



Jackson area's top high school football games for Week 7

SPORTS, 1B

The Jackson Sun

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Find fall events in West Tennessee



Attendees makes their way through the Trunk-or-Treat underneath the West Tennessee Farmer's Market hangar during the "Halloween at the Market" event in downtown Jackson on Oct. 29, 2024.

JAMAR COACH/THE JACKSON SUN

Festivals and live music on tap

Sarah Best

Jackson Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The fall season started on Sept. 22, and West Tennessee is gearing up to host endless festivities through the month of October.

From live music to Halloween-centered events and a variety of fall festivals, communities across West Tennessee are ringing in the fall season.

Schedule of festivals

The weekend of Oct. 3-5, Reelfoot Lake is set to host the 54th Annual Reelfoot Arts and Crafts Festival. Festivalgoers can experience live music and purchase handcrafted goods from more than 300 vendors.

Just north of Jackson, the annual Milan Fall Festival returns on Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

From Oct. 16-25, the 170th Annual West Tennessee State Fair returns to Henderson.

At the Discovery Park of America in Union City, the David Crockett Homestead and Heritage Festival will take place on October 17-19. Visitors can hear from historians, witness woodcraft and goat milk soap demonstrations, and purchase food and goods from a variety of vendors.

On Oct. 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the farmer's market in downtown Jackson will host Halloween at the Market. The free event gives families an opportunity to play games, hear music from DJ Vonn, and fill up on treats.

Live music and theatre events

The Christian hard rock band Skillet will perform at the Rockabillys Stadium on Oct. 3.

A second concert on Oct. 3 is scheduled at Hub City Brewing in a "A Night with Jimmie Allen" with local musician LOLO as a special guest.

On Oct. 10, Drake White will perform at Hub City Brewing as part of his "Keep It Movin'" Tour.

On Oct. 11, the Tennessee Metal Devastation Music Fest returns to the AMP in Jackson. Beyond a dozen different metal bands to hear live, concertgoers can shop from more than 40 vendors, both regional and local.

Also on Oct. 11, the Carl Perkins Civic Center will host The Jackson Symphony's live score of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" while the movie is projected on the big screen.



Attendees wait in line before they make their way through the Trunk-or-Treat in Jackson on Oct. 29, 2024.

JAMAR COACH/THE JACKSON SUN



Green Acres Farm at 158 Medina Highway in Milan, offers a variety of pumpkins, mums, corn stalks, Indian corn and straw bales for sale.

PROVIDED BY GAIL BAILEY

From Oct. 17-26, the Hub City Theatre Company will perform "Misery" at The Carnegie Center for Arts and History in Jackson.

On Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m., the Ned McWherter Cultural Arts Center will host a tribute to Bobby Blue Bland in "Two Steps from the Blues" performed by Rodd Bland and The Members Only Band.

To add an event, contact Sarah Best at SRBest@JacksonTN.gannett.com.

Sarah Best is a reporter for the Jackson Sun. To support local journalism, subscribe to the Daily Briefing at jacksonsun.com.

ANALYSIS

School vouchers mostly went to religious schools in big counties

Rachel Wegner

Nashville Tennessean | USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The schools benefiting from Tennessee's taxpayer-funded vouchers this year are largely religious and concentrated in the state's most populous counties, a Tennessean analysis of state data revealed.

Additionally, the \$7,295 vouchers, known as Education Freedom Scholarships, would only cover the lowest base annual tuition at around 20% of the schools with scholarship students enrolled for the 2025-26 school year.

The scholarships are part of Tennessee's controversial school voucher program. After years of protests, debates and setbacks, the Republican supermajority in the state legislature pushed the program through in a rapid-fire special session in January. Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee hails the program as a way to empower families to choose the best education for their children. Opponents say it diverts valuable funding away from public schools and only leaves choice up to the private schools. Unlike public schools, private schools are not required to accept students regardless of gender, race, disability or other factors.

The program includes 20,000 scholarships, with the first 10,000 earmarked for families who meet income restrictions. The remaining 10,000 had no income cap. Nearly 43,000 applications flowed in after the state opened applications in May.

The Tennessee Department of Education provided a list of 220 schools with Education Freedom Scholarship students enrolled for the 2025-26 school year. However, the state has not provided the number of students enrolled in each school, nor detailed demographic information of the students, despite a records request from The Tennessean. An education department spokesperson said the state is not tracking whether the students were previously enrolled in

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Trump, Dems trade blame for shutdown

Joey Garrison, Bart Jansen, Zac Anderson and Erin Mansfield
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats traded blame after the federal government shut down at 12:01 a.m. ET on Oct. 1.

The White House website featured a clock counting the amount of time "Democrats have shut down the government," while the Democratic National Committee wrote on social media, "Republicans own this shutdown."

It marked the 15th government shutdown since 1981.

There was no immediate end in sight to the bitter standoff over funding the government: Congressional Democrats demanded health care policy changes – including the reversal of Medicaid cuts – that Trump and Republicans refused to entertain.

Senate Democrats on the night of Sept. 30 again blocked a Republican proposal to keep the government at existing funding levels through Nov. 21. The bill received 55 yeas, short of the 60-vote threshold to defeat a Democratic filibuster. Sens. John Fetterman, D-Pennsylvania, Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nevada, and Angus King, a Maine independent who caucuses with Democrats, joined Republicans in backing the GOP bill.

Congressional Democratic leaders – Sen. Chuck

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