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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News... This Morning

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Thursday, May 21, 2020

Athens, Tennessee

## Latest Update on Coronavirus

As of Wednesday afternoon, the total number of coronavirus cases in McMinn County stands at 125 with 90 recoveries and 12 deaths. Monroe County has had 53 cases of the virus, 28 recoveries and two deaths. Bradley County's total is 84 cases, 69 recoveries and one death. There have not been any changes for Meigs County. Tennessee's total is 18,532 cases with 309 deaths.

### CITY COUNCIL SAYS NO TO BUDGET

It's back to the drawing board for the Athens City budget for fiscal year 2021. At Tuesday night's City Council meeting, the proposed budget was defeated by a vote of 3 to 2 on the first reading. Those voting no were Mayor Chuck Burris and Council members John Coker and Dick Pelley. The budget had included two new positions--a deputy fire chief and a detective. At least two of the council members said they preferred that the property tax increase not be included in the budget. City Manager C. Seth Sumner says he will be working with Council members to better understand what their expectations are and hopefully get an altered version of the budget to another vote in the near future.

**WEDNESDAY'S MARKET REPORT:** The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 369 points or 1.5% to 24,576. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 49 points or 1.7% to 2,972, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 191 points or 2.1% to 9,376.

## Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The Athens Public Works Department announces the following Memorial Day closings. The Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center, and Animal Shelter will be closed on Monday in observance of Memorial Day. They will reopen on Tuesday. The Animal Shelter and Recycle Center will continue modified operations for coronavirus precautionary measures. Residential garbage routes for Monday will be picked up on Tuesday. All other residential routes will be on the regular schedule.
- ✓ Athens Utilities Board advises that local electricity rates will rise a bit in June as the spring season moves into summer and brings somewhat higher base rates from TVA.
- ✓ The LITE House Entrepreneur Center of Athens and Junior Achievement of the Ocoee Region will present "Spark: A Camp for Young Entrepreneurs Amidst Pandemic." The camp will take place online on June 15th-26th. To accommodate social distancing measures, students will spend quality instruction time via Zoom with a trained instructor on basic business topics with the goal of developing an entrepreneurial mindset. There will be a morning session from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and an afternoon session from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The sessions will be limited to a maximum of 10 students. After each day's lesson, students will have an activity to complete at home before the next day's Zoom session. For registration information, call 423-252-1119.

### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



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**Closed until further notice.** We want to thank all of our wonderful customers for their outpouring of support during this time and to our amazing and hard working staff. We look forward to seeing and serving our customers again in the very near future. Thank you. **Western Sizzlin - Athens**

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### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday** - Mainly cloudy. Possible t'storms. High 74.

**Thursday Night** - Partly cloudy. Low 58.

**Friday** - Mostly cloudy. Possible t'storm. High 75.

**Friday Night** - Mostly cloudy. Possible late t'storms.

**Saturday** - Possible clouds mixed with sun. Warmer. High 84.

More Weather at: [wysi.com](http://wysi.com)

# Athens

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Thursday, May 21, 2020 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Max Douglas Harper**, age 76, of Athens, died Tuesday at his home. He was a Union journeyman carpenter and retired from T.U. Parks Construction Company. A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at McMinn Memory Gardens with visitation on Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home.

♦ **Kimberly Cox Curtis Hutsell**, age 60, of Athens, died Tuesday at UT Medical Center. She was a former employee of Verizon. There will be no visitation or service. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Randy D. Aikman**, age 59, of Athens, died Tuesday at Parkwest Knoxville. He served in the Navy. The family will hold a private graveside service. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

♦ **Jessy Thompson**, age 31, of Athens, died last Saturday. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Jerry Cox**, age 71, of Etowah, died May 14th. He retired from CSX Railroad. Graveside services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. (correction on the time) at Green Hill Cemetery. Serenity Funeral Home is in charge.

### MORE VIRUS-RELATED NEWS

✓ Researchers at Meharry Medical College in Nashville have developed a new drug that fights COVID-19. Dr. Donald Alcendor says the drug stops the spread of the virus inside the body. He says it works by entering and waiting inside of cells, and when the COVID-19 virus enters the cells, it prevents the virus from replicating. As a result, the coronavirus is shut down completely. Right now clinical trials are taking place at a lab in Brazil.

## Athens Police/Fire Report

Members of the Athens City Council heard the reports on crime and fire activity during April at this past Tuesday night's monthly meeting

- Police Chief Cliff Couch reported there were 44 thefts in Athens in April, 12 burglaries, 7 assaults, 4 motor vehicle thefts, and 1 robbery. In addition, police issued 33 citations for moving violations. There were 54 traffic accidents in April, with 3 injuries. Twenty-one of the accidents occurred on private property. There are currently two vacancies on the Athens Police Department.

- Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth reported that firefighters responded to 59 calls in April. Ten calls were to fires, 18 were for rescue and emergency medical service, and there were 22 false alarms. There were three calls to vehicle accidents with injuries and there were 2 vehicle fires. Firefighters responded to a swift water rescue on John J. Duncan Parkway due to flooding as a result of heavy rainfall. Losses from fires in April totaled \$44,450.00.

### DECISION NOT MADE YET ON FIREWORKS

Athens City Manager C. Seth Sumner says every effort will be made to hold the annual fireworks show at the Athens Regional Park on the 4th of July. Sumner says a decision will be made on or around the first of June. The City of Etowah has already announced that the Etowah fireworks show has been cancelled.

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