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Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, January 09, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

State and Area News

◆ The Tennessee General Assembly re-convenes today and everyone will have to conform to new rules that were proposed Monday by the House Republican Caucus. Some of the rule changes center around speeding up debate. For instance, house members will now only have one minute to give a "Welcoming and Honoring speech" and only five minutes in a committee meeting to present pieces of legislation. Most of the rule changes made include procedural adjustments. Under the new proposed rules, visual aids can no longer be used during committee meetings to explain a bill. Lawmakers also must receive permission to enter the dais, clerk's desk and speaker's rostrum. There's also a new regulation that points of order and parliamentary procedure inquiries must now include the majority and minority leaders as they consult the chamber's parliamentarian. The rules were developed after last year's session when 3 democratic members were censured after causing a chaotic scene on the house floor by rushing the speaker's rostrum and holding protest signs in the chamber.

◆ The Roane County Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of a 15-year-old dead. The Roane County Sheriff's Office said that the teenager died after he "accidentally" shot himself. The shooting took place around 1 a.m. in a Rockwood home last week. The identity of the juvenile has not been released to the public.

◆ City and county governments, including many here in Tennessee, are finding it increasingly challenging to fill crucial 911 dispatcher positions. A recent study conducted by the National Association of State 911 Administrators highlighted the widespread nature of the dispatcher shortage. The study surveyed nearly 780 dispatch centers in 47 states, revealing that nearly every respondent reported a loss of employees in 2022. A staggering 36% of centers reported having fewer positions filled in 2022 than in 2019.

Community News You Can Use

✓ Due to the threat of inclement weather, which is forecasted to include high winds and heavy rain, **Athens and Etowah City and McMinn and Meigs County public schools are closed today. Polk Co. schools will be delayed 2 hours.**

✓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 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. The Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and the Animal Shelter will re-open Tuesday, January 16 during regular business hours. Residential garbage routes for Monday, January 15 will be picked up on Tuesday, January 16. All other residential garbage routes will be on regular schedule. Please have garbage totes to the road the night before your scheduled pick up. Commercial/Industrial garbage routes will be picked up on a limited basis. 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. More info is available on their website at: www.cityofathensstn.com/publicworks/

✓The Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 16 at 5:30 pm at the library. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit us online at www.etowahlibrary.com

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Tuesday, January 09, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦**Treacy Mae Roberts Letner Jones**, age 87, passed away on Saturday, January 6, at The Waters of Sweetwater. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Grandview Mountain. A graveside service will be held at Roberts Cemetery in Ten Mile, at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, January 10. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Eagle Scout Awards Presented

Patrick Ballinger, Kyle Fuller, and Devin Singleton have each earned the Boy Scouts of America's highest advancement award, the Eagle Scout Award. These exceptional young men were recognized in ceremonies on December 22, 2023. Members of the Great Smokey Mountain Cades Cove District Troop 624, Ballinger, Fuller, and Singleton can count themselves among the elite group of only approximately 6 percent of all Boy Scouts who attain the Eagle rank. Each candidate must earn 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community or church-related service project to earn his Eagle. All three have been working towards their Eagle Scout Award for many years. Ballinger and Singleton for 12 years and Fuller for 8 years when they first joined Cub Scout Pack 624. Ballinger built a new park bench for the Eureka Trail in Athens. He attends McMinn County High School, where he is a senior. He is the son of James and Victoria Ballinger. He was also awarded the Paul Bunyan Award, which is a special award for Scouts who demonstrate skills and service in the wilderness, canoeing, and in an outdoor conservation project. Fuller built two new wooden trash cans and placed them in the park next to the Niota Depot. He is a senior at McMinn County High School and is the son of Richard and Robin Fuller. Singleton organized an e-waste recycling program for the community and collected old electronic devices, such as computers, TVs, and phones, and repaired them and donated them to a worthy cause, while the others went to the Athens Recycling Center to be properly recycled. He is a senior at McMinn County High School and is the son of Brian and Victoria Singleton. The Great Smokey Mountain Council, BSA, serves over 5,000 youth in 121 counties in East Tennessee. Continued at right ⇨

Eagle Scout Continued

The Cades Cove District, BSA, serves over 1,000 youth in five counties through the dedicated service and leadership of many adult volunteers. The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating in citizenship, and develops personal fitness. For over a century, the BSA has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believe — and, through over a century of experience, know — that helping youth is key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society. Photo submitted by Diane Hutsell, Troop 624 Leader. Photo below L to R: Patrick Ballinger, Kyle Fuller, Devin Singleton



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Main Street of Athens, TN is seeking a director for its non-profit organization. An ideal candidate would be energetic, positive, and willing to work in collaboration with business owners and leaders, as well as have a desire to be a community builder. Grant writing skills would be helpful, but not required.

The Mission of Main Street Athens is to create a sustainable town center that contributes to the communities' health while preserving the unique history and culture of historic Downtown Athens. The over-all goal is to create a vibrant Downtown for residents and visitors to work, live, shop, dine and enjoy entertainment.

Applications will be accepted through 1-10-2024 and can be emailed to athensmainstreet@gmail.com