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Monday, April 14, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## UPDATE: Second teen found dead in Tennessee River after police chase



After five days of extensive searching, Loudon County officials confirmed Sunday that the body of a second missing teenager has been recovered from the Tennessee River, following a tragic incident in which three teens jumped more than 80 feet from the I-75 bridge while fleeing law enforcement.

The teens, believed to be from the Chattanooga area, were involved in a police chase stemming from a stolen car report in Hamilton County. The pursuit ended near the Tennessee River Bridge, where the suspects abandoned the vehicle and jumped over the bridge's barrier, mistakenly thinking they were jumping onto the opposite side of the interstate. Instead, they plummeted into the river below.

One teen was detained on the scene and later informed officers that two others had jumped with him. The first body was discovered Friday, and the second was recovered Sunday after extensive search efforts involving land, air, sonar-**Morning Fax**  
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"This is another devastating loss," said Sheriff Jimmy Davis, noting that the incident has deeply impacted multiple communities. "As both families now face unimaginable loss, we ask the community to come together in support and compassion."

Due to the involvement of minors, the names of the deceased have not been released.

Source: [Local 3 News](#)

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• Wednesday-Etowah Across from Johnsons-10:30 - 2:00  
• Thursday-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 - 1:30  
• Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30

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**Monday, April 14, 2025**

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**Athens, Tennessee**

## Community News You Can Use

- The Athens Municipal Building, Public Works, and Animal Shelter will be closed on Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday. The Recycle Center will also be closed on Saturday, April 19. The Municipal Building, Public Works, Recycle Center and Animal Shelter will re-open on Monday, April 21 during regular business hours. The residential garbage route for Friday will be picked up Morning Fax Today's News. This Morning. on Monday, April 21. All other residential garbage routes will be on regular schedule. Commercial/Industrial garbage routes will be picked up on a limited basis. All EMS services will continue on a 24-hour basis.
- There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Athens VFW on Saturday, April 19 at Noon. The Easter Bunny will be present and there will be prizes for each age group. Refreshments will be served after the hunt.
- The April meeting of the Cherokee Beekeepers Association will be held on Tuesday, April 22, at 7:00 P.M. The meetings are held at the AgCentral Farmers Co-op located at 920 Congress Pkwy. N., Athens. You do not need to be a member to attend. The public is welcome.

## Three Confirmed Dead in Polk County Plane Crash

Authorities have confirmed that three people were killed in a small plane crash Friday afternoon Morning Fax Today's News. This Morning. in the Ocoee Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest in Polk County, Tennessee.

According to the Hamilton County Office of Emergency Management, McGhee Tyson Airport's Air Traffic Control contacted Polk County 911 after a plane disappeared from radar. Multiple Tri-State Mutual Aid agencies responded to the area near the Tellico Reliance Road around 2:23 p.m., initiating a search in the wooded area where the aircraft was last tracked.

At 4:54 p.m., search crews located the wreckage of the Mooney M20 aircraft and confirmed the deaths of three individuals. Their identities have not yet been released.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating the crash, including the identities of those on board and the cause of the accident.

**Source:** [WTVC News Channel 9](#)



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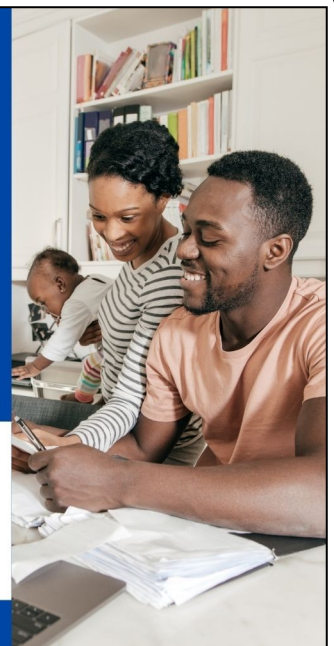


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Athens, Tennessee

## Over \$5,700 in Cash Missing from Blount County Fire Protection District



An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has revealed that employees of the Blount County Fire Protection District failed to deposit or record at least \$5,785 in cash payments collected from customers between January and November 2023.

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The district, the only fire department public utility district in the state, is primarily funded through annual subscription fees from local residents. Investigators found that while pre-numbered receipts were issued for cash payments, the transactions were not recorded in the accounting system or deposited into district accounts.

Further concerns arose when investigators discovered that annual charges for some customers were deleted from the system, potentially allowing residents to avoid payment and risk going without fire protection.

The report cited poor internal controls, including the use of a shared cash drawer and shared login credentials, which made it difficult to identify who was responsible for the missing funds.

"It's essential that government offices handling cash collections implement strong safeguards and oversight," said Comptroller Jason Mumpower. The Office of the 5th Judicial District Attorney General has been notified of the findings. *Source: [WBIR](#)*

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**Athens, Tennessee**

## TODAY: Etowah Senior Center to Host Free Drive-Through Bread Giveaway



The Etowah Senior Center will host a drive-through bread giveaway on Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., or while supplies last. The bread is free and open to all.

Participants can drive by the center at 435 Cooper Street, where volunteers will hand out bread. In case of rain, drivers are asked to pull behind the building on Sewell Lane. **For more information, call 423-781-7632.**

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## Dooley Tractor Celebrates 86 Years with Kubota Orange Days Sales Event



Dooley Tractor Company is celebrating 86 years in business in Athens, TN with a special event you won't want to miss! The Kubota Orange Days Sales Event is happening

now, featuring special offers on Kubota tractors, mowers, side-by-sides, and construction equipment.

Join Cousin Mark and JP from WYXI's Trading Post Morning Show on-site this **Friday, April 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, as they broadcast live on WYXI FM 94.5 and AM 1390 and highlight all the deals and giveaways.

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Enjoy free Bojangles biscuits until 10 a.m. and sandwiches until 1 p.m., while supplies last. Attendees can also enter free drawings for prizes from local area favorites. (No purchase necessary)

Head to Dooley Tractor this Friday and celebrate 86 years of serving the Friendly City in style!

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Monday, April 14, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## "I-Am-A-Leav-a" Nico gone as Tennessee turns page at Orange & White game



In a stunning development, Tennessee quarterback Nico Iamaleava is parting ways with the Vols football program, just two seasons into a highly anticipated career marked by sky-high expectations and a record-setting NIL deal.

According to reports, head coach Josh Heupel informed the team on Saturday morning that the program would move forward without Iamaleava, who did not attend Tennessee's Orange & White Spring Game at Neyland Stadium. The former five-star quarterback is expected to enter the transfer portal when it opens on April 16, after reportedly seeking a renegotiation of his NIL deal from \$2 million to \$4 million annually.

Iamaleava's departure brings a surprising end to what was supposed to be a new era for Tennessee football. After redshirting in 2023 and serving as the starting QB in 2024, he posted respectable numbers—2,930 passing yards, 21 touchdowns, and five interceptions, along with six rushing TDs—but struggled to meet the high expectations that followed him to Knoxville.

Despite inconsistent play, Iamaleava led the Vols to a 10-3 season and their first College Football Playoff appearance, a run many thought would be just the beginning. Instead, it turned out to be his final chapter in orange and white.

On Saturday, 38,192 fans watched as redshirt freshman Jake Merklinger and true freshman George MacIntyre stepped into the spotlight. The duo combined for four touchdown passes, including three to standout freshman tight end Jack Van Dorselaer. Heupel praised their performance, noting both young quarterbacks "moved the football, made plays," while acknowledging areas for growth.

Tennessee will now prepare for the 2025 season opener in the Aflac Kickoff Game against Syracuse on August 30 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, with a new quarterback era just beginning. *Sources:* [KnoxNews.com](https://www.knoxnews.com)/[UTSports.com](https://www.utsports.com)

## Late Rally Lifts McMinn County Over Rhea, 4-3



The McMinn County Cherokees pulled off a thrilling 4-3 comeback win over Rhea County on Thursday, scoring three runs in the top of the seventh to seal the victory in a tight District baseball matchup.

Trailing 3-1 entering the final frame, McMinn tied the game after a sacrifice fly by Luke Lawson and a daring steal of home by pinch runner Marshall Goodner. Jaser Arms then delivered the game-winning RBI with a sacrifice fly to cap off the rally.

The Cherokees got on the board early with an RBI double by Auston Fugate in the first inning. Rhea answered in the second with a sacrifice fly from Halston Shaver and took a 3-1 lead in the fourth on back-to-back RBI singles by Jax Schmitt and Harrison Tilley.

Freshman Bo Barnett got the start for McMinn, allowing three runs on five hits over 3.2 innings with three strikeouts. Relievers Max Rhoderick and Luke Lawson combined to shut down Rhea the rest of the way. Reese Pendergrass went 6.2 innings for Rhea, giving up four runs (only one earned), striking out three and walking three. The McMinn offense was spread across the lineup, with Cooper Wilson, Jaxen Fugate, Linc Brazzell, Arms, and Auston Fugate each collecting hits. Brazzell led the way on the basepaths, stealing three of the Cherokees' four total bases.

With the win, McMinn improves to 13-7 on the season and picks up an important District victory, while other area teams like Cleveland and Walker Valley were rained out after splitting their first two games. *Source:* [Game Changer](https://www.gamechanger.com)



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Monday, April 14, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Frank Harden Barnes**, 83 of Athens, passed away on Saturday, April 12. He was a retired construction supervisor for Mayse Construction Co. He attended Sewee Church of God. Funeral services will be at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 15 in the Chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 4:00 - 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 15 in the funeral home. Interment will be at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 16 in Sewee Cemetery. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens, Tenn. in charge of arrangements.

**Tonya Carlock**, age 53, passed away on Saturday April 12 at her residence in Cleveland, TN, surrounded by her family. Survivors and arrangements to be announced by M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

**Charles Edward 'Tony' Moore**, 65, passed Saturday in a local medical facility. Survivors and arrangements to be announced by M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

**Glenda Evans**, of Linsdale, TN, passed away with loved ones at her side on Friday, April, 11. Glenda was a lifetime member of Old Salem Baptist Church. The family received friends on Sunday, April, 13 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Ocoee, TN. Memorial service followed. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah was in charge of arrangements.

**D. Alan Wade**, 77 of Decatur, passed away on Thursday, April 10. He was the rural business specialist until his retirement in December 2007. He was a member of Faith Baptist Church. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, April 15, at 11 a.m. at Faith Baptist Church. Interment will follow in the Decatur Cemetery. The Family will receive friends from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 14 in the Chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Wade Family.

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