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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

### Community News You Can Use

- ✓ A 2.1 earthquake was recorded around 2:25 a.m. Tuesday about 3.7 miles NNW of Calhoun with no reports of any damage.
- ✓ The Etowah Area Chamber of Commerce announces it will hold the 49th Annual Arts & Crafts Fall Festival the weekend of October 2-3 in conjunction with the Highway 411 Yard Sale.
- ✓ The Athens Parks Department advises that the YWEA Orphan Run 4 Hope will take place on the Eureka Trail this Saturday, August 7th, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. The trail will still be open for normal use.
- ✓ The Meigs County Fair continues this evening. Gates open at 5. The pretty baby, fairest of the fair, and princess of the fair contests will be held at 6. The Meigs County Community Choir sings at 6. Admission to the fair is free.

### ◆ COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Tuesday 8-03

Tennessee: 903,095 cases, up 2,677. 12,774 deaths, up 16.

COUNTY	CASES	ACTIVE	DEATHS
McMinn	6,926 up 20	199	106
Meigs	1,476 up 10	38	24
Monroe	6,146 up 21	117	98
Polk	2,178 up 10	48	24
Bradley	15,767 up 44	331	157
Rhea	4,521 up 14	101	83

### Meigs Pair Steals Church Money

A small Meigs County church that was damaged by an earthquake and later was hit by fire back in 2019 is back in the news after half of its small congregation was indicted on charges of stealing. The Tennessee Comptroller's Office says a grand jury indicted Carolyn Mullins and her son, Larry, for theft over \$60,000. Investigators say the pair stole more than \$83,000 from Peakland Baptist Church, which has only four members. In 2019, the church was destroyed by fire, reportedly due to a faulty heater. The Comptroller's Office says the church decided to rebuild with insurance money, but work was never completed due to a lack of funds. Larry Mullins was the church treasurer and his mother was the assistant treasurer. They were the only people authorized to sign checks. Investigators say the Mullins' wrote church checks for cash to themselves and bought gift cards, cigarettes, a ring, and clothing from Wal-Mart. The Mullins' transferred \$12,221.31 back to the church. However, a balance of \$71,489.51 is still owed to the church. Comptroller Jason Mumpower says churches should have someone other than the treasurer reconcile the monthly bank statements and review financial activity.



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Due to rising Covid numbers, **E.G. Fisher Public Library** is suspending the Saturday morning collection of Used Books, DVDs, and CDs as of this week. We have been appreciative of donations received the past few weeks and will revisit receiving donations again after Labor Day. Thank you for understanding.

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Wednesday, August 4, 2021

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **John Mullinax**, age 75, of Tellico Plains, died this past Sunday at his home after a long battle with lung cancer. He was born in Spartanburg, SC. He played collegiate football and golf at Carson Newman College. In 1969, he entered the US Army, serving a combat tour in Vietnam in 1970. In 1979, he took his first head coaching job at Copper Basin High School. In 1983, he became the head football coach at McMinn County High School, where he coached for 19 years. After a brief retirement, Mullinax returned to coaching at Armuchee High School in Rome, Georgia. He returned to Tennessee in 2012 as head coach at Tellico Plains High School. A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Friday at Smith Funeral Home, with visitation on Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. and again on Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

♦ **Rev. Robert "Bob" E. Hamilton, Sr.**, age 88, of Chattanooga, died Tuesday at his home. He was a native of Stonewall, NC and longtime resident of McMinn County. He served for over 60 years as a pastor, chaplain and on short term missionary trips. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Keith United Methodist Church with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. prior to the service. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Harold Lynn Burke**, age 88, of Athens, died Tuesday at Life Care Center of Athens. He was retired from Athens Stove Works after 36 ½ years of service. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at McMinn Memory Gardens with visitation on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home.

♦ **Melissa M. Berry**, age 70, of Athens, died Sunday at Life Care Center of Athens. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

♦ **Ricky A. Taylor**, age 60, of Athens, died Tuesday at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

## Groundbreaking for Isaiah 117 House

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Tuesday morning for the Isaiah 117 House which will be used to provide temporary care and lodging for boys and girls in McMinn and Monroe counties who are awaiting placement in foster homes. The house will be built at 221 County Road 517 in Englewood. State Sen. Mike Bell and Rep. Mark Cochran were among the dignitaries who attended. (Photo by Mike Bell)



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