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**Chamber of Commerce Dinner Winners and Pictures**

The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce 79th Annual Meeting was held last evening at The Barn at Faith Farms. The following were recipients of this year's awards: Man of the Year: Rusty Rollins, Farmer of the Year: John Guthrie, Teacher of the Year: Wendy Davis, Mother of the Year: Nancy Cate, Young Woman of the Year: Erin Holbrook, Young Men of the Year: Justin Hicks & Andrew Kimball, Woman of the Year: Frances Powers, Diplomat of the Year: Stacey Hester. **(See Page 4 for more photos)**



Man of the Year: Rusty Rollins (Middle) Presented by Man of the Year for 1993, Bryan Jackson, CPA (L), and Trey Fowler, (R) The Daily Post-Athenian.



Young Men of the Year: Andrew Kimball (L) and Justin Hicks (R). (First time 2 winners) Dr. Tyler Forrest, President TWU presented the awards.



Young Woman of the Year: Erin Holbrook (L) presented by Dr. Stacy Swafford, Dean of Goodfriend College of Business and Professional Studies, TWU.



Febb Burn Woman of the Year: Frances Powers [R] presented by Sandra Boyd (L) and Cathy Allen (not pictured), with Crescent Sock Company.

Photos by Stephanie Devine, The Morning Fax and WYXI Radio.

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

**Friday - Sunny. High 83.**  
**Fri. Night - Mostly Clear. Low 63.**  
**Sat. - Partly Sunny. High 85. Low 65.**  
**Sun. - Mostly Cloudy. High 84. Low 66.**

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Friday, April 25, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Culture Crawl comes to Downtown Athens on Saturday, May 3



Main Street Athens will host the May Daze Culture Crawl on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Historic Downtown Athens. This free, family-friendly event celebrates local arts and culture with interactive activities, live demonstrations, and artist showcases throughout downtown businesses.

Highlights include flower crown making at Athens Flower Shop, cookie decorating at Grandma's Gingerbread Bakery, artist exhibits and live painting at Fuller's Frame Shop, and pottery throwing and a mural dedication at The Arts Center. Other activities include face painting, jewelry making, relief printmaking, chalk art stations and so much more!

WYXI Radio's Cousin Mark and JP Vasquez will be broadcasting live from the McMinn County Courthouse steps and you can hear about the festivities on FM 94.5 and AM 1390.

For a full list of activities and participating locations, visit Main Street Athens on Facebook.

## Weekend Event Calendar

Looking for something to do today or this weekend?

Follow WYXI on Facebook and check out the Morning Fax Round-Up! Included in our daily post will be an event calendar listing a bunch of fun events that will be happening soon. Here are the events for today and this weekend!

- **April 25 - 26:** McMinn County Living Heritage Museum Trash & Treasure Sale
- **April 26:** Fishing Derby - Ages 12 and under - Registration @ 7 AM @ Athens Regional Park
- **April 26:** 4th Annual Charger Classic Golf Tourney - Reg. @ 8:30 AM Ridgewood Golf Course
- **April 26:** Isaiah 117 House Golf Tournament (9 AM) @ Rarity Bay in Vonore
- **April 26:** Cleveland Main Street Cruise-In (10AM - 3PM)
- **April 26:** (2PM - 9:30PM) Relay for Life Festival of Hope - Market Park

## LUNCH & LEARN

FRAUD & SCAM PREVENTION

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th  
WHERE: CORA VEAL SENIOR CENTER  
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Friday, April 25, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Church News & Events

- **East Etowah Church of God** (180 County Road 909, Etowah) will conclude a week of Revivals with a service tonight, Friday, April 25 and tomorrow, Saturday, April 26. Services begin at 7pm nightly and will feature Brother Tim Wilson from Alabama. The church's Homecoming Service is scheduled for Sunday, April 27 at 10:30am. All are welcome.
- **Luminary Church** (3401 River Rd., Ten Mile) is holding a HUGE Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale on Thursday, May 1 from 2pm - 7pm and Friday and Saturday, May 2 & 3 from 9am - 2pm. Many great items for sale and clothing items at \$1 each. The youth program will sell ice cream and baked goods as well.
- **Niota UMC** will be hosting a free week-long summer camp on July 14-18 in partnership with Camp in the Community at their church in Niota. The summer camp is open to all children ages 5-14. The camp will run from 8:30-4:30pm (Friday ends at 2pm) and includes breakfast and lunch. Space is limited, make sure to sign up soon to secure your spot. To register, visit <https://www.campinthecommunity.org/host/niota>
- **North Englewood Missionary Baptist Church's Family and Friends Day** is set for this Sunday, April 27. Morning Worship is at 11am and lunch is to follow the service. The church is located at 21 Pin St., Englewood.
- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- **New Life Church** hosts weekly Prayer Meetings every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00pm. The church is located at 204 Fisher St. in Athens. All are welcome.
- **SRBC Kids presents: Kingdom Seekers** on Sunday Nights at 5:30pm at **Solid Rock Baptist Church** (4975 Hwy. 11, Calhoun) This event combines, God, music, games and fun into a very special all ages affair.
- **The First Christian Church of Etowah** will hold a huge **Indoor Yard Sale, Bake Sale and Hot Dog Luncheon** at 701 Ohio Ave, Etowah on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 from 8AM to 6PM. Hot dogs with chili and slaw, chips and soft drink \$6.00. All proceeds will go to the First Christian Church Food Bank. For more info, please call Louis Rouse at the phone number 423-887-4256 or email [rousemarrk@yahoo.com](mailto:rousemarrk@yahoo.com).

• *More Church News & Events Continued on Page 7*

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We encourage you to e-mail us community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax.  
 Any items you would like us to consider, e-mail: [wyxiradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyxiradio@gmail.com)

**More Chamber of Commerce Dinner Winners and Pictures**



**Teacher of the Year: Wendy Davis (L) presented by Dr. Grant Wilhite, Vice-President Academic Affairs, TWU**



**Diplomat of the Year: Stacey Hester (L) presented by Todd Watson, Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman**

Photos by Stephanie Devine, The Morning Fax and WYXI Radio.



**Farmer of the Year: Josh Guthrie (L) presented by Tim Woods, UT Extension McMinn County**



**Mother of the Year: Nancy Cate (L) presented by Paul Willson, Executive in Residence, TWU.**

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Friday, April 25, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Tennessee Unemployment Rates Remain Low Across Most Counties in March

Nearly all Tennessee counties reported unemployment rates below 5% in March, according to the latest data from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD).

Out of the state's 95 counties, only four recorded rates at or above 5%, with Pickett County reporting the highest at 5.7%. That figure marks a notable improvement from February, when the rate was 6.3%. Williamson County continued to lead the state with the lowest unemployment rate, dropping to 2.4% in March. Cheatham County followed at 2.6%, while Rutherford, Wilson, and Knox counties each reported rates of 2.7%.

**In Southeast Tennessee, McMinn County posted a March unemployment rate of 4.2%, while Monroe and Polk counties both reported 3.7%. Rhea County stood at 4.0%, Blount County came in at 2.9%, and Meigs County reported 4.9%.**

Statewide, 70 counties saw decreases in unemployment from February to March, 17 remained unchanged, and eight experienced slight increases. Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped to 3.6% in March, down one-tenth of a percentage point from February. County-level rates are not seasonally adjusted. A complete analysis of the March 2025 county unemployment data is available through the TDLWD [here](#)

## Cleveland State to Celebrate Graduates with Two Ceremonies on May 9



Cleveland State Community College will hold two commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 9, in the L. Quentin Lane Gymnasium. The 10 a.m. ceremony will recognize graduates from Advanced Technologies, Arts and Humanities,

Education, Social Sciences, STEM, and Tennessee Valley Early College programs. Connie Vaughan (*left*), Government Relations Manager at McKee Foods and a Cleveland State Foundation trustee, will deliver the keynote address.

The 2 p.m. ceremony will honor Business and Healthcare graduates, with Susan Hatto (*right*), President of TCAT Athens, serving as keynote speaker. Hatto brings over 20 years of experience in higher education and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Strategic Leadership.

Both ceremonies will be streamed live at [mycs.cc/graduation](http://mycs.cc/graduation) for those unable to attend.

Source: Andrea Byerly, Cleveland State

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**GoComics**

Friday, April 25, 2025

Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

4/13/2025

**Logan Sutton**, 29 of Lafollette, TN, was arrested by the Athens PD for Violation of Probation, Driving on a Revoked License and Child Abuse. Total Bond: \$12,620.95

**Dennis Staney**, 52 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Simple Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$1,000.

**Farris Logan**, 21 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for two charges of Aggravated Assault. Bond Unclear.

**Robert Kuykendall**, 32 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

4/14/25

**Kenneth Fairbanks**, 42 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$15,000.

**John Thompson**, 54 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$2,057.

**Rex Tallent**, 21 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Criminal Trespassing. Bond Unclear.

**David Beasley**, 56 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Simple Possession/Casual Exchange of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$7,000.

**Lanetta Frye**, 51 of Englewood, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange of a Controlled Substance, and Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$7,000.

**Angela Croft**, 55 of Etowah, was arrested by the MCSO for Unlawful Carry or Possession. No Bond.

**Darrell Dispain**, 58 of Etowah, was arrested by the MCSO for Armed and Dangerous Felonies, Casual Exchange/Simple Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, Possession of a Schedule VI Controlled Substance, Casual Exchange/Simple Possession of a Schedule IV substance, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$30,000.

**The accused are assumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**  
Information gathered using Public Sources.

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## Church News & Events

- The next monthly Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will occur on Thursday, May 1 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Cafe in downtown Athens. This ecumenical prayer breakfast is open to all men of Christian faith plus those who want to establish a relationship with Jesus. For more information contact Marcus Guinn at 423-507-7769 or [marcusguinn@gmail.com](mailto:marcusguinn@gmail.com).
- The McMinn Car Care Ministry is offering free oil changes, vehicle inspections, and money management resources to those who are widowed, single parents, or living on a fixed income. The next service date is May 10, 2025 — applications are due by May 1. To apply, call (423) 263-0160.
- First Baptist Church Athens is hosting a Yard Sale for Missions on Friday, April 25 - Saturday, April 26 from 8 AM to 2 PM at 305 Ingleside Ave. in Athens. Come shop for a cause and support mission efforts!
- East Athens Baptist Church is holding a block party at the former Ingleside School from 11 –2 on Saturday. See their ad on page 3 for full details.

## Obituaries

**Jeanette "Nette" Marie Watson**, 65 of Tellico Plains, passed away on Saturday, April 19. The family will have a graveside service on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at Beaty's Chapel Cemetery in Tellico Plains at 10:00am. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

**Michael Patrick Mack**, 52 of Athens, passed away on Friday, April 18. A celebration of life will be held at Companion Funeral Home of Athens on Sunday, April 27. Family will be received from 2 pm - 2:30 pm. Family and Friends are welcome to come from 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm. Funeral service will begin at 5:00 pm. A graveside service will follow at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the Mack family with these arrangements.

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