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Knoxville NEWS SENTINEL

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KNOW YOUR KNOX

‘A little too risky to go with a high-rise’?



Taller buildings stand out along the Knoxville skyline, but even the tallest towers downtown don't officially rank as skyscrapers. RANDY SARTIN/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL

11 principals named to lead in new school year

All chosen from within Knox County district

Caitlyn Meisner
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Knox County Schools has named 11 new principals for 2026-27 school year to oversee elementary, middle and high schools across the district.

All of the new leaders are internal hires, currently serving in another capacity or at a different school.

Superintendent Jon Rysewyk's goals for the upcoming year are to focus on improving special education and continued achievement growth.

Get to know the 11 principals who will guide students of all ages on their paths to earning a diploma.

Bearden Middle School

Susan Hutton will be Bearden Middle School's new principal in July.

See **PRINCIPALS**, Page 8A

\$130M from Haslams lifts UT to record fundraising

Keenan Thomas
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The University of Tennessee System has raised more than \$615 million so far this fiscal year – a record-breaking number that makes significant headway toward a 2030 goal of raising \$4 billion.

The flagship Knoxville campus raked in the highest total with more than \$523 million, thanks to a historic investment of \$130 million from Dee and Jimmy Haslam supporting the Haslam College of Business and Chancellor Donde Plowman's plans to hire world-class faculty members.

The UT System reached its

See **HASLAMs**, Page 5A

Knoxville is growing fast, so why doesn't the city have skyscrapers?

Devarrick Turner
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Know Your Knox answers your burning questions about life in Knoxville. Want your question answered? Email knowyourknox@knox-news.com.

Buildings, apartments and other new developments have popped up steadily in Knoxville in recent years. But if you've ever wondered why none of those new buildings are skyscrapers, you're not alone.

The standard minimum height for a skyscraper is 490 feet, according to the Council on Tall Buildings and Ur-

ban Habitat. Knoxville's tallest building comes up 150 feet shorter than that.

First Horizon Plaza, better known as the "Jake Butcher building," is 327 feet. That's tall enough to be considered a high-rise building, but it's far from skyscraper status.

The reason there are no skyscrapers in Knoxville is not because the city is trying to protect a specific skyline or maintain those Great Smoky Mountains views.

Unlike other cities, Knoxville does not have a rule limiting

See **SKYSCRAPERS**, Page 5A

Get to know all the Knoxville ins and outs with Knoxpedia

Knoxpedia is the free Knox News guide to everything you want to know about daily life in Knoxville, whether you're new to the area or a longtime resident.



neighborhoods, schools and trash collection to the fun stuff like downtown hotspots, sports and the best hikes.

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