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Thursday, April 23, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Adient to Close, 210 Workers Affected

More than 200 workers in Athens will soon be out of a job following the announced closure of a local automotive supplier, according to a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) filed with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The notice states that Adient Athens, a car seat manufacturing facility, will permanently close on June 30, resulting in the layoff of 210 employees.

According to the department, the affected workers are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement and do not have bumping rights, which can allow employees with greater seniority to displace others in certain layoff situations.

The Southeast Local Workforce Development Board's rapid response team has been notified and will coordinate services between the employer and impacted workers. The board will oversee continued follow-up and assistance for dislocated employees as they transition out of the facility.

Workers seeking additional information or assistance are encouraged to contact the Dislocated Worker Unit at (615) 253-6355.

Source: TN.gov See Full Notice [HERE](#)

Community News You Can Use

- The Optimist Club of Athens invites you to the 2027 Distinguished Young Women Program on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held at Keith United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the door.
- The History for Lunch program scheduled for this Thursday, April 23, at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum has been rescheduled. A new date will be announced soon.
- A minor magnitude 2.1 earthquake was recorded Monday night, April 20, 2026, in East Tennessee. The event occurred at 9:43 p.m. local time with an epicenter located approximately 10 miles northeast of Athens and about 3 miles south of Sweetwater, at a depth of 23 kilometers. No damage or injuries have been reported, and the quake was not widely felt.

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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum



Upcoming Spring Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL:

BEGINNING ITALIAN WITH JOYCE SIMPSON
SATURDAYS, MAY 2ND, 9TH & 16TH @ 11:00 AM

SEE ROCK CITY BARNS
THE HISTORY OF "SEE ROCK CITY"
BARN SIGNS & BOOK SIGNING
WITH JUDITH HILL GARRISON
SATURDAY, MAY 9TH @ 11:00 AM



ALL HERITAGE SCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE \$5 OR FREE FOR MEMBERS.

Programs sponsored by C. Scott & Muriel S. Mayfield Family Foundation, Tennessee Arts Commission, Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation, and City of Athens

Museum Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:
Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
Students: \$3.00

More Information

522 W Madison Ave.
Athens, TN 37303

423-745-0329

www.livingheritagemuseum.org

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Thursday, April 23, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

**Trash & Treasure Sale Opens at McMinn Heritage Museum;
WYXI to Broadcast Live Friday**



The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum will host its annual Trash & Treasure Sale April 22–25, offering shoppers a wide selection of items while supporting local history efforts.

The event kicked off with a Premiere Night on Wednesday evening, where early shoppers had the opportunity to browse and purchase items during a special preview event. The public sale continues Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with free admission.

Organizers say the sale features furniture, lamps, jewelry and a variety of other goods at two locations: the museum's lower level on West Madison Avenue and the museum annex on Washington Avenue.

On Friday, April 24, WYXI Radio will broadcast live from the museum basement from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. WYXI personalities Cousin Mark and Brother Barry will interview guests and staff, including Museum Director Brett King, and highlight items available at the sale.

Listeners can tune in to 94.5 FM or 1390 AM and register for giveaways during the broadcast, including tickets to Soaky Mountain Waterpark, gift cards to McAlister's Deli, and other prizes. No purchase is necessary to enter.

The event is hosted by the museum guild and sponsored by the Hugh M. Willson Family Foundation. Proceeds support the museum's ongoing programs and preservation efforts.

See page 3 for additional details and event information.

**9TH ANNUAL
MODEL TRAIN
SHOW
(AND SWAP MEET)**

APRIL 25
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

APRIL 26
11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

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TRASH & TREASURE SALE

MCMINN COUNTY LIVING HERITAGE MUSEUM

WYXI Radio will be broadcasting live in the basement of the museum on Friday, April 24th from 11 am - 3 pm. Listen to 94.5 FM or 1390 AM Register for lot's of great give aways! No Purchase Necessary

PUBLIC SALE:

THURS APRIL 23: 10 AM - 5 PM

FRI APRIL 24: 10 AM - 5 PM

SAT APRIL 25: 10 AM - 3 PM

*FREE ENTRY!

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522 W MADISON AVE

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MUSEUM ANNEX

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Athens Community Theatre Announces Auditions for 'Mean Girls' Season Opener



Athens Community Theatre will hold auditions next month for its 2026–27 season opener, *Mean Girls*, a high-energy stage musical based on the popular 2004 film written by Tina Fey.

Auditions are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 9 and 10, at 6 p.m. at The Arts Center. Call-backs, if needed, will be held Thursday, June 11, at 6 p.m. Performances are set for Aug. 21–30, 2026.

The production will be directed by Michael Webb, with music direction by Brittany Duggan and choreography by Ethan León. The creative team is seeking performers of all backgrounds and genders ages 16 and older. Organizers say strong dancing ability is preferred for all performers, while those auditioning for lead roles should be experienced singers. Ensemble performers are not required to have previous singing experience.

Auditionees are asked to bring comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for movement, along with their work, school and family schedules for the rehearsal period from June 12 through Aug. 30. The audition team will teach a short song excerpt and dance combination during the audition process. Individuals interested in assisting with the production in any capacity are also encouraged to attend.

Mean Girls follows Cady Heron, a formerly homeschooled student who moves from Africa to suburban Chicago and quickly learns the complexities of high school social dynamics. After infiltrating the popular clique known as “The Plastics,” led by Regina George, Cady finds herself caught up in the pressures of popularity before ultimately learning lessons about friendship and authenticity. The production is rated PG-13 due to language and adult themes.

Mean Girls will open the Athens Community Theatre Mainstage Series, which features a mix of multigenerational productions, dramatic classics and well-known musicals presented in the Sue E. Trotter Black Box Theater. Ticket prices for ACT productions typically range from \$15 to \$25, and patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets early, as performances often sell out.

The
RED, WHITE & BLUE
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Thursday, April 23, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

April 21, 2026

Chase Matoy, 35 of Athens, charged with evading arrest, schedule 2 meth for resale over 300 grams, and simple possession of schedule 4 praslam, Bond \$25,000.

Glenn Stevens, 44 of McMinn County, charged with child support.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information gathered using public sources.

Obituaries

Maida Louise Thurman, 78, of Spring City, TN passed away on Sunday, April 19. She dedicated more than 30 years of service as a supervisor at Kayser-Roth Corporation in Dayton. she found great joy in spending time on the water, especially riding on the pontoon boat with her husband, Jerry. There will be no formal services at this time. Companion Funeral Home of Athens and the Cody family are honored to assist the family with these arrangements.

Robert "Scott" Cooley, 62, of Etowah, passed away on Sunday, April 19. A celebration of life will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 29 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday prior to the service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.



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