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CHS FOOTBALL PLAYER RECOGNIZED THROUGH NFL LATINO YOUTH HONORS PROGRAM

Staff Reports

Collierville High School football player Brayden Santibanez was recognized Sunday at Nissan Stadium as part of the Tennessee Titans' Latino Heritage Month Game.

Santibanez was selected last spring as the Titans' male nominee for the NFL Latino Youth Honors Program. He was among 32 male student-athletes nationwide selected for the honor.

Santibanez joined Southwind

School student-athlete Emily Castillo in being recognized during Sunday's game.

The NFL Latino Youth Honors Program recognizes student-athletes for their accomplishments and contributions in their schools and communities.

Santibanez's recognition adds another distinction to his time as a member of the Collierville High School Dragon football program.

Source: Collierville Schools



COLLIERVILLE MIDDLE TENNIS CO-OP SECURES STATE TITLES

Combined CMS and WCMS Dragons complete championship run across multiple divisions

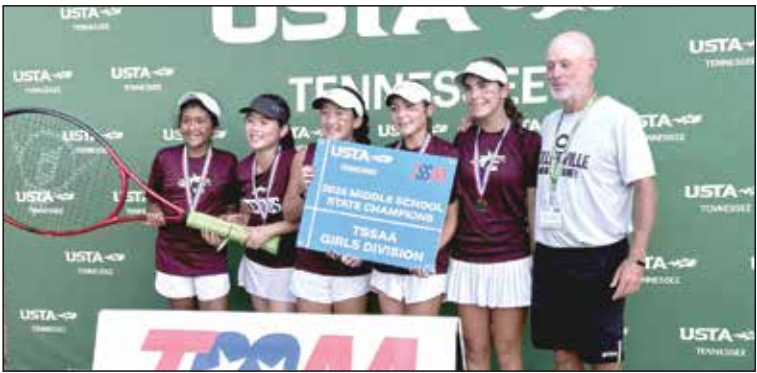
Staff Reports

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — The combined tennis program representing Collierville Middle School and West Collierville Middle School recently concluded its season by winning four Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association (TMSAA) division state titles.

The championship victories follow a sweep of all divisions at the Shelby County tournament. Competing across six divisions at the state level, the Dragons secured top honors in four, capped off by a championship performance from the Silver squad in the State Junior Varsity division.

Collierville Middle Athletics commended the student-athletes and coaching staff for their effort throughout the championship run.

Source: Collierville Schools



THREE COLLIERVILLE SCHOOLS EARN APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Jen Hannah
Collierville Schools

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Collierville Schools is proud to announce that Bailey Station Elementary School, Tara Oaks Elementary School, and West Collierville Middle School have been recognized as Apple Distinguished Schools for the 2026-2029 program term. Schools apply and are selected for this distinction based on their commitment to continuous innovation in education and using Apple products to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning.

This marks the first Apple Distinguished School recognition for Tara Oaks Elementary School, while Bailey Station Elementary School and West Collierville Middle School (pictured) earned renewed designation after being recognized during the 2023-2026 program term. With these selections, Collierville Schools now has five Apple Distinguished Schools across the district. There are just



over 1,200 Apple Distinguished Schools in 41 countries around the world.

Active Collierville Schools
Apple Distinguished Schools:
Collierville Elementary School (2024-2027)
Crosswind Elementary School

(2024-2027)
Bailey Station Elementary School (2026-2029)
Tara Oaks Elementary School (2026-2029)
West Collierville Middle School (2026-2029)

"We are incredibly proud of

Bailey Station Elementary School, Tara Oaks Elementary School, and West Collierville Middle School for earning recognition as Apple Distinguished Schools," said Director of Schools Dr. Russell Dyer. "This designation reflects the outstanding work taking place across our district as teachers and school

leaders create meaningful learning experiences that encourage students to think critically, collaborate, create, and explore. Each of these schools has built a culture of innovation that supports student learning in unique ways, and this recognition is a testament to the dedication of their educators, students, and families. We are honored to see their work recognized on a global stage and look forward to seeing these schools continue to inspire and empower learners in the years ahead."

Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of leadership and educational excellence, with a clear vision for how technology-rich environments support learning goals. In Apple Distinguished Schools, forward-thinking leaders and their communities work to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning, and they have documented results of academic accomplishments.

See Apple, page A3

PRESERVATION PARTY RETURNS TO HISTORIC TOWN SQUARE OCT. 3

Staff Reports

Main Street Collierville will host its 34th annual Preservation Party from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Collierville Historic Town Square.

The 21-and-older event will celebrate America 250 while raising funds to support the preservation and revitalization of Collierville's historic downtown.

Guests will have the opportunity to sample specialty dishes at tasting stations featuring signature offerings from Collierville-area restaurants. The evening also will include live music from The Risky Whiskey Boys on the gazebo stage, along with photo opportunities and other activities throughout the Square.

The Preservation Party is Main Street Collierville's signature fundraiser. Proceeds from ticket sales support efforts to preserve,

protect and promote the character and history of the historic downtown through revitalization, beautification and preservation projects.



Tickets are available through the event's ticket page. Those with questions about tickets can contact the Main Street Collierville office at 901-853-1666.

Vales Concrete Contractors is the event's title sponsor.

The Preservation Party will provide an evening of food, music and community while supporting ongoing efforts to preserve Historic Downtown Collierville.

Source: Town of Collierville

ANNUAL HYDRANT MAINTENANCE UNDERWAY IN COLLIERVILLE

Staff Reports

Collierville Fire & Rescue crews are conducting annual fire hydrant inspections and flow testing throughout the town through the end of November.

The testing helps ensure hydrants are ready for use in an emergency while also supporting the town's water system. Flow testing moves water through the lines, which can help clear sediment and identify potential problems with hydrants.

Residents may notice a temporary drop in water pressure or discoloration during testing. If that occurs, residents should run cold water for several minutes until it clears.

Drivers are asked to slow down and give fire crews room to work when they encounter testing operations along the road.

The annual maintenance helps ensure Collierville's hydrants remain operational and ready when needed.

Source: Town of Collierville

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE NEAR COX PARK TO CLOSE FOR MAINTENANCE

Staff Reports

A pedestrian bridge near Cox Park temporarily closed Monday, Sept. 28, for scheduled maintenance, including replacement of the bridge decking.

Earlier this year, the Town completed an overlay and other improvements along the Eastbrook Trail. The trail reopened for summer use, with the remaining bridge maintenance scheduled after the peak summer months.

The closure is expected to last about one week, weather permitting. The Eastbrook Trail will remain open but will end at the bridge during the closure.

Trail users traveling to Cox Park are encouraged to use the alternate route and sidewalk identified on the posted map. Signs will be



placed along the trail and alternate route to help direct pedestrians around the closure.

Meanwhile, the Johnson

Park Boardwalk is nearing completion and is expected to reopen in the coming weeks.

The temporary closure is

part of the Town's ongoing efforts to improve its parks and trail system.

Source: Town of Collierville

TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE
PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for the Town of Collierville will meet on **October 26, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. in the James H. Lewellen Board Chambers at Town Hall, 500 Poplar View Parkway, to consider and hold a public hearing for the following:

Resolution 2026-27 (Public Hearing) - A Resolution to Amend the Historic District Design Guidelines related to Commercial Building Heights.

Copies of staff reports are available for review six days prior to the meeting at Town Hall (500 Poplar View Pkwy) during regular business hours or can be viewed online at by selecting "Public Meetings" under www.colliervilletn.gov/government. All persons wishing to comment on the proposed item should be present, use the "eComment" feature on the Town's website, or provide written comments in advance to be included in the staff report or made part of the public record at the meeting. Please provide any written comments by 8:00 a.m. the day of the public meeting.

TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE
PUBLIC NOTICE

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COLLIERVILLE UNEMPLOYMENT TICKS UP TO 3.3% IN AUGUST

The rate rose two-tenths of a point but held well below the countywide figure.

Staff Reports

Collierville’s unemployment rate rose to 3.3% in August, up two-tenths of a point from 3.1% in July, according to figures released Sept. 24 by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The rate was a tenth of a point above the 3.2% re-

corded in August 2025. An estimated 817 Collierville residents were counted as unemployed out of a labor force of 25,118, leaving 24,301 people working. Rates moved higher across much of Tennessee in August, rising from July to August in 45 of the state’s 95 counties, the department said, even as the seasonally adjusted statewide rate held at 3.4%. City and county rates are not seasonally adjusted. Collierville’s rate stayed well under Shelby County’s 5.0% and the city of Memphis’ 5.6%. Among Shelby County’s largest suburbs, Germantown was lower in August at 3.2%, while Bartlett stood at 3.9%. The broader Memphis metropolitan area, which spans parts of Mississippi and Arkansas, registered 4.6% in August, down from 4.7% in July. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development will release county unemployment data for September next month.



MORTON MUSEUM ANNOUNCES FALL AND WINTER PROGRAMMING

Staff Reports

The Morton Museum of Collierville History has announced its fall and winter programming, offering residents opportunities to explore local history through hands-on activities, guest speakers and educational experiences.

The museum’s Living History Lab series encourages participants to experience history beyond traditional exhibits through activities that connect historical traditions with everyday life.

The upcoming schedule includes:

- **Oct. 1 — Meet Author Elaine Blanchard:** In partnership with the Friends of the Morton Museum book club, the museum will host Blanchard for an author talk and book signing.
- **Oct. 10 — Silver Screen Screams:** The museum will partner with the Beale Street Monster Club for a look at cinematic history in a program timed for Halloween.
- **Nov. 12 — The Harvest**

Fall/Winter

LIVING HISTORY LAB

Morton Museum of Collierville history

This is a hands-on program series that invites visitors to experience history beyond the exhibit case. Each Lab encourages participants to explore how people lived, worked, learned, and connected in the past through interactive activities and shared experiences. By engaging the senses and practicing everyday skills, visitors gain a deeper understanding of history as something lived and carried forward, not just remembered. The lab is open to the public with no registration required; however, supplies are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

MEET AUTHOR, ELAINE BLANCHARD

Meet Memphis-based author, storyteller, and activist, Elaine Blanchard as she discusses her work and recent publications.

196 N. Main Street, Collierville, TN 12:00 - 1:00 PM

SILVER SCREEN SCREAMS

Join the Beale Street Monster Club as they open their archives to create a mini-museum of monstrous mayhem!

196 N. Main Street, Collierville, TN 11:00 - 3:00 PM

THE HARVEST WREATH

Celebrate the season's bounty by exploring the agrarian tradition of the harvest crown and create a autumn wreath for your home.

196 N. Main Street, Collierville, TN 12:00 - 1:00 PM

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER

Join Santa's Little Helpers at this recurring event, where you will return to pioneer days to transform simple corn husks into angel ornaments.

196 N. Main Street, Collierville, TN 12:00 - 2:00 PM

More info: www.colliervilletn.gov/mortonmuseum for more information!

APPLE, Continued from A1

“Having five schools recognized as Apple Distinguished Schools is a testament to the vision and creativity of our teachers and students,” said Chief Technology Officer Lisa Higgins. “Technology is most impactful when it strengthens the connection between teaching and learning, and our schools exemplify that approach. Apple’s products

and software allow our educators to personalize learning, track student growth and activity, and empower students to demonstrate mastery in creative and authentic ways. This achievement reflects a culture of innovation that continues to enrich learning across our district.” Schools all over the world are using iPad and Mac to transform learning. As teachers incorporate technology into their lessons, they empower students to lead, learn, and thrive, to

discover new opportunities, and to make their world a better place. To learn more about each school’s innovation journey, visit: Bailey Station Elementary: <https://baileystationes.colliervilleschools.org/innovationstory> Tara Oaks Elementary: <https://taraoakes.colliervilleschools.org/ads> West Collierville Middle: <https://westcolliervillems.colliervilleschools.org/ads>

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93	93	85	80	79	78	78	80
72	74	70	68	62	58		

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USPS 122300

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY The Collierville Herald Independent welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns (300 words limit). We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. All letters/columns must be signed. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters may be mailed to: Collierville Herald Independent, 7731 Hwy. 70, Ste. 102, Bartlett, TN 38134; or PO Box 529, Covington, TN 38019.

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Anchored in Truth

by Bill White

LESSONS FROM

THE COACHING CHAIR:

The Last 90 Days Matter

Most of us think of January as the time to get serious about money. That's when resolutions get made, budgets begin, and we tell ourselves that this is finally going to be the year we get things under control. But what about October?

This week, the calendar turns, and there are still about 90 days left in the year. That may not sound like much, but 90 days is enough time to make real progress.

One thing I see often in coaching is that people wait because they think they have to fix everything all at once. The debt feels too big. Savings feels too small. Retirement feels too far behind. So they decide they will start later. Usually, "later" means January.

But progress does not need a perfect starting date. It just needs a next step.

In 90 days, you could build a starter emergency fund. You could pay off one credit card. You could stop adding new debt. You could begin making a written spending plan and actually stick with it. None of those things fixes everything, but each one moves you in the right direction.

Proverbs 21:5 says, "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty."

I like that word, diligent.

Diligence is not about making a big speech or a big promise. It is doing the next right thing today, then doing it again tomorrow. Small steps, taken over and over, can change your direction.

That is one place where coaching can help.

"I need to get better with money" is a good thought, but it is too vague. "I will save \$1,500 by December 31" is clear. So is, "I will pay off this credit card before Christmas," or, "We will make a spending plan before each month begins."

Once the goal is clear, the next step becomes easier to see.

Maybe this year has not gone the way you hoped. Maybe the goals you made in January faded by February. That does not mean the year is lost.

You still have time to finish strong.

Do not try to fix everything. Pick one goal that would make a real difference. Write it down. Decide what step you can take this week. Then take it.

In coaching, I often use the words, "Keep Climbing." That is really what this is about. You may not reach the top of the mountain by December 31, but if you keep taking the next step, you will be higher than you are today.

That is progress.

And sometimes, that next step is all it takes to start changing your future..

About the Author:



Bill White is a financial coach and founder of Peacebridge Financial Coaching. He helps individuals and families gain clarity, create a practical plan, and move forward with confidence. He can be reached at 901-205-9674, bill@peacebridgecoaching.com, or peacebridgecoaching.com.

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Jason Overton

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2020 BUICK ENCORE KL4MMBS25LB099207

2019 CADILLAC XT5 1GYKNCRS8KZ219720

2016 GMC ACADIA 1GKKRRKD6GJ147399

2012 FORD FOCUS 1FAHP3K29CL323051

2009 LINCOLN SGL 2LNHM82V49X636915

2001 BMW Z3 WBACN33481LM07324

2024 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 3VWBM7BU3RM064952

2011 BMW X5 SUXZV4C51BL402889

2016 JEEP CHEROKEE 1C4PJLCBGXGW179360

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2016 JEEP RENEGADE ZACCJBBTXGPE05543

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HAVE LOCAL NEWS TO SHARE? EMAIL IT TO:
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Follow-up scores 91; permit remains expired with a 48-hour deadline

The restaurant scored 91, up from 77 on September 17, but the central problem is unresolved. The salad bar prep cooler and the walk-in cooler both measured 45 degrees again, and the report repeats the instruction not to use either cooler until they can consistently maintain 41 degrees or colder at all times.

The report states the permit is expired and must be paid within 48 hours, the same language used a week earlier.

It was the only Collierville inspection posted for the week of September 23 through 28, a sharp drop from the 17 posted the week before.

Inspection reports are public record. Complete reports for all Tennessee establishments are available at inspections.myhealthdepartment.com/tennessee.

Wiping cloths stored on the counter.
Clean plates and pans not properly inverted.
Broken handle on the salad bar prep cooler.
Rust buildup on the shelves in the walk-in cooler.
Heavy rust buildup on the deep freezer lid.
Stained walls throughout the kitchen.
Stained ceiling tiles throughout the kitchen.
Cracked floor tiles in the kitchen.
Permit is expired and must be paid within 48 hours.

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Still Standing With the Vols

Ad
Veritas

Daniel
Richardson

I went to Knoxville this past weekend hoping to come home with a Tennessee victory. Instead, I brought home a sunburn, some Greek baked goods and a reminder that a weekend with an old friend can still be a good one, even when the scoreboard doesn't cooperate.

A high school friend and I headed over Friday afternoon to watch the Vols take on Texas. We checked into our hotel, walked around town and enjoyed the atmosphere. There were quite a few Texas fans staying at the hotel, and we had some pleasant conversations with them. They were pretty decent people, despite their questionable choice of orange.

Saturday came with an extra layer of excitement because President Donald Trump attended the game. With additional security measures in place, the stadium gates opened early at 9 a.m., and fans were encouraged to arrive well ahead of kickoff. We took that advice and made the walk from our hotel in time to be there at 9.

Our tickets were for the social deck, which meant standing rather than having seats to return to. Normally, standing through a football game doesn't bother me. But by the time we added the early arrival to the game itself, I think we spent about seven hours straight on our feet.

That is a considerable amount of standing for someone who wasn't even playing.

Thankfully, the weather was wonderful. I don't think it got much above 75 degrees during the game, which felt great after the heat we've had lately. The sunshine, however, made its presence known. My face is a little blistered, and I look more like I spent the weekend at the beach than at a football stadium.

As for the game, Texas came away with a 20-17 win. Losing by three points to the top-ranked team in the country is nothing to be ashamed of, but I still left feeling like that was one Tennessee could have won. A little more production from the offense could have made all the difference. Being close enough to imagine how it might have gone differently almost makes the loss more frustrating.

After the game, we walked back to the hotel and spent more than an hour doing something we had apparently taken for granted that morning: sitting down.

We talked about going back out and enjoying the downtown atmosphere, but neither of us seemed particularly eager to get moving again. Eventually, the hotel's Mediterranean restaurant won out over another walk around town. It turned out to be a good choice. We had a nice meal and each drank about two liters of water while we were sitting there.

After dinner, we considered going out again. Instead, we went back to the room, turned on more football and called it a night. Knoxville was an hour ahead of our usual time, so I think we were in bed by about 8 p.m. Central.

Apparently, this is what a big football weekend with a high school friend looks like once you're no longer anywhere close to being in high school. Still, there is something wonderful about the sleep that comes when you are completely exhausted and actually have time to stay asleep.

Sunday morning, we got up early and drove about three hours to Nashville to attend my friend's Greek Orthodox church. He had invited me, and I was interested in seeing what the service was like. It was certainly different from what I'm accustomed to on Sunday mornings, but the people were welcoming, and I appreciated their hospitality.

The Nashville Greek Festival was also taking place on the church grounds that weekend. There was a large bake sale, so I loaded up on bread and other baked goods to take home to Lena and the kids. At least I could bring something home besides complaints about Tennessee's offense.

It was a good weekend away, but I was glad to get back to my family and my own bed. The older I get, the more I appreciate both parts of a trip: having the opportunity to go somewhere and being happy to return.

I would still have preferred a win. But there is plenty of football left, and Saturday didn't give me any reason to stop believing in the Vols. If Texas really is the best team in the country, Tennessee showed it could stay in the game with them.

I'll keep standing behind this team. Next time, though, I might look for a ticket that includes a chair.

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