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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News...This Morning

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### Leadership McMinn Applications Available Now

Applications for Leadership McMinn's Class of 2024-2025 are currently available and will be accepted through Friday, August 16th. The program, sponsored by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, is a great way to learn about our wonderful community and make personal and business contacts that will last a lifetime. More than 600 people have graduated from Leadership McMinn since the program's inception in 1988.

The class will start in September meeting one day a month for 9 months. Each month, the Leadership McMinn class meets to explore different aspects of leadership and various challenges facing the community. Session topics include: local industry, government, criminal justice, history, community services, healthcare and volunteer opportunities. The group of 25 individuals selected to participate is exposed to the people, agencies, organizations, businesses and ideas that make McMinn County a great place to live, work and play.

"I learned so much about McMinn County by participating in this class and benefited greatly. I looked forward to each session as well as networking with my classmates. There was one common theme I took from each of our classes: people love living in McMinn County, and are proud of the work we do here." – Victoria White, DENSO.

Anyone interested in applying can contact the chamber at (423) 745-0334 or by email [julie@athenschamber.org](mailto:julie@athenschamber.org). You can also pick up an application at the Chamber's office at 13 N Jackson St.

### Community News You Can Use

- The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Beekeepers Association will be TODAY, Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. The meetings are held at the AgCentral Farmer's Cooperative located at 920 Congress Pkwy. N., in Athens. The public is always welcome. You do not need to be a member to attend.
- Athens Utilities Board monthly meeting is scheduled for TODAY, Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- The City of Athens Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a public input meeting regarding the intent to apply for the BlueCross Healthy Place Grant for Ingleside on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Athens City Hall in the conference room. The Healthy Place playground would be located at the Ingleside Recreation Complex at 615 Forrest Avenue, directly behind the skate park and pool. For more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation office at (423) 744-2704.



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Tuesday, July 23, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## New CNO at Starr Regional



Starr Regional Medical Center has announced Deborah Vaughn, MSN, as the new Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), effective July 22, 2024. Vaughn has previously held interim CNO positions at various Lifepoint facilities, including Starr Regional, over the past three years. With over 40 years of nursing experience and 36 years in leadership roles, she has implemented quality programs to enhance patient safety and address staffing challenges.

“We are so excited to have Deborah step into this important leadership role,” said John McLain, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Starr Regional Medical Center. “She is an exemplary leader with a tremendous amount of clinical experience and expertise. Her commitment to championing patient care, supporting providers and employees, and serving our communities is evident in all that she does. I know she will help us further advance our mission of making communities healthier.”

Vaughn was the CNO at Raleigh General Hospital in West Virginia before retiring in 2021. She holds a Master's in Nursing from the University of Phoenix and a Master's in General Administration from Central Michigan University.

## Obituaries

**Linda Gale Cody Webb, 57**, passed away on Sunday, July 21. There will be no formal services at this time. Ziegler Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Linda Gale Cody Webb.

**Jimmy Dell Womack, 82** of Athens, passed away Saturday, July 20, at his residence. He was a member of Idlewild Baptist Church. Funeral services will be 1:00 P.M. Wednesday, July 24, in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Beta Cemetery in Meigs County. The family will receive friends from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Wednesday in the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Tuesday, July 23, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

## \$10,000 Reward for Info in State Forest Vandalism Case



A \$10,000 reward is now being offered by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) for information leading to

the apprehension, arrest, and conviction of the person or persons responsible for vandalism and theft at Franklin State Forest.

“As investigators continue to collect evidence at the scene in Franklin County, we are asking for the public’s help with information about the recent crimes,” Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. said. “Early estimates of the \$1 million loss to forestry equipment leave taxpayers footing the bill.”

Sometime during July 10-14, 2024, five TDA Division of Forestry dozers and one transport truck and trailer were vandalized and damaged, rendering the equipment inoperable.

The forest will remain closed to visitors while evidence is gathered. TDA will announce when law enforcement officers complete their investigation and the forest reopens.

Anyone with information that could help identify who is responsible for the crimes on Franklin State Forest are asked to contact ACU at 844-AG-CRIME (844-242-7463) or [agriculture.crime@tn.gov](mailto:agriculture.crime@tn.gov). Details on the incident can be found in the TDA newsroom [HERE](#).

## New CEO at United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties



Lee Montgomery has been named the new President and CEO of the United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties, succeeding Paige Zabo, who has retired. Zabo took on the role of President and CEO in early 2020 and led the organization through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. She spearheaded efforts to raise funds and provide emergency assistance, including rent and mortgage relief for those affected by the pandemic.

During her tenure, Zabo, a native of Meigs County and longtime resident of McMinn County, achieved record fundraising levels and launched an annual golf tournament. She also established an early childhood task force to address affordable childcare and the McMinn-Meigs Assist Program, offering rent, utility, and food assistance for those facing emergencies like illness or job loss.

Montgomery, who has a background in executive roles with the YMCA and manufacturing, has also served on the Board of Directors of United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties and been a Campaign Co-Chair. Moses highlighted Montgomery’s comprehensive experience with United Way, noting, “Lee has seen this operation from every possible angle.”

A public reception to honor Zabo and welcome Montgomery will be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Glenn Lowe Dining Room of the Sherman Fine Arts Building at Tennessee Wesleyan University.

**ATTENTION ATHENS RESIDENTS!!**

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**Tues. - Patchy Fog, Storms likely. High 85.**

**Tues. night - 70% Chance of Rain. Low 71.**

**Wed. - 80% Chance of Storms. High 81.**

**Wed. Night - 70% Chance of Rain. Low 70.**

More weather at: [wyxi.com](http://wyxi.com)



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## 86th Annual All-American Soap Box Derby Wrap-Up



The race week at the All-American Soap Box Derby wrapped up with the 86th running on Saturday, July 20th in Akron, Ohio. There were absolutely perfect racing conditions, with clear skies and temperatures around 80 degrees. Unfortunately, our Athens champions suffered some of the closest defeats of the entire competition with them losing by a combined five thousandths of a second.

In what was just the second race of the day, our local stock champion, Titus Millsaps did not have time to be nervous as he headed straight for the starting blocks. Competing in lane 3, Titus, defeated Anthony Cardenas of Fayetteville, NC by .087 seconds but fell to Cooper Eubank of Roanoke, VA by .002 seconds, knocking him out of the competition. After finishing 2nd in his heat by the narrowest of margins, Titus was still in great spirits, stating that he still had a great time and an awesome experience getting to spend all week in Akron with his parents and siblings as a champion.

Later in the morning, it was Anniemaye Johnson's turn to make her second consecutive trip down the hill at Derby Downs as she was now competing in the Super Stock division. To add to the drama of our Athens racers on Saturday, Anniemaye was part of the what ended up being one of the closest 3-driver heats of the day. Also positioned in lane 3, Annie defeated Makalla Dempsey of Columbus, Ohio by

just .009 seconds but finished behind Cora Freidenstine of Liberty, New York (who was the eventual 5th place finisher) by .003 seconds. It is incredible to see one race finish this close, but both of the Athens drivers could not have been closer to advancing to Round 2. These are margins that are only noticeable by the automatic timing equipment as to the naked eye it may look like a dead tie and probably could have been decided by just the slightest movements of the steering handle. Annie also said she had a great time and felt so much more comfortable on the track and with the experience overall after being a participant last year as well.

I can attest after spending 6 days with them in Ohio that these kids are wonderful representations of our community and great ambassadors for the City of Athens. It was a privilege to see them grow with more confidence as the week progressed and they got more track time under their belts.

Breylin Hagerty was our Super Kid representative who competed in the National Super Kids Classic. They compete by riding along in a 2 seat vehicle driven by a veteran racer and are able to experience the same thrills as the other children. Unfortunately, Breylin was knocked out of the double elimination bracket but had an amazing time after getting to compete for his 2nd time overall, and watching his sister Kyia compete last year.

—Derek Phillips  
Athens Parks and Recreation Department



### Today In History - July 23

**1829** - The first typewriter was patented — by William Burt of Mt. Vernon, MI. It didn't work out as well as other practical models developed years later. The first problem was, people couldn't get used to calling it a Burtwriter...

**1904** - The ice cream cone was independently introduced at the St. Louis World's Fair by Ernest A. Hamwi, a Syrian concessionaire. Hamwi was in a booth next to an ice cream maker who ran out of plates for his ice cream. Hamwi, who was selling a crisp, waffle like pastry, quickly rolled one of his wafer-like waffles in the shape of a cone, or cornucopia, and gave it to the ice cream vendor. The cone cooled in a few seconds, the vendor put some ice cream in it, the customers were happy and the cone was on its way to becoming the great American institution that it is today.

**1971** - Bluegrass singer Allison Krauss was born. One of her biggest hit records is "When You Say Nothing At All."

**2000** - Tiger Woods became the youngest golfer to complete a career Grand Slam when he won the British Open at age 24.

# MOMENTS

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