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Monday, August 31, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Mayfield Departing TWU After 27 Years to Lead AAC



Tennessee Wesleyan University is celebrating the career and legacy of Donny Mayfield, Vice President and Director of Athletics, as he prepares to leave the institution after 27 years of service to become the next Commissioner of the Appalachian Athletic Conference.

Mayfield joined TWU in 1999 as Head Athletic Trainer and Assistant Professor, later stepping into the role of Director of Athletics, which he has held for the past 19 years. In 2022, he was promoted to Vice President, marking another milestone in a career defined by growth, stability, and championship-level achievement.

Under Mayfield's leadership, TWU Athletics expanded with seven new varsity sports, earned NAIA National Championships, and consistently excelled in AAC All-Sports standings. His tenure helped shape TWU into one of the conference's most respected athletic programs, leaving a foundation that university leaders say will benefit student-athletes for generations.

As Mayfield transitions to his new conference-wide role, TWU has launched the search for its next athletics leader. Dr. Stan Harrison will serve as Interim Director of Athletics during the process.

University officials expressed both pride and gratitude as they recognized Mayfield's contributions, noting his vision, passion, and unwavering commitment to student-athletes, coaches, and the broader TWU community.

TWU leaders said they are saddened to see him depart but are eager to celebrate this next chapter in his career as he steps into leadership at the AAC.



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Monday, August 31, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Wanted Suspect Arrested After Months-Long Search in Meigs County



The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office announced the arrest of Robert Corey Ripple on Thursday in Meigs County, following an extended effort to locate and apprehend him.

Ripple, who has a lengthy criminal history, was first sought in June on warrants for trespassing and theft of property. Authorities said he repeatedly fled law enforcement, leading to addi-

tional charges.

He now faces multiple counts, including:

- **Evading arrest** (three counts)
- **Theft of property**
- **Criminal trespassing** (two counts)
- **Off-road motor vehicle on highway**

The arrest was credited to the combined work of the HCSO Criminal Warrants Unit, NSI, K-9 Unit, and the Meigs County Sheriff's Office. *Source:* [The Chattanooga](#)

Community News You Can Use

- 4-H Enrollment is open for the 2026–2027 academic year, with free membership and open club meetings. Youth can take part in hands-on learning through clubs, school programs, after-school activities, camps, and community service, helping them build important life skills through 4-H's "learning by doing" approach. Contact 4-H Youth Development - McMinn County for more info at (423) 745-2852.
- **Gems of the Past Lecture** returns Thursday, Sept. 3 at the Historic Gem Theater in Etowah, featuring Linda Caldwell, founder of Tennessee Overhill. She will discuss the Old Line Railroad, its role in connecting the region, and the community effort that helped save it. Doors open 6:30 p.m., lecture at 7 p.m., and admission is free.
- **Gone '90s Country** hits the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater on Friday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m., the next show in AACAA's House Blend Concert Series. Directed by Traci McKenzie, the concert features '90s country favorites performed by new and veteran AACAA vocalists (to be announced in September) with music by house band September Song. Tickets are \$15–\$25.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

LAST
WEEK'S
RESULTS



McMinn Central vs. Eagleton
48-20



Cleveland vs. McMinn County
28-21



Bradley Central vs. Walker Valley
24-28



Meigs County vs. East Hamilton
42-0



Tellico Plains vs. Sequoyah
38-7



Polk County vs. Marion County
7-49

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Monday, August 31, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

August 27, 2026

Julie Perry, 48, of Decatur, charged with drug paraphernalia. Bond \$4,000.

Camden Hare, 24, of McDonald, Tennessee, charged with violation of probation for possession of schedule 6. Bond \$1,643.45.

Michael Ray, 43, of Athens, charged with aggravated assault, aggravated assault by intimidation, and interference with 911 calls. Bond \$64,000.

E. Nelson Vasquez, 25, of Morristown, charged with DUI, open container law, and driving without a license. Bond \$3,000.

Charles Williams, 59, of Athens, charged with criminal trespassing. Bond \$3,000.

Bobby Townsend, 44, of Englewood, charged with evading arrest, and driving on a revoked license.

Jessica Green, 40 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for fentanyl for resale.

August 28, 2026

Pamela Liner, 34, of Athens, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, paraphernalia, and violation of probation. Bond \$5,662.40.

Ricky Nation, 41, of Oliver Springs, charged with failure to wear a crash helmet, driving an unregistered vehicle, criminal impersonation, manufacturing, sale, delivery, possession of a controlled substance, failure to have insurance, driving while in possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$36,000.

Kimberly Gobble, 56, of Cleveland, charged with aggravated domestic assault. Bond \$60,000.

Javin Coffey, 22, of Cleveland, charged with public intoxication. Bond \$1,000.

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



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Monday, August 31, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Arveda Shelton, 90, of Athens, passed away on Thursday, August 27. She was a member of Clearwater Baptist Church for most of her life. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 31 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The graveside service will follow in Clearwater cemetery. The family will hold a visitation from 12-1 p.m. in the chapel, prior to the service. [Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) is in charge of arrangements.

Jerry Wayne Carroll, 81 of Athens, passed away on Thursday, August 27. He was the owner and operator of Sweetwater Electric Motor Service and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy having served with an aviation team of sailors. Jerry was a lifelong member of Wildwood Baptist Church. Visitation and Funeral were held on Sunday, August 30. [Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) was in charge of the arrangements.

Jacky L. "Jack" Russell, 73, a native of Ider, AL and resident of Athens for several years, passed away on Thursday, August 27. He was an avid Tennessee football fan. There will be no formal services at this time. [Ziegler Funeral Home](#) has been entrusted with serving the family of Jacky L. "Jack" Russell.

Brenda Fay Clark Rollo, 76, of Athens, passed away on Thursday, August 27. As an active and deeply committed member of Athens First Baptist Church, she dedicated countless hours to supporting her church community, embodying a spirit of Christian love and generosity. Funeral Services will be at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1 at Athens First Baptist Church. Interment will follow at McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. prior to the service at the church. [Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

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