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Today's News... This Morning

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Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Athens, Tennessee

Jobless Rate Down in September

The unemployment rate for September dropped in 88 of Tennessee's 95 counties. Here are the numbers in our area:

- McMinn County**- September 3.6%, down from 4.3% in August
- Meigs County** - 3.8% in September, down from 4.7% in August
- Monroe Co.** - 3.2% in September, down from 3.7% in August
- Rhea County** - 4.3% in September, down from 5.3% in August
- Polk County** - 3.3% in September, down from 3.9% in August
- Bradley Co.** - 3.5% in September, down from 4.1% in August

GAS PRICES STABILIZE AFTER 4 WEEKS

After four straight weeks of increases at the pump, gas prices across Tennessee appear to have stabilized. AAA of Tennessee reports that gas prices, on average, remain the same this week as they did last week. The Tennessee Gas Price average remains \$3.16, which is 26 cents more expensive than one month ago and \$1.28 more than one year ago. Megan Cooper, spokesman for AAA, says thanks to a dip in domestic demand, Tennessee drivers are starting to see a little relief at the pump. She says crude oil prices seem to have leveled off, helping to minimize any additional spike in pump prices in the short term. AAA says 10% of Tennessee gas stations have prices below \$3.00. Tennessee is now the 10th least expensive market in the nation. The least expensive metro markets are Cleveland and Chattanooga, with prices at \$3.12 per gallon. In Athens, some stations are at \$3.03.

Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The American Legion, AMVETS, VFW, and the Elks Lodge invite you to attend the Veteran's Parade in Downtown Etowah this coming Saturday, November 6th, starting at 3 p.m. All vets and their families will be served dinner after the parade at the Etowah Depot.
- ✓ The UT Extension-McMinn invites you to refresh with Tai Chi. The classes will be held on Wednesdays, November 3rd, 10th, and 17th. There will be two classes each Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Athens and 3 p.m. at UT Extension-McMinn facility located in the McMinn Higher Education Center, 2345 Denso Drive. For more information, call Sarah Kite at 745-2852.

COVID-19 VIRUS UPDATE Monday 11-01

- ✓ Due to technical difficulties, The Tennessee Department of Health did not update the COVID-19 data on Monday.

MONDAY'S MARKET REPORT: U.S. equity markets closed higher. The 10-year Treasury yield fell to 1.56%. The U.S. dollar softened, and crude oil prices rose to \$83.89. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 94.28 to 35,913.84. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 8.29 to 4,613.67, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 97.53 points to 15,595.52.

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT

Bojangles'
 NEW: Hand Breaded Chicken Sandwich \$3.99
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 Due to Staffing Shortages, the Athens Bojangles will be closed on **SUNDAY ONLY DURING NOVEMBER**
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WEATHER FORECAST
Tuesday: Clouds mixed with sun. High 56.
Tue Night: Cloudy. Low 39.
Wednesday: Sunny, then cloudy. Possible rain in P.M. High 51.
Wed Night: Occasional rain & drizzle. Low 40.
 More Weather at: wysi.com

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Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Morning Fax@...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ **Michael Edward "Eddie" Hughes**, age 68, of Athens, died Saturday at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. He was retired from Mayfield Dairy Plant and had served in the Tennessee Army National Guard. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with burial to follow in McMinn Memory Gardens with military honors. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Ziegler Funeral Home.

♦ **Jewelene Rebecca Graves Coulter**, age 72, of Riceville, died October 28th. She was a Registered Nurse at Sweetwater Hospital ICU for over 35 years. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 6th, at Unicoi Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

♦ **Claude Bacon**, age 72, of Athens, died Saturday at Life Care Center of Athens. Funeral arrangements will be announced later by Ziegler Funeral Home.

♦ **Daniel Dyer**, age 42, of Cleveland, died Saturday at Tenna Healthcare in Cleveland. Private services will be held at a later date. Companion Funeral Home of Cleveland is in charge.

♦ **James Edward "Edd" Torbett**, age 82, of Niota, died Saturday at Starr Regional Medical Center of Athens. He retired from RC Cola Bottling Co. as manager after 42 years of service. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at East Niota Baptist Church with interment to follow in Niota Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

Lawmakers Clamp Down on Masks

The state legislature wrapped up its special session on COVID restrictions early last Saturday morning by passing legislation that would crack down on mask mandates in the public schools. The new rule says public schools will be able to mandate masks only in "severe" situations. School districts would have to do so one school at a time, and for no more than 14 days. Under the legislation, private schools could implement mask mandates. Exemptions include state and local jails and airports.

The legislature took action to placate companies such as Ford. Lawmakers approved a bill enabling companies to require face masks, a major concession to Ford Motor Company.

Entities that receive federal funds such as federal contractors would be able to require vaccines after obtaining approval from the State Comptroller's Office. Liability protections for businesses would last until July 2022; but the entire package of COVID-19 laws would end in July 2023.

BRACKETS SET FOR FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

The first round of high school football playoffs gets under way this Friday night.

In 5A, Oak Ridge plays at McMinn High School and Walker Valley will play at Karns

In 2A, East Robertson will play at Meigs County

In 6A, Cleveland plays at West Ridge (Blountville) and Jefferson County will play at Bradley County.

TODAY IN HISTORY - NOVEMBER 2nd

1734 - Frontiersman Daniel Boone was born. He blazed the Wilderness Trail into Kentucky and gained fame as an Indian fighter.

1795 - Our 11th President, James K. Polk, was born.

1865 - Our 29th President, Warren Harding, was born.

1889 - North and South Dakota were admitted to the Union; the first time that two states simultaneously became a part of the United States.

1903 - The British newspaper *The London Daily Mirror* began publishing.

1926 - Country singer Charlie Walker ("Don't Squeeze My Harmon") was born.

1954 - Strom Thurmond of South Carolina was the first U.S. senator elected by write-in vote.

1964 - The old McMinn County Courthouse was destroyed by fire which started while undergoing renovations. It was reduced to a near shell. Relay teams were organized to remove office equipment and valuable courthouse records.

1983 - President Ronald Reagan signed a bill establishing a U.S. federal holiday on the third Monday of January in honor of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

1993 - Wildfires in Southern California pushed through areas of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, burning 35,000 acres and 200 homes.

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