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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

Today's News... This Morning

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For more news SEE PAGE 3 IN TODAY'S EDITION

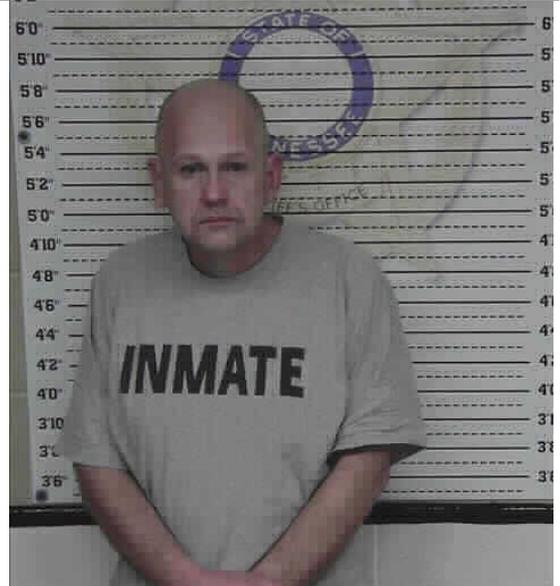
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Thursday, January 04, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

## Etowah Man Charged in Fatal Shooting

An Etowah man has been charged in the death of his father after a shooting last Thursday evening. According to Sheriff Joe Guy, on Thursday, December 28th, Deputies with the McMinn County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence on County Road 475 near Etowah to a report of an individual with a fatal gunshot wound. Upon arrival, they made contact with Jason Dillard, 46, who also lived at the residence, as well as Haley Martin who had been outside, and Annette Dillard who lives next door. Deputies then went into the residence and found the victim, identified as Roger Dillard, 68, who is Jason Dillard's father, deceased and lying in the living room with a fatal gunshot wound. Deputies secured the scene as Lt. Detective Jared Price, Detective Amber Cook, and Detective Kevin Gray arrived and immediately began an investigation. Tony Isom with the District Attorney General's Office and TBI Agent Cameron Cordell also assisted. A firearm was recovered from the scene, some distance from the victim. "Over the next several days, as the investigation progressed and an autopsy was performed, it became clear that the situation did not reflect that of a suicide," said Sheriff Guy. "Rather, it became evident that Jason Dillard had fired the shot which resulted in the death of his father, Roger Dillard, during an argument they were having." On December 31st, Jason Dillard was taken into custody and booked into the McMinn County Jail for Criminal Homicide in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. He remains in custody on a \$200,000 bond. Photo from McMinn County Sheriff's Department.



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**WEATHER FORECAST**  
**Thursday** - Sunny & partly cloudy. High 45.  
**Thurs. Night** - Mainly clear and cold. Low 23.  
**Friday** - Partly sunny. High 51.  
**Friday Night** - Periods of rain. Low 37.  
Weather at: [wyxi.com](http://wyxi.com)



**Monday - Friday Morning**  
**Now 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

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## Fire on County Road 616

New Year's Day around 5pm on Co Rd 616, near Athens, this structure was fully involved upon arrival of fire departments. According to the owner's granddaughter she was in her bedroom and looked at the top of the door and saw smoke coming over the top. Upon opening the bedroom door she discovered a hallway full of smoke and flames toward the kitchen area with smoke alarms ringing. She ran down the hall in the opposite direction to escape out a side door without injury. Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, Riceville Rural Fire, and Athens Rural Fire Departments all responded. Assisting agencies were AMR, EUB, McMinn County Sheriff's Dept and McMinn County Hazmat. Assisting fire departments standing by were Madisonville City Fire and Claxton Fire Departments. Claxton Fire Chief Mike Stewart and Etowah Rural Fire Chief Adam Hafley were in command of the scene. Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural Fire Department.



## United Way Accepting Nominations for The Dick Dyer Award

United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties is now accepting nominations for the Dick Dyer Community Service Award. The Dick Dyer Award is a community service award given each year to an individual who exemplifies Mr. Dyer's exceptional vision and caring spirit for the community. As the first United Way Director, Mr. Dyer worked tirelessly to provide the community with services that meet the most pressing needs. His vision and leadership made our community a stronger and more caring place to live and work. The recipient of the Dick Dyer award should have made significant contributions to the community through church or civic activities and made a lasting impression through his or her work. The award recipient is chosen by a panel of previous recipients. The award will be given at the United Way Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on February 15th. In addition to being named the Dick Dyer Community Service Award recipient, the person chosen will also represent McMinn County as the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award recipient. The Governor's office established this award to recognize ways volunteers strengthen communities, increase volunteerism to meet compelling needs, and show that volunteering is rewarding and part of what it means to be a Tennessean. The award will be presented at a ceremony hosted by Governor Lee in Nashville. To submit a nomination, mail it to P.O. Box 1681, Athens, TN 37371. You may also email it to: [united-way@unitedwaymm.com](mailto:united-way@unitedwaymm.com) or drop it off at the United Way office at 313 Maple Street. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2024.

## Community News You Can Use

- ✓ The Etowah Library Board will meet at 5pm on Monday, January 8 at the library. This meeting is open to the public. The Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library will hold their monthly book sale on Saturday, January 13. The book sale is on the first floor of the library and will be open 10am-2pm. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit online at [www.etowahlibrary.com](http://www.etowahlibrary.com)
- ✓ The Cherokee Beekeepers Association is offering a free short course in beekeeping. This course is designed to provide basic information to beginners on how to keep honeybees. The course will be held on January 20 at the McMinn Senior Activity Center located at 205 McMinn Ave., Athens. Registration will be from 8:00 A.M. until 9:00 A.M. with the course beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 1:00 P.M. This course is open to the public and no pre-registration is required.
- ✓ The Athens City Schools Board of Education will meet Monday, January 8, 2024. The draft agenda and packet for the board meeting can be viewed online on the Athens City Schools website [HERE](#). If an individual wishes to address the board on an item on the agenda, he or she may sign up on the form provided before the beginning of the board meeting to request time to speak. Delegations must select only one individual to speak on their behalf unless otherwise determined by the board according to ACS Board Policy.
- ✓ The McMinn Senior Activity Center is pleased to announce the first meeting of the Center's book club on Thursday, January 18 at noon and encourages older adults in the community aged 50 or older to join in on the fun. "We know that the vast majority of people who join a book club are there to discuss the book," said Diane Hutsell, Executive Director of the McMinn Senior Activity Center. "It is often through that discussion, however, that friendships bloom. The Center and the book club is a great opportunity to meet new people and to get out and socialize and you might also be introduced to books you might never have picked for yourself or explore new viewpoints." For more information on the Center's new book club, contact the Senior Center at 423-745-6830 or stop by from 8a-4p at 205 McMinn Ave; Athens, TN 37303.



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Thursday, January 04, 2024

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦**J. W. "Jay" Thurman**, age 94, of Decatur passed away on January 1. Jay was a faithful member of Union Grove Baptist Church, Decatur. Visitation will be at Union Grove Baptist Church, Decatur from 12-2 Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> with the funeral at 2. Interment will follow at Short Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. Good Samaritan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

## More New Laws

It was a busy year in Nashville and a lot of bills were passed, some of which took effect January 1st, including one law that hopes to keep drunk drivers off the roads. SB0258 passed early this year and requires breathalyzers installed in cars of people convicted of a DUI to be equipped with GPS technology. This will allow officials to keep track of cars when they're turned on, requiring a breath test or if someone tries to skip a test — but won't continuously track. For food safety, permits will now be needed to prepare food on site at Farmers Markets because of SB1049. The goal is for everyone to use improved methods for things like food prep, temp control and disposal. As for the big topic of gun safety, several bills passed during the special session on school safety in August which includes strengthening TBI background checks, \$50 million to mental health facilities and \$30 million to state colleges for security upgrades. Also part of that session, another law passed that's new but went into effect last month which makes the purchase of fire-arm devices such as safe storage equipment be sales tax-free.

## Food City "My Plate" Program Gold recipient

Food City was recently recognized with the Gold MyPlate Champion achievement for the grocery retailer's participation in the MyPlate National Strategic Partnership and for their promotion of the MyPlate program. "We're committed to the communities we serve. Our team works hard to provide our customers and associates with the information necessary to make more informed dietary choices," says Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer. Sponsored by the USDA Center for Nutrition, the MyPlate program promotes the health benefits that can be achieved by making small dietary changes over time, such as eating more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat or fat-free dairy milk and yogurt. Food City highlighted MyPlate messaging through media segments, health fairs, and community education events. The dietitian team integrated key topics to create a virtual store tour presentation and recipe booklet to support customers shopping MyPlate at Food City. "The USDA MyPlate provides a simple and straightforward guide to build a balanced plate. By sharing this message in the grocery store we can empower people to explore how food impacts their mood, energy, and health status. The dietitian team at Food City can offer support for diet education, but the biggest impact is giving guidance for what foods to choose and how to incorporate them for better health," says Kirby M. Stanton, Food City registered dietitian. "We are honored to be part of the MyPlate partnership and provide nutrition guidance to the communities we serve." For more information about using MyPlate at Food City, visit the "Diet and Lifestyle" page at [www.foodcity.com](http://www.foodcity.com).



**CHRIS BRYANT**

**January 7, 2024**  
**6:00 P.m.**

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Calhoun, TN 37309



### McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

#### Upcoming Events

**Heritage School:**  
Italian Lessons with Joyce Simpson  
Saturday, Jan. 13th @ 11:00 am  
Learn basic Italian greetings and directions.  
Great class for beginners or travelers! Part I/III

**LIFE & CAREER OF FMR. SECRET SERVICE AGENT**  
SATURDAY, JAN. 20TH @ 11:00 AM  
WILL BOLTON WILL SPEAK ABOUT HIS 31 YEAR CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

**Herbal Remedies with April Greer**  
Saturday, Jan. 27th @ 11:00  
Natural home remedies for your ailments.  
Free for members \$5 for non-members



**History for Lunch - History of The Battle of Midway with Museum Director Brett King Thursday, Jan. 25th at Noon - free admission**

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

**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](http://www.livingheritagemuseum.org)