

NEWS

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## Boys & Girls Clubs of Chattanooga Announce 2022 Teen Leadership Awards & Scholarships



LaTonya Lyons (right), Board Chair, presents A'Shawn Johnson with the David Fussell Outstanding Leadership Award and a \$2,500 scholarship, alongside Unum CEO Rick McKenney (left). Photo by Flint Chaney Photography.



Kamari Woods (left) receives Bright Future Award. Award presentation by LaTonya Lyons (right). Photo by Flint Chaney Photography.



Kaliyah McCullough, left receives Rising Star Award. Award presentation by LaTonya Lyons (right). Photo by Flint Chaney Photography.

CHATTANOOGA –The Boys & Girls Clubs of Chattanooga announced on February 10th, 2022 The Club's 2021 Teen Leadership & Scholarship awards. A'Shawn Johnson, a senior at Tyner Academy High School, received the Club's highest award, the David Fussell Outstanding Leadership Award which includes a \$2,500 scholarship. "A'Shawn is being recognized for her personal character, integrity, and service to others. She embodies all of these things and so much more." stated LaTo-

nya Lyons, the Club Board Chair. A'Shawn has been attending the club for 13 years and will be pursuing a degree in education at Tennessee State University in the fall. The Club is also pleased to announce that Kamari Woods, a senior at Howard, received the Bright Futures Award that includes a \$1,000 scholarship. The Bright Futures Award is given to a high school senior who is an emerging leader. Kamari will be pursuing a career in engineering after finishing his high school studies.

The Rising Star Award, which includes a \$1,000 scholarship, recognizes the student who regularly participates in Club programming, helps others, and has the ability to accomplish much. This year's Rising Star Award winner is Kaliyah McCullough, a senior at Howard High School. Since 1977, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chattanooga has been recognizing its teen leaders (ages 14-18) who have demonstrated academic achievement, regular club attendance and active leadership in

the operation of their Clubhouse. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Chattanooga provides teens with outcome-driven club experience consisting of targeted programming and high-yield activities. In 2021, teen membership exceeded 550 youth that primarily attended either Brainerd, East Ridge, Howard or Tyner high schools. Our mission is to enable young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

### UPDATES: from front

election results are finalized. Whereas others, like HB1883/SB1865 and HB2112/SB1939, propose implementing audits performed after an election has been certified and a result announced. Unlike the audits proposed in HB2585/SB2675, these "forensic" audits are new, coming on the heels of the 2020 election. These bills would establish a system that review ballots six months to a year after an election as opposed to before results are certified as final. Voting machines with voter-verified paper audit trails: While most states (all but six) use voting machines that provide voters a verifiable paper audit trail, two-thirds of Tennessee counties still do not. ThinkTennessee has long advocated in support of voting machines capable of producing paper trails. Cost remains a barrier for many counties, which is why we also recommended that the state provide financial support to enable the machine

upgrades in our post-2020 election report. A handful of new bills, like HB 2331/SB 2558, sponsored by both parties, would require counties to provide this election security best practice. Importantly, the Secretary of State noted in his recent budget presentation before the Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee that the state has over \$30 million dollars in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding available that can be used to purchase these new voting machines. Prohibition of non-citizen voting: HB 2128/SB 2245 reiterates that a person must be a citizen to vote in federal, state, or local elections, and it prohibits county, municipality, or other political subdivisions from granting voting rights to non-US citizens. It also expands the sources election officials may use to confirm citizenship and addresses of registered voters from traditional state agencies to non-traditional commercially available data. (By Kalen Russell/TN Tribune-Story first published by Think Tennessee)

### COVID: from page 7

Pieces of the SARS-CoV-2 virus can also mimic parts of human proteins, such as coagulation factors, which regulate bleeding. In some people, the immune system responds by going after those lookalikes. The resulting autoimmune reactions could be causing symptoms like the blood clots and multiorgan damage occurring in patients with COVID-19. **The long view** The condition commonly known as "long COVID-19" is characterized by persistent tiredness, difficulty in concentrating, shortness of breath and a plethora of other symptoms. Interestingly, the symptoms of long COVID bear a strong resemblance to myalgic encephalomyelitis, or ME. More commonly known as chronic fatigue syndrome, ME is a condition character-

ized by extreme tiredness, pain, sleep problems and a lack of concentration. Long COVID includes some of the same symptoms. A 2021 study suggested that in both illnesses, the symptoms may be the work of autoantibodies, or antibodies that attack the immune system. Another study found autoantibodies in patients with long COVID who were experiencing cognitive symptoms, like having trouble concentrating. There is now more work under way to further decipher the relationship between autoimmune disorders and viral infections like COVID-19. And doctors are now looking at new therapies for controlling an overreactive immune system. In the past two years, the pandemic has given medical science an extraordinary amount of knowledge, with more to come.

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