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Today's News... This Morning

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Thursday, May 20, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

City Council & Other News

◆ The Athens City Council held its monthly meeting Tuesday evening. The big item on the agenda was passage on the first reading of the new city budget. The budget contains an 8-cent increase in the property tax rate. Council members also heard the monthly reports from the police and fire departments.

- Police Chief Cliff Couch reported there were 47 thefts in Athens in April. There were 12 burglaries, 11 motor vehicle thefts, 11 assaults, and one robbery. Police made 31 arrests for drug violations. Officers issued 206 citations for moving violations. Chief Couch reported there were 77 vehicle accidents in the city in April, with 13 injuries. There is currently one vacancy in the police department.

- Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth reported that firefighters responded to 165 calls in April. Five calls were to fires, 122 were calls for rescue or emergency medical service, and there were 18 false alarms. Losses for the month totaled \$56,000.

◆ MEDIC Regional Blood Center reports they are critically low in O Negative and O Positive blood supplies due to trauma events this week. They had one patient use over 20 O Negative units. You can help by donating blood at the MEDIC Regional office in Athens, 213 E. Washington Avenue. For info: medicblood.org

◆ More graduations are coming up this weekend. Fairview Christian Academy will have commencement exercises Friday, May 21st, at 6 p.m. in the church auditorium. Meigs County High School's graduation is Saturday at 9:30 a.m. on the football field.

Vaccine Ready for ages 12-15

The Tennessee Department of Health is now administering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to children ages 12-15. The Health Department says the vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19. Up to now, the vaccine was only approved for individuals age 16 and above. Appointments can be requested online through Vaccinate.tn.gov. Health departments will also accept walk-ins. The McMinn County Health Department will be giving the vaccine on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 to 2; Tuesday and Thursday 11 am. To 2. The vaccines will be given at the Meigs County EMA on Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines continue to be available to individuals age 18 and older by appointment. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are two-dose vaccines, and it is important to receive the second dose for maximum protection against COVID-19.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Wednesday 5-19

Tennessee: 859,281 cases, up 477. 12,353 deaths up 14.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	6,567 up 2	59	99
Meigs	1,396 up 2	5	25
Monroe	5,895 up 5	50	96
Polk	2,097	21	25
Bradley	15,145 up 15	115	152
Rhea	4,371	24	75

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WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday: Clouds mixed with sun. High 84.

Thu Night: Partly Cloudy. Low 56.

Friday: Partly sunny. High 86.

Fri Night: Partly cloudy. Low 60.

Saturday: Cloudy & sunny. High 86.

More Weather at: wysi.com

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Thursday, May 20, 2021

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Rev. Carl Edward Creasman**, age 83, of Florida (and formerly of Athens), died this past Monday in Florida. He had pastored Rocky Mt. Baptist Church and had been the Vocational Electronics Director for the McMinn County Schools. No memorial events are currently scheduled. Bevis Funeral Home in Tallahassee, Florida, is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Diana Cranfield**, age 67, of Riceville, died May 15th at her home. She was retired from Farm Service Agency of Athens. Funeral services were held Wednesday night at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Eastanallee Cemetery.

♦ **Mitchell "Mitch" Lee Vincent**, age 52, of Niota (and formerly of Decatur), died Tuesday. He was a route driver for Mayfield Dairy Farms for 30 years. He also served as a Decatur city alderman. Funeral services will be held Friday at 7 p.m. at Walnut Grove Baptist Church, with visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. at the church. Decatur Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Jaqueline Elaine Osborne Crawford**, age 50, of Philadelphia, died Tuesday after a long battle with cancer. There will be a small graveside service for family and friends at 3 p.m. Friday in Edgemon's Cemetery and another graveside service for extended family and friends at 3 p.m. Saturday. There will be no visitation. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

More Obituaries

♦ **Bobbie Jean Thompson Wilson**, age 85, of Athens, died Monday at her residence. She had worked as an LPN at Brookewood Health Care. Funeral services will be Monday, May 24th, at 2 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from noon to 2 p.m.

♦ **Shawn Sherman Wright**, age 43, of Athens, died Sunday at his residence. He played quarterback for the McMinn County High School Cherokees in high school. He was currently serving as milk dock supervisor for Mayfield's Dairy Plant. Funeral services will be Friday at 7 p.m. at Liberty Church of Jesus Christ, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

✓ The McMinn County 4-H presents the 4-H Camp Traveling Road Show at the Expo Center in Athens Regional Park. The camp date is July 7th, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee is \$50. Sign ups on May 24th starting at 11 a.m. will receive a 50% discount. Sign-ups are being held in the McMinn Higher Education Center at 2345 Denso Drive. For more information, call 745-2852.

✓ David Riden, McMinn County Veterans Honor Guard Commander, says all Honor Guard members are invited to join McMinn County Veterans Affairs Director Susan Peglow at the Market Park Pavilion on Saturday, May 29th, at 8 a.m. to post flags around the Courthouse Square. The flags will be posted to honor all Veterans as Memorial Day approaches.



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