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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News... This Morning

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(See page 3 for more news)

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Friday, January 19, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

## State and Area News

- ◆ The Tennessee Valley Authority shattered a new record on Wednesday for power demand across the state. Wednesday morning's preliminary peak power demand was 34,526 megawatts at a system average temperature of 4 degrees. That sets an all-time TVA record. The previous record was 33,482 megawatts during a strong heat wave in August 2007. Here's the good news....temperatures should be rising above freezing.
- ◆ Tennessee Department of Treasury, Unclaimed Property Division returned \$68.7 million of cash property to the rightful owners or their heirs, local governments, and reciprocal states during fiscal year 2023. It's the most money the Division has ever returned in a single fiscal year. Unclaimed property is money that has been turned over to the State by businesses and organizations unable to locate the rightful owners, such as utility refunds, uncashed paychecks, credit balances for overpayments, rental deposit refunds, gift certificates, securities, and abandoned bank accounts. The Unclaimed Property program is a consumer protection program of the Department of Treasury that works to reunite missing money with its rightful owner. There is no time limit on claiming the property, and there is never a fee to claim it in Tennessee. If you are ever contacted about unclaimed property in Tennessee and would like to check the validity, go to [ClaimItTN.gov](http://ClaimItTN.gov)

## Community News You Can Use

- ✓ Due to the road conditions and upcoming winter weather advisories, the residential garbage tote collection will be delayed. Beginning Monday, January 22, residential garbage collection will resume regular schedule. Additional bagged garbage that is unable to fit in the tote will also be collected. Please be advised that bagged garbage must be placed 3-5 feet away from the tote to be collected. The Animal Shelter and Recycling Center will remain closed until Monday, January 22, 2024. For more information about the City of Athens, please visit [www.athenstn.gov](http://www.athenstn.gov)
- ✓MEDIC is planning to open Ailor Avenue (Knoxville HQ) and Farragut/Kingston Pike at 8 a.m. today as well as the Athens center which will open at 8:30 a.m. and the Crossville location will open at 8:30 a.m. CST. MEDIC will have two mobile drives TODAY at Walgreens in Alcoa from 11 am to 5 pm and at Walmart in Maryville from 11 am to 5 pm. All is dependent on the weather conditions.
- ✓Tickets for the Athens Parks and Recreation 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Daddy/Daughter dance scheduled for Feb 16 & 17 are on sale now. Tickets may be purchased online [HERE](#)
- ✓Due to the continuing slick road conditions around the city and on bus routes, and the forecast of more wintry mix overnight, Athens City Schools will be closed again TODAY, January 19th for all students and staff. Kids Connection will also be closed.
- ✓The Beekeeping short course sponsored by the Cherokee Beekeepers Association originally scheduled for, Saturday, 1/20/24 has been postponed due to the inclement weather. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, 1/27/24, from 8:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. It will still be held at the McMinn Senior Activity Center 205 McMinn Ave in Athens.

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Rate Tiers: Accounts with daily average balance of \$25,000.00 - \$99,999.99 the APY is 2.25%; \$100,000.00 - \$249,999.99 the APY is 3.25%; \$250,000.00 or more the APY is 4.50%. APY accurate as of 9/14/2023.

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**Rehearsals  
Monday Nights 7 p.m.  
Beginning  
January 22, 2024**  
Tennessee Wesleyan University  
Sherman Hall

For more info call  
**423-381-0008**  
or visit [themetcc.org](http://themetcc.org)

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**Friday** - Mostly cloudy & cold. Possible flurries. Icy spots in the AM. High 36.

**Friday Night** - Partly cloudy & bitterly cold. Low 9.

**Saturday** - Cold. Sun mixed with clouds. High 22.

**Saturday Night** - Clear & bitterly cold. Low 10.

**Sunday** - Mostly sunny & cold. High 32.

**Sunday Night** - Partly cloudy & cold. Low 16.

Weather at: [wyxi.com](http://wyxi.com)



# Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens

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Friday, January 19, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

## Peoples Bank President Appointed To ABA Council

Jeremy Callais (See Photo below) has been appointed chair of the American Bankers Association's Community Bankers Council for the 2023-2024 membership year. He previously served on the Council's Administrative Committee. Callais is the president of Peoples Bank of East Tennessee, a \$360 million asset bank based in Tennessee and established in 1997. Peoples Bank of East Tennessee prides itself on providing every customer in the community with the latest technology and products, including free online banking, ATM, debit and credit services, and flexible operating hours. Since 2021, Callais has helped implement this core philosophy and continues the expansion of the bank, which originally started with 18 employees, to over 100 staff members in ten locations. "It is an honor to serve as chair of ABA's Community Bankers Council this year and work with my peers on issues affecting community banks and the customers they serve," said Callais. "This role allows me to collaborate with other bankers and develop hands-on solutions to help community banks better meet customers' needs." Callais, who chaired the ABA Community Bankers Council meeting November 13-15, said the bankers discussed public policy, operations, and business issues that might impact the nation's hometown banks and their communities. Bankers discussed legislative priorities, including

the ACRE Act, Credit Card Competition Act, and SAFER Banking Act; regulatory issues, including Section 1033 of the Dodd-Frank Act; debit card interchange fees; and the Administration's executive order on artificial intelligence. Council members also had a chance to share ways high-interest rates have affected the banking industry and exchange ideas on deposit generation, loan growth, talent attraction and retention, and other business and operational best practices. Before his time at Peoples Bank of East Tennessee, Callais was President of a community bank in South Louisiana, where he also held positions of CFO and COO. He has also worked in a conversion training role for a core data processor. The role of ABA's Community Bankers Council is to increase community banker involvement in ABA by identifying and responding to community bank priorities, representing community banking in ABA's government relations policy-making process, developing a broad range of association products and services to make community banks more competitive, and other areas. Callais holds a master's degree in education and attended both ABA's National Compliance School and Stonier School of Banking. He currently resides in East Tennessee. Photo submitted by Kristien Scott with Peoples Bank. See additional story on page 3



## Tennessee Unemployment

Unemployment in Tennessee held steady during the final month of 2023. Newly released data from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development showed the rate did not change between November and December at 3.5%. The seasonally adjusted rate of 3.5% for December 2023 also mirrored the rate from December one year ago. In a month-to-month comparison, Tennessee employers added 1,400 new nonfarm jobs across the state. The health care and social assistance sector saw the most growth in December. The construction sector recorded the next largest number of new jobs, followed by the accommodation and food services sector. Over the last year, the number of new nonfarm jobs grew by 22,700 across Tennessee. The health care and social assistance sector accounted for the largest percentage of new jobs between 2022 and 2023. The professional, scientific, and technical services sector added the second-largest number of jobs during the year, followed by the accommodation and food services sector. A complete analysis of Tennessee's 2023 statewide unemployment data is [available here](#)

## Church News and Events

-Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

-Celebrate Recovery meets at the following churches: The Englewood Church of God every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Woodward Avenue Church of God every Tuesday at 6 p.m.-Mars Hill Presbyterian Church (205 North Jackson Street) is sponsoring a free children's playgroup on Mondays, 9-11 a.m. for ages 0-5. For additional information, contact the Church Office (423-745-1403) or Mary Ann Reed (910-200-2905).

-The Singing scheduled for tonight at Cooke Ministries on Walter Street in Athens has been cancelled due to the weather.

# Peoples Bank Appoints New Board Members

Chris White, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Peoples Bank of East Tennessee, has announced the addition of three new board members. We are excited to welcome Mark Clinton, T.K. Sloan, and Dr. Darrell Benton as members of our Board of Directors, all of whom served on the 2023 Board of Advisors Committee. Mark Clinton is the Tellico Area Service System (TASS) Superintendent and has worked for TASS for 17 years. Mark is very involved in the community and serves on several community organizations including the Monroe Economic Development Board and Monroe/Loudon Human Resources Association. T.K. Sloan owns and operates Sloan's Hometown Hardware with multiple locations in Monroe, McMinn, and Loudon Counties. As the fifth-generation owner of their business, T.K. takes pride in serving the community and is committed to providing personalized service to his customers as his family has done for decades. T.K. is honored to continue his father's legacy as an ambassador for Peoples Bank of East Tennessee. His father, Bill Sloan, was one of the founding directors of Peoples Bank and served as a director for over 25 years. Dr. Darrell Benton, son of Allan and Sharon Benton, grew up in Madisonville where we worked at the family business, Benton's Smoky Mountain Country Hams. In 2023, he left his career as a physician to

return to his roots and join his father in operating the ham business. Dr. Benton resides in Maryville and will be very helpful in assisting us in growing our newest branch located on Highway 411 in Maryville. We look forward to each of these board members continuing their success in their new roles as Board of Directors for Peoples Bank of East Tennessee. In the photo at left L-R: Mark Clinton, T.K. Sloan, and Dr. Darrell Benton



Photo submitted by Kristien Scott with Peoples Bank.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.

If you take a newsworthy photograph, e-mail it to: [wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)

## TODAY IS:

- **National Popcorn Day**

**Hot Comb, Honey?**

**ONE NIGHT ONLY!**  
**FRIDAY, FEB 2, 2024**

Conceived & Directed by Cynthia McCowan  
Music Directed by Angel Hardaway

Valentine's Dinner Dance  
AT NIOTA DEPOT

**FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**6PM - TIL?**

**\$35 PER PERSON**  
**\$60 A COUPLE**

Tickets Need To Be Purchased In Advance At The Niota City Hall