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Tuesday, February 03, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Driver Injured in Icy Crash on Highway 39 in Englewood



A single-vehicle crash was reported Sunday afternoon around 4:30 p.m. at the intersection of Highway 39 and County Road 463 in Englewood.

According to authorities, the driver of a 2005 Dodge Caravan lost control

while navigating a curve after hitting a patch of ice. The vehicle left the roadway and struck a driveway culvert.

The driver sustained minor injuries but declined medical transport after AMR responded to the scene. The Englewood Rural Fire Department assisted at the scene, and the accident was investigated by McMinn County Sheriff's Sgt. Zac Hawkins.

Photo provided by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- Saturday, February 7th is National Take Your Child to the Library Day! Visit the Etowah Carnegie Library for free face-painting and games. Every child will receive a coupon for a free Mayfield ice cream. The Tennessee Commission awarded the Etowah Carnegie Library with their Tennessee America 250 grant of \$9,172 for archival support. The library staff are happy to inform you that their library director has taken off for maternity leave with a healthy baby! Feel free to send any congratulations. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit www.etowahlibrary.com.
- The McMinn County Highway Department recently announced that McMinn County Road 718, Nipper Road, will be closed on Tuesday, February 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for road construction.

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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State Hosts Online Auction to Support Student Scholarships

Cleveland State COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cleveland State Community College is inviting the public to take part in an online auction benefiting the Cleveland State Foundation, which supports the college and provides hundreds of student scholarships each year.

The auction, similar to a silent auction, allows participants to view items and place bids online through WinningBidder.com. Bidding is open to the public and will continue until Thursday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m.

Auction items include travel and experience packages, with seven travel options ranging in value from a \$130 overnight stay in the Cumberland Mountains to a \$3,000 five-night all-inclusive family vacation. Destinations include Europe, the Caribbean, Yellowstone, and Las Vegas. Other offerings include a virtual cooking class with a French chef and replica championship rings from the New England Patriots and the University of Georgia.

The auction coincides with *An Evening with Jim McCloughan* on Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Partners in Industry and Education (PIE) Center in Cleveland. McCloughan, a Medal of Honor recipient, will speak about his experiences during the Vietnam War and his career as an educator and coach. The event will also honor the 2026 Community First Award winners and includes a reception and dinner. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available at mycs.cc/eveningwith.

Attendance at the event is not required to participate in or win items from the auction. For more information, contact the Cleveland State Foundation at (423) 614-8700 or visit mycs.cc/eveningwith.

Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC

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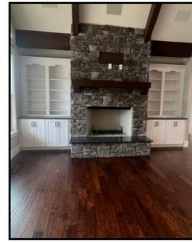
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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

February 01, 2026

Bristol McKeon, 35 of Decatur, charged with schedule II meth, drug paraphernalia, failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, and failure to appear for driving on a revoked license second offense, Bond \$26,000.

Ashley Graves, 33 of Athens, charged with felony shoplifting, and theft of property.

Melissa Johnson, 40 of Etowah, charged with public intoxication, Bond \$1,000.

Melissa Loden, 42 of Ten Mile, charged with casual exchange, possession of meth, Bond \$12,000.

Patrick Davis, 50 of Columbia, South Carolina, charged with violation of an order of protection. Bond \$3,000.

Sandra Buckner, 56 of Calhoun, charged with failure to appear for violation of probation.

Eric Womack, 48 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$3,000.

Cody Miller, 38 of Athens, charged with casual exchange, possession of meth, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$14,000.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered using public sources.

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Patricia "Pat" Berlene Duncan Simpson, 81 of McMinn County, passed away on Sunday, February 1. Family and friends will meet at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, February 4 at Simpson Cemetery for Pat's graveside service. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Patricia "Pat" Berlene Duncan Simpson.

Marvin M Cogdill, 72 of Sweetwater, passed away on Friday, January 23 at Sweetwater Hospital. Marvin was a very good-hearted man who would help anybody that he could. He was the best and most loving Daddy in the world. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 7 at 6:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A Visitation will be held prior from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Tom J. Oakley, 67, passed away on Saturday, January 31. He was a beloved dentist and community servant. Graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from Lee College, now known as Lee University, Tom further advanced his education by obtaining his Doctorate of Dental Surgery Degree from the University of Tennessee Memphis Dental School. For over 30 years, he practiced dentistry in Athens, Tennessee, where he not only treated his patients with skill and compassion but also formed lasting connections within the community. Private services will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

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