

ROCKY TOP NEWS

Published by the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce

FREE

August 2023

FREE

Tennessee's Grocery Sales Tax Holiday

As Tennesseans, we are all too familiar with the burden of high sales taxes on our daily purchases. However, a glimmer of hope is on the horizon as August 1, 2023, marks the beginning of a sales tax holiday that will bring some much-needed relief to grocery shoppers across the state.

For a period of three months, until October 31, 2023, Tennesseans can purchase food and food ingredients tax-free.



This tax-free opportunity is a significant development for residents who have long grappled with the heavy tax burden.

While many states across the nation exempt grocery purchases from their sales tax, Tennessee has continued to impose a 4% state levy on all food purchases, contributing to an average combined state and local tax rate of 9.548%.

According to a study conducted by the Tax Foundation, Tennessee's tax rate is second only to Louisiana's 9.55% average.

The sales tax holiday allows us to take advantage of this limited-time opportunity and stock

TN Gas (Continued on page 3)

PCUD Honored with Gold Level SOAR Award

Powell Clinch Utility District has been honored with the prestigious Gold Level SOAR Award by the American Public Gas Association (APGA).

The esteemed recognition marks a significant milestone in the district's commitment to exceptional service, system integrity, and workforce development.

The APGA's SOAR (System Operational Achievement Recognition) program is a comprehensive evaluation that assesses various aspects of a utility district's operations, including system integrity, system improvement, employee safety, and workforce development.

Applicants are assessed based on a cumulative score of points achieved in these critical areas, determining their level of recognition.



L to R Chris Latch, APGA Chairman and Stephen Harris, VP of Operations

Award (Continued on page 3)

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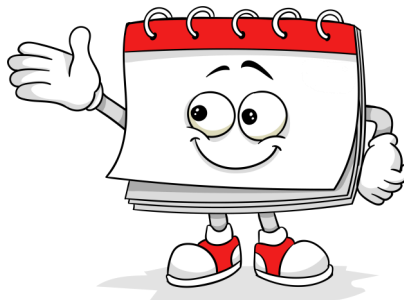
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Area Happenings

Below are some Area Happenings that you need to know about. If you have anything that you would like to add to the list, please email rockytopchamber@gmail.com.

- Funky Friday's – every Friday night at Sequoyah Marina
- Sundown Saturday's – live music every Saturday at Stardust Marina
- Meet the Mavs – August 11 at Anderson County High School
- Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast – August 12 at Clinton Community Center
- Market Night – August 12 in Downtown Clinton
- Cars for Canines – August 19 at Melton Lake Park in Oak Ridge
- Purses and Pearls Fundraiser – August 22 at Faith Promise Church
- Appalachian Toyota Round-Up- August 31 through September 4 at Windrock Park
- SFWDA Dixie Run – September 29-October 1 at Windrock Park
- Coal Creek General Store Grand Opening – September 30
- Clinch River Fall Antique Festival – October 6-7 in Downtown Clinton
- Vehicle Military Rally – October 5-8 at Windrock Park
- Windrock Park Fall Jamboree – October 19-21 at Windrock Park
- Fall Heritage Days – October 26-27 at Museum of Appalachia



City of Rocky Top Monthly Meeting Schedule

- City Court-2nd Wed. at 8:00 am
- Recreation Comm.-3rd Thurs. at 5 p.m.
- Planning Comm. Workshop-3rd Tues. at 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission- 3rd Tues. at 6 p.m.
- City Council Meeting- 3rd Thurs. at 6 p.m.
- Tree Committee-4th Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Chamber Events

Chamber events are a great opportunity for members to network. If you are interested in joining the chamber, please feel free to attend any of these events. For more information about the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce, visit www.rockytopchamber.com or call 865-426-9595.

Upcoming Networking Coffee

- September 5 – Networking Coffee at 8:30 a.m. at Ray Varner Ford
- September 19 – Board Meeting at 8:30 am
- October 3 – Networking Coffee at 8:30 a.m. at Rocky Top Dentistry

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Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 1054
Rocky Top, TN 37769
865-426-9595

Please submit events, content and ads by email rockytopchamber@gmail.com

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Quarter Page..... \$50.00
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Classified Advertisements available for \$5 per line.

Contact the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce for multi-month discount rates.

TN Gas (Continued from page 1)

up on non-perishable items and pantry staples without the added burden of sales taxes.

Food and food ingredients, in various forms such as liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried, or dehydrated substances, will all be eligible for tax exemption during this period.

It's an excellent chance for Tennesseans to plan and make smart purchases, ensuring their households are well-prepared for the future while enjoying the temporary relief from taxes.

The benefits of this tax-free period extend beyond the immediate savings for individuals and families.

By reducing the cost of grocery items, this initiative also has the potential to stimulate the local economy.

Shoppers may feel encouraged to spend more on their grocery needs, leading to increased economic activity and benefiting Tennessee businesses.

Award (Continued from page 1)

The Powell Clinch Utility District distinguished itself by achieving an exceptional rating, garnering a score between 97% and 100% of the possible points in the evaluation process.

This remarkable achievement has earned them the coveted Gold Level SOAR Award, signifying their unwavering dedication to excellence and outstanding performance in the natural gas utility sector.

The SOAR Award is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and forward-thinking approach of the Powell Clinch Utility District's staff and leadership.

By consistently meeting and surpassing the industry's highest standards, they have demonstrated a commitment to providing safe, reliable, and efficient natural gas services to their community.

Under the SOAR program, the recognition status granted to the Powell Clinch Utility District will remain in effect for the next three years, affirming the district's position as a leader in the industry.

This acknowledgment not only elevates their reputation but also underscores their continued focus on continuous improvement and advancement.

The Gold Level SOAR Award places the Powell Clinch Utility District among an elite group of natural gas providers nationwide.

It is a testament to their tireless efforts to ensure the integrity of their systems, foster a culture of safety for their employees and customers, and invest in the professional growth and development of their workforce.

The Powell Clinch Utility District's achievement is a source of pride not only for the district's personnel but also for the community it serves.

By receiving this distinguished accolade, they reaffirm their commitment to their customers, stakeholders, and the community at large.

To find out more about Powell Clinch Utility District, visit www.p cud.org.

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Methodist Medical Center’s Stroke and Heart Program Nationally Recognized Third Year in a Row

Methodist Medical Center has received four American Heart Association Get with the Guidelines and Mission: Lifeline achievement awards for demonstrating commitment to following up-to-date, research-based guidelines for the treatment of heart disease and stroke.

Results from hospitals that follow the guidelines have shown more lives saved, shorter recovery times and fewer readmissions to the hospital. This marks the third consecutive year Methodist has maintained this Gold/Gold Plus Award status.

Every 40 seconds, someone in the U.S. has a stroke or heart attack. Heart disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 5 causes of death in the United States, respectively. Studies show patients can recover better when providers consistently follow treatment guidelines.

Get with the Guidelines and Mission: Lifeline put the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest evidence- and research-based guidelines.

“Methodist is committed to improving care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines and streamlining processes to ensure timely and proper care for heart attacks and strokes,” said Jeremy Biggs, Methodist’s president and chief administrative officer. “The Mission: Lifeline and get with the Guidelines programs make it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis. This helps us ensure that more people in our communities experience longer, healthier lives.”

Methodist Medical Center American Heart and Get with the Guidelines Gold and Gold Plus Awards for 2023:

Get with the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Target: Stroke Elite Honor Roll

Get with the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll

Mission Lifeline NSTEMI Gold award

Mission Lifeline STEMI Receiving Gold Plus award

“We are pleased to recognize Methodist Medical Center for its commitment to caring for those in their community who need cardiovascular care,” said John Warner, MD, FAHA, past president of the American Heart Association and CEO of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. “Hospitals that follow the American Heart Association’s quality improvement protocols often see improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower



mortality rates – a win for health care systems, families and communities.”

“These awards are a recognition of MMC’s commitment towards delivering excellence in cardiovascular care,” said Saadi Siddiqi, MD, interventional cardiologist and medical director of cardiac services with Methodist Medical Center. “The designations by AHA reflect the unwavering work ethic of the cardiovascular physicians, nurses and staff. Finally, this accolade confirms the allegiance from administration and leadership in making MMC a standard bearer in cardiovascular care.”



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School News

Across the city, students of all ages are gathering their backpacks full of school supplies and preparing to embark on a journey of knowledge, growth, and new experiences.

The start of a school year is a time of great excitement, and The Rocky Top Chamber extends warm wishes to all students and their families for a successful and rewarding academic adventure.



For students stepping into kindergarten, it is a momentous occasion as they embark on their educational journey. Bright-eyed and eager, these young learners will soon discover the wonders of

reading, writing, and arithmetic. To these little ones, we offer our heartfelt wishes for a year filled with joy, curiosity, and discovery.

To the students transitioning to middle school, this year marks a significant milestone in their educational voyage. As they navigate through new hallways, meet new teachers, and forge new friendships, we encourage them to embrace every opportunity that comes their way.

For high school students, this year is a stepping stone towards their dreams and aspirations. As they embark on their final years of secondary education, we applaud their hard work, determination, and perseverance. May this year be one of academic excellence, personal growth, and the exploration of new passions.

Behind every successful student is a supportive and loving family. To the parents and guardians who tirelessly support their children's education, we extend our deepest appreciation. Your unwavering dedication, encouragement, and guidance are instrumental in shaping the success of your children.

To the teachers, administrators, and staff who devote their time and energy to enriching the lives of students, we express our utmost gratitude. Your passion, knowledge, and commitment lay the foundation for the success of each student. May you find fulfillment in your noble profession and continue to inspire and uplift the young minds entrusted to your care.

ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS 2023-2024 Student Calendar

July 26	Student Registration (No Buses)
July 31 - Aug 2	Classes Begin - Staggered Start
August 3	Regular Schedule Begins
Sept 4	Labor Day (District Closed)
Oct. 9-13	Fall Break (Schools Closed)
Oct. 16	In-Service (No Students)
Nov 20-24	Thanksgiving Break (District Closed)
Dec 15	Make-Up Day (No Buses)
Dec18 - Jan 1	Winter Break (Schools Closed)
Jan 2	In-Service (No Students)
Jan 3	Classes Resume
Jan 15	Martin Luther King Day (District Closed)
Feb. 16	In-Service (No Students)
Feb 19	President's Day (District Closed)
March 8	Make-Up Day (No Buses)
March 11-15	Spring Break (Schools Closed)
March 29	Good Friday (District Closed)
April 1	In-Service (No Students)
May 9	CRCS and Innovation Academy Graduation
May 10	ACHS Graduation
May 17	CHS Graduation
May 22	Last Day for Students (No Buses)

Note: Students are dismissed 90 minutes early each Wednesday



I AM ONE

Get resources to support your children and teens to be alcohol, nicotine, and drug-free at ASAPofAnderson.org.

REDUCE TN CRASHES
TENNESSEE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

ASAP
of Anderson Prevention Works

This material was developed through a project funded by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office.

Rocky Top's Spectacular Fourth of July Event

The City of Rocky Top held a fantastic Fourth of July event for residents and visitors. This year's event included a car show, a delightful kids' parade, an array of games, music, a mouthwatering selection of food, and a fantastic firework display to round out a day of fun for all. We are already looking forward to next year's event!



City of Rocky Top Fire Department Proudly Displaying the American Flag



Loads of Children's Activities including Pony Rides



Kids Parade Down Main Street



Best in Show-Danny Phillips



People's Choice Award-Roger Hooks



Participation Award -Freddy Cornett

August is National Dog Month

Attention all dog lovers! The month of August has arrived, and with it comes a special occasion that fills our hearts with wagging tails and slobbery kisses.

Yes, it's National Dog Month—a time to celebrate our beloved four-legged companions and acknowledge their unwavering loyalty, unconditional love, and the joy they bring to our lives.

National Dog Month is an opportunity for communities across the nation to come together and recognize the significant role that dogs play in our families and neighborhoods.

It's a time to honor the working dogs, therapy dogs, service dogs, and the countless furry friends who bring companionship and laughter to our homes.

One of the best ways to celebrate National Dog Month is by promoting responsible pet ownership.

As we revel in the joy of our furry friends, let us also remember the importance of providing them with a loving and nurturing environment.

This includes proper nutrition, regular exercise, routine veterinary care, and, of course, lots of belly rubs!

Another way to celebrate National Dog Month is by showing appreciation for our canine friends who serve as therapy dogs.

These gentle and well-trained dogs bring comfort and support to individuals in hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. Take a moment to thank the

therapy dogs and their handlers for the positive impact they have on the lives of those in need.

Let us also remember the service dogs who assist individuals with disabilities and perform life-saving tasks.

These remarkable animals are trained to guide the visually impaired, alert individuals with hearing impairments, provide stability for those with mobility challenges, and even detect medical emergencies. Their dedication and loyalty are truly awe-inspiring.

In addition to these activities, consider volunteering at your local animal shelter or donating supplies to support their vital work.

You can also educate yourself and others about responsible pet ownership and the importance of spaying and neutering to help control the pet population.

As National Dog Month unfolds, let us cherish the incredible bond we share with our furry companions.

Whether they are romping through the park, curling up at our feet, or greeting us with an enthusiastic wag of their tail after a long day, our dogs remind us to live in the present, appreciate the simple joys, and love unconditionally.

Remember, every month can be a celebration of our four-legged companions, but for now, let's give an extra pat and a treat to our furry friends.



Pictured: Rocky and Lucy
Therapy dogs at Rocky Top Dentistry

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Crafting for Service

First Baptist Church of Rocky Top is "Crafting for Service"

The ladies of First Baptist Church spend the first and third Monday of each month working on items for patients of area nursing homes.

They make lap blankets, bed jackets, muffs for cold hands, fidget mats for those with Alzheimer, dementia or Autism, as well as hats for shut-ins, chemo patients and preemies.

Anyone who would like to help, is welcome. The only skill necessary is a desire to help others.

If you or someone you know would benefit from any of these items or you would like more information, send a text to 865-256-3151.



Coal Creek General Store Grand Opening set for September 30



More information to come in September

Library News

Summer reading programming is now over! We had so much fun this Summer and we hope you all did too.

Thank you to all our Friends of the Library members and volunteers who helped us get through the busy programming season.

Now that our Summer programming is finished, we are back to our regular programming for August with only small changes: Our Paws to Read program will now be held on Tuesdays at noon, right after the Stitch & Chat program.



Be sure to participate in this opportunity to enjoy the company of a HABIT dog while reading your favorite book.

Don't forget to pick up a calendar at the library so you're up to date on our August activities. Also, keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram for any updates and reminders.

Thank you for being a part of our wonderful library community, and we look forward to having a fantastic August together.

JOIN OUR MISSION



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EVERYONE IS WELCOME

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

215 4th Street, Rocky Top • 865-426-2184 • www.msbcrt.org

Main Street Baptist Church, established in 1928, strives to provide ministries that draw people to the light of Jesus Christ. Our ministry programs are geared to all ages as we seek to share Christ's love and grace.

Ministries include Food Pantry for Rocky Top residents, Rocky Top Recovery for individuals with addiction issues, Children's Summer Feeding Program for Rocky Top children, Second Harvest Mobile Pantry Truck and Special seasonal programming open to the Rocky Top Community.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
 Wednesday Evening Service at 6:30 p.m.



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