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Today's News... This Morning

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Thursday, February 4, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Green Light For School Project

Both the Athens City Council and the Athens City School Board have given unanimous approval to fund and build Phase I and Phase II of the school building project simultaneously. Phase I includes a new Pre-K to 2nd grade Elementary School and Phase II includes a new intermediate school for 3rd-5th grade. They will be built on the current campus of City Park School. The two schools are designed as two schools under one roof. Construction has already started and is expected to be completed by Fall of 2023. The Athens City Council approved the project at a called meeting Tuesday afternoon. The Athens City School Board gave its approval at a called meeting Wednesday morning.

COVID VACCINATION UPDATE

Tennessee Health Commissioner Dr. Lisa Piercey says it will take most of February to vaccinate everyone age 70 and over. She says there are about 300,000 people age 70 to 74 in the state. She says those 65 and older will be next on the vaccination list, along with teachers. Dr. Piercey says she is aware there is pressure to speed up the schedule to also immunize teachers in Tennessee, a process she expects could start happening by March or April. Piercey says supply remains the state's chief challenge. She says demand is very, very high. Dr. Piercey says there are some 5 million people eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine in Tennessee, and so far some 800,000 people have actually gotten a dose. To schedule an appointment for a shot, eligible people can call 1-866-442-5301.

Big Expansion for Amazon

Governor Bill Lee has announced that Amazon will establish a new state-of-the-art fulfillment center in Alcoa. The site, expected to be operational in 2022, will create nearly 800 new full-time jobs with benefits and opportunities to engage with advanced robotics. Amazon employees will pick, pack, and ship smaller items from the facility. It will be Amazon's 8th fulfillment and sorting center in Tennessee. Amazon currently has facilities in Charleston, Chattanooga, Lebanon, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Nashville. The company is also building a fulfillment center in Mt. Juliet. Since 2010, Amazon has invested nearly \$9 billion in Tennessee, including infrastructure and compensation to thousands of its employees in the state. Amazon estimates its investments in Tennessee have created an additional 12,700 indirect jobs on top of the company's direct

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Thursday P.M.

Tennessee: 733,216 cases, up 1,856. 10,033 deaths, up 133.

COUNTY	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	5,433 up 10	5,105	248	80 up 1
Meigs	1,230 up 4	1,162	50	18
Monroe	4,912 up 14	4,605	235	72 up 3
Polk	1,578 up 2	1,467	92	19
Bradley	11,696 up 41	11,049	525	122
Rhea	4,011 up 6	3,827	121	63

DONATE

Simmons Bank on Park Street is now collecting the following items for the benefit of St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 Grace House:

- Laundry Detergent
- Toothbrushes
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Socks
- Deodorant
- Coffee

Items can be brought to the Park Street lobby or drive thru from February 3rd - 10th located at 2 Park Street.

The Grace House, a homeless shelter for addicted men, was founded as a community outreach effort by St. Paul's Episcopal Church. It consists of two homes in downtown Athens that can house up to 14 residents. The Grace House has always been a beacon of hope for those in need.

Simmons Bank
 MEMBER FDIC

Please drop off at our branch in downtown Athens during normal business hours at 2 Park Street.

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



WE'RE OPEN: Now Serving our Famous Flamekist Steaks and All You Can Eat Soup & Salad Bar
 Thurs, all day: 8 oz Sizzlin' Sirloin, \$9.99
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Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits

FEBRUARY Specials >> 2 Sausage & Egg Biscuits \$3 - 2 Fish Sandwiches \$6
 5 Meals for \$5 ea. - 32 oz Tea \$1 & \$1 Coffee
 ♥ Shaped BoBerry Biscuits in February
 BOJANGLES S. Congress Parkway 744-5292

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WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday - Breezy & cloudy. High 48.
 Thursday Night - Possible rain. Breezy. Low 35.
 Friday - Mostly cloudy. High 47.
 Friday Night - Clear. Low 26.
 More Weather at: wxyi.com

Valentine's Day Contest

Uncontested Divorce Limited to McMinn County, Tennessee Residents. Provided by Attorney at Law, Rachel Fisher-Queen Contest Ends: Friday, Feb. 12th Winner Selected: Feb. 16th For more information and an application please visit the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce 13 N. Jackson St. or visit www.fisherqueenlegal.com



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 Noon to 3 p.m.
 Monday through Friday & Saturday's Week in Review 4-7 pm

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Thursday, February 4, 2021 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Gertrude Self Sewell**, age 83, of Athens, died Tuesday at her residence. She was retired from American Uniform after 38 years. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, at Short Creek Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **James Edward Brown**, age 77, of Athens, died Tuesday at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga. He was a longtime carpenter. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Ziegler Funeral Home with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to the service. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Billy Ray Meadows**, age 69, of Decatur, died Monday at his residence. He was a Staff Sgt in the U.S. Air Force, worked at Shaw Industries, drove a bus for the Meigs County School System, worked as a brick mason, tree trimmer and in lawn care services. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Meigs County Memorial Gardens, with visitation from 11 a.m. to 12 noon at Decatur Funeral Home.

♦ **Harold Creed Raper**, age 86, of Englewood, died Monday at his residence. He was retired from Thomas & Betts as a supervisor. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Dorothy M. Clark**, age 90, of Athens, died Wednesday at Starr Regional Medical Center. Arrangements will be announced later. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Charles Ray Liles**, age 98, of Athens, died Tuesday at his residence. He was retired from Plastic Industries. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Mary Jane Thomas**, age 69, of Decatur, died Wednesday at Tennova Healthcare in Cleveland. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Meigs County Memorial Gardens. No formal visitation will be held. Decatur Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Freda Delores Smith Cate**, age 78, of Cleveland (a native of McMinn County), died January 27th. She worked in the Register of Deeds Office in Cleveland for many years. A graveside service will be 2 p.m. Saturday at the Short Creek Baptist Church Cemetery on County Road 50.

♦ **Samuel "Sammy" Ross Sneed**, age 41, of Riceville, died January 19th at his home. There will be no formal services at this time. The family will hold a memorial service at a later date.

♦ **Gregory Lee Lashuay**, age 60, of Riceville, died unexpectedly on Monday due to natural causes. The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday in the chapel at Companion with a dinner following at VFW Post 5146 on North Congress Parkway, Athens, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Ribbon Cut for Insurance Agency

A ribbon cutting was held recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Teresa Mustar & Associates, representing American National Insurance at 1607 Congress Parkway S.. Pictured front row: (L-R) Lisa Rhea and Reily Kennedy (Chamber Diplomats), Terry Anderson, Gina Wilkins, Teresa Mustar, Steven Crowe & Carolyn Knowls (American National), Amy McDonald & Karen Raby (Diplomats). Back row: Brenda Lowe, Ashton Burrows (Diplomat), Danielle Snipes, Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Tammy Riggs, Joseph Ladner (Diplomat), Cheryl Wilson-Adamsen, Dee Mann, Robin Muller, Jennifer Brown, Mike Graves, Meghan Barnes & Julie Simbeck (Chamber)



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