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## Today's News...This Morning

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**Thursday, March 20, 2025**

**Page 1**

**Athens, Tennessee**

### Monroe County resumes motorcycle patrols for traffic safety



The Monroe County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Tennessee Highway Safety Office, is resuming motorcycle patrols to improve traffic safety and reduce crashes on popular riding routes, including the Cherochala Skyway and highways leading to the

"Dragon."

With 41 motorcycle-related accidents reported last year, the program will focus on speed enforcement and rider education to enhance road safety. These efforts also aim to address resident complaints about high-speed traffic.

Chief Deputy Chris White emphasized the county's commitment to ensuring a safe and positive experience for both residents and visitors. The initiative is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office.

Source: [Sheriff Tommy Jones - Facebook](#)

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### Community News You Can Use

- The monthly meeting for the Cherokee Beekeepers Association will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. The meetings are held at the AgCentral Farmers Co-Op located at 920 Congress Parkway, North, in Athens. The public is always welcome. You do not need to be a member to attend.
- Join MEDIC Regional Blood Center for a blood drive at Tennessee Wesleyan University on March 20, 2025, from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at MEDIC Mobile in Wallace Square (204 East College Street, Athens, TN). All donors will receive a pair of MEDIC socks and a Texas Roadhouse coupon as a thank-you for their life-saving donation. Come "Get in the Game of Life" and make a difference!

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Edna Lee Smith Stephens**, 85, longtime resident of McMinn County, passed away on Monday, March 17, 2025. Arrangements will be announced at a later time. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with serving the family of Edna Lee Smith Stephens.

**James "Jimbo" Edward Fowler**, 55, of Athens, passed away on Friday, March 14. He was an amazing father and dedicated his time to coaching his children's sports teams. A Funeral Service will be held at 7:00pm on Friday, March 21, 2025 at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A Visitation will be held prior from 5:00-7:00pm. Companion Funeral Home in Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

## Community Health Fair set for April 18 in Athens



The McMinn County Senior Center will host a Community Health Fair on April 18 from 8 AM to 2 PM at 205 McMinn Ave, Athens, TN. Attendees can receive free health screenings, including blood pressure, heart rate, and oxygen level

checks.

For more information or to set up a booth, contact Jessica Hill at 423-717-0382 or Monica Howard at 423-453-9030. The event is sponsored by [TerraBella Athens](#) and aims to promote health awareness in the community.

Source: [Athens Area Chamber of Commerce - Facebook](#)

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Thursday, March 20, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Cleveland State Student Spotlight: Tammy Johnson Reflects on Career, Leadership, and Next Steps



After 35 years in Cleveland, Tammy Johnson is preparing for her next chapter. Johnson, who led Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland for over seven years as CEO, will step down in June to support the transition to new leader David Gray before relocating to Birmingham with her husband.

Johnson's journey began when she arrived in Cleveland and enrolled at Cleveland State Community College, working as a student employee in the President's Office and a switchboard operator, while also cleaning fast-food parking lots at night. She later transferred to Lee University, earning a business degree while working full-time.

Her career included nearly five years at Caldwell Paving, where she gained insight into the construction industry. These experiences prepared her for Habitat for Humanity, where her personal background of growing up in poverty fueled her passion for helping others. She emphasized the importance of Habitat's vetting process, requiring clients to contribute sweat equity hours to earn their home, saying, "We give a hand-up, not a handout."

Under her leadership, Habitat's finances grew from \$20,000 to \$1.2 million in cash reserves and a \$1.2 million endowment, while also eliminating nearly \$500,000 in debt. The organization received state-level awards for four consecutive years.

Looking ahead, Johnson will expand her leadership training program, Leaders Edge, helping businesses and organizations refine their values and goals. She leaves Habitat with one simple philosophy: "Be nice to people."

Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC Public and Media Relations Manager.

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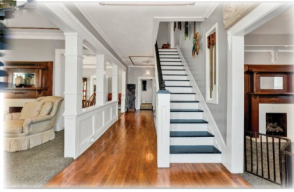




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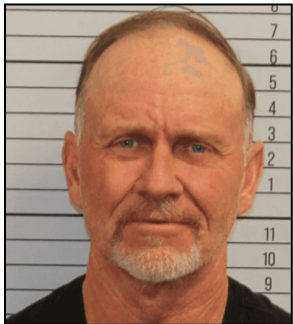
Scott Blackmon  
Office 423.664.1900  
Cell - 423.740.8621

Thursday, March 20, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Benton man arrested for September 2023 road rage incident



A Benton man, Michael Duncan, was arrested Friday in connection with a road rage incident that occurred in September 2023 near Mahan Gap Road in Ooltewah.

Authorities report that Duncan, driving a company vehicle, was tailgating another driver before the victim responded by brake-checking him. After the victim partially exited his vehicle during the altercation, Duncan allegedly rammed the car once the driver was back inside. The vehicle belonged to the victim's mother, who was a passenger at the time.

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Further investigation revealed that Duncan's commercial license was expired at the time of the incident. He now faces charges of two counts of aggravated assault, driving on a suspended license, and vandalism.

Source: [WTVC NewsChannel9](https://www.wtvc.com/news/2025/03/19/michael-duncan-arrested-road-rage-incident/)

## City of Athens adopts new ordinances



The City Council of Athens, Tennessee, has officially adopted two new ordinances as part of the city's Code of Ordinances on March 18, 2025.

- Ordinance No. 1137 establishes a new city code, repeals certain outdated ordinances, outlines penalties for violations, and sets procedures for future amendments.
- Ordinance No. 1138 updates zoning and land use regulations by amending the stormwater management ordinance under the municipal code.

For more details, residents can contact the Office of the City Manager at (423) 744-2702. You can also click or tap below to read the complete documents:

Ordinance No. 1137 can be viewed [HERE](#) and No. 1138 can be viewed [HERE](#)

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Thursday, March 20, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

**Nicholas Kelly**, 40 of Tellico, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Cannabis, Altering Registration Plates, and Driving in Possession of Methamphetamine. Total Bond: \$20,000.

**Benny Spann**, 35 of Lyons, GA, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation and State Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$1,831.45

**Joshua Myers**, 42 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$36,000

**Amanda Shelton**, 41 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Simple Possession of Methamphetamine, Simple Possession of Oxycodone, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond Unclear.

**Larry Gibson** 37 of Cleveland, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$2,000.

**Angela Womac**, 60 of Decatur, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$1,941.40

**Rendi Cagle**, 35 of Athens, was arrested by the APD for State Violation of Probation and Violation of Probation. No Bond.

**Charles Harrison**, 37 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Domestic Assault. Total Bond: \$1,000

**Albert Hall**, 64 of Madisonville, was arrested by the THP for Driving without Due Care, Driving under the Influence, and Violation of the Hands-free law. Total Bond: \$2,000

**Taylor Cain**, 32 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Resisting arrest and Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$2,559.96

**Anthony Johnson**, 39 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Theft of Property. Bond Unclear.

**Meghan Myers**, 31 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Simple Possession of Schedule I and II Substances, Falsification of a Drug Test, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond Unclear.

**Debra Cordell**, 65 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Possession of a Schedule II Substance and Violation of Probation. Bond Unclear.

**Timothy Harrison**, 37 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation, Theft over \$500, and State Violation of Probation. Bond Unclear.

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**  
**Information gathered from Public Sources.**

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