



See the Fall 2026 Senior Living Section Inside!

Collierville

Herald Independent

Collierville's hometown news since 1870

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 \$1 VOL. 156 ISSUE 39



Photos: Roger Cotton Photography/ RogerCotton.com

BRINGING THE HEAT

Dragons flame up Arlington in first league game of season

Thomas Seller, Jr.
Richardson Media Group

The records coming into the Region 7-6A showdown would lead a casual fan to believe the Collierville Dragons were in for another tough test.

The unbeaten Arlington Tigers opened league play in Collierville,

while the Dragons entered the contest with one win in four games. Collierville quickly established why it was the defending Region champion, jumping out to a 21-0 lead.

The Dragons (2-3, 1-0 in Region 7-6A) added 28 points in the second quarter to defeat the Tigers 55-7. Dragon quarterback Dominic Roc-

coni led Collierville with 190 yards passing and 5 touchdowns in the air.

The Dragons' offensive attack was balanced. Larry Johnson rushed for 105 yards and a TD on seven carries. Lucas Barksdale was one of Rocconi's favorite targets Friday night. Barksdale collected three catches, all resulting in touchdowns for 114 yards.

The Dragons travel to the Bartlett Panthers for another Region 7-6A showdown this Friday. The Panthers go into the battle with a record of 3-2. Bartlett lost 38-35 in their recent league battle against the Houston Mustangs.

The Tigers are now 4-1 on the season and 0-1 in league play. They play next when they host the Lake-

land Prep.

Lions for a non-league battle this Friday. Arlington will play a Lions team coming off a 47-0 league win over Fayette-Ware. The Lions' record now stands at 3-2.



COLLIERVILLE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MOLLY MEHNER STEPS DOWN

Staff Reports

Collierville Town Administrator Molly Mehner has stepped down following the fulfillment of her employment and contract obligations, and Deputy Town Administrator Katrina Amos-Atkins has been appointed to serve as interim administrator, town officials announced.

Mehner's departure was effective Friday, Sept. 18. The town said all employment obligations and contract requirements related to her tenure had been satisfied and that a severance agreement

See Mehner, page A8

KATRINA AMOS-ATKINS NAMED INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Collierville

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Collierville Mayor, Maureen Fraser, pursuant to the responsibility outlined in the Town of Collierville Charter, has appointed, with the full support of the Board, Deputy Town Administrator, Katrina Amos-Atkins, as Interim Town Administrator for the Town of Collierville, effective immediately. Ms. Amos-Atkins will oversee operations across 12 departments and more than 600 employees while the Board conducts a search for a permanent successor.

Ms. Amos-Atkins has served as Deputy Town Administrator of Collierville since September 2024 and has been closely involved in the day-to-day administration of the Town, departmental coordination, and ongoing projects. During her tenure in Collierville, Ms. Amos-Atkins has had direct oversight of Animal Services since April 2025, worked to refine and strengthen the Town's Emergency Preparedness Opera-

tions Plan, played an integral role in the ongoing implementation of the Town's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, led the project management for the Library Expansion and Renovation, and created and executed training and orientation for the Town's Boards and Commissions.

Before coming to Collierville, Ms. Amos-Atkins most recently served as the Airport Manager for the City of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in business management and leadership from Purdue University Global. In 2026 Engaging Local Government (ELGL) named Amos-Atkins as one of the nation's top local government influencers. She has served on multiple boards, including the Missouri State Aviation Council and the Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce. She and her husband, Leroy have three children.

"Katrina Amos-Atkins, brings deep institutional knowledge to



this role, and the Board is confident in their ability to lead our staff and maintain the services our residents count on. This is

a moment for steady leadership and Katrina is well-positioned to

See Interim, page A8



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COLLIERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC UNIT RECOGNIZED FOR ROADWAY SAFETY

Staff Reports

The Collierville Police Department traffic unit was recognized for its continued commitment to roadway safety at the 22nd annual Law Enforcement Challenge, held during the 38th annual Tennessee Lifesavers Conference last weekend.

CPD earned second place in the 101-200 officers category and received the West Tennessee Regional Law Enforcement Challenge Award.

Hosted annually by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office, the Law Enforcement

Challenge recognizes agencies and individuals for outstanding efforts in areas such as traffic enforcement, impaired driving prevention, child passenger safety, drug recognition and teen driver safety.

The awards recognize departments that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to highway safety through enforcement, education and traffic safety initiatives within the communities they serve.

Source: Collierville Police Department



Country Star Collin Raye to Perform at Harrell Theatre

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Country music superstar Collin Raye, a 10-time Male Vocalist of the Year nominee with 16 No. 1 hits, will take the stage Oct. 1 at the Harrell Performing Arts Theatre.

With millions of albums sold worldwide, the ‘90s hitmaker brings his high-energy show to Collierville as part of the Harrell Live series. Because the intimate venue seats only 350 guests, high demand is expected and seating is limited.

Event: Collin Raye in Concert (*Harrell Live* Headliner)
Date: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026
Location: Harrell Performing Arts Theatre, 440 W. Powell Road, Collierville
Capacity: 350 seats
Tickets: On sale now at freshtix.com or collierville.tn.gov/HarrellLive

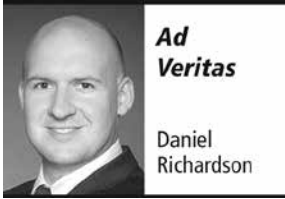
Source: Town of Collierville



COMMENDED STUDENTS: Collierville High School proudly recognizes 15 seniors named Commended Students in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program. This recognition reflects their exceptional academic promise and outstanding performance on the qualifying assessment. Commended students are Mia Arredondo, Angeline Chen, Amrutha Varshini Ganti, Nabil Ibrahim, Jessica Jin, Knish Kathirya, Uttej Katikaneni, Satvik Koya, Balaji Kundapura Srinivasa, Matthew McGregor, Yuvraj Raghuvanshi, Dylan Rashid, Maret Roberts, Srinithi Srinivasan, and Makayla Young.

Photo courtesy of Collierville High School

HALFWAY ALREADY?



Ad Veritas

Daniel Richardson

Didn't we just start football season?

It seems like I was just writing about opening night, looking forward to another season of packed stands, marching bands and hometown rivalries. Now Friday, Sept. 18, has come and gone, marking Week 5 of Tennessee's high school football season. For teams that haven't had an open date, five of their 10 regular-season games are already behind them.

I'm not sure how that happened. I barely feel like I've settled into the season, and we're already talking about the second half.

The weather certainly isn't helping. According to the National Weather Service, Jackson reached 99 degrees Sunday, Sept. 20—16 degrees above its normal high for that date. It's hard to get into the spirit of fall football when stepping outside still feels like opening the oven. The schedule says we're heading into Week 6, but the temperature feels more like Week 1.

Meanwhile, some teams are giving their fans plenty to be excited about. Across

West Tennessee, Westview, Huntingdon, Humboldt, Lexington and Jackson Christian came through the fifth week with perfect 5–0 records. Munford remained unbeaten at 4–0, while Memphis Central and Southwind were also 5–0. Those are some impressive starts, and congratulations are certainly in order.

Of course, the standings don't tell the whole story. Some teams have already worked through a particularly difficult stretch of their schedule, while others still have their biggest tests ahead.

Camden is a good example of why it helps to look

beyond the overall record. The Lions are 1–4 overall but 1–0 in region play, and their five remaining games are all region contests. Their early schedule included Huntingdon, Dyersburg and McKenzie. That doesn't make the losses any less disappointing, but there is still an opportunity to shape a different second half.

Even the unbeaten teams have plenty left to prove. Westview, for example, finishes its regular season against Dyersburg and Covington. Getting through September without a loss is an accomplishment, but nobody gets to skip Oc-

tober on the strength of a good start.

That is part of what makes this point in the season interesting. Some fans are beginning to imagine a deep playoff run. Others are hoping their team can turn a corner. There is still plenty of football left, even if there is considerably less of it than I would like.

The older I get, the more familiar that feeling becomes. You spend weeks looking forward to something, and then, while you're busy enjoying it—or simply keeping up with everything else—it starts slipping behind you. Football season seems especial-

ly good at demonstrating that.

For seniors and their families, that passing time means a little more. These aren't just games on a schedule. They are some of the last Friday nights wearing that uniform, playing in that band or cheering along that sideline. Another season will come around for the rest of us, but this particular group won't get another one quite like it.

So I hope we make the most of the weeks ahead. Go to the game. Take the pictures. Visit with the people sitting beside you. Encourage the kids, whether their team is undefeated or

still trying to find its footing.

There may even be some relief from the heat. The National Weather Service expects cooler air to spread across the Mid-South this week, with afternoon temperatures dropping into the lower to mid-80s across much of the region by Wednesday and Thursday. That sounds considerably more reasonable.

I'm ready for an evening that calls for a sweatshirt instead of another bottle of water. I'm just not ready for the season to be over.

Hopefully, fall will get here before football leaves.



TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE
PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission for the Town of Collierville will meet on December 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers at Town Hall, 500 Poplar View Parkway, to consider the following:

Planning Commission Resolution 2026-B (Public Hearing) - A Resolution of the Planning Commission of the Town of Collierville Amending the Subdivision Regulations as follows: Amend Table of Contents related to various changes in section titles; Amend Article II, Section 1 related to General Procedure, Amend Article II, Section 2 related to Sketch Plats; Amend Article II, Section 3 related to Preliminary Plat and Subdivision Infrastructure Construction Plans (Major Subdivisions Only); Article IV, Section 1 related to the Sketch Plat Application; Article IV, Section 2 related to the Preliminary Subdivision Plat Application; Article IV, Section 3 related to the Construction Drawing Submittal; Article IV, Section 4 related to the Final Subdivision Plat Application; and, Article V, Section 2 related to Words and Terms Defined.

Applicant: Town of Collierville (Michael J. Clark, AICP, CNU-A)
Project Planner: Jaime W. Groce, AICP

Copies of staff reports are available for review six (6) 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.collierville.tn.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.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Collierville Library Celebrates
September Library Card Sign-Up Month

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — The Collierville Burch Library is celebrating Library Card Sign-Up Month throughout September with events, activities and a prize drawing for new cardholders.

This year’s national theme is “A Library Card Hits All the Right Notes.” Library officials are encouraging residents to sign up for or renew a library card and explore the library’s books, movies, programs and other resources.

Anyone who signs up for a library card during September will be entered into a prize drawing. Winners will be announced Oct. 1.

The library also will offer a scavenger hunt throughout the month and a photo booth. Registration is required for all events except the scavenger hunt.

Scheduled events include:

- School of Rock Showcase with Nashoba, Sept. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Nashoba.
- Library Scavenger Hunt, available throughout September.

Source: Town of Collierville

TENNESSEE SHAKESPEARE COMPANY TO PRESENT
‘LOVE’S LABOR’S LOST’ ON SATURDAY

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Shakespeare Company will present “Love’s Labor’s Lost” Sept. 26 as part of its 10th annual free Shout-Out Shakespeare Series.

The performance will begin at 7 p.m. on the Depot platform at Town Square, 125 N. Rowlett St.

The Shakespeare comedy follows the king of Navarre and his friends as they establish an academy and vow to avoid women for three years. Their plans are disrupted when the Princess of France and her companions arrive.



The 90-minute adaptation features actors portraying multiple roles and uses staging techniques inspired by the traveling Shakespeare companies of the period.

Admission is free, and no tickets are required. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnic items.

The event will be held outdoors at the Depot Visitors Center.

For more information, residents can contact Victoria McDaniel, Collierville’s cultural arts coordinator.

A NIGHT OF OPERA
COMING SEPTEMBER 29

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — On a September evening in downtown Collierville, the historic Morton Museum will trade its usual quiet for the soaring voices of Opera Memphis.

The museum will host “Opera’s Greatest Hits” on Tuesday, Sept. 29, as part of Opera Memphis’ annual 30 Days of Opera initiative. The free performance will feature professional vocalists performing beloved arias and timeless classics.

For 15 years, Opera Memphis has spent a month bringing free, accessible performances to communities throughout Memphis and Shelby County. The initiative is rooted in the idea that music can connect people and open the door to new experiences.

The Morton Museum, a sponsor of the program, will bring that mission to Collierville with an evening designed for both longtime opera fans and those experiencing the art form for the first time.

The concert begins at 6:30 p.m., with doors opening at 6 p.m., at the museum, 196 N. Main St. Seating is limited to 80 guests, and registration is required, although admission is free.

Residents can register through the Town of Collierville’s online registration form: <https://www.collierville.tn.gov/Home/Components/FormBuilder/FormBuilder/3882416ca5d5f46b971b629d/>

For one evening, some of opera’s greatest music will have a distinctly Collierville setting — bringing the power of live performance right to the community.

Source: Town of Collierville

FIRST ALERT WEATHER 10 DAY FORECAST GOLD STRIKE

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
FALL 7:05 PM				20%		20%	
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64	64	66	64	66	66		84

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Collierville Herald Independent

Collierville's hometown news since 1870

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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.

Pride of Collierville to perform ‘On Air’
at Memphis Marching Clinic

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — The Pride of Collierville Marching Band will present an exhibition performance of its 2026 production, “On Air,” Saturday, Sept. 26, at Landers Stadium during the Memphis Marching Clinic.

The musical lineup includes “Radio GaGa,” a classical medley, “At Last” and “Video Killed the Radio Star.”

The local band will field its performance alongside six other high school marching bands from across the Memphis area.

Gates open at 6 p.m., and the event begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available online at <https://gofan.co/event/6855365>.

Source: Collierville Schools



FINANCIAL FOCUS:
Stay one step ahead
of cybercriminals

Y our financial security is only as strong as your digital security. A single stolen password, convincing scam or fraudulent investment offer can lead to lost savings, damaged credit or hours spent recovering compromised accounts. As our financial lives move increasingly online, protecting your personal information is part of protecting your financial future.

Cybercriminals are getting smarter, and technology like AI is making their job easier. But fortunately, some consistent habits can help protect you from many of today’s common threats.

Watch out for phishing. Phishing is a common way criminals break into accounts and steal money. These attacks often arrive as emails, texts or phone calls that appear to come from your bank, employer or another trusted organization. Fake websites can trick you into typing in your password or financial details.

To protect yourself, verify unexpected requests through a separate channel, such as calling a company directly using a number from its official website rather than one provided in a suspicious message. Avoid clicking unexpected links and consider using a password manager which auto-fills your login information only on legitimate websites.

Strengthen your accounts.

Stolen passwords give criminals easy access to your email, banking and social media accounts. Try using a unique password for every account and enable multifactor authentication whenever it’s offered. When possible, choose phishing-resistant options like passkeys or security keys; they’re harder for scammers to bypass than basic text message codes.

Be skeptical of urgency. Scammers increasingly use deepfakes, which leverage AI-generated voices, videos and images to convincingly impersonate trusted people, including company executives, advisors and even family members. These messages often create pressure to send money or share sensitive information immediately.

If you receive an urgent request that feels off, slow down. Hang up and try calling back to the person or organization using a known phone number. Many successful scams rely on emotional pressure rather than technical tricks, so a moment of skepticism can go a long way.

Protect your money and identity. Fraudulent investment platforms and cryptocurrency schemes continue to cost Americans billions of dollars each year. Be cautious of investment opportunities promoted through unsolicited messages or social media contacts, and always verify a platform independently before sending money. If you’re unsure whether an opportunity is legitimate, a financial advisor can help evaluate it before you invest.

Data breaches can also put your information at risk, even when you’ve done everything right. It’s smart to check your bank and credit card statements regularly for unfamiliar charges, and to freeze your credit if you suspect your information has been compromised. You may also choose to freeze your credit preemptively.

Keep your devices updated. Software updates often fix security weaknesses that criminals could otherwise exploit. Backing up important files, whether to the cloud or an external drive, also protects you if ransomware ever locks you out of your own data.

Small habits matter. Unique passwords, multifactor authentication and skepticism help stop many scams before they start. Take steps to help safeguard your money, identity and long-term financial goals.



This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor - Tom Shelley. Visit his office at 7730 Wolf River Blvd. #107, Germantown or call (901)751-1212. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

**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 12, 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 2026-08 (Public Hearing) – An ordinance to Amend Title XV, Land Usage, Chapter 150: Building Regulations of the Town of Collierville by amending sections 150.020 through 150.305 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Collierville

Ordinance 2026-09 (Public Hearing) - An ordinance to Amend Title IX, General Regulations, Chapter 91: Fire Prevention and Protection by amending sections 91.01 through 91.41 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Collierville.

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.collierville.tn.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.



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FISH DAY!

IT'S TIME TO STOCK YOUR POND!

Delivery will be:

Tuesday, October 6

Collierville 8:00 - 8:45 @ Russell's Farm Supply

Oakland 9:30 - 10:15 @ Stockdale's

Somerville 11:00 - 11:45 @ Somerville Farm Supply

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Anchored in Truth

by Bill White

LESSONS FROM

THE COACHING CHAIR:

Looking Toward 57

I turn 57 this year.

That is not a milestone birthday in the usual sense, but it has made me think more seriously about what the next few years are supposed to look like.

At this age, the future does not feel quite as abstract as it did at 37 or even 47. Retirement is no longer some distant idea. My children are getting older. My parents need more help. Work, health, money, family, and faith all seem to carry a little more weight than they once did.

So I have been asking myself a simple question: What do I want my life to look like at 60?

That question has forced me to think beyond money.

In coaching, I spend a lot of time helping people plan for the future financially. We talk about debt, savings, retirement, and cash flow. Those things matter. They matter a great deal. But a well-funded retirement account does not guarantee a well-lived life.

For me, it helps to think through what I call the seven Fs: Faith, Family, Finances, Fitness, Friends, Fun, and Future.

Faith has to be the starting point. If I get everything else right and lose sight of who I am supposed to be in Christ, then the rest is just activity. I do not want to build a life that looks successful from the outside but feels spiritually empty on the inside.

Family comes next because time moves quickly. Children grow up. Parents age. Marriages need attention. I do not want to look back and realize I was present physically but absent mentally. One of the hardest lessons at this stage of life is realizing that some seasons do not come back.

Finances still matter, of course. I want to be wise, prepared, and generous. I want the freedom to make decisions based on purpose instead of fear. But I am also learning that money is a tool, not the scoreboard. More is not always better if getting more costs too much somewhere else.

Fitness has become harder to ignore. At 57, health decisions have consequences. The body keeps a record. Strength, sleep, movement, and eating well are no longer side projects. They are part of preparing for the years ahead.

Friends and fun matter too. Life cannot be only work and responsibility. Relationships need tending, and joy needs room on the calendar. I want enough margin in my life to laugh, travel, share a meal, and spend time with people I care about without always feeling rushed.

Then there is the future, especially work and purpose. I find myself thinking less about climbing a ladder and more about whether the work I am doing still fits the man I want to become. I am increasingly interested in work that matters, uses what I have learned, and leaves room for the rest of life.

Proverbs 16:9 says, “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”

I like the balance in that verse.

We are supposed to plan. We are supposed to think ahead. But we are also supposed to hold those plans with open hands.

That may be the real challenge of turning 57. Not predicting the future. Preparing for it.

And trying to become, one decision at a time, the man I hope to be at 60.



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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EMMANUEL BAPTIST 945 QUINN RD (901)854-2411	EAST SHELBY CHURCH OF CHRIST 4700 MAYFIELD RD W (901)759-1242	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 580 COLLIERVILLE ARLINGTON RD (901)861-0541
FOREST HILL BAPTIST 3645 FOREST HILL IRENE RD (901)754-5418	POWELL RD CHURCH OF CHRIST 326 W POWELL RD (901)854-6816 CHURCH OF GOD	PENTECOSTAL
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2018 CHEVROLET CRUZE
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COLLIERVILLE RESTAURANT SCORES 67 AFTER BARE-HAND CONTACT, COOLER AT 62 DEGREES

Margaritas lowest of 17 inspections; Kami Ramen scores 73, Skybox Grill 77

COLLIERVILLE — Margaritas, 875 W. Poplar Ave., Suite 31, scored 67 in a routine inspection September 21, the lowest of 17 Collierville inspections during the week of September 15 through 22.

An inspector observed an employee scooping cut radishes into a container with bare hands and no gloves; both containers were discarded. The first prep cooler was reading 62 degrees, and sliced tomatoes at 59 degrees and diced tomatoes at 55 degrees inside it were discarded along with all other items above 41 degrees. The restaurant was told not to use the cooler until it is repaired.

Baked potatoes cooked at 10 a.m. were found on the grill prep counter at 77 degrees. Numerous items in the walk-in cooler were being held more than 24 hours with no date marking, and items dated September 3, 8 and 12 were discarded for exceeding the seven-day limit. Raw fish and raw shrimp were stored above produce, brown build-up was found inside the ice machine, and the dishwasher was not dispensing sanitizer. The report notes employee health policy, cooling, date marking and proper storage fact sheets were all provided in Spanish.

Kami Ramen, 875 W. Poplar Ave., Suite 22, scored 73 the same day. Raw squid was found stored inside the kitchen hand sink and was discarded, raw chicken was stored

above produce and raw beef above bean sprouts, and both prep table cutting boards were worn with deep grooves. The inspector documented date marking inconsistencies with items dated August 2 through September 10 alongside numerous undated items, and found the dishwasher not dispensing sanitizer.

The Skybox Grill & Bar, 2140 W. Poplar Ave., Suites 101-102, scored 77 September 17. Numerous items in the salad bar prep cooler and walk-in cooler were above 41 degrees and were discarded, with both units reading 45 degrees and ordered out of use. Lettuce was stored next to and on top of raw beef, and raw crab cakes above onions and sauce. The report states the permit is expired and must be paid within 48 hours. The establishment’s bar scored a perfect 100.

McDonald’s #22859, 3675 Houston Levee Rd., scored 87 September 16 and was given a follow-up date of September 25. The inspector cited a drive-through beverage nozzle with organic dark specks, unlabeled food items, uncovered food, a drive-through employee twice using a beverage cup as a scoop, employees handling food without hair restraints, and an employee with decorative fingernail polish handling fries without gloves.

Two more establishments scored 91. Sam’s Donuts,

392 New Byhalia Rd., was cited September 21 for heavy buildup inside the oven and fryer, food buildup on doughnut racks and the frosting prep table, no paper towels in the employee restroom, and an expired permit due within 48 hours. Carrington Oaks Coffee House, 914 Carrington Oaks, was cited the same day for waste water coming out of the floor drains, with the report directing it to remain closed until the situation is repaired, along with a 2022 inspection report still posted.

Chick-fil-A #1130, 1036 W. Poplar, scored 97 September 21, also cited for an expired permit due within 48 hours.

Five Collierville schools were inspected. Tara Oaks Elementary, 600 Harpers Ferry Rd., and Schilling Elementary, 935 Colbert St., each scored 100. Collierville Middle School and St. George High School each scored 99, Collierville High Culinary Arts scored 98, and Collierville High School Cafeteria scored 97 after two drink coolers were found at 50 and 54 degrees.

Memphis National Golf Club, 10135 National Club Dr., scored 96 in the kitchen and 99 at the bar. Taco 4 Life, 3565 S. Houston Levee Rd., scored 96.

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

Kami Ramen — 875 W. Poplar Ave., Suite 22
Food service, routine, September 21 — Score: 73
Numerous priority violations regarding food contact surfaces cleaned and sanitized, proper date marking, food separated and protected, and hand sinks properly accessible for handwashing.
Raw squid stored inside of the kitchen hand sink. All raw squid inside the sink was discarded.
Raw chicken stored above produce in the walk-in cooler; raw beef stored above bean sprouts in the prep cooler.
Cardboard box stored on top of food inside the prep cooler; plastic bin stored on top of food in the prep cooler.
Both prep table cutting boards worn with deep grooves and stains; asked to discard and replace.
Date marking inconsistencies throughout the kitchen.
Food items dated 8/2, 8/3, 8/10, 8/12, 8/24, 8/31 and 9/10 were present, along with numerous items without a date.
Missing internal thermometers in all coolers and freezers.
Unlabeled food containers.
Wiping cloths stored on a rolling cart.
Clean bowls not properly inverted.
Dishwasher not dispensing sanitizer; asked to repair and to sanitize only in the three-compartment sink until repaired.
Food buildup on the floors.
Margaritas — 875 W. Poplar Ave., Suite 31
Food service, routine, September 21 — Score: 67
Numerous priority violations regarding bare hand contact with ready-to-eat foods, proper cold holding, proper date marking and disposition, proper cooling, and food contact surfaces cleaned and sanitized.
Employee scooping cut radishes with bare hands into a container without gloves. Both containers were discarded.
Raw fish stored above produce and raw shrimp above produce in the walk-in cooler.
Brown buildup inside of the ice machine.
Baked potatoes on the grill prep counter at 77 degrees; person in charge stated the potatoes were cooked at 10 a.m.
Sliced tomatoes at 59 degrees and diced tomatoes at 55 degrees in the first prep cooler. All items above 41 degrees inside the cooler were discarded.
Numerous items held over 24 hours without dates in the walk-in cooler. Items dated 9/3, 9/8 and 9/12 were discarded.
First prep cooler reading 62 degrees. Asked not to use the prep cooler until it is repaired and can maintain 41 degrees or colder.
Missing internal thermometers in the first prep cooler, walk-in cooler and walk-in freezer; broken thermometer in the second prep cooler.
Unlabeled food containers.
Food stored on the ground in the walk-in cooler; beverages stored on the ground; uncovered food in the walk-in cooler and freezer.
Clean plates not properly inverted.
Rusty shelves in the walk-in cooler.
Dishwasher not dispensing sanitizer. Asked not to use it until repaired; all dishes to be sanitized in the three-compartment sink.
Food buildup on the floors.
Comment: employee health policy, cooling fact sheet, date marking fact sheet and proper storage fact sheets in Spanish all provided.
Chick-fil-A #1130 — 1036 W. Poplar
Food service, routine, September 21 — Score: 97
Food buildup on the raw chicken cooler and on the door handle.
Numerous bags of trash on the ground at the back door entrance.
Wet floors throughout the kitchen with food buildup.
Permit is expired and must be paid within 48 hours.

This Week’s Inspections at a Glance

Collierville health inspections, September 15-22, 2026. Source: Tennessee Department of Health / Shelby County Health Department.

McDonald’s #22859 — 3675 Houston Levee Rd.
Food service, routine, September 16 — Score: 87
Drive-through beverage nozzle with organic dark specks. Corrective action: clean the beverage nozzle nightly.
Unlabeled food items in the beverage milk cooler, orange juice, and kitchen stand-up cooler where three trays of burritos were not labeled.
Uncovered food items including beef steak, desserts in the freezer, and cooked bacon in the kitchen.
Drive-through employee twice used a beverage cup as a scoop.
Employee with a cell phone watch handling food.
Employees actively handling and preparing food without hair restraints.
Dishroom clean utensils and holding cabinet trays stored wet.
Employees with decorative fingernail polish handling fries at the fry station without gloves.
Person in charge unable to locate chlorine test strips for the sanitizer buckets.
Exterior of the grill with buildup of grease and oil.
Cell phones improperly stored on the kitchen counters.
Comment: asked to correct the priority violation prior to follow-up visit September 25.
Taco 4 Life — 3565 S. Houston Levee Rd.
Food service, routine, September 16 — Score: 96
Unlabeled cookies in the countertop display.
Employee handling and preparing food is not wearing any hair restraints.
Dried food debris and splatters on the undersides of the make line shelves.
Dried grease and oil debris on the walls behind the grill.
Asked to post a non-smoking sign at the entrance door.
The Skybox Grill & Bar — 2140 W. Poplar Ave., Suites 101-102
Food service, routine, September 17 — Score: 77
Lettuce stored next to and on top of raw beef; raw crab cakes stored over onions and sauce. Correct storage order is produce and ready-to-eat foods on the top shelf, raw fish, raw beef, then raw chicken on the bottom shelf.
Numerous items in the salad bar prep cooler and in the walk-in cooler reading above 41 degrees. All out-of-temperature items were discarded from both coolers.
Salad bar prep cooler reading 45 degrees and walk-in cooler reading 45 degrees. Asked not to use either cooler until they can consistently maintain 41 degrees or colder.
Prep table cutting board worn with deep grooves and stains; asked to discard and replace.
Missing internal thermometers in most of the coolers and freezers.
Unlabeled food containers and sauce bottles.
Containers of chicken stored on the ground in the walk-in cooler.
Wiping cloths stored on the counter.
Clean plates and pans not properly inverted.
Rust buildup on the shelves in the walk-in cooler; broken handle on the salad bar prep cooler; heavy rust buildup on the deep freezer lid.
Stained ceiling tiles, cracked floor tiles and stained walls throughout the kitchen.
Permit is expired and must be paid within 48 hours.
The Skybox Grill & Bar - Bar — 2140 W. Poplar Ave., Suites 101-102

Food service, routine, September 17 — Score: 100
No violations noted.
Memphis National Golf Club - Kitchen — 10135 National Club Dr.
Food service, routine, September 17 — Score: 96
Unlabeled squeeze bottles above grill area.
Plates stored upright on the prep line.
Buildup of food debris on the outside of the toaster on the prep table.
Two lightbulbs out under vent hood.
Memphis National Golf Club - Bar — 10135 National Club Dr.
Food service, routine, September 17 — Score: 99
Water buildup and smell from the keg coolers; coolers need to be washed out thoroughly.
Schilling Elementary School — 935 Colbert St.
Food service, routine, September 17 — Score: 100
No violations noted.
Collierville High School Cafeteria — 11605 E. Shelby Dr.
Food service, routine, September 18 — Score: 97
Two drink coolers at 54 degrees and 50 degrees; coolers need to be serviced to maintain proper cold holding at 41 degrees and below.
Two lights out under vent hood.
Collierville Middle School — 580 Quinn Rd.
Food service, routine, September 18 — Score: 99
Three lights out under vent hood.
Light fixture out in dry storage room.
St. George High School — 1880 Wolf River
Food service, routine, September 18 — Score: 99
Boxes of lids and trays stored on the ground.
Tara Oaks Elementary School — 600 Harpers Ferry Rd.
Food service, routine, September 18 — Score: 100
No violations noted.
Collierville High Culinary Arts — 11605 E. Shelby Dr.
Food service, routine, September 18 — Score: 98
Students not wearing gloves while preparing food.
Five light bulbs out under vent hoods throughout the kitchen.
Sam’s Donuts, Inc. — 392 New Byhalia Rd.
Food service, routine, September 21 — Score: 91
Missing thermometers in the deep freezer and cooler.
Bags of open flour and containers of icing stored on the ground; box of deli paper stored on the ground.
Heavy buildup on the interior of the oven and fryer.
No chlorine test strips.
Food buildup on the doughnut racks, on the exterior of all kitchen equipment, and significant buildup on the frosting prep table.
No paper towels in the employee restroom.
Stained walls with food buildup, stained ceiling tiles, broken and cracked floor tiles, and significant buildup on the kitchen floors around all equipment.
Buildup on the vent hood and vents.
Permit is expired and must be paid within 48 hours.
Carrington Oaks Coffee House — 914 Carrington Oaks
Food service, routine, September 21 — Score: 91
Waste water coming out of the floor drains. Asked to remain closed until the situation has been repaired.
Internal thermometers missing from most of the coolers and freezers.
Unlabeled food containers in the prep cooler.
Employees preparing food and drinks without wearing hair restraints.
Wiping cloths stored on the hand sink splash guard.
Boxes of plastic cups stored on the ground; plastic to-go trays not properly inverted.
Handle broken off the cooler near the three-compartment sink.
Liquid spilled in the bottom of the milk cooler; food buildup inside the cooler near the prep cooler.
Asked to post the current permit.
Inspection from 2022 posted; asked to post the most recent inspection report.

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COLLIERVILLE FOURTH GRADERS TAKE FLIGHT WITH HANDS-ON DRONE STEM PROJECT

Staff Reports

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Fourth-grade STEM students at Schilling Farms Elementary School are launching into the new school year with a hands-on engineering initiative that lets them build and operate their own drones.

Under the direction of STEM teacher Mrs. Plunk, the young students are constructing aerial devices from the ground up, providing them with direct insight into how modern technology is designed, assembled, and applied in real-world industries.

Throughout the academic year, the curriculum will expand beyond physical assembly to include flight safety procedures and computer programming. Students will learn how to write code to program and control their



drones autonomously.

School educators say the initiative aims to build foundational skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while fostering critical thinking, innovation, and practical

problem-solving.

"The mission is clear: build, code, fly, and learn," the school stated in an announcement highlighting the program's goals.

Source: Collierville Schools

TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE TRE HARGETT VISITS COLLIERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TO PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Staff Reports

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Collierville High School recently welcomed Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett to speak with dual-enrollment government students. During his visit, Hargett emphasized the importance of civic engagement, encouraging students to register to vote and actively

participate in the democratic process.

Students had the opportunity to learn firsthand about the role of voting in shaping communities and the importance of staying informed and involved as future citizens.

Anna Graham and Allison Collier coordinated the event.

Source: Collierville Schools



MEHNER, Continued from A1

was executed following the decision.

"Ms. Mehner served the Town honorably, and the Town appreciates her dedicated service," municipal officials said in a statement.

Mehner had served as Collierville's town administrator since October 2022.

INTERIM, Continued from A1

provide that as we move forward together as a Town and through the selection process of a permanent Town Administrator," said Mayor Maureen Fraser.

The recruitment and selection process for new Town Administrator will begin in the coming days and be bro-

ken into a series of engaged activities beginning with the release of an RFP for a firm to oversee the search and recruitment process. Included in this process will be collecting staff and community feedback on the priorities for a new Town Administrator.

Town operations will continue without interruption during this transition. Katrina Amos-Atkins can be reached at 901.457.2200 or katkins@colliervilletn.gov for matters requiring the Town Administrator's office.

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The Dynamix Power 10 Rankings presented by West 10 Media returns for the 2026 season. The teams from the coverage area for The Bartlett Express, The Collierville Herald-Independent, The Leader, The Millington Star, and The Germantown News & Shelby Sun Times, including Arlington, Bartlett, Cordova, Collierville, Germantown, Millington and Tipton County were eligible. With several residents from those cities attending Christian Brothers High School and Memphis University School, those two teams were also eligible for the rankings. Check out each paper throughout the season to stay updated on the rankings. Here are the rankings going into Week 6

POWER 10 2026

WEEK 6

1. Munford (4-0) vs. Whitehaven
W 38-14 vs. Haywood

2. Briarcrest (5-0) vs. Southwind
W 49-0 @ St. Benedict

3. St. George's (4-1) @ HW Byers (Miss.)
W 30-12 vs. North Panola (Miss.)

4. Covington (4-1) vs. Ripley
W 64-13 @ Obion County

5. Arlington (4-1) vs. Lakeland Prep.
L 55-7 @ Collierville

6. St. Benedict (4-1) vs. Northpoint
L 49-0 vs. Briarcrest

7. Bartlett (3-2) vs. Collierville
L 38-35 @ Houston

8. CBHS (3-2) vs. PURE
L 43-7 vs. Brentwood Academy

9. Bolton (3-2) vs. Douglass
W 12-8 @ Millington

10. ECS (3-2) vs. Hardin County
W 35-3 vs. Tipton-Rosemark

WEEK 5

1. Munford

2. Briarcrest

3. St. George's

4. Arlington

5. St. Benedict

6. CBHS

7. Covington

8. Bartlett

9. Cordova

10. Germantown

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