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Today's News... This Morning

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Thursday, January 28, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

United Way to Help With Rent

The United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties will be offering Emergency COVID-19 Rent and Mortgage Assistance to McMinn County residents who have been affected by the pandemic. All applicants must be at least 18 years old and reside in McMinn County. The program is for renters and homeowners whose employment has been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Paige Zabo, United Way President and CEO says, "So many of our neighbors in our community are struggling and have fallen behind on their rent or mortgage due to job loss, furloughs, reduced wages, or having to quit work to stay home with their children who are in virtual schooling." She says this program will help them recover from the financial distress from the pandemic. Applications can be picked up at Coordinated Charities and the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA beginning Monday, February 1st.

◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Wednesday P.M.

Tennessee: 715,806 cases, up 3,400. 9,316 deaths, up 154

COUNTY	CASES	RECOVERED	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	5,285 up 17	4,924	285	76 up 2
Meigs	1,201 up 3	1,111	73	17
Monroe	4,746 up 18	4,417	264	65
Polk	1,523 up 9	1,383	123	17
Bradley	11,378 up 49	10,594	678	106 up 3
Rhea	3,940 up 12	3,698	182	60 up 2

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ Tickets to the 75th Annual Awards Meeting sponsored by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce go on sale on February 1st at the Chamber office, 13 North Jackson Street. The event will be April 22nd at The Barn at Faith Farms starting at 5:30 p.m. Each year, the Chamber honors members of the community with various awards, including Man of the Year, Mother of the Year, Young Man of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Farmer of the Year, and more. For more information, call 745-0334.
- ✓ The McMinn Regional Humane Society is hosting a drive-thru FREE cat and dog food event at the Athens Animal Shelter this coming Sunday, January 31st, from 1 to 4 p.m. The event is for families in need. Do not get out of your car. Let a volunteer approach you. They have an abundance of cat and dog food to hand out. The animal shelter is located at 219 Alford Street off S. White Street. Follow the faded paw prints back to the shelter. They will not be able to do shelter walk-through's to meet animals during this time. However, you can call 744-9548 for an appointment.
- ✓ McMinn County 4-H will be accepting applications for the Chick Chain project on February 8th. The purpose of this activity is to give 4-H members the opportunity to learn about the care of chickens and to raise baby chicks for layers or broilers. This activity will help 4-H members to develop management skills through keeping records of cost and income, and contribute to their home food supply with fresh eggs. To sign up, call 333-9120.

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E&E Manufacturing is HIRING! Please Join Us For Our Opening Hiring Event, Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021 at SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE & CONFERENCE CENTER, 122 Regional Park Dr. Athens.

Session 1: 9am-12pm; Session 2: 1 pm-4pm

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Thursday, January 28, 2021 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Bennett Ronald "Ronnie" Rogers**, age 77, of the Tranquility Community, died this past Sunday. He retired from Bowater after 38 years. Graveside services were held this past Tuesday at Sweetwater Memorial Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home was in charge.

♦ **James Henry Snider**, age 68, of Etowah, died January 19th after a year-and-a-half battle with cancer. He worked at Taylor Pittsburg for most of his career. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Serenity is in charge.

♦ **Rev. Caggie C. Scruggs, Jr.**, age 86, of Athens, died Monday. He served in the U.S. Army and worked at TVA until retirement. A Homegoing Celebration will be held Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, at 1 p.m. at M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home of Athens. A walk through visitation will begin at 11 a.m. and masks are required.

♦ **Elizabeth Bernice "Buddy" Hyde**, age 85, of Decatur, died Tuesday at Starr Regional Medical Center. She retired from Shaw Industries after 41 years of service. A graveside service will be held Friday at 1 p.m. in the Walnut Grove Cemetery.

BELK FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

Belk, the North Carolina-based department store chain, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The company, which owns nearly 300 stores including one in Athens, says it will continue with "normal operations" as it goes through bankruptcy. Belk was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and furloughed workers and cut senior staff pay up to 50%.

Meet UT's New Coach

Less than a week after he was hired, the new UT athletic director, Danny White, has hired a new head football coach. He's Josh Heupel, who has been head coach at the University of Central Florida for the past three seasons. White had hired Heupel when he was the UCF athletic director. White calls Heupel a "players' coach" and the kind of person the student-athletes go the extra mile for. Heupel, who is 42, says he is thrilled to be coming to Tennessee. He says he understands that Volunteer fans are hungry for a return to the top and says it is his goal to bring a championship back to Rocky Top. Heupel was quarterback on Oklahoma's national championship team in 2000. He was Missouri's offensive coordinator-quarterbacks coach in 2016-17 before landing the head-coaching job at UCF. He will be the 6th head coach for the Vols going back to Phillip Fulmer, who was fired at the end of the 2008 season.



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