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Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

Woman Pleads Guilty in Quadruple Murder Case



Photo Credit: McMinn County Sheriff's Office

On Monday morning, April 15, a 29-year-old woman from McMinn County pled guilty to 11 charges, with 10 of them involving murder or attempted murder. She received a life sentence from the judge.

Jazzmine Jacole Hall pleaded guilty to offenses stemming from a 2021 incident, including four counts of felony murder, four counts of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted first-degree murder, and one count of aggravated arson.

Court documents confirm that Hall will spend the rest of her life in prison without the possibility of parole. Originally facing a charge of especially aggravated kidnapping, it was ultimately dropped. After the shooting, authorities discovered that Trevon Hall, Skylar Hawn, Jesse Dupree, and Brandi Harris had all been fatally shot.

Prosecutors had originally planned to seek the death penalty, however with Hall's guilty plea, the death penalty was avoided.

(Story Continued on Page 4)

Community News You Can Use

- The Regular Session of the McMinn County Commission meeting scheduled for April 15, 2024 at 6:00 has been changed to April 22, 2024 at 6:00 pm.
- The Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library will hold their monthly meeting today at 5:30 pm at the library. The meeting is open to the public. Looking for a fun and educational activity for your kids? Look no further! Join the Etowah Carnegie Library for children's story time every Tuesday at 3:30 pm. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit online at www.etowahlibrary.com.
- The McMinn County Election Commission will meet in regular session today at 5 pm in the conference room of the McMinn County Courthouse and will conduct any election business to legally come before the board. The agenda is posted on the bulletin board at the election office. *(More Community News on Page 3)*

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Welcome Home

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 April 21

9:00 Sanctuary Service

10:00 Welcome Breakfast for all in Activity Center

11:00 The Gathering Service

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Drug Operation Nets Large Seizure of Narcotics, Weapons, & Currency



Photo Credit: 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force

Over the past few months, the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force has been conducting an investigation into a methamphetamine and fentanyl distribution network operating in Athens, Tennessee. On Thursday, April 11, as part of this ongoing inquiry, the Drug Task Force enlisted the assistance of the Athens Police Department to halt a vehicle. An Athens Police Officer, accompanied by a K-9 unit from the McMinn County Sheriff's Office, conducted

the stop, resulting in the discovery of methamphetamine, Fentanyl tablets, and firearms within the vehicle. Subsequently, a search warrant was executed at a residence situated on South Congress Parkway in Athens, Tennessee. The Drug Task Force, aided by the Athens Police Department, McMinn County Sheriff's Office, and Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, conducted the search. The combined efforts of the traffic stop and the execution of the search warrant led to the confiscation of approximately nine pounds of methamphetamine, over 3,100 Fentanyl tablets, about eight grams of Fentanyl/Xylazine powder, and three firearms, one of which was reported stolen. The following were taken into custody:

Marc Allen Blair: Possession of Methamphetamine for Resale over 300 grams, Possession of Fentanyl for resale over 150 grams, Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Dangerous Felony, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Jason Keith Lemke: Possession of Methamphetamine for Resale over 300 grams, Possession of Fentanyl for resale over 150 grams, Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Dangerous Felony, Possession of a Firearms by a convicted Felon, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Jeremy Scott Ledbetter: Possession of Methamphetamine for Resale

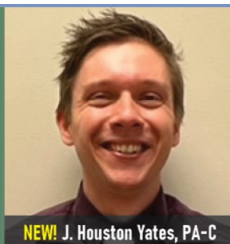
Beth Lunsford: Violation of Probation

This investigation is ongoing, and more arrests and charges are expected.

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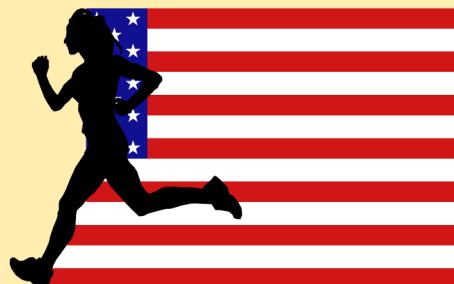


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Tuesday, April 16, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Gene Paul Roberts, 83 of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, April 14. The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Thursday, April 18, at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM at the funeral home and interment will follow at Clear Springs Cemetery in Athens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Gene Paul Roberts.

Justin Carl Price, 35 of Athens, passed away unexpectedly on March 16. A small graveside gathering will take place to lay Justin's ashes to rest between his mother and sister at Hammonds Cemetery in Athens, Tennessee, on April 20, 2024, at 11:00 AM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Justin Carl Price.

Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Commission's **Emergency Services Committee** will meet on Monday, April 22 at 5:15 pm, in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is a Fire Hydrant Request and to discuss the Fire Tower Agreement.
- The McMinn County Commission's **Properties Committee** will meet on Monday April 22, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Health Department property.



TODAY IS:

- **National Bean Counter Day**
- **National Orchid Day**
- **National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day**
- **National Healthcare Decisions Day**

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Athens, Tennessee

Arrest Reports

04/11/24

- Daniel Sledge, 39 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation. Cash bond was assigned of \$2,903.35.
- Cathy A. Starr, 52 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Aggravated Domestic Assault. Bond was assigned of \$15,000.
- John C. Stacy, 31 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Driving Under the Influence and was released under Own Recognizance, or no-cost bail.
- Thomas Turner, 29 of Englewood, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for State Violation of Probation and was denied bond.
- Dale Kryzak, 27 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Shoplifting and Prohibited Weapons. Bond was assigned of \$6,000.
- Blaze Britton, 23 of Cleveland, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for State Violation of Probation. Bond was denied.

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

Woman Pleads Guilty in Quadruple Murder Case

Originally on September 25, 2021, authorities made a grim discovery at a residence on Highway 60 in Riceville: four individuals, comprising one man and three women, were found deceased.

Additionally, they learned that a 10-month-old, the child of Jazzmine Jacole Hall, was missing, with the child's father counted among the deceased. Another individual, Curtis Smith, implicated in the homicides, still awaits trial. Sheriff Joe Guy characterized the incident as a tragic outcome of a custody dispute.

"None of us truly remember a quadruple homicide like this, we've had some triples recently, but this is about the worst," Sheriff Guy said.

Less than 12 hours following the discovery of the bodies, both Hall and Smith were apprehended in southern Polk County. Fortunately, the child was found unharmed and placed under the care of the Department of Children's Services.

Six individuals were present in the residence at the time of the killings.



CONGRESSMAN
CHUCK FLEISCHMANN

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY ACADEMY DAY

Saturday, April 20 | 10:00-11:30 am

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