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Tuesday, November 4, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Peoples Bank of East Tennessee Launches Winter Coat Drive Honoring the Legacy of Board Member Doug Warren

Peoples Bank of East Tennessee is proud to announce a bank-wide Coat Drive, held in partnership with United Way of Monroe County, honoring the life and legacy of Doug Warren, a long-time board member whose dedication to community service left a lasting mark across East Tennessee.

The Coat Drive aims to collect new or gently used coats of all sizes for individuals and families in need throughout the region. Donations can be dropped off at any Peoples Bank of East Tennessee branch during business hours from November 1 through November 24, 2025.

"This coat drive is more than just a collection - it's a celebration of my father's legacy of kindness and community," said Erica Whitehead, daughter of Doug Warren. "He had a heart for giving and believed that no one in the community should go without warmth or comfort. Honoring his legacy through this effort feels like a way to keep his love and kindness alive - to share a little bit of the warmth he gave so freely to everyone he met."

Collected coats will be distributed through United Way of Monroe County and other local community partners serving families in need across our branch communities.

Peoples Bank of East Tennessee invites customers, businesses, and community members to join in honoring Doug Warren's memory through this act of giving and compassion.

Donation Locations: All Peoples Bank of East Tennessee branches

Collection Dates: November 1-24, 2025

Items Accepted: New or gently used coats for adults and children

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Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

City of Athens Traffic Notices

The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following traffic notices:

The areas affected are MADISON AVENUE, JACKSON STREET, WASHINGTON AVENUE, AND WHITE STREET around the courthouse square. Contactor crews will be applying pavement markings from Tuesday, November 4, through Thursday, November 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. Due to the pavement markings being applied from curb to curb, there will be NO PARKING allowed on Madison Avenue, Washington Avenue, White Street, and Jackson Street during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. until the project is complete. Please be aware that vehicles parked in the path of the contractor may be towed. The purpose of this notice is for roadway improvements.

EXTENSION: The area to be affected is WHITE STREET from Cook Drive to Coach Farmer Drive. This closure will be from Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. until Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of this closure is for Tennessee Wesleyan University's sports field lighting project.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

Noon Book Discussion at E.G. Fisher Public Library on November 12

E.G. Fisher Public Library will host a community book discussion on "1776" by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough on Wednesday, November 12. The discussion will be led by Brett King, Executive Director of the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum. The book discussion begins at noon and should last about an hour.

As the nation prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of its founding next year, this event offers a timely opportunity to reflect on America's history. The discussion will take place in the library's community room, with a light lunch provided by the Friends of the Library.

Copies of "1776" are available for checkout, but reading the book is not required to attend and enjoy the conversation.

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McMinn County Arrest Reports

11-02-2025

- Jerry Keeling**, 33, of Greenback, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property over \$2,500, and Child support, Bond \$5,000.

Destiny Jackson, 29 of Etowah, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$1,000.

Caitlin Curtis, 27 of Athens, charged with shoplifting, and failure to appear for drug paraphernalia, Bond \$4,000.

James Ganey, 50 of Athens, charged with DUI, and failure to obey a traffic control device.
- Gary Hawkins**, 65 of Athens, charged with reckless endangerment, Bond \$3,000.

Jesse Beals, 52 of Niota, charged with violation of probation for shoplifting, Bond \$1,200.

Brianna Rainey, 28 of Englewood, charged with possession of prohibited weapons.

Douglas Sooksbury, 60 of Knoxville, charged with failure to appear for DUI.

Robert Lambert, 37 of Athens, charged with driving on a revoked license, failure to have insurance, and violation of registration laws.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered using public sources.

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Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Dark Mode Turns Dim as Vols Fall 33–27 to Oklahoma

No. 14 Tennessee's late rally came up short Saturday night as No. 18 Oklahoma escaped Neyland Stadium with a 33–27 victory before a sellout crowd of 101,915.

The Volunteers (6–3, 3–3 SEC), wearing their “Dark Mode” uniforms, outgained the Sooners 456–351 but were undone by three costly first-half turnovers that led to 13 Oklahoma points.

Tennessee struck first with a Joey Aguilar touchdown pass to Braylon Staley, but a fumble return for a score and four field goals by Oklahoma kicker Tate Sandell — including two from 55 yards — gave the Sooners a 16–10 halftime lead.

Aguilar threw for 393 yards and three touchdowns, including a 54-yard strike to Staley and a late 15-yard score to Mike Matthews that cut the deficit to 26–24 with under two minutes remaining. However, Oklahoma recovered the ensuing onside kick and sealed the win with a 1-yard touchdown run by quarterback John Mateer.

Defensively, Tennessee's Edrees Farooq recorded 10 tackles and two forced fumbles, while Edwin Spillman added an interception and nine stops.

The loss likely ends Tennessee's playoff hopes, but the Vols will regroup during their open week before hosting New Mexico State for Homecoming on Nov. 15.

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Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

James Samuel "Sammy" Watters III, 66 of Etowah, passed away, Saturday, November 1. Sammy was an avid fisherman who loved the outdoors. He loved his family and his fur baby, Bonnie. Family and friends will assemble at Bordwine Funeral Home at 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 7, 2025 and go in procession to McMinn Memory Gardens for the 11:00 a.m. graveside service. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements

Stephanie R. Womac Buckner, 51 of McMinn County, passed away on Thursday, October 30. Stephanie was a member of Hillcrest Church in Etowah and was a volunteer teacher at the Hillcrest Academy for several years. The family will receive friends from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM Tuesday, November 4, at Ziegler Funeral Home. A Graveside Service will be held at 2:00 PM at McMinn Memory Gardens

James Hagins, 77 of Riceville, went home to be with Jesus and Derrick on November 1. James cherished nothing more than spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He found peace and joy in the beauty of nature, often watching the deer outside his home and the hummingbirds that visited each summer. James was a devoted member of Westview Baptist Church in Athens. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the Hagins family with these arrangements.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, school sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

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I miss my sister, Phyllis! I remember her as a very caring person, and she always wanted to do her best. She wanted love and respect. She loved her family and helped them all she could. She was always available for Courtney (her daughter) and Matthew (her son) and her grandkids: Alyanna, Kayla, and Bentley. She was very gifted in cooking, clothing alterations, and all crafts.

I remember she used to help me with my pants that needed alterations. I could always get excellent meals, and she made draperies for my home (which I still have). She was always helping me, and I could always talk with her as we grew up.

One day, I remember the first time we went fishing at the pond on our farm near Short Creek Church (where we attended Vacation Bible School). She caught a largemouth bass and yelled for me to help her take it off the hook. She was so excited!

Phyllis always had genuine friends, and her best friend, Betty Morrow from Oak Grove Church, was always helping her. She was also smart. She won a distinguished DAR Award and was the 3rd Honor Student at Calhoun High School. I remember her being First Bible Baptist's pianist.

In the latter part of her life, she suffered a lot from a leg injury and was a resident of NHC Nursing Home. Phyllis was very limited due to her disabilities. She had a lot of trauma but prayed often and believed in God.

I love her and still do. Phyllis, all of your family—including your sister Joan Parrish and brother Alan Roderick, who always tried to take care of you, along with me—will all miss you and will see you again, where there is no sorrow or unhappiness, but only joy and love for eternity.

With all our love,
Your family

Phyllis Joyce Roderick Earls

March 11, 1946 - October 1, 2025