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Today's News... This Morning

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Thursday, April 30, 2020

Athens, Tennessee

Latest Update on Coronavirus

There's another jump in the number of cases of the coronavirus in McMinn County. As of Wednesday afternoon, there have been 89 confirmed cases of the virus. That's up 19 from Tuesday. At this point, five of the patients have recovered. Monroe County has had a total of 16 cases of the virus, with 10 recovered and one death. Bradley County's total number of cases so far is 48. Thirty-seven of the patients have recovered. One has died. In Meigs County, there have been 8 cases, and three of the patients have recovered. Polk County has had 7 cases. Five of those patients have recovered. Rhea County is reporting 4 cases and all 4 have now recovered. Statewide, there have been 10,366 cases of the coronavirus in Tennessee. There have been 195 deaths.

VIRUS-RELATED NEWS

- ✓ Life Care Center of Athens has released a statement about their residents. According to Newschannel9.com Director Jeff Ricks says as of Wednesday, 58 seniors have tested positive and 37 seniors tested negative for Covid-19. Two of the 58 have died. Two are still in the hospital. The TN Department of Health updates Covid-19 cases daily, but nursing home cases and deaths are only included in the totals once a week on Friday afternoons.
- ✓ The newly formed Athens Economic Recovery Team has released its first document as Athens and Tennessee begin the process of reopening. The document says "Our #1 Priority is the Health of our Citizens," and strongly encourages everyone to be mindful of social distancing: six feet between you and your neighbor.

More Drive-Thru Virus Testing

The Tennessee Department of Health will offer 16 drive-through events across the state this coming weekend to make COVID-19 testing available to Tennesseans who are concerned about their health or the health of their family members. No weekend testing will take place in McMinn County. However, testing will take place at Cleveland Middle School, 3635 Georgetown Road NW, on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and at the Opus Inspections Emissions Testing facility at 1620 Riverfront Parkway, Chattanooga, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Health Department nurses and/or National Guard medics at each site will collect nasal swabs from those who want to be tested. (Please note that public restroom facilities are not available at the drive-through testing events. Meantime, testing continues today and tomorrow (Thursday and Friday) from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the McMinn County Health Department off Highway 30 behind the National Guard Armory. There is no charge for any of these tests and no doctor's order is needed. Results of the tests are usually available within 72 hours after the samples arrive at the lab, depending on the lab volume. Everyone who is tested will be contacted about their results, whether they are negative or positive.

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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 - Mostly cloudy. Possible showers. Breezy in P.M. High 62.
Thursday Night - Partly cloudy. Low 52.
Friday - Partly sunny. High 68.
Friday Night - Clear to partly cloudy. Low 45.
More Weather at: wxyi.com

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Thursday, April 30, 2020 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Thomas Jack "Tom" Gandy**, age 76, of Athens, died Tuesday at Willow Acres Residential Care Center of end-stage Alzheimer's disease. He was a college-level educator for over forty years. He first taught at San Jacinto College in Pasadena, TX and later at East Texas State University-Texarkana, which became Texas A&M University-Texarkana. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks ended the day up with the energy sector leading the broader market. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 532 points or 2.2% to 24,634. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 76 points or 2.7% to 2,940, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 307 points or 3.6% to 8,915.

Free WiFi Downtown

A new public WiFi service is now available in Downtown Athens. The service is free and is a result of a partnership among Athens Utilities Board, the City of Athens, and Main Street Athens. The new WiFi service covers the Downtown Square and Market Park. It provides 100-megabytes of bandwidth. It will be free for at least five years.

What's Open & What's Not

Governor Lee issued a new executive order this week that supercedes and repeals several previous orders on what businesses can reopen and which ones cannot.

What's allowed: The order allows Tennesseans to return to work in all industries where it can be safely done by following health guidelines, including face coverings and telework if possible. Retail stores may reopen at 50% capacity. Employees must wear masks and gloves. Plastic shields should be installed at checkout counters. Gyms and exercise facilities will be allowed to reopen May 1st under strict social distancing guidelines.

What's not allowed: Social and recreational gatherings of 10 people or more are prohibited, including festivals, fairs, parades, and youth and adult sporting events. Close-contact personal service must remain closed for now, including barber shops, salons, spas, tattoo services, tanning salons, and massage facilities. Nursing homes and similar retirement and long-term care facilities must remain closed to visitors. Entertainment and recreational gathering venues are to remain closed for now, including bars, night clubs, bowling alleys, arcades, concerts, theaters, auditoriums, performing arts centers, amusement parks, and skating rinks.

Churches: There will be guidelines for safe operation of worship services and gatherings if in-person services are conducted. The order strongly encourages places of worship to continue virtual or online services where possible.

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TODAY IN HISTORY - APRIL 30th

1789 - George Washington was inaugurated as our first president. He had previously served as Commander of the Continental Army that won the Revolutionary War against Britain. He also served as president of the convention that produced the U.S. Constitution.

1803 - The United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France.

1859 - "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens was first published in serial form in a literary magazine.

1900 - Hawaii was organized as a U.S. territory.

1939 - The New York Worlds Fair opened.

1945 - Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler committed suicide along with his wife of one day, Eva Braun, as Russian troops approached his Berlin bunker.

1970 - President Richard Nixon announced the United States was sending troops into Cambodia.

2005 - Missing Georgia woman Jennifer Wilbanks the so called "runaway bride," turned up in Albuquerque, N.M.

2009 - Chrysler filed for bankruptcy protection.