The Jackson Sun

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Next fatal shooting hearing date set

Williams faces charges in relation to boyfriend's death

Sarah Best
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Tationa Williams, charged with first degree murder in connection with the death of her boyfriend, Hayden Blair, has the next hearing date set.

Williams, 26, appeared in custody in Jackson City Court before Judge Blake Anderson, where her next hearing was scheduled for June 22.

She is charged with first degree murder, abuse of a corpse, theft of property and tampering with evidence.

Blair, 23, was reported missing by his mother, Crystal Hall, on Feb. 15 after she last heard from him 24 hours prior.

Investigators were led to the 1100 block of Howard Road in Chester County on Feb. 17. Here, they found a body buried in a shallow grave, which was tentatively identified as Blair, according to the Jackson Police Department.

Court documents indicate that Williams developed as a suspect and was interviewed by investigators.

During the interview, reports say she told investigators she took her stepfather's black Taurus Max9 handgun without his permission, then traveled to Blair's home in South Jackson.

Upon arrival, she entered the home with the weapon in her waistband and began collecting items for their children, whom Williams said Blair needed to take.

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Tationa Williams appears inside the Jackson City Court in Jackson on April 8. JAMAR COACH/THE JACKSON SUN

Screens in the classroom

Students arrive at J.R. Baker Elementary School for the first day of class Aug. 7, 2025, in Columbia.
JAY POWELL/THE DAILY HERALD

Will TN elementary schools have to limit classroom digital devices?

Melissa Brown
Chalkbeat Tennessee

Tennessee elementary schools could limit classroom digital devices under new legislation aimed at minimizing screen time for young students, even on educational electronic devices.

The General Assembly this week finalized legislation that will require schools serving kindergarten through fifth grade to develop a policy to limit the use of electronic devices and block any students from accessing social media during school hours.

Senate Bill 2310 was significantly dialed back from its original form, which sought to totally ban digital educational devices like Chromebooks for young students except in special circumstances, such as in individualized education programs for students with disabilities.

Some lawmakers and educators raised concerns about instructional tools already deeply integrated into the classroom, such as digital whiteboards. The legislation that passed would allow schools to set their own policies while prioritizing "in-person, teacher-led" instruction.

The Tennessee legislation, which still has to be signed into law by Gov. Bill Lee, gives local districts broad discretion to continue using devices as long as they believe the device serves an "instructional purposes for which such use provides a clear educational benefit."

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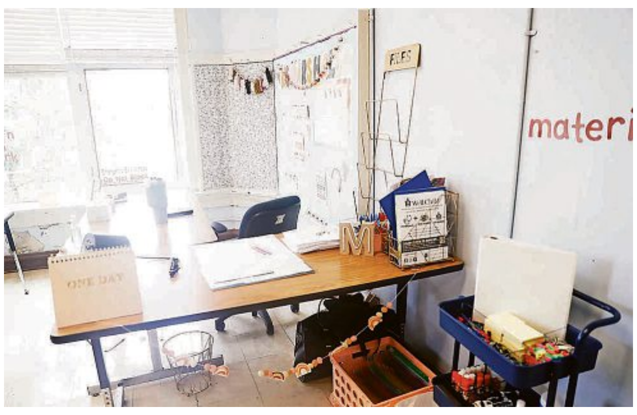

Memphis-Shelby County Schools teachers get ready for the new school year. Ashlee Marshall, fifth grade math teacher, has her classroom ready for her students starting on next week at Snowden on Aug. 4, 2023 at Snowden Elementary School in Memphis. STU BOYD II/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Record $3.1M fine issued after fatal TN plant explosion

Kelly Puente and Evan Mealins
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) has issued more than $3.1 million in penalties to a Tennessee explosives plant where 16 workers were killed in a massive explosion.

The Oct. 10 blast at Accurate Energetic Systems leveled a production building on the company's 1,300 acre campus near the town of McEwen west of Nashville. It clocked a 1.6 magnitude on the Richter scale and ranks among the deadliest industrial disasters in U.S. history.

The six-month investigation into the explosion is the largest conducted by TOSHA and resulted in the agency's highest ever total penalty, TOSHA said in an April 7 statement.

AES CEO Wendell Stinson in a statement said the company is carefully reviewing the findings.

"We believe that TOSHA's findings do not represent the standard of safety we strive to achieve every day, nor our commitment to the wellbeing of our team members and their loved ones," the company said, adding that it continues to investigate what caused the explosion.

The penalties included $3 million in 59 "willful violations," which indicate an employer's "intentional disregard" for employee safety laws. The penalties also included more than $93,000 in 32 serious violations and $39,200 in repeat-serious violations.

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The entrance to Accurate Energetic Systems is shown April 8 in McEwen.
EVAN MEALINS/THE TENNESSEAN

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