

Friday, April 5, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Sherry Corbett Talks about the Cassie Wright Act



Cassie Wright Photo Credit: Studio 3:16 Community Art Space

In a continuation of yesterday's cover story, found <u>HERE</u>, The Morning Fax has received a statement from Sherry Corbett, the mother of Cassie Wright, the Act's namesake. The bill, known as The Cassie Wright Act, is named in memory of a local teenager, Cassie Wright, who tragically ended her life after struggling with mental health issues. Corbett, who has been deeply affected by her daughter's passing, shared her profound story, stating:

"My daughter, Cassie, was in therapy when she was 17. She later took her own life just 4 days after she turned 18 on Sept. 20th, 2019."

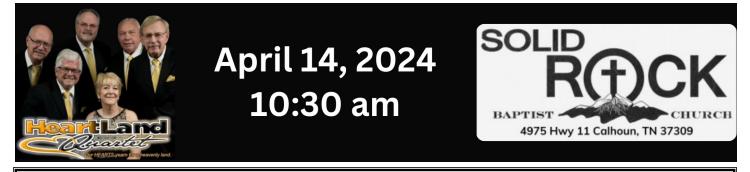
She continued, revealing the discovery of alarming details: "On her birthday this past Sept, I couldn't sleep and decided to finally start cleaning out her bedroom, where I found a 'crisis plan' that her therapist had her fill out. I realized then she had expressed to them her thoughts of harming herself. They had diagnosed her with Bipolar Depression (which she would have needed medication for) but never told me." Realizing the critical information withheld from her, Sherry was determined to advocate for change. "Had the first therapist that she saw con-

tacted me with that information I would have gotten her the help she needed and maybe she would still be here."

She connected with State Representative Mark Cochran, recounting her daughter's story and highlighting the gaps in the law that had contributed to the tragedy. Representative Cochran, along with his dedicated team, swiftly responded to her plea and initiated legislative action. The Cassie Wright Act addresses the existing limitations in Tennessee law regarding parental involvement in their children's mental health treatment. Cochran added, "I hope that by passing this legislation, parents are able to be involved in their children's treatment when necessary and keep tragedies like this from ever happening again." The legislation's swift progression through the General Assembly reflects a collective commitment to safeguarding children's mental health and ensuring that no family endures the pain and loss experienced by Cassie's loved ones.

For individuals facing mental health crises or seeking suicide prevention resources, assistance is available through the crisis hotline at 855-CRISIS-1 or by texting "TN" to 7417-741.





Friday, April 5, 2024

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

Athens, Tennessee

Train vs. Car Fatality

From the Sweetwater Police Department: At approximately 3:00 pm on Thursday, April 4th, 2024, Sweetwater police officers

were dispatched to the intersection of Old Highway 68 and the Sweetwater Duck Park following an accident involving a vehicle and a train. Upon their arrival at the scene, officers discovered а vehicle that had been struck by a train. Subsequent investigations, conducted with the assistance of Norfolk-Southern Railroad Police, revealed that the victim,



identified as Mrs. Sharlotte Castillo-Wong of Sweetwater, had been stopped on the tracks during peak traffic time and was unable to move out of the way of the train. Despite the conductor's efforts to halt the train, Mrs. Castillo-Wong was struck by the train as she attempted to exit the vehicle. She was pronounced deceased on the scene. All necessary steps were taken to notify the next of kin. Photo credit: Sweetwater Police Department

Community News

• The Athens City Schools Board of Education draft agenda and packet for the Monday, April 8, 2024, board meeting can be viewed online on the Athens City Schools website. Click <u>HERE</u> to view the agenda. The Board will meet at 5:30 pm at the ACS Administration Building at 943 Crestway Drive in Athens.

(More Community News on Page 4)









Friday, April 5, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Church News and Events

- The Trinity Trio from Cleveland will be singing Sunday, April 7 at Boyd Memorial First Church of God on North Congress Parkway at 10 am.
- Oak Grove Baptist Church of Niota invites you to their church on Saturday, April 6 at 3 pm for the Ordaining of Evangelist Phyliss Prigmore. On Sunday, April 7 at 11 am, Rev. William H. Ryan, III will celebrate his 1st Pastoral Anniversary. That day's guest speaker will be Rev. Ronald Harris from Chattanooga.
- Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- There is a Church Yard Sale at Englewood First Church of God today from 8 am to 2 pm to raise funds to support their outreach ministry. There will be clothes, household items, toys and more!

Obituaries

Linda Aderhold Rich, 76 of Etowah, passed away Wednesday, April 3. Linda was a life-time member of North Etowah Baptist Church and enjoyed spending time with her great-grandsons. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, April 6, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble Sunday, April 7th at Green Hill Cemetery for the 2:00 p.m. committal service.

WEATHER FORECAST

Friday - Partly Sunny and cool. High 53.
Friday Night - Mainly clear and chilly. Low 35.
Saturday - Mostly sunny and remaining cool. High 59.
Saturday Night - Clear and chilly. Low 35.
Sunday - Pleasant and warmer with partial sunshine. High 73.
Sunday Night - Possible rain, cloudy. Low 55.
More Weather at: wyxi.com





Friday, April 5, 2024

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

TBI Investigating Officer-Involved Shooting

TBI special agents are investigating a fatal officer- • Congratulations to Mrs. Kylene Raper, Librarian at Athinvolved shooting in Weakley County, initiated after deputies and officers responded to a report of a stolen vehicle that was set on fire. The incident occurred at the residence of Bobby Dickens, 44, who engaged in a standoff with law enforcement, ultimately brandishing a knife/machete-type weapon. Despite attempts to subdue him with tear gas and TASERs, Dickens was fatally shot by at least one officer. TBI agents are gathering evidence and conducting interviews to ascertain the events leading to the shooting, with findings to be reviewed by the District Attorney General. The TBI clarifies its role as a fact-finder and defers decisions on the justification of officer actions to the District Attorney General. Officer identities are not disclosed by the TBI.

Community News

- ens City Schools on being named region level semifinalist for Teacher of the Year in the Southeast Region.
- Etowah Public Works would like to announce the closure of the following streets on Tuesday, April 9 from 8am to 5pm: Washington Avenue between 6th Street and 7th Street, and 6th Street between Washington Ave. and Ohio Ave. There will be contractors working on the East TN Industrial Warehouse installing rooftop A/C units with a large crane.
- The McMinn County Historical Society & Archives is going to be visiting the Historic Reagan Station Home on Sunday, April 7 at 2 pm. Email mcminncohistory@gmail.com or call 423-744-3911 for directions to the home.
- Join E.G. Fisher Public Library on Monday, April 8 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm as they celebrate the partial solar eclipse with different activities. Bring your picnic chairs and blankets.





Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Arrest Reports

04/01/24

- Joseph Farrell, 37 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation with a cash bond assigned of \$402.95.
- Angela Womack, 45 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation. Cash bond was assigned of \$3,301.90 plus 2 days in the McMinn County Justice Center.
- Justin Stephens, 24 of Decatur, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Appear with a bond assigned of \$2,000.
- Brandy Johnson, 40 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Theft Over \$1,000 (Embezzlement) and was assigned a bond of \$4,000.
- Tyler Demoss, 23 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Appear with a bond assigned of \$2,000.
- Stephen A. Crisp, 36 of Decatur, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond was assigned of \$14,000.
- Pamela D. Martin, 35 of Decatur, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond was assigned of \$14,000.

04/02/24

Donald Rowland, 46 of Etowah, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine for Resale, Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl for Resale, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Schedule II Hydrocodone for Resale, and Possession of Legend Drugs. Bond was not reported.

(Continued on Next Page)

The accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from public sources.



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Friday, April 5, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6 Athen

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Athens, Tennessee

FM 94.5

AM 1390

Arrest Reports

04/02/24

- Bruce Maynard, 20 of Benton, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Theft of Property \$10,000 to \$60,000. Bond was assigned of \$80,000.
- Jason W. Turner, 43 of Calhoun, was arrested by the Calhoun PD for two counts of Domestic Assault and one count of Resisting Stop. Bond was assigned of \$2,500.
- Vann Gibson, 33 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Failure to Appear in Monroe County. No bond was assigned as he awaits transfer to Monroe County.
- Hailey E. Skeen, 24 of Riceville, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Driving Under the Influence. Bond was assigned of \$1,000.
- Cody C. Smith, 32 of Athens was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for State Violation of Probation. No bond was assigned.
- Lacey Tallent, 20 of Tellico Springs, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation with a cash bond assigned of \$1,066.45.
- Dustin J. Wallace, 35 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the Niota PD for Failure to Appear. He was held without bond.
- Timothy S. Pierce, 55 of Knoxville, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation, and State Violation of Probation. No bond was assigned.
- Jennifer Rao, 43 of Vonore, was arrested by the Tennessee Highway Patrol for Violation of Probation in Monroe County. No bond was assigned as she awaits transfer to Monroe County.
- Jason West, 43 of Philadelphia, TN, was arrested by the Tennessee Highway Patrol for Evading Arrest, Simple Possession, Resisting Arrest, Reckless Driving and Violation of Probation in Monroe County. No bond was assigned.
- Jacob Ewing, 43 of Etowah, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office, for Domestic Assault and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Bond was assigned of \$36,000.

The accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from public sources.

TODAY IN HISTORY - APRIL 5th

1614 - American Indian Pocahontas married English colonist John Rolfe in Virginia.

1621 - The *Mayflower* sailed from Plymouth, MA, on a return trip to England.

1869 - Daniel Bakeman, the last surviving soldier of the U.S. Revolutionary War, died at the age of 109.

1984 - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (Los Angeles Lakers) became the all-time NBA regular season scoring leader when he broke Wilt Chamberlain's record of 31,419 career points.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, e-mail it to: wyxiradio@gmail.com

