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Today's News... This Morning

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Monday, April 6, 2020

Athens, Tennessee

COVID-19 Virus Update

◆ LATEST STATISTICS ON COVID-19

As of 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon, the number of people tested in the State of Tennessee for COVID-19 is 45,300. Of that number, a total of 3,633 tested positive and 41,667 were negative. There have been 44 total deaths in Tennessee attributed to COVID-19.

In Southeast Tennessee:

McMinn County has 3 cases with 204 people tested.
Meigs County has 2 cases with 50 people tested.
Monroe County has 6 cases with 135 people tested.
Bradley County has 21 cases with 208 people tested.
Polk County has 3 cases with 22 people tested.

No deaths have been attributed to the virus in the 5 counties.

◆ SOUTH WHITE WIDENING PROJECT UPDATE

Highway crews are putting the finishing touches on the South White Street/Highway 30 widening project here in Athens. TDOT says beginning today, weather permitting, workers will begin "milling" on the west end of the project, resulting in traffic shifts at S. Jackson and State Highway 30. Later in the week, there could be similar traffic shifts on the east end of the project as final paving begins.

COVID Closings & Cancellations

◆ The City of Athens Parks and Recreation Department is limiting the use of city-owned parks. All public restrooms have been closed. The basketball rims, volleyball nets, and soccer goals have been removed. The skatepark at the Ingleside Recreation Complex is closed and two nets from each set of the tennis courts have been removed. Tennis courts will be limited to two players on each court. Playgrounds are closed. Hours now will be 7a-9p.

◆ The McMinn County Board of Education will have a policy committee meeting and a special called meeting on Monday, April 6th at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will not be held at a public location in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare due to the coronavirus pandemic. Public access to this meeting is available by clicking [HERE](#)

◆ The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum will be closed through April 30th. All programs and events during April will be postponed until future date.

◆ The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has closed all 56 Tennessee state parks and state-owned natural areas to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

LISTENING REMINDER: The Main Street Athens radio show, "Main Street Moments," this week will be Athens City Manager, C. Seth Sumner. He will give a community update concerning the coronavirus. You can hear the program each Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI Radio, FM 94.5 and AM 1390 or online at wysi.com

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WEATHER FORECAST

Monday - Clouds & sunshine.
High 79.

Mon. night - Mostly cloudy.
Possible t'storms. Low 57.

Tuesday - Mostly cloudy. Pos-
sible rain & t'storms. High 75.

More Weather at: wysi.com

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Monday, April 6,, 2020 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Obituaries - continued

- ♦ **Timothy "Frog" Doyle Wallace**, age 60 of Niota, died Thursday at Parkwest Hospital in Knoxville. He was a former employee of Athens Furniture. A private graveside service will be held Monday in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.
- ♦ **Ernest William "Ernie" Barton, Sr.**, age 87, of Niota, died Thursday at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. He was a former employee of General Mills and was a bluegrass and gospel music singer. A private graveside service was held Sunday at New Bethel Cemetery with Ziegler Funeral Home in charge.
- ♦ **Della "Sue" Farmer Barnes**, age 81, of the Hillsvie/Short Creek Community, died Saturday. She had worked at Athens Products until retirement. A Celebration of Life memorial service may be held at a later date. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.
- ♦ **Daniel Eugene Rue**, age 77, of Athens, died Friday, at Starr Regional of Athens. He was a veteran serving in the U.S. Army and was a former employee of Cleveland Ready Mix. No visitation or funeral service will be held. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.
- ♦ **Scott Dwayne McCosh**, age 50, of Athens, died Friday at his home. He was a veteran serving in the U. S. Army and was employed with Wacker in Charleston. The family will hold a private graveside service on Tuesday at the Clear Springs Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

- ♦ **Gracie Lee Wilson Bright**, age 91, of the Mt. Harmony community, near Riceville, died Saturday at the home of her daughter in Panama City, Florida. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Zigler Funeral Home.
- ♦ **Elisabeth (Libby) Walker Willson**, age 77, of Knoxville (and formerly of Athens), died Tuesday, March 31st in Knoxville. She had a 20+ year career in real estate. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Elbert (Eb) Lane Willson III, also formerly of Athens. A Celebration of Life will be held at West Hills Baptist Church of Knoxville at a later date to be determined. Cremation Options, Inc. of Knoxville in charge of the arrangements.
- ♦ **Donald Henry Latham**, age 73, of Englewood died Friday at home. He was retired from Athens Products where he worked as a machinist. A private graveside service will be Monday at Mars Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.
- ♦ **Sarah Steed Byers**, age 81, died Monday March 30th at home. She was a dorm mother, taught Nancy Taylor charm courses and was treasurer of Steed College in Johnson City. Later she became a licensed aesthetician and a cosmetologist, owning salon/spas with her children in Virginia and in Cleveland. A celebration of life memorial service will be announced later. Companion Funeral Home is in charge.



TODAY IN HISTORY - APRIL 6th

- 1830** - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, New York.
- 1862** - The Civil War Battle of Shiloh began in Tennessee as Confederate forces launched a surprise attack against Union troops, who beat back the Confederates the next day.
- 1896** - The first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.
- 1909** - American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.
- 1917** - The United States entered World War I as the House joined the Senate in approving a declaration of war against Germany that was then signed by President Woodrow Wilson.
- 1945** - During World War II, the Japanese warship Yamato and nine other vessels sailed on a suicide mission to attack the U.S. fleet off Okinawa; the fleet was intercepted the next day.
- 1954** - Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., responding to CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow's broadside against him on "See It Now," said in remarks filmed for the program that Murrow had, said that Murrow in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."
- 1971** - Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky, 88, died in New York City.
- 1973** - Ron Blomberg of the New York Yankees became Major League Baseball's first designated hitter as he faced pitcher Luis Tiant of the Boston Red Sox at Fenway. (Blomberg was walked with the bases loaded; Boston won the game, 15-5.)
- 1994** - Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun announced his retirement after 24 years.
- 1998** - The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 9,000 points for the first time, ending the day at 9,033.23.
- 1998** - Country singer Tammy Wynette died at her Nashville home at age 55.