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Monday, April 21, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

State Confirms Additional Measles Cases; Total Now at Six

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) confirmed two new measles cases on Thursday, bringing the state's total to six. The latest cases were identified in **Middle Tennessee**, and both individuals are currently **recovering at home**.

According to TDH, the new cases were linked to previously confirmed infections, and both individuals are **cooperating with public health officials** by **quarantining** to prevent further spread.

Morning Fax At this time, the department reports **no known additional exposures** tied to the new cases and **no evidence of sustained community transmission** in Tennessee. This update comes amid an ongoing **national measles outbreak** affecting more than **700 people across 25 states**, with **two confirmed deaths** reported in the U.S.

Health officials continue to monitor the situation and encourage vaccination and public awareness to help prevent further spread of the disease.

Community News You Can Use

- The April meeting of the Cherokee Beekeepers Association will be held TOMORROW, Tuesday, April 22, at 7:00 P.M. The meetings are held at the Farmers Co-Op located at 920 Congress Pkwy. N., Athens. You do not need to be a member to attend. The public is welcome.

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- Athens City School registration will continue for the upcoming 2025-2026 School Year for Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Pre-K registration packets can be picked up at the ACS Administration Building at 943 Crestway Drive in Athens. Kindergarten registration will be at 316 McMinn Avenue. See their Facebook post [HERE](#) for more info.
- This week, the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum is collecting donations for its annual Trash & Treasure Sale. The museum greatly appreciates any donations you have for the sale. Please bring any furniture, lamps, and jewelry to the Museum Guild Room. All other donations can be taken to the Museum Annex. The sale opens to the public on April 24th - 26th from 10am - 5pm Thursday and Friday, Saturday is from 10-3
- The Athens Parks & Recreation Department recently announced that the Athens Regional Park Splash Pad will open for the season on Thursday, May 1. The Ingleside Recreation Complex Pool is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 24. You can reserve either location for a party by visiting athenstn.gov/parks



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• Wednesday-Athens AGCENTRAL CO-OP-10:00 - 2:00

• Thursday-Athens Family Dollar 10:30 -1:30

• Friday-Sweetwater-Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30



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Tuesday - 80% Rain. High 74.

Tues Night - 30% Rain Possible T'Storms. Low 45.

More weather at:
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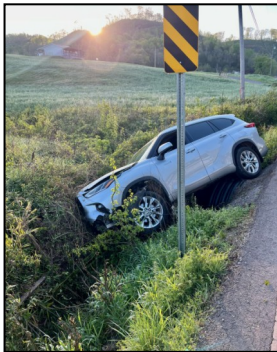
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Monday, April 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Driver Injured in Wednesday Morning Crash on Hwy 39E, Englewood



A single-vehicle crash occurred early Wednesday morning around 7:30 a.m. on Highway 39 East at County Road 463 in Englewood, leaving one person injured.

According to reports, a 2020 Toyota Highlander Hybrid left the roadway and struck a drain culvert. The driver was treated at the scene and transported by AMR to Starr Regional Medical Center in Etowah for further care.

Englewood Rural Fire Department, the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Travis Ryans responded to the scene. Trooper Ryans is leading the investigation into the cause of the accident.

Morning Fax Today's News. This Morning. Englewood Rural Fire Department, the McMinn County Sheriff's Department, and Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Travis Ryans responded to the scene. Trooper Ryans is leading the investigation into the cause of the accident.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.

Japanese Bento Box Packing Workshop Coming to Athens May 13

The Athens-Isahaya Sister City Committee and the Asian Culture Center of Tennessee are teaming up to present a fun and interactive **Japanese Bento Box Packing Workshop** on **Monday, May 13**, from **6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

The event will be held at the **McMinn County Higher Education Center (Room N-125)**, located at **2345 Denso Drive, Athens, TN 37303**.

Participants will learn how to create their own delicious and visually appealing Japanese bento (lunch) box. The hands-on workshop is open to all and offers a unique opportunity to explore Japanese food culture.

Registration is required, and there is a **\$10 materials fee** due at the time of registration. Secure your spot at: <https://www.knoxasianfestival.com/asian-culture-outreach-program-event-registration/>

Don't miss this chance to experience Japanese culture in a creative and tasty way!

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Today's News. This Morning.



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Monday, April 21, 2025

Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Dooley Tractor Company enjoys their 86th anniversary!



On Friday, April 18, Dooley Tractor Company celebrated 86 years in business here in Athens during their Kubota Orange Days sales event. WYXI Radio was present to broadcast the festivities on FM 94.5 and AM 1390. In photo number 1 are broadcast team members J.P. Vasquez, Stephanie Devine and "Cousin" Mark Lefler. Next is Mark and Mary Lefler with Dooley Tractor owner, Eddie Bohannon. In photo 3 is Athens Mayor Larry Eaton being interviewed live on WYXI. In the last photo is Dooley Tractor Sales and Marketing Manager Ken Keaton on the air live with "Cousin" Mark. Nearly a thousand dollars worth of items were given away during the big event. If you are in the market for a new tractor, mower, implements and attachments, be sure to check with Dooley Tractor, a trustworthy locally owned and operated family business.

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255 Keith Lane, Athens
Tuesday, April 22
5:30pm - 7:00pm

Monday, April 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

Motorcyclist Injured in Crash on Eastanaula Road, Sweetwater



A motorcyclist was injured Friday afternoon after losing control of his Harley-Davidson motorcycle and crashing into a yard on Eastanaula Road in Sweetwater around 4:30 p.m.

The rider was treated at the scene and transported by AMR to Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens.

Emergency response included Niota Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, Englewood Rural Fire, and Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Ethan Jones, who is investigating the accident. Chad Gates, Niota Rural Fire Training Officer, was in command at the scene.

Photo courtesy of Chad Gates, Niota Rural Fire Dept.

Tennessee Overhill Art Class Series Continues with Hands-On Creativity



The Tennessee Overhill's 2025 Art Class Series kicked off this week with a **Pebble Art Class** led by **Mimi McClellan** of Tellico Plains at the historic L&N Depot in Etowah. Known for her unique art made from river-washed stones, McClellan uses rocks gathered from the **Tellico and Hiwassee Rivers**

for both her workshops and her artwork, which can be found in several local shops.

Next up in the series is a **Modern Fiber Basket Weaving** class taught by **Tonya Dockery** on **May 17**, also at the Depot. The class promises to offer a fresh take on traditional techniques in a hands-on environment.

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The series is sponsored by **Tennessee Overhill** and the **Tennessee Arts Commission**, with the goal of connecting local residents to Appalachian arts and culture through immersive creative experiences.

For more information or to register, contact 423-263-7232.

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Monday, April 21, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn Cherokees Edge Walker Valley 3-2 in Thursday Pitchers' Duel

McMinn County Varsity Cherokees edged past Walker Valley 3-2 on Thursday in a tightly contested game highlighted by strong pitching performances from both teams.

Bo Barnett took the mound for the Cherokees and recorded 17 outs over five and two-thirds innings. He allowed just three hits and one run while striking out five and walking four. Luke Lawson came in as relief to help seal the win.

Walker Valley struck first in the top of the first inning when Jordan Smith singled to score a run. But McMinn County responded in the bottom of the third with three runs. Lawson started the rally with an infield single, followed by an RBI walk from Auston Fugate and an RBI single from Drake Frazier down the left field line.

Frazier and Fugate each drove in a run, while Frazier and Lawson led the offense with two hits apiece. Smith and Titus Torbett each collected an RBI for Walker Valley, which turned a double play on defense.

Despite a solid outing from Smith on the mound for Walker Valley—allowing five hits and three runs (two earned) over two innings—McMinn County's timely hits and strong pitching made the difference.

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Friday Game 1: MCHS Varsity Cherokees Drop 12-8 Battle to McCallie After Early Deficit

The McMinn County Varsity Cherokees fell 12-8 to the McCallie Varsity Blue Tornado on Friday after a tough start in the opening innings.

McCallie surged ahead with five runs in the first inning, fueled by a Jerome Lehoux RBI single, a two-run error, and RBI hits from Cooper Prichard and Hamilton Downs. They continued to build their lead with two more runs in the second on RBI walks and a two-run homer from Lehoux in the third.

Despite the early gap, McMinn County stayed in the game behind a solid offensive showing. Drake Frazier went 3-for-3 at the plate, while Luke Lawson drove in two runs with a 2-for-4 performance. Chase McDonald also added two hits.

On the mound, JP Brannen allowed five runs (one earned) in the first inning, and Matthew Woods pitched three innings in relief, giving up three runs on five hits.

McCallie tallied 16 hits overall, with Lehoux leading the offense and Tyler Shortridge stealing two of the team's six total bases. The Blue Tornado also turned two double plays in a strong all-around effort.

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Big Sixth Inning Leads Wilson Central Varsity Wildcats (9-3) Past McMinn County Varsity Cherokees



Wilson Central Varsity Wildcats scored five runs in the sixth inning, which helped them defeat McMinn County Varsity Cherokees 9-3 on Friday.

Wilson Central Varsity Wildcats were the first to get on the board in the first when Luke Shaughnessy homered to center field, scoring two runs. Drake Frazier singled to center field, which helped McMinn County Varsity Cherokees tie the game at two in the bottom of the third.

Wilson Central Varsity Wildcats flipped the game on its head in the top of the sixth, scoring five runs on three hits to take the lead, 7-2. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Nicholas Ferrara that drove in two. Frazier pitched three innings in relief for McMinn County Varsity Cherokees. The righty allowed two hits and four runs (three earned) while, striking out two and walking two. Marshall Goodner led things off on the bump for McMinn County Varsity Cherokees. The hurler allowed two hits and two runs over two innings, striking out two and walking two. Mason Lee stepped on the bump first for Wilson Central Varsity Wildcats. The hurler surrendered five hits and two runs over six innings, striking out three and walking one.

Frazier provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led McMinn County Varsity Cherokees with two runs batted in. The right-handed hitter went 2-for-3 on the day.

Wilson Central Varsity Wildcats collected nine hits in the game. Shaughnessy, Ferrara, and Colton Vivrette each collected two hits for Wilson Central Varsity Wildcats. Jesus Arnal, Shaughnessy, and Ferrara each drove in two runs for Wilson Central Varsity Wildcats. Arnal stole two bases. Wilson Central Varsity Wildcats ran wild on the base paths, collecting five stolen bases for the game. McMinn County Varsity Cherokees travel to Boyd-Buchanan for their next game on Monday (today). [Copyright © 2025 GameChanger Media, Inc. All rights reserved.](#)



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Monday, April 21, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 6

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

James George Brakebill, 88, of Ringgold, GA, passed away Thursday, April 17 at CHI Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens.

Rosella Thompson, 86 of Athens, passed away on Thursday, April 7 at her residence. She loved her garden, flowers and Christmas. Visitation will be from 11:30 am -1:30 pm Tuesday, April 22 in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. The graveside service will follow at 2 pm at McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.

Stella Lorane Small Thearp, 79 of Niota, passed away on Thursday morning, April 17 at Sweetwater Hospital. Stella was of the Baptist faith and a member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. A service celebrating her life was planned for Easter Sunday at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church with a receiving of friends held prior to the service. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

April Beth Peterson Linton, 51 of Athens, passed away on Friday, April 18 at Tennova of Turkey Creek. She graduated from Carson-Newman University with a degree in Psychology. She was a former member of Christ Community Church and attended Christ Way of Ooltewah. Arrangements will be announced soon. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

Joyce Brown, 86, passed away on April 18, 2025. Survivors and arrangements to be announced. M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service in charge of arrangements.

Imogene Kelley, age 90 of Englewood, passed away Saturday, April 19, 2025. Imogene was a member of Mars Hill United Methodist Church. Survivors include her son, Marvin Kelley; grandson and wife, Grant and Amanda Kelley; great-granddaughters, Alice, Celia, Betsy Gene Kelley. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, April 21, 2025, in Mars Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

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