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is accepting nominations for  
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Deadline: March 4, 2024

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callen@crescent-inc.com



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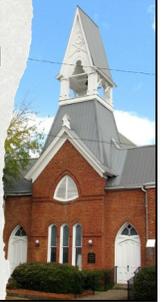
## Today's News... This Morning

(Okay to copy, post or distribute with Attribution)  
Phone: 423-745-1390 E-mail: [wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)

**For more news SEE PAGE 3 IN TODAY'S EDITION**

**MARS HILL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
IS NOW HIRING TWO  
PART-TIME POSITIONS:  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR  
AND  
ORGANIST/PIANIST**

If interested and skilled in these positions, please submit resumes to MHPCC at 205 N. Jackson St. Athens or by email to [mhpchurch@outlook.com](mailto:mhpchurch@outlook.com)



Thursday, February 08, 2024

Athens, Tennessee

## Grass Fires Hwy 30E at CR 602

Monday around 2:30pm on Hwy 30E and Co Rd 602 near Athens, multiple grass fires occurred at the same time. The cause is undetermined with approximately a total of 8 acres burned. Agencies responding were Englewood Rural Fire, Etowah Rural Fire, Athens Rural Fire, Claxton Fire, and Athens City Fire Departments with Englewood Rural Fire Lt Austin Smith in command of the scene. Assisting also at the scene with traffic control was McMinn County Sheriff's Department. Photos by Curtis Runkles, Englewood Rural Fire Department



## Market Report

**M**ajor U.S. indexes finished higher. The S&P 500 hit a new fresh high near the 5,000 milestone. Most international markets were down modestly, while the dollar weakened after hitting three-month highs against other major currencies. Shares of New York Community Bank rose 5% after the company said that its deposits had increased since the end of last year and named a new chairman. Yields were little changed. The Dow Jones was up 156.00 to 38,677.36. The S&P 500 was up 40.83 to 4,995.06, and the NASDAQ was up 147.65 to 15,756.64.

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### CAMP LIVING STONES



6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Run for the Hills  
5K Trail Run

February 10, 2024

5K START TIME 8:00AM \$	ENTRY FEE (Includes Pancake Breakfast) \$45* \$
Pancake Breakfast 9:30AM - 12:00PM Kids: \$6, Adult \$10, All You Can Eat Pancakes: \$14	CHECK IN 7:00-7:45AM

For registration and complete details visit [www.camplivingstones.com](http://www.camplivingstones.com)  
\*\$55 ON DAY OF RACE  
REGISTER BY JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup> TO RECEIVE A T-SHIRT  
534 County Road 876 Englewood, TN 37329 423-263-5060

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Thursday, February 08, 2024

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

Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

◆**Vernon Owen Carroll**, age 90, of Athens, passed away Tuesday, February 6, at his residence. He was a lifelong resident of McMinn County. He was a very kind and gentle man, wonderful husband and father. He enjoyed volunteering at the McMinn County Rescue Squad in the 70's for over 10 years. He was associated with the Beaunit Corporation, Fisher Hosiery Mill, Athens Hosiery Mill, Niota Textile Knitting Mill and Tennessee Hosiery Mill as a knitting machine technician until his retirement. He served in the U.S. Army. A graveside service will be conducted at 2:00 pm, Friday, February 9 at McMinn Memory Gardens. Visitation will be at Smith Funeral Home from 12:30-1:45 pm, Friday, February 9, prior to the graveside service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

◆**Glenda "Kaye" Charles Wattenbarger**, age 74, lifelong resident of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, February 6. She was a member of West End Baptist Church. She was a devoted grandmother who helped raise her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Kaye loved to cook and worked for many years in a local grocery store's deli/bakery. Visitation will be from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 8 (today), at Ziegler Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 7:00 PM at the funeral home. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, February 9, at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Community News You Can Use

✓The Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library will hold their monthly book sale on Saturday, February 10. The book sale is on the first floor of the library and will be open 10am-2pm. Etowah Carnegie Library invites you to celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 13. The library will be hosting a Valentine's-themed story time and craft from 3:30 pm-4:30 pm. This program is FREE and no registration is required. For more information, call (423) 263-9475 or visit online at [www.etowahlibrary.com](http://www.etowahlibrary.com)

✓The Meigs Decatur Friends of the Library will host author Ernie Lancaster on Saturday, February 17 at noon. Mr. Lancaster retired as a Captain from the Memphis Police Department in 2006. after serving as a cop for 33 years. At one time or another Lancaster patrolled every corner of Memphis, where he answered desperate calls in worlds varying from seedy bars, hotels, and squalid housing projects to opulent mansions and playgrounds for the rich. He patrolled in ward cars, trooped for 3 days through the hundreds of thousands of worldwide pilgrims to Elvis' funeral. Lancaster grounds his crime fiction in real-life triumphs and tragedies, juggling the truth in a noirish melody, designed to lead the reader down a winding path of authentic, dark adventure. He will be discussing his book, "Precinct Memphis - Cop Tales". The event will be at 120 E. Memorial Dr., Decatur, TN. Event is free and open to everyone.

### TODAY IS:

- National Kite Flying Day
- National Iowa Day
- National Giving Hearts Day (2nd Thu in Feb)



## McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

### Upcoming Events

#### HERITAGE SCHOOL:



ITALIAN LESSONS II WITH JOYCE SIMPSON  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH  
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

LEARN HOW TO ORDER FROM A MENU. GREAT CLASS FOR BEGINNERS OR TRAVELERS! PART II/III  
FREE FOR MEMBERS \$5 FOR NONMEMBERS



TRASH & TREASURE  
RECEIVING DONATIONS  
FOR 2024  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH  
NOON - 3:00 PM

MUSEUM ANNEX ONLY  
405 WASHINGTON AVE.  
ATHENS, TN



#### HISTORY FOR LUNCH:

RESTORATION OF FOUNTAIN HILL WITH KEITH BESTER  
THURSDAY, FEB. 22ND @ NOON  
BRING YOUR LUNCH & LISTEN TO DETAILS OF RESTORING HIS HISTORIC HOME.

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

#### More Information

522 W Madison Ave.

Athens, TN 37303

423-745-0329

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

#### Admission:

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

## MEDIC HOODIES ARE BACK!

\*Limited supply.

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## Scott Brady State Certified Operator AUB's Water Division



Scott Brady is Athens Utilities Board's (AUB) newest state certified operator in the utility's Water Division. Brady has been in a rigorous AUB apprentice program for the past two years, which culminates with sitting for the state certification exams. "The apprentice program is demanding in terms of time and the amount of material that must be absorbed and mastered," said AUB's Craig Brymer, superintendent of AUB's Natural Gas, Water and Wastewater Divisions. Apprentices must learn in detail the ins and outs of water distribution systems including system mathematics to public health regulations and requirements to all of the construction and maintenance aspects of building a water distribution system and keeping it in shape to exceed state and federal standards. "During the apprentice period, he had to complete correspondence courses, take state directed exams at a test center in Middle Tennessee, and take AUB directed tests every six months to check his progress," Brymer said. "It's great to know when I get home, I don't have to study for another test," Brady said. "There are no two days that are the same. I enjoy all of the responsibilities of water distribution, the repairs, new installations, maintenance, and all we do to ensure product quality through the process after the water is treated at our filter plant," he said. "AUB gained a fabulous worker when Scott came on board. He is a fast learner, has loads of common sense, and you can count on him to show up and give his best every day.

He is always up for something new and challenging. We are thrilled for his success," he said. AUB, in existence since 1939, provides water service to businesses and residents in the city of Athens and much of surrounding McMinn County.

## IRS Tips and Warnings for Filing Income Tax

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers that carefully choosing a tax professional to prepare a tax return is vital to ensuring that their personal and financial information is safe and secure and treated with care. Most tax return preparers provide honest, high-quality service. But some may cause harm through fraud, identity theft and other scams. It is important for taxpayers to understand who they're choosing and what important questions to ask when hiring an individual or firm to prepare their tax return. Another reason to choose a tax preparer carefully is because taxpayers are ultimately legally responsible for all the information on their income tax return, regardless of who prepares it. The IRS has put together a [Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications](#) to help individuals find a tax pro that meets high standards. There is also a special page on [IRS.gov](#) for [Choosing a Tax Professional](#) that can help guide taxpayers in making a good choice, including selecting someone affiliated with a [recognized national tax association](#). There are different kinds of tax professionals, and a taxpayer's needs will help determine which kind of preparer is best for them.

**Red flags to watch out for:** There are warning signs that can help steer taxpayers away from unscrupulous tax return preparers. For instance, not signing a tax return is a red flag that a paid preparer is likely not to be trusted. They may be looking to make a quick profit by promising a big refund or charging fees based on the size of the refund. These unscrupulous "ghost" preparers often print the return and have the taxpayer sign and mail it to the IRS. For electronically filed returns, a ghost preparer will prepare the tax return but refuse to digitally sign it as the paid preparer. Taxpayers should avoid this type of unethical preparer. In addition, taxpayers should always choose a tax professional with a valid [Preparer Tax Identification Number](#). By law, anyone who is paid to prepare or assists in preparing federal tax returns must have a valid PTIN. Paid preparers must sign and include their PTIN on any tax return they prepare.

**Other tips:** **1)** Look for a preparer who's available year-round. If questions come up about a tax return, taxpayers may need to contact the preparer after the filing season is over. **2)** Review the preparer's history. Check the Better Business Bureau website for information about the preparer. Look for disciplinary actions and the license status for credentialed preparers. For CPAs, check the State Board of Accountancy's website, and for attorneys check with the State Bar Association. For enrolled agents go to [IRS.gov](#) and search for "verify enrolled agent status" or check the IRS [Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers](#). **3)** Ask about service fees. Taxpayers should avoid tax return preparers who base their fees on a percentage of the refund or who offer to deposit all or part of the refund into their own financial accounts. Be wary of tax return preparers who claim they can get larger refunds than their competitors. **4)** Find an authorized IRS e-file provider. They are qualified to prepare, transmit and process e-filed returns. The IRS issues most refunds in fewer than 21 days for taxpayers who file electronically and choose [direct deposit](#). **5)** Provide records and receipts. Good preparers ask to see these documents. They'll also ask questions to determine the client's total income, deductions, tax credits and other items. Do not hire a preparer who e-files a tax return using a pay stub instead of a Form W-2. This is against IRS e-file rules. **6)** Understand the preparer's credentials and qualifications. Attorneys, CPAs and enrolled agents can represent any client before the IRS in any situation. [Annual Filing Season Program](#) participants may represent taxpayers in limited situations if they prepared and signed the tax return. **7)** Never sign a blank or incomplete return. Taxpayers are responsible for filing a complete and correct tax return. **8)** Review the tax return before signing it. Be sure to ask questions if something is not clear or appears inaccurate. Any refund should go directly to the taxpayer – not into the preparer's bank account. Review the routing and bank account number on the completed return and make sure it's accurate.