

Monday, August 3, 2020

Local & COVID-19 News

✓ Volunteer Energy Cooperative has postponed its annual meeting which is normally held the first Saturday in October at Meigs Middle School. VEC says safe distancing requirements and group limits make it very difficult to hold the annual meeting.

✓ Athens Utilities Board crews will be working on Cook Drive from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, August 4th and 5th. The crews are running fiber optic lines. Only one lane will be open to traffic while the work is in progress.

✓ The Athens City Schools Board of Education will meet this Wednesday, August 5th, at 5:30 p.m., at the Administration Building. The meeting will be accessible via Microsoft Teams.

LISTENING REMINDER: The guest on the Main Street Athens radio show, "Main Street Moments," this week will be Dr. Harley Knowles, president of TWU. You can hear the program each Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI Radio, FM 94.5 and AM 1390 or online at wyxi.com

 \checkmark Tennessee has now recorded 109,627 cases of the virus, up 1,443. The death toll is 1,067, up 7. Deaths have been in the single digits for the past two days.

McMinn Co: 479 cases, up 7. 143 are active. 20 deaths so far. Monroe Co: 356 cases 175 are active, and death toll is 9. Bradley Co: 1,681 cases, 559 are active, and 10 deaths to date. Meigs County: 96 cases to date, with 51 still recovering. Polk County: 166 cases to date, with 101 active and one death.

Here Comes the Shower Bus

Retired pastor Norm Beetler has restored a bus which is complete with shower facilities. The Shower Bus is available on Mondays and Fridays at Grace & Mercy Ministries from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. so the homeless can take a shower and get a change of clothes. Their dirty clothing will be washed and returned the next time they come for a shower. The photo by Tanya Murphy shows one of the men who is taking advantage of the Shower Bus along with Ray Johnson, in the mask. Ray is a volunteer with Grace & Mercy.







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Obituaries

• Minnie Marie Howard Wright, age 92, of Athens, died last Thursday at Starr Regional Medical Center on Athens. She was retired from Textron Industries. Graveside services will be Wednesday, August 5th, at 11 a.m. at McMinn Memory Gardens, with visitation from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home.

WHEN DOES SCHOOL START?

These days, it seems everything is subject to change. But, at this point, the first day of school in the public schools in the area is August 10th. This includes Athens City, Etowah City, McMinn County, and Meigs County schools. Valley Christian Academy's first day of school is tomorrow, August 4th. Christ's Legacy Academy's first 1/2 day of school will be August 5th, and Fairview Christian Academy starts on August 12th.

YOU DON'T SEE THIS EVERY DAY

Jennifer Hardison loves to take photographs of birds. Hummingbirds have to be among the most difficult. Somehow, she managed to get this female Ruby-throated hummer to hover in flight while she snapped about a dozen photos within a 5second period. This one showing the bird about to feast on Phlox is her favorite. Hope you enjoy it, too.



Changes at Bowater Credit Union

There's a change at the top at Bowater Credit Union. Long-time president, Denley Hines (below left), has announced his retirement effective September 1st. Hines has been serving the credit union industry for 44 years, the last 20 as President/CEO of Bowater Credit Union headquartered in Calhoun. During his tenure, Bowater Credit Union grew from \$80 million in assets to its current \$196 million asset size. His leadership also enabled the credit union to grow from one location and one ATM to five branches and eight ATMs. Matt Holden (below right), Bowater Credit Union VP Lending, has been selected as the new Chief Executive Officer of Bowater Credit Union effective September 2nd.



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