



CHS girls basketball team

PHOTO BY GINGER GILMER



CHS men's basketball team

PHOTO BY GINGER GILMER

# Winter and Spring Sports for the Cherokee Chiefs

BY DESTINY JARNIGAN

In recent months, the Cherokee Chiefs have been busy with athletics. Both the girls' and boys' bowling teams brought home first place trophies in the regional tournament. The girls were led by senior Shelby Cuthrell and junior Alyssa Haun, who qualified for the state tournament, and the boys were led by seniors Jesse Gladson and Hunter Price. Typically the swim team would have already been in action by this time. However, their season was pushed back due to Covid, and they are currently practicing and getting ready for the delayed season. The swim team has only one senior, Carson Rice, who has been a member of the team for four years.

As for other sports, basketball began its season as normal in November. As the season progressed, games were canceled because of contact tracing and quarantines. The season mostly consisted of conference

play, in the Big 7. This is the last year the Chiefs will be playing in the Big 7. Next year they move to a conference with Coker County, Grainger County, Claiborne County, and Greenville. As for this year, the boys team was led by starters Carter Metz, Jacob Kenner, Jason Sattler, Luke Lackey, and Trenton Kennedy. All of which are seniors besides Metz. They pulled conference wins against Daniel Boone, Volunteer, and Tennessee High. The girls team, led by starters Macy McDavid, Kaylan Henard (senior), Lydia Alvis (senior), Destiny Jarnigan (senior), and Sam Tilson, started off well in conference play. They beat Daniel Boone twice, Volunteer, and Tennessee High. They also had non conference wins against Claiborne County, University High, and West Greene. Sadly, both teams were knocked out in the first round of the district tournament at Cherokee. They were cheered on by senior cheerleaders Courtney

Leroy, Aubrey Sheerer, and Hannah Tate.

In other news, a new football coach will be taking over next season. Josh Hensley, who is making a return from the 2019 season, has been named head coach. The community has high hopes for him to turn the program around. Also, baseball and softball seasons are about to begin. Both are also in their last season of the Big 7 Conference. There are a lot of new faces to these teams since last season was not played to the beginning of the pandemic. The baseball team features seniors Trent Price, Luke Condra, Peyton Bledsoe, and Bobe Allen. The softball team only has two seniors, Audrey Mowell and Meredith Owen. Tennis, track, and boys soccer will also be beginning soon. The track team has already started indoor meets, and Katie Biggs, Amelia Metz, and Aaron Stewart placed. Hopefully, all spring sports will bring home many victories for the Cherokee Chiefs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOBBY VAUGHAN

Josh Hensley has been named as CHS's new football coach. He is pictured here with his wife, Stephanie Hensley, and their daughter, Hollyn

## Back to Normal: Hawkins County's Shift to the 'Green Phase'

BY ETHAN LAWSON

**Virtual for the rest of the year**

The in-person 2019-2020 school year ended abruptly, with a one day transition into online learning. As time progressed, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened and March 16, 2020 would be the last in-person school day for the students of the school year.

**Released plans for the 2020-2021 school year**

Hawkins County School system released a three-phase operating plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The three phases for reopening schools are green, yellow and red.

On the "Green Level" phase for school operations, students will attend school normally on a 5-day week.

The "Yellow Level" phase for school operations varies from school to school. At Cherokee, this yellow level was in-person Monday through Thursday and virtual on Fridays. This allows for a deep cleaning of the school with disinfectants.

In the "Red Level" phase for school operations schools are closed, and students log on to their appropriate classes virtually.

Each phase does not give a 100% guarantee that the plan will continue. The Hawkins County Board of Education has given the Director of Schools the decision to transition individual schools back to virtual as needed for staffing issues.

**Preparing to transition to the 'Green Phase'**

Hawkins County Schools announced the district will shift to a "Green Phase" effective March 1, 2021, with the disclaimer statement saying these plans are subject to change if there is a rise in COVID-19 cases.

**A controversial decision**

Following the announcement that Hawkins County Schools will be transitioning back to a five-day, in-person school week,



PHOTO COURTESY OF KINGSPORT TIMES NEWS

Seniors Madi Lipe and Ethan Lawson gave reports to the school board detailing the pros and cons of going to school amidst a pandemic.

students across the board have expressed their approval and disapproval of this decision.

Mrs Richards has reported some pros and cons of going back to in-person instruction on Fridays. She said, "When we have virtual Fridays, I am able to work one-on-one with students that are behind, I have more time for my lesson plans, and students are more apt to work harder and complete their assignments during the week because I allow Friday to be a make-up day."

In defense of in-person Fridays she stated, "I am able to cover more material when students are in-person on Fridays."

Several students have stated that this is the best decision to get back to "normal." These students applaud the idea of the county trying its best to transition schools back to some type of normalcy.

Going back to in-person learning on Fridays is beneficial to some classes like math, band, choir, or any other class that requires a more hands-on experience.

All of these classes can be difficult when virtual, and it is beneficial for the students and teachers in these types of classes to be in-person on Fridays.

On the other hand, this decision was not met with excitement for some. Many students do not feel it is necessary to start going back to school five days a week for the last two and a half months of the school year, and they think it would be better to stay with the routine of a four day week.

Some students also express their concern for the virus and not wanting to attend school in-person at all. Seniors Madi Lipe and Ethan Lawson gave reports to the school board detailing the pros and cons of going to school amidst a pandemic. Both Lipe and Lawson expressed their gratitude for virtual Fridays explaining that it gives teachers and students alike a day to catch up on anything missed during the school week. Lawson took this a step further and requested the BOE to extend virtual Fridays to the end of the school year.

## CTE: A hidden gem of Cherokee High School

BY NEELEY GREENE

Cherokee High School offers various Career and Technical Educational (CTE) classes to its students. These classes provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary for post-secondary schooling. Cherokee's CTE classes are preparing students for the workforce.

Senior Katie Biggs has taken several CTE classes to enter the medical field. Biggs says, "I definitely want to be a nurse, but I'm not sure which specialty yet. I plan to build on that to get my doctorate nurse practitioner practice." Biggs has taken health science, anatomy, diagnostic medicine, nursing education, and has participated in clinicals. She has also been given the opportunity to graduate as a Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). For Biggs, the experience of participating in clinicals has been very engaging. "Clinical was awesome, as it was 100% hands on, which I loved! I got to take dozens of blood pressures, help draw up medication, learn about many medications, observe/assist in minor medical procedures, complete EKGs, learn to read CT scans, and so much more!" Biggs' clinical rotations took place at Hawkins County ER, Medical Associates in Adult and Pediatric Primary Care, Holston Valley on the oncology floor, and Rogersville Vision Center. Biggs is committed to attend King University in the fall to further her career in the medical field.

Cherokee also allows students the opportunity to attend the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (T-CAT). Senior Tyler "Tater" Haun is attending T-CAT and shared some of his experiences. "As of now, I am new up there still, so I'm mostly doing bookwork. My classroom is in the shop, so I can go out there and try hands on stuff. I'm still learning from the books at

the moment." Haun shared more on his future career path. "My career goal is to hopefully find a job in either commercial or industrial HVAC Technician. I want a good job to work my way up to become an HVAC engineer which takes going to school for mechanical engineering, which I plan on doing later down the road." Haun shared that T-CAT will help him work toward those goals by giving him the education needed. He says that an interesting aspect of attending T-CAT is "you meet a lot of new people from all over and different age groups as well. There are thirty to forty, maybe even fifty year old men in my class. You get to be around other people who you may never have met before in your life who have different stories and backgrounds."

Another class that Cherokee students have the opportunity to take is Teaching as a Profession (TAP). Senior Courtney LeRoy has taken the teaching classes since she was a freshman. She shared that these classes have prepared her for her college courses. "It taught me things that I will need for college. For example, we have learned Bloom's Taxonomy and that will come in handy for college." LeRoy plans on attending Walter State Community College to pursue a career in elementary education. LeRoy says, "My favorite part was being able to go out to Bulls Gap Elementary School to job shadow. It was a very neat opportunity because I was able to experience first hand from a teacher's perspective what it takes to have this job."

These are just a few of the many CTE classes that Cherokee provides. Being in these classes will provide students with work experience and readiness. These classes are definitely worth participating in for a post-secondary education. Best of luck to all of our seniors in their soon-to-be CTE careers.