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Today's News... This Morning

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Monday, September 13, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

A Letter from Starr Regional

John McLain, CEO at Starr Regional Medical Center, has written a letter to the public. A portion is quoted below:

"McMinn County is once again experiencing historic numbers since our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic began, and these numbers continue to rise rapidly."

"Our current COVID-19 situation is worse than it has ever been. It is heartbreaking, frustrating, and exhausting--but above all, it is preventable. Like most healthcare facilities in our region, Starr Regional is operating at the edge of our capacity."

"I'm asking for your help. Basic infection prevention measures like diligent hand hygiene, social distancing, and avoiding large, close group gatherings will help to lower the transmission of the virus. Additionally, the vaccine is also a strong preventive measure."

"The number of COVID-19 positive patients we have admitted to the hospital, 97% of whom are unvaccinated, reached an all-time high in August."

CEO McLain goes on to praise Starr's physicians and staff for performing expertly and professionally in the face of extreme pressures. He says if you have a medical issue that is not life-threatening to please consider going to an urgent care clinic so the hospital's ER staff can focus on the most critical needs.

Boat Destroyed by Fire

A fire last Wednesday night, September 8th, destroyed a 2002 Supra Launch boat. The boat was found burning in a garage on County Road 890. The Etowah and Englewood Rural Fire Departments responded.

(Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Dept)



PANDORA

FREE BRACELET EVENT - THURSDAY Sept. 23rd - MONDAY, Sept. 27th.

Receive ANY free bracelet of your choice (up to \$65) with \$125 purchase **Excludes Disney, Star Wars & Harry Potter.
M, T, TH, F 10-5:30 Sat. 10-2 Celebrating 25 years in business, representing Pandora for 15 years!

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Due to Staffing Shortages, the Athens Bojangles will be closed on **SUNDAY ONLY DURING SEPTEMBER**
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- Tuesday at MCHS for Middle School Football Game from 5-7:30 to 8-ish (Open to Public)
- Wednesday-Etowah-10:30 - 1:30 (across from Johnson's Dept Store)
- Thursday-Athens PaPaw's Place-10:30 - 1:30
- Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:00



BIG BELLY DELI

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

Crispy Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwich Combo (Meat, Ranch, Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Provolone Cheese) \$6.50

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We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

wysi@bellsouth.net

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Monday, September 13, 2021 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

- ♦ **Sara Jane Grandell Shelton**, age 84, of Cleveland (and a native of Athens), died Thursday at Hospice of Chattanooga Care Center. The family will receive friends from noon to 2 p.m. Monday (September 13th), with a graveside service at 2:30 p.m. at Buttram Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is serving the family.
- ♦ **Charles "Fudd" Burris**, age 88, of Athens, died Saturday. He was retired from Bowater, the father of former Athens Mayor Chuck Burris, and was the chairman of the McMinn County Board of Education for many years. Funeral arrangements will be announced later by Smith Funeral & Cremations of Athens.
- ♦ **Pryor Lee Stephens**, age 91, of Etowah, died Thursday. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was retired from Mayfield Dairy. Funeral services will be at 12 noon Monday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

More Obituaries

- ♦ **Margaret P. Goodman Russell**, age 78, of Calhoun, died Friday at her residence. She had most recently worked in the Riceville Elementary School cafeteria. The family will receive friends Monday from 3 to 5 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home, with a funeral service to follow at 5 p.m.
- ♦ **Graydon Murr West**, age 91, of Athens, died September 6th at her residence. Graveside services were held on September 8th. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home was in charge.

FOOTBALL: Bradley Central 44, McMinn High 28; McMinn Central 21, Polk County 3; Meigs County 40, Signal Mountain 6; Walker Valley 42, Carter 14. In college football, the UT Vols lost to Pittsburgh, 41-34 in new Coach Josh Heupel's first loss. UT's starting quarterback Joe Milton left the game with an injury and was replaced by Hendon Hooker.

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◆ **COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Friday 9-10**

Tennessee: 1,124,713 cases, up 5,168. 13,890, deaths up 11.

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>CASES</u>	<u>ACTIVE</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
McMinn	9,093 up 48	907	112
Meigs	1,888 up 8	122	24
Monroe	8,388 up 34	677	106 up 1
Polk	2,759 up 12	221	25
Bradley	19,716 up 93	1,521	164
Rhea	5,980 up 28	422	86 up 1

MEDIC vs. LIFESOUTH

MEDIC is celebrating football season with the annual UT/MEDIC vs. UF/Lifesouth blood collection competition. The two blood centers compete each year to boost inventory levels and celebrate the home teams. Donors will receive a special edition football-themed t-shirt, Papa John's coupon, Salsarita's coupon, and Texas Roadhouse coupon. You can donate blood at your local MEDIC donor center. In Athens, it is located at 213 E. Washington Avenue, and is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.