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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

Today's News... This Morning

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Monday, March 18, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

## Etowah Man Found Guilty of Attempted Murder

Jan Louis Johnson, age 63 of Etowah, was found guilty of attempted first-degree murder for shooting his wife, whom he falsely believed was having an affair with a biker. The McMinn County Attorney General's office announced the conviction on March 13. Johnson was also convicted of employing a firearm during a dangerous offense. Prosecutors stated during the two-day trial that Johnson shot his wife twice in the stomach on July 24, 2022, while she was preparing for work. Johnson's wife asked why he shot her, to which he responded that it was because of her alleged infidelity. When she told him that his statement wasn't true, Johnson then called 911 to report the incident. His sentencing is scheduled for Friday, May 10.



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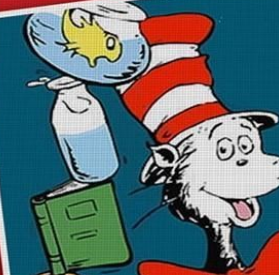


**LISTENING REMINDER:** This week's guest on Main Street Moments will be Meredith Willson discussing CASA Corridor's Spring Fling Fashion Show & Luncheon. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.



TUES. : MADISONVILLE - WIL-BAV, 10:30 - 1:30  
WED. : ETOWAH - ACROSS FROM JOHNSON'S, 10:30 - 2:00  
THURS. : ATHENS - THE SOCK SHOP, 10:30 - 1:30  
FRI. : SWEETWATER - LITTLE DRUGS, 10:30 - 2:30  
FRI. NIGHT : MCHS SOCCER GAME, OPEN TO ALL, 5:45 - 8:00

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Monday, March 18, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## State & Local News

✓ Tennessee State University (TSU) in Nashville is undergoing leadership changes following the retirement announcement of President Glenda Glover. A measure in the Tennessee Senate proposes replacing the entire TSU Board of Trustees due to concerns about leadership and management, particularly highlighted by a scathing audit from the Tennessee Comptroller last year. Sen. Jon Lundberg emphasized the exceptional faculty and staff at TSU but cited issues with leadership. The measure passed the Senate Education Committee and now goes to the Tennessee House of Representatives for further consideration.

✓ A Tennessee man, identified as Charles Benson, was arrested by the White House, TN Police for shooting at homes in the middle of the night. One bullet nearly hit a 7-year-old girl, with 28 shell casings recovered from a neighbor's yard. Benson faces charges including reckless endangerment with a deadly weapon and public intoxication. Despite this, he was permitted to post bail with the condition that he abstains from alcohol.

✓ The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Ocoee Region (BGCOR) has opened a new Club in Etowah, serving around 55 kids daily. Initially operating from Etowah City School, they relocated to Etowah First Baptist Church due to space constraints. Plans are underway to build a permanent facility near 6th Street in Etowah. BGCOR recently held its annual Youth of the Year event, where students present essays and speeches showcasing their personal growth and club experiences. Elijah Pierce, from the Johnson Teen Center in Bradley County, emerged as this year's winner and plans to study film at Lee University. To support the Etowah Unit and invest in the community's youth, visit the provided link [HERE](#)



Elijah Pierce, from the Johnson Teen Center in Bradley County, emerged as this year's winner and plans to study film at Lee University. To support the Etowah Unit and invest in the community's youth, visit the provided link [HERE](#)



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\*Claim is based on speeds published on company websites as of 07/26/2023 for the following 52"- 54" zero-turn models: Gravely Pro-Turn ZX, Scag Patriot, Exmark Radius S Series, Toro Titan HD 2000 Series, Hustler FastTrak SDX, John Deere ZTrak. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2024. \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for 48 months or customer instant rebates of \$300 are available on purchases of new Kubota Z400 Series equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation USA; subject to credit approval. Example: 48 monthly payments of \$20.83 per \$1,000 financed. Offers expire 03/31/24. Terms subject to change. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your Dealer or KubotaUSA.com. KCDA-04-150716-1

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# Obituaries

**Pauline “Polly” Collins Liner**, 95, of Athens, TN, passed away on February 22. She was preceded in death by her husband, James C. “Jimmy” Liner, and is survived by her sons, daughter-in-law, and numerous relatives and friends. A graveside service will be held at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens, TN, on March 19 at 1:00 PM. The family thanks Smith Funeral Home and appreciates the support from friends and community members. Smith Funeral Home is in charge.

**Martha Nichols “Nicki” Fisher**, passed away at 96 on March 14. She attended Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga and Duke University. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert J. Fisher, III. She is survived by her two daughters. A private funeral will be held, with memorial donations welcome for Trinity United Methodist Church or the Athens Area Council for the Arts. Smith Funeral Home is in charge.

**Dora Mae Martin Mason**, age 84 of Benton, passed away on March 15. Originally from New Hope, Alabama, she settled in McMinn County. Her faith was evident in her service at Mars Hill Methodist Church and New Bethel Church of God. Funeral services were held in Athens on Sunday and additional services will be held at 2 PM CST on March 19 at New Hope Funeral Home in New Hope, Alabama with interment following at Bethel Cemetery in New Hope. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

**Anita Patricia Owen Hall**, 91, of Athens, passed away on March 13 at Dominion Assisted Living. Anita was preceded in death by her husband, Randolph (Randy) James Hall, and other relatives. Survivors include her daughters, son, sister, sister-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A graveside service will be announced later. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is assisting the family.

**Sheila Buckner**, 73, of Englewood, TN, passed away on March 15, She was a member of Englewood Christian Church and enjoyed music and dancing. A funeral service will be at Bordwine Funeral Home today (3-18) at 2 pm, with visitation beginning at noon. Interment will follow at Mars Hill Cemetery.

**Marlene Rosemary Lunsford Shell**, 86, of McMinn County, passed away on March 15. Survived by sons, granddaughter, great-grandson, brother, and sister-in-law. Visitation is at Ziegler Funeral Home today (3-18) from 12:30—1:30 pm. A graveside service will follow at 2 pm at the Clearwater Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

**Thomas Neal Thompson**, 76, of Decatur, passed away on March 14. A member of Bethesda Baptist Church, he found joy in his dirt business, grandchildren, and family. A memorial service will be held at Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services today (3-18), at 6 p.m., with visitation from 4-6 p.m. prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is entrusted with arrangements.



WEEKDAYS AT 9:30 AM/5:30 PM  
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# Arrest Reports

**03/12/24**

- Jan Johnson, age 65 of Etowah, was arrested by the Athens PD for Disorderly Conduct and was assigned a \$1,500 bond.
- Tristan Johnson, age 20 of Calhoun was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office and charged with two counts of Evading Arrest, two counts of Driving on a Suspended License, Improper Display of Plates, and Light Law Violations. Bond was set at \$7,000.
- Justin Locke, age 42 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Violation of an Order of Protection, Resisting Arrest, and Assault Against a First Responder. Bond was assigned for \$3,500.
- James W. Thurman, age 62 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office on charges of Aggravated Burglary and Aggravated Rape. No bond was set.
- Amos Torbett, age 32 of Madisonville, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office on 2 counts of Failure to Appear. Bond assigned of \$4,000.
- Gary Blankenship, age 35 of Decatur, was arrested by the Athens PD on charges of Assault, Disorderly Conduct and Public Intoxication. Bond was set for \$2,000.
- Carl Carter, age 72 of Calhoun, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office on charges of Resisting Arrest, Assault on a First Responder, and Domestic Assault. Bond set for \$3,000.

**03/13/24**

- Jerome Robinson, age 40 of Knoxville, was arrested by the Athens PD for Theft of Property with bond set for \$2,000.
- Courtney Smith, age 36 of Knoxville, was arrested by Etowah PD for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia and for an 8th offense of Driving on a Revoked License and had bond set at \$20,000.
- Jacob Creek, age 31 of Cleveland, TN, was arrested by the Athens PD for Disorderly Conduct and was assigned a \$1,000 bond. Renee Morgan, age 46 of Niota, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for a Community Corrections Violation. No bond was set.
- Joshua Womac, age 32 of Decatur, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for State Violation of Probation. He was released on O.R.(own recognizance) bond.
- Delta D. Smith, age 41 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Failure to Appear (Polk County) and was held without bond.
- Kenneth Morris, age 32 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Appear. Bond was set at \$14,000.
- James Richesin, age 45 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Felony Evading, Simple Possession of Schedule II, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, and for a 4th offense of Driving on a Revoked License. No bond was set.

**03/14/24**

- Ira Cannon, age 27 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office on charges of Violation of Probation and was assigned a cash bond of \$2,137.40.
- Hunter Gleaton, age 28 of Riceville, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Appear and was assigned a bond of \$12,000.
- Christopher Jackson, age 52 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD for State Violation of Probation and was not assigned bond.
- Lawrence Bowers, age 45 of Etowah, was arrested by the Etowah PD on charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and was not assigned bond.
- Gwendolyn Shaver, age 45 of Clinton, TN, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for State Violation of Probation and was not assigned bond.