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Today's News...This Morning

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Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

Collapsed Building-Railroad Ave

Below are photos of the building that collapsed last week on Railroad Avenue in Athens. Debris from the building damaged a house adjacent to it and also covered part of the street. Photos courtesy of the City of Athens.



Community News You Can Use

✓ The Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library will hold their monthly book sale on Saturday, February 10. The book sale is on the first floor of the library and will be open 10am-2pm. Etowah Carnegie Library invites you to celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 13! The library will be hosting a Valentine's-themed story time and craft from 3:30 pm-4:30 pm. This program is FREE and no registration is required. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or go online to: www.etowahlibrary.com.

✓ The Etowah Main Street program will be holding a community interest meeting for building and business owners February 6th at the community center at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Downtown Improvement Grant and the application for those who wish to apply for funds that were awarded by TNECD on behalf of the TN Main Street Program. Applications will be available at this meeting and available at the Chamber office thereafter with a due date of your official application by February 29th. For those of you who are desiring to take part in and take advantage of the grant funding in the Downtown Improvement Grant this will be an important meeting to attend. They will also be fielding questions and have referral resources on hand for building or business owners. Please click or tap [HERE](#) to review the article from the state for more information on the scope of this project.

POST ROE: NOW WHAT?

HOSTED BY NORTH ATHENS BAPTIST CHURCH

402 TELlico AVE, ATHENS, TN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD - 2:00-7:45PM

EVENING MEAL PROVIDED

FIND OUT MORE AT:

WWW.ABOLISHABORTIONTN.ORG/EVENTS

CAMP LIVING STONES



6th Annual
Run for the Hills
5K Trail Run

February 10, 2024

5K START TIME 8:00AM	ENTRY FEE (Includes Pancake Breakfast) \$45*
Pancake Breakfast 9:30AM - 12:00PM Kids: \$6, Adult \$10, All You Can Eat Pancakes: \$14	CHECK IN 7:00-7:45AM

For registration and complete details visit
www.camplivingstones.com

*\$5 ON DAY OF RACE

REGISTER BY JANUARY 27th TO RECEIVE A T-SHIRT

534 County Road 876 Englewood, TN 37329 423-263-5060

Athens Parks and Recreation
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FINANCIAL WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES

JANUARY 30 | 5:30PM
Administration Building
943 Crestway Dr.



Tuesday, January 30, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **James "Jimmy" Knox Williams**, 68, of Etowah, TN passed away Tuesday, January 23. He was an industrial and creative welder. He always kept busy and was willing to help anyone. Family and friends will gather at Etowah City Cemetery for a graveside memorial service at 3:00 p.m., Friday, February 2nd. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Joyce Ann Sutton Bedwell**, age 59, lifelong resident of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, January 25. There will be a visitation from 12:00-2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 30, at Ziegler Funeral Home. A memorial service will follow at 2:00 PM at the funeral home. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Janie Rose (Coleman) King**, age 82, of Athens, passed away on Sunday January 28th. She attended High School in McMinn County. Soon after school, she married her high school sweetheart. She was a hard worker her whole life. Janie started working at a soda shop while in school, then as a seamstress and product manager at Robet Mfg., making uniforms for the military. She later started her own cleaning service in Athens. Her motto was "Why hire it done when I can do it myself?". She was passionate about the Lord and a devoted member of Woodward Avenue Church of God. Visitation will be Friday, February 2, at Ziegler Funeral Home from 1:00-3:00 PM with a memorial service to follow. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

✓ **LISTENING REMINDER:** The guest on the Main Street Athens radio show, "Main Street Moments," TODAY will be Brianna Baker, Communications & Tourism Coordinator with the City of Athens sharing updates on "Visit Athens" and upcoming events.

State News

♦ Expelled former lawmaker Rep. Jeremy Durham of Franklin, is facing new driving under the influence charges in Florida, making that the second round. Durham was arrested in Tallahassee and is being held in the Leon County Detention Center. His mugshot is being withheld because he claimed under Florida law he was a government employee. Durham is still facing two counts of DUI from an incident in Davidson County last year when he was also charged with resisting arrest, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and possession of drug paraphernalia. Durham served in the House of Representatives before he was expelled by fellow lawmakers in 2016 after an investigation by the Attorney General's office found he had sexually harassed at least 22 women. The ex-lawmaker was subsequently hit with fines totaling \$465,000 for campaign finance violations. The state is trying to collect those fines.

♦ Gov. Bill Lee says his administration was aware of the qualifications required under Tennessee law before appointing Lizzette Reynolds as education commissioner, rebuffing Democratic lawmakers' criticism that his appointee is not licensed to teach in Tennessee, despite a statute that says she should be qualified to do so. Earlier this week, House Democrats called for Reynolds' resignation after raising questions about whether she met the legal requirements to serve as the top education chief. That's because Reynolds doesn't currently have a teacher's license even though she is currently enrolled in UT Martin's Education Degree Program.

♦ Two Tennessee lawmakers are continuing the fight to ban corporal punishment in schools. State Senator Heidi Campbell and Representative Jason Powell filed legislation this week to put an end to the law. Tennessee is one of 17 states that allow paddling and spankings in the country. Campbell says corporal punishment sends a message that the way to deal with conflict is through physical violence. Current law allows for punishment for "good cause in order to maintain discipline and order within the public schools." Lawmakers say some of the big school districts like Nashville, Williamson, Murfreesboro, and Shelby have banned the punishment, so it's time to address it throughout the state.



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