

ROCKY TOP NEWS

Published by the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce

FREE

February 2024

FREE

Museum Awarded a Capitol Maintenance and Improvement Grant

The Coal Creek Miners Museum is a recipient of a \$50,000 grant for Capital Maintenance and Improvement from the State of Tennessee as administered through the Tennessee State Museum.

The grant award will be used for HVAC and ADA-compliant restroom repairs on the second floor of the museum.

The Tennessee General Assembly made available \$5 million in funding from the 2023-2024 Appropriations Act, "for the sole purpose of providing grants to museums with a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization or affiliated with a governmental entity for capital maintenance and improvements."

It was a highly competitive process. In total, the Tennessee State Museum received 170 applications, totaling \$12.5M in funding requests for the \$5M appropriation.

The Museum made full or partial awards to 108 museums across the state, representing 58

Museum (Continued on page 5)



County Awarded Tourism Enhancement Grant

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development has granted Anderson County \$100,000 as part of the Tourism Enhancement Grants, bringing the total awarded to 29 communities to over \$2.22 million.

In collaboration with the Anderson County Tourism Council and the Anderson County Conservation Board, the grant will pave the parking area near the public boat launch at Anderson County Park on Norris Lake.

This marks the third enhancement grant for Anderson County Park, following successful projects that expanded the public ramp and added camping spots.



The initiative addresses increased demand from boaters and aims to attract larger fishing tournaments, enhancing

the region's tourism appeal.

The county is matching the grant with an additional \$100,000 from the tourism fund.

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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.

- February 4 – Windrock Bike Park Race League
- February 10 – Veterans Breakfast at Clinton Community Center
- February 17 – Veterans Breakfast at Clear Branch Baptist Church
- February 9-18 - The Cemetery Club Playing at the Oak Ridge Playhouse
- February 24 – International Festival at Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge
- March 1-2 – Northern Rock Racing Series Hillclimb at Windrock Park
- March 9 – Veterans Breakfast at Clinton Community Center
- March 13-14 Titan Off-Road Shakedown at Windrock Park
- March 15-24 – Tennessee National Bike Festival at Windrock Bike Park
- March 21-24 – Women’s Wheeling at Windrock Park
- March 23 – Norris Lake Clean Up
- March 23-24 – Charlotte’s Web Playing at the Oak Ridge Playhouse

City of Rocky Top Monthly Meeting Schedule

- City Court-2nd Tues. 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.

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Chamber Events Upcoming Networking Coffee

Chamber events are a great opportunity for members to network. Everyone is welcome. 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.

- March 21 – Networking Coffee at Rocky Top Public Library
- April 2nd - Annual Dinner at Main Street Baptist Church

This paper is published by the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce monthly and is free to the public.

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

**Please submit events,
content and ads by email
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Classified Advertisements available for \$5 per line.

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

ASAP Staff Travel to Washington

ASAP had the chance to travel to Washington D.C. to learn about drug prevention best practices and speak with legislators on drug prevention advocacy.

The staff learned about strengthening ASAP Initiatives. The staff also attended learning sessions focused on safe alcohol and drug usage, along with the importance of mental health.



The staff spoke with Congressman Fleischmann, Senator Blackburn's aides, and Senator Hagerty's aides about the importance of implementing strong drug prevention policies within our community.

Currently, ASAP provides free education about alcohol, stimulants, marijuana, and nicotine prevention in all three high schools in Anderson County.

This experience enabled ASAP staff to become better advocates and community leaders for the people of Anderson County. The material learned at this conference will further be applied to monthly coalition meetings discussions and with their Youth Ambassador Coalition.

Anyone interested in learning more about the ASAP organization can attend the coalition meetings on the last Monday of each month from 8 am to 9 am at ASAP of Anderson's office, located at 131 S. Charles G. Seivers Blvd. in Clinton.

High school students in Anderson County interested in joining YAC are encouraged to apply online at www.asapofanderson.org/youth-ambassador-coalition/ or contact Jarod Ormsby by emailing Jarod@ASAPofAnderson.org.

ASAP Promotes Medication Safety with Free Lock Boxes

In an effort to enhance safety and promote responsible medication management, ASAP of Anderson has ordered over 200 medication lock boxes that are free to anyone who lives, works, or worships in Anderson County.

Medication lock boxes are designed to provide a secure storage solution for both prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs.

By using lock boxes, those in Anderson County can take a step towards keeping their families safer. Some of the benefits of having lock boxes include:

Child and Pet Safety:

Lockboxes can prevent accidental poisonings, especially among curious children and pets. By securing medications, parents can prevent unintentional ingestion.

Preventing Medication Misuse:

Lockboxes play a key role in preventing medication misuse by restricting access to prescription drugs. This may be the case in households where there are concerns about medication misuse or addiction.

Home Security:

Medication lock boxes offer more layers of security for medications, protecting them from theft or misuse within the house.

To order a free lock box from ASAP of Anderson, please visit <https://www.asapofanderson.org/initiatives/medication-lock-boxes/>.

To stay up to date with the latest news from ASAP, follow them on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn or visit www.asapofanderson.org.



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Staying Active in the Winter Months

Winter has arrived and it's tempting to hibernate indoors and await the arrival of warmer days.

However, staying active during the winter months not only helps to ward off those seasonal blues but also keeps us fit and energized. Here are some tips on how to embrace the chill and stay active throughout the winter months:

Bundle up and hit the trails. We are surrounded by hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails in East Tennessee and winter is a great time to get out and explore. With the leaves off the trees, views really open up and you're surrounded by the beauty of our mountains and lakes. Norris Dam State Park and Cove Lake State Park are two areas we suggest checking out. You can stop by their park offices for trails maps or view the maps online.

Indoor Fitness Classes: For those who prefer to stay warm while staying active, check out local churches or fitness centers offering indoor classes. From yoga and pilates to dance and high-intensity workouts, there's something for everyone.

Winter Gardening Therapy: For those with green thumbs, consider winter gardening. Planting cold-resistant vegetables or maintaining winter blooms in your garden can be a therapeutic and active way to connect with nature.

Visit the library: Winter is the perfect time to explore the vast world of literature. Visiting the library allows you to discover new books, attend events, or even join a book club. Whether you're into fiction, non-fiction, or poetry, the library provides a cozy and quiet escape.



Art Centers: Unleash your creativity and beat the winter blues by taking an art class at one of the local art centers. From painting and sculpture to pottery and photography, these classes offer a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills and express yourself artistically. It's a fulfilling way to spend your time indoors while nurturing your artistic side.

Volunteer: Winter is a season of giving, and there's no better way to stay active and contribute to your community than through volunteering. Many local

organizations, charities, and shelters are in constant need of helping hands. Whether it's serving meals at a soup kitchen, participating in a clothing drive, or assisting at an animal shelter, volunteering not only keeps you physically engaged but also provides a sense of fulfillment and purpose.

Whether you're a winter sports enthusiast or someone seeking the warmth of indoor activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy while keeping the winter lethargy at bay. Let's make this winter season one filled with activity, connection, and a healthy dose of outdoor fun!

Easy Taco Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 envelope taco seasoning
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1 can (16 ounces) mild chili beans, undrained
- 1 can (15-1/4 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) pinto beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) stewed tomatoes
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomato with green chiles
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chiles, optional
- 1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix

Directions:

In a Dutch oven, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink, breaking it into crumbles; drain. Add taco seasoning and mix well. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally.



Library News

Hello from Rocky Top Public Library! We hope everyone has dug out of the snow and is ready to come visit us.

Between closing for inventory and closing for snow, we feel like we haven't seen our patrons in ages! For future reference, the libraries follow the Anderson County Government schedule for inclement weather. If the courthouse closes, we are closed also!

We have received many new books and are excited to share them with you. We just got in some brand-new fiction, non-fiction and children's books. We have something for everyone! Check out our online catalog or come see us and we will share our favorites with you.

All of our programming is back on track for this month so make sure you check out our new calendar and find something you will love. We have programs for all ages!

On March 1st we will be holding the Rocky Top Arbor Day celebration. The public is welcome to join us for a great program and free trees!

Then on March 21st we will be hosting the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce Coffee at 8:30am. We hope to see you all soon!

Museum (Continued from page 1)

counties.

"The Tennessee State Museum serves the State of Tennessee through history, art, and culture," said Ashley Howell, Tennessee State Museum Executive Director. "There is incredible work being done throughout the state by our strong network of Tennessee museums and historic homes. This grant is an extension of how we can further support their efforts and the preservation of local and state history. We thank the Tennessee General Assembly for their support for Tennessee Museums."

"The funding that will be provided through this grant will give us a jumpstart on remodeling the second floor of the museum," said Tim Isbel, Chairperson of the Coal Creek Miners Museum. "The HVAC and an ADA-compliant restroom are a very important component in the remodeling project that will expand capacity, allowing us to display a more extensive collection of artifacts and exhibits. This, in turn, enables us to offer a more comprehensive and immersive experience for visitors."

The museum will also be using funds from their memorial brick campaign to complete the other needed renovations.

If you are interested in purchasing a brick to memorialize a miner or a community member, contact the museum at 865-630-5006 or info@coalcreekminersmuseum.com

The Capital Improvement and Maintenance grant had a minimum request amount of \$5,000 and a maximum request amount of \$100,000. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2024.

The Coal Creek Miners Museum serves to preserve, honor, and promote the rich history, culture, and economic heritage of all aspects of coal mining and the unique story of the coal miners in Coal Creek, TN utilizing education and outreach to foster economic and community development.

The museum tells the story of mining in East Tennessee but more specifically the unique story Coal Creek, TN featuring the Coal Creek War, a labor dispute between miners and mine owners revolving around the convict lease system. It also commemorates the Fraterville mine disaster and the Cross Mountain Mine Disaster, two tragic events that rank among the most devastating mine disasters in U.S. history.

The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can find out more at www.coalcreekminersmuseum.com.

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

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ASAP of Anderson Prevention Works

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

Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce
Annual Dinner

Save ^{THE} Date

April 2nd

School News

These students were LCES Students of the Month for December for showing generosity! Way to go!



Congratulations to ACHS Freshman, Lee Goins, for getting this 12-point buck during the juvenile hunt in Smith County.

Veteran's Breakfast

ROCKY TOP



Please join us for Rocky Top's quarterly Veteran's Breakfast hosted by Clear Branch Baptist Church on February 17, 2024
Doors open at 8:00am
Chow line starts at 8:30am
Address: 1030 New Clear Branch Rd.
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Snow Day Fun

An East Tennessee winter storm swept through the region in January, bringing substantial snowfall and chilly temperatures. Initial snow measurements indicate that many areas in East Tennessee experienced snow accumulations ranging from three to 10 inches. The lingering below-freezing temperatures slowed down the melting process. Specific locations, as noted by the National Weather Service, recorded a notable 10 inches of snow. Here are a few pictures that were submitted on our Facebook Page of area residents enjoying the snow:



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