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Driver Injured After Car Flips on Hwy 307



An 18-year-old woman was taken to a local hospital Tuesday afternoon after her 2004 Dodge Neon left Highway 307 near County Road 401, struck a power pole,

and flipped into a ditch just after 3 p.m. The driver was the only occupant.

The crash shut down the highway for about an hour and a half while crews cleared the scene. Niota Fire, Englewood Fire, AMR, and the McMinn County Sheriff's Office responded. THP Trooper Jake Delmontte is leading the investigation.

Photo by David Prater, Niota Rural FD

Community News You Can Use

- The Friends of the Library remind the community that **Saturday, May 30, 2026, before 5 p.m.** is the **final day to drop off used book donations** for this year's annual book sale. Donations help support programs at the E.G. Fisher Public Library, and organizers extend their thanks for the community's continued generosity.
- Athens Area Council for the Arts (AACA) invites grandparents and honorary grandparents to bring their grandchildren to a dance at the 2nd Annual Grand Ball at The Arts Center Friday, May 29 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Donations are accepted at the door and proceeds from this event benefit AACA scholarships.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Spring Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL:
NATURAL DYES FROM THE KITCHEN
WITH PAT ARMSTRONG
SATURDAY, MAY 30TH @ 11:00 AM
\$5 EACH OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

HISTORY FOR LUNCH:
THE HISTORY OF LEWIS & CLARK WITH JOHN BINANDO
THURSDAY, MAY 28TH @ NOON *FREE ADMISSION*

TRASH AND TREASURE RECEIVING DAY
MAY 30TH FROM 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

Museum Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:
Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
Students: \$3.00

More Information
522 W Madison Ave.
Athens, TN 37303
423-745-0329
www.livingheritagemuseum.org

SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL PROGRAM INFORMATION

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Thursday, May 21, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Rescuers Carry Injured Hiker From Conasauga Falls



A woman was rescued from the base of Conasauga Falls on Saturday after suffering a broken leg and dislocated ankle along the trail. She was found roughly three-quarters of a mile from the trailhead, according to the Monroe County Rescue Squad.

Crews placed the injured hiker into a Stokes basket and wheeled her up the rugged trail to meet EMS for transport to the hospital. Rescue officials praised the effort as a model of interagency cooperation, noting the physical demands of the terrain and the coordination required.

Responding agencies included Conasauga Valley Fire, mutual-aid teams from McMinn and Blount Counties, Monroe County EMS, State Forestry, Christianburg Fire, Gudger Fire, Notchey Creek Fire, and Mount Vernon Fire.

The Rescue Squad called the operation "a true example of what teamwork and mutual aid are all about," and extended well-wishes for the woman's recovery.

Source: WATE.com

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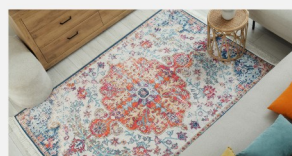


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Thursday, May 21, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Niota Elementary Students Cool Off with Fire Department Hose-Down



Students in the Niota Elementary after-school program got an early taste of summer this week when the Niota Fire Department stopped by for a fun end-of-year hose-down.

Pictured are Tammy Carver on the far left and Abby Newberry on the far right, both with Niota Fire, along with excited students enjoying the spray.

Photo courtesy of Niota FD

McMinn County Arrest Reports

May 19, 2026

James Lampone, 45 of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation for sale and delivery of cocaine.

Shannon Huff, 55 of Englewood, charged with assault, resisting arrest, and violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia, Bond \$6,275.

Amanda Thompson, 44 of Athens, charged with schedule 1, driving on a suspended license, and drug paraphernalia.

Danielle Roberts, 39 of Dayton, charged with state violation of probation for schedule 2 meth for resale.

Julie Shaw, 52 of Englewood, charged with attempted tampering with evidence.

Troy Pierce, 50 of Athens, charged with domestic assault. Bond \$1,000.

The accused remain innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered using Public Sources.

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RSVP: May 23

Saturday, May 30, 2026
 10:00AM - 1:00PM

Speaker: Lisa Dotson

Location: Niota Depot Event Center
 201 W. Main Street, Niota TN 37826

Information: 423.829.5305

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Thursday, May 21, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Lloyd Chilch "L.C." Hicks, 78, of Athens, passed away on Sunday, May 17. He was of the Baptist faith and a member of Meadow Fork Baptist Church. He retired after 23 years at Wal-Mart of Athens. Before that, he worked at Robetts MFG of Riceville, Padgett's Furniture Co. of Calhoun, and several other furniture companies in Cleveland. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 20 at Cambria Baptist Church. The family received friends from 11:00 PM to 1:00 PM, Wednesday prior to the service at the church. Interment followed the service at Cambria Baptist Church Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Elbert "Wayne" Cooper, 81, of Etowah, passed away on Monday, May 18. A devoted member of Cambria Baptist Church and a painter by trade, Wayne embodied dedication, faith, and craftsmanship throughout his life. Funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, May 21, 2026, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service at Cambria Baptist Church Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Ronney Ivan Stephens, 76, of Decatur, after a 12-year battle with cancer passed away surrounded by his loving family on Monday, May 18. He proudly served his country in the United States Army. He was a man of strong faith, deeply rooted in the Baptist tradition. He engaged in daily Bible study with Shepherd's Chapel and participated in Sunday studies at Graceway Chapel. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 29 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 10 - 11 a.m., prior to the service. Interment will be held at a later date at Prospect Cemetery, 200 County Road 467, Englewood. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Stephens family.

Michael Phillip Evans Sr., 70, of Riceville, passed away on Monday, May 18. He was of the Lutheran faith. Michael earned his associate's degree and held a lifelong career in carpentry. A visitation will be held at the chapel of Companion Funeral Home in Athens, TN on Monday, May 25 from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. A private burial will take place at a later date. Companion Funeral Home and Cremation Service in charge of arrangements.

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