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Today's News... This Morning

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Thursday, February 11, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

## COVID-19 Vaccination Update

The Tennessee Department of Health reminds adults aged 70 and older they are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. TDH estimates there are about 300,000 Tennesseans in the 70-74 year age group, and only about one in three Tennesseans in this group have been vaccinated to date. The shots are now being given to those 70 and older in all counties. The TN Department of Health says people aged 70 to 74 have a 70 percent higher rate of death and a 40 percent higher rate of hospitalization from COVID-19 as compared to those aged 65 to 69. The Health Department emphasizes that the vaccine is safe, free, and highly effective. To schedule an appointment for your vaccine, call 1-866-442-5301. The Department of Health also says it hopes to begin vaccinating school teachers by March 1st and possibly earlier.

## Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The Hiwassee River Rail Adventure train excursions are expected to start once again in April. The trips will run each weekend until December. Etowah Chamber of Commerce Director Durant Tullock says due to COVID the trains will load in Delano, but hopefully will be able to load once again at the L&N Depot when restrictions are lifted.
- ✓ The Athens Parks Department announces that anyone interested in having a brick placed in the Veterans Park walkway in honor or in memory of a veteran must place their order by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 19th. Call 744-2700 Option 3.
- ✓ The MEDIC Regional Blood Center is still critically low on blood types O Negative, A Negative, O positive, and A Positive. All week, through Friday, MEDIC will donate \$5 per donor to the Pat Summit Foundation. Here in the Athens area, you can donate at the MEDIC Donor Center at 213 East Washington Avenue in Downtown Athens.

### ◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Wednesday P.M.

Tennessee: 750,409 cases, up 2,947. 10,731 deaths, up 100.

COUNTY	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	5,616 up 59	5,322	207	87
Meigs	1,236 (-8)	1,175	40	21 up 2
Monroe	5,046 up 23	4,771	191	84 up 2
Polk	1,605 (-16)	1,497	87	21
Bradley	12,113 up 78	11,462	522	129
Rhea	4,036 (-28)	3,860	110	66 up 1

**ANOTHER MOMENT OF BLACK HISTORY**  
Patrick Spriggs, affectionately known by friends as "Uncle Pat" was born a slave on July 28th, 1849. He worked as a field hand for 15 years until the Civil War broke out. Slaves were being called on both sides to fight, so Spriggs decided to run away and sign up with Union soldiers. He used the name Patrick Murphy. He was assigned to serve with the 42nd Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops. After being discharged from the service, Spriggs returned to Athens, where he owned a restaurant on North White Street. He died at the age of 97. It is recorded that his funeral was attended by many members of the community, both Black and White, who wished to pay their respects to "Uncle Pat," a prominent member of the Athens community. (Article submitted by Rev. Wayne Williams)

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**WEATHER FORECAST**  
Thursday - Rain and possible thunderstorms. High 51.  
Thursday Night - Possible rain in p.m. Cloudy. Low 39.  
Friday - Mostly cloudy. High 46.  
Friday Night - Cloudy. Possible rain. Low 39.  
More Weather at: [wysi.com](http://wysi.com)

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Thursday, February 11, 2021

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Marino Molina Torres**, age 81, of Athens, died Monday at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. He was a native of the Dominican Republic and a resident of Athens for the past 15 years. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary Catholic Church, with visitation at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

♦ **Felicia Abreu DeMolina**, age 84, of Athens, died Sunday at Fort Sanders Medical Center. She was a native of Moca, Dominican Republic, and a resident of McMinn County for the past 15 years. She was the wife of Marino Molina Torres (see obituary above). Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary Catholic Church. The family will receive friends in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home at 2 p.m. after the service.

♦ **Brenda K. Pressley**, age 64, of Sweetwater, died Tuesday at Sweetwater Hospital. She was a native of Detroit, Michigan and was talented at needle point and crocheting. In honor of the family's wishes, there will be no public service at this time.

**WEDNESDAY'S MARKET REPORT:** U.S. equities ended the day broadly lower, except for the Dow Jones, which posted a slight gain, with global stocks mixed. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 61.97 to 31,437.80. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 1.35 to 3,909.88, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 35.16 points to 13,972.53.

## CapStar Makes Contributions

CapStar Bank recently presented checks to help fund two projects in the Athens area, including Tennessee Wesleyan University and the Athens Area Council for the Arts. The TWU donation will be used to fund baseball field renovations and the installation of artificial turf. Pictured right (L-R) are CapStar's Shane Sewell, Matt Harper, TWU Head Baseball Coach Billy Berry and Chris Adams, also with CapStar Bank.



CapStar also donated toward establishment of the new Linda B. McGill Music Wing at the Athens Area Council for the Arts. Pictured right: (L-R) Clarice Baggett, AACA Board member, CapStar's Traci White, Art Kimball (President of the AACA Board), Lauren Shepherd (AACA Executive Director), Scottie Mayfield, and CapStar's Shane Sewell and Drew Holbrook.



## Welcome

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