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Thursday, March 13, 2025 Page 1 Athens, Tennessee

Etowah Chamber of Commerce to Host 1970s-Themed Annual Awards Banquet



The Etowah Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, March 27, at 6 p.m. at McMinn Central High School, celebrating excellence in business, education, and volunteerism throughout McMinn County.

This year's banquet embraces a 1970s theme, "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now," promising an evening of food, music, awards, games, and a silent auction. Attendees will enjoy entertainment by a guest DJ and disco dancers, adding a retro flair to the celebration.

Tickets are priced at \$40 per person, with private tables for eight available for \$280. Those interested in attending or donating silent auction items can contact LeBron Fowler at (423) 920-5659 or via email at director@etowahcoc.org.

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The Etowah Chamber of Commerce encourages community members to join in recognizing the county's top contributors while enjoying a night of fun and nostalgia.



An Evening With Women in Ministry

Tuesday, March 18 | TWU's Colloms Campus Center
Desserts at 6 p.m., the program will begin at 6:30 p.m.
RSVP: tennessee@tnwesleyan.edu or 423-746-5330



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McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL
CAMPFIRE STORIES WITH JIM BROOKS
SIT OUTSIDE BY THE CAMPFIRE AND LISTEN TO EXCITING STORIES THAT ORIGINATED IN THE HILLS OF EAST TN
SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH @ 11:00
\$5 OR FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

CHARCUTERIE CLASS W/ HAILEE BORQUE & SHORT TOUR OF THE FISHER MANOR
SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH, 11 AM
\$45 FOR MEMBERS, \$50 FOR NONMEMBERS

HISTORY FOR LUNCH
BRING YOUR LUNCH AND LISTEN TO TIM BARNETT FROM HOUSTON MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS
THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH @ NOON
FREE ADMISSION

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

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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Thursday, March 13, 2025 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Rex Edwin Blankenship, 76, formerly of Maryville, TN, passed away on Thursday, February 13 in Asheville, NC at Mission Hospital. He enjoyed watching sports, particularly football and baseball, and had a passion for both Tennessee and Georgia football. A memorial service will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., Sunday prior to the service. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: wyxiradio@gmail.com

Community News You Can Use

- The Good Faith Clinic will be open **TODAY**, Thursday, March 13 at 3 p.m. for refills and at 3:30 p.m. for doctor visits. The Good Faith Clinic is free primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, ages of 18-64, who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic meets on the campus of Christ Community Church at 18 S Congress Parkway in Athens. *REMINDER: The Good Faith Clinic is now open the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, **Thursdays** of each month.*
- Daddy Daughter Photos are ready for pick-up at Athens City Hall, Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm. They are located right outside of the office in a filing cabinet and sorted alphabetically by last name. Make sure to check for multiple packets if you think you might have photos that were not picked up from previous years.



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Power of The Purse

Silent Auction

The Barn at Faith Farms
 March 27, 2025
 6pm-9pm with doors opening at 5:30
 Purse Preview 6:00-6:30 pm

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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State to Hold Grand Opening for George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Cleveland State COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cleveland State Community College will celebrate the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the new George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation on Tuesday, March 25, 3 p.m. in the Technology Building on the Cleveland State campus.

The George R. Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation was created to encourage and support entrepreneurial learning among students, alumni, faculty and the community. The Center will connect current and future entrepreneurs with the resources needed to create, launch, and grow business. The Center can be reserved and includes a private workspace, a podcast booth and a conference area for collaboration or training.

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The concept for the Center started with a donation from the George R. Johnson Family Foundation. Johnson was a longtime restaurant entrepreneur owning more than 40 Hardee's Restaurants across Tennessee and Northwest Georgia. He served as a Cleveland State Community College Foundation board member from 1979 through 1996. Johnson believed strongly that access to education was key to creating better lives and building stronger communities.

Along with the ribbon cutting, the Center will host an Entrepreneurship Event the same day. Five students will compete in the fourth annual Student Pitch Competition at 12 p.m., and seven businesses will compete in the third annual Community Pitch Competition at 6 p.m. The Lynn Jones Foundation will award prize money for the winners of the competitions. For more information, visit mycs.cc/entr, call (423) 478-6224 or email entrepreneurship@clevelandstatecc.edu. Source: Andrea Byerly, Public and Media Relations Manager, CSCC

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Athens, Tennessee

What's Happening at the UT Extension?

Did you know that March is **Extension Month** in Tennessee? **Morning Fax** UT Extension provides a gateway to Today's News. This Morning. the University of Tennessee as the outreach and engagement unit of the Institute of Agriculture. Follow any road in Tennessee and you will find people whose lives have been influenced by our educational programs. There are nearly 300 county Extension Agents working in every county across the state, Tennessee Extension has 136 subject matter specialists working to bring the latest research from the University of Tennessee to communities across the state. There are many events taking place at the UT Extension and the surrounding area to celebrate their involvement in the community.

On Saturday, March 22 from 9:30am - 11:30am, Spring Clean-Up at EG Fisher Library and the Wetlands. Engage with the community, support the environment, and have a great time! Please sign up by calling (423) 745-2852 or in the comments on their Facebook post [HERE](#).

On Monday, March 24 from 11:30am - 1pm you are invited to come have lunch with the staff of the UT Extension at the McMinn Higher Education Center (2345 Denso Drive, Athens).

WANTED: Monroe Co. Sheriff needs Public's Help



Charles "CJ" Ballard, III is wanted on numerous charges out of multiple jurisdictions. CJ recently took a motorcycle while test driving it and never returned.

If you see CJ Ballard, please contact local law enforcement in your area or the Monroe County Sheriff's Office at 423-442-3911, Monroe County Dispatch 423-442-4357, or Lieutenant Detective Billy Littleton 423-442-5002 Ext 5.

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CJ, if you see this, turn yourself in to authorities.

Charles "CJ" Ballard, III is wanted for:

Monroe Co. - Resisting Stop/Frisk / etc.

Bradley Co. - Felony Failure to Appear

Sullivan Co. - Violation of Probation, no original charge or court listed. *All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Source: [Monroe Co. Sheriff Tommy Jones - Facebook](#)

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University Cafeteria**

**8-9:30AM BREAKFAST
9:45AM SERVICE BEGINS**



Thursday, March 13, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

McMinn Central Chargerettes fall to Loretto Lady Mustangs 59-48; Head Coach Johnny Morgan Retires



The McMinn Central Chargerettes' season came to an end in the TSSAA Class 2A State Quarterfinals, as they fell 59-48 to the Loretto Lady Mustangs at the Murphy Center on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University Wednesday, ending the year with a 34-2 record, undefeated district 3-2A regular season tournament championship, and region 2-2A tournament championship. McMinn Central started strong, leading by as many as six points

in the first quarter, but Loretto took control as the game progressed. The Lady Mustangs pulled ahead in the fourth quarter and maintained their lead to secure the victory.

namement at the conclusion of the 2010-11 season. "I had the honor of serving as his (Morgan's) volunteer strength coach from spring of 2007 through the 2016-17 season. I began covering McMinn Central basketball at the beginning of the 2013-14 season, and I'm thankful I've had the pleasure of covering a lot of good basketball teams during that time. Enjoy, retirement, legend! You deserve it", said Todd Loveday, the Voice of McMinn Central Sports on WYGO FM 99.5.

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Information from Todd Loveday, TSSAA, Photo Courtesy of Loretto High School, Post-Game Press Conference Video courtesy of Boggess Videography

Seniors Addie Williams, Amelia Mayfield, Reagan Baker, McCary Beaty, Camryn Loden, and Karina Bystry end their Chargerette careers having never lost a game to a district or region opponent going 40-0 in the regular season, 4 district tournament titles, and 4 region tournament championships. They were 3-1 in sectionals and played in the state tournament 3 consecutive seasons. They won the silver ball as state runner-up in 2022-23.



Head coach Johnny Morgan announced during the [Post-Game Press Conference](#) that he will not return for his 48th season. The TWU Hall of Fame player and TSSAA Hall of Fame coach finishes his career with a record of 1107-397. Coach Morgan's teams advanced to the state tournament 17 times, all since the 1996-97 team made it for his first trip. During that time, Coach Morgan reached the Final Four 10 times advancing to the championship game 6 times. The Chargerettes won the state tour-

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