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Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

## Operation Rocky Top Rescue

Following a comprehensive two-day collaborative effort in Knoxville, eleven missing children from Knox County have been successfully located. Dubbed **Operation Rocky Top Rescue**, this initiative was a joint endeavor involving the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Knox County Sheriff's Office, the Knoxville Police Department, and the Department of Children's Services – Absconder Unit.

In the lead-up to the operation, intelligence analysts and detectives meticulously identified numerous juveniles reported as missing or unaccounted for in the Knoxville area. Before the operation began, sixteen of these children were already located. Over the course of April 10th and 11th, five teams embarked on a mission to locate an additional 25 missing juveniles. Of these, eleven juveniles, aged between 14 and 17 years, previously categorized as missing, delinquent, or runaways, were successfully located and are now safe.

In the following weeks, these agencies will continue in their efforts to locate those children who remain unaccounted for following the operation.

To discover more about missing children in Tennessee, click [HERE](#).

## Community News You Can Use

- Bradi Sewell, CEO/Executive Director of the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA, traveled with Lindsey Ferguson, Executive Director of the McMinn County Economic Development Authority, to the Tennessee Childcare Summit in Nashville on April 10th. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the state of childcare affairs and how groups like YMCAs, Economic Development, and the State of Tennessee can come together to build a stronger and more sustainable childcare infrastructure. Bradi and Lindsey were able to share about the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA's Early Learning Center project and discuss additional funding opportunities for childcare in McMinn County. All of the work being done with these collaborations is to better support Tennessee families and employers. See Photo on Page 5
- On February 29, at The Athens Church of Christ, the Optimist Club of Athens held its annual Oratorical Contest. This is the oldest contest of many sponsored by Optimist International, dating back to 1928. The winner will go on to the District contest in Acworth, Georgia, April 29, where the winner could receive a \$2,500 scholarship. The winner of the Oratorical Contest at the district level will go, July 18-19, to St. Louis University, where the winner gets a \$22,500 scholarship. Oratorical winners were Addison Brock 1<sup>st</sup>, Sailor Starkey 2<sup>nd</sup>, Scarlett Starkey 3<sup>rd</sup>. Addison will compete at the District Level in both Essay and Oratorical. Essay winners were Allison Mayfield 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rachel Hurst 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Addison Brock 1<sup>st</sup>. See Photos on Page 5

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Wednesday, April 17, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Obituaries

♦ **William T. Mueller** passed away on Tuesday, April 2, at Sweetwater Hospital. Bill was diagnosed with Covid and Pneumonia. As the son of immigrant parents, he was raised with a strong work ethic and a patriotism for the United States of America. He joined the U.S. Army Reserves where he served proudly for several years. After school he built his career at Bay State Gas Corp. working in many different jobs; later becoming President of the Union representing the working men and women. A few years later, the management offered him a position from which he rose through the ranks serving throughout three states. After moving to Tennessee, Bill and his wife spent many hours gardening and caring for their yard. Bill will be remembered at an End of Life Service at Athens Lutheran Church on April 22. A gathering will take place at noon with the service to follow at approximately 1:00 pm. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of William T. Mueller.

♦ **Donnie C. "Punk" Guthrie**, 86, of Calhoun, passed away Saturday, April 13 at Life Care Center of Athens. He was a lifelong resident of McMinn County. He attended St. Mary Catholic Church in Athens. He was a millstore worker for Bowater Paper Mill for 43 years until his retirement. A funeral service will be conducted 5:00 pm, Saturday, April 20 at Smith Funeral Home. Family and friends will meet on Sunday, April 21st at 1:30pm, at the Calhoun Cemetery for the committal service. The family will receive friends from 2:00-5:00 pm Saturday prior to the service at the funeral home. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

## TUESDAY'S MARKET REPORT

At the closing bell, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 63.86 to 37,798.97. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 10.41 to 5,051.41, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 19.77 to 15,865.25.

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Wednesday** - Cloudy & not as warm. Possible rain in AM and t'storm in PM. High 72.

**Wednesday night** - Possible t'storms in PM. Cloudy & warm. Low 62.

**Thursday** . Warmer & partial sunshine. High 84.

**Thursday night** - Partly Cloudy & warm. Possible late night rain & t'storms. Low 62.

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

### Today In History - - April 17

**1492** - A contract was signed by Christopher Columbus and a representative of Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, giving Columbus a commission to seek a westward ocean passage to Asia.

**1961** - A force of anti-Castro Cuban rebels launched what came to be known as the "Bay of Pigs" rebellion. It was not successful.

**1969** - Sirhan Sirhan was found guilty in Los Angeles of the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Kennedy was assassinated while campaigning for president.

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Wednesday, April 17, 2024 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County UT Extension Hosts Health and Wellness Events

To promote community well-being, the UT Extension in McMinn County is rolling out a series of health and wellness initiatives, catering to various aspects of physical fitness, arthritis management, and safe food preservation practices.

### Arthritis Foundation Walk with Ease

Date: May 6th – May 22nd  
Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00am - 11:00am  
Location: Eureka Trail, 1300 E. Madison Ave., Athens  
Contact: 423-745-2852 Cost: FREE

Walk With Ease is a structured walking program that offers support, information, and tools to help participants develop successful exercise routines. Individuals will receive a walk workbook to use during this group series led by a certified leader, Sarah Kite. Participants will learn proper stretching and pain management techniques, as well as build stamina and walking pace. The first session will be 7 minutes with 2 minutes added every session. Class is open to all fitness levels.

### Arthritis Exercise Program

Date: May 6th – May 22nd  
Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30am - 12:30pm  
Location: Etowah Senior Center, 435 Cooper St., Etowah  
Contact: 423-745-2852 Cost: FREE

The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP) offers several advantages over generalized community exercise programs. It is designed specifically for persons with arthritis, taking into consideration the pain, fatigue and decreased strength and motion that often accompany the disease. The program includes accommodations for individual limitations and does not encourage activities that might aggravate, rather than relieve, arthritis symptoms. To assure safe performance of the exercises, instruction about basic principles of arthritis exercise, correct body mechanics and joint protection are included.

### Pressure Canner Gauge Testing

Date: Ongoing  
Time: By appointment  
Location: UT Extension in McMinn County  
Contact: 423-745-2852 Cost: FREE

To ensure safe home canning, it's essential to have your pressure canner gauge tested annually. This free service, provided by the UT Extension, helps maintain the accuracy of pressure canner gauges, ensuring food safety for your preserved goods.

### Canning Colleges

Date: June 18th and 25th  
Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Location: UT Extension in McMinn County  
Cost: \$25 per class Registration: <https://mcminn.tennessee.edu/>

Learn the art of safe and efficient food preservation at the Canning Colleges hosted by the UT Extension. Anyone interested in learning to preserve fruits and vegetables, or who just wants a refresher course may attend.

These informative sessions, cover essential techniques and best practices for home canning. Limited space is available, so early registration is recommended.



## EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY ACADEMY DAY

**Saturday, April 20 | 10:00-11:30 am**

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Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

## Arrest Reports

04/11/24

- Jason Lemke, 53 of Athens, was arrested by the Drug Task Force for Felony Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Possession of Methamphetamine for Resale, Possession of Fentanyl for Resale, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm while in the Commission of a Felony, Identity Theft, and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia. Bond was not assigned.
- Kevin Frye, 18 of Athens, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Contempt of Court and was not assigned bond.
- Beth A. Lunsford, 42 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Violation of Probation. Bond was not assigned.
- Jeremy Ledbetter, 41 of Athens, was arrested by the Drug Task Force for Possession of Methamphetamine. Bond was assigned of \$6,000.
- Marc Blair, 36 of Knoxville, was arrested by the Drug Task Force for Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine for Resale and Possession of Schedule II Fentanyl for Resale, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia, and Possession of a Firearm during Commission of a Felony. Bond was assigned of \$100,000.
- David Cameron, 30 of Etowah, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office, was arrested for Parole Violations. Bond was not assigned and he was held awaiting transfer to Monroe County.
- Anthony Gossett, 32 of Athens, was arrested by the Athens PD for Theft of Services with bond assigned of \$1,000.

04/12/24

- Aaron Bales, 27 of Sweetwater, was arrested by the THP for DUI - 2nd Offense, Resisting Stop, Driving Without Due Care, Driving on Revoked License - No Interlock, Violation of Implied Consent. Bond was assigned of \$9,000.
- Christopher Morris, 39 of Dayton, TN, was arrested by the THP for Driving on a Suspended License as well as Felony Evading. Bond was assigned of \$6,000.
- Terayl Scruggs, 33 of Knoxville, was arrested by the McMinn County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation as well as Violation of Probation-State. Cash bond was assigned of \$2,076.90 plus a 2 day stay in the McMinn County Justice Center.
- Brandon Freeman, 34 of Tellico Plains, was arrested by Etowah PD for Public Intoxication with no bond assigned.
- Krista Phillips, 29 of Decatur, was arrested by the MCSO for Violation of Probation with a cash bond assigned of \$2,625.35.
- Bridget Robison, 36 of Athens, was arrested by the MCSO for 2 counts of Violation of Probation with one from Wayne County. Bond assigned of \$546.45.

**The accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Information gathered from public sources.**

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### Optimist Club Oratorical & Essay Winners



Oratorical winners L-R: Addison Brock 1<sup>st</sup>, Sailor Starkey 2<sup>nd</sup>, Scarlett Starkey 3<sup>rd</sup>. Addison will complete at the District Level in both Essay and Oratorical.

### Local Executive Directors Attend Tennessee Childcare Summit



L-R Bradi Sewell, CEO/Executive Director of the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA; Lindsey Ferguson, Executive Director of the McMinn County Economic Development Authority.



Essay winners L-R: Allison Mayfield 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rachel Hurst 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Addison Brock 1<sup>st</sup>.