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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

Today's News... This Morning

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Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Athens, Tennessee

## Englewood Woman Faces Sex Charges

An Englewood woman has been indicted by the McMinn County Grand Jury on numerous charges related to sexual encounters with minors. According to Sheriff Joe Guy, the McMinn Co Sheriff's Office received a referral from the Tennessee Department of Children's Services on December 9, 2021, that indicated Melissa A Blair, 38, of Englewood, (in photo) had been having sexual encounters with male juveniles who were students at McMinn Central High School. An investigation was immediately begun, and as interviews progressed, additional information came to light, as well as additional victims. On December 15, 2021, detectives with the Sheriff's Office went to Ms. Blair's residence and spoke with the suspect, which was quickly followed by the execution of a search warrant at the suspect's residence. A letter from Director of McMinn County Schools Lee Parkison was also served on Ms. Blair which banned her from school property or any school activities. "The search warrant revealed additional evidence, and our investigation grew larger as more parents and victims contacted us," said Sheriff Guy. "We were finally able to present the case to the Grand Jury on February 15, upon which the indictments were issued." The indictments from the Grand Jury were a total of 23 counts, including: 18 counts of Aggravated Statutory Rape, 4 counts of Human Trafficking by Patronizing Prostitution, and 1 count of Solicitation of a Minor.



(Continued on Column 2) →

## Sex Charges - Continued

"The current charges are related to 9 confirmed male juvenile victims, related to incidents which occurred from Spring of 2020 through late 2021," said Sheriff Guy. "Seven of the victims are still juveniles. Two were victimized as juveniles but are now adults. We suspect there may be additional juvenile victims and we encourage them or their parents to contact us. There may possibly be other victims who are now adults, and we also encourage them to contact us. It appears that Ms. Blair was communicating with the juveniles on social media, arranging meetings with them, and trading items for sexual encounters with them. This type of case is difficult and shocking even to seasoned detectives, and I want to commend our staff for the many hours of identifying, locating, and interviewing victims and their families, collecting physical and electronic evidence, as well as the many days of putting together the search warrant and subsequent case file. But most importantly we want to offer support and resources to the victims and their parents as we move forward. I also want to express my appreciation for the cooperation of Director of Schools Lee Parkison and District Attorney General Steve Crump and his office for their assistance in this case. We all share a common desire for the safety and welfare of our schools and students." Sheriff Guy added that Melissa Blair turned herself into the McMinn County Jail on Tuesday evening and was booked on the Grand Jury indictments. Her attorney indicates she will be making the \$100,000 bail. The case will be set for the upcoming McMinn County Criminal Court.

# MEDIC

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1390 AM  
11:30 a.m.  
Daily • Mon-Fri  
& 6:30am Sat.



### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT



NEW: Hand Breaded Chicken Sandwich \$3.99  
Steak Biscuits 2 / \$5 • 32 oz Tea \$1  
8 Piece Tailgate \$19.99

Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits  
Bojangles is reopening on SUNDAYS in February with DRIVE THRU Service ONLY  
BOJANGLES of Athens-South Congress Pkwy 744-5292

## Music Extravaganza

Sunday, February 20th



with Wendell Richardson, Piano & Patsy Burger on Organ  
3:00 PM @ ST. PAUL UMC, ETOWAH  
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### WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday - Mostly sunny.  
High 62  
Wed. night - Mostly cloudy.  
Low 56  
Thursday - 80% chance of  
thunderstorms. High 66  
Thursday night - 90% chance  
of thunderstorms. Low 40  
More Weather at: [wxyi.com](http://wxyi.com)



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## DEBATE NIGHT

FEBRUARY 17TH, 7PM  
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM



RUSH



DONAGHY

Criminal Court Judge  
Candidates



CRUMP



HATCHETT

District Attorney Candidates

Paid for by McMinn Co Republican Party



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Wednesday, February 16, 2022

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **Subrenna DeRea Cline Newman**, age 54, of Athens, died Monday in Nashville. A funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Smith Funeral Home with visitation beginning at 11 a.m.

♦ **Michael Edward Tallent**, age 72, of Athens, died Saturday at U.T. Medical Center in Knoxville. He was a 1967 graduate of McMinn County High School and did graduate studies at the University of Tennessee in Business Management. He served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1973, where he worked with the Joint Chiefs of staff in Washington, DC. He taught at the State Area Vocational School for a short while and then started a 40 year career in banking with First National Bank and later with Athens Federal where he was a Vice President. After retirement he worked part time at East Tennessee Auto Outlet in sales. A funeral service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday at Smith Funeral Home with visitation from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. prior to the service. Interment will follow in McMinn Memory Gardens with Military Honors. Smith Funeral and Cremation Services is in charge of the arrangements.

♦ **Mildred Ellen Hammonds**, age 75, died Tuesday. A celebration of her life will be held Friday at 12 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Ziegler Funeral Home.

♦ **Betty N. Lavergne**, age 86, of Athens, died on Monday. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday at Good Samaritan Funeral Home with visitation beginning at 11 a.m.

## Obituaries Continued

♦ **Leonard C. Pulley**, age 77, of Reliance, died Monday at Starr Regional Medical Center of Athens. In lieu of a formal visitation, a graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in cedar Springs Cemetery in Cleveland. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

♦ **Betty Newman**, age 84, of Etowah, died Monday. A funeral service will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home with visitation from 4 to 6 p.m.

### ◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ The guest on the Women at the Well radio show, "Hope From the Well," this week will be Connie McIntosh. "Hope From the Well" is heard at 8:15 a.m. each Thursday on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

**Tuesday's Market Report:** Major market indexes were higher despite reports of higher-than-expected producer prices. Travel and leisure companies led the gains, along with technology shares. The price of oil was down almost 4%, as Russia has reportedly started to move troops away from the Ukrainian border, and Russia's foreign minister has called for a diplomatic solution to Russia's security concerns. The U.S. 10-year yield jumped to 2.04%. Closing Indices: DJIA 34,988.84 (+422.67) S&P 500 4,471.07 (+69.40) NASDAQ 14,139.76 (+348.84)

## Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

PRESENTS



# KAYLEIGH MCENANY

## JUNE 25, 2022

Tickets: [AthensChamber.org](http://AthensChamber.org)

# 423-745-0334

## Health Family Night

Provided by: Children's Creative Discovery Museum  
and Tennessee Wesleyan University

Date: February 24, 2022

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: ACMS Cafeteria

