



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Mayor Jacobs Talks About Bassmaster, START Center, and More**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— During his Weekly Update that will post around 10 a.m. today, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs talks about the return of the Bassmaster Classic to Knox County next year, the START Center, the latest Read City USA challenge, and more.

Mayor Jacobs also notes that he spoke to the Real Talk Mentoring group at Chilhowee Intermediate School. The program, started by former University of Tennessee basketball star Clarence Swearingen, is designed to encourage, enrich, and empower young people.

Knox County once again will host the Bassmaster Classic, often dubbed the Super Bowl of bass fishing. The event took place locally in 2019 and 2023 and brought more than 163,000 folks from around the world to Knox County – generating some \$35 million in economic impact. The event runs from March 13 through March 15, 2026.

“The 2026 Bassmaster Classic will be bigger and better, and with more activities and things for fans to do,” Mayor Jacobs says.

He also reminds folks that the START Center offers dual enrollment to Central High School students thanks to a partnership with Knox County Schools and TCAT. Now, the trades center has expanded the program to include Fulton High School students next year.

Further, the Mayor talks more about this year’s Read City USA challenge – titled Curious Minds.

“The launch was an enormous success thanks to our creative library personnel,” he says. “This year’s theme revolves around science and STEM and features lots of cool activities and prizes. You can pick a gameboard at any local library location or log your activities in the Beanstack Tracker app.”

For more information, visit [ReadCityUSA.com](http://ReadCityUSA.com) or visit the library’s website

Mayor Jacobs also congratulates and thanks four Rural-Metro team members. Misty Weimer earned the Distinguished Service Award. Cameron Rood and Nick Johnson received the Corona Civica Award—the highest award given in the fire service. And Larry Wilder was recognized for 26 years of service.

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