



Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Community News You Can Use

✓ The McMinn County Election Commission reports the total number of early votes for the August 6th election was 3,613. There were 2,932 Republican ballots cast, there were 645 Democratic ballots cast, and 35 ballots were cast for the general election only. The 3,613 total includes early voting at both the Courthouse and at the Conference Center in Athens Regional Park. Election Administrator TeAnna McKinney says 1,676 people voted early in the 2016 election and 2,877 in 2012. Those were comparable elections.

✓ It comes as no surprise that July was hot and dry. Athens Utilities Board says the highest temperature was 98, recorded on July 19th. The low was 66 reached on several mornings during the month. Rainfall for July totaled just 1.35 inches. The heaviest 24-hour period of rain fell on July 10th and totaled .55 inches.

✓ The PTSD Support Group will not be meeting tonight at Athens Lutheran Church. Those first Tuesday of the month meetings have been cancelled due to the coronavirus.

✓ The Etowah Carnegie Library will present a digital learning event with The Creative Discovery Museum. The 1-hour program is free, hands-on, and covers Sustainable Solutions: Bioenergy and Bioproducts. This is for children grades 3-8. Families will register with the library and pick up individual activity kits at the library along with the Zoom url and password. Call 263-9475 to register by August 28. The event is September 9 at 3 p.m.

COVID-19 News

 \checkmark The Marion County Schools are delaying their opening. Director of Schools Mark Griffith says schools will start on September 8th due to the rising cases of the coronavirus in Marion Co.

✓ The latest figures show nearly every Tennessee County has an unacceptable coronavirus transmission rate. Smith and Lake counties are the only remaining counties that have acceptable rates. The other 93 counties, including McMinn County, have transmission rates "above the threshold" used to help determine if residents can visit family members in long-term care facilities.
✓ As of Monday afternoon, there have been 110,636 cases of COVID-19 in Tennessee, an increase of 1,009 since Sunday. There have been 70,878 recoveries. The latest death total is 1,092, up 19. Dr. James Hildreth, CEO of Meharry Medical College, says 60% of Tennessee's cases have come in the last four weeks. He says that is very concerning and points to a potentially exponential surge in the state. He says "we need to redouble our mitigation efforts.

McMinn Co: 489 cases, up 10, with 145 active and 20 deaths (unchanged).

Monroe Co: 366 cases, 180 are active, and deaths remain at 9. Polk County: 165 cases, with 95 active, & 1 death (unchanged). Bradley Co: 1,713 cases with 535 active. Deaths remain at 20. Meigs County: 98 cases to date and 50 are still recovering.



Athens, Tennessee



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Obituaries

• Geneva Carter Banks Ramsey, age 88, of Athens, died Saturday at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.

• Eva Marie Key Brown, age 51, of Athens, died last Thursday at her home. She was employed at the Gondolier for many years. The family will receive friends on Friday, August 7th, from 5 to 7 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 7. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

• **Rachel Louise Ware,** age 89, of Athens, died Sunday at her home. A memorial service celebrating her life will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. prior to the service at Companion Funeral Home of Athens.

MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. equities ended the day higher. Factories increased production in July globally, but export orders were still weak. Marathon Petroleum (MPC) announced the sale of Speedway for \$21 billion in cash to 7-Eleven.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 236 points or 0.9% to 26,664. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 23 points or 0.7% to 3,295, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 158 points or 1.5% to 10,903.

See-thru Face Masks

Perhaps you've seen a few people wearing face masks that allow people to see their lips. Some school teachers, especially speech therapists, will be using these masks as schools resume next week. There are cases when children, especially younger kids, need to be able to see their teachers' lips and smile. Some teachers may also be wearing face shields, such as you commonly see in dentist offices. Some people have had problems with the shields and see-thru masks fogging. You can buy products (one is Rainex Anti Fog) that help eliminate the fogging problem. They work good with goggles when mowing your yard, too.



