

# CROCKETT BAND SHINES AT CONCERT FESTIVAL; SOFTBALL GIRLS GET "HUMBLE PI"



**Above:** Crockett's band received the top grade (Superior) in stage performance and the second-best rating (Excellent) in sight reading at the concert festival. (Photo by Chloe Lollar)

## By Ron Barry

When Trevor Mayhall took over the Crockett County school band program last fall, he hit the ground running – and has been in a dead sprint ever since.

This week his musical troops achieved another item in a growing list of 2024-25 highlights when the Crockett band – appearing at the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Concert Festival for the first time since 2016 – were judged “superior” in stage performance and “excellent” in sight reading. As far as any records Mayhall can find, those are the best results ever produced by a Crockett band.

“The ‘superior’ rating is the highest possible level, and I think it’s the first time ever for Crockett,” Mayhall said. “The ‘excellent’ in sight reading is the second-highest possible level. I am so proud of these students and their hard work. So many great things are happening in Crockett County’s band programs, and I’m so excited to be a part of it.”

In preparation for the performance at the WTSBOA Concert Festival, Mayhall and the band welcomed festival music consultant Barry Trobaugh, the LCD Trio – Doug Owens, Liz Aleksander, and Charles Lewis – from UT-Martin, and DJ Culp Jr from Union University.

“I’m so thankful all of these professionals would share their insight and expertise with our band as we prepared for our performance,” Mayhall said. He also expressed appreciation to the help he received from Rachel Coleman and Karen Barker, as well as Crockett County School District administrators and Band Boosters.

The Crockett band also had a recent competition for their Winter Guard, which placed fifth out of 17 entries in their first event, trained by Ava Grace and Meredith Myrick.

**CCHS SOFTBALL:** March 14 is known by many as “Pi Day,” in celebration of the mathematical constant (represented by the Greek number  $\pi$ ), approximately equal to 3.14, that is the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter.

Some bakeries and restaurants have hijacked the idea and re-named it “Pie Day,” using the adjusted title to push a little product.

Friday night at the Jackson Sportsplex – one night after performing so well in pool play they earned the #1 seed for bracket play in the Sarah Beth Whitehead Memorial Tournament – Crockett’s Lady Cavaliers were served a huge slice of humble pie by the ninth-seeded Brighton Lady Cardinals.

Brighton – obviously unimpressed by the Lady Cavs’ 18-0 and 14-0 wins over Millington and South Fulton, respectively, on Thursday night – got a first-inning home run from Aliya Garcia and then poured on the juice for the next three frames, pounding Crockett 15-0 in a game stopped after four frames by the mercy rule.

The Lady Cardinals had lost 7-4 to Hollow Rock-Bruceton and tied Huntingdon 7-7 in their pool play games, but had no trouble with the previously red-hot Lady Cavs, who fell flat in virtually every phase of their game Friday night.

Brighton took advantage of six Crockett errors, three more than the Lady Cavs had committed in their previous four games combined. But the Lady Cardinals also pounded out 12 hits, four of them for extra bases. Brighton scored four times in the second, six times in the third, and four more times in the fourth as its diamonders completely dominated the game.

Junior shortstop Keegan Stepp joined Garcia in the home run column and had three RBIs for the winners. Senior catcher Maggie Livingston went 3-for-3; freshman outfielder Braelynn Scott had a double, drove in two runs, and scored three herself; and junior outfielder Leah Finley had a two-run triple and also tallied three times.

Eight of the 10 runs scored off Crockett starter Anna Stallings were earned, in two-and-a-third innings of work. Emma Medlin finished up for the Lady Cavs, getting touched for five unearned runs in one-and-two-thirds frames.

Brighton starter Laney Lawson yielded just two hits over her four shutout innings, a bunt single by Piper Smith and an infield safety by Hannah Carter. Carter also drew a walk and was the lone Crockett batter to reach base twice.

Brighton followed its win over the Lady Cavs by then beating Camden Central 4-1 to reach the tournament championship contest, in which they again fell to Hollow Rock-Bruceton 4-1.

Crockett is next scheduled to play Monday in a 5:00 home contest with Jackson South Side.



**Left:** Crockett County band director Trevor Mayhall conducts the Cavalier musicians in their appearance in the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Concert Festival. (Photo by Chloe Lollar)

**Below:** Members of the Crockett County Band Winter Guard recently placed fifth out of 17 groups in its first competition of 2025.



**Above:** The Cavalier band members pose in front of the performance hall at the 2025 West Tennessee Concert Festival. (Photo by Chloe Lollar)



**Left:** Senior outfielder Hannah Carter was the only Crockett player to reach base twice in the 15-0 loss to Brighton in the Sarah Beth Whitehead Memorial Softball Tournament in Jackson Friday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** Piper Smith bunted for a base hit in the second inning for the Lady Cavs, but was stranded by a bases-loaded groundout that ended the frame. (Photo by Ron Barry)