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One Suspect at Large in Home Invasion



In an update to a Morning Fax Special Bulletin published on Friday [HERE](#), John "Bumper" Barnes was taken into custody after turning himself in to the McMinn County Justice Center around 10:30 pm Sunday night. He is now the third of four suspects arrested in reference to a home invasion that took place on Thursday evening. He was charged with aggravated burglary

and is being held under a \$60,000 bond. However, one suspect is still at large. The McMinn County Sheriff's Office asks that you be on the lookout for 28-year-old Benjamin S Crofts (in photo). He measures 5-foot-10-inches tall, weighs approximately 205 pounds with brown hair and green eyes. Crofts is wanted and at large. If you see this suspect, or have information as to his location, report this to 911 immediately.

[Source: Sheriff Joe Guy - Facebook](#)

Community News You Can Use

- Helping Hands Ministry of McMinn County is in need of volunteers who are prepared to donate at least two days per month (usually for no more than 5 hours in any day) to carry on their community assistance efforts. They perform emergency home repairs for low-income families. The organization is looking for volunteers with carpentry, plumbing, or electrical skills. To volunteer, contact Helping Hands at (423) 920-4179 or by email at: helpinghandsathens@yahoo.com.
- TWU is hosting an Informational Meeting about their Spring Break 2025 trip. Community Members are encouraged to attend and come on the trip as well. The group will be traveling to Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France and England during Spring Break 2025. They will discuss trip itinerary, course offerings, payment plans, scholarships and the Bulldog Connection. This meeting will take place on Thursday, September 26 at Noon in Elliot 110.
- The Athens City Council will meet in regular session TODAY (9-17) at 6:00 p.m. in the Burkett L Witt Chamber at the Athens Municipal Building located at 815 N Jackson St.

WEATHER FORECAST

Tues. - 30% Chance of Rain. High 73.
Tues. night - Mostly Cloudy. Low 63.
Wed. - 30% Chance of Rain. High 78.
Wed. Night - Partly Cloudy. Low 62.

More weather at: wyxi.com

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Tuesday, September 17, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Billy Wayne Baxter, of McMinn County, passed away on Saturday, September 14. He was the owner of Bill Baxter Heat and Air. Billy was a member of Nonaburg House of Prayer. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, September 17, from 5:00-7:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 7:00 PM. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, September 18, at Hampton Cemetery in Englewood. Ziegler Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Billy Wayne Baxter.

Elaine "Sissie" Adcock Hensley, 88 of Decatur, passed away on Sunday, September 15. She was a member of Decatur First Baptist Church. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m., on Thursday, September 19 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 20 in the Decatur Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5 – 7 p.m., prior to the service on Thursday. Arrangements entrusted to Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Gary Rose, 70 of Delano, passed away Thursday, September 12, in his home surrounded by his loved ones. Gary worked at Lewis Concrete for many years where he earned the nickname "Swamper." He then owned Rose Stone and Concrete. He was also a song writer and musician. Funeral services were held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 16 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family received friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday prior to the service. Family and friends will assemble at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 17th (today) at the funeral home and proceed to Delano Cemetery for the 11:00 a.m. committal service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

LISTENING REMINDER: TODAY on *Main Street Moments*: Host Sandra Kinney will give an update on all the events taking place in the next few weeks in The Friendly City. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TODAY on WYXI RADIO : AM-1390 and FM-94.5.

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Tuesday, September 17, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Seals Sentenced to Thirty Years



Cody Andrew Seals, 27, of Luttrell, Tennessee, was sentenced to 30 years in prison on September 13, 2024, by U.S. District Judge Katherine A. Crytzer in Knoxville. Seals had pleaded guilty to charges of methamphetamine trafficking, discharging a firearm during a drug crime, and attempting to murder two Tennessee Highway Patrol Troopers.

In January 2020, Seals was involved in a high-speed chase near Chattanooga after law enforcement identified him during a drug trafficking investigation. Seals fired on pursuing officers, injuring one, before being shot and arrested. His truck contained methamphetamine, heroin, and firearms. The case was part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) investigation involving multiple federal and state law enforcement agencies.

Source: [U.S. Dept. of Justice](#) Photo: [The Chattanooga](#)

Eyes of Athens Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting was celebrated recently for Athens Area Chamber of Commerce member, Eyes of Athens, located at 406 W Madison Ave., Athens. Formerly Toomey, Baggett, and McGee Eyecare Clinic, PLLC. Eyes of Athens is friendly people providing thorough eyecare because they genuinely care. Shown here are Chamber and business representatives, staff of Eyes of Athens and the owners/optometrist Drs. Muegge and McGee.

Source / Photo: *Athens Area Chamber of Commerce*



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Tuesday, September 17, 2024

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Athens, Tennessee

Inaugural Classic Cruise-In a Success for Senior Center

The McMinn Senior Activity Center's Inaugural Classic Car Cruise-In took place Sunday, September 15.

Despite a few raindrops, the event was a huge success according to Executive Director of the Center, Diane Hutsell. "We were excited to have eighteen cars and trucks as part of the first show and loved having the Midlife Frysis Food Truck at the show as well."

People from the community stopped by to enjoy the beautiful automobiles and to vote for the winner of Best Car, Best Truck as well as Viewer's Choice and Staff Pick. "The race was tight," added Hutsell.

Winner in the Best Car category was the 1931 Chevy brought in by Danny Hamil, Best Truck was the classic International brought by Nick Solsbee, the Viewer's Choice Award went to Carol Hamil's 1938 Ford, and the Staff Pick winner was John Elliott's 1972 Dodge. The Center plans to host other car shows in the future and has a tentative Jeep Show in the works.

For more information on the Activity Center, contact the Center at 423-745-6830 or stop by from 8a-4p at 205 McMinn Ave; Athens.

Left: Best Car, Middle: Viewer's Choice Right: John Elliot (with granddaughters) *Source: McMinn Senior Activity Center. Photos courtesy of Diane Hutsell, McMinn Senior Center*



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