad until his retirement. He enjoyed farming, hunting, and fishing during his off time. A funeral service will be at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, December 20 at Mt. Harmony Baptist Church in Niota. Interment will be at 11:00 am, Thursday, December 21 in Mt. Harmony Cemetery with military honors provided by the U.S. Navy. Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 pm at the church prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Thela Mae Burns**, age 89, passed away on Sunday, December 17, at the respected age of 89. She was born in Englewood. She attended Englewood High School where her lifelong passions for sewing and gardening were kindled. As the devoted wife

Continued at right ⇒

Obituaries Continued

Continued from Column 1: of Dr. Robert Jackson Burns, a Pastor, Thela Mae embodied grace and resilience. Her role as a pastor's wife was fulfilled with remarkable dedication and profound faith, making her a source of inspiration not only to her family but also to the congregation they served. Even in the face of multiple medical issues, Thela Mae's spirit remained undeterred. A funeral service will be held on Friday, December 29 at Bordwine Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, followed by the funeral service at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow the service in Goodsprings Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

♦**Janie Ann Buckner**, age 84, passed away on Thursday, December 15. She was born in Etowah. She held many roles in her lifetime but none more important to her than the roles of being a Loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother, and Friend. She was a member of Mars Hill Methodist church, former beautician, and restaurant owner. Visitation for will be from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM on Wednesday, December 20th at Ziegler Funeral Home. A graveside service will follow at 3:00 PM in Mars Hill Methodist Church Cemetery in Englewood at 3:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Grass Fire in Englewood

The homeowner of this property on Co Rd 535, Englewood was burning brush when the wind caught it and set the grass on fire, burning a quarter of an acre around 2pm Thursday. Etowah Rural Fire and Englewood Rural Fire Departments both responded. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department



Car Hits Tree

Friday night at 10:30 on Co Rd 435, Englewood the driver of this 2009 Volkswagen Beetle lost control and hit a tree head on. Upon arrival of the fire personnel the engine was on fire. The driver stated she was not injured and had no medical transport. Responding to the scene were Englewood Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, and AMR. McMinn County Sheriff's Deputy Nathan Stiles investigated the accident. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department



Holiday Closures

✓AUB offices will be closed on Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday. The offices will reopen on Wednesday, December 27, at 7:30 a.m. for normal operations. The offices will also close on Monday, January 1, in observance of the New Year's Day holiday. AUB will have personnel across the organization on call around the clock to respond to any customer or system trouble. Customers should call 745-3131 to report power outages or trouble with other AUB-provided utility services. The employees of AUB wish all of our community a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays into the New Year.

✓The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following holiday closure: The Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and Animal Shelter will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 in observance of New Year's. These facilities will re-open Tuesday, January 2, 2024 during regular business hours. The residential garbage route for Monday, January 1, 2024 will be picked up on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. All other residential routes will be on regular schedule. Please have garbage totes to the road the night before your scheduled pick up. Do not set extra Garbage on top of totes. Place extra garbage curbside 3 feet from side of totes to allow Truck arm to grasp and empty totes. All emergency services will continue to operate on a 24-hour basis. Contact McMinn E911 communications in the event of an emergency. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745. See our website at cityofathenstn.com/publicworks/