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Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Athens, Tennessee

Covid-19 Virus Update

The total number of coronavirus cases in McMinn County has now reached 125. Of those, 84 patients have recovered. There have been 12 deaths. Monroe County has now recorded two deaths. Monroe County has had 51 cases of the virus and 26 patients have recovered. Bradley County's total is 84 cases with 69 recovered and one death. Meigs County has 22 cases and 19 have recovered. Tennessee's total is now 18,378 cases with 305 deaths.

VIRUS-RELATED NEWS

- ✓ Tennessee Wesleyan University is making plans to reopen for classes this fall. The campus reopening process includes classroom social distancing, dining area spacing, and personal protective equipment. The school has taken steps to acquire facemasks for all students, faculty, and staff. TWU President, Dr. Harley Knowles, says most of the classes have 12 or fewer students so they can properly socially distance those classrooms. For larger classes, Dr. Knowles says they are working on plans to reduce in-seat class density through online offerings and/or creating subsections for courses. TWU is also anticipating strong fall enrollment as classes resume.
- ✓ A special virtual edition of Civic Saturday will take place this Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. The theme is "Citizenship in the Time of COVID-19". To register click: [HERE](#)

Three Die From Drug Overdoses

Athens police officers have responded to an unusually high volume of suspected drug overdoses in May, including at least three deaths. Police Chief Cliff Couch says there have been 12 suspected drug overdoses this month. In most of these incidents, Narcan was utilized and the subjects survived. However, at least three of these incidents have resulted in death. The Athens Police Department is working with the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force in an attempt to gain more information regarding where the drugs came from and why there have been such a large number of overdoses. Chief Couch says the police department is also making procedural adjustments, including issuing extra Narcan to officers. Couch says "this marked increase in suspected drug overdoses is obviously very concerning." He says officers are doing everything they can to find out what's behind it. Chief Couch says the dealers who peddled these drugs need to be held accountable.

ETOWAH WOMAN FACES CHARGES

Etowah police have charged Anna Everhart with child abuse and assault after they found her teenage daughter hiding in a crawl space under their home. Police responded to the home on a missing persons report. Everhart told them her daughter had disappeared. After searching for several hours, officers found the girl under the house. Her mother was arrested and booked into the McMinn County Jail on a \$50,000 bond.

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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Wednesday, May 20, 2020

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Jerry Cox**, age 73, of Etowah, died last Thursday, May 14th, at his home. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He was retired from CSX Railroad. Graveside services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at Green Hill Cemetery. Serenity Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Lucille (Lucy) Galinsky Metzgar**, age 60, of Athens, died Monday at her home. A funeral service will be 7 p.m. Thursday at East Cleveland Baptist Church in Cleveland with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Jacquelyn (Jackie) Stephenson Yarber Price**, age 85, of Monterey, TN, formerly of Athens, died Saturday at Standing Stone Rehab Center. She retired from East Athens Baptist Church after many years of service. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at McMinn Memory Gardens. There will be no visitation. Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

♦ **Kimberly Cox Curtis Hutsell**, age 60, of Athens, died Tuesday morning at U.T. Medical Center. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

✓ The guest on "Hope From the Well" this week will be Robin Nation, executive director of Women at the Well, with a message from the Old Testament book of Ruth. "Hope from the Well" is heard at 8:15 a.m. each Thursday on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5 or [ONLINE](#)

Web Site Offers COVID-19 Info

The Athens Recovery Team, made up of members of the Council Advisory Committee and other community leaders, has launched a new one-stop shop of information and resources available for the community titled "Friendly City Forward." With the rapidly evolving circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and the re-opening of the state's economy, Athens City Manager C. Seth Sumner says the web page provides the latest pertinent information, health guidelines, and COVID-19 resources that are available and are pertinent to the Athens area. The web page can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#)

FACE MASKS AVAILABLE AT HEALTH DEPT.

The McMinn County Health Department has face masks available free of charge. They will give enough masks to churches in order for each worshiper to have one. A church representative should call Regina Brown at 745-7431 and tell her how many masks you need. You can then go to the Health Department and pick them up. Free masks are also available to the general public. The procedure for getting a mask for yourself or masks for your family is to pull up in front of the Health Department building and call the phone number on the sign. They will ask how many masks you need, and will then bring them out to your car. The Health Department is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Coronavirus testing continues in the parking lot; 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

TODAY IN HISTORY - MAY 20th

1920 - Singer Vic Ames was born. He was one of the Ames Brothers singing group that was popular in the 1950's.

1927 - Aviator Charles Lindbergh departed from New York aboard "The Spirit of St. Louis" bound for Paris. He landed 33½ hours later, completing the first solo non-stop trans-Atlantic flight.

1932 - Amelia Earhart began the first solo flight by a woman across the Atlantic Ocean, flying from Newfoundland to Ireland in just under 15 hours.

1942 - During World War II, the Office of Civilian Defense was established.

1946 - Singer Cher was born. She and her former husband, Sonny Bono, had a lot of hit records in the 1960's.

1974 - Judge John Sirica ordered President Nixon to turn over audio tapes and other records of 64 White House conversations about the Watergate affair.

1985 - The FBI arrested John A. Walker Jr., who was later convicted of heading a spy ring for the Soviet Union.

1942 - Singer Jill Jackson (of the group Paul and Paula) was born. Their biggest hit was "Hey Paul."

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