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Today's News...This Morning

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Monday-Friday

8:30 am - 5 pm

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

✓ Groundbreaking for the new construction of the Athens City Primary and Intermediate School will be held next Monday, April 19th, at 5:15 p.m. on the current City Park School site on Keith Lane, near the entrance of the Athens City Middle School. Following the groundbreaking ceremony, the Athens City Schools Board of Education will have a joint meeting with the Athens City Council in the Middle School Library at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the Athens City Schools Building Program.

✓ More details have been released about a COVID Vaccine Event to be held on April 23rd at Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in the parking lot. The hours are now listed as 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The church is located at 414 Chester Street in Athens. Call the McMinn County Health Department to schedule an appointment at 423-443-8031.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Wednesday 4-14

Tennessee: 827,579 cases, up 1,208. 12,032 deaths up 10.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	6,318 up 16	103 up 5	95
Meigs	1,335 up 4	20 up 3	23
Monroe	5,672 up 3	86 down 1	95
Polk	1,981 up 9	52 up 5	24
Bradley	14,443 up 45	355 up 17	147
Rhea	4,296 up 1	38 down 2	75

Sales Tax Holidays Coming Up

Governor Bill Lee is proposing a two-week sales tax holiday on restaurants, bars, and groceries as his administration looks to divvy up hundreds of millions of dollars in extra spending due to better-than-expected revenues during the COVID-19 pandemic. When those sales tax holidays will occur has not yet been determined. The measure must clear the General Assembly. Governor Lee successfully called a similar sales tax holiday last year, which included an extra weekend of tax-free back-to-school shopping and a week of tax-free dining at restaurants.

The governor also is proposing \$79.4 million to add faculty, equipment, and building renovations at community and technical colleges and \$35 million for new radios for state troopers and a statewide disaster communications system upgrade.

The state's positive revenue picture coincides with a continued infusion of federal money in COVID-19 relief.

BAPTISTE GROUP TO SERVE CHILD REFUGEES

The Baptiste Group in Chattanooga confirms it has entered into a contract with the federal government to resettle child refugees. The group says none of the children will be going to public schools. The Baptiste Group says the contract is to provide housing, personal care, supervision, and monitoring for the children. A former Tennessee Temple University dorm will provide short term care, "ideally up to 30 days," until the children are united with a sponsor home or appear at an immigration hearing.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday: Sunny. Partly cloudy. High 65.

Thu Night: Clear & chilly. Low 38.

Friday: Partly sunny. High 64.

Fri Night: Cloudy. Low 46.

Saturday: Cloudy & cooler.

Possible rain. High 57.

More Weather at: wysi.com

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Thursday, April 15, 2021

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Kenneth "Bo" Cole**, age 68, of Athens, died Tuesday at his residence. He was a steel fabricator with Phoenix Structures which he owned and operated for 10 years. The family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with a service to follow at 7 p.m.

♦ **Brian McKenley Frye**, age 27, of Athens, died unexpectedly on April 10th at Starr Regional Medical Center. He had been employed at Athens Lawn and Garden since 2015 as a small engine mechanic. He also served in the Tennessee Army National Guard. The family will receive friends on Friday from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 2 p.m. at Watts Cemetery in Loudon.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET REPORT: Equity markets finished mixed as bank earnings kicked off the first-quarter earnings season. Oil was higher for the third straight session, near \$63 a barrel. The 10-year government bond yield was higher at 1.63%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 53.62 to 33,730.89. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 16.93 to 4,124.66, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 138.26 points to 13,857.84.

The Cicadas Are Coming!

East Tennesseans are about to see an invasion that happens only once every 17 years. For the past 17 years, cicadas have been maturing underground, sucking sap from tree roots. Now, it's time for them to emerge. Millions of cicadas will burst forth once the days are consistently 64 degrees or warmer for several weeks, usually in mid-April to mid-May. Some people have fears that they will swarm like locusts, which periodically sweep through places overseas eating everything in sight. But, that's now what happens with cicadas. When cicadas appear, they make a loud noise. When they come out, their main goal is to mate and lay eggs. You don't need to fear them because they are not venomous, they don't bite or sting, they won't invade your home, and they won't ruin your garden. Birds and reptiles love to eat them.




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