

**Drive-Thru Bake Sale**  
**Saturday, December 18th**  
**11am - 2 pm**  
**Allen Memorial United**  
**Methodist Church**  
**800 Decatur Pike**  
**Under the back portico**  
*Rain or Shine*

# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

## Community News You Can Use

- ✓ Athens Utilities Board has sent a six-man crew to Mayfield, Kentucky, to help in efforts to get power restored to the area hit hard by a tornado. They rolled out of Athens at 2 a.m. Tuesday and began a convoy to Mayfield with crews from Cleveland Utilities.
  - ✓ The final Christmas parade in the area will be the Tellico Plains parade this coming Saturday, Dec. 18th, at 5:30 p.m.
  - ✓ The Tennessee Highway Safety Office reports the use of seat belts in Tennessee was 90.12% in 2021. No survey was taken in 2020 due to the virus. However, the rate in 2019 was 91.75%.
- ◆ **COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Tuesday 12-14**  
**Tennessee:** 1,341,702 cases up 1,830. 17,818 deaths up 50. As of publication time, the cases by county were not available.

**TUESDAY'S MARKET REPORT:** Equity markets traded lower. Oil prices were lower but finished above \$70. The 10-year Treasury yield rose. The cost of shipping is falling, port congestion is improving, and oil prices are 16% off their late October peak, suggesting that inflation will moderate in 2022. At the closing bell: The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 106.77 to 35,544.18. The S&P 500 was down 34.88 to 4,634.09, and the NASDAQ was down 175.64 to 15,237.64.

## Some Familiar Bankers Return

To quote former banker Jack Allen, "they say old bankers never die, they just lose their interest." Jack says he and Paul Willson have an interest in bringing a community bank office to McMinn County. A new Citizens National Bank branch office opened at 1305 Decatur Pike in Athens on Monday. The bank is headquartered in Sevierville and has no connection to the former Citizens National Bank which was purchased by Simmons Bank in 2016. Both Paul and Jack were with the former CNB until its sale. Paul is on the board of the new bank and Jack is a consultant. Paul says they are both proud to be a part of their long term allies and friends at Citizens National Bank of Sevier County, which he describes as an extremely well run and customer focused organization.



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**East Athens Baptist Church**

**HANDBELL CHOIR**  
 will Ring in the Christmas season at 10:45 am on Sunday, Dec. 19.  
 Director: Rev. Mike Dannel

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE**  
 service will be held at 5pm on Friday, Dec. 24.  
 Dr. Brian Trapp, Senior Pastor

*The public is invited to attend.*

301 Central Ave., Athens

**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**  
 Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits **BOJANGLES** of Athens-South Congress Pkwy 744-5292

**ALL-NIGHT**  
*Christmas*  
*Musico*  
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**Women United in Community Service, The Valor Guild, and the McMinn County NAACP** will be hosting A Soulful Community Christmas Celebration Sunday, December 19th, 2-4pm, J.L. Cook Memorial Park, 414 Cook Drive, Athens, TN. There will be gift giveaways, music, games, food, and a Santa photo booth. **Join us, it's free!** For more info, or to make donations, contact the Women United's President, Gloria Versa at [gloriaversa0@gmail.com](mailto:gloriaversa0@gmail.com). CashApp \$Gloria Versa1110. *Women United is a 501 (c) 3 public charity. Donations are tax deductible.*

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 **Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2** Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Thomas William Riley**, age 78, of Athens, passed away Monday at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. He worked and lived at the Tri-County Center for 33 years. Funeral services will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 17th, at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Interment will follow at Clearwater Cemetery.

♦ **Brandon Allen Smith**, age 25, died Sunday, Dec. 5th, in Chattanooga. A memorial service is planned for January 8th, 2022, at Brandon's former church, Living Faith Church in Hixson. Visitation is at 9 a.m. and the service will be at 9:30 a.m. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

### WHAT IS THE WORD OF THE YEAR?

Merriam-Webster has announced its Word of the Year. The word is "Vaccine." The word was selected based on lookup date, notable spikes, and year-over-year increases in searches. The selection of "vaccine" comes after "pandemic" was chosen in 2020.

The Oxford English Dictionary selected "vax" as their word of the year.

## Athens Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to Kristen Combs, Athens City Middle School Teacher, for being selected as the Athens City Schools 5th-8th Grade Teacher of the Year and ACS District-Level Teacher of the Year for 2021-22. Daelyn Waldroup, North City Media Specialist, was selected as the 2021-22 Athens City Schools PreK-4th Grade Teacher of the Year. They will represent Athens in the Southeast CORE Region Teacher of the Year competition for the State. Shown below, left: Robert Greene, Mrs. Combs, and Mike Simmons. Right: Greene, Ms. Waldroup, Ms. Hardaway.



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