



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ooltewah Whistlestop Announces Grand Re-Opening Block Party with Expanded Menu and Community-Focused Events

(Chattanooga, TN) – February 17, 2026 — Ooltewah Whistlestop, a railroad depot-themed restaurant and rental venue in the heart of Collegedale, Tennessee, will officially celebrate its grand re-opening on Sunday, March 8, under new ownership by KAS Ventures, Inc. The event will be held at 5503 Main Street, Ooltewah, Tennessee, 37363.

The re-opening marks an exciting new chapter for the local favorite, featuring an expanded menu that includes burgers and waffle fries, along with more gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options—while still honoring the restaurant’s beloved classics.

Guests can continue to enjoy the comfort foods that made Ooltewah Whistlestop a destination—roast beef sandwiches, creamy mac and cheese, and colorful, over-the-top milkshakes—now complemented by thoughtfully crafted offerings designed to welcome diners with a wider range of dietary needs.

The celebration will feature a family-friendly block party from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., which will include face painting, games, prizes, merchandise, and free giveaways for the public. Guests can also take advantage of a special promotion: Buy one classic milkshake and receive a seasonal shake free.

A brief invitation-only ceremony and ribbon cutting are scheduled for 1 to 1:30 p.m., and media are welcome. The restaurant, meanwhile, will remain open to the public for regular business from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

KAS Ventures is a family-owned business founded by Collegedale residents Kemp and Alva Johnson, who are committed to strengthening community connections while enhancing the Whistlestop experience.

“Our goal is to build on what people already love about Ooltewah Whistlestop,” said Kemp Johnson. “We want this to be a place where everyone feels welcome—a place for laughter, shared memories, and unforgettable food.”

Built in 2020 as a tribute to the original Ooltewah train depot, Ooltewah Whistlestop blends vintage railroad charm with playful, imaginative dining. Known for its homespun milkshakes, handcrafted sandwiches, soul-warming soups, and festive seasonal offerings, the restaurant offers a cozy, family-friendly atmosphere with a front-row view of passing trains.

In addition to daily dining, the space also serves as a unique rental venue for private parties, celebrations, and community events.

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