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Today's News...This Morning

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Friday, March 22, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

Near Record-Low Unemployment

In February, Tennessee's unemployment rate decreased to 3.3%, nearing its record low. This was a decrease of 0.2% from January's revised rate. The state's all-time low seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 3.1% which was recorded during April, May, and June in 2023. Total non-farm employment increased by 10,100 jobs, with education and health services leading the gains. The professional and business services sector added the next largest number of jobs, followed by the government sector. Over the past year, Tennessee added 6,700 new nonfarm jobs, with growth in various sectors. Nationally, unemployment rose to 3.9% in February. Tennessee offers reemployment services through Jobs4TN.gov, which currently lists over 240,000 open positions across the state, TNWorkReady.com can also help find employment and training opportunities or to find a nearby American Job Center or Adult Education program. County-specific unemployment data will be released on March 28, 2024.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Commissioners will convene and meet in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse in Athens in Regular Session on March 25 at 6:00 pm.
- The McMinn County Library Board will meet on Monday, March 25 at 6:00 pm at E.G. Fisher Public Library. The meeting will be open to the public. The library is located at 1289 Ingleside Ave., Athens.
- The Athens VFW Egg Hunt is set to take place on March 30 at noon at the VFW. There will be prizes for each age group and refreshments will be served following the event. The VFW is located at 706 N. Congress Pkwy in Athens.



WETMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday, March 24 at
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Friday, March 22, 2024

Morning Fax® Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Lee Bans Support Animals in Restaurants

Governor Bill Lee has officially signed House Bill 1635, ushering in a new regulation that prohibits the presence of emotional support animals in restaurants and hotels statewide. This measure, an extension of existing legislation, now explicitly bans animals other than trained service dogs, police K-9 units, and fish from these establishments. Prior to this bill, Tennessee law had already barred most dogs from entering food-serving establishments. However, the enactment of House Bill 1635 serves to reinforce this restriction by specifically targeting emotional support animals, including cats, and extending the prohibition beyond dogs. More information can be found in our prior coverage of this story, found on Page 2 of the Monday, March 11 edition of The Morning Fax. Click [HERE](#) for that story.

Church News and Events

- Cambria Baptist Church presents "HE IS ALIVE!!!", their Easter Play, on Good Friday, March 29th at 7 pm. Cambria Baptist Church is located at 305 County Road 875, Etowah.
- Due to scheduling conflicts, the Easter Egg Hunt at Good-springs Baptist Church scheduled for this Sunday, 3/24 at 1 pm has been rescheduled to 11 am, still on Sunday, 3/24.
- "The Living Last Supper" by Ruth Elaine Schram featuring music by the Chancel Choir of Allen Memorial UMC is set to take place on Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm at Allen Memorial UMC. The church is located at 800 Decatur Pike in Athens.
- The following is the schedule for Holy Week Services in Athens brought to you by the Athens/McMinn Ministerial Fellowship. All of these services take place at noon: On Mon., March 25, Keith Memorial UMC will host Rev. Tiki Dixon. On Tues. March 26, St. Paul's Episcopal will host Rev. Sheryl Bourne. On Wed., March 27, St. Mark's AME will host Rev. Curtis Stapleton. On Thurs., March 28 Allen Memorial UMC will host Rev. Richard White where Holy Communion will be served. On Fri., March 28, Woodward Church of God will host Rev. David Spann. This week's offerings will help to replace the Shower Bus and a light lunch and fellowship will follow each service. **(More Church News and Events on Page 3)**

EASTER DRIVE-THRU

MARCH 29 - 30
6 - 8PM

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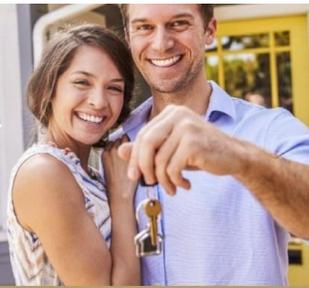
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Tues., March 26 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Dominion Senior Living Community Room
 2090 West Madison Avenue in Athens

Seating is limited. Please RSVP to 423-649-1406 or kblassingame@capstarbank.com.

Friday, March 22, 2024

Morning Fax® Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

James Andrew "Drew" Layman, 38, lifelong resident of McMinn County, passed away on Thursday, March 20, 2024. Arrangements will be announced at a later time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of James Andrew "Drew" Layman.

Phillip B. Morrow, 90, passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 19th. A proud veteran, he served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Phillip dedicated 63 years as a devoted deacon at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Athens, TN. He will be remembered for his love of God, sense of humor, and lasting impact on those who knew him. Visitation will be held from 12 - 2 pm Saturday March 23rd at Smith Funeral Home, followed by a service at 2 pm. Interment, with military honors provided by the U.S. Army, will be at Oak Grove Cemetery. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is entrusted with Phillip's arrangements.

Church News and Events

- Lakeview Baptist Church's Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 30 at 2pm. Hot dogs, chips, drinks and fixings will be served. The church is located at 183 County Road 126 in Athens beside Dynasty Spas. On Sunday, March 31, they will have a Sunrise Service at 7 am. Travis Debety will be preaching with breakfast to follow the service. Everyone is welcome.
- Zion Hill Baptist Church will be hosting a free Men's Prayer breakfast on April 20 at the TWU cafeteria. We will begin serving breakfast at 8:00 am. Speaker will be Steve Morgan of Cleveland First Baptist Church. An offering will be taken to benefit Miracle Lake Ministries. Please register at zhbc.com/breakfast by April 1.
- Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 pm.
- Mars Hill Presbyterian Church is hiring for two part-time positions: Music Director and Organist/Pianist. If experienced and interested, please send resumes by mail to MHPC at 205 N. Jackson St. in Athens or via email to: mhpcchurch@outlook.com.



CONGRESSMAN
CHUCK FLEISCHMANN

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY ACADEMY DAY

Saturday, April 20 | 10:00-11:30 am

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UNIVERSITY CENTER - CHATTANOOGA ROOM

MEET REPRESENTATIVES FROM:



The Living Last Supper

By Ruth Elaine Schram
featuring Music by Chancel Choir
of Allen Memorial UMC

Maundy Thursday
March 28, 2024
7 PM

Allen Memorial
United Methodist Church
800 Decatur Pike, Athens

Friday, March 22, 2024

Morning Fax® Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

Arrest Reports

03/18/24

- Kerry Coker, age 23 of Old Fort, TN, was arrested by the Athens PD for Burglary and Public Intoxication. Bond was assigned of \$31,500.
- Robert McDavid, age 40 of Paintsville, KY was arrested by the Athens PD for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia and Disorderly Conduct. No bond was reported.
- Aaron Jack, age 34 of Englewood, was arrested by the Englewood PD for Failure to Appear. No bond was assigned.
- Johnny Stafford, age 58 of Lenoir City, was arrested by the Loudon County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation with cash bond assigned of 742.95.

03/19/24

- Caleb Webb, 23 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for a State Violation of Probation. Bond was Denied.
- Christopher Maynard, 39 of Englewood, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for his second offense of Driving Under the Influence. No bond was assigned.
- William Hughes, 75 of White, Georgia, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Aggravated Assault and three counts of Reckless Endangerment. He was assigned a \$15,000 bond.
- Lawton Williams, age 63 of Calhoun, was arrested by the Calhoun PD for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Failure to Appear, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Bond assigned of \$11,000.
- Adam Conner, 33 of Etowah was arrested by the Etowah PD for Possession Without Subscription, Driving on a Suspended License, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Felony Evading and Violation of Probation. Bond was assigned of 10,077.90.
- Michael Brakebill, age 45 of Niota was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation from Loudon County. No bond was assigned. Awaiting transfer to Loudon County.
- Charles Wilkerson, age 43 of Dayton, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Unpaid Child Support in Rhea County. No bond was assigned and he is awaiting transfer to Rhea County.
- Emily Johnson, 43 of Etowah was arrested was the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Appear. No Bond was assigned.
- Justin Stewart, age 35 of Athens, was arrested for Violation of Probation and was assigned a cash bond of \$2,637.90 plus one day in jail.
- Tabitha Howell, age 32 of Cleveland, was arrested by the Athens PD for four separate counts of Failure to Appear and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond was assigned in the amount of \$36,000.
- Greg Plemons, 32 of Tellico Plains was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation and was assigned a cash bond of \$2,806.90.
- James Smith, age 35 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation and Failure to Appear and was assigned a bond of \$4,000 as well as a cash bond of \$692.95.

The accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from public sources.