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## Today's News... This Morning

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Friday, June 24, 2022

Athens, Tennessee

### Blair Indicted on Additional Charges

A McMinn County woman previously indicted by the McMinn County Grand Jury on numerous charges related to sexual encounters with minors, has been indicted on additional charges. According to Sheriff Joe Guy, the case began with a referral from the Tennessee Department of Children's Services on December 9, 2021, that indicated Melissa A.



Blair, 38, of Englewood, had been having sexual encounters with male juveniles who were students at McMinn Central High School. An investigation immediately began, and as interviews progressed, additional information came to light, as well as additional victims. The February 15th Grand Jury indicted Melissa A Blair on numerous charges, and she was booked into the

McMinn Co Jail and later released upon making a \$100,000 bond. "Our investigation has continued over the past few months," said Sheriff Joe Guy, "in which additional victims were identified, and these cases were presented to the Grand Jury on June 21st which resulted in additional indictments against Melissa A Blair." (See Column 2 for more)

### Blair Indictment Continued

The indictments from the June 21 Grand Jury were a total of 20 counts, including:

**Solicitation of a Minor (3 Counts)**

**Solicitation of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor by Electronic Means (4 counts)**

**Patronizing Prostitution (5 Counts)**

**Aggravated Statutory Rape (6 counts)**

**Sexual Exploitation of a Minor**

**Exploitation of a Minor by Electronic Means**

These new charges are related to 9 new confirmed male juvenile victims, related to incidents which occurred from Spring of 2020 through late 2021," said Sheriff Guy. "At the time of these incidents involving Melissa A Blair, the males were between the ages of 15 and 17. It appears in these cases, as before, that Ms. Blair was communicating with the juveniles on social media, arranging meetings with them, and trading items for sexual encounters with them. These latest 9 victims, added to the 9 victims previously discovered before the February 15th Grand Jury, brings a total number of 18 male juvenile victims in this case." Sheriff Guy added that Melissa A Blair was taken into custody and was booked into the McMinn County Jail and faces a \$1,000,000 bond. The case will be set for an upcoming McMinn County Criminal Court.

### Community News You Can Use

✓ A reminder that Athens City Schools Tuition payments for 2022-23 School year will be accepted beginning 7/1 at the Admin Office located at 943 Crestway Drive. Office Hours are Monday- Thursday 8:00-4:30, Friday 8:00-3:00 pm. For questions call: 745-1516.

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Friday, June 24, 2022

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Today in History

**1541** - Spanish conquistador Francisco de Orellana, the first European to sail down Brazil's Amazon River, fought a famous battle with warrior women. The women were described as tall with long braided hair wound around their heads. They resembled the fighting women of ancient Greek legend, the Amazons, so much, that the river where the battle took place has been called the Amazon ever since.

**1895** - Heavyweight boxing champ Jack Demsey was born.

**1948** - Russia blockaded the western zones of Berlin, obstructing all rail, water, and highway routes. This set the stage for the "Berlin Airlift," in which the Western allies flew in supplies to meet the needs of more than 2-million people in West Berlin.

**1949** - The movie features of Hopalong Cassidy premiered on TV. The films were edited to thirty and sixty-minute versions starring William Boyd as Hopalong and Edgar Buchanan as his sidekick, Red Connors. Eventually, all 66 original films were shown on TV, so Boyd produced more *Hopalong Cassidy* episodes just for TV.

**1975** - An Eastern Airlines Boeing 727 crashed at New York's Kennedy International Airport, killing 114.

## Church News & Events

- There will be a gospel singing at Cooke Ministry Center, 714 Walter Street at 7 p.m. Friday, June 24th (today). *His Call* will be singing.

- If you or someone you know is battling addiction, struggling with anger, or other life issues, Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

- If you have suffered the loss of a loved one, Mars Hill Presbyterian Church of Athens now offers a Griefshare program each Sunday at 2:00 p.m. For more information call 423-829-5052.

- Celebrate Recovery meets at the following churches: The Englewood Church of God every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Woodward Avenue Church of God every Tuesday at 6 p.m.

### THURSDAY'S MARKET REPORT:

Equity markets were higher. WTI crude oil prices are now down nearly 15% to \$104 levels. At the closing bell, The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 194.23 to 30,677.36. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 35.84 to 3,795.73, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was up 179.11 to 11,232.19.

## HAPPY RETIREMENT

*Joyce Terry, Branch Manager*



We are hosting a reception for Joyce and we invite everyone to join us on June 28th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at our Sweetwater Branch.

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