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Isahaya Delegation Visits Athens to Renew 40-Year Sister City Partnership



A delegation of officials from Isahaya, Japan, recently spent three days in Athens, renewing a Sister City relationship that has connected the two communities for four decades.

The visit was coordinated by DENSO employees, the City of Athens, local school systems and Tennessee Wesleyan University. During their stay, the visitors toured city facilities, schools and parks while meeting with local leaders to strengthen cultural and educational ties.

One highlight of the trip was the release of two rehabilitated red-tailed hawks, commemorating the longstanding partnership between the cities. The delegation also experienced local traditions during a visit to Mayfield Farm Park, where they explored the pumpkin patch and other fall attractions.

The group also learned about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, taking children's books back to Japan to share with schools and families. Local officials said the exchange reflected the two communities' shared commitment to education and international friendship.

The visit concluded with renewed connections, new friendships and a continued commitment to strengthening the relationship between Athens and Isahaya. ***Sourced from submission by: Ginger Robinson, Lisa Mayfield. Photo by Renee Nicolo***

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FREE ~ Breakfast for Veterans and their families
Saturday, Nov. 14th from 8am to 11:30am
We will be having pancakes, sausage, fruit, donuts, juices, and coffee.
We are collecting canned goods in conjunction with this event to help support local food pantries during the holidays
Athens Lutheran Church
710 FORREST AVE - ATHENS, TN 37303 - (423) 745-9419)

McMinn County Living Heritage Museum
A STAR SPANGLED HOLIDAY HOUSE
NOVEMBER 19, 2026
TICKETS $40
AVAILABLE NOW PICKUP AT THE MUSEUM
(CASH OR CHECK ONLY)
HISTORY FOR LUNCH:
TENNESSEE VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORY WITH JOSH MONROE
CORRECTION: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 @ 11:00
FREE ADMISSION
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



TWU, Cleveland State Create New Transfer Pathways for Future Teachers



Dr. Tyler Forrest, TWU President (left) and Dr. John Davis, CSCC President (right) shake hands after signing a series of articulation agreements in STEM related education fields.

Tennessee Wesleyan University and Cleveland State Community College have signed new articulation agreements designed to help students transfer seamlessly into STEM-related education programs.

The agreements allow students who complete an associate degree or up to 60 credit hours at Cleveland State to transfer directly to Tennessee Wesleyan with junior standing and continue toward a bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry or mathematics education for grades 6-12.

Officials from both schools said the partnership will simplify the transfer process, reduce barriers to completing a four-year degree and help prepare more qualified science and math teachers to meet workforce needs across Southeast Tennessee.

Community News You Can Use

- Registration is now open for the City of Athens Youth Basketball League for Pre-K through 6th grade students. Games begin in January, with practices held one night per week. The $80 registration fee includes a jersey, shorts, basketball and eight games. Register online at secure.rec1.com/TN/athens-tn/catalog or call Athens Parks and Recreation at 423-744-2704 for more information.
- Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, Tennessee residents applying for an initial vehicle registration that includes a license plate will be required to provide proof of U.S. citizenship, lawful permanent residency or authorized temporary presence. The new requirement does not apply to annual registration renewals. Additional information is available through the Tennessee Department of Revenue.



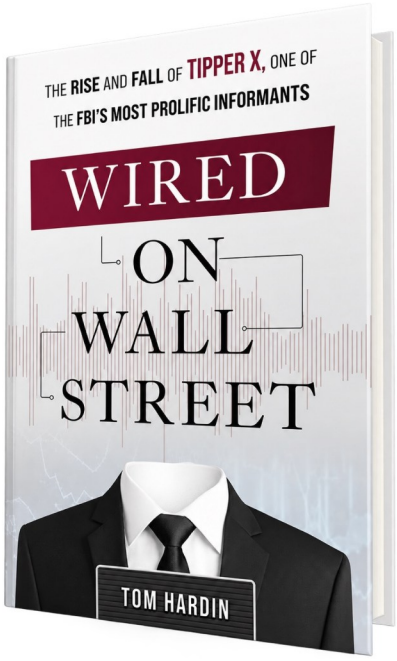


McMinn County Living Heritage Museum
and
Tennessee Wesleyan University
Welcome

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"Wired on Wall Street"



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PUBLISHERS WEEKLY TOP 20 HARDCOVER NONFICTION



Wired on Wall Street *is more than a Wall Street memoir; it is a deeply personal exploration of the* ***human condition*** *- how we justify our choices, face their consequences, and find a path toward accountability and redemption.*

Thursday, December 10, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

Tennessee Wesleyan University Colloms Campus Center
204 E. College Street • Athens, TN 37303
in the Johnson Event Center on the 2nd floor

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 423-745-0329

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McMinn County Arrest Report

November 10, 2026

Whisper Flowers, 22, of Spring City, charged with schedule 2 for resale.

Xiaou Lu, 27, of Laurel Springs, Florida, charged with attempted financial exploitation of an elderly or vulnerable person, conspiracy, and theft of property $10,000 to $60,000.

Eduardo Gomez, 26, charged with DUI, Bond $1,500.

Timothy Libby, 36, of Athens, charged with theft of property, assault against a first responder, and retaliation for past action. Bond $450,000.

Steven Cassin, 19 of Athens, charged with driving without a license. Bond $2,000.

Amanda Ellison, 44, of Ten Mile, charged with violation of probation for driving on a revoked license.

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

American Eagle Foundation to Honor Larry Eaton in Athens



The American Eagle Foundation will present its rare Challenger Award for Conservation to Larry Eaton during a special ceremony Nov. 23 in Athens.

The event begins at 5 p.m. at The Barn at Faith Farms on County Road 260. Guests will have the opportunity to take photos with a live eagle following the presentation, and donations to the foundation will be accepted.

Foundation Board Chair James Rogers said Eaton was selected for his longtime support of eagle conservation, including his role in rescuing an injured bald eagle named Phoenix and helping save the bird's life. Rogers also cited Eaton's years of volunteer service to the foundation as reasons for the honor.

Source: Julie Simbeck



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Obituaries

Raymond Harold Lenderman, 82, of Decatur, passed away on Monday, November 9. He was of the Baptist faith. Raymond was a former employee of Cleveland Utilities in Cleveland, TN and formerly attended Good Hope Baptist Church. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, November 14, at Good Hope Baptist Church (2601 Armstrong Ferry Road, Decatur). The funeral service will follow at 12 p.m. Interment will follow in the Coker Creek Baptist Church Cemetery (11990 TN-68, Tellico Plains). **Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services** is honored to serve the Lenderman family.

William "Bill" Franklin McNutt, 71, of Athens, passed away on Monday, November 9. He was a former employee of Mayfield Dairy having retired after more than 20 years of service. After his retirement he started, owned an operated McNutt Trucking company. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM Friday, November 13 at McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 12:00 PM-1:30 PM in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. **Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home** in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Judith Brumback, 80, of Athens, passed away on Saturday, November 7. Judy was employed by the McMinn County Clerk's Office for many years and was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. A memorial service will be 4:00 PM Tuesday, November 17 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. **Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home** will be in charge of the arrangements.

Grace Helen Wright Bales, 79, of Decatur, passed away on Monday, November 9. She loved the Lord and enjoyed attending church, where she was a faithful member of The Gathering Place in Ten Mile. Visitation will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM at the Chapel of Companion Funeral and Cremation Service of Athens. A Celebration of Life service will follow at 5:00 PM. A burial service will take place on Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 PM at Meigs Memorial Gardens. **Companion Funeral Home of Athens** is in charge of arrangements.

Penny Lee (Knowles) Cross, 83, passed away on Friday, November 6. Throughout her life, she lived and worked in various communities, serving as a hairdresser, a Mary Kay representative, and a Customer Service Representative for Central Maine Power. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. A Memorial Service will be on Saturday, November 12 at 4:00pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Athens. **Smith Funeral Home & Cremation Service** is in charge of arrangements.

Bobby Joe Malone, 77, of Athens, passed away on Saturday, October 31. Bobby proudly served his country in the United States Navy and later retired from Custom Upholstery by Aero. Visitation will be held on Monday, November 16 from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM at the funeral home. A Celebration of Life service will follow at 5:00 PM, beginning with military honors provided by the United States Navy Honor Guard. **Companion Funeral Home of Athens** is in charge of arrangements.

Julie Renee Helms Jones, 58, passed away on Monday, November 9. She passed in accordance with her wishes, comfortable and without pain, surrounded by her family. She loved to read and write and loved nothing more than to sit on a beach and listen to the ocean. A memorial service celebrating Julie's exceptional life will be held on Friday, November 13, 2026, at the First Baptist Church in Decatur. Family and friends are invited to pay their respects starting at 5:00 PM with a service to follow at 7:00 PM. **Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services** is honored to serve the Jones family.

Dorothy "Faye" (Correll) Smith, 77, passed away on November 9. She devoted her career to education in the McMinn County School System. She was a longtime and dedicated member of Short Creek Baptist Church in Athens. All services will be held on Sunday, November 15 and at Short Creek Baptist Church. A visitation will be held from 1:00- 3:00 PM, with a funeral service at 3:00 PM. Interment will follow the funeral service at Short Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. **Ziegler Funeral Home** has been entrusted with serving the family of Dorothy "Faye" Correll Smith.