



# Pavia eyes coaching after Vanderbilt football career

SPORTS, 1B

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TSSAA



Christ Presbyterian Academy goes through drills during a July 28 team practice at Christ Presbyterian Academy in Nashville. DENNY SIMMONS / THE TENNESSEAN

## An outlier grand jury complicates some cases

Declining to indict led to more time in jail

**Evan Mealins**  
Nashville Tennessean  
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

A Nashville grand jury’s foreperson said she was trying to challenge a dysfunctional justice system. But that body’s decisions have caused some criminal defendants to spend more time in jail and possibly spend more money on bond.

The grand jury that met from January to March declined to indict about 15 times as many defendants as the five other grand juries that have met since January 2024, a Tennessean analysis found.

The foreperson who led that grand jury, referred to in this story as the March grand jury, said she stands by the body’s decisions. That foreperson, community organizer Theeda Murphy, said the district attorney’s office simply did not present enough evidence in those cases.

But those decisions have ended up complicating the cases of some criminal defendants Murphy’s grand jury chose not to indict.

Nashville criminal defense attorney Will Conway puts it like this: “There’s the phrase, ‘the road to hell is paved with good intentions,’” Conway said. “And I think that the grand jury at the time, from at least what I’ve read, had good intentions.”

Conway represents Edwin Ramos. Ramos, 19, is charged with first-degree murder related to a deadly shooting at the Trailmont mobile home park in Goodlettsville on April 12, 2024. Conway said Ramos admits to the fatal

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## Athletes line up to hit TN’s transfer portal

Requests go way up after one-time rule change; agency leader says uptick ‘not really surprising’

**Tyler Palmateer**  
Nashville Tennessean | USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The TSSAA has processed nearly double the number of transfer requests than it had by this time last year after the Legislative Council passed a one-time transfer exception for non-athletic reasons in March. • The TSSAA processed 1,004 transfer requests through the morning of Aug. 18, up from 580 a year ago.

Most of this year’s requests have been filed by athletes eager to utilize the new rule. Of the totals, 711 one-time transfer requests have been made since July 14 — an average of about 20 per day. Ninety-two were still processing as of Aug. 18, with 557 approved and 60 denied. In addition to athletes using the new one-time transfer, students whose families move into new residences in different school zones are considered transfers.

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## Judge: Uncle Nearest whiskey to go into receivership

Ruling comes after creditor sued distiller

**Evan Mealins**  
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For the eight years it has been on liquor store shelves, Uncle Nearest has capitalized on the personal brand of its founder and CEO Fawn Weaver,

who created the company to honor the legacy of the enslaved man who taught Jack Daniel the art of distilling Tennessee Whiskey.

But a federal judge has ruled that another entity will soon take over operations at the fast-growing Shelbyville, Tennessee, distillery.

U.S. District Judge Charles E. Atchley Jr. on Aug. 14 ordered that a receiver

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Samples are handed out from Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey’s tent at the Southern Skies Music & Whiskey Festival in Knoxville, May 11, 2024. HANNAH MATTIX/NEWS SENTINEL

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