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Today's News... This Morning

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Monday, March 18, 2019

Athens, Tennessee

State & Local News

◆ UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES IN AREA

The unemployment rate rose in January in all counties in the Athens area in January. In McMinn County, unemployment in January was 4.1 percent, up from 3.5 percent in December. Meigs County's jobless rate in January was 4.7 percent, up from 4 percent in December. Monroe County posted an unemployment rate in January of 3.8 percent, up from 3.2 percent in December. Polk County's jobless rate was 4.4 percent in January, up from 3.5 percent in December. Bradley County had a jobless rate of 3.7 percent in January, up from 2.9 percent in December. Sixty-seven of Tennessee's 95 counties still have unemployment rates below 5 percent.

◆ SEARCH CALLED OFF FOR ETOWAH MAN

Officials at Rocky Mountain National Park have suspended the search for a 70-year-old Etowah man, James Pruitt. Pruitt had gone on a winter hiking trip to Colorado. His family says they had not heard from him since February 28th. His vehicle was found on March 3rd at the Glacier Gorge Trailhead, a popular starting point for hikes to Alberta Falls and scenic lakes. A 15-square-mile search that included numerous dog teams and an airplane turned up no sign of the Etowah man. Park officials say more than two feet of snow fell in the area between February 28th and March 3rd. Pruitt was making his third winter visit to the park over the past three years.

Main Street & DBA Merge

It's now official. Main Street Athens and the Downtown Business Association have merged. A merger banquet was held last Thursday night. Athens City Manager C. Seth Sumner presided over the "marriage" of the two organizations. Lisa Dotson is the new director of Main Street Athens. Major plans for 2019 were unveiled at the banquet, including an announcement that "The Beanery" has been purchased by some newcomers to Athens and will re-open soon. The photo below shows Main Street Athens board chair Patti Greek, City Manager Sumner, and DBA president Skylar Dean. (Photo submitted by Morning Fax Staff)



RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



Western Sizzlin' Steak House-1804 Decatur Pike

Monday (All Day) 8 oz Chopped Sirloin + Side Item-Bakery-Dessert and Rolls-\$7.99.

Senior Buffet: (Ages 55+) Monday-Friday from 2-4 p.m. ~ \$6.79.



March Specials >> 2 Country Ham Biscuits \$3

• 2-Fish Sandwiches \$5 • Fish Sandwich Combo \$5.29

• 8 Pc Chicken Box w/ 4 Biscuits \$10.99

• 5 Meals for \$5 Ea • 32 oz Tea \$1.00

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medical center for women

What: Unplanned: The Abby Johnson Story
Where: Athens Movie Palace **When:** March 28th at 6:30 pm
Tickets: \$9.00 suggested donation **Phone:** 744-3005
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unplanned-the-abby-johnson-story-tickets-57260069409>

WHAT SHE
SAW CHANGED
EVERYTHING
IN THEATERS SPRING 2019
UNPLANNED



Monday, March 18, 2019 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page Athens, Tennessee



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Athens Man Dies from Injuries

Xavier Noland, 26, of Athens, died from injuries received in a traffic accident in Bradley County on February 6th. Noland was one of three occupants who were ejected from a Nissan Altima after it slammed into two utility poles during a police chase. The Tennessee Highway Patrol says the car was being driven by Brandon Smith of Chattanooga. It was being pursued by a Calhoun police officer for speeding. The THP says Smith lost control and flipped the car on Michigan Avenue Road, N.W.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ The Cherokee Beekeepers Association will have their monthly meeting this Wednesday, March 20th, at 7 p.m. at the Co-Op on Congress Parkway N.
- ✓ The guests on the new Main Street Athens radio show, "Main Street Moments", will be members of the Living Heritage Museum's Guild. The show will air Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI Radio, FM 94.5 and AM 1390 or [ONLINE](#)
- ✓ The McMinn Car Care Ministry will offer a free oil change and a free seminar on how to best manage your money on April 6th. This service is for those who are widowed, a single parent, or living on a fixed income. Call 263-0160 by March 30 to apply.

CORRECTION: In Friday's Morning Fax, we published a photo of the Etowah Merchants donating a check for new exit signs at the Gem Theater. We attributed the photo was from Gene Choate. Actually, Marcella Helm took the picture.

Obituaries

- ♦ **James Sanford Anderson, Jr.**, age 76, of Niota, died Friday at Parkwest Medical Center. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving in the U.S. Army and was retired from CSX Railroad with 31 years of service. Funeral services will be Monday at 7 p.m. at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ **Xavier Noland**, age 26, of Athens, died last Thursday in a Chattanooga hospital from injuries received in a traffic accident in Cleveland in February. Arrangements will be announced by M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home.
- ♦ **Virginia Bryant Creasman**, age 84, of Riceville, died March 13th at Starr Regional Health and Rehabilitation in Etowah. She was the widow of the Rev. Oran Creasman. Graveside services were held this past Saturday. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home was in charge.

Struggling to keep your lights on? Just want a little help?

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Grundy County - 931-592-8260
Meigs County - 423-334-3305

Marion County - 423-942-5946
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Sequatchie County - 423-949-2191

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