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Monday, November 3, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Vehicle Fire Destroys Van, Damages Home in Etowah Thursday Night

A Thursday evening fire destroyed a van and damaged a home on County Road 498 after the vehicle burst into flames under a carport.

According to reports, the homeowner arrived around 7 p.m. and parked her 2006 Honda Odyssey beneath the carport. She noticed an unusual odor coming from the vehicle but could not identify it and went inside the house. Moments later, she and her husband saw a bright glow outside their window — the van's engine was on fire.

Fire crews arrived to find the vehicle fully engulfed in flames. The blaze caused extensive damage to the carport and vinyl siding before it was extinguished. The Honda Odyssey was declared a total loss.

Responding agencies included Etowah City Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, and Englewood Rural Fire, with Englewood Rural Fire Chief Billy Roach commanding the scene. Claxton Fire stood by at Etowah City Fire to cover all three departments during the incident. *Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD*



Monday & Tuesday Closed

- Wed-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2
- Thu-Athens Family Dollar near Ingles 10:30 - 2
- Fri-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30
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Monday, Nov. 3, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Medal of Honor Recipient to Speak at Cleveland State in February 2026



Cleveland State Community College Foundation will host Medal of Honor recipient Jim "Doc" McCloughan on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, at the Partners in Industry and Education (PIE) Center. The event, presented by Builtwell Banking, will feature a reception, dinner, and interview, with proceeds supporting student scholarships through the Cleveland State Foundation.

McCloughan, a Vietnam War combat medic drafted into the U.S. Army in 1968, earned numerous honors including two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, and the Congressional Medal of Honor—the nation's highest military award.

Following his service, McCloughan spent 38 years teaching and coaching at South Haven High School in Michigan. He has since remained active in veteran and community service, including leadership roles with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

While in Cleveland, McCloughan will also speak to local middle and high school students on Feb. 20. Tickets for the Feb. 19 event are \$100 and available at mycs.cc/eveningwith. A limited number of tickets for veterans are available through a special donation.

Community News You Can Use

- Join the Athens Area Council for the Arts for Arts on the Side on Tuesday, November 18 at The Arts Center. Enjoy a community soup supper (with vegan option) at 5:30 PM, followed by arts activities at 6:00 PM and a table read of *Mean Girls: The Musical* (PG-13) by the Athens Community Theatre at 7:00 PM. All are welcome for an evening of food, fun, and creativity.
- The November 3 meeting of the City of Athens Planning Commission has been cancelled.
- The Friendly Fellow Flu Shot Fundraiser has been rescheduled for Friday, November 7 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the lobby of Starr Regional Medical Center – Athens.

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Monday, Nov. 3, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Pickin' for a Cure in Etowah!

Save the date of Saturday, November 15, 2025 for a toe tapping, knee slapping benefit concert in memory of those who have or will be affected by pancreatic cancer.

The 17th Annual CottonFest Pickin' for a Cure will be held at the historic Gem Theatre in Etowah, Tennessee starting at 11:00 a.m. and will wrap up around 5:00. Tickets are \$10.00 each with children under 10 free. Food truck for the day will be Big Daddy's BBQ.

The following are scheduled to perform for the benefit concert, and jammers are certainly welcome:

11:00 a.m.-Nicholas Raper & Friends
11:45 a.m.-Valley Grass Express
12:50 p.m.-Just Us
1:55 p.m.-The Barbaras
2:50 p.m.-C.F. Bailey & Shadow Ridge
3:50 p.m.-Clearview

Sponsors for CottonFest 2025 are Tennessee Overhill, Tennessee Arts Commission, BuiltWell Bank, Bid to Buy Auction & Realty, Etowah Arts Commission, Etowah Rotary Club, Willsonthropic, Inc., McMinn County Tourism Board and Robby's Heat and Air.

Pancreatic cancer has a 99% mortality rate, the highest rate of any cancer. The average life expectancy after diagnosis is just 3-5 months. Despite the lethal nature of this disease, only 1% of the National Cancer Institute's current budget is focused on pancreatic research.

Etowah native Ronnie Raper, Jr. knows about pancreatic cancer in a very personal way – his father-in-law Doyle Williams passed away in 1995 and the illness claimed his father Ronnie "Cotton" Raper in 2006. Raper made a proactive choice in 2007 to form CottonFest – a nonprofit pancreatic fundraiser and for the last 20 years he along with the CottonFest board of directors have been actively raising money for research treatment and education and have served as a reference source for pancreatic cancer patients and their families.

For more information on CottonFest and how to purchase tickets for the concert, go on Facebook or visit the website at www.cottonfestorg.com.

**Athens Chamber
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Diabetes



Hearing loss is **twice as common** in people with diabetes as their peers without.

Safety/Balance



People with mild hearing loss are **3x more likely** to have a history of falling than people with normal hearing.

Tinnitus



Up to 90% of people with tinnitus have some level of noise-induced hearing loss.

Cognitive Decline

Adults* with hearing loss experience a **30-40% faster decline in cognitive abilities** than their peers with normal hearing.

*75 years and older

Isolation

Untreated hearing loss can contribute to social isolation, anxiety, depression and cognitive decline.

Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis can **adversely affect the three tiny bones** in the middle ear, which can lead to hearing loss.

Hypertension



High blood pressure can be an accelerating factor of hearing loss in adults.

Depression



In a recent survey, adults* with untreated hearing loss were **more likely to report depression, anxiety and paranoia** than peers who wore hearing aids.

*50 years and older

Audibel Hearing Center understands the significant emotional and physical impact that hearing loss can have on one's life. We place strong emphasis on providing quality care that addresses both the physical and emotional concerns of our patients. We strive to provide individualized care in a warm and caring environment. Our aim is to assist each patient in finding solutions to their hearing concerns.

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Sources: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) | National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) | National Council on Aging (NCOA) | Kochkin, S.J. (2019). The Impact of Treated Hearing Loss on Quality of Life - Better Hearing Institute, Washington, DC. Retrieved from: www.better-hearing.org/hearingpedia Lin, F. (2014, January) Hearing Loss Linked to Accelerated Brain Tissue Loss. Johns Hopkins Medicine News Release. | Li-Korotky, H. S. (2012) Age-Related Hearing Loss: Quality of Care for Quality of Life. The Gerontologist, 52(2) 265-271 | Hypertension As a Factor Associated with Hearing Loss. Braz J Otorhinolaryngol. Jul-Aug;72(4):533-40. Babich, M., Hoffmeister, D., & Doughty, A. (2009). Osteoporosis and Conductive Hearing Loss: A Novel Model of Clinical Correlation. Retrieved from: PHILICA.COM Article number 148. | American Tinnitus Association, ATA.org | www.mayoclinic.com/health/tinnitus/DS00365

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Monday, Nov. 3, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

10-30-25

John Green, 37 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for evading arrest.

Connie Skinner, 59 of Etowah, charged with violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia, Bond \$1,401.45.

Marshall Johnson, 64 of Sweetwater, charged with aggravated reckless driving.

Michael Duckworth, 62 of Sweetwater, charged with state violation of probation.

Charles Carroll, 40 of Sandersville, Tennessee, charged with simple possession of schedule three, schedule two fentanyl for resale, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$82,000.

Brian Boggess, 39 of Niota, charged with child support, casual exchange, possession of meth, driving on a revoked license, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$15,000.

Sean Moses, 48 of Athens, charged with violation of probation for possession of meth, and paraphernalia, Bond \$2,709.90.

Terry Roy, 65 of Sweetwater, charged with casual exchange, and possession of meth, Bond \$12,000.

10-31-25

Cody Burris, 31 of Benton, charged with violation of probation for simple possessions of Schedule 2, and domestic assault, Bond \$2,000.

Dillon Townsend, 24, of Etowah, charged with aggravated rape of a child, Bond \$500,000.

Wendy Shaver, 42 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$2,000.

Aubrey King, 27 of Ten Mile, charged with disorderly conduct, Bond \$1,500.

Gaston Woody, 34 of Etowah, charged with manufacturing, selling, delivery, or possession of a controlled substance, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$16,000.

Paul Groff, 41 of Athens, charged with drug paraphernalia, violation of probation for indecent exposure, Bond \$4,200.85.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered using public sources.

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