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Today's News... This Morning

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Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Vestal Moves Up in Coaching

Derrick Vestal has been named head football coach for the Sequoyah High School Chiefs. Vestal, who is from McMinn County, has 12 years of coaching experience. His most recent coaching job was Offensive Coordinator at Lenoir City. He coached for eight years at McMinn County High School. He played football for McMinn High School and briefly at Maryville College before injuries ended his playing career. Vestal is married to Emily and they have two sons. Coach Vestal says he and his wife know that the Lord has a



special place for their lives and that football is a vital part of the plan. He says "I want to win games, but I also want to send these guys out of high school ready to be good men, good husbands, good dads, and anything else they want to be!"

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The monthly Athens Area Chamber of Commerce "Business Before Hours" event will be this Thursday, Dec. 16th, at 8 a.m. at CapStar Bank, 106 W. Washington Ave., Athens.
- ✓ Athens Lutheran Church at 710 Forrest Avenue will be continuing Wednesday Advent Services on Wednesday, Dec. 15th, at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Community News You Can Use

✓ The Athens Parks and Recreation Department announces that crews will be trimming trees in the downtown area today through Friday of this week. The areas involved are the street and sidewalk trees in the downtown business district and the trees in Knight Park. The purpose is to improve the health of the trees, the sightlines, and safety of the area caused by low limbs. The work is being directed by a certified arborist. The public should be aware of heavy equipment which will be working on the tree trimming.

✓ Women United in Community Service, the Valor Guild, and the McMinn County NAACP will be hosting "A Soulful Community Celebration" this coming Sunday, December 19th from 2 to 4 p.m. in J.L. Cook Memorial Park. There will be giveaways, music, games, food, and a Santa photo booth. It's free. Everyone is invited.

The differences shown below for cases and active cases are the differences between Monday's data & Friday's data.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Monday 12-13

Tennessee: 1,339,872 cases up 971. 17,768 deaths up 19.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	10,911 up 26	132 down 1	147
Meigs	2,274 up 9	38 up 6	33
Monroe	10,110 up 22	149 up 5	140
Polk	3,305 up 7	39 down 3	34
Bradley	22,966 up 39	277 down 13	242
Rhea	7,253 up 22	121 down 10	101

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



NEW: Hand Breaded Chicken Sandwich \$3.99
Pork Chop Biscuits 2 / \$6 • 32 oz Tea

Due to Staffing Shortages, the Athens Bojangles will be closed on SUNDAY ONLY DURING DECEMBER

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Merry Christmas! & Happy New Year

We will be closed December 20 - January 2, 2022! REOPEN January 3 REGULAR HOURS. We hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. The year 2021 has brought about chaos and challenging times for many of us. May we take time to reflect on Jesus the real reason for the season! He is our true help and comforter in times like these. Thank you to ALL of our customers for your business in 2021. It is greatly appreciated! We look forward to serving you in 2022! We are here to serve and help you in any way that we can with your home or business exterior needs. Our prayer for each person is that God blesses and prospers you greatly in 2022!

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Tuesday, December 14, 2021 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Matthew Perian**, age 18, of Etowah, died last Tuesday, Dec. 7th. He was an employee of the Lost Sea. On his days off, he worked at the Farmhouse Restaurant. He was involved in the FFA at McMinn Central High School. He was also a member of the Etowah Rural Fire and Rescue Department since 2014. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at North Etowah Baptist Church, with visitation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. Interment will follow at Delano Cemetery. The public can expect a large funeral procession with numerous emergency vehicles participating. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Michael Alan Vaughn, Sr.**, age 48, of Decatur, died Saturday, Dec. 11th, at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. He was formerly employed with Shaw Industries. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Faith Independent Baptist Church in Decatur, with visitation from noon to 2 p.m. at the church. Interment will follow the service at Walnut Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Thomas W. Riley**, age 78, of Athens, died Monday at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

♦ **Emily Annette Brock**, of Englewood, died Sunday. A graveside service will be at 11 a.m., Friday in McMinn Memory Gardens with visitation at Bordwine Funeral Home from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. prior to the graveside service.

Ribbon Cut for Athens Contracting

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Chamber of Commerce member Athens Contracting, LLC. Pictured front row, L-R: Kellie Collins & Heather Bateman (Chamber Diplomats), James Long, Joshua Carroll, Lauren McConkey, Kevin McConkey, & Caleb Long (Athens Contracting), Amy McDonald & Lisa Rhea (Diplomats). 2nd row: Christie Rhodes, Connie Woodcock & Karen Raby (Diplomats), Frances Witt-McMahan (Athens City Council), Tonya Higgs (Diplomat), Maury Willis, James Laframboise (Athens Contracting), Ashton Burrows & Tim Tatum (Diplomats). 3rd row: Payten Holcombe, Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Joseph Ladner (Diplomat), Dick Pelley (Athens City Council), and Tina South (Diplomat)



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