

Community News You Can Use

. ✓ The McMinn County Health Department is now giving COVID-19 shots to anyone 70 and older. That also applies to Meigs County, Rhea County, and Polk County. You still have to be at least 75 to get the vaccination in Bradley and Monroe counties. To schedule your shot, call 1-866-442-5301. That number is good for residents in all the counties in Southeast Tennessee.

✓ The McMinn County Trustees Office will be open each Saturday in February through Feb. 27th to make it easier for you to pay your county property taxes. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

✓ Athens Utilities Board reports the rainfall in the City of Athens in January totaled 3.44 inches. The highest 24 hour total of rain was .63 inches on January 26th. The high temperature in January was 68 and the low was 21. The high was recorded on January 2nd and the low was January 13th. (45 days till Spring!)

COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Monday P.M.

Tennessee:	729,187 cases, up 1,326. 9,753 deaths,			up 103.
<u>COUNTY</u>	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	5,399 up 4	5,032	288	79
Meigs	1,224	1,147	59	18
Monroe	4,872 up 8	4,552	252	68 up 1
Polk	1,565 up 2	1,436	110	19
Bradley	11,602 up 22	10,908	579	115
Rhea	4,002 up 9	3,793	145	64 up 1

Suspect Arrested After Firing at Deputies

A McMinn County man is in custody after being involved in an armed robbery incident, then firing at sheriff's deputies during a police pursuit last Friday. According to Sheriff Joe Guy, early Friday morning Deputy Todd Levi responded to a report of an armed robbery and possible kidnapping at Morgan's junkyard on County Rd. 323 that had taken place the previous night. Deputy Levi notified other officers of the suspect's name, Bradley Cole

Steadman, 23, of Sweetwater, as well as a small white car he was suspected of stealing. Officers later located the vehicle at a residence on County Rd. 1340. While they spoke to the owner, Steadman ran outside and fled in the car. Officers chased him down County Rd. 130 toward Athens. As they neared Rocky Mount Church, the suspect pointed a rifle and fired at the deputies who were behind him. He then fled on foot a short distance before being apprehended. He was charged with Criminal Conspiracy,



Aggravated Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery, Evading Arrest, and three counts of Attempted Murder. He was jailed with a \$375,000 bond. No one was injured in the incident.





Tuesday, February 2, 2021 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

• **Robin Deann Perry Griffith**, age 56, of Athens, died Sunday at Starr Regional Medical Center. She was a former employee of Goody's Warehouse. There will be no formal services. Ziegler Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

• Harold Creed Raper, age 86, of Englewood, died Monday at his home. He retired from Thomas & Betts and was a U.S. Army Veteran. A private graveside service will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at McMinn Memory Gardens with Ziegler Funeral Home in charge.

• Kenneth R. Smith, age 61, of Decatur, died Sunday at his home. There will be no public service at this time.

• Katherine Faye Plemons ("K.P.") died on January 17th. She played guitar for the worship team of The Remnant in Knoxville. A memorial will be held on her birthday, March 12th, at the Duck Park in Sweetwater.

• **Robert Charles Murphy,** age 81, of Niota, died January 17th. He served in the Coast Guard and worked on the construction of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in 1975. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

• Willadean Rodgers Joines, age 52, of Madisonville died last Thursday at Sweetwater Hospital. Services will be Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Companion with visitation from 4 to 6 p.m.

ATHENS SCHOOL BOARD HOLDS CALLED MEETING

The Athens City School Board of Education will hold a called meeting at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Administration Building. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on approval to award a bid for construction of Phase II of the School Building Project.

A Moment of Black History

February is Black History Month. The Rev. Wayne Williams of Athens has put together several vignettes about Black history in Athens and McMinn County. We are pleased to bring those to you. Here is the first one:

Clydus Robert Porter, Sr., was born March 2nd, 1930, to Charlie and Mamie Porter in Riceville. He was one of 15 children. Like many African-Americans at the time, Clydus' father, Charlie, did not make a lot of money. The father of 15 children had to provide for his family through farming and being a fieldhand for others.

As a young boy, Clydus walked from Georgetown Road in Riceville to OLD Highway 11 to board the only bus to J.L. Cook School in Athens in an effort to obtain a quality education. He was one of only three of the Porter children to do so. Clydus had a love for learning and a natural talent for composing songs and poetry, two of which were published in a book.

Throughout his life, Clydus tried to help young African-Americans and often expressed the importance of earning a high school diploma and a college degree, as well as developing a sense of love and pride for who they were.

(Source: McMinn County Tennessee and It's People 1819-1997)

TODAY IN HISTORY - FEBRUARY 2nd

1536 - The Argentine city of Buenos Aires was founded.

1848 - Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo, which gave New Mexico and California to the United States.

1876 - The National Baseball League was formed, with teams in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Louisville, and Hartford.

1882 - Irish author James Joyce was born. He wrote the novel, "Ulysses."

1887 - Punxsutawney, Pa., held its first Groundhog Day festival.

1890 - Charles Correll, the "Andy" of radio's "Amos and Andy" program, was born.

1923 - Poet and author James Dickey was born in Atlanta. One of his best-known novels is "Deliverance."

1943 - The remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major World War II victory for the Soviets.

1971 - Idi Amin assumed power in Uganda following a coup.

1990 - South African President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela.

2009 - Hillary Rodham Clinton was sworn in as U.S. Secretary of State.

2011 - Supporters of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, charged into Cairo's central square on horses and camels brandishing whips while others rained firebombs from rooftops in what appeared to be an orchestrated assault against protesters trying to topple Egypt's leader of 30 years.