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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News...This Morning

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# MEDIC

REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER  
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**Athens Center**  
 213 E. Washington Ave.  
 Athens, TN 37303  
 Monday-Friday  
 8:30 am - 5 pm

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

## COVID-19 Vaccination Plan Update

The Tennessee Department of Health has updated Tennessee's COVID-19 vaccination plan as the state continues to prioritize Tennesseans most at risk of hospitalization and death from the virus. The vaccination program has been updated to include the following groups among the Phase -c population.

- Permanent household members age 16 and older living with pregnant women
- People age 16 years and older with diagnosed diabetes
- People age 16 years and older with Down Syndrome
- People age 16 and older with progressive neuromuscular diseases such as ALS, multiple sclerosis or muscular dystrophy.

Tennesseans may find vaccination providers in their area by visiting [VaccineFinder.org](http://VaccineFinder.org). You can book an appointment through your county health department at [COVID19.tn.gov](http://COVID19.tn.gov).

### ◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Wednesday 3-10

**Tennessee:** 786,597 cases, up 1,355. 11,606 deaths, up 18.

COUNTY	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	5,994 up 8	5,807	94	93
Meigs	1,276	1,236	17	23
Monroe	5,426 up 11	5,218	116	92
Polk	1,813 up 6	1,739	51	23 up 1
Bradley	13,210 up 45	12,707	362	141
Rhea	4,178 up 6	4,050	55	73

## Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The City of Niota will have its Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27th, at 10 a.m. at the Niota Depot. The rain date will be Saturday April 3rd. There will be two age categories, 5 and under and 6 to 12. There will be one Golden Egg for each age category.
- ✓ The McMinn County Election Commission meeting for March 16th has been cancelled. The next meeting will be in April.
- ✓ Nominations are now being accepted for the Athens *Young Woman of the Year* award, which will be presented at the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on April 22nd. The new, first-time award is sponsored by Tennessee Wesleyan University, who also sponsors the annual *Young Man of the Year* award. Candidates for the *Young Woman of the Year* must be 39 or younger, exhibit leadership qualities, and participate in providing overall contributions to community welfare. Nomination forms are available upon request by calling 746-5202. The deadline for nominations for both awards is March 31st.
- ✓ The United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties continues to offer its COVID-19 Emergency Rent and Mortgage Assistance Program to McMinn County residents whose income has been affected by the pandemic. So far, the program has disbursed \$6,669. To apply for the assistance program, applicants must be 18 or older, the head of household, and provide proof that his or her employment income was directly impacted by COVID-19. Get applications at Coordinated Charities and the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA.

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny & warm. High 71.  
**Thur. Night:** Partly cloudy and mild. Low 55.  
**Friday:** 30% chance of rain. High 73.  
**Saturday:** 30% rain. High 70.  
**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy. High 72.  
 More Weather at: [wxyi.com](http://wxyi.com)

### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



Thurs, all day: 8 oz. Sizzlin' Sirloin with side, roll, bakery, & dessert, \$9.99  
 Thurs, all day: Philly Cheese Steak with side, rolls, & desert, \$6.79  
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**MARCH Specials >>** 2 Country Ham Biscuits \$3  
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Thursday, March 11, 2021

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Robert George Harris**, age 69, of Athens, died Monday at UT Medical Center in Knoxville. He was formerly employed with Athens Stove Works and most recently with the Athens Housing Authority. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Friday in McMinn Memory Gardens. He will lie in state from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Friday at Ziegler Funeral Home.

♦ **Douglas Wade Headrick**, age 67, died Saturday, March 6th. He began his professional journalism career in 1975 working at the Sevier County News Record. In 1985 he was named managing editor of The Daily Post Athenian and became the paper's editor in 1987. He received several professional recognitions for his writings. Per his request, his body will be cremated and there will be a private memorial service. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

### HEADLINES FROM THE LEGISLATURE

- The State Historical Commission has voted 9-2 to remove the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust from the Capitol Building and move it to the Tennessee State Museum. Forrest was an early leader of the KKK.
- A bill moving through the legislature would ensure a student's right to express their beliefs on campus. This comes after Republican state senators sent a letter asking colleges and universities to prevent student athletes from kneeling during the national anthem.

## A Salute to Burkett Witt

One of the best-known residents of Athens is Burkett Witt. Burkett, who is an African-American, was born in 1926, the youngest of 12 children. He attended J.L. Cook High School and then joined the U.S. Navy during World War II where he was a cook. He then returned to Athens and worked in several restaurants, where he would have to enter through the back door and was not allowed to use the front door when customers were present. In 1949, he opened his first restaurant, "The Slop Shop." He later moved his business in 1956 to the basement of Townsend Hall at Tennessee Wesleyan. After leaving TWC, Burkett and his wife, Mildred, opened Burkett's Barbecue in Downtown Athens. He was elected to the Athens City Council in 1971 and served as Mayor from 1983-1985. He was named the Athens Man of the Year in 2009, becoming the first African-American recipient. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Tennessee Wesleyan.



(Article submitted by Harriel Blair with assistance from Gwendolyn Witt McCowan)

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