State & Local News

**UNEMPLOYMENT UP IN EVERY COUNTY**

The unemployment rate increased in all 95 of Tennessee’s counties in December. Here in the Athens area, the figures looked like this:

- McMinn County’s jobless rate in December was 5.6%, up from 5.3% in November.
- Meigs County’s jobless rate was 6.7% in December, up from 6.3% in November.
- Monroe County’s jobless rate was 5.5% in December, up from 5.2% in November.
- Polk County reported an unemployment rate of 5.8% in December, up from 5.1% in November.
- Bradley County’s jobless rate was 4.2% in December, up from 4.0% in November.

**HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR FLU SHOT?**

Flu season is here, with seasonal influenza cases now reported across Tennessee. The Meigs County Health Department is working to protect the entire community by providing flu vaccinations.

National - World News

- John Kelly, Secretary of Homeland Security, defended President Trump’s executive order on immigration and refugees, saying that it is “not a ban on Muslims.” Kelly added that he would enforce the president’s executive order “humanely,” and that the order was enacted to “protect the homeland.”
- Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee boycotted scheduled votes for two of President Donald Trump’s cabinet picks on Tuesday morning. The committee argued that the nominees had lied to the committee about their business or investment dealings.
- Three new dog breeds, the American hairless terrier, the Pumi, and the Sloughi are eligible to compete at the annual Westminster Dog Show this year which begins February 11th.

**COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE**

- The Optimist Club of Athens will participate in the Optimist International Essay Contest again this year. The theme is “Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenge.” The contest is open to students in the area. For more information, call 337-1010.
- The Etowah Arts Commission will present the 23rd Annual Cousin Jake Bluegrass Festival on Saturday, March 4th, at the historic Gem Theater. This year’s festival will feature Just Us, Band of Ruhks, Flashback, Hamilton County Ramblers, and Third Degree. The 9th Annual John Studdard Memorial Bluegrass Gospel Concert featuring Kenny and Amanda Smith and Just Us will be held Friday night, March 3rd. For information, call 263-7608.

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT

**Western Sizzlin’ Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike**

**Wednesday** (11a-4p) Petite Sirloin + Side - Bakery Dessert Bar & Rolls, $6.69. **Mon-Thur:** (All Day) 10 oz. New York Strip, side, dessert $12.99 745-2626

**FEBRUARY Specials**

- Sausage Biscuit: 99¢
- 2 Ham Biscuits $3.50 • 5 meals for $5 • 12 pc box w/6 Biscuits $13.99 • 99¢ Tea • BOJANGLES South Congress Parkway 744-5292

**WEATHER FORECAST**

- **Wednesday** - Partly cloudy. High 65
- **Wed Night** - Partly cloudy. 50% rain. Low 42.
- **Thursday** - Partly cloudy. High 52.
- **Friday** - Cloudy. 20% min. High 46.

More Weather at: wyxi.com
Obituaries

Kim Ann Whitlock Altstatt, age 53, of Englewood, died Sunday after a long illness. She worked at the Tri County Center for 30 years, most recently as the Associate Director. Funeral services will be at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Smith Funeral Home, with visitation from noon to 3 p.m. at Smith.

Mildred Brown Decker, age 76, of Riceville, died Monday at her residence. She was retired from Athens Products. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Ziegler Funeral Home, with visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. at Ziegler.

Gail M. Arbor, age 69, of Niota, died Monday at her residence. Arrangements will be announced by Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home.

Alice Odell Price McPhail, age 91, of Athens, died Tuesday at NHC. Funeral services will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at Bordwine Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bordwine.

TUESDAY’S MARKET REPORT: U.S. stocks finished mixed as investors continued to evaluate the latest policies from the White House, while many companies posted quarterly results.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 107.04 at 19,864.09. The Standard & Poor’s 500 Index was down 2.03 at 2,278.87, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 1.07 at 5,614.79.

FACTOID: Have you ever wondered how much salt the Athens Public Works Department has available to deal with snow and ice covered roads? The answer is 85 tons of salt each year, so crews can keep the roads clear.

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

J-Teens Help United Way

The J-Teens at McMinn County High School recently presented a check to United Way campaign co-chair Greg Moses from the proceeds of their annual Senior Mister Pageant. The MCHS J-Teens (pictured below) have raised over $31,000 since they began the event.

(Photo by Paige Zabo)

For Information, call 746-1390 or email:
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