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Monday, December 29, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Bowater Credit Union Donates \$1,000 to Bowater Goodfellows



Pictured from left to right: Nikki Black, Bowater CU Mortgage Loan Manager; Paul Woodward, Goodfellows President; Danielle Collins, Goodfellows Volunteer; Ginger Carter, Bowater CU CEO; Nicole Andrino, Bowater CU Marketing Specialist

Bowater Credit Union member Danielle Collins has selected Bowater Goodfellows as the recipient of a \$1,000 Pay It Forward grant, recognizing the nonprofit's continued efforts to serve those in need throughout our community.

Through the Pay It Forward program, Bowater Credit Union invites members to nominate nonprofit organizations that make a positive impact in the counties that Bowater Credit Union serves: Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, and Polk. Each year, up to five \$1,000 grants are awarded. Bowater Goodfellows is the fifth and final Pay It Forward recipient for 2025.

Much like Bowater Credit Union itself, Bowater Goodfellows has deep roots in the local community. Founded in 1954 through the Bowater Paper Mill, Goodfellows began when a small group of employees recognized a need and came together to support co-

workers and neighbors facing difficult times. As word spread, the effort grew into an organized nonprofit with a board of directors and officers.

"At one time, more than 600 employees contributed a portion of their paychecks to support coworkers and neighbors facing hard times," Collins shared.

Story continued on Page 3

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Monday, Dec. 29, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Nourish One Child Serves Over 150 Families During Annual Holiday Distribution



Jennifer Heifnar, Julie Lofland, Missy Boyd, Bev Liner Stansell (Director of Nourish One Child), and Brooke Newman

The family food boxes were provided by donations from the Grocery Outlet, grants, individual donors and purchases from the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. Nourish One Child was able to share leftover food items with Clearwater Baptist Church, which supports children in need at E.K. Baker Elementary School, and also with Grace and Mercy Ministries.

Nourish One Child would like to thank TWU and the Love Thy Neighbor food pantry for partnering with Grocery Outlet for the annual GO food drive, and is deeply appreciative of everyone in the community who donated to Nourish One Child or paid \$5 for a bag of food at Grocery Outlet in the month of November.

Donations are always being accepted for Nourish One Child, which was founded in 2012, and serves 250-300 students weekly. The program has zero operating or administrative expenses and has an all-volunteer staff. 100% of donations are used to purchase food items for children in need in Athens City Schools. If you'd like to donate to Nourish One Child, you may mail a check, made payable to Keith Memorial UMC, to P.O. Box 1, Athens, TN 37371-0001. Please include Nourish One Child on your check's memo line.

Community News You Can Use

- Athens Municipal Regional Planning Commission Work Session is scheduled for Monday, December 29 from 12:00 pm—2:00 pm at Athens City Hall (815 N. Jackson Street, Athens)

Nourish One Child, the weekend backpack feeding program for children in need in Athens City Schools, held its annual family food box and Angel Tree distribution recently at Keith Memorial UMC.

Athens City Schools employees were on hand along with NOC Director, Bev Liner Stansell, and many church volunteers for the all day pick up of the food boxes and Angel Tree gifts on Tuesday, December 16. Over 150 Athens City Schools families were served.

Also included for each child were hygiene kits assembled by the Corner Sunday School Class at Keith Church, led by teacher Lynn Perkinson. The members of the Corner Class and their caregivers attend the Tri-County Center.

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

Athens, Tennessee

Bowater Credit Union Donates \$1,000 to Bowater Goodfellows (Continued)

In recent years, Bowater Goodfellows has faced significant challenges due to workforce reductions and economic impacts. This year brought an especially devastating setback when the building used to store donated goods was destroyed by a fire. The loss forced the organization to rebuild from scratch and greatly affected its signature community initiative—the annual Christmas basket program.

Each year, Bowater Goodfellows partners with local elementary schools to identify families in need and prepares Christmas baskets filled with food, toys, and coats. The organization also prepares baskets for mill employees facing hardship. In total, more than 200 baskets are typically distributed each Christmas season.

This year, support was needed more than ever. Thanks to Danielle Collins' nomination, Bowater Goodfellows will receive a \$1,000 Pay It Forward grant to help fund their Christmas basket program. In the true spirit of "people helping people," Bowater Credit Union is proud to support nonprofits that make a meaningful difference in our communities. Bowater Goodfellows is a shining example of that mission, and it is always an honor to assist those who help others.

Despite the challenges they faced, Bowater Goodfellows was able to distribute 175 Christmas baskets to families in the local community this year. Through the dedication of volunteers, support from local businesses, and generosity from community members, the organization continued to spread holiday cheer during a difficult time.

Those interested in volunteering or learning more about Bowater Goodfellows are encouraged to contact BowaterGoodfellows@gmail.com. Monetary donations and new clothing donations are also accepted at any Bowater Credit Union location.

The Pay It Forward program will resume in 2026, with five \$1,000 awards given throughout the year. Any Bowater Credit Union member may nominate their favorite nonprofit organization. The deadline for consideration for the first 2026 award is February 28, 2026.



Source: Nicole Andrino, Marketing Specialist, Bowater Employees Credit Union


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Monday, Dec. 29, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

Wind-Driven Fire Burns Quarter Acre on County Road 537



Fire crews responded Tuesday afternoon around 1 p.m. to a brush fire on County Road 537 after wind caused a small burn to spread.

Authorities said someone was burning a box when gusty conditions pushed the flames beyond control, resulting in approximately a quarter acre being burned. Etowah Rural Fire and Englewood Rural Fire responded and contained the fire. No injuries were reported. *Photo provided by Etowah Rural FD*

Vehicle Fire Destroys Car on Highway 30E on Christmas Day



A vehicle fire destroyed a car on Christmas Day after a mechanical issue caused flames to erupt while it was traveling on Highway 30E near County Road 663.

According to a witness, a 1994 Subaru Legacy was leaking a liquid that is believed to have come into contact with the catalytic converter, igniting the fire around 5:30 p.m. The vehicle quickly became engulfed in flames. The family inside the vehicle was able to escape without injury, though the car was a total loss. Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene. Englewood Rural Fire Chief Billy Roach was in command. *Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*

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Monday, Dec. 29, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Kenneth "Ken" Rodney Dulaney, age 69, resident of McMinn County, and former resident of Houston, TX, passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025. He served as a sales representative with CLA (Clifton-Larson-Allen) accounting firm of Houston. A visitation will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at Ziegler Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Old Fashioned Baptist Church Cemetery with Reverend Jimmy Lewis officiating. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Kenneth "Ken" Rodney Dulaney.

Zelphina "Rusti" Farner DiPierro, 89 of Lancaster, Ohio, originally of Athens, passed away on Thursday, December 18. In 1957, she enlisted in the US Navy and was discharged in 1959. Rusti was a lifelong expert seamstress who owned Rusti's Needle & Thread in Lancaster, across the street from Frank E. Smith Funeral Home. She was a member of Olivedale Quilt Charms, where she sewed many quilts to give comfort to nursing home patients and Chillicothe veterans. As a member of Friends and Families of Veterans, Rusti worked to support struggling veterans. A memorial service will be held on Monday (today), December 29 at 12:00 noon at Bordwine Funeral Home in Etowah, Tennessee. Friends and family may visit from 11:00 am until the time of the service. Inurnment will follow the service at South Liberty Cemetery in Riceville. The Frank E. Smith Funeral Home and Bordwine Funeral Home are both honored to serve the family. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of local arrangements.

Betty Jane Powers Harmon, 85 of Decatur, went home to be with her Lord on December 24, 2025. She was an active member of Clear Springs Baptist Church. She was employed with the K-Mart Corporation for 23 years until her retirement in 1999. Following retirement, she worked many years for the Piggly Wiggly in Decatur. Funeral services will be 11:00 am Monday (today), December 29, 2025 at Clear Springs Baptist Church. The body will lie in state one hour prior to the service at the church. There will be a special place of honor for the Senior Ladies Sunday School Class. The family received friends from 4-7 PM yesterday; Sunday, December 28, 2025 at Clear Springs Baptist Church. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

William (Bill) Albert Cline, 92 of Athens, passed away on Thursday, December 25. He was a truck driver for Case Enterprises. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving during the Korean War. Graveside services will be 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, December 31 in McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 5-7 Tuesday, December 30 at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Laura Louise Oliver Morrow, 93, of Madisonville, TN passed away Saturday, December 27, 2025. Laura was born and lived most of her life in Riceville, TN. She was a member of Riceville First Baptist Church. A celebration of life will be held at Fairview Baptist Tabernacle Church in Sweetwater, TN on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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