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Athens Community Theater Presents *Steel Magnolias* at The Arts Center

Steel Magnolias
by Robert Harling
APRIL 17 - 26
Directed by G. David Brown
athensartscouncil.org

Athens Community Theatre (ACT) is pleased to present the beloved play, *Steel Magnolias*, directed by G. David Brown, April 17 - 26, 2026.

Leading the cast is Tracie Hansom, making her ACT debut as M'Lynn. She is joined by returning ACT performer Daisy Cranfill, as Annelle, and ACT alums Lauren Trew, as Clairee; Kay Simmons, as Ouiser; Zyan Kirland, as Shelby; and Lauren Brown, as Truvy.

In Truvy's beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, all the ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done. Helped by her eager new assistant, Annelle (who is not sure whether or not she is still married), the outspoken, wise-cracking Truvy dispenses shampoos and free advice to the town's rich curmudgeon, Ouiser, ("I'm not crazy, I've just been in a bad mood for forty years"); an eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee, who has a raging sweet tooth; and the local social leader, M'Lynn, whose daughter, Shelby (the prettiest girl in town), is about to marry a "good ole boy."

Steel Magnolias closes the Athens Community Theatre Mainstage 2025 - 26 season. Show dates and times are Fridays, and Saturdays, April 17, 18, 24, and 25 at 7:00 PM, and Sundays April 19 and 26 at 2:00 PM. Tickets go on sale now. ACT tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets early, as ACT events tend to sell out on, or before, the performance date.

Athens Community Theatre Mainstage Series includes multigenerational productions, dramatic classics, and celebrated musicals, in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Prices for ACT tickets range from \$15 to \$25.

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•Tue: Madisonville Wil Sav 10:30 - 2
Meigs County HS @ The Baker Dome 5-8ish
•Wed: Etowah Across from Johnson's-10:30 - 2
•Thu: Athens Family Dollar 10:30 - 2
Niota Elementary Family Engagement 5-7ish
•Fri: Sweetwater Little Drugs-10:30 - 2:30

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Community News You Can Use

- Athens Utilities Board will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 24 at 5:00 p.m. Officials noted that no board summary is available for this month, as no agenda items were submitted.
- The McMinn County Election Commission will hold a called meeting on Tuesday, March 31 at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2026–2027 budget and to certify any petitions submitted for the Democrat Executive Committeewoman position during the extended qualifying deadline.
- As required by state law, the McMinn County Election Commission will conduct the setup of voting machines for both early voting and Election Day on Wednesday, April 1, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The process, which is expected to take most of the day, will include preparation and inspection of all machines and will take place at the Election Commission Office in the conference room and Blue Room.
- The monthly meeting for the Cherokee Beekeepers Association will be on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 P.M. The location of the meeting is the McMinn Senior Activity Center located at 205 McMinn Ave., Athens. The public is always welcome; you do not need to be a member to attend.
- Woodward Avenue Church of God in Athens will host a free community concert featuring The Good News Guys on Saturday, March 28 at 5:00 p.m., with doors opening at 4:00 p.m. The family-friendly event is designed for children ages 1–10 and will include interactive Christian music and entertainment. Admission is free, but registration is required to ensure seating and can be completed through the church's website: woodwarchurch.org
- **The Main Street Moments program will air Tuesday, March 24 at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI Radio (FM 94.5 and AM 1390), featuring host Maggie Blaine interviewing Briana Baker of the McMinn County Economic Development and Tourism Office to discuss upcoming events and initiatives.**

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Monday, March 23, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Athens First Baptist to Host Love Box Packing Party



Athens First Baptist Church will host a Love Box Packing Party on Saturday, March 28, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. as part of the national Embrace Grace initiative.

The event will bring together volunteers to assemble

“Love Boxes,” care packages filled with essential items and messages of encouragement for women experiencing unplanned pregnancies. The effort supports Embrace Grace’s mission to provide emotional, practical, and spiritual support through local church communities nationwide.

Completed boxes will be distributed through Full Circle Medical Center for Women, where they will be given to patients in need. Organizers say the event offers a meaningful way for individuals, families, and groups to support women in the community.

Participation is free, though attendees are asked to RSVP by calling the church office to help with planning. 423-745-5441.

Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony Set for Friday in Englewood

The McMinn County Veteran’s Service Office will host its annual Vietnam Veterans Day celebration on Friday, March 27, at 11:00 a.m. at Englewood First Baptist Church. The event honors local veterans who served during the Vietnam era and continues a tradition started by former director Susan Peglow.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day recognizes more than 9 million Americans who served between 1964 and 1975 and was officially designated in 2017. This year’s local ceremony will focus on family and unity, with planned remarks from community and state leaders including Joe Guy, Mark Cochran, J. Adam Lowe, and Tommy Baker.

Following the program, attendees will gather for a community meal provided by Morning Pointe of Athens. Organizers encourage veterans, their families, and the public to attend and show support for the local veteran community.



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MCMINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

Monday, March 23, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

March 19, 2026

Douglas McDonald, 62 of Sweetwater, charged with over 300 grams of schedule 2 meth for resale, possession of a firearm with the intent to go armed, possession of schedule 6 for resale, and drug paraphernalia.

Robert Miller, 51 of Athens, charged with violation of probation in Hamilton County.

Ronnie Cupp, 53, charged with shoplifting, and theft of property, Bond \$1,000.

Brandon Kempson, 31 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for burglary, aggravated burglary, and domestic assault, Bond \$16,000.

March 20, 2026

Anthony Howard, 40 of Niota, charged with driving on a suspended license, Bond \$2,000.

Sean Flanagan, 53 of Niota, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

Kenzie McGrail, 35 of Niota, charged with two counts of shoplifting, and theft of property.

Brittany Valdez, 35 of Athens, charged with theft of property.

Ashley Graves, 33 of Athens, charged with burglary, Bond \$60,000.

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

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Monday, March 23, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Frankie Tallent Jr., 62, passed away on Wednesday, March 18. He earned a bachelor's degree in historic preservation from MTSU. Funeral services took place on Saturday, March 21 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Interment followed in Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah was in charge of arrangements.

Nolan Gross, 67, passed away on Wednesday, March 18. Nolan proudly served his country as a US Navy veteran and was a firefighter with the Etowah Volunteer Rescue Squad. He was a member of Carlock UMC. A funeral service was held on Sunday, March 22 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. Interment followed the service in Sunrise Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home in charge of arrangements

Carolyn Ann Gregory Johnson, 84 of Athens, passed away on Thursday, March 19. She was a nurse and office manager and was a member of Mt. Verd Baptist Church. Graveside services will be 11:00 A. M. Tuesday, March 24 in McMinn Memory Gardens. Active pallbearers will be family. There will be no formal visitation. Family and friends will meet at McMinn Memory Gardens on Tuesday for the graveside service. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home, Athens is in charge of services.

Johnny Harold Powell, 74 of Athens, passed away on Monday, March 16. He was a welder in the area, owning and operating his business, "JP's Welding." The family will receive guests on Tuesday, March 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., followed by a celebration of life at 8:00 p.m. at the chapel of Companion Funeral Home in Athens.

Matthew Weston "Matt, Coop" Cooper, 38, of Athens, passed away on Friday, March 20. He attended Midway High School in Roane County and later earned his bachelor's degree in graphic design. A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, April 20 at 8:00pm at Companion Funeral Home of Athens. A Visitation will be held prior from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Margaret Lee Estep Murphy, 81 of Ten Mile, passed away on Friday, March 20. She was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Services will be announced at a later time. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens, Tenn. is in charge of the arrangements.

Mary Jane Brown, 75 of Etowah, passed away on Tuesday, March 17. She enjoyed cooking, reading and spending time with her family. There will be no formal services at this time. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens, Tenn. is in charge of the arrangements.

Thelma Lee McNutt, 90 of Athens, passed away on Friday, March 20. She was a long-time member of East Athens Baptist Church. Funeral services will be Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00PM in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 5-7 PM prior to the service. A graveside service will be on Wednesday, March 25 at 11:00 AM in McMinn Memory Gardens. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home in Athens is in charge of the arrangements.

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