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**Athens Community Theatre Continues Table Read Series with Two May Events**



Athens Community Theatre (ACT) will continue its 2025-26 Table Read season later this month with public readings of *Play On* and *Crimes of the Heart* at The Arts Center in downtown Athens.

The first reading, *Play On*, will take place **Tuesday, May 19, at 7 p.m.** and will be led by ACT member Sauni Rinehart. The comedy follows a struggling theatre group attempting to stage a play while dealing with constant script revisions from a demanding playwright, leading to increasingly chaotic rehearsals and performances.

A second table read, *Crimes of the Heart*, is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m.**, led by ACT director Jan Bureson. The Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Beth Henley centers on three Mississippi sisters reunited during a family crisis, blending humor and emotional drama.

All table reads are free and open to the public. Participants may choose to read a role or simply listen, and organizers say the events are designed as a relaxed introduction to community theatre.

ACT officials describe the readings as an opportunity for residents to preview potential productions, explore lesser-known works, and experience theatre in a casual setting.

Additional table reads are planned throughout the season, including another event scheduled for July 14.

The readings are held at The Arts Center, located at 320 North White Street in downtown Athens.

More information about AACA programs is available at [AthensArtsCouncil.org](http://AthensArtsCouncil.org) or by calling 423-745-8781.

*Source: Lauren Brown, Executive Director, Athens Arts Center*

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Tuesday, May 12, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

## Foster Village to Host Community Workshop in Athens

Foster Village of East Tennessee will host a Community Workshop on Thursday, May 14, focused on helping families prepare affordable meals and stretch household grocery budgets.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Foster Village Resource Center, located at 2911 Congress Parkway South in Athens. Light refreshments will be provided, with presentations scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.

Sarah Kite of UT Extension-McMinn will lead the workshop, sharing practical tips and strategies for feeding a family on a budget.

Organizers encourage community members to register in advance through the event link [HERE](#).

Foster Village of East Tennessee supports foster families and children in the region through resource assistance, community partnerships, and family support programs.

## Community News You Can Use

- [East Tennessee Sweet Stuff](#) will be the next business joining the Athens Chamber of Commerce . A ribbon cutting will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at 1:30pm at Market Park in Downtown Athens.
- The City of Athens will partner with MEDIC Regional Blood Center for a community blood drive on May 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Athens City Hall (815 North Jackson Street, Athens). Donors will receive a free ticket to [Soaky Mountain Waterpark](#), valid through June 14, while supplies last.
- The Athens Parks & Recreation Department will host a [veterans recognition ceremony](#) on Saturday, May 17 at 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park (202 Sunset Drive, Athens) to honor newly installed walkway bricks purchased between Aug. 12, 2025 and Feb. 20, 2026; attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

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Athens, Tennessee

## McMinn County Arrest Reports

### May 10, 2026

**Everett Davis**, 25 of Riceville, charged with statutory rape, Bond \$2,000.

**Gregory Martin**, 51 of Oliver Springs, charged with aggravated assault, Bond \$90,000.

**Christopher Millsaps**, 41 of Cleveland, charged with state violation of probation for three counts of attempted aggravated arson.

**Jeremy Burnett**, 41 of Athens, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000.

**Brandon Sisson**, 46 of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation for aggravated assault.

**Brittany Dingess**, 39 of Delano, charged with violation of probation for DUI, and failure to appear for driving on a revoked license, Bond \$8,688.

**Jeremy Kepner**, 19 of Etowah, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, Bond \$2,000.


**Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.  
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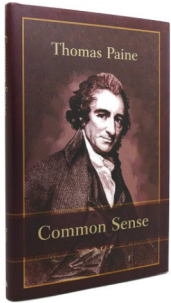
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Tuesday, May 12, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

## Library's Noon Book Club to Host Special Presentation on Thomas Paine



The E.G. Fisher Public Library's Noon Book Club will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, May 13, at 12 p.m., featuring a special program tied to the upcoming "America 250" celebrations.

Brett King, Executive Director of the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, will lead a discussion on two of Thomas Paine's most influential works, *Common Sense* and *The American Crisis*. King's presentation will explore the historical impact of Paine's writings and their role in shaping early American thought.

Library staff emphasize that all are welcome—whether or not they've read the books. The gathering is designed to encourage conversation, community, and learning. A light lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

## TCAT Athens LPN Students Explore Nursing Pathways at Cleveland State



Licensed Practical Nursing students from the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Athens spent the day at Cleveland State Community College for the third annual TCAT LPN Field Day, gaining a firsthand look at the next steps in their nursing education.

More than 45 students toured Cleveland State's state-of-the-art nursing simulation labs and learned about opportunities available through the college's LPN Transitions path to nursing program. The visit offered students a chance to experience the advanced training environment, ask questions about academic pathways, and meet faculty who support students moving from LPN to RN roles.

During the tour, **Maureen Baksh-Griffin, Director of Nursing**, pictured above, guided students through the simulation spaces, demonstrating how hands-on training prepares future nurses for real-world clinical situations. *Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC*



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