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FOR

STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 1

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY  
AUGUST 6, 2026



PHOTO BY THE COURTESY  
OF THE BUREAU OF RECORDS

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Starr Regional Social Worker Named 2025 Social Worker of the Year

Terrie Long, a licensed social worker at Starr Regional Medical Center Behavioral Health, has been named 2025 Social Worker of the Year by the Mid-East Area Council of the Tennessee Society of Healthcare Social Workers.

The award was presented March 13 during the organization's monthly meeting by Jill Shoffer, who praised Long's dedication to supporting patients and families during difficult times. Shoffer highlighted Long's collaborative approach, commitment to connecting individuals with resources, and her role as an adjunct professor mentoring future social workers.

The recognition honors Long's compassion and ongoing impact within the community, with colleagues noting her commitment to improving the lives of those she serves.

*Pictured are Terrie Long, LMSW, social worker at Starr Regional Behavioral Health, and Jill Shoffer*

*Source: Brandi Armstrong, Starr Regional*



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## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum



### Upcoming Spring Events

**HISTORY FOR LUNCH:  
DIRECTOR BRETT KING CONTINUES HIS AMERICAN 250TH  
LECTURE SERIES DISCUSSING THE BILL OF RIGHTS.  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> @ NOON  
FREE ADMISSION**



**HERITAGE SCHOOL:  
CHEMISTRY MAGIC SHOW  
WITH DR. AL HAZARI  
SATURDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> @ 11:00 AM  
\$5 OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP**

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

**Museum Hours:**  
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM  
Sunday - Monday: Closed

**Admission:**  
Adults: \$5.00  
Senior 60+: \$3.00  
Students: \$3.00

### More Information

522 W Madison Ave.  
Athens, TN 37303  
423-745-0329

[www.livingheritagemuseum.org](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.org)

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PROGRAM  
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**TWU to Present 'Fiddler on the Roof'**  
**March 27-29**



Tennessee Wesleyan University Theatre and Fine Arts Department will present the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* March 27-29 in Townsend Auditorium on campus. Performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m.

Admission is free, with donations accepted to support the university's theatre program. The production features a cast

of students, faculty, and local performers.

The classic musical follows Tevye, a Jewish milkman in a small Russian village, as he navigates the challenges of maintaining tradition while his daughters pursue their own paths, set against a backdrop of social and political change.

Source: Chrisi Jackson, TWU

**Community News You Can Use**

- The City of Athens Parks & Recreation Department has announced that Daddy Daughter Dance photos are available for pick up at Athens City Hall from 8am - 5pm Monday through Friday.
- The City of Athens Public Works Department has announced a temporary road closure on College Street from Jackson Street to Long Street on Thursday, March 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The closure is in place for Tennessee Wesleyan University's "Choose Blue" Open House event. Motorists are advised to use caution, follow posted detours, and allow extra travel time. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.
- Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) hosts its annual Student Art Show, for middle, high school, and college students of McMinn and surrounding counties, through April 10, 2026. The opening reception and awards ceremony for the Student Art Show is on Friday, March 27 at 5:00 PM.

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Mike Hayes  
for Sheriff

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
2pm-4pm

Englewood Community Center - 35 Carroll St.,  
Englewood. (Beside the Library and Fire Hall)

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**FCA of the Ocoee Region Receives \$1,000 Pay It Forward Grant**



Pictured from L to R: Shelby Mathews, Bowater CU Marketing Coordinator; Rader Brose; Ephram Kyle; Chloe Lockhart; Abi Moorhouse; Matt Moore, FCA of Ocoee Region Director

Bowater Credit Union member Shane Gibson and his wife have been named winners of the \$1,000 *Pay It Forward* prize, benefiting FCA of the Ocoee Region.

The award marks the first *Pay It Forward* grant of 2026, part of a program that allows credit union members to nominate local nonprofits serving Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, and Polk counties. Up to five \$1,000 prizes are awarded annually to support community organizations.

FCA of the Ocoee Region works with students, coaches, and educators across 30 schools, providing mentorship, weekly gatherings, and leadership development opportunities aimed at strengthening character and community. Programs such as the FCA Senior Bowl also recognize student achievement and promote positive community engagement.

Organizers say the grant will help the nonprofit continue its outreach efforts, particularly as it operates with limited fund-

ing. The *Pay It Forward* program, launched in 2010, has contributed more than \$61,000 to local charities, with additional awards planned throughout the year.

*Source: Nicole Andrino, Bowater Credit Union*

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**OPEN INTERVIEWS**

Friday, March 27, 2026  
5020 Highway 11 South  
Calhoun, Tennessee

**Registration**  
**7:30 AM - 8:45 AM**  
*Late arrivals will not be eligible for interviews.*



**What to Bring**

- Valid Driver License
- Resume
- GED, Diploma or High School Transcripts

*Candidates who do not bring the required documents will not be considered for hire. Call 423-336-7735 if you have questions.*

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**McMinn County Arrest Reports**

**Obituaries**

**March 10, 2026**

**Canaan Smith**, 19 of Athens, charged with assault, and prohibited purchases of tobacco products.

**Adam Smith**, 37 of Englewood, charged with drug paraphernalia.

**Davenci Smith**, 24 of Chattanooga, Charged with driving on a suspended license, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2 Fentanyl, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 6 marijuana, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$18,000.

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

**Mary Nell Gentry Benson**, 90, of Etowah, passed away on Monday, March 23 at Uplands Village in Pleasant Hill, TN. She was a lifelong follower of Christ and a faithful member of His church. Funeral services will be at 1:00 PM Saturday, April 11 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Cedar Grove Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12 Noon-1:00 PM prior to the service at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

**Gary Tyrone Carter**, 65 of Athens, passed Thursday, March 19 at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. Funeral services will be held in Youngstown, Ohio and a date will be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons entrusted with local arrangements.

*Never Miss an Update!*

*Don't forget to*

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