

Coronavirus Update

◆ **EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED:** Tennessee Governor Bill Lee issued an executive order Monday "strongly urging" "Safer at Home" guidelines and implementing closures of all non-essential businesses in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Restrictions are placed on businesses that can't safely operate, i.e. salons, barbershops, recreational & entertainment outlets. The governor is also encouraging residents to stay home, but not mandating it.

◆ The latest figures from the TN Department of Health show 1,834 cases of coronavirus in the state, with 13 deaths. At this point, McMinn County is holding steady at three cases and Meigs County has one. Monroe County is still reporting three cases. Loudon County has eight and Bradley County has nine.

✓ Full Circle has made the decision to postpone the annual fundraising luncheon and dinner which were scheduled for April 18th. Full Circle will go ahead with their Silent Auction via internet April 16-21. For more information, call 744-3005.

✓ The Good Faith Clinic will be open today (Tuesday) for refills only. You are asked to remain in your vehicle and provide a written list of medications to refill with name and date of birth. The Clinic will be open for refills from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Athens Lions Club's 11th annual Mooooo Run!!! has been postponed to Saturday, June 6th, because of the virus.
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✓ The Athens Social Security office is closed due to the coronavirus. However, staff members are working from home. You can contact them by calling 1-866-964-7431.

✓ Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Englewood City Hall will accept 2018 property tax payments until April 30th.

✓ Bowater Credit Union is offering extended hours at their Drivethrus and by phone: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Athens office.

A Virus Stress Reliever

If you're tired of being cooped up at home, you might consider loading up the family in the car and going for a drive. There are lots of places in Southeast Tennessee to visit, including the mountains of Polk County. Gene Choate sent us this photo from Reliance. The picture shows the Hiwassee River with Hiwassee Union Baptist Church across the river. The church was established in 1848 and is no longer in use.







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Obituaries

• Gerald James Litchford, age 72, of Athens, died Sunday at Starr Regional Medical Center. He was a native of Chicago and had lived in McMinn County for 12 years. He retired from Paccar Parts, Inc., in Rockford, Illinois, and was a veteran of the Army serving in the Vietnam Conflict. Private services will be held Wednesday. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

• Bell Marie Gay, age 80, of Englewood, died Saturday. The family will have a private graveside service at McMinn Memory Gardens on Wednesday, April 1st. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge.

• Fred W. McKinney, age 85, of Athens, died last Friday at Etowah Health Care Center. He worked for Mayfield Dairy Farms as a sales representative for 35 years. He served on the McMinn County School Board. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge.

• James Crandall White, Jr. age 65, of Athens, died March 18th at his home. He was an instructor in the Army and active in the National Guard. He was a truck driver, held several factory jobs, and most recently was a train yard switch driver. A memorial may be held at a later date by The Church of Latter Day Saints in Athens. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.

♦ MORE VIRUS NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department has decided to cancel this year's Emergency Day at Clearwater Baptist Church. The event was scheduled for May 1st, but has been cancelled since the schools are closed until at least April 24th. Even if schools reopen on April 27th, the organizers say there would not be enough time to get the event rescheduled.

Another History Minute

Along the banks of Eastanallee Creek on present day County Road 730, the large and spacious home known as Holly Hill was constructed beginning in 1820. Owned by the McClatchy family, the home was part of a large farm that also included several water -powered mills.

Around the time of the Civil War, the farm was bought by the Getty's family of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, who expanded the mill operations into a profitable business. Over time, the house changed owners and several additions were built.

Originally known as Sweetbriar Hill, it became known later as Holly Hill for the large Holly Tree which grows nearby.

The grand old house still holds much of its early glory, and the old brick shell of the McClatchey-Getty's Mill still stands nearby, silent and empty, a reminder of a time of primitive industry in McMinn County.

(These moments of McMinn County history are written by county historian, Joe Guy)

HELP US KEEP YOU INFORMED

If you have events that are being cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus, just let us know. We'll be happy to put them in The Morning Fax at no charge. Email <u>wyxi@bellsouth.net</u>

