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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News... This Morning

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Monday, February 15, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

### Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The Athens City Council holds its monthly meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) night at 6 in the Burkett Witt Council Chambers at the Municipal Building.
- ✓ The American Legion will resume its monthly Friday night Fish Fry on February 26th. Due to COVID, the last Fish Fry was held in October. Proceeds from the event help keep the big American flag flying along I-75 at exit 49. The price of a meal is \$9.00.

**TENNESSEE'S SENATORS VOTE TO ACQUIT**  
Tennessee's two senators, Bill Hagerty and Marsha Blackburn, were among those who voted on Saturday to acquit former President Trump in the Senate impeachment trial.

### COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE SUNDAY 2/14

Tennessee: 757,418 cases, up 1,347. 10,933 deaths, up 31.

COUNTY	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	5,722 up 28	5,440	194	88
Meigs	1,237 up 1	1,183	34	20
Monroe	5,131 up 19	4,875	169	87 + 1
Polk	1,667 up 15	1,549	97	21
Bradley	12,349 up 48	11,687	531	131
Rhea	4,060 up 8	3,879	113	68

### Another Black History Moment

Lewis Curtis agreed to come to Athens to teach for one year at J.L. Cook School. Thirty-eight years later, Lewis was still there and heavily involved in community activities. His areas of service ranged from education to agriculture to church and civic clubs. His philosophy was "keep it short and simple, serve by example."

It is an example McMinn County might have missed had it not been for Principal E. Harper Johnson of J.L. Cook School, whose "arm-twisting" convinced Curtis to come to Athens. Lewis, a graduate of Tennessee State University, was working at the Y-12 plant in Oak Ridge and continuing his education when Principal Johnson invited him to become a member of the faculty at the Athens school in 1956.



After Curtis had agreed and Johnson had obtained the local school board's approval, Curtis changed his mind. Johnson called him and said, "Don't do me like that. I'm a man of my word and I thought you were too." Curtis replied, "Okay, I'll come for one year." As fate would have it, he was at Cook school as a teacher and coach for many years.

(Article & photo of the Curtis family courtesy of Rev. Wayne Williams)

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- Tuesday-Madisonville - WilSav - 10:30 - 2:00
- Wednesday-Etowah-10:30 - 2:00
- Thursday-Loudon-10:30 - 2:00
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30

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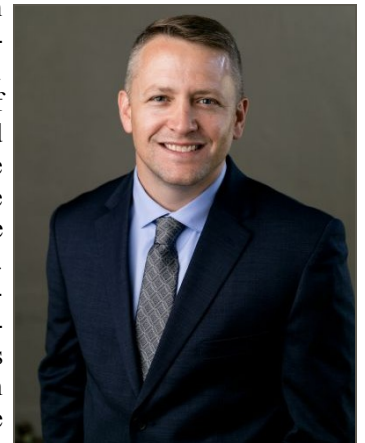
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## People's Bank Names V.P.

Tom Hughes, Executive Vice President of Peoples Bank of East Tennessee, announces that Todd Watson has been named Vice President and Commercial Lender of the McMinn County Region. Peoples Bank is set to open their new location at 835 S. Congress Parkway in Athens in May. Watson is a lifelong resident of McMinn County and has worked in banking for over 15 years. He and his wife, Sara, have three girls and are members of the Greenhouse Church in Athens. Watson has spent his career focused on local farmers and business owners. He has served as an election commissioner in McMinn County since 2014. He has also worked with Junior Achievement of the Ocoee Region since 2012 and currently serves with the McMinn County Economic Development Authority, Polk County Chamber of Commerce, and the Leadership McMinn program sponsored by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. Watson says, "I am happy to be at a local community bank that truly cares for the community and its citizens."



## Obituaries

- ♦ **Larry Dodson**, age 67, of Etowah, died last Friday. He was an over the road truck driver for over 40 years. Graveside services were held this past Saturday. Bordwine Funeral Home was in charge.
- ♦ **Jerry Dwayne Moates**, age 72, of Sweetwater died unexpectedly of a heart attack last Wednesday, Feb. 10th. He had been an accountant. He also was a master chef and invented the famous Jerry's Baked Beans. A private family memorial will be held. Companion Funeral Home is in charge.
- ♦ **Ethel Ruth Frisbie Mull**, age 81, of Niota, died Friday in Life Care of Athens. Graveside services will be 3 p.m. Monday in Niota Cemetery, with visitation from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

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