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Monday, November 17, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Etowah Carnegie Library to Receive \$10,000 Gift from Carnegie Corporation of New York



Etowah Carnegie Library will receive a \$10,000 gift from Carnegie Corporation of New York, the foundation established by Andrew Carnegie. The award is part of Carnegie Libraries 250, a special initiative celebrating the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and honoring the roughly 1,280 Carnegie Libraries still serving their communities across the United States.

Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries nationwide between 1886 and 1917. Approximately 750 of them continue to use their original buildings, while others have moved to new locations. Opened in 1915, the Etowah library is one of just four remaining Carnegie Libraries in Tennessee built through this historic program.

"We are honored to receive this gift," said Library Director Briana Pagdon. "We look forward to celebrating the history of our library and the role Carnegie Libraries have played across communities nationwide."

"Our founder, Andrew Carnegie, who championed the free public library movement of the late 19th century, described libraries as 'cradles of democracy' that 'strengthen the democratic idea, the equality of the citizen, and the royalty of man,'" said Dame Louise Richardson, president of Carnegie and former head of the University of Oxford. "We still believe this and are delighted to celebrate our connection to the libraries he founded."

Etowah Carnegie Library will receive the gift in January 2026, and can use the funds however they wish to celebrate the 250th anniversary, further our mission, and benefit our community. Patrons are invited to share their photos, stories, and community celebrations of Etowah Carnegie Library at carnegielibraries.org.

Written by: Briana Pagdon, Etowah Carnegie Library Director



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- Tue-Madisonville: Wil Sav -10:30 - 2
- Wed-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2
- Thu-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 -1:30
- Fri-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30



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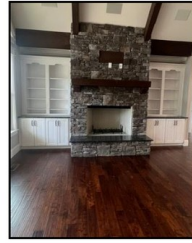
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Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

One Dead in Madisonville House Fire; Sheriff's Detective Injured in Separate Crash



The Monroe County Sheriff's Office and multiple fire and law enforcement agencies responded to a residential fire at 435 Crowder Road in Madisonville on Tuesday afternoon. The call came in around 4 p.m.

Once the fire was extinguished, responders discovered that one adult male had died in the incident. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation State Bomb and Arson Division is currently investigating the cause of the fire.

As crews were clearing the scene, a Monroe County Sheriff's Office detective was involved in a two-vehicle crash on U.S. 411. The detective was transported to UT Medical Center for evaluation. The condition of the other person involved in the crash has not yet been released. The Madisonville Police Department is handling the crash investigation.

The Sheriff's Office expressed sympathy for the family of the deceased and said its thoughts and prayers are with both the detective and the other individual involved in the accident.

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

Community News You Can Use

- A signal maintenance contractor will be working on retiming the traffic signals lights located on Decatur Pike/ Highway 30 from Milton Road to Holiday Drive, from Monday, November 17 at 7:00 a.m. until Friday, November 21 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

- Mr. Johnny Coffman, Vice Chairman of the Athens City School Board recently attended the Tennessee School Board Association meeting where he was named as a member of the 2025 All Tennessee School Board.



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

Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Schools Earns Statewide Healthier Schools Challenge Platinum Award



Board Members L-R Emily Forrest, Stan Harrison, Beth Jackson, Abby Carroll, Johnny Coffman, Julie Lofland - ACS Family Engagement & Coordinated School Health Director, Chris Adams - Chairman, Joe Barnett - Director of Schools.

Athens City Schools has been honored with the Healthier Schools Challenge-Platinum Level award of \$8,000, at the Tennessee School Boards Association Conference.

The recognition highlights the district's success in implementing Coordinated School Health initiatives, including health education, health services, school nutrition, physical education and activity, a healthy school environment, counseling and psychological services, staff wellness efforts, and strong student, family, and community involvement.

student, family, and community involvement.

Source: [Athens City Schools - Facebook](#)

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Monday, Nov. 17, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

11-14-25

Carolina Camacho, 25 of Athens, charged with assault by intimidation, Bond \$1,000.

Laura Cheek, 35 of Etowah, charged with theft of property, and is being held for Hamilton County.

Lacey Price, 39 of Athens, charged with burglary, held for Hamilton County.

James Pope, 45 of Athens, charged with aggravated criminal trespassing.

Ashley Wilcox, 31 of Athens, charged with aggravated criminal trespassing, drug paraphernalia, simple possession of schedule II,

simple possession-casual exchange of schedule I, casual exchange in possession of meth.

Andrew Williams, 58, charged with casual exchange and possession of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia, and three counts of schedule II

John Ainsworth, 35 of McMinn County, charged with state violation of probation for auto burglary.

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

Information gathered using public sources.

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Monday, Nov. 17, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Glen Earl Mashburn, 80 of McMinn County, passed away at home surrounded by his family on Wednesday, November 12. He was a member of Pond Hill Baptist Church. Glen was retired as shop foreman for EDS. A visitation will be held at Pond Hill Baptist Church on Saturday, November 22 from 12:00 PM- 2:00 PM with a Celebration of Life to follow at 2:00 PM. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Glen Earl Mashburn.

Cody Thomas Harold Chrisman, 33, a native and lifelong resident of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, November 12. He enjoyed fishing and riding his 4 wheeler. A celebration of Cody's life will be announced at a later date. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Cody Thomas Harold Chrisman.

James "Jim" Clyde Sherman, 72 of Niota, passed away on Friday morning, November 14 at home surrounded by his family. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. Jim's last wish was that all his children and grandchildren knew the Lord. Graveside services will be held on Monday, November 17 at 1:00 PM at The Sherman Family Cemetery, located at 1171 County Road 214, Niota. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of James "Jim" Clyde Sherman.

Connie Lewallen Allen, 76 of Decatur, passed away on Friday, November 14. She was of the Baptist faith. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 19 in the Beta Cemetery. There will be no formal visitation held per Connie's request. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Allen Family.

Danny Reece Wattenbarger, 79, of Decatur, passed away on Thursday, November 13. Danny was a dedicated dairy farmer. He was a devout follower of the Baptist faith. A Funeral Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 17 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18 in the Buttrams Cemetery in Athens. The family will receive friends from 5 – 7 p.m., prior to the service on Monday. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Wattenbarger Family..

Delia Crawford, 66 of Cleveland, passed away on Friday, November 14. Survivors and arrangements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Services entrusted with arrangements.

Michael Anthony Thompson, 65, passed away on Thursday, November 13. Survivors and arrangements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Services entrusted with arrangements.

Gina Simone Whaley, 56 of Athens, passed away on Friday, November 14 at CHI Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. She is a graduate of McMinn County High School and a graduate of ETSU in Johnson City with a degree in psychology with spending her career working as a social worker. Funeral services will be 4:00 PM Tuesday, November 18 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The visitation will be held from 2:00 - 4:00 PM prior to the service. The graveside service will be at 11:00 am Wednesday, November 19 in McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

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