



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2025

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## **Mayor Jacobs Talks About Reading Events, Basketball, Parks, and More**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— During his Weekly Update, which will post around 1 p.m. today, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs talks about Read Across America, the Children’s Festival of Reading, the AAU Girls Basketball World Championships, Carter Park upgrades, and The Violins of Hope: Strings of the Holocaust.

This week was Read Across America Week, so Mayor Jacobs honored it by reading at a number of elementary schools on Monday.

“Reading is a vitally important skill which, in great part, determines not only academic success, but professional and personal success as well,” Mayor Jacobs says. “For instance, studies have shown that students who aren’t reading at grade level by the end of third grade are four times less likely to graduate high school on time. Even more alarming, over 70 percent of inmates in America’s prisons cannot read above a fourth-grade level. Thank you to Knox County Schools and our Libraries for putting so lot of emphasis on literacy. The future of our children—and our community—depends on it.”

He also notes that the Knox County Public Library's annual summer event – the Children’s Festival of Reading – recently earned the Southeast Festival and Events Association’s Kaleidoscope Award for best children’s event.

Additionally, Mayor Jacobs says that thanks to an agreement between the Visit Knoxville Sports Commission and the Amateur Athletic Union, the AAU Girls Basketball World Championships are set to take place in Knoxville this summer on June 26-29 at the Knoxville Convention Center and the World’s Fair Exhibition Hall.

He also reminds folks that the Carter Park ballfields reopened after more than a year of renovations. Our tremendous Parks and Recreation team installed new dugouts and fencing, a new ADA accessible playground, and more amenities. Trane, a local contractor, helped with the lighting and donated two new scoreboards.

And the Mayor champions the opening of “The Violins of Hope: Strings of the Holocaust exhibition” at Digital Motif Marketing in downtown Knoxville. The month-long free exhibit features violines once owned and played by Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The violines, which have been restored by master artisans, symbolize resilience and survival.

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