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Thursday, August 27, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn Regional Humane Society Welcomes New Operations Manager



The McMinn Regional Humane Society has hired Brittany K. Graves as its new Operations Manager, bringing more than a decade of leadership in animal welfare, veterinary practice management, and customer care.

Graves, a Cleveland State Community College graduate with certifications in veterinary business leadership and compassion fatigue, has led large teams, overseen budgets, and

advanced programs to improve both animal care and client service. She has also volunteered with humane societies and pet food banks, reflecting her philosophy of *"Positivity, Inspiration, and Giving."*

The MRHS Board praised her passion and experience, saying she is the ideal leader to strengthen operations and enhance care for animals and the community. Graves will oversee daily operations, staff leadership, volunteer coordination, and planning as the organization continues its mission to provide a safe, compassionate environment for animals.

Community News You Can Use

- The Mid East Tennessee Community Chorus in Athens welcomes singers ages 8–14 (children's choir) and 15+ (adult choir). Rehearsals begin Monday, Aug. 31 at Tennessee Wesleyan University (children at 4:15 p.m., adults at 6:30 p.m.). Register at themetcc.org or call 423-381-0008.
- The Good Faith Clinic, a United Way agency, will be open **TODAY (Thursday, Aug. 27)** at 3 p.m. for refills and doctor visits; test results at 3:45 p.m. Free care for uninsured adults 18–64 in McMinn and Meigs counties at Christ Community Church, 18 S. Congress Pkwy., Athens. Clinic meets 2nd, 4th, and 5th Thursdays monthly.



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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

TRASH AND TREASURE RECEIVING DAY
SATURDAY, 8/29TH FROM 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Fall Sale 2026 Trash and Treasure II

SEPTEMBER 10-12

Thursday 10 AM - 5 PM

First Pick Thursday: \$5 Entry at Door

Friday 10 AM - 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM - 3 PM

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.
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www.livingheritagemuseum.org



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Athens, Tennessee

Heritage Museum Showcases Patchwork Quilt Painting by Charlene Such



Visitors to the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum can now enjoy a striking new addition: a patchwork quilt mural created by employee and artist Charlene Such. The colorful piece, composed of multiple panels celebrating local history and culture, reflects Such's lifelong passion for art and teaching.

When asked about her inspiration and journey, Such shared:

"I was inspired to be an artist by my Dad and my older sister, however it was my mother who provided all the supplies that I needed to create throughout my youth. I first began painting in high school when I was asked to paint backdrops for dances. After my first year of college I worked at YMCA's Camp Windywood in Louisiana as the arts and crafts teacher. This is when I realized I wanted to be an art teacher. I graduated from LSU in Shreveport, Louisiana with my Bachelor's degree in Art Education. I taught middle school art for two years in Louisiana, high school art for 8 years in Oregon and elementary art for 15 years in Georgia. After moving to Athens, I found the job at McMinn County Living Heritage Museum as the program and events coordinator. I have had the flexibility here to work with the curator, Betty Catherine Boyd, to update exhibits as well as creating new exhibits for children."

Such's mural not only highlights her personal journey but also adds a vibrant, storytelling element to the museum's exhibits, connecting art with the heritage of McMinn County.

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Thursday, August 27, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

August 25, 2026

Joseph Burns, 23, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for theft of property.

John Payne, 30, of Lenoir City, charged with failure to appear for no driver's license, Bond \$1,000.

Jerry Williams, 31, of Decatur, GA, charged with resisting stop, public intoxication, and being a fugitive from justice.

Morgan Shavers Turberfield, 25 of Niota, charged with simple possession casual exchange of Schedule 6, driving on a suspended license, Legend Drugs, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$3,500.

Randall Bledsoe, 26, of Reliance, charged with violation of probation for fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$27,000.

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

Food City Awards \$3,837 to McMinn Central High School



Central High School of McMinn County has received \$3,837 from the Food City School Bucks program, part of the company's annual \$800,000 distribution to more than 1,000 schools across its market area.

Food City officials, including Human Relations Coordinator Kylie Anderson, presented the check to Principal Joe Young and Central High students.

Since its inception, the School Bucks program has awarded more than \$24.5 million to schools. Customers earn points for their school by shopping with a Food City ValuCard, with bonus points available during designated Spirit Weeks.

The current 2026–2027 School Bucks Challenge began July 1, 2026 and continues until April 30, 2027. Customers can link their ValuCard to McMinn Central at foodcity.com/schoolbucks to continue supporting the school.



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