



# 65th Annual Athens Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast

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**\$5**

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eat free.

Proceeds benefit the youth in Athens and McMinn County.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14 • 7AM - 11 AM**

Monday, June 9, 2025

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

Athens, Tennessee

## TBI Investigates Officer-Involved Shooting in Sweetwater

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is conducting an independent probe into an officer-involved shooting that occurred early Wednesday morning in Sweetwater, following a request from 10th Judicial District Attorney General Stephen Hatchett.

The incident took place around 12:55 a.m. at a residence on Camp Hill Road. Monroe County deputies had responded to reports of a man experiencing a mental health crisis. Upon arrival, the man reportedly displayed a weapon and then retreated into the home. Negotiators attempted to de-escalate the situation, but when those efforts failed, tear gas was deployed. The man then opened the door and fired a shot. A Madisonville police officer, who was part of a Special Response Team assisting at the scene, returned fire and struck the man.

Officers rendered aid at the scene until EMS arrived and transported the man to the hospital. His condition has not been publicly released. No officers were injured during the incident. TBI agents are now working to piece together the chain of events by collecting evidence and conducting interviews. The agency emphasized that its role is to gather facts, not to determine whether the use of force was justified. That decision will be made by the District Attorney General upon reviewing the findings.

As standard procedure, the TBI has not released the names of the officers involved. Any further updates will be made available through the TBI's official website at [TBINewsroom.com](http://TBINewsroom.com)

## Community News You Can Use

- The McMinn County Board of Education will meet in Regular Session on Thursday, June 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.
- The 65th annual Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast is set to take place this Saturday, June 14 from 7am - 11 am. Kids eat free and tickets for others are just \$5. All proceeds go to benefit the Athens Kiwanis Club and their ongoing community outreach efforts. *See their ad above.*
- The Athens City Council will be meeting on Monday, June 9 at 5:00pm for their June Work Session. They will meet in the Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers of the Athens Municipal Building.
- The [annual McMinn County Friends of the Library Book Sale](#) is scheduled to take place from Thursday, June 19 to Sunday, June 22. The book sale will once again be hosted at the McMinn County High School Cafeteria. All proceeds of the book sale will go to benefit E.G. Fisher Public Library.

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Monday, June 9, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## New Video Raises Questions in Death of Monroe County Inmate Elijah Lester Isbill



[New body camera footage](#) has surfaced surrounding the arrest and detainment of 74-year-old Elijah Lester Isbill, shedding new light on the final hours before his death in the Monroe County Justice Center in February 2025. Isbill's daughter, Windy Duncan, has accused Monroe County corrections staff of mistreating her father, who died hours after being taken into custody. She posted videos of the incident online, claiming Isbill was physically abused while in jail custody.

In response, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) initially pushed back against the allegations. However, the release of internal body camera footage from MCSO on Friday appears to confirm some troubling details about Isbill's condition during the arrest and detention process. The footage shows Isbill appearing confused and struggling to

answer basic questions from officers. Despite his apparent disorientation, EMS personnel on scene reportedly advised that he was lucid, meaning his daughter could not exercise power of attorney.

MCSO claims that Duncan refused medical transport for her father by signing an Against Medical Advice (AMA) form, although Duncan has publicly stated she was never shown or given any such documentation — and her father was never transported. Additional jail surveillance footage shows a nurse checking on Isbill before he was placed in a restraint chair with a mesh hood over his head. Hours later, he was unresponsive. CPR was initiated, and Isbill was transported to Blount Memorial Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. An autopsy revealed that Isbill suffered fractured ribs, as well as multiple contusions and abrasions. The cause of death was listed as cardiac arrhythmia, which the report states was not caused directly by his injuries.

In a statement release, Monroe County Sheriff Tommy Jones acknowledged concerns over the incident and confirmed that disciplinary action has been taken. One corporal was fired, and two other corrections deputies resigned before they could be formally terminated. Additional suspensions were handed down to another deputy and two sergeants. *Continued on Next Page*

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Gabby earned her certificate as a stroke rehabilitation specialist in 2017. Please join us to discuss what all Select Therapy can do for your loved one.

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Monday, June 9, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

## Elijah Isbill (Continued)

Sheriff Jones noted that the jail's padded cell — where Isbill ideally would have been held — was undergoing maintenance, forcing officers to use a restraint chair instead. While the device's use is standard procedure in correctional settings, Jones admitted that the behavior seen in the video "does not align with the standards I uphold."

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and [District Attorney General Stephen Hatchett](#) continue to investigate both the February incident and an earlier arrest of Isbill in May 2024 for DUI. That charge was later dismissed due to lack of probable cause. DA Hatchett noted that Isbill exhibited similar symptoms during both encounters, raising questions about how his condition was evaluated by law enforcement.

In his [statement](#), Sheriff Jones extended condolences to the Isbill family and reaffirmed his commitment to accountability:

*"I hope that my decisions demonstrate to his loved ones and the residents of Monroe County that I take my duty seriously and hold my deputies accountable for their actions."*

As the investigation continues, the community — and Isbill's family — wait for further answers about the circumstances that led to his tragic death.

Sources: [NewsChannel9](#), [D.A. Hatchett](#), [Sheriff Tommy Jones](#)

## Obituaries

**Belinda Yvonne Moser**, 45, passed away on Sunday, June 1. Belinda was a vibrant soul whose warmth, humor, and love touched all who knew her. She had a deep love for animals and found joy and peace in nature, especially during her favorite pastime-fishing. Her generous heart and enduring kindness left a lasting impression on her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to serve the Moser family during this time of remembrance

**Brandon Tyler "Craig" Buckner**, 31 of McMinn County, passed away on Saturday, May 24. Brandon was a devoted family man, a skilled carpenter, and a cherished friend to many. He found joy in the simple things in life: playing basketball with his son Eli, casting a line on a quiet fishing day, or gathering around a bonfire with family and friends. Brandon's memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered for his kind heart, strong spirit, and the love he gave so freely. A memorial service to celebrate Brandon's life will be held at a later date. Companion Funeral & Cremation Service of Athens, TN, and the Cody family are honored to serve the Buckner family during this time of loss

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