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Friday, July 31, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Starr Regional Recognizes Nurses Advancing Through Clinical Ladder Program



Starr Regional Medical Center recently honored a group of nurses who advanced in the hospital's Clinical Ladder Program, a professional development initiative designed to reward lifelong learning, leadership, and excellence in patient care.

The program encourages nurses to pursue advanced education, lead quality improvement projects, mentor colleagues, and demonstrate high levels of clinical expertise — all while enhancing the patient and family care experience across the community.

"We are proud to recognize these nurses for their dedication to professional growth and their commitment to delivering exceptional care," said Deborah Vaughn, RN, MSN, Chief Nursing Officer. "Their willingness to invest in their development reflects the passion and professionalism that define our nursing team."

The following nurses were recognized during a special celebration of their achievements:

- **Allie Balaban**, BSN, RN, Women's & Children's Services
- **Tracy Clark**, RN, Cardiac Cath Lab
- **April Elkins**, RN, RNC-OB, Women's & Children's Services
- **Regina Linn**, RN, Emergency Department
- **Julie Martin**, RN, Emergency Department
- **Jessica McCarter**, RN, RNC-MNN, Women's & Children's Services
- **Lesla Miller**, RN, Emergency Department
- **Jennifer Moates**, BSN, RN, RNC-MNN, Women's & Children's Services
- **Kim Powers**, BSN, RN, Emergency Department
- **Macy Watson**, BSN, RN, Women's & Children's Services

The recognition underscores Starr Regional's ongoing commitment to supporting nurses through education, leadership opportunities, and professional growth — strengthening both clinical excellence and patient outcomes.

For more information about Starr Regional Medical Center and career opportunities, visit StarrRegional.com.

Pictured: (left to right, first row) Lesla Miller, RN, Emergency Department; Julie Martin, RN, Emergency Department; Tracy Clark, RN, Cardiac Cath Lab; Jennifer Moates, BSN, RN, RNC-MNN, Women's & Children's Services; Deborah Vaughn, MSN, BSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer; (left to right, second row) Macy Watson, BSN, RN, Women's & Children's Services; and Jessica McCarter, RN, RNC-MNN, Women's & Children's Services. **Not Pictured:** Allie Balaban, BSN, RN, Women's & Children's Services; April Elkins, RN, RNC-OB, Women's & Children's Services; Regina Linn, RN, Emergency Department; and Kim Powers, BSN, RN, Emergency Department

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Friday, July 31, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- [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 and Thursdays at 6:30pm at [Spirit City Church North Etowah](#).
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madson Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- The next Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will occur on Thursday, August 6 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Cafe in downtown Athens. This ecumenical prayer breakfast is open to all men of Christian faith (regardless of church affiliation) and those men who want to establish a relationship with Jesus. Please contact Marcus Guinn (marcusguinn@gmail.com or 423-507-7769) for more information.
- Homecoming at Union Hill Baptist Church is to be held on Aug. 2 at 10:30 a.m. with the Good News Singers as guest singers; fellowship meal after the service; everyone welcome; 258 County Rd. 659, Athens.

Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Utilities Board will hold a Special Called Board Meeting on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to consider and award a bid for a water line relocation project on Holiday Drive. The meeting will be held at the Athens Utilities Board office, and the public is welcome to attend.
- Athens City Schools will hold an abbreviated first day of school on Monday, Aug. 3. Dismissal times: ACP: 12:25 p.m., ACI: 12:10 p.m., ACM: 11:30 a.m.
- Athens Area Council for the Arts annual Open Exhibit entry deadline is Aug. 26, 2026. Divisions: High School (free), College (free), Open (\$10 per piece). Exhibit runs Sept. 25–Oct. 30 in the Willson Exhibit Room at The Arts Center. Viewing hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and during events. Awards ceremony & reception Oct. 2 at 5 p.m. Judge: Chattanooga artist Adam Romano, who will also show work concurrently.

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Athens, Tennessee

Two Monroe County Women Charged in Horse Theft Case



Shaleah Leann Peels and Kyleigh Marie Shell
Photo Courtesy of Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Two women from Monroe County are facing charges after allegedly stealing a horse from a local farm and selling it online, according to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

The investigation began last month when a horse owner reported two animals missing. Detectives later determined that one of the horses, an Appaloosa valued at about \$5,000, had been taken, advertised online, and sold to a buyer in Northeast Tennessee. Officials confirmed the horse was recovered and safely returned to its owner.

As a result of the investigation, Shaleah Leann Peels and Kyleigh Marie Shell, both of Monroe County, were charged with theft of property over \$5,000 and attempted theft. Investigators also recovered the money used in the sale, which was returned to the buyer.

"Livestock theft is a serious crime that affects not only the animals involved but also the livelihoods of Tennessee producers," said Agriculture Commissioner Andy Holt.

"Our Agricultural Crime Unit is committed to protecting farmers and livestock owners across the state by thoroughly investigating these crimes and working with local law enforcement and prosecutors to hold offenders accountable."

The case highlights the Department of Agriculture's continued efforts to safeguard Tennessee's farming community and ensure justice for livestock owners. *Source:* WVLT.tv

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Property: 100 Highland Avenue, Athens, TN 37303

Owner: Tennessee Wesleyan University

Minimum Bid: \$175,000

Tennessee Wesleyan University invites any interested purchaser to submit a Sealed Bid for the purchase of the real property described below. All due diligence and inspections are the responsibility of interested purchasers and must be completed before the bid submission deadline. The real property itself and the structure on it will be open for inspection on the 4th day of August 2026 between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. Bids must be equal to or greater than \$175,000.



Property Address	100 Highland Avenue, Athens, TN 37303
County / Tax Map / Parcel ID	056L B 036.00
Acreage / Lot Size	Approximately .38 ac
Zoning	Confirm with the City of Athens
Improvements (Buildings/Year Built)	Frame house over 30 years
Utilities	Athens Utilities Board



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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

July 29, 2026

Stanley Judd, 44 of Birchwood, Tennessee, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, Bond \$2,500.

Tracy Bell, 27 of Cleveland, charged with failure to appear for theft.

Hayden Weber, 18 of Athens, charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, Bond \$1,000.

Tamia Kennedy, 20 of Etowah, charged with disorderly conduct, and resisting stop, Bond \$1,000.

Jamie Despart, 41 of Ten Mile, charged with driving on a revoked license, Bond \$2,000.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered using public sources.

Obituaries

• **Nettie Ruth Moore Deville**, 75, of Athens, passed away Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at her home. She was a native of Etowah and longtime resident of McMinn County. There will be no formal service or visitation. [Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens](#) is honored to serve the family of Nettie Ruth Moore Deville.

• **Delores Kaye Starr Kyker**, 81 of Athens departed her earthly home at NHC Healthcare Athens on July 29, 2026, and God sent his angels to escort her to her heavenly home where she celebrated the homecoming with her brother, five sisters, mother, father and husband. The family will receive friends from 2-4 pm Saturday, August 1, 2026 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow with Rev. Bart Starr officiating. Graveside services will be held at Cedar Grove Cemetery following the funeral. [Laycock Hobbs Funeral Home](#) of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

• **Walter Denver Stiles**, 86, of Englewood, TN passed away Thursday, July 30, 2026. He was a 1959 graduate of Englewood High School. Later, he served in the U.S. Army, spending most of his service in Vicenza, Italy. Afterward, he owned several local businesses. Most notably, he was the owner/operator of Stiles Excavating where he worked on many projects throughout East Tennessee. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home with Pastor Tony Curtis officiating. Family will receive friends from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, prior to the service. Interment will follow in Conasauga Cemetery. [Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah](#) is in charge of arrangements.

• **Nancy Belle Green**, 79, of Athens TN., passed away Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at Sweetwater Hospital. She was a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County. Nancy worked for Crescent Hoisery Mill for several years. She attended Pope Ave. Baptist Church. She loved to go out on the pontoon boat and fish, but most importantly she enjoyed spending time with her family. Her family stated she was the glue that kept the family together. Funeral services will be 2:00 PM Sunday, August 2, 2026 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with Rev. Vic King officiating. Interment will follow at Clearwater Cemetery. The visitation will be from 12-2 pm prior to the service. [Laycock Hobbs Funeral Home](#) of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

• **Paul "Victor" Green**, 61, of Athens, TN passed away Wednesday, July 29, 2026. Victor's greatest title was "grandfather." He was an Air Force veteran and a graduate of McMinn Central High School. In his free time, he enjoyed riding his motorcycle. He was proud of his entire family and enjoyed every moment spent with them. Funeral services will be held on Monday, August 3, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 11:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday, prior to the service. Interment will follow in McMinn Memory Gardens. [Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah](#) is in charge of arrangements.



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