

**AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY**  
**November 10 FRIDAY**  
**5-7 PM @ VFW**  
 Congress Parkway North  
**FISH-FRIES-COLESLAW-GREEN BEANS-HUSH PUPPIES**

# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

## Today's News... This Morning

(Okay to copy, post or distribute with Attribution)  
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**(SEE PAGE 3 IN TODAY'S EDITION)**

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Wednesday, November 08, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

## Blair Enters Guilty Pleas

Melissa Blair appeared in the Criminal Court of McMinn County Monday where she entered a guilty plea to charges related to inappropriate sexual relationships with 16 minors from McMinn County. She faced a total of 44 charges, which included Aggravated Statutory Rape, Patronizing Prostitution, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, and Soliciting Sexual Exploitation of a Minor by Electronic Means. Blair engaged with victims on social media, arranging meetings to trade items in exchange for sexual encounters. Blair would also solicit sexual videos and photographs of the minors. Blair received a 22-year prison sentence in the Tennessee Department of Corrections. She is to have no contact with the minor victims and will be placed on the Sex Offender Registry. District Attorney Shari Tayloe commends McMinn County Sheriff Joe Guy and his detectives on their thorough investigation in this case. "This was a shocking case for this community" General Tayloe said. McMinn County Sheriff's Detectives worked tirelessly in their investigation and with my office to bring justice to the young victims and their families."

## Etowah Mobile Home Fire

Around 5 pm Monday on Co. Road 804, Etowah, fire departments were dispatched to a brush fire threatening a trailer. AMR was first to arrive on the scene to find it was a mobile home on fire. The occupant had grease had caught the stove on fire. The remainder of the trailer had smoke damage.



Etowah Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, McMinn County Sheriff's Dept and EUB all responded. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department

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 Order your Thanksgiving Dinner with us!!  
 ENJOY OUR COMPLETE DINNER FOR ONLY \$74.95*  
 Dinner Feeds 4-6 People  
 Sliced Turkey Breast (Slow Smoked or Oven Roasted), Choice of 1 Casserole (Broccoli, Sweet Potato, Green Bean, Mac & Cheese), Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Choice of 1 Pie (Pumpkin, Apple, Pecan)  
**Orders Accepted Through Sunday, November 19, 2023**

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# SAVE THE DATE

## Holiday Open House

biggest sale of the season

November 14th 3-7pm

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Wednesday, November 08, 2023 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

◆ **Randall "Randy" Lee Charles**, age 61, native and lifelong resident of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a graveside service at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

◆ **Mary E. Ricker**, age 70, a lifelong resident of Athens, passed away on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. She was born in Athens. She was a devoted member of the Miracle Deliverance Tabernacle. Visitation will be on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the Miracle Deliverance Tabernacle located at 245 County Road 677 in Riceville. A service celebrating her life will follow the visitation time at 1:00 PM. The interment and committal service will follow in the Buttram Cemetery. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

◆ **Anna Brown**, age 100, of Englewood, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family and minister on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Anna attended Englewood United Methodist Church. Graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in Mars Hill United Methodist Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

◆ **Michael Eugene Goines**, age 54, passed away on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. He was born in Harvey, Illinois. He was a resident of Athens most of his life. Mike was known for his infectious, happy personality. Most everyone who knew him called him "Uncle Mike". He loved to fish, the outdoors, and his family and friends. Visitation will be from 1:00-3:00 PM on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at Ziegler Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

◆ **Susie Mattson**, age 51 of Niota, passed away on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. She loved all her family, and she took pride in taking care of them. She enjoyed homeschooling her children. Visitation will be on Thursday,

Continued at right →

## Obituaries Continued

Continued from left: November 9<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home with the funeral at 7 p.m. Interment will be Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at Roberts Cemetery, Ten Mile. Family and friends will meet at the cemetery. Good Samaritan Funeral Home is in Charge of Arrangements.

◆ **Jerry D. Corn**, age 76 of Murray County, GA and the Nickelsville Community died on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at his residence. Jerry was born in Etowah, on January 17<sup>th</sup>. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and served in Viet Nam. He worked for many years in the local carpet and textile industry; 24 years for World Carpet and later 24 years for Mannington as manufacturing manager. Graveside memorial services will be held at the Cog Hill Baptist Church Cemetery near Etowah at 11:00 AM, Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Visitation was held Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at the chapel of Thomas Funeral Home at 535 Red Bud Road NE in Calhoun, Georgia. Thomas Funeral Home of Calhoun, GA is in charge of arrangements.

◆ **Delphine "Pheeny" Crabtree Brown**, age 84 of Decatur passed away peacefully surrounded by her family Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. She attended Walnut Grove School. She was employed in textile work for many years. Pheeny was a member of Union Grove Baptist church in Decatur. She was a beloved mother with great joy and wittiness. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> in Short Creek Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 4 - 7 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

◆ The guest this week on "Hope From the Well" will be recent graduates, Kayla, Sheri, and Erin. Hope From the Well is heard each Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

You're Invited!!

Friday, November 17th  
5PM -8PM  
Downtown Athens

Theme: "A Snowy Christmas"

# Old Fashioned Downtown Christmas

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## Jones Foundation Makes Donation to The Arts Center in Athens

Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) received a \$15,000 donation in October from the Allan Jones Foundation. The donation will go to The Arts Center's Capital Campaign to ensure the stability of the institution for future generations. The center, located at 320 North White Street in Athens, houses a 200-seat black box theater, art gallery and Artisan Corner consignment shop, with regular musical concerts, plays, art exhibits, art classes and dances. There is always an art exhibit in the gallery and the art market offers regional artists' works for sale. "I was so impressed with my tour of the Athens Arts Center and with all it has to offer," said Janie Pangle Jones. "I was born and raised in McMinn County. My husband, Allan, and I thought it was a great opportunity to help support the community and this wonderful Arts Center." AACA's Capital Campaign is funding the renovation of its expanded facility, which has nearly doubled the organization's footprint. A grand opening celebration for the updated facility, that includes dedicated visual and music instruction space and additional performance space, is planned for Spring 2024. The Jones family hopes the donation will result in support from others in the community. "We are grateful to Janie and Allan for their generous support of our project," said Campaign Chair and Board President Scottie Mayfield. "The investment from Cleveland's Allan Jones Foundation reinforces the reach our programming has beyond McMinn County. We appreciate the Foundation for helping us continue our work. For more information about AACA programs visit [athensartscouncil.org](http://athensartscouncil.org) or call 423-745-8781. The Arts



Center is located in Historic Downtown Athens, Tennessee, in the Main Street District, at 320 North White Street. Pictured in the photo at left (L-R): Lauren Brown (AACA Executive Director), Scottie Mayfield (AACA Board President), Janie Jones (Jones Foundation), and Lindsey Kimball (AACA Finance Manager). Photo and Article submitted by Lauren Brown

## Athens Area Chamber Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Unity Title and Escrow, LLC, located at 213 E Washington Ave., Downtown Athens. Shown here are Chamber and business representatives, city and county officials, and the staff of Unity Title and Escrow, LLC Katie Townsend,



Jackie McCarter, Tamera Villers, Marla Millsaps (Owner), Whitney Townsend, Heather Johnson, and Pam Major. Photo submitted by Julie Simbeck