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Starr Regional Honors Nurse Mickie Haas With First-Quarter DAISY Award



Starr Regional Medical Center has named Michelina “Mickie” Haas, RN, as its first-quarter 2026 DAISY Award recipient, recognizing her for exceptional compassion and patient care on the Medical-Surgical Unit.

Chief Nursing Officer Deborah Vaughn praised Haas for her steady kindness and clinical excellence, noting that she consistently makes patients and families feel supported. A coworker’s nomination highlighted a recent moment in which Haas helped a hospice patient speak by phone with his out-of-state daughter shortly before he passed — a gesture colleagues said reflects the heart of her nursing.

The DAISY Award is an international program honoring nurses who make meaningful differences in patients’ lives. Honorees are selected by a committee of Starr Regional nurses and surprised with a public presentation, a certificate, and a Shona-crafted “Healer’s Touch” sculpture.

Nominations for future awards may be submitted at StarrRegional.com/daisy-award or at both the Athens and Etowah campuses.

Community News You Can Use

- AUB’s Budget and Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18 at 11:30 a.m.
- Registration deadlines are approaching for two visual arts camps at The Arts Center. **Visual Arts Mini Camp (grades K–5)** runs **July 20–24** with a registration deadline of **July 6**; tuition is **\$80**. **Make Your Mark Camp (grades 6–12)** runs **July 27–31** with a registration deadline of **July 13**; tuition is **\$75**. While scholarships are not offered for these camps, AACA encourages families to contact The Arts Center to discuss **financial assistance or payment plans**.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Summer Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL:

PAPER BEAD MAKING WITH CHARLENE SUCH
SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH @ 11:00 AM
\$5 EACH OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

THE HISTORY OF SQUIRRELS AS PETS & SQUIRREL REHAB WITH KATIE KINNEAR OF MARSHALL CREEK WILDLIFE REHAB
SATURDAY, JULY 11TH @ 11:00 AM
\$5 EACH OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

THE HISTORY OF THE MCCLATCHEY-GETTYS HOME & MILL WITH STEVE SHERLIN
THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH @ NOON **FREE ADMISSION**

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

SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL PROGRAM INFORMATION

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Justice Center Culinary Class Serves Up Skills - and Second Chances



A recent Culinary Arts class at the McMinn County Justice Center is being hailed as another step toward expanding education and reducing recidivism in the community. Sponsored by the McMinn County Educational and Community Foundation, the program was funded through United Way of McMinn and Meigs County, the George R. Johnson Family Foundation, and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, with instruction provided by Cleveland State Adult Education.

Participants received hands-on kitchen training, including food safety, proper storage, and beginner

food preparation. Organizers say the course not only taught practical culinary skills but also opened doors to future employment opportunities.

Program leaders described the class as part of a broader effort to support rehabilitation and workforce readiness. "It was more than just a good meal," the Foundation noted. "It was the start of true second chances — and second helpings."

Source: Ginger Robinson, Executive Director, McMinn County Education Foundation

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Thursday, June 18, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Driver Injured After Late-Night Crash on Hwy. 39E



A 1998 Toyota 4Runner overturned late Friday night after running off the roadway and overcorrecting on Highway 39 East near County Road 479 in Englewood.

The crash occurred around 11 p.m., and the driver was injured.

According to responders, a passerby picked up the driver and took him to Starr Regional Medical Center Etowah before emergency crews arrived. AMR, the McMinn County Sheriff's Office, Englewood Rural Fire Department, and THP Trooper D.J. Taylor responded to the scene. Trooper Taylor is leading the investigation.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

Obituaries

Lillie Mae Grindell, 88, of Etowah, passed away on Saturday, June 13. A visitation will be held on Friday, June 19 from 10:00am-12:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. The funeral service will begin at 12:00pm. A graveside service will immediately follow at Mars Hill Cemetery in Englewood, TN.

Gary Christopher Helms, affectionately known as "Chris," age 57, of McMinn County, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Chris was born in Athens, Tennessee. Chris proudly served his country in the United States Army and National Guard and was a talented musician. A graveside service to honor Chris will be held on Friday, June 19, 2026, at 5:00 PM at Union McMinn Baptist Church Cemetery in Niota with Military honors provided by the US Army and the McMinn County VFW, including a ceremonial gun salute. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

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



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Etowah Second Annual Area Wide Gospel Meeting

PREACHER'S CHOICE

June 22-23, 25-27 @ 7:00 PM nightly

Desserts each evening following the service. Everyone is invited to join us for good food and good fellowship!

Monday

What's the Matter with the World? - David Henry Sweetwater

Tuesday

Substance and Evidence - Joe Guy - Patty

Thursday

I Died Last Night - Mike Williams - Liberty Hill

Friday

Blinded By Satan - Mark Stephenson - Etowah

Saturday

What it Means to Serve in the Lord's Army - Stephen Null - Madisonville

Etowah Church of Christ, 501 Athens Pike, Etowah