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Tuesday, November 26, 2024 **Page 1** **Athens, Tennessee**

Polk County Man Indicted, Charged with Sexual Exploitation of a Minor



TBI special agents with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) squad and the Polk County Sheriff's Office, acting on a cybertip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), investigated a Benton man, resulting in his indictment and arrest. In April 2023, agents received a cybertip from the NCMEC that dozens of files believed to be child sexual abuse material had been uploaded into a digital storage cloud over the course of several months. As a result of that investigation, the owner of the account was identified as Rory Frerichs of Polk County. Further investigation identified additional files of child sexual abuse material.

On November 18th, the Polk County Grand Jury returned indictments charging Rory Cullen Frerichs (DOB 02/01/2002) with one count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (over 50 images) and one count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (over 100 images). On November 22nd, he was arrested by the Polk County Sheriff's Office and booked into the Polk County Jail on a \$100,000 bond. The charges and allegations referenced in this release are merely accusations of criminal conduct and not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and convicted through due process of law. *Source: TBInewsroom.com*



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Obituaries

Community News You Can Use

Cecil M. "Parkie" Parkinson, 81 of Cleveland, passed away at his home on November 21. He joined the Air Force in 1966 until his honorable discharge in 1970. He worked at Bowater for 35 years, retiring in 2001. He was a long-time member of Wesley Memorial Church. The family will hold a burial at Chattanooga National Cemetery on Friday, November 29 at 1:00 PM. A memorial service will be held at Wesley Memorial Church in Cleveland on Saturday, November 30 at 3:00 PM in the church sanctuary. The family will receive friends in the sanctuary prior to the service from 1:00 PM until the 3:00 PM service time. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

- The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following street closure: The area to be affected is THOMPSON ST. from Shoemaker St. to W. Madison Ave. This closure will be on Thursday, November 28, from 6:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The purpose of this closure is for Keith Memorial United Methodist Church's Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.
- Free computer classes will be held at Etowah Senior Center December 9-13 from 11:30 until 2:30. If you are a Southeast Tennessee resident, and at least 60 years of age you are eligible. You will receive 15 hours of training and receive a free Chromebook upon completion. You will also receive a year of free internet if eligible. Please call the center at 423-781-7632 if you are interested. If you are already on the waiting list, please call the center to confirm that you are still interested.
- The next Work Session of the Athens City Council will be held on Mon., Dec. 9 at 5:00pm at the Athens Municipal Building located at 815 N. Jackson Street. The time change, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, was approved by Athens City Council during the regular meeting on Tues., Nov. 19.



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Tuesday, November 26, 2024 Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning Page 3 **Athens, Tennessee**

Athens Christmas Parade Street Closures

The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following updated street closures:

- Keith Lane – Crestway Drive to Madison Avenue
- Madison Avenue – Keith Lane to Jackson Street
- Jackson Street – Madison Avenue to Cook Drive
- White Street – Coach Farmer Drive to Madison Ave.
- Washington Avenue – Jackson Street to Madison Ave.

These areas will be closed on Monday, December 2, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Additionally, all streets adjacent to the parade route will be blocked during the parade. Motorists are advised to use extreme caution and watch for traffic signage, workers, spectators, and pedestrians. Motorists should allocate additional time for traffic delays when traveling in this area. The purpose of this closing is for the Jimmy Limer Memorial Christmas Parade. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.

Elks Lodge Donates \$4,000 to Grace & Mercy



The Athens Elks Lodge #1927 awarded a \$4,000 Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation to Grace & Mercy Minis-

tries, a local nonprofit dedicated to addressing food insecurity. Grace & Mercy, serving Athens for nearly 15 years, provided over 1,000 meals in September and continues to offer food boxes and meal deliveries.

The Athens Elks Lodge, part of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A., has served McMinn County since 1954, supporting charitable efforts through grants and community programs.

Pictured (from left) are Athens Elks Lodge #1927 Treasurer Sandy Walker, Grace & Mercy Ministries, Inc. Executive Director Mary Jane Ballew, Athens Elks Lodge #1927 Exalted Ruler Rathburn Sandy Ray, Judy Barnett, Nikki McConkey, and Athens Elks Lodge #1927 co-Grants Coordinator Kristin Schrader.

Photo Credit: Missy Gooch

Wishing you health, happiness and success.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday: Partly Sunny. High 53.
Tue Night: Mostly Cloudy. Low 34.
Wednesday: Partly Sunny. High 63.
Wed Night: Thunderstorms. Low 54.
More Weather at: wyxi.com

Tuesday, November 26, 2024 Morning Fax[®]...Today's News This Morning Page 4 **Athens, Tennessee**

Tennessee Football's Playoff Hopes Brighten After Key Saturday Results



The Neyland Stadium crowd erupted Saturday when the videoboard momentarily switched from Tennessee's dominating 56-0 win over UTEP to Florida's upset of Ole Miss, showcasing the Gators' game-sealing interception. This was just one of several outcomes that bolstered the Volunteers' College Football Playoff (CFP) chances.

Vols' Dominant Win Sets Up Key Matchup

Tennessee solidified its position with a resounding victory over UTEP, led by quarterback Nico Iamaleava's four passing touchdowns and a stellar defensive performance. The Vols now face a "win-and-in" scenario at Vanderbilt to stay in the CFP hunt.

CFP Contenders Falter

- **Ole Miss Falls to Florida:** A 24-17 loss to Florida handed the Rebels their third defeat, effectively ending their playoff hopes. Florida's defense secured two late interceptions to seal the game.
- **Alabama Stumbles at Oklahoma:** The Crimson Tide suffered a surprising 24-3 loss, their third of the season, against a struggling Oklahoma team. This result pushes Alabama out of contention and strengthens Tennessee's case as a top SEC candidate.
- **Texas A&M's Path Narrows:** A four-overtime loss to Auburn leaves the Aggies needing an SEC title win to remain in contention.

Indiana Drops to the Bubble

Ohio State's commanding 38-15 win over Indiana handed the Hoosiers their first loss of the season. While Indiana remains in the CFP picture, their position is now precarious.

Tennessee's playoff hopes hinge on winning out and key losses by other contenders. With Ole Miss and Alabama out of the race, the Vols' CFP chances look brighter heading into the critical Vanderbilt matchup.

This Saturday, Nico Iamaleava and the Tennessee Volunteers face-off against Diego Pavia and the Vanderbilt Commodores in a must-win scenario for Tennessee. Kickoff will take place at noon and will be broadcast on ABC. *Photo Courtesy of Angelina Alcantar/Knox News*

Happy Thanksgiving From
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Suspects Wanted for Questioning in Polk County Burglary



The Polk County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's assistance in identifying the two individuals pictured above. The pair are possible suspects in a burglary in the Grassy Creek area of Polk County. If you have any information on the identity or whereabouts of these persons, please contact Captain Kevin Cole at 423-496-3301.

Source: [Facebook - Polk Co. Sheriff's Office](#)

Sweetwater Police Announces Passing of Officer Tyler Blankenship



The Sweetwater Police Department (SPD) is grieving the loss of Officer Tyler Blankenship, who passed away after a battle with cancer. Officer Blankenship joined SPD in November 2019 and graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy in March 2021. Known for his compassion and professionalism, he was respected by both the community and his colleagues. "We are completely heartbroken and devastated in losing one of the members of our family," Chief Eddie Byrum and Assistant Chief Kevin Watson said. "We would like to thank everyone for their support and their prayers while we endure this difficult time and we will continue serving our community the same way that Officer Blankenship did during his service to the City of Sweetwater." Blankenship is survived by his wife and daughter. A memorial will be set up at the downtown Sweetwater Gazebo to honor his service and legacy.

Source: [WBIR](#)

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