

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Community News You Can Use

✓ The annual Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting takes place this evening, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at The Barn at Faith Farm. The names of the various award recipients will be published in Friday's Morning Fax.

The Tennessee Department of Health says there is plenty of COVID-19 vaccine available in Southeast Tennessee. No appointments are necessary. Just call your county Health Department to find out where the vaccinations are taking place. In McMinn County, call 745-7431. In Meigs County, call 334-5185. The vaccine is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

✓ The McMinn County Commission holds its monthly meeting on Monday, April 26th at 7:30 p.m. The Emergency Services Committee will meet at 6:30 to approve the bid for a new truck. The Landfill Committee meets at 7 to discuss buying new equipment.

♦ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Wednesday 4-21

| Tennessee: <u>COUNTY</u> | 837,833 cases, <u>CASES</u> | up 1,270. 12,111 ACTIVE | deaths, up 15. DEATHS |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| McMinn | 6,378 up 8 | 104 down 2 | 97 |
| Meigs | 1,351 up 4 | 27 up 3 | 24 |
| Monroe | 5,724 up 10 | 85 up 4 | 95 |
| Polk | 2,003 up 3 | 46 down 2 | 24 |
| Bradley | 14,670 up 37 | 384 up 5 | 148 |
| Rhea | 4,315 up 1 | 28 | 75 |

Athens Fire/Police Reports

The Athens City Council heard the reports from the city's police and fire chiefs on activity during the month of March at their meeting Tuesday evening.

Police Chief Cliff Couch reported there were 39 thefts in Au-_ gust, 6 burglaries, 6 motor vehicle thefts, 6 assaults, and 34 drug offenses. Police issued 293 citations for moving violations. There were 71 traffic accidents in March, with 10 injuries and one fatality. There are currently two vacancies on the police force.

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth reported that firefighters responded to 169 incidents in March. Two of the incidents were fires and 130 were calls for rescue and emergency medical services. There were 21 false alarms.

The City Council also awarded its VIVID (Very Important Volunteer Individual) award to Michael Bevins. Mike Bevins has been a member of the Athens City School Board for 33 years. In 1992, he was elected Chairman and continues to serve in that position. Over the years, he has been very active in the community including serving on the boards of the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA, the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, and the Tennessee Weslevan University Advisory Council. He was a past president of the United Way of McMinn and Meigs Counties, and was past President of the Athens Rotary Club. Most recently, he has been heavily involved in helping McMinn County begin Krissy Haslam's "Read 20" program. The Let's Read 20 Board collected thousands of gently used books to give away to children who might not have an opportunity to own books of their own.





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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

• Paul Ellis Arnett, age 70, of Athens, died Wednesday at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. He was formerly employed by Kelly Shepherd Oil Company and retired from McMinn County Highway Department where he was a truck driver. Paul served in the Tennessee Army National Guard. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at Antioch Baptist Church of Athens with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. prior to the service. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

• Judith Ann Campbell Luck, age 77, of Athens, died Tuesday at her residence. She was involved in Women's Missionary Union for the Southern Baptist Convention. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church of Etowah with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church prior to the service. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

• John Dixon Downes, Jr., age 102, of Athens, died Friday, April 9, in a local healthcare facility. He was born in Buckannon, WV. John was an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Navy. The family will have a private graveside service at a later date. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

• Myra Francis Russell, age 79, of Oak Ridge, TN died Saturday in at Sweetwater Hospital. There will be no public service at this time. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

• Stanley Bryant Shadden, age 76, of Niota, died Tuesday in Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. He was a native of Georgetown and was a resident of McMinn County since 2002. He was co-owner and operator of Transport One Trucking. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m., Friday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home prior to the service.

TRANSGENDER BATHROOM BILL PASSES

A new transgender bathroom bill has passed the Tennessee Senate, 21 to 7. The bill now goes to Governor Lee's desk for his signature. The "Tennessee Accommodations for All Children Act" was sponsored by Sen. Mike Bell of Riceville. It will allow public school students to refuse to use restrooms if the school allows transgender students to use them. The school would have to provide a single occupancy restroom for objecting persons. The bill exposes schools to legal liability if they do not provide "reasonable accommodations" to any person unwilling to share multi-person public school bathrooms, locker rooms, or other changing facilities.

A Memorial to Bus Wreck Victims

Memorials were erected last weekend at Meigs South Elementary school to Lisa Dillard, the driver of the school bus that was involved in a wreck last October. Mrs. Dillard died, along with a 7year-old student, Addicyn Medley. One of the memorials is shown below. The other was a bench dedicated to Addicyn. This message is printed on the bench: "When you can't find the sunshine, Be the sunshine. We love you, Addicyn Grace Medley. They were killed when a utility truck crossed the center line and hit the bus head-on.



