

## Local and State Virus related News

◆ Tennessee Governor Bill Lee signed an executive order requiring that Tennesseans stay home unless they are carrying out essential activities as data shows an increase in citizen movement across the state. The order remains in effect until April 14, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

◆ The Tennessee Dept. of Health reported Thursday afternoon that there are now 2,845 cases of coronavirus across the state, with 32 deaths. The number of cases in McMinn County remains at three. 151 people have tested negative in McMinn County. Meigs County now has two cases. Forty-three people's tests have come back negative in Meigs County. Monroe County's total is five. Bradley County is reporting 18 cases. Polk County now has its first case.

#### **MORE VIRUS ADVISORIES**

✓ The McMinn County Trustee's Office announces the deadline for all Tax Relief applications has been extended from April 6th to May 6th. If you have questions about Tax Relief, call 745-1291.

✓ The Athens Grief & Wellness Center is offering counseling through Teletherapy during the coronavirus pandemic. Call 453-7590 for more information.

#### SHAW NAMED ETOWAH POLICE CHIEF

Jim Shaw is the new chief of police in Etowah. Shaw had been serving as interim chief after former Chief Eric Armstrong was fired on February 24th after being accused of domestic violence. Shaw has served as a detective on the Etowah police force for several years.



## **Unemployment Skyrockets!**

New unemployment claims filed in Tennessee have gone through the roof as a result of the coronavirus. In the week ending March 14th, 2,702 new claims were filed. In the week ending March 28th, that figure had jumped to 94,492. Here in Southeast Tennessee, 9,309 new unemployment claims were filed in the week ending on March 28th. The huge jump is a result of people losing their jobs because their employers closed their doors due to the coronavirus. State Senator Mike Bell says the Department of Labor has hired an additional 200 people just to help process unemployment claims. Senator Bell says if you are having difficulty navigating the system to file for your unemployment, you can call his office at 615-741-1946 and they will do what they can to help. The number for the unemployment office in the Athens area is 745-2028.

#### POLICE ARREST BURGLARY SUSPECT

Officers arrested Christopher Todd Bennett after he confessed to burglarizing the Sunoco Gas Station on John J Duncan Parkway on March 30th. Bennett was arrested on charges of burglary, felony, vandalism, and theft of property under \$1000 and transported to the McMinn County Jail. Chief Couch of the Athens Police Department, said "our community is obviously going through a difficult time, but that doesn't create an excuse to do things that harm other people. Officers are still on the job and the law still stands. We'll continue to track down people that break it."





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Athens, Tennessee

# **Obituaries**

Friday, April 3, 2020

• Ernest Barton, age 87, of Niota died Thursday, at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens. Arrangements will be announced by Ziegler Funeral Home.

### **DO YOU REMEMBER?**

The skies were angry on April 3, 1974. Two tornadoes struck Etowah that afternoon. The first crossed the Hiwassee River near Calhoun and came down in East Etowah. A house, a barn, and a trailer were destroyed. A second tornado hit at 5:15 p.m. and landed in the middle of Etowah. It ripped houses off of their foundations, destroyed businesses, churches, and mobile homes. Two people died. See today in history for more about the tornadoes.

**THURSDAY'S MARKET REPORT:** U.S. stocks rose, despite a record 6.6 million initial jobless claims filed last week, which topped the prior week's record report of 3.3 million claims. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 470 points or 2.2% to 21,413. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 56 points or 2.3% to 2,527, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 127 points or 1.7% to 7,487.

The spot price of gold rose 46.80 to 1,638.20, and the price of crude oil rose 4.68 to 24.99.

# **Church News & Events**

- Virtually all churches have cancelled their worship services and other activities until further notice due to the coronavirus outbreak. Check with your church. Many churches are streaming their services on the Internet. The Home Service Class from Keith UMC will be broadcast live on WYXI Radio (FM 94.5/AM 1390) at 10 a.m. Sunday. The Fairview Baptist Church service is from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. You can also listen to our stream **ONLINE**. - The Athens-McMinn Ministerial Association has cancelled the Community Midday Holy Week services Monday through Friday, April 6th-10th, at 12:05 p.m. However, WYXI Radio (AM-1390/ FM 94.5) will be airing a daily five-minute message from the pastors each morning next week at 11:52 a.m. Rev. Skip White, Senior Pastor at Trinity UMC, will bring the message on Monday. Tuesday's speaker will be Rev. Dr. Charles Ensminger from Allen Memorial UMC. Wednesday's message will feature Rev. Ellen Peach, retired UMC pastor. On Thursday, the message will be brought by Pastor David Spann, Associate Pastor, at the Athens Church of the Nazarene. The speaker on Friday will be Rev. Dr. Ford King, Interim Pastor, Mars Hill Presbyterian Church. - Applications and all required submissions for the St. Mary

- Applications and all required submissions for the St. Mary Church Scholarship will be accepted through April 30th. Application forms and rules can be obtained on the St. Mary Catholic Church website. The scholarship program is open to college students from Meigs, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk counties.

### TODAY IN HISTORY - APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup>

**1783** - American author Washington Irving was born. His best-known works include two short stories: "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

**1860** - The Pony Express postal service began with riders leaving St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California, at the same time. The first crossing took ten and a half days. Riders stopped at relay stations every ten or 15 miles to change horses. The Pony Express became obsolete a year later when telegraph wires were stretched across the country. **1865** - Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.

1882 - Outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Missouri, by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

**1936-** Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, New Jersey, for the kidnap-murder of Charles Lindbergh Jr.

**1948** - President Harry S. Truman signed the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist communism.

**1968** - Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn., less than 24 hours before he was assassinated.

**1974** - Deadly tornadoes began hitting wide parts of the South and Midwest before jumping across the border into Canada; more than 300 fatalities resulted from what became known as the Super Outbreak.

**1996** - Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) was arrested at his remote Montana cabin. An Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.