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Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ BEER AT FESTIVALS PASSES FIRST VOTE

The Athens City Council has approved the sale of beer at downtown festivals and concerts on the first of two readings. The vote was 3 to 2. If approved at the January council meeting, the sale of beer will be allowed at such events as Pumpkintown and the Sounds of Summer concert series. Each application to sell beer will have to be approved by the Council on a one-by-one basis. The Council also voted 4 to 1 on a motion to modify the beer code which would likely ease some of the restrictions on distance requirements for future beer permit applicants.

The Council also heard the reports from the police and fire departments on activity during November:

- Police Chief Cliff Couch reported that police investigated 45 thefts, 13 burglaries, 13 assaults, seven motor vehicle thefts, and three sex offenses in November. There were 79 traffic accidents with four injuries. Officers issued 207 tickets for moving violations. At the end of November, there were seven vacancies on the Police Department. However, five new officers have been hired since then.

National & World News

◆ Thousands of Army recruits travelled through Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport on Tuesday on their way home for the holidays. They are among the 40,000 Army soldiers nationwide given a break from training to spend the holidays at home with their families.

◆ Eleven House Republicans mainly from California, New York, and New Jersey, and one from North Carolina, voted against the GOP's \$1.5 trillion measure that rewrites the nation's tax code which is the largest overhaul of the tax code in 30 years. The vote was 227-203.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The E.G. Fisher Public Library will sponsor a "Search for Santa in the Wetlands" this Thursday at 10:30 a.m. After searching for clues that Santa and his reindeer have visited the Wetlands, the children will then return to the library for hot chocolate and story time.
- ✓ The MCHS Hall of Fame Committee is taking applications for the 2018 induction to be held on April 14th. The deadline to submit applications is 12 noon on Monday, January 8th. For more information, call John Grubb at 572-1234.

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Wednesday, December 20, 2017 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

- ♦ **James "Chopper" Cassone**, age 57, of Decatur, died Monday at his home. He was a heavy equipment operator and worked 18 years at the Haren Construction Company of Etowah. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church of Decatur, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Bowers Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.
- ♦ **Billy Wayne Smith**, age 77, of Decatur, died Friday at Spring City Nursing and Rehab Center. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in Oak Grove Cemetery in Decatur. Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

TUESDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks finished lower following the passing of the tax bill in the House on Tuesday afternoon. Investors are likely taking some profits following the recent strength in stocks from optimism on the expected tax legislation.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 37 points or 0.2% to 24,755. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 9 points or 0.3% to 2,681, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 31 points or 0.4% to 6,964.

In Commodity Markets, the spot price of gold fell \$0.04 to \$1,262.36, and the price of crude oil rose \$0.30 to \$57.46. In Bond Markets, the 30-year Treasury yield closed higher at 2.81% and the 10-year Treasury yield finished higher at 2.45% .

The Food Boxes are Packed

McMinn County High School students pitched in to help with the distribution of Friendly Fellow food boxes at the National Guard Armory. Coach Bo Cagle helped assembly a group of young men and women from the football, softball, rugby and basketball teams. Among other things, they carried boxes to vehicles for the recipients.

(Photo courtesy of Bo Perkinson)



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