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Friday, November 14, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Peoples Bank of East Tennessee Named #6 on American Banker's Best Banks to Work For in 2025

Peoples Bank of East Tennessee (PBET) is proud to announce that it has once again been recognized as one of American Banker's Best Banks to Work For, ranking #6 nationwide in 2025. This marks the second consecutive year the community bank has earned this national honor, reaffirming its commitment to cultivating a workplace culture built on respect, collaboration, and genuine care for both employees and the communities it serves. The annual Best Banks to Work For program, administered by American Banker in partnership with Best Companies Group, identifies and honors banks that excel in leadership, employee engagement, and creating an environment where individuals feel valued and supported. The selection is based on detailed employee satisfaction surveys and an in-depth review of workplace practices, benefits, and culture.

"We are incredibly honored to receive this recognition again," said Jeremy Callais, President and CEO. "A positive workplace culture doesn't happen by accident. It is built day by day by people who care about one another and care about their work. Our employees are the heart of Peoples Bank, and they are the reason we continue to grow and serve our communities with trust and excellence."

One example of that heart comes from a PBET holiday tradition that caught American Banker's attention — employees were invited to write letters to Santa asking for a meaningful gift. At the annual holiday party, management drew names from a bowl and surprised employees with the gifts they had wished for. "Some of the requests were life necessities that were timely and needed," the article noted, with several team members moved to tears upon receiving something deeply personal. The tradition represents PBET's belief that true success comes from caring for one another both personally and professionally.

"At Peoples Bank, our mission begins with our people," said Callie Freeman, VP Human Resources Director. "We are intentional about creating a workplace where employees can thrive, contribute, and feel supported. Being named one of the Best Banks to Work For again confirms that our commitment is felt across the organization."

Headquartered in Madisonville, Tennessee, Peoples Bank of East Tennessee holds \$432.7 million in assets and employs more than 113 team members across East Tennessee and North Georgia. The bank continues to expand its presence while maintaining a deep local focus while providing personalized service, supporting community programs, and fostering long-term relationships built on trust and compassion.

Source: Kristien Scott, Marketing Specialist, Peoples Bank of East Tennessee

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Friday, Nov. 14, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

Friendly Fellow Club Launches Annual Christmas Food Basket Drive

The Friendly Fellow Club will once again hold its long-running Christmas Food Basket Drive this December, continuing nearly 90 years of service to Athens and McMinn County families in need.

Applications for assistance are available now at the drive-through windows of local banks and credit unions, including Old National, Simmons, Truist, Peoples Bank, SouthEast Bank, Citizens National, Regions, TVFCU, ORNL FCU, and Bowater Credit Union. **Completed applications must be returned or postmarked by Sunday, November 30, 2025, to P.O. Box 325, Athens, TN 37371-0325.** Applicants must live in McMinn County.

Food boxes will be packed Monday, December 22 at 6 p.m. and distributed Tuesday, December 23 from 8:30–11 a.m. at the National Guard Armory on Highway 30 between Athens and Etowah. The all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization ensures 100% of donations go directly to help local families. Contributions can be made online at friendlyfellows.org, mailed to P.O. Box 325, or dropped off at The Daily Post-Athenian office on South White Street in the Whiteway Shopping Center. Donations in honor or memory of loved ones are welcome. More details are available at friendlyfellows.org.

Community News You Can Use

- Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) is pleased to welcome patrons to Arts on the Side on Tuesday, November 18, for anyone and everyone to enjoy a community meal, visual arts activities, and interactive table read. The soup supper (with vegan option), catered by ARAMARK, begins at 5:30 PM in the Peggy Dow Performance Center with arts activities starting at 6:00 PM in the Peggy Dow Center and Visual Arts Wing. At 7:00 PM, Athens Community Theatre's Table Read of "Mean Girls The Musical" (Rated PG-13) starts in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center.
- The Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, Animal Shelter, and Recycle Center will be **closed November 27–29** for Thanksgiving and will **reopen Monday, December 1**. Residential garbage pickup for **Nov. 24–26** remains on schedule. **Thursday (Nov. 27)** route will be picked up on **Mon., Dec. 1** and **Thu., Dec. 4**. **Friday (Nov. 28)** route will be picked up on **Tue., Dec. 2** and **Fri., Dec. 5**. Emergency services will operate 24/7. More info: Athens Public Works, 423-744-2745.

TURKEY TROT

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SCAN CODE TO REGISTER!

**THANKSGIVING DAY
NOVEMBER 27, 2025 - 8AM**

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November 17th - 21st

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UPCOMING CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, Nov. 14, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- Lane's Chapel A.M.E Zion Church, located at 904 County Road 264 in Niota, will serve a Free Thanksgiving Dinner at the Church on Saturday, November 15 at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome.
- Union McMinn Baptist Church (314 County Road 316, Niota) will be serving a free plate lunch for all on November 27th from 11am to 1pm. First Come, First Serve. The church is also a drop-off location for the Operation Christmas Child: National Collection Week. Hours are: Monday thru Friday 5:30 - 7:30pm on November 17 thru 21. Saturday, November 22, 9 - 10 am, Sunday, November 23rd, 2 - 4 pm & Monday, November 24th. 9:30 - 11:30 am. The church is located at [314 County Road 316](#) (I-75, Exit 56) Niota.
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (1923 Pleasant Hill Road, Ten Mile) invites the entire community to their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27 from 12 noon until 2 pm. You may eat-in or take home, and even take home for others. The menu will include: Turkey, Ham, Dressing, Sweet Potato Casserole, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Mac and Cheese, Dessert, and drinks.
- Mt. Verd Baptist Church (251 County Road 249, Athens) will be offering the community a Drive-Thru Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, November 26 from 11am - 1pm.
- Boyd Memorial First Church of God requests your presence for a special Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 15th from 4pm - 6pm. The church is located at 1130 N. Congress Pkwy in Athens. Come hungry and leave blessed!

TWILIGHT TALES IN CEDAR GROVE GUIDED CEMETERY TOUR



Tomorrow!
4 PM – 6 PM
Last tour leaves at 5:30

- Tickets - \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under
- Parking in front of McMinn Co. Schools Admin Office located at 3 S. Hill Street Athens, TN 37303
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Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional announces return of Annual Tree Lighting event

Starr Regional Medical Center invites the community to join its annual Christmas Tree Lighting celebration on Monday, November 24, from 5:15 to 6 p.m. The event will take place on the Athens campus at 1114 West Madison Avenue.

"We're excited to celebrate the start of the holiday season with our neighbors and friends at Starr Regional Medical Center," said John McLain, Chief Executive Officer. "This annual tree lighting has become a special tradition for us. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together, enjoy festive music, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and share the joy of the season."

Festivities will begin at 5:15 p.m. with Christmas carols, complimentary cookies, hot chocolate, and cider. Families can also enjoy free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The official tree lighting will take place at 5:45 p.m. The event is free and open to everyone in the community.

For more information, please call (423) 745-1411 or visit StarrRegional.com.

Obituaries

Anthony "Ink" Quinn Leamon, of Riceville, TN invites friends and family to join him in a well-lived Celebration of Life and his upcoming heavenly promotion to be forever with his Lord and Savior. He is a graduate of Polk County High School in 1985. He was employed at Omni Services for over 30 years. Anthony has dedicated his life as a servant of God. He has spent over 30 years in ministry with his family as a proud member of the Dry Valley Boys. He currently resides as a deacon, drummer, and proud member of Solid Rock Baptist Church. He says it's a privilege to have such an amazing God-fearing and loving church family. A Celebration of Life will be held to honor Anthony "Ink" Leamon's journey and the many lives he has touched on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 11:00 AM -1:00 PM at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Calhoun, TN. A graveside service will be announced later. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

Sheryl Marlene Stowe, 51 of Niota, passed away on Saturday, November 8 surrounded by her immediate family. She grew up in Florida where she attended DeLaura Junior High and Satellite High School. One of Sheri's favorite jobs was working at the Florida Today paper as an advertisement rep and ad designer. She also loved working with animals as a veterinary admin assistant in both Florida and Tennessee. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Arlene Linda Buchanan, 62 of Knoxville, passed away on Friday, November 7 in Knoxville. Memorial and Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home- Athens, TN. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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at Tennessee Wesleyan

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