

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

TDEC names Dr. Ronne Adkins the deputy commissioner for Bureau of Environment

NASHVILLE, September 9, 2024— The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) named Dr. Ronné Adkins deputy commissioner for the Bureau of Environment, elevating him from his role as director of TDEC’s Division of Stakeholder Engagement. Adkins replaces Deputy Commissioner Greg Young, who is leaving TDEC to pursue other interests after serving in that role since February 2019. “We are fortunate to have someone of Ronné’s ability and commitment to step into this position,” TDEC Commissioner David Salyers said. “Ronné has an accomplished environmental background and a proven track record of working with stakeholders and citizens across the state. I’m confident this experience will serve him well in this new capacity and pay dividends for Tennessee citizens and our natural environment.” “I am grateful for this opportunity to serve our state in an even greater capacity,” Adkins said. “We know we have the responsibility of protecting this state’s natural resources every day, and I can assure all Tennesseans that our commitment to that task will



Dr. Ronne Adkins

be as strong as ever.” “I could not have been more honored than to serve in this role,” Young said. “It has been a tremendous experience working with the men and women at TDEC, and I know the bureau will be in great hands with Ronné’s leadership.” “I am grateful to have served with Greg for the last five years,” Salyers said. “While we will certainly miss him, we are thankful for his service to Tennesseans and look forward to seeing what he will do next in his outstanding career.”

The TDEC Bureau of Environment manages regulatory programs that set standards for air, water, and soil quality, providing assistance to businesses and communities in areas ranging from recreation to waste management. Programs and initiatives in the bureau protect human health and the environment and support economic development, job creation, and quality of life. Adkins has had a distinguished career at TDEC. His role as director of the Division of Stakeholder Engagement, which he held since May 2022, included overseeing the Office of External Affairs, Office of Sustainable Practices, and the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program. Adkins served as director of the Office of External Affairs from 2021-2022, maximizing internal and external stakeholder relationships. He was regional director of External Affairs in the Memphis Environmental Field Office from 2014-2021. In that position, he was the primary point of contact for the public and stakeholders in the re-

gion that covers Shelby, Fayette, and Tipton counties. Previously, Adkins was director of the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, which provides free environmental consulting services to Tennessee small businesses. He was an adjunct professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Memphis and served as a minor sources branch supervisor at Shelby County Health Department Pollution Control, after working there as an air quality coordinator. He earned his Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from the University of Memphis, where he was also a National Science Foundation Fellow. He received an M.S. degree in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Johns Hopkins University, after earning a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Dartmouth College. Adkins enjoys hiking, fishing, hunting, biking, coaching baseball, and a variety of other outdoor activities. He is a native Tennessean. He and his wife, Danielle, have two sons, Zachary and Jonathan.



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Cong. Darrell Issa will speak at 39th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference

From The Tactical Wire The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) is announced that Congressman Darrell Issa will deliver this year’s keynote address during the 39th annual Gun Rights Policy Conference Sept. 27 – 29 in San Diego. The following is a statement from SAF: Congressman Issa is a steadfast champion of border integrity, national security, and the Second Amendment — and tirelessly safeguards our fundamental right against any unconstitutional encroachment. Specifically, Issa has introduced key legislation, including the Modern Firearm Safety Act, the Freedom from Unfair Gun Taxes Act, and the FIREARM Act, which will all stop efforts to weaken the Second Amendment, target firearm dealers and impose unnecessary barriers to lawful gun ownership. Issa is also a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee and served from 2011 to 2015 as Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. He previously served on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Energy & Com-



merce Committee, and the Small Business Committee.” **Event Details:** •Dates: Sept. 27 - 29 •Location: San Diego Marriott Mission Valley, San Diego, California In addition to Congressman Issa, you’ll hear from speakers such as Jared Yanis, Mark Smith, Tom Taylor, Massad Ayoob and many more as they share insights on all

things 2A related! If you haven’t already registered for the FREE Gun Rights Policy Conference, please visit saf.org for more information. **What You Can Expect:** •A day and a half of presentations, Q&A and fireside chats by 2A thought leaders •GRPC Friday evening reception, Saturday luncheon and Saturday evening reception.

TEMA and TDHS will distribute go-kits for the deaf and hard-of-hearing

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – This National Preparedness Month, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) will provide 300 Emergency Go-Kits to Tennesseans who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, and have low vision. While the keys to effective disaster preparedness apply to all of us, people with access and functional needs or disabilities should approach preparedness planning with additional considerations. “For hundreds of thousands of Tennesseans, preparing for, responding to, or recovering from a disaster or emergency situation can present a real challenge,” said TEMA Director Patrick C. Sheehan. “TEMA is committed to ensuring that Tennesseans have the tools and resources necessary to stay safe and informed.” The go-kits will be available at 10 TDHS Vocational Rehabilitation locations beginning Tuesday, September 17. Each kit will include a Midland Weather Radio, Midland SBNDL Bundle Kit (strobe light, pillow shaker, batteries, etc.), and family First Aid Kit. The strobe light and pillow shaker, when attached to a programmed weather radio, will vi-

brate and flash a bright light when an emergency alert is produced. “We are excited to partner with TEMA to ensure Tennesseans with disabilities are prepared in the event of a natural disaster,” commented TDHS Commissioner Clarence H. Carter. “By providing these go-kits, we are taking a significant step toward ensuring all Tennesseans are ready and resilient in the face of emergencies by having the tools to support their disability specific needs. Everyone deserves to feel safe and protected, and this initiative is a testament to our commitment to Tennesseans with disabilities across the state.” National Preparedness Month, spearheaded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is recognized every September. The month serves as a reminder that a disaster can strike at any time. TEMA encourages all individuals and communities to take proactive steps in readiness planning. More information on how to prepare for can be found at www.tn.gov/tema/prepare with resources such as a family communication plan template and a basic emergency supplies checklist. Please see sports page 3



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