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# COLLIERVILLE HIGH GRADUATE RETURNS TO INSPIRE AP LITERATURE STUDENTS

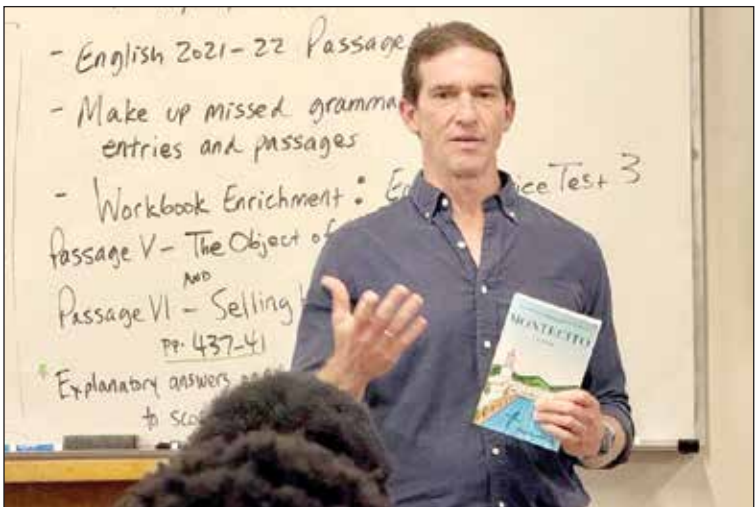
Author Michael Cox shares writing journey, hometown memories with Collierville students

## Staff Report

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Collierville High School welcomed alumnus Michael Cox, a member of the Class of 1993, to its Todd Campbell's Advanced Placement Literature class last week, where he shared his experiences as an author and reflected on his hometown roots.

Cox, the son of longtime Collierville High School football coach Paul Cox, is a graduate of the University of Alabama and Stanford University. He is the author of three books, including his newest crime novel, Montecito.

During his visit, Cox discussed his path to becoming an author,



Collierville High School alumnus Michael Cox, Class of 1993, returned to his alma mater to speak with Advanced Placement Literature students about his journey as an author, his writing process and memories of growing up in Collierville.

Courtesy Collierville High School

his writing process and the experiences that inspired his books. He

See Cox, page 2



The Collierville Dragons volleyball team defeated Arlington 3-2 last week to capture the District 15-AAA Championship. Congratulations to the student-athletes and coaches on their championship-winning season!

Courtesy of Collierville High School

# COLLIERVILLE STUDENTS PUT FIRE SAFETY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Nearly 300 entries submitted for Fire Prevention Week contest celebrating creativity and safety awareness

## Staff Report

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Students across Collierville put their artistic talents to work promoting fire safety, submitting nearly 300 entries for the 2026 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest.

The annual contest challenged students to illustrate this year's theme, "Charge Into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is Your Superpower!" The artwork highlighted the importance of safe charging practices while giving students an opportunity to share an important safety message through creativity.

Winners were recognized during an awards ceremony at the Morton Museum in Collierville, where students, families and community members gathered to celebrate their accomplishments.

The contest recognized winners by grade level, along with the top three entries in the Accessible Arts category.

This year's grade-level winners were Vivegan Manikandan of Bailey Station Elementary School in kindergarten; Aadhiya Vivekanandan of Tara Oaks Elementary School in first grade; Rael Lee of Crosswind Elementary School in second grade; Minki Ji of Crosswind Elementary School in third grade; and Inaaya Inamdar of Bailey Station Elementary School in



Collierville students showcased their creativity and fire safety knowledge in the 2026 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest, submitting nearly 300 entries inspired by the theme, "Charge Into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is Your Superpower!" Winners were recognized during an awards ceremony at the Morton Museum, celebrating artwork that promotes safe charging practices and fire prevention. More photos on page 8.

Courtesy of Collierville Fire Department

fourth grade.

Samyuktha Kailash of Crosswind Elementary School won for

fifth grade, followed by Shafaan Inamdar of West Collierville Middle School in sixth grade, Phoenix Boykin of West Collierville Middle School in seventh grade and Priyana Kapadia of West Collierville Middle School in eighth grade. Varnika Raju of Collierville High School was the 10th-grade winner.

The Accessible Arts category recognized three students for their entries: sixth-graders Akshat Madan Kumar of Collierville Middle School and Kacey-Jean Johnson of West Collierville Middle School, and seventh-grader Benn Bodine of West Collierville Middle School.

The Collierville Fire Department thanked Collierville Schools, local art teachers, educators and parents for encouraging students to participate. Their support helped bring together students from across the community to promote an important public safety message.

Beyond recognizing artistic achievement, the contest serves as an educational outreach effort, helping students learn about fire prevention and share that knowledge with their families, friends and neighbors.

By combining art with fire safety education, the annual event gives

See Winners, page A8



Collierville Middle School students Kensley Self and Mary Hollis Bailey have been named 2026 Kidpreneurs by the Economic Development Growth Engine for Memphis and Shelby County (EDGE). The duo was recognized for Clay Girl Jewelry, their hand-crafted jewelry business, which showcases their creativity, hard work and entrepreneurial spirit. Their achievement highlights how young entrepreneurs can turn their ideas into businesses through innovation and determination.

Photos and Information courtesy of Collierville Schools



Collierville Mayor Maureen Fraser, Interim Town Administrator Katrina Amos-Atkins and Assistant Town Administrator Adam Hamric welcomed Shelby County Clerk La Sonya Hall and her team, along with newly elected Shelby County Sheriff Buckner, to discuss strengthening collaboration between the Town of Collierville and Shelby County. The meeting highlighted the importance of working together to serve residents and build a stronger community.

Photos Town of Collierville



## COLLIERVILLE HIGH QUIZ BOWL TEAM WINS FIRST PLACE AT SPARTAN SMACKDOWN

*Dragon Team A finishes undefeated as Team B advances to tournament playoffs*

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Collierville High School’s Dragon Quiz Bowl teams earned strong results at the White Station Spartan Smackdown Quiz Bowl Tournament, with Team A claiming first place after an undefeated performance. Team A finished the competition with an 8-0 record, defeating Memphis University School for the tourna-

ment title. Team members included Santhosh Venkatesh Babu, Michael Anderson, Cherry Balusulapalem, Avanish Yarramsetty and Charith Nimmagadda. Team B also turned in a strong performance, finishing with a 4-2 record, advancing to the playoffs and placing among the tournament’s top eight teams. Adding to the team’s success, captain Cherry Balusulapalem earned the tournament’s third-highest individual score, recognizing

her knowledge and performance throughout the competition. The results highlighted the students’ preparation, teamwork and determination as they competed against teams from other schools. Collierville High School congratulated both teams on their accomplishments and praised the students for their hard work and dedication to the academic competition. Information courtesy of Collierville High School.

COX,  
Continued from A1

also reflected on growing up in Collierville and what makes the community special, sharing memories of returning to the town where his story began. Cox encouraged students interested in writing to embrace their creativity and

use it as a means of expression. “If you have a creative instinct in you, this is a way to let it out,” Cox told the students. His visit offered students an opportunity to learn from a published author while connecting literature lessons to real-world experiences. It also served as a reminder of the lasting ties alumni main-

tain with their hometown and school community. Collierville High School expressed appreciation to Cox for sharing his time and experiences with students and inspiring the next generation of writers. For the school community, his return carried a fitting message: Once a Dragon, always a Dragon.

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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 **November 9, 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

**Ordinance 2026-10** (Second Reading & Public Hearing) - An Ordinance to amend Title XV, Chapter 151, of the Town of Collierville Code of Ordinances by amending §151.115(D)(3)(b) related to the limited use of gravel parking areas within the RI: Restrictive Industrial Zoning District, Case #262006

**Ordinance 2026-11** (Second Reading & Public Hearing) - Evans Property - Request approval to rezone four (4.0) acres from FAR: Forest-Agriculture-Residential to R-L1: Large Lot (1 Acre Minimum) located on the south side of E. Holmes Road and west of Center Hill Road at 9415 E. Holmes Road, Case #261909

**Ordinance 2026-12** (Second Reading & Public Hearing) - An Ordinance To Amend Title XV, Chapter 151, of the Town of Collierville Code of Ordinances by Amending §151.003 Definitions; §151.006(C) Fences, Walls and Hedges; §151.021 Uses Permitted in Each Zoning District; §151.160 Procedures for Planned Development Approval; §151.176 Sign Permit Application and Issuance; §151.200 Administration; §151.271 Approval; §151.308 Board of Zoning Appeals; §151.309 Variances; §151.310 Conditional Use Permits; §151.311 Site Plan Review; §151.313 Vesting; §151.314 Public Notice; and, establishment of §151.315 Mandatory Timeframes and §151.316 Administrative Approval of Minor Subdivisions, related to a variety of development standards and processes

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

Town of Collierville Accepting Applications for 2027 Boards and Commissions

The Town of Collierville is accepting applications for appointments to its Boards and Commissions for the 2027 calendar year. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen is seeking applicants to fill approximately 25 seats to serve in advisory roles that support the Town’s planning, development, and community services.

Serving on a Town Board or Commission is an excellent way to get involved in local government and help shape Collierville’s future. The appointment process begins by completing an application, which can be submitted online at colliervilletn.gov/JoinABoard.

Open Positions:

- **Beer Board** – Must be at least 21 years old and a Collierville resident
- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – No minimum requirements, but experience in real estate, homebuilding, architecture, urban planning, engineering, landscape architecture, or retail business is preferred
- **Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals** – Must be qualified by experience or training in building codes or technical trades (e.g., licensed architect, engineer, trade professional, or representative from the building industry)
- **Design Review Commission** – Should have experience in architecture, urban planning, engineering, landscape architecture, or retail business
- **Environmental Commission** – Includes a student representative who must be a junior or senior nominated by their high school principal
- **Heritage Commission** – Must be a Collierville resident
- **Historic District Commission** – Must include a Historic District property owner, someone involved with a local historic organization (e.g., Morton Museum, Main Street, etc.), and professionals (e.g., real estate, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, planning, history, archaeology, or law) with interest, experience, or knowledge in historic preservation
- **Industrial Development Board** – Must be a Collierville resident
- **Library Board** – Must be a Collierville resident
- **Parks Advisory Commission** – Must be a Collierville resident
- **Pension Committee** – Must have experience in financial services or managing defined pension plans
- **Planning Commission** – Must be a Collierville resident
- **Town Beautiful Commission** – Must be a Collierville resident or business leader in Collierville

Application Deadline: November 19, 2026

Current members whose terms expire on December 31, 2026, must also complete a new application to ensure the Board of Mayor and Aldermen has complete and updated information for review.

Applicants will be asked to provide an email address to receive confirmation of receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please call (901) 457-2212 to verify that your application has been received.

Kristie Diamond  
Town Clerk



Anchored in Truth

by Bill White

STEP INTO

THE WATER

In Joshua 3:8, God gives Joshua a very specific command. He tells the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant to the Jordan River and to step into the water. This was not a small request. At that time, the Jordan River was flooded. The water was moving fast and was much deeper than normal. From a human point of view, this command did not make sense at all. God did not explain why He wanted them to do this. He did not show them how it would work. He did not promise that nothing bad would happen. He simply told them to obey.

This moment teaches us something important about how God works. God does not require us to fully understand His will. He asks us to trust Him enough to obey, even when His instructions seem unreasonable. Obedience comes before understanding.

Think about the priests for a moment. They were carrying something holy. If they slipped or fell, the Ark could be damaged. The river could sweep them away. They could have stopped and asked questions. They could have waited for the water to calm down. They could have said, “God, can You fix the problem first, and then we will move?”

But they didn’t do that. They took a step forward. And when their feet touched the water, the river stopped flowing. God made a dry path, and the people crossed safely.

The order matters. The water did not stop first. The step came first.

We face moments like this in our own lives. God may ask us to forgive someone who hurt us deeply. He may ask us to be honest when a lie would be easier. He may ask us to give, serve, or speak up when it feels risky. These commands can feel unfair or uncomfortable. They can even feel scary.

Our natural response is to ask “Why?” or “How will this work?” We want answers before we act. But God often waits to act until we obey. That does not mean He is being unkind. It means He is teaching us to trust Him.

Obedience is not about being perfect. It is about choosing faith over fear. When we obey God, we are saying, “I trust You more than I trust my own understanding.” That kind of trust builds strong faith.

Joshua 3:8 reminds us that God is faithful, even when His plans are not clear. He knows the way forward, even when we do not. Our job is not to control the outcome. Our job is to take the next step.

If you are standing at your own Jordan River today, remember this truth: God may not be asking you to understand everything. He may simply be asking you to step into the water.

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](mailto:bill@peacebridgecoaching.com), or [peacebridgecoaching.com](http://peacebridgecoaching.com).

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2013 CHRYSLER 300  
2C3CCAAG4DH517023

2020 CHEVY MALIBU  
1G1ZB55T0LF001794

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JTDDR32T340171296

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1993 PONTIAC SUNBIRD

3N1BC1CP7CK805167  
2012 NISSAN VERSA

3N1CP5CU7JL519364  
2018 NISSAN KICKS

1HGCR3F90HA001490  
2017 HONDA ACCORD

WDDGF4HB6EA958321  
2014 MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS

KNMAT2MV9LP523588  
2020 NISSAN ROGUE

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2023 HYUNDAI SANTA FE

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2011 CHRYSLER 200

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2013 LEXUS GS 350

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VINTAGE AUTOMOTIVE

5351 HWY 51 N. MEMPHIS, TN 38127

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD FOR TO SATISFY TOW AND STORAGE FEES ON

NOVEMBER 5, 2026 @ 9:00 A.M.

2015 NISSAN VERSA  
3N1CN7AP1FL842007

1998 FORD RANGER  
1FTYR14X2PA54180

2015 NISSAN ALTIMA  
1N4AL3AP5FC429043

2017 INFINITI QX60  
5N1DLOMNXHC549628

2016 TOYOTA COROLLA  
5YFBURHE1GP535937

DIRTY SOUTH TOWING

905 Estival Place, Memphis, TN 38126

The following vehicle will be sold to satisfy storage and tow fees on

NOVEMBER 5

AT 9 A.M.

2017 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT  
NM0LS7E75H1321072

2024 TOYOTA CAMRY  
4T1C11AKXRU254297

2007 NISSAN XTERRA  
5N1AN08W97C528753

2026 VW JETTA  
3VVW5W7BU1TM034704

DIRTY SOUTH TOWING

905 Estival Place, Memphis, TN 38126

The following vehicle will be sold to satisfy storage and tow fees on

NOVEMBER 19

AT 9 A.M.

1993 HARLEY DAVIDSON FXS  
1HD1BKL10PY010987

2013 CHRYSLER 200  
1C3CCBCG4DN719595

2016 TOYOTA PRIUS  
JTDKDTB35G1137445

2024 HYUNDAI TUCSON  
KM8JEC18RU170411

B&B TOWING, LLC

2574 SUMMER, MEMPHIS 38112

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD TO SATISFY STORAGE AND TOW FEES ON

11/4/2026:

2007 HOND ACC  
VIN# 1HGCCM66597A016825

2007 INFI G35  
VIN# JNKBV61E67M722789

2012 NISS ALT  
VIN# 1N4AL2EP1CC116619

2007 HOND CIV  
VIN# 1HGFA16897L055129

2011 CHEV IMPALA  
VIN# 2G1WGS5E1B1239523

1995 GMC SI  
VIN# 1GTEC14205Z525070

2012 FRHT SPR  
VIN# WDYPE8CC6C5666375

2004 DODG R15  
VIN# 1D7HA18N145736418

2012 NISS VSL  
VIN# 3N1BC1CP5CK202850

1993 MERCURY CAPRI  
VIN# 6MPCT0363P8647596

2008 NSSSAN ALT  
VIN# 1N4BL24E98C252119

2011 KIA FORTE  
VIN# KNAFU4A27B5452407

2012 MERZ GL3  
VIN# WDCGG5GB4CF780238

2004 LINC  
VIN# 1LNHM83W74Y685509

2015 CHEV SUB  
VIN# 1GNSKJKC4FR687723

2014 CHEV MAL  
VIN# 1G11B5SL2EF266216

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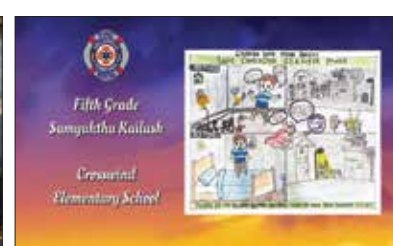
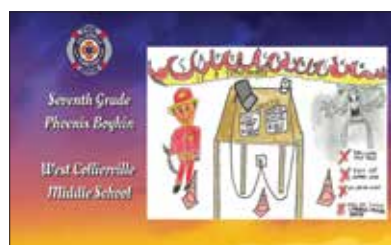
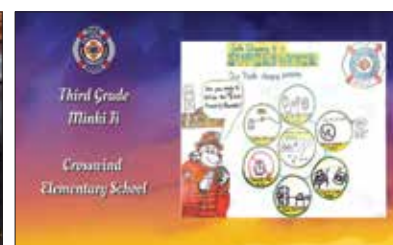
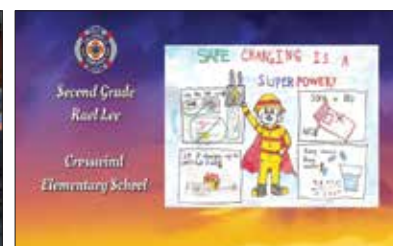
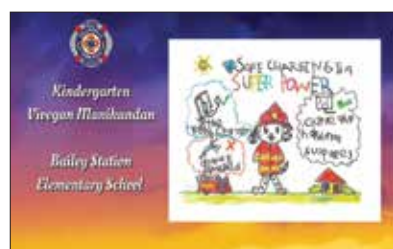
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Continued from A1

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