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Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

More On UT Football Shakeup

More details have been released about the major shakeup in the University of Tennessee football program. The shakeup came as a result of an investigation into potential NCAA violations.

UT Chancellor Dante Plowman says she is moving ahead with the recommendation from Athletic Director Phillip Fulmer to fire head football coach Jeremy Pruitt, two assistant coaches, and seven other members of the football staff. Plowman also announced that she is accepting Fulmer's decision to retire and that she will immediately begin a search for a new athletic director who will, in turn, hire the next football coach.

Chancellor Plowman says it was stunning the number of people involved in the NCAA infractions and says the number of incidents was "shocking." She says, "We want to win, but we want to win with integrity." Chancellor Plowman says UT was advised that the NCAA infractions are Level I and Level II. She also said Pruitt and the other members of the coaching staff are being terminated "for cause." She says there will be no buyout of Pruitt's contract.

Fulmer says he decided to retire in order to allow the new athletic director to hire the next UT head football coach. The whole process of hiring an athletic director and then hiring a new coach could take several months. There are concerns that a number of Tennessee football players may decide to transfer to other schools.

Community News You Can Use

✓ Athens Utilities Board says the power rate for February bills will fall a bit compared to January. AUB spokesman Wayne Scarbrough says that's good news for all customers who heat their home or business with power from Athens Utilities Board. He says it's always good to see rates fall a bit as they are set to do in February as we head into the core of the winter heating months. Customers have to stay warm, so heaters get a workout. Power use will increase as customers crank up the heat to knock off the chill.

✓ The McMinn County Health Department continues to do free drive-through COVID-19 testing on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Self-test kits are provided on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. You should call for an appointment at 745-7431 or 1-866-442-5301. Those are the same numbers to call for an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination. If you had the first shot, the Health Department should call to schedule the second.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Tuesday P.M.

Tennessee: 689,808 cases, up 2,057. 8,470 deaths, up 40.

COUNTY	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	5,100 up 15	4,584	443	73
Meigs	1,149 up 5	1,019	114	16
Monroe	4,594 up 23	4,119	413	62
Polk	1,438 up 2	1,260	161	17
Bradley	10,838 up 47	9,776	971	91
Rhea	3,828 up 4	3,406	366	56

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Daily Monday - Saturday Morning 8:45 am - 9:30am and Monday - Friday Afternoon 4:15pm to 4:45 pm

WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday - Mostly cloudy. High 47.
Wednesday night - Mostly cloudy with periods of rain. Low 34.
Thursday - Mostly cloudy. High 49.
Thursday Night - Low clouds. Possible rain. Low 38.
More Weather at: wxyi.com

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Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **CWO4 Charles "Chuck" Riedel USN (RET)**, age 88, of Athens, died Monday at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. He retired from the U.S. Navy after 22 years with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4. After retiring from the Navy, he worked with Cleveland State Community College as a Computer Analyst for over 26 years. Funeral services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from noon to 2 p.m.

♦ **Verdine Ford Thompson**, age 79, of Athens, died last Saturday at Life Care in Athens. Previously she had lived at Dominion in the Memory Care unit for more than a year with Dementia. She taught special education at Riceville Elementary School for five years, then worked as the manager of the Credit Union at Athens Products for many years. She was the wife of now-retired TWU professor Jim Thompson. A Service of Memory will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Trinity United Methodist Church, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. Smith Funeral Home is in charge.

TUESDAY'S MARKET REPORT: Equity markets finished higher to start the holiday-shortened week, with President-elect Biden's sizable economic-relief plan keeping the focus on fiscal stimulus. After finishing lower last week, Tuesday's gains in domestic and global equities, along with oil and gold, reflect a view that fiscal stimulus will spur the economy as well as impact the outlook for inflation and government debt. At the closing bell the Dow Jones Industrials: 30,930.52 +116.26; NASDAQ: 13,197.18 +198.68; S&P 500: 3,798.91 +30.66.

Ribbon Cut For New Lawyer

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Attorney Rachel Fisher-Queen, located in Downtown Athens. Joining the celebration were left to right: Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Rachel Fisher-Queen (Attorney at Law), and Julie Simbeck (Athens Chamber)



TODAY IN HISTORY - JANUARY 20th

1669 - Susannah Wesley was born. She was the mother of 19 children, including John Wesley who founded the Methodist Church.

1885 - The roller coaster was patented by La Marcus Thompson of, where else, Coney Island, NY. His coaster was 450 feet long with the highest drop being 30 feet.

1894 - Harold Gray, creator of the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, was born.

1896 - Comedian George Burns was born.

1922 - Bandleader Ray Anthony was born. His hit records included "Dragnet," "Bunny Hop," and "Peter Gunn."

1924 - Singer Slim Whitman was born. The incomparable singer's hit records include "Indian Love Call," "Secret Love," and "Una Paloma Blanco."

1930 - Astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, the second person to walk on the moon, was born.

1937 - Franklin D. Roosevelt's second inauguration was on January 20th. He was the first president to be inaugurated on this day and ever since then, presidents have been inaugurated on January 20th. His first inauguration was on March 4th, 1933.

1964 - This was a big day in U.S. record stores as the first album by The Beatles was released. The LP, Meet the Beatles, became a huge success and was #1 on the charts by February 15, 1964. The British Invasion had begun. Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!

1965 - Country singer John Michael Montgomery was born. His hits include "I Swear" and "I Love the Way You Love Me."

1980 - Super Bowl XIV (at Pasadena): Pittsburgh Steelers 31, Los Angeles Rams 19. The Rams led 13-10 at the half and 19-17 at the end of the third quarter. A 73-yard pass completion to John Stallworth and a Franco Harris 1-yard run changed that in the fourth quarter. MVP was Steelers' QB Terry Bradshaw. Tickets were only \$30.00.