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# The Morning Fax®

## Today's News. This Morning.

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Thursday, August 20, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

### Battle of Athens 80th Anniversary Commemoration Set for Aug. 27

Tennessee Wesleyan University, in partnership with McMinn County Government, McMinn County Tourism, and the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, will host a special event marking the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Athens on Thursday, Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. in Townsend Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

The program will feature Dr. Steve Byrum, author of *The Battle of Athens*, who will share insights from his research and preview a new documentary recounting the events of Aug. 1, 1946. Drawing from oral histories, archival film and photography, newspaper accounts, and newly digitized records, the film highlights the conflict that unfolded in Athens and the reforms that followed, underscoring the importance of civic responsibility.

Following the presentation, attendees will be invited to join a guided walking tour of key sites tied to the Battle. Organizers encourage the community to mark their calendars and take part in reflecting on this pivotal chapter in McMinn County history and its lasting impact.

### AACA Launches Community "Piece" Project Installation

The Athens Area Council for the Arts is inviting the public to take part in a unique art installation, the Community "Piece" Project, running now until September 18, 2026 at The Arts Center's Willson Exhibit Room.

Participants can select from curated designs and colors to trace and paint a quilt square, contributing to a collaborative display inspired by America 250 and Stephen Sondheim's words: "*Bit by bit, putting it together... Piece by piece, the only way to make a work of art.*"

The project highlights the role of patrons in supporting The Arts Center through engagement and volunteering. Viewing hours are Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and during special events.

A reception for the installation will be held this Friday, August 21st at 5 p.m. in the same location.

**Source: The Athens Area Council for the Arts**



### REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS

Property: 100 Highland Ave.  
Athens, TN 37303

Minimum Bid: \$175,000

[tnwesleyan.edu/house](http://tnwesleyan.edu/house) for  
additional information



Tennessee Wesleyan  
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## THE MCKAMEYS

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Thursday August 27th 7 PM

Gem Theater • Etowah, TN

[paulbelcherconcerts.com](http://paulbelcherconcerts.com) for tickets



## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

### HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

E.B. MADISON-LOCAL LEGAL LEGEND  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup> @ NOON \*FREE ADMISSION\*

TRADE FAIR FRIDAY, 8/21 - SATURDAY, 8/22  
FROM 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM \*FREE ADMISSION\*

THE SOUNDTRACK OF TENNESSEE: FROM BRISTOL TO  
BEALE STREET @ TWU'S TOWNSEND AUDITORIUM  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
ADMISSION: \$15 OR \$10 FOR TWU STUDENTS  
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR AT THE MUSEUM

TRASH AND TREASURE RECEIVING DAY  
SATURDAY, 8/29<sup>TH</sup> FROM 12:00 - 3:00 PM

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)

SEE WEBSITE  
FOR FULL  
PROGRAM  
INFORMATION

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Thursday, August 20, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Starr Regional Honors Debbie Vaughn With DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award



Starr Regional Medical Center has recognized retired Chief Nursing Officer Deborah “Debbie” Vaughn, MSN, BSN, RN, with the DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring her more than 40 years in nursing, including 36 years in leadership.

Vaughn’s career included service in Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, and West Virginia, where she advanced patient care and mentored countless nurses. At Starr Regional, she led initiatives such as the clinical ladder and internship programs, expansion of the ICU with tele-ICU services, and efforts that earned the hospital Joint Commission Gold Seal approval and stroke care designations.

CEO John McLain praised Vaughn’s compassion and leadership, noting her lasting impact on staff, patients, and the profession. The award presentation was a surprise, attended by hospital leaders, staff, and colleagues. Vaughn received a certificate, lapel pin, and a personalized Healer’s Touch sculpture.

The DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award honors nurses with at least 25 years of distinguished service who inspire others through advocacy, mentoring, and dedication. Nominations for future awards are available at [StarrRegional.com/daisy-award](http://StarrRegional.com/daisy-award).

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**EASTANALLEE**

A colorful advertisement for 'Sweet Stuff East Tennessee' grand opening. It features a large 'Sweet Stuff' logo with 'EAST TENNESSEE' above it. To the right, it says 'GRAND OPENING! WE OPEN AUGUST 22ND!'. Below the logo, there are images of pink and orange t-shirts with 'Lick Responsibly' text. A blue cartoon dog character is on the right. Text boxes include 'SWEET MERCH!', 'T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE IN PINK &amp; ORANGE!', 'COME CELEBRATE WITH US!', and the address '112 E WASHINGTON AVE ATHENS, TENNESSEE 37303'. At the bottom, it says 'CANDY. TREATS. HAPPINESS.' and 'MEET BLUEY!'.



## LIVE MUSIC AND VARIETY SHOW

TOWNSEND HALL  
TENNESSEE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS  
TICKETS \$15 - STUDENTS \$10

22 AUGUST, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

PURCHASE TICKETS:

<https://www.livingheritagemuseum.org>



Thursday, August 20, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

### August 18, 2026

**Edith Brown**, 69, of Austin, Texas, charged with misuse of 911, and resisting stop. Bond \$3,000.

**Gary Harris**, 63, of Athens, charged with criminal trespassing. Bond \$500.

**Charles Blackman**, 36, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for aggravated assault, and violation of an order of protection. Bond \$2,000.

**William Threatt**, of Calvert, Alabama, charged with being a fugitive from justice. Bond \$225,000.

**Ashley Revis**, 45, of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia. Bond \$1,000.

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

## Obituaries

**Gary Dean Curtis**, 84, of Riceville, passed away on Tuesday, August 18. He was the owner-operator of Volunteer Imports for over 30 years. Gary enjoyed fishing and traveling with his family and was a member of Fairview Baptist Church. A visitation will be held on Thursday, August 20 from 5:00-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 7:00 PM. A graveside service will be held on Friday, August 21 at 11:00 AM at McMinn Memory Gardens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Gary Dean Curtis.

**Harold Edwin "Ed" Hafley**, 73, of Athens, passed away peacefully at his residence on Wednesday, August 12. Ed was an avid outdoorsman who especially enjoyed trout fishing along the Tellico River. Before his retirement, he also enjoyed riding motorcycles and horseback riding with his friends. Ed worked for many years at the M&M Mars Candy Factory in Cleveland before retiring. There are no formal services being held currently. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens is honored to be entrusted with assisting the family during this time.



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