

### Wednesday, June 3, 2020

# **Covid-19 Virus Update**

Another jump in the number of COVID-19 cases in Tennessee. The latest total is 24,375 cases, with 15,916 patients recovered and 381 deaths. McMinn County's total stands at 143 (up one), with 106 recovered and 14 deaths. Rhea County's total now is 214 with 157 recoveries. Meigs County has 27 cases and 21 have recovered. Polk County's total is 18 cases and 14 recoveries. Bradley County's total is up to 157, with 105 recoveries and one death. Monroe County reports 66 cases, 47 recoveries & 2 deaths.

#### VIRUS-RELATED NEWS

 $\checkmark$ The Sounds of Summer Concerts at Market Park Pavilion in Downtown Athens for June have been cancelled. A decision will be made soon about the July and August concerts.

✓ The City of Athens and leaders from across McMinn County are calling for a community conversation on race and community. All voices that wish to be heard about how our community comes together better in the wake of this past week's tragic events with the death of George Floyd and the protests and riots that have followed are asked to peacefully assemble at Cook Park on June 11th at 5 p.m. for a Conversation on Race and Community. Athens City Manager C. Seth Sumner says, "The spirit of the Friendly City is a spirit of love and understanding, but we need to see each other face to face and hear each other so that we can work together to prevent further tragedies from occurring."

### **Harmony In Downtown Athens**

In Downtown Athens Monday night, a group of young people protested on the steps of the McMinn County Courthouse. Sheriff Joe Guy, several of his deputies, and several Athens police officers were present. Sheriff Guy says he is proud of our local young

people who exercised their right to speak. He says they talked, they walked, and they prayed together. Sheriff Guy issued a statement saying "They let the old sheriff be a part of it, and it meant the world to me." He says he told the teenagers about his prayers for his officers, and they even came up with a chant



about it. Sheriff Guy says it was a great night. He thanked his deputies and Athens police for all coming together and keeping our kids safe. Meantime, a community prayer meeting has been scheduled in Downtown Athens for 6 p.m. Wednesday.

(Above Photo from Joe Guy's Facebook page)





## **Obituaries**

• Jerry Lee Barker, age 69, of Etowah, died Monday. He retired from Olin Chemical after 43 years and also worked for Bookouts Tire and Lube. A Masonic Service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with the funeral service to follow. Visitation will be Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m.

• Cedric E. Sharp, Sr., age 63, of Etowah, died May 29th at his residence. He was a member of Real-Life Christian Ministries in Chattanooga and was retired from J.M. Huber. Funeral services will be 5 p.m. Friday at Serenity Funeral Home, with visitation from 2 to 5 p.m.

• **Zully Amara Vasquez,** age 58, of Athens, died May 23rd at her home. She was born in Guatemala and worked for many years as a teaching assistant in the McMinn County School System. The family will receive friends Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Companion Funeral Home with a memorial service at 1 p.m.

• Karen Elaine Crowder, age 57, of Riceville, died May 27th at her home. In honor of her wishes, there will be no public services at this time. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

• **Dr. Thomas W. Williams,** age 91, of Etowah, died Monday. He was a practicing board certified physician for over 40 years. There will be a private graveside service for the family and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE**

✓ The guest on "Hope From the Well" this week will be Norm Beetler, a Women at the Well board member". Hope from the Well" is heard at 8:15 a.m. each Thursday on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5 or <u>ONLINE</u>

# **Break Out Those Fishing Poles**

Tennessee's 2020 Free Fishing Day will take place as scheduled this Saturday. On June 6th, anyone may fish free without a license in Tennessee's public waters. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency provides the annual free day in hopes of increasing interest in fishing. The day allows anyone the opportunity to try fishing, especially children. In addition, children ages 15 and younger may fish without a license from June 6th through June 12th. Waters in Southeast Tennessee that will be stocked with catfish include the lake at Athens Regional Park, Indian Boundary Lake, and Kefauver Lake in Madisonville.

#### McMINN HONOR GUARD FUNCTIONING AGAIN

After being placed on pause for the past two months due to the coronavirus, the McMinn County Veteran Honor Guard is once again providing Military Honors (Taps, Flag folding and Presentation) and Full Military Honors (Rifle Salute, Taps, Flag folding and Presentation) for all our deceased McMinn County Veterans upon request through a funeral home, the McMinn County Veterans Service Officer, or by the family directly. The Honor Guard is available for funerals, memorial services, flag ceremonies, parades, store openings, and more at a local chapel, church, cemetery, park, the VFW Post, AMVETS in Etowah, etc. They will also participate in make-up memorial services missed during the past few months. Their services are free. For information, call David Riden at (423) 595-0630.

