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Today's News... This Morning

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Friday, March 08, 2024 Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Faces Rising Cybercrime

According to a recent report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), internet scammers managed to pilfer over \$160 million from Tennesseans in 2023. Tennessee ranked 31st in cybercrime across the country, with 8,484 complaints filed to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), resulting in losses totaling \$161,195,036. The primary scams observed in the state include tech support scams, investment fraud, and business email compromise. The report also highlights the heightened vulnerability of individuals over 60 to cyber scams. Meanwhile, in the Tennessee legislature, a bill proposed by Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson of Franklin, seeks to curb vehicle booting statewide. The legislation aims to prevent unlicensed individuals from booting vehicles and to cap the fee for removing a boot at \$75. This bill intends to safeguard vehicle owners from unfair immobilization by parking attendants and proposes new regulations for towing and parking.

Church News and Events

- Rev. Hugh Dixon invites you to Lane's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church this Sunday, March 10 at 3PM to hear the Dixon Family Singers presented in Concert. Lane's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church is located at 904 County Road 264 in Niota. Everyone is welcome!
- Zion Hill Baptist Church will be hosting a free prayer breakfast on April 20. We will begin serving breakfast at 8:00 am. Speaker will be Steve Morgan of Cleveland First Baptist Church. An offering will be taken to benefit Miracle Lake Ministries. Please register at zhbc.com/breakfast by April 1.
- Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 pm.
- 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.



JEFF TOLBERT & PRIMITIVE ROAD

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6:00 PM



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Friday, March 08, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

Ribbon Cutting in Etowah

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for new Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Red Roof Inn, located at 600 N Tennessee Ave., Etowah. Chamber friends joining the celebration and pictured here left to right are:

Front: Lisa Rhea (Chamber Diplomat), Paul Semenoff (Chamber Diplomat), Shannon Thompson (Red Roof Inn), Nuginabhui Patel, Taraber Patel, Priyanka Patel (Owner, Red Roof Inn), Kenny Patel (Owner, Red Roof Inn), Prit Patel (Red Roof Inn), Donnie Thompson (Red Roof Inn), Shannon Willis, Holly Goines.

Back: Larea Graves (Chamber Diplomat), Tim Tatum (Chamber Diplomat), Karen Sullivan (Athens Chamber), Chuck Becker, Rob Preston (Chamber President/CEO), Doug Bailey (Chamber Diplomat), Stephanie Devine, Hugh Willson (Chamber Diplomat), Traci White (Chamber Board), John Rodriguez (Chamber Board), and Walt Bowman



AUB Reports Scam Calls in the Area

Several business customers of Athens Utilities Board (AUB) reported that they received a phone call recently from someone who clearly was looking to scam them out of money. The call directed them to pay their utility bill immediately to avoid being cut off.

"Luckily, they were very wary, on top of things and aware of the status of their AUB account. They simply called AUB to let us know of the scam call," said AUB's Amy McDonald.

"AUB simply doesn't make calls like this to customers. The best thing to do with a call like this is to hang up, and report the call if you feel warranted," she said. "We never call and demand that a person pay us over the phone. If you ever question a call presumably from AUB, ask for the caller's name and then give us a call back at 745-4501 with that information," McDonald advised.

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Arrest Reports

From The McMinn County Justice Center Arrest Reports 3/1—3/4

3/1/24

- Melissa Johnson, aged 38 of Etowah, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office on three charges including Simple Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Simple Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$13,000.
- Travis Raper, aged 47 of Athens was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for charges of Simple Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, Simple Possession of Schedule II oxymorphone hydrochloride, Possession of Schedule, Simple Possession of Schedule VI Marijuana, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond was set at a combined total of \$18,000.
- Joshua Simonds, aged 47 of Etowah was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia with bond set at \$1,000.
- Donna Wade, aged 58 of Riceville, was arrested by the Athens PD for Simple Possession of a Schedule 2 substance and Simple Possession of a Schedule IV substance. Bond was set at a combined total of \$9,000.
- Tiffany Stevens, aged 27 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office due to an active warrant as well as a warrant for Failure to Appear. Bond set at \$135,000.
- Thomas Creek, aged 61 of Athens, was arrested by Athens PD for Theft Over \$1,000 with bond set at \$6,000.
- Kelvin Christman, aged 53 of Riceville, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office and charged with Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Burglary, Vandalism, and Interfering with Emergency 911. Bond set at \$31,000.
- Jimael Linder was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office and charged with State Violation of Probation.
- Calvin Shafer, aged 46 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office and charged with Theft over \$2,500 and Vandalism over \$2,500.
- Jamie Arnett, aged 44 of Englewood, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for State Violation of Probation with no bond given.
- Skylar Marshall, aged 21 of Dunlap, TN was arrested by the Tennessee Highway Patrol for Driving Under the Influence, the TN Open Container Law and Driving without Due Care. Bond set at \$2,000.
- Regina Hodge, aged 65 of Athens, was arrested by Etowah PD on charges of Possession of an illegal substance without prescription as well as Falsification of a Drug Test Result. No bond info given.
- Tracy Armstrong, aged 48 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Violation of Probation. No Bond.
- Jacob Hartfell, aged 25 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia and Simple Possession. No Bond Listed.

3/2/24

- Rachael Church, age 45 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation, Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, Possession of Schedule II Oxycodone, and Possession of Schedule VI Marijuana. Bond is set at \$42,081.97.
- Cletus Scroggs, age 40 of Madisonville, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Driving on a Revoked License and Possession of Marijuana. He is being held without bond.
- Brian Morgan, age 34 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Class A Reckless Endangerment, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia and Driving on a Revoked License. Bond was set for \$18,000.
- John Hamilton, age 38 of Tellico Plains was arrested by the Etowah PD for two charges of Failure to Appear. He is being held without bond.
- Keona Kelso, age 33 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of an Order of Protection and Simple Assault. Bond was set at \$3,000.
- Dennis Williams, age 52 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Driving on a Revoked License. No bond was set.

Arrest Reports (continued)

From The McMinn County Justice Center Arrest Reports 3/1—3/4

3/3/24

- Devarius Bowman, age 22 of Cleveland, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation with a cash bond set for \$1,341.45.
- Dylan Boggess, age 25 of Calhoun, was arrested by the Athens PD for Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, Possession of Paraphernalia, and Evading Arrest. Bond was set at \$9,000.
- Richard Johnson, age 47 of Kingston, TN, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation (Roane County). Bond was not set.
- Katherine Wheeler, age 51 of Chattanooga, was arrested by the Etowah PD for charges of Public Intoxication, Simple Possession Schedule VI, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, and Possession of Schedule IV with bond set at \$9,000.
- Caitlyn Witt, age 27 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, and Evading Arrest with bond set at \$27,000.
- Marcus Walraren, age 51 of Cleveland, was arrested by the Tennessee Highway Patrol for Driving Under the Influence with bond set at \$2,000.
- Landon Watkins, age 18 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD and charged as a Fugitive from Justice. Bond was set at \$75,000.
- Kenneth Morgan, age 48 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation with a cash bond set at \$731.45.
- Mickey Youngblood, age 25 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Criminal Impersonation, Simple Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Simple Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, and Violation of Probation. Bond was set at \$12,500 with an additional Cash Bond of \$1,312.65.
- Nicole O'neill, age 34 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD in regards to a Warrant from Bradley County for Shoplifting/Theft of Property. She was held without bond awaiting transfer to Bradley County.
- Skylar Moore, age 28 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Domestic Assault and was assigned a \$1,000 bond.
- Suzanne Sharp, age 48 of Andrews, NC, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault and is being held without bond.
- Trina Potts, age 37 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault. She is being held without bond.

3/4/24

- Armando Gonzales, age 52 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Driving Without a License and was assigned a \$1,500 bond.
- Devon Elliott, age 20 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Aggravated Domestic Assault and was assigned a \$45,000 bond.
- Darcy Ison, age 22 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD on charges of Aggravated Assault and was assigned a \$15,000 bond.
- Sydney Shaffer, age 20 of Etowah, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Appear and was assigned a \$2,000 bond.
- Mark Dockery, age 42 of Englewood, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office on charges of Driving Under the Influence, Simple Possession of Schedule II, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$8,000.
- Jacob Monroe, age 26 of Englewood, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for charges of Felony Aggravated Assault, Sexual Battery, Theft of Property (\$2,500 - \$10,000) and Domestic Assault. He is being held without bond.
- Steven C. Cole, age 45 of Englewood, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Appear and Child Support. Bond was set at \$2,000 with an additional cash bond of \$1,000.
- Autumn Godsey, age 31 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for charges of Public Intoxication, Resisting Stop, and False Reports and is being held without bond.