



Transfers reveal short-term plans, long-term outlook

SPORTS, 1B

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U.S. Congressman David Kustoff speaks during a Jackson Rotary Club meeting in Jackson on April 8.

JAMAR COACH/THE JACKSON SUN

Rep. Kustoff praises Trump's action in Iran

Says 2026 better for farmers

Sarah Best

Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

From sharing his support of Trump's decisions about Iran to advocating for West Tennessee farmers, Rep. David Kustoff, 8th Congressional District, stopped in Jackson to update Rotarians on legislative issues.

Kustoff was the Jackson Rotary Club's guest speaker on April 8, where he addressed a variety of topics and the

work he's doing behind the scenes in Washington, D.C.

He serves the largest agricultural district in Tennessee and says he regularly visits with family farmers, most notably discussing the impact of the federal estate tax.

The fundamental issue, he says, is family heirs being taxed once a loved one dies, then subsequently having to weigh the cost of selling the farm "to pay Uncle Sam."

"We didn't get rid of the state tax, but we created a very high exemption for state taxes," Kustoff said. "So, with the death of one spouse, you'll now have a \$15 million exemption. Two spouses,

\$30 million. That will protect a lot of family farms and small businesses, not only across West Tennessee but across the nation."

He added that 2026 is poised to be a better year than 2025 for farmers.

Kustoff condemns Iranian leadership, commends Trump

On February 28, the United States launched Operation Epic Fury against Iran, aiming to dismantle the country's nuclear weapon and missile forces.

See **KUSTOFF**, Page 5A

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Legalization could get tougher

Bill to change process heads to Lee's desk

Vivian Jones

Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

As federal officials work to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug, Tennessee Republicans voted on April 13 to overrule an automatic state review that would have been triggered by the federal action and could have legalized cannabis for medical use.

Tennessee is one of 10 states where marijuana remains illegal for both medical and recreational purposes.

In December, President Donald Trump signed an executive order expediting the reclassification of marijuana as a less dangerous drug and recognizing its medical benefits.

Reclassification by the Drug Enforcement Administration would move marijuana out of the Schedule I category with heroin and LSD and into Schedule III, alongside drugs like ketamine.

The change would allow new medical research. It would not make marijuana legal for medical or recreational use nationwide.

By state law, when a drug is federally rescheduled, it triggers a review by Tennessee's commissioners of health and mental health. The officials meet and determine whether to change the drug's state-level restrictions in alignment with the federal government.

House and Senate Republicans approved House Bill 1972, making it so that even if the federal government loosens restrictions on marijuana, state agencies would be barred from making changes unless the legislature passes new bills.

"We don't want the Wild West out here. We want the General Assembly deciding how we decide and deal with

See **MARIJUANA**, Page 2A

The TSSAA's transfer requirements have changed

Tyler Palmateer

Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

MT. JULIET — Tennessee high school athletes in middle school and high school can now transfer schools one time without a bona fide change of address and gain immediate eligibility, as long as it's their first transfer, after the TSSAA Legislative Council amended the TSSAA's bylaws on April 14.

The Council voted 12-0 to approve a proposal that brought the TSSAA into compliance with Tennessee state law. Gov. Bill Lee signed a one-time transfer law in February, effective July 1, which was a result of years of efforts from legislators.

It was a significant formality that built upon a one-time transfer provision the TSSAA added last year, which allowed one free transfer but for non-athletic reasons. The sending school also had to attest that the move wasn't for sports.

For the bulk of the TSSAA's exist-

tence, the association made high school athletes sit out one year if they transferred schools without a bona fide change of address. That was the trend nationally for years as well.

But loosened transfer rules are becoming more common largely due to school-choice philosophy gaining pop-

ularity.

"We need to be able to clearly articulate what this action means," TSSAA executive director Mark Reeves said. "What you can do, what you can't do. It's good to get this part behind so we can start putting together what this looks like for schools moving forward."



The TSSAA Legislative Council talks through several proposals brought to the council during its April 14 meeting at the Courtyard by Marriott in Mt. Juliet.

GEORGE ROBINSON/THE TENNESSEAN

What is the new high school transfer rule in Tennessee?

The TSSAA's rule change is not a free-for-all.

Athletes must transfer between school years to become immediately eligible and are subject to other exceptions, such as the TSSAA's academic rules, age rule, semester rule, recruiting rule, and tuition and financial aid rule.

Any athlete with an athletic record who has already transferred one time — including those who transferred with a bona fide change of address or those who transferred under the TSSAA's previous one-time exception for non-athletic reasons — will not be allowed an additional transfer unless they receive a hardship waiver.

A student who engages in three or more days of practice after the TSSAA first official date of practice with a school in which the student is enrolled shall be ineligible in that sport for that

See **TSSAA**, Page 5A

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