

Bartlett-Heritage
Funeral Home & Cremation Center

A FULL-SERVICE FUNERAL HOME

Traditional Funerals | Graveside Services | Cremation Services | Prearrangements

- Traditional Funerals
- Graveside Services
- Cremation Services
- Prearrangements

Call for an Appointment

Hispanic Family Service & Operations Coordinator on Staff

Find Us on Facebook!

5809 Stage Rd., Bartlett, TN
www.bartlettheritage.com

901-372-5555

Serving Bartlett, Arlington and Lakeland Since 1978

The Bartlett Express

Bartlett, TN | Volume 50 | Issue 47 | Thursday, November 19, 2026 | bartlett-express.news | $1.00

BARTLETT BAND TAKES NATIONAL STAGE, MAKES HISTORY WITH EIGHTH-PLACE FINISH

Staff Report

The music of America provided the soundtrack, but the Bartlett High School Band made history of its own at the Grand National Finals.

In its first-ever appearance in the prestigious competition held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, the Bartlett Band earned an eighth-place finish with a final score of 88.85, placing the West Tennessee ensemble among the nation's top marching bands.

From the opening notes of a Colonial Williamsburg-inspired piccolo solo to the final strains of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," the band's American-themed production, "A Neon Nation," offered a creative musical journey through the nation's history, blending familiar patriotic melodies with the powerful sound and intricate arrangements that have become part of its signature.

"Yankee Doodle" served as the musical thread throughout the production, appearing in unexpected ways through intricate woodwind features, individual solos and imaginative arrangements, including a brass and saxophone quintet.

The show moved seamlessly between musical styles and moods. Lush woodwinds and carefully constructed musical phrases led into "Shenandoah," highlighted by a beautiful flugelhorn solo and subtle references to "Battle Hymn of the Republic." The production then shifted gears with an energetic rendition of "American Salute," filled with intricate runs and musical flourishes, before bringing the audience home with a snippet of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

The visual presentation was equally distinctive. Star-shaped props featuring colonial imagery, sky-blue costumes accented with neon and colonial-inspired hats topped with feathers created a striking combination of historical Americana and contemporary marching band design.

But beyond the music, choreography and visual presentation, the weekend offered another memorable measure of the band's success: the crowd.

One of the most exciting moments came as audiences erupted in cheers following each performance. The enthusiastic response created an electric atmosphere and reflected the connection the Bartlett students made with spectators on the national stage.

For the students, directors and supporters who helped bring the production to life, the eighth-place finish represents more than a competition result. It marks a milestone for a program making its Grand National Finals debut and an accomplishment

See **Band,** *page 3A*





CHRISTMAS IN BARTLETT RETURNS FOR SEVENTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION NOV. 20-21

Staff Report

BARTLETT, Tenn. — The holiday season officially kicks off in Bartlett on Friday, Nov. 20, with the seventh annual Christmas in Bartlett Market and Festivities, featuring the city's Christmas tree lighting at W.J. Freeman Park.

The two-day celebration will bring together residents and visitors for holiday shopping, food, family-friendly activities and seasonal entertainment.

Festivities will take place at the pavilion in Freeman Park on Friday, Nov. 20, from 4 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The City of Bartlett's annual Christmas tree lighting is scheduled for Friday at 6 p.m. The lighting ceremony will officially mark the beginning of the holiday season in the community.

In addition to the tree lighting, visitors can enjoy local shopping vendors, food trucks, a children's train ride, kids' activities and an opportunity to visit with Santa.

Organizers invite residents to bring family and friends and enjoy the holiday atmosphere throughout the weekend.

The seventh annual Christmas in Bartlett Market and Festivities offers an opportunity for the community to come together, support local vendors and celebrate the start of the Christmas season.



Inside: Community News - Page 2A and 3A | Church Listings - Page 4A
Classifieds - Page 5A | Puzzles - Page 6A

The Bartlett Express
Go to Bartlett-Express.news
Your online source for local news.