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Friday, August 14, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church to Host Community Fish Fry on August 29



St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church is inviting Athens and surrounding communities to a Community Fish Fry on **Saturday, Aug. 29** beginning at 12 noon at the **McMinn County Senior Activity Center, 205 McMinn Avenue, Athens**. The event will serve as the official kickoff for the church's **Rebuilding Campaign**.

The menu will feature St. Mark's traditional fish fry, signature white beans, and homemade desserts. Admission is by donation, with all proceeds supporting efforts to rebuild the historic church, which was destroyed in a devastating arson fire that also claimed the life of a beloved member of the congregation.

Founded in 1865, St. Mark has long been a cornerstone of Athens' faith community. Despite the loss of its building, the congregation has continued its ministry and outreach while working toward constructing a new facility to serve as a "lighthouse of the community."

Church leaders encourage friends, families, organizations, and businesses to attend, enjoy fellowship, and support the rebuilding effort.

Photo Courtesy of the [Historical Marker Database](#)

SOUNDS OF SUMMER FINAL CONCERT TIME CHANGE!

The **Confederate Railroad** concert being held this Saturday at the Lake Pavilion in the Athens Regional Park will begin at 7 p.m. **Saturday, August 15. GATES WILL OPEN AT 4 P.M. See Ad on Pg 2**

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Friday, August 14, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

WSL "Last Chance" Softball Tournament Set for Saturday at Athens Regional Park



Tennessee WSL will host its "Last Chance" adult slow-pitch softball tournament

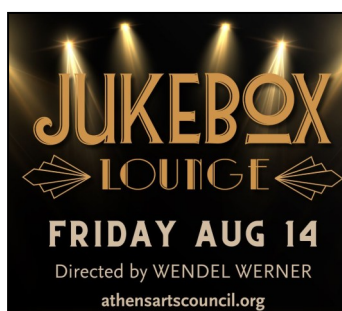
this **Saturday, August 15**, at Athens Regional Park, with games beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing throughout the day and night.

The event features 25 teams across men's C, D, E, and Rec classes and includes a three-game guarantee for all participants. Tournament Director Cory Williams said the park is expected to be full from early morning through late evening. Visitors will be directed to park in the playground/splash pad lot and the soccer field lot.

The tournament will run concurrently with the Confederate Railroad concert at the Lake Pavilion Field, which begins at 7 p.m.

Source: Mathew Siniard, City of Athens

Jukebox Lounge Opens House Blend Concert Series Tonight



Jukebox Lounge opens the 2026-27 House Blend Concert Series tonight at 7 p.m. in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater at The Arts Center.

Directed by Wendel Werner, the one-night-only show launches AACAA's America 250 performance season, celebrating American sounds and

stories. The set features familiar hits reimagined through a nightclub lens — from samba and ragtime to Andrews Sisters-style harmonies and smooth jazz — with twists on songs by artists like Springsteen, Beyoncé, 90s boy bands, and 70s power-ballad icons.

Performers include Lauren Brown, Austin Conner, Michelle Dannel, Lindsey "Lu" Kimball, Julie Offutt, Amanda Reynolds, Stephanie Roberts, and Werner.

Tickets range from \$15-\$25. Concessions will be available; this event is not catered. All House Blend concerts are held in the Black Box Theater at The Arts Center.

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THIS WEEK
NEXT WEEK
EVERY WEEK

Friday, August 14, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- **Redemption to the Nations Church** will give out free food boxes **TODAY, Aug. 14** from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at their church located at 2329 Clearwater Road, Athens.
- **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.*
- Everyone is invited to a Community Fish Fry on Saturday, August 29 at 12 Noon at the McMinn Senior Activity Center, to kick off the Rebuilding Campaign for St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church. *See Full Story on Page 1*
- Eastanallee Baptist Church is looking for a part-time Financial Administrative Assistant. If interested, submit your resume to: info@eastanallee.church
- McMinn Car Care Ministry (MCCM) will hold its next event Saturday, Aug. 29, offering free oil changes, vehicle inspections, and a money management workshop for widowed adults, single parents, and those on fixed incomes. Applications are open now through Aug. 22; call 423-263-0160 to apply. Leave a voicemail, your call will be returned.



McMinn County
Living Heritage Museum



WE ARE HIRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The McMinn county Living Heritage Museum is seeking a dynamic and visionary individual to join our team as the Executive Director. We are looking for someone who is not only appreciative of McMinn County's history and artifacts but also possesses strong leadership skills and a passion for community engagement.

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Friday, August 14, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

August 12, 2026

Jonathan Ballew, 22 of Ten Mile, charged with state violation of probation for felony evading, and domestic assault by intimidation. Bond \$4,000.

Philip Garland, 58, of Cropwell, Alabama, charged with DUI third offense.

Daniel Stinnett, 44, of Lenoir City, charged with murder, murder in the first degree, aggravated assault, and especially aggravated kidnapping.

Lisa Jones, 55, of Englewood, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

John Doe, 22, of Athens charged with animals at large.

Ruslan Kisilev, 30, of Athens, charged with shoplifting theft of property, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 6, and criminal simulation. Bond \$15,000.

Jeremiah Valiz, 39, of Lenoir City, charged with failure to appear.

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

Obituaries

Cecil P. Borden of Monroe County passed away Sunday, August 9, 2026. The family would like to offer a special thank you to Sonny and Missy Johnson and Zack and Tiffany Hall, along with Vickie Turnbough and the staff at Lifecare of Athens. A visitation will be held on Monday, August 17, 2026, from 12:30 -1:30 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 2:00 PM at McMinn Memory Gardens. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) of Athens has been entrusted with serving the family of Cecil P. Borden.

Patrick Gordon Leighton, affectionately known to many as "Unk," passed away peacefully on August 9, 2026, at the age of 72. Born on November 11, 1953, Patrick lived a life defined by love, laughter, hard work, friendship, and an unwavering passion for the open road. Patrick was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Neva Jo, and a proud father to his four children David, Corey, Michelle, and Patrick. Known for his incredible work ethic, Patrick spent much of his career operating heavy equipment. He approached his work with the same dedication and determination that he brought to every aspect of his life. Patrick was a larger-than-life presence whose authenticity, humor, generosity, and love touched countless people. He left an undeniable mark on the lives of everyone fortunate enough to know him. His stories will continue to be told, his laughter will continue to be remembered, and his spirit will live on in the hearts of his family and friends. Patrick will be deeply missed and forever loved. You are invited to share a personal memory of Patrick or your condolences with his family at his online memorial located at [HERE](#)

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