



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Mayor Jacobs Talks About the Gibbs Pedestrian Bridge, ORNL, and More**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— During his Weekly Update, which will post around 11 a.m. today, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs talks about a number of events he attended, such as greeting students at Amherst Elementary School; helping Coca-Cola Consolidated Knoxville distribute backpacks filled with school supplies at Christenberry Elementary School and participating in the ribbon cutting at Angelic Ministries’ Studio Home Park Community, which features the first modular tiny homes in Tennessee.

Mayor Jacobs also mentioned the future Gibbs pedestrian bridge dedicated to the late Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss. Work on the bridge, which would cross Tazewell Pike between Gibbs Middle and Gibbs High schools, was supposed to start several months ago, but the project is delayed.

“We had initially hoped construction would begin around this time this year, but due to some funding issues with the state and challenges with utility alignment and permitting, that’s been pushed back about a year,” Mayor Jacobs says. “Obviously, this is a disappointment. Our Engineering folks have been pushing to move forward, but unfortunately, the processes we must follow aren’t always the most streamlined. We’ll keep everyone updated as things proceed.”

Additionally, Mayor Jacobs congratulates East Tennessee’s own Lilly Dunn, who recently captured first place nationally in the SkillsUSA welding competition. Dunn’s winning underwater ship sculpture took 150 hours to complete, and she credits her CTE classes at William Blount High School with helping determine her career path. Dunn now plans to attend TCAT in the fall to study welding and pipefitting.

The Mayor also gives a shout out to researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory who received fourteen of the prestigious “R&D 100 Awards” this year. ORNL’s winning projects covered various research areas, including electric vehicle charging, electric grid stability, lithium production from domestic sources, wire arc additive manufacturing, mixed plastic recycling, and more.

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