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Friday, July 18, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional Medical Center Receives Award

People who live in rural communities live an average of three years fewer than urban counterparts and have a 40% higher likelihood of developing heart disease and face a 30% increased risk for stroke mortality — a gap that has grown over the past two decades. Starr Regional Medical Center is committed to changing that. For efforts to optimize stroke care and eliminate rural health care outcome disparities, Starr Regional Medical Center has received the American Heart Association's [Get With The Guidelines[®] - Stroke Rural Recognition](#) Silver award.

The American Heart Association, the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, recognizes the importance of health care services provided to people living in rural areas by rural hospitals that play a vital role in initiation of timely evidence-based care. For that reason, all rural hospitals participating in Get With The Guidelines-Stroke are eligible to receive award recognition based on a unique methodology focused on early acute stroke performance metrics.

"We are proud that our team at Starr Regional Medical Center is being recognized for the important work we do every day to improve the lives of people in McMinn County and surrounding communities who are affected by stroke, giving them the best possible chance of recovery and survival," said John McLain, CEO of Starr Regional Medical Center. "As a hospital in a rural community, we deal with characteristics, such as extended interfacility transportation times, and limited staffing resources. We've made it a goal to make sure those hurdles do not affect the standard of care our stroke patients receive. "Rural communities deserve high quality stroke care. I'm proud of our team for their commitment to stroke care excellence and this achievement."

The award recognizes hospitals for their efforts toward acute stroke care excellence demonstrated by composite score compliance to guideline-directed care for intravenous thrombolytic therapy, timely hospital inter-facility transfer, dysphagia screening, symptom timeline and deficit assessment documentation, emergency medical services communication, brain imaging and stroke expert consultation. **Source: Brandi Armstrong, Starr Regional Medical Center**

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Friday, July 18, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Community News You Can Use

- Be sure to listen to WYXI RADIO AM-1390 AND FM 94.5 all day Saturday as we present the SOAP BOX DERBY coverage from Akron, Ohio with Derek Phillips of the Athens Parks Department. Derek will give us play by play descriptions of the Stock and Super Stock Divisions featuring our local Athens racers, Arliss Douglas (Super Stock Division) and Titus Millsaps (Stock Division). A recap of the Derby will be in next week's Morning Fax.
- The City of Athens will host its Summer Blood Drive with MEDIC on Friday, July 18 (TODAY) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Athens City Hall Courtroom (815 N. Jackson St.). All donors will receive a MEDIC gift and a Texas Roadhouse coupon. Come help save a life!
- Grace and Mercy Ministries is holding a Drive-Thru BBQ Fundraiser at Market Park Pavilion in Athens on Thursday, July 24th from 11:30 am - 1 pm. They will be serving Pulled Pork, Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips and a Dessert for \$10 per plate. You may pay with either Cash or through PayPal. Call 423-920-1367 for any pre-orders.
- Main Street Athens meeting will be Thursday, July 24th at 6:00 PM at the Event Space at 3 West College Street in Downtown Athens. Join fellow downtown business and property owners for an important conversation about the future of Downtown Athens. Topics will include: Downtown Improvement Grants – Learn about potential funding and requirements. Downtown Historic Overlay – Share your concerns and get updates on upcoming plans with Open Discussion. Please join them and let them know what you'd like to see Main Street accomplish and how they can support you.
- The McMinn County Amateur Radio Club is hosting its 21st annual HamFest Saturday, July 19 at the McMinn County Expo Center, at Athens Regional Park for the purpose of buying, selling and trading Amateur Radio Equipment and accessories. If you've been studying to obtain or upgrade your amateur radio license, the required written tests will be offered throughout the morning for a nominal fee. To beat the summer heat, gates open at 7am and the event concludes around 1pm. General Admission is \$5 per person with concessions available courtesy of Salty Mel's. For additional information go online to: McMinnarc.com.
- Englewood First Church of God is hosting the 2nd Annual Family Day: which will be a Community Health Event on Saturday, July 19th from 10-2pm at the Englewood City Park. There's kid's vision and family dental screenings, health and human resources, back-to-school supplies, kid's activities and more. Hope to see you there! For more information, call Tiffany Tutko at 423-920-1507. Visit their Facebook page: here
- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closures: the areas to be affected are JACKSON STREET from Green Street to Madison Avenue, and also the CITY PARKING LOT. The street will be closed to thru traffic on Saturday, July 26, 2025 from 3:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The purpose of this closure is for Redline Auto Detail's Cruisin' for Supplies Car Show. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

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Friday, July 18, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- [Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship](#) (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00pm.
- Luminary Global Methodist Church in Ten Mile is pleased to be hosting an intimate, acoustic visit with Grand Ole Opry veteran, storyteller, and 4-time Songwriter of the Year Daryl Mosley this Sunday, July 20th at 10:30. Daryl's laid back, conversational singing style has been likened to Don Williams, Guy Clark, and John Denver. His easy, southern baritone delivers lyrical short stories that both his peers and journalists alike call him a "songwriter's songwriter." All are welcome to join for the performance, with food and fellowship afterwards.
- Are you struggling with the loss of your spouse? Clearwater Baptist Church (964 County Road 180, Athens) will be holding a one day event for *Loss of Spouse*. If you are grieving the loss of anyone close to you, they are beginning a new session of *GriefShare* helping those grieving find hope, comfort, and guidance. Beginning on Thursday, July 17th from 6 pm - 7:30 pm there will be an ongoing (in 13 week rotations) grief support group **that you can join at any time** and is open to the community. For more info. or to register please visit: clearwaterbc.org/grief-share (Notify us in advance if childcare is needed.)
- [Celebrate Recovery](#) meets every [Tuesday](#) at 6:00pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every [Thursday](#) at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur.
- Pope Avenue Baptist Church and Union Hill Baptist Church are hosting Bible School which began Sunday, July 13 and will conclude this evening, Friday, July 18th between 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Everyone is invited and if you wish to attend but need transportation, contact Kay Frank at 423-506-1643.
- On Saturday, July 19 from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be hosting a tag sale fundraiser at 123 S. Jackson St. in Athens. Household items and furnishings will be available!

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Local Girl Receives Distinguished Stars & Stripes Award



Marissa Joy Tinsman of Athens, TN has earned the highest recognition the American Heritage Girls offers to Girl Members, the Stars & Stripes Award. In addition to living out the AHG Creed and Oath, award recipients have completed several requirements to achieve this honor, including:

- Earning the Abigail Adams Level Award
- Earning a total of 13 required Stars & Stripes Award Badges
- Having held a leadership position in their Troop for a minimum of six months
- Planning, developing, and providing leadership to others in a 100+ hour service project
- Writing a Spiritual Walk Essay and an AHG Resumé
- Receiving at least three Letters of Reference
- Passing a Board of Review

Tinsman chose to serve Athens City Intermediate School by orchestrating the construction and implementation of a clothing closet for nearly 600 students. She managed volunteers from AHG Troop TN1824, Athens City Intermediate School KKids, and Athens City Middle School National Junior Honor Society to construct and install the closet as well as organize clothing donations and create functional storage spaces.

She has served as the Girl Event Coordinator for her troop and, along with her troop, received the National Honor Troop Award at the Sapphire Level. As a previous member of Troop TN0111 chartered by Genesis Baptist Church and most recently a member of Troop TN1824 chartered by First Baptist Church of Athens, Tinsman is part of the 2025 Class of girls to earn the prestigious Stars & Stripes Award nationally. Tinsman was recognized in a Court of Honor Ceremony at First Baptist Church of Athens in June. Tinsman attends Trinity Grace Church in Athens, TN and has been active in Jteens, Spanish Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honors Society, National Technical Honors Society, Student Government, Tennis and Cross Country at McMinn County High School where she recently graduated as a valedictorian. Prior, she played Volleyball and Basketball for Christ's Legacy Academy and also was part of their Cross Country and Track Teams. She has also been a member of the Athens Anchor Service Club. She is the daughter of Dustin

and Mandy Tinsman of Athens. American Heritage Girls, Inc., is the premier national character development organization for young women, ages 5-18, that embraces Christian values and encourages family involvement. For more information on the American Heritage Girls, visit www.americanheritagegirls.org Source: American Heritage Girls Photo: Courtesy of Kim Hixson Bohannon

UT Extension- McMinn FCS: Upcoming Events in August

Tai Chi for Arthritis- (August 4 – August 27) Monday's and Wednesday's. Two locations available: @First Baptist Church, 305 Ingleside Ave., Athens (10am -11am) and @UT Extension, 2345 Denso Dr., Athens (3pm – 4pm). \$48/Lifetime Membership Register: <https://mcminn.tennessee.edu/> The CDC Recommends Tai Chi for Arthritis for fall prevention. In 1997, Dr Paul Lam led a team of tai chi and medical specialists to create this program. It is easy, enjoyable, and safe for people with arthritis to learn. Medical studies have shown the program to relieve pain for people with arthritis and improve their quality of lives, as well as preventing falls for the older adults. For this reason, arthritis foundations around the world and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in America are giving it their full support. Although especially effective for arthritis, it is a great start for a beginner to improve health and wellness. The program is proven to be effective to prevent falls. Watch an overview and comments from health professionals on the program. Give the gift of Tai Chi to yourself and a friend or family member! **Parenting Apart:** Effective Co-Parenting (Thursday, August 7th) 8:30am – 12:30pm Location: McMinn Higher Education Center, UT Extension- McMinn Office, 2345 Denso Dr., Athens Cost: \$45 To Register:

<https://mcminn.tennessee.edu/>

Divorce or custody needs. This court-approved course will help you. During this 4-hour course the following topics are covered:

Facts about divorce, the processes of divorce and mediation, domestic violence, and divorce, dealing with stress, how children react to divorce, positive communication skills, helping children get through divorce, keeping children out of the middle of conflicts and the family after divorce.

The Arts Center Mini Camp

Visual Arts Mini Camp, for grades K - 12 offers two-hour daily small-group workshops in a variety of media. The workshops are divided into smaller age groups as follows. Camp 1 is July 21 - 25 for Grades K - 5. Grades K - 2 meet from 9:00 to 11:00 AM, and grades 3 - 5 meet 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Camp 2 is July 28 - August 1 for Grades 6 - 12. Grades 6 - 8 meet from 9:00 to 11:00 AM and Grades 9 - 12 meet 12:00 to 2:00 PM. On Friday of camp, each group will present an exhibition of completed work during the last 30 minutes of camp. The cost of Visual Arts Mini Camp is \$75 and includes all materials. Registration deadline for Visual Arts Mini Camp is Friday July 18, 2025. Scholarships are not offered for Mini Camps; however, AACA will not let financial limitations be a barrier to participation in the arts – contact The Arts Center to discuss financial assistance or payment plans.

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Friday, July 18, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Lester Woody, 88, of Etowah, TN passed away Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Lester was an active church member of Delano Baptist Church. He enjoyed reading. Funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, July 21st in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home with Jake Cook officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m., Monday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in McMinn Memory Gardens. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Barbara Jean Emerton, age 78, of Sweetwater, TN, went to be with the Lord on July 16, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Barbara was born in Nashville, TN. She spent her early years in and around Nashville and was a longtime resident of Madisonville, TN. Later in life, she moved to Sweetwater to live with her daughter and son-in-law. Barbara had a true passion for cooking and loved nothing more than gathering family and friends around the table. Her home was always open, and she cherished every opportunity to host and care for those she loved. Through-

out her life, Barbara worked hard, spending many years at Walmart and later as a housekeeper at a nursing home in Madisonville, where she touched many lives with her kind heart and strong work ethic. The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Brenda Mashburn, Sweetwater Hospital-especially Dr. Christopher Shamblin-and the staff at Woods Presbyterian Nursing Home for their care and compassion. The family will receive friends on Sunday, July 20, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Companion Funeral Home in Athens, TN. A service will follow at 2:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Watt's Cemetery in Loudon, TN.

Singer Connie Francis, best known for her 1962 hit "Pretty Little Baby" and the 1961 song "Everybody's Somebody's Fool," has died at the age of 87, her manager confirmed. "Pretty Little Baby" most recently became a viral song on TikTok, which Francis joined shortly after, and the 1962 song has been used in more than 17 million videos totaling more than 27 billion views globally on the app.



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