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**Tuesday, December 31, 2024**

**Page 1**

**Athens, Tennessee**

## Monroe Co. Deputy Wounded in Philadelphia

**(PRESS RELEASE FROM MONROE CO. SHERIFF TOMMY JONES)** On Sunday, December 29, at approximately 11:54 am, a call came into the E-911 center regarding a tree in the roadway in the 2300 block of Reed Springs Road, Philadelphia. Monroe County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the tree down call. The tree was located in front of a residence where a male subject, Mr. Richard Brown, was known to reside. Mr. Brown was wanted on an active felony warrant out of Loudon County, Tennessee. A uniformed deputy sheriff observed Mr. Brown exit the residence, and the deputy having knowledge of the active warrant, requested Mr. Brown to stop and speak with him. Mr. Brown refused and re-entered the residence, closing the door on the deputy. The deputy began speaking with Mr. Brown through the door, and Mr. Brown began making violent statements.

*Continued on Page 3*



**LISTENING REMINDER:** TODAY on *Main Street Moments*: Host Sandra Kinney invites you to join her and learn of upcoming events in Athens in the new year. The broadcast will be aired at 8:15 a.m. TODAY on WYXI RADIO: AM-1390 and FM-94.5.



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### WEATHER FORECAST

**Tuesday:** 40% Rain. High 55.  
**Tue Night:** Mostly Cloudy. Low 39.  
**Wednesday:** Mostly Cloudy. High 48.  
**Wed Night:** Mostly Clear. Low 28.

More Weather at: [wyxi.com](http://www.wyxi.com)

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Tuesday, December 31, 2024

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

**Kelly Ann Austin**, 61 of Englewood, passed away on Tuesday, December 24 surrounded by family at U.T. Medical Center after a short but hard fought battle with cancer. Kelly worked for the McMinn County Dept. of Education for the last 20+ years serving as the Cafeteria Manager at Rogers Creek Elementary School and the McMinn County High School. A Celebration of Life Service will be conducted at 11:00 am, Saturday, January 4 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 9:30-11:00 am on Saturday at the funeral home prior to the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Kelly Ann Austin.

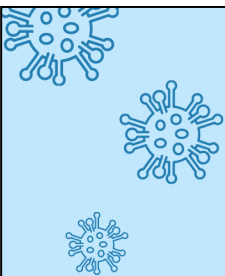
**Nell Walker Womack Brady**, 94 of Athens, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, December 28th after a lengthy illness. Nell was a member of Eastanalee Baptist Church. Many will remember Nell as a cafeteria worker at Riceville Elementary School, Life Care Center of Athens, and Mouse Creek Nursery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 2, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Ziegler Funeral Home in Athens with a funeral service to follow at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Upper Spring Creek Cemetery in Riceville. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Nell Walker Womack Brady.

## International Paper Company in Cleveland Officially Closes, Layoffs Begin

Year-end layoffs continue as International Paper Company has officially closed its facility located at 2401 Blue Springs Road, SE, Cleveland, TN, following an earlier announcement of layoffs beginning in December 2024. This closure is part of a permanent shutdown affecting 115 workers. The first round of layoffs began on December 16, 2024, as the company ceased operations and shut down machines at the site. Employees impacted by the closure have been informed that no bumping rights exist, although they are eligible to apply for open positions at other International Paper facilities.

Hourly workers at the Cleveland facility were represented by United Steelworkers Union Local 1337, led by Chief Elected Officer Randy Beaty, based on Quill Drive NW, Cleveland, TN. In response to the closure, the Southeast Local Workforce Development Board and its rapid response team, part of the Southeast Tennessee Development District, have been engaged to support displaced employees. Services include job placement assistance, retraining programs, and other resources to help workers transition to new opportunities.

The closure of this Cleveland location, alongside the Memphis facility, underscores a significant change in International Paper's operations. For further assistance, affected employees can contact the Dislocated Worker Unit at (615) 253-6355.



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Tuesday, December 31, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

## Monroe Co. Deputy Wounded in Philadelphia (Continued)



Deputies set up a perimeter and requested backup, as well as Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT). Monroe County Sheriff's Office deputies began announcing themselves as law enforcement and requesting Mr. Brown to exit the residence. Non-leathal (sic) gas was deployed into the residence, and deputies started to breach the door when gun fire erupted from inside the residence, resulting in a deputy sheriff sustaining a gunshot wound. The deputy was transported to UT Hospital and is being treated for non-life threatening injuries. Tenth Judicial District Attorney General Stephen Hatchett was made aware of the incident, and deployed an investigator from his office to the scene. Due to this incident being a shooting involving a law enforcement officer, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation was requested to conduct an investigation of the incident.

Loudon County Sheriff's Office, Madisonville Police Department, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Sweetwater Police Department, Loudon City Police Department, and Monroe County Violent Crime Task Force responded to the scene and began operations to bring the incident to a peaceful end. Mr. Brown exited the residence after a lengthy stand-off and was taken into custody without incident. No further information will be released at this time. Please continue to pray for the injured deputy and his family as he recovers. *Source: [Facebook - Sheriff Tommy Jones](#)*

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**Tuesday, December 31, 2024** Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 **Athens, Tennessee**

### Rocky Top "Rocked" By Transfer Portal News

## TRANSFER PORTAL

The Tennessee Volunteers faced a dramatic transfer portal period, losing 15 players, including six wide receivers, yet managing to retain the majority of their key starters.

Among the most significant losses are starting slot receiver **Squirrel White** and former five-star freshman **Mike Matthews**, who was expected to be a major contributor in 2025. *While Matthews remains in the portal, he may still opt to return to Tennessee for his sophomore season.*

The wide receiver position was hit hardest, with White (34 catches, 381 yards, 3 touchdowns) and Matthews (7 catches, 90 yards, 2 touchdowns) leading a group of departing players, including **Kaleb Webb** (Maryland), **Chas Nimrod**, **Nathan Leacock**, and **Nate Spillman**. In total, six of Tennessee's eight returning scholarship wideouts entered the portal, leaving the Vols with a significant need to rebuild depth at the position.

The offensive backfield also saw some movement, with running backs **Cam Seldon** (23 carries, 118 yards, 1 touchdown) and **Khalifa Keith** (21 carries, 100 yards, 1 touchdown) departing. Veteran quarterback **Gaston Moore** also entered the portal after appearing in limited action during the 2024 season.

Defensively, Tennessee lost three rotational players, including linebacker **Jalen Smith** (34 tackles), cornerback **Jordan Matthews** (3 tackles, 2 pass breakups, transferring to Vanderbilt), and defensive end **Jayson Jenkins** (9 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 forced fumble). STAR defender **Christian Harrison** also entered the portal, contributing 20 tackles and a pass breakup during the 2024 campaign.

Despite the departures, Tennessee retained most of its key contributors from the 2024 squad, with only one starter leaving. The losses were mitigated as none of the departing defenders were projected to start in 2025. The Vols also hold out hope that Matthews, a highly-touted talent, could return to Knoxville.

With significant gaps in roster depth to fill, particularly at wide receiver, the Vols may look to bolster their roster through recruiting and the transfer portal to prepare for the 2025 season. Tennessee's ability to retain most starters leaves optimism for the future, but rebuilding depth will be critical as the program continues to aim for SEC contention.

Source: [Rocky Top Insider](#)

### McMinn County Arrest Reports

**Terry Lynn**, of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Possession of Meth, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Burglary, Theft, Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Assault of a First Responder, and Aggravated Burglary. No Bond.

**James Riden**, 53 of Englewood, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. Total Bond: \$2,000.

**Joyce Quarles**, 45 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Fentanyl and Methamphetamine, and Introduction of Contraband into a Penal Facility. Total Bond: \$18,000

**Derrick McKenzie**, 26 of Chattanooga, was arrested by the Athens PD for Driving on a Revoked License, Reckless Driving, and Simple Possession/Casual Exchange. Total Bond: \$16,000.

**Shane Baltimore**, 48 of Athens., was arrested by the MCSO for Driving on a Revoked License, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$2,000.

**Noel Weidner**, 33 of Niota, was arrested by the Etowah PD for Violation of Probation. Bond Unreported.

**Ashley Gammey**, 32 of Englewood, was arrested by the Englewood PD for Aggravated Criminal Trespassing. Bond Unreported.

**Ashley Gammey**, 32 of Englewood, was arrested by the Athens PD for Aggravated Criminal Trespassing, Vandalism and Violation of Probation. Total Bond: \$10,700.

**Darrel Dockery**, 54 of Madisonville, was arrested by the MCSO for State Violation of Probation. No Bond.

**Judah Roche**, 43 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Reckless Endangerment. Total Bond: \$1,000.

**Veronica McHone**, 33 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for Failure to Appear. No Bond.

**Rochelle Craft-Wells**, 42 of Decatur, was arrested by the MCSO for Simple Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange of Meth, Possession of a Schedule VI Substance, Legend Drugs, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Total Bond: \$14,500

**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from Public Sources.**