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THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026

\$1

VOL. 156 ISSUE 35

COLLIERVILLE FIRE CHIEF JOHN SELBERG RESIGNS AFTER ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Collierville Fire Chief John Selberg has retired and resigned from his position with the Town of Collierville, effective immediately, ending a period of uncertainty surrounding his status with the town.

The town announced Selberg's resignation Friday, Aug. 21, just one week after officials publicly addressed his placement on administrative leave.

Town officials did not disclose the circumstances that led to Selberg's leave or his subsequent resignation, citing the confidentiality of personnel matters.

"We understand there have been questions raised in the community about his employment status, but it is not customary or appropriate in either the public or private sector to discuss details related to personnel matters," the town said in its Aug. 21 announcement.

Administrative leave preceded resignation

The town first publicly addressed Selberg's status Aug. 14, acknowledging community interest in the decision to place the fire chief on administrative leave.

Officials said they recognized that a lack of detailed public information could lead to speculation but emphasized that the town intended to handle the matter through what it described as a professional process and appropriate due process.

A special-called meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that had been scheduled for Aug. 14

was postponed to a date to be determined. The town said the delay would allow the parties involved to meet and seek a resolution.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen also planned a closed attorney-client privilege consultation that day to discuss personnel matters.

The town's Aug. 14 statement

See **Selberg**, page A3

Statement from Mayor Maureen Fraser on the Retirement of Chief John Selberg

Serving the Town of Collierville as your Mayor is an honor and privilege I never take lightly or for granted. My family has called Collierville home for over 30 years. I truly love our Town; it is so very important to me and my family. The past three weeks have been extremely intense and very trying for all our employees, administration, community members, my fellow elected officials, myself, and my family.

The situation with Chief John Selberg, in Collierville Fire and Rescue (CFR), has been extremely stressful, and, unfortunately, rapidly took on a life of its own on social media. Because this was a personnel issue, with an ongoing investigation and negotiation between attorneys, by law, the Town and Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) were very limited on what we could share with the public. When there is an information vacuum, misinformation and

conspiracy theories, naturally, but unfortunately, fill that vacuum. That was the problem here.

This could have been handled far better, no excuses. I assure you, the Town Administrator, Board, and I are already in the process of addressing our procedures and protocols for communicating in a timelier fashion. We are making changes going forward. To the best of our ability, this will not happen again. Collierville deserves better.

Chief Selberg is a seasoned, professional Fire Chief, who has served our Collierville community for four years, and many more years prior to that in Germantown. His experience was why we hired him in the first place. Unfortunately, Fire Department objectives and performance metrics were continuing to not be achieved, even after repeated meetings, conversations, and agreements. Here is

See **Statement**, page A3



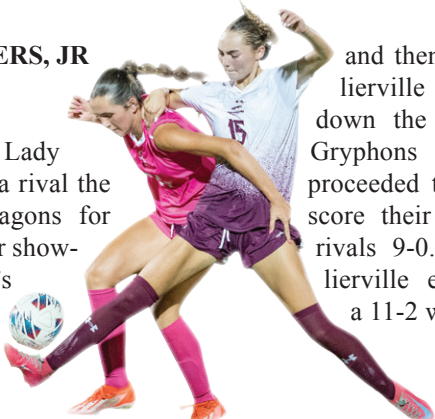
Photos By Playmakerportraits

BATTLE OF C'VILLE

St. George's starts strong, Lady Dragons heat up late

BY THOMAS SELLERS, JR
West10 Media

The St. George's Lady Gryphons took on area rival the Collierville Lady Dragons for the first week of soccer showdown. St. George's took an early 1-0 lead. Eventually the contest was tied at 2-2



and then Collierville wore down the Lady Gryphons and proceeded to out score their local rivals 9-0. Collierville earned a 11-2 win.



BY THOMAS SELLERS, JR
West10 Media

Excitement was all around Collierville going into Saturday night

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

East Nashville ruins home and season debut of Dragons

with the Dragons opening up the 2026 season.

Collierville Head Coach Joe Rocconi and crew knew the challenge of the East Nashville Eagles would be a tall task.

Despite a Larry Johnson touchdown run keeping the Dragons close early in the contest, East Nashville was steady enough to prevail 19-7 over Collierville.

After the Eagles jumped out early in the first half, Johnson tallied a scoring run to make the score 13-7 in favor of East Nashville at halftime. The Eagles defense limited Collierville signal caller Brayden Santibanez to only 106 yards passing and an interception.



East Nashville (1-0) added six points in the fourth quarter to leave West Tennessee victorious.



Photos By Ryan Frazier playmakerportraits.com

The next game for the Eagles will be against the Antioch Bears this Friday. The Dragons (0-1)

will now prepare for their next challenge against Oxford, Miss Chargers this Friday.



Inside: [Community News](#) - Pages A2 & A3 | [Faith](#) - Page A4
[Classifieds](#) - Page A5 | [Puzzles](#) - Page A6

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CLASSIC CAR SHOW RETURNS FOR EDUCATION

STAFF REPORTS

The Collierville Police Department’s annual Classic Car Show will return on September 26, 2026, bringing together car enthusiasts, families, and community members while continuing its tradition of supporting local education.

Sponsored by Landers Ford, the event benefits the Collierville Education Foundation (CEF). Since 2009, the Collierville Police Department has donated proceeds from the car show to support Collierville schools, with the event generating an average of \$23,000 annually for educational programs and initiatives.

This year’s show will be held at Central Church in Collierville, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature a variety of vehicles, including classic cars, trucks, tractors, military vehicles, fire trucks, and motorcycles.

Vehicle registration will be available the day of the event from 7:30 a.m. to noon. The

\$25 entry fee includes automatic entry into a cash prize drawing, with special awards presented by Landers Ford, CEF, Central Church, and Collierville Mayor Maureen Fraser.

“For over two decades, I’ve been part of CEF, and the car show remains our best event,” said Terri Furlong, CEF Managing Director. “It’s a true community gathering, bringing together families, car enthusiasts, volunteers, and the Collierville Police Department to make a difference for our schools.”

Collierville Police Chief Lane encouraged the community to attend and continue the event’s longstanding tradition.

“With the incredible support from our community, we hope everyone comes out to enjoy a fantastic day of cars,” Chief Lane said. “Chief Goodwin started this show years ago, and we’re committed to keeping it one of the best car shows in the Mid-South.”

The Collierville Education

Foundation works to promote academic excellence by providing grants directly to Collierville teachers to enhance educational opportunities for students. To date, CEF has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants.

For more information or to register a vehicle, visit the Collierville Car Show website at: <http://colliervillecarshow.com/> or contact the Collierville Police Department Public Information Office at (901) 457-2560.

NOTE: *The CPD would like to caution participants that there is no pre-registration option for the event. Vehicle owners must register in person on the day of the car show. If online, not to click on any unauthorized links or respond to messages claiming to offer advance registration, they are scams. Community members are encouraged to help share this information to ensure everyone stays safe and can enjoy the event.*

Source: Collierville Police Department



CONSTRUCTION ZONE ESTABLISHED AT HALLE PARK FOR COLLIERVILLE LIBRARY EXPANSION

BY JENNIFER PRESTON
*Town of Collierville
Public Information Officer*

Following the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the Lucius E. and Elsie C. Burch, Jr. Library expansion and renovation, the next phase of the project is underway.

Crews are installing safety fencing to establish a secure construction perimeter in Halle Park around the library footprint (pictured). To ensure the safety of all park visitors, pedestrians, and pets, this designated section

of Halle Park will remain closed to the public for the duration of construction.

As site preparation and grading work begins, visitors will notice heavy equipment on-site and the necessary removal of select trees within the immediate building and grading footprint.

The Town recognizes the community’s appreciation for its tree canopy and green spaces. An intentional, extensive landscaping plan has been developed to replant a significant number of new, native shade and ornamental trees upon the project’s completion.

The Collierville Library expansion project includes a 300-person Civic Center, an Adult Reading Center and Conservatory, modernized teen and children’s literacy areas, and flexible community rooms, with full completion scheduled for Spring 2028.

Residents and park patrons are asked to observe all posted construction signage and stay outside fenced areas. For ongoing construction updates, renderings, and project milestones, visit colliervilletn.gov/CivicCenter.

TENNESSEE AUTHOR TO DISCUSS DEBUT NOVEL ‘MONTECITO’ AT BURCH LIBRARY

BY LORA PLEASANTS
Special to the Collierville Herald-Independent

A Tennessee author with a new suspense novel is scheduled to appear in Collierville.

Michael Cox, a native Tennessean and author of the literary suspense novel *Montecito*, is slated for a presentation at the Lucius E. Burch Jr. Library on Oct. 6, according to information provided to the Herald-Independent. Residents should check the Burch Library events calendar for final time and registration details.

Cox is described as a graduate of the University of Alabama and the Stanford Graduate School of Business who spent years working in and around Wall Street.

Montecito, subtitled “Where having it all sometimes means having the most to hide,” was originally serialized in the *Montecito Journal* from July 2022 to February 2023. The full book was published June 30, 2026, with an audiobook release June 29. The print edition is



340 pages.

The novel follows Hollis Crawford and his wife Cricket, who move to the affluent community of Montecito for their children’s education while Hollis works in IT startups. After a job loss, a new opportunity with a

wealthy family leads him into a difficult situation. An independent review describes it as a slow-burn thriller where dark secrets lurk beneath the glittering veneer.

The book is available in print, ebook and audiobook at bookstores and online.

MUSIC AND STORIES FILL THE WEEK AHEAD

BY LORA PLEASANTS
Special to the Collierville Herald-Independent

There is plenty to do in Collierville in the coming days as the Town’s late-summer calendar continues.

On Friday afternoon, local student musicians will take center stage for a special baroque music recital. The program features cellists from Collierville schools who study with

Dr. Cao’s Cello Studio. The free recital will showcase classical selections and gives young musicians valuable performance experience in front of a live audience.

The Town’s fall evening concert series continues Monday evening with a patriotic theme. The RSVP Chorus will present “Let Freedom Sing: America at 250,” a program honoring American music and history. The concert is free and

open to the public.

Families with young children can head to the Burch Library on Thursday morning for a back-to-school Story Time. The program includes stories, songs, and movement activities designed for preschool and early elementary ages.

Details on times and locations for all Town events are posted on the community events page at colliervilletn.gov.

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**TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE
PUBLIC NOTICE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission for the Town of Collierville will meet on **October 1, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers at Town Hall, 500 Poplar View Parkway, to consider the following:

Case# 261910 – Resolution 2026-A – (Public Hearing) – Request approval of an amendment to the Collierville 2040 Land Use Plan related to the applicable Place Types for approximately 4 acres, located on the south side of E. Holmes Road and just west of Center Hill Road.

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.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.

**CHECK MALCO.COM OR THE MALCO APP TO VIEW THE CURRENT SCHEDULE**
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COLLIERVILLE NAMED TOP 25 FINALIST IN HALLMARK'S MERRIEST CHRISTMAS TOWNS

BY ASHLEY CARVER
Tourism Director
Town of Collierville

Vote Collierville as the nation's Top Holiday Town to bring an official Hallmark Christmas movie to our Square!

Collierville has officially been named one of only 25 nationwide finalists in Hallmark's search for the "Official Hallmark Christmas Towns," putting the historic town in the running to be crowned Hallmark's Merriest Christmas Town of 2026.

Notably, Collierville stands as the only town in the Mid-South region to earn a spot on the coveted Top 25 list.

The nationwide contest, hosted by the Hallmark Channel, celebrates communities that embody the heart, wonder, and joy of the holiday season. The community that earns the top title will receive national recognition and the opportunity to serve as the filming location for an upcoming Hallmark holiday movie.

While Collierville previously appeared as a picturesque backdrop in Hallmark's Wedding at Graceland, this honor gives the town the opportunity to take center stage as the primary setting for a future

holiday film.

"Anyone who has ever visited Collierville during the holidays knows that our town doesn't just look like a holiday movie set, our community truly lives the spirit of the season," said Ashley Carver, Tourism Director for the Town of Collierville. "Being the only town in the Mid-South selected is an incredible honor, but we need everyone across the region to rally behind us. This is our chance to turn that festive magic into a starring role on screens nationwide."

- How to Vote:**
- » Vote now through September 4, 2026
 - » HallmarkChannel.com/Merriest
 - » Anyone 18 and older can cast one vote per person, per calendar day.

Collierville is widely known for its signature holiday celebrations, including a quarter-million lights illuminating the historic Town Square, horse-drawn carriage rides, Dickens Carolers, and much more.

The Town encourages residents, neighboring communities, and regional visitors to come together to make Collierville the merriest Christmas Town of all!

SELBERG, Continued from A1

administration, including personnel matters.

Officials said the decision to place the fire chief on administrative leave was an administrative action carried out within the Town Administrator's authority and in accordance with established personnel policy.

The town also said the Town Administrator maintained continuous communication with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen throughout the process.

No specific allegations, complaints or other reasons for Selberg's administrative leave were made public.

Leadership transition

Despite the uncertainty surrounding its chief, the Collierville Fire Department continued operating without interruption throughout the period.

When announcing Selberg's departure, the town said the department would continue to operate seamlessly under the direction of Acting Chief Mark Carter.

STATEMENT, Continued from A1

the timeline of how we got to where we are today:

The Town Administrator, Molly Mehner, met with Chief Selberg, Friday, July 31, for their scheduled follow up on performance measures set in 2025. The following week, Chief was out of town for a fire chief's meeting. On Friday, August 7, at 4:53 PM, Chief sent a letter to the Town Administrator, addressing her concerns within CFD. On Monday, August 10, at 7:55 AM, I was copied on an email, to the Board, from Chief Selberg, requesting to meet. Chief included a proposed retirement letter he said he was planning to submit. I responded at 9:02 AM, August 10, to Chief's 7:55 AM email, indicating I would clear my schedule and make myself available to meet, at his convenience.

I was later made aware, that, sometime, between the Friday, July 31 meeting with Town Administrator Mehner, and his Monday morning August 10 email to the Board--while he was at the out of town meeting, Chief did speak to several Aldermen, a former Alderman, and a former Town Administrator--but, not myself or the current Town Administrator, during that 10-day period. That's where this entire situation could have been avoided. Our processes would have worked--had they been followed--but the one person who was fighting for his job never contacted the one person who could have helped save his job. Why would he not contact the mayor? But, instead, reach out to a former Alderman and former Town Administrator, who could no longer immediately and directly help him? Interesting...

I expected to hear from Chief all weekend, August 8-9, but never did. Chief and I did finally meet the afternoon of Monday, August 10,

Town officials also praised Selberg's service to Collierville.

"Chief Selberg has served the Town of Collierville honorably," the town said. "We are grateful for his dedicated service and wish him well."

The town did not announce whether a search for a permanent fire chief has begun or provide a timetable for naming Selberg's successor.

For residents, the town's message throughout the episode has remained consistent: emergency services remain fully operational, and public safety remains the priority.

The Aug. 14 statement said the town remained confident in the fire department's leadership team and the personnel who serve the community.

Selberg's resignation now closes a two-week period in which the status of one of Collierville's highest-profile public safety officials became the subject of community attention, while the town has maintained that the details surrounding the personnel matter will remain private.

1:30, at Town Hall. I asked a lot of questions, then advised Chief he had to speak to the Town Administrator, as she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Town. I directly and clearly explained to him, the Board members are the policy makers, and all six of us have equal votes. But the Town Administrator is his direct boss, I made that very clear. The Town Administrator was doing her job the Board hired her to do.

Most may recall, we were scheduled to have a Board Meeting that night but had to postpone it due to the power outage at Town Hall. It was as people were leaving Town Hall, that, in the lobby, with numerous members of his Command Staff he had required to attend to support him, other Town employees, and citizens still lingering and talking, Chief made his now infamous outburst, "I don't ***** report to Molly Mehner!" Remember, just a few hours earlier, I directly and clearly reminded him who he worked for and the chain of command. Shouldn't a Fire Chief, of all people, understand what "chain of command" means, and why it is so very important?

Later that evening, Chief Selberg was placed on administrative leave. For the record, I was not in the foyer of Town Hall when his outburst occurred. His vulgar statement, in public, about the Town Administrator, his boss, doing her job, that insubordination was the final straw.

I respect Chief Selberg's decision to retire, still consider him a friend, and wish him only the best in his future endeavors.

We will learn from this. We will improve our processes. Collierville will move forward, better and stronger than ever.

Respectfully,

Maureen Fraser

Maureen Fraser
Mayor, Town of Collierville



Living with Purpose By David Peel

Common Questions After a Crash That Wasn't Your Fault

Being injured in a car accident you didn't cause is stressful and confusing. You may get ambulance chasers or clinics calling you, and that is unethical and annoying.

Here are answers to the questions most people ask in the days and weeks that follow.

What should I do right after the crash? Prioritize safety and documentation. Move to a safe location if possible, call 911, and request medical help. Exchange information with the other driver, take photos of the vehicles, and get contact details from witnesses. Do NOT assume police will do so.

Should I see a doctor if I feel okay? Yes. Adrenaline often masks injuries. That's a God given gift. But damage, concussions, and other problems may not appear for hours or days. Prompt medical evaluation creates a clear record linking your injuries to the crash and protects your health

Do I need a lawyer? Not every minor fender-bender requires one, but you should consult an attorney if you have significant injuries, disputed fault, limited insurance coverage, or pressure from the other driver's insurer. An experienced personal injury lawyer can handle communications, preserve evidence, and pursue full compensation while you focus on recovery.

Should I give a recorded statement to the other driver's insurance? Generally, no. You are not required to. Adjusters are trained to gather statements that can later be used to minimize or deny your claim. Refer them to your attorney instead.

What compensation can I recover? You may be entitled to medical expenses (past and future), lost wages, property damage, pain and suffering, and in some cases loss of enjoyment of life. Tennessee law gives you one year from the date of the accident to file a personal injury lawsuit, so acting sooner rather than later is important.

Will this raise my insurance rates? A reported crash, especially as a not at fault motorist, is not a problem. In fact, state law protects you from rate increases or cancellations for using your uninsured/underinsured motorists (UM/UIM).

Every case is different. Document everything, seek medical care, and speak with a qualified personal injury attorney early so you understand your options and protect your rights.

Mr. Peel seeks justice for those injured in tractor-trailer and car accidents, medical malpractice, and disability. He often addresses churches, clubs, and groups without charge. Mr. Peel may be reached through PeelLawFirm.com wherein other articles may be accessed.

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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 **September 28, 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 rescheduled from August 10, 2026, for the following:

Ordinance 2026-03 (Public Hearing) - An Ordinance to Amend Title VII: Traffic Code, Chapter 71 Traffic Regulations, § 71.15 Bicycle Riders and the Like; Chapter 72 Stopping, Yielding, and Parking, § 72.37 Where Prohibited and § 72.38 Restricted Parking in Residential Zones; Chapter 73: Motorcycles, ATV, and Motor Driven Cycles, §§ 73.01 Scope and Purpose Through 73.04 Exceptions; Title IX: General Regulations, Chapter 90 Public Parks and Facilities, § 90.04 Skateboards and the Like and § 90.05 Damaging Town Property; Chapter 92: Streets and Sidewalks, § 92.39 Driveways and Curb Cuts; Chapter 95: Health and Sanitation, § 95.11 Presence of Vehicles on Lawn a Public Nuisance; Title XI: Business Regulations; and, Chapter 110: Temporary Sales, Door-To-Door Solicitations, and the Like, § 110.22 Mobile Food Vending; Related to Various Topics.

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.

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CONTENTS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Collierville Herald Independent welcomes letters to the editor on topics of interest to residents of Collierville. This newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters of no more than 300 words are suggested. Only one letter per writer per month will be considered for publication. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only the name and city of residence will be published. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters may be mailed, with contact information included to: Collierville Herald Independent, 2850 Stage Village Cove, Suite #5, Bartlett, TN 38134; or dropped by the office.

Anchored in Truth

by Bill White

WHEN A COMMUNITY SHOWS UP

Last October, a man in our neighborhood died. He was a private person, and most of us barely knew him. But he left behind a 20-year-old son—a young man suddenly facing responsibilities he was not prepared to handle.

In the months following his father's death, the young man remained in the house, but the financial and legal matters were never resolved. Eventually, the home went into foreclosure.

Last week, the new owner arrived, and the young man's belongings were removed from the house and placed in the front yard. The temperature was over 100 degrees. He sat in his car with his dogs and the air conditioner running, surrounded by everything he owned.

He had rented a U-Haul that had to be returned the next morning. He had no place to take his belongings and only 48 hours before everything left behind would be discarded.

My wife posted about the situation in a local Facebook group.

Then something remarkable happened.

People began showing up. Not people who knew him. Not close friends or relatives. Complete strangers.

Within a short time, perhaps 10 or 15 people were carrying furniture, boxes and personal belongings out of the blazing heat and loading them into the truck. I was able to secure a storage unit, and another group met us there to unload everything.

One person paid for a pet-friendly hotel room so the young man and his dogs would have somewhere safe to sleep. Another gave money to help with additional nights and food.

Watching all of this unfold reminded me of the final scene in It's a Wonderful Life, when George Bailey's friends and neighbors fill his home, each bringing whatever they can to help a man in desperate need.

There was one important difference: most of the people who helped this young man did not know him at all.

They simply saw someone in trouble and decided that his trouble mattered.

The Bible tells us, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." That afternoon, I watched those words come alive. No committee was formed. No one asked whether the young man had made every right decision. People saw a burden, and they helped carry it.

That is what a community can be. More importantly, that is what the Church is called to be—not merely a building or a Sunday gathering, but ordinary people stepping into someone else's pain.

I am deeply grateful to every person who showed up, gave money, lifted furniture, offered encouragement or prayed. Their compassion made me proud—truly proud—to live in a community like Collierville, where people are still willing to stop what they are doing and help a neighbor, even one they have never met.

The young man's problems did not disappear that day. His road ahead will still be difficult. But for one sweltering afternoon, he learned that he was not invisible and that he did not have to carry everything alone.

Sometimes the clearest way to show someone Jesus is simply to show up.

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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CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST 850 PETERSON LAKE RD (901)853-0031	OAK LANE CHRISTIAN CHURCH 10611 COLLIERVILLE ROAD (901)757-0921 SENIOR PASTOR JEFF WHITLOCK THE FORMER MEMPHIS KOREAN CHURCH OF CHRIST LOCATION	PEACE TREE UNITED METHODIST 9315 E SHELBY DR (901)737-3776
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COLLIERVILLE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST 339 E POPLAR (901)848-7945	CHURCH OF CHRIST	ST. JAMES CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL 569 HARRIS ST (901)853-2074
COVENANT BAPTIST 3170 S HOUSTON LEVEE RD (901)853-0700	COLLIERVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST 575 SHELTON RD (901)853-9827	MORMON
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
GERMANTOWN BAPTIST 9450 POPLAR AVE (901)756-9450	CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST 1350 HWY 196 S (901)853-9117	COLLIERVILLE FIRST PENTECOSTAL 10545 COLLIERVILLE RD (901)850-2131
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KOREAN BAPTIST 9650 E SHELBY DR (901)755-5737	NEW LIFE CHURCH OF GOD 261 S COLLIERVILLE-ARLINGTON RD (901)850-1771	COLLIERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN 202 W POPLAR AVE (901)853-4226
LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH 10540 COLLIERVILLE RD (901)231-4141	EPISCOPAL	ST. PATRICK PRESBYTERIAN 710 W WHITE RD (901)861-3803
MT OLIVE #1 BAPTIST 92 S COLLIERVILLE-ARLINGTON RD (901)853-0354	HOLY APOSTLES EPISCOPAL 1380 WOLF RIVER BLVD (901)937-3830	WOLF RIVER PRESBYTERIAN 261 S COLLIERVILLE-ARLINGTON RD (901)853-5556
MT OLIVE BAPTIST 283 KEOUGH DR (901)853-0821	SAINT ANDREWS EPISCOPAL 106 WALNUT ST (901)853-0425	NON-DENOMINATIONAL
MT. ZION #1 MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 300 MT. ZION RD (901) 853-0380	EVANGELICAL	ABUNDANT GRACE MINISTRIES 9239 HOLMES RD (901)753-8772
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TIGER

HEY HUGO...

LOOK AT OUR CLUBHOUSE. IT'S A WRECK!

DOOR IS LOOSE

WALL IS SHAKING

WINDOW FRAME IS BROKEN

BEAM IS ROTTER

JUST LOOK AT THE ROOF

OKAY. WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

by BUD BLAKE

Amber Waves

DAY 1. OUR JOURNEY HAS BEEN TOUGHER THEN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED.

SPIRITS REMAIN HIGH AND WE ARE HOPING TO REACH OUR DESTINATION SOON.

OH, GREAT. WE ARE OUT OF DING DONGS AND ALL THE JUICE BOXES.

OH, FORGET THIS. EXPEDITION OVER. NO ONE CAN TOLERATE THESE LIVING CONDITIONS!

by Dave T. Phipps

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Tasteless

2. Forestry worker

3. Structure

4. Sing like Bing

5. Future oak

6. Extremely cold

7. Nile River city

8. Barely audible

9. Severe, like winter

10. Dog shelter

___ A ___

___ A ___

___ _ _ _ T

___ _ _ _ N

___ C ___

___ I ___

___ _ _ _ O

___ A ___

H _ _ _ _

___ N ___

Combine

Horseshoes score

Requiring a tuxedo

Swindler

Make snazzier

Toast topping

Terrier from Scotland

Fire starter

Swampland

Corn segment

___ E ___

___ I ___

___ _ _ _ L

___ _ _ _ K

___ D ___

___ U ___

___ _ _ _ N

___ L ___

M _ _ _ _

___ R ___

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Weekly SUDOKU

7

8

5

2

6

1

3

4

2

7

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7

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8

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2

1

8

6

2

4

1

8

3

2

9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate

♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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See This Week's Answers In Next Week's Edition

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

4 8 7 6 3 2 1 5 9

6 3 2 1 7 8 9 5 4

9 6 8 3 2 1 7 5 4

2 7 1 9 8 6 5 4 3

5 4 9 3 8 7 2 1 6

8 1 6 5 4 3 2 9 7

3 9 7 2 5 1 8 6 4

7 5 4 6 9 8 3 2 1

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

1. Ravel, Raven

2. Police, Polite

3. Father, Lather

4. Track, Truck

5. Batter, Butler

Even Exchange

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

4 8 7 6 3 2 1 5 9

6 3 2 1 7 8 9 5 4

9 6 8 3 2 1 7 5 4

2 7 1 9 8 6 5 4 3

5 4 9 3 8 7 2 1 6

8 1 6 5 4 3 2 9 7

3 9 7 2 5 1 8 6 4

7 5 4 6 9 8 3 2 1

Answers

1. Ravel, Raven

2. Police, Polite

3. Father, Lather

4. Track, Truck

5. Batter, Butler

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: C equals R

ASL QYXAE SKW CWNWC ES
YEWQI DYOW UFCI, VSLDI,
NSCOI FKP BSDFKPWCI?
"XFIECSKSQYBFD SVUWBEI."

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

PREPARE YOURSELF... THAT'S NOT SALAMI YOU'RE EATING. I WENT AND REPLACED IT WITH SOMETHING REALLY GOOD FOR YOU.



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FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

FTO

WYHANO

♥OLAYL

♥ETHA

EFTBRE

♥AYW

♥EWSO

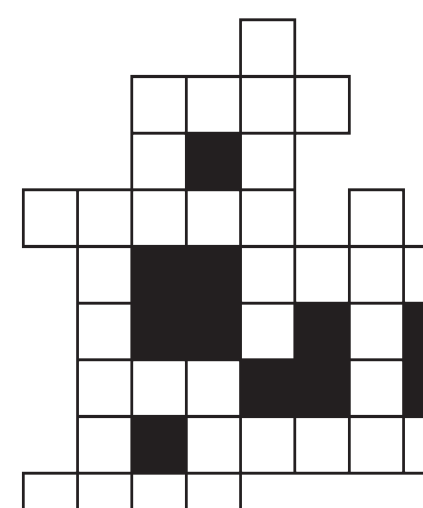
HELTA

♥OHW

LAYGER

TFLHI

♥AYRW



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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Poke

4 Sneaky chuckle

7 Niagara sight

12 Dos preceder

13 X-ray's cousin

14 "— Gold" (Fonda film)

15 Rx writers

16 Salad dressing order

18 7, on older phones

19 Capital of South Korea

20 Salty waters

22 Soon-to-be grads

23 Desist

27 Drench

29 "Constant Craving" singer

31 Places in the heart

34 Indian yogurt dish

35 Wards off

37 However

38 Corridor

39 Expert

41 Foundered

45 "Peachy!"

47 Cravat

48 Tangential topic

52 Eggs

53 Zodiac ram

55 Rent out

56 "Live at the Acropolis" performer

57 "Way cool!"

58 Vegas opener?

DOWN

1 Checker moves

2 Tennis great

3 — nova

4 Med. plan options

5 Papa Hemingway

6 — -miss

8 Gore and Green

9 Floral neck-lace

10 Guided

11 Compass dir.

17 Corn cover

21 Marble cake pattern

23 Bed boards

24 — chi

25 Toronto's prov.

26 Links org.

28 Have lunch

30 Actress Joanne

31 Sound of relief

33 Seminary subj.

36 Tools with teeth

37 Whale variety

40 Activist Chavez

42 Coral island

43 Skin care brand

44 "Endymion" poet

45 Spanish ayes

46 Pencil filler

48 Utter

49 Glass of public radio

50 Cacophony

51 Still, in verse

STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

The figure below contains a well-known, 11-letter word. The box at the bottom contains the last letter of this word. Can you unscramble the letters to find the mystery word?

M

C O

T L A

N I M O

Y

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Time

HECOP

Intellect

MUNACE

Save

EXPECT

Budget

PEACH

TODAY'S WORD



"I bet the _____ is glad that summer is here."

GRIN & BEAR IT

Wagner



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I know it was 9 o'clock because I had just stolen a new watch!"

Sticklers Answer

1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-e, 5-d

Even Exchange

Answers

1. Ravel, Raven

2. Police, Polite

3. Father, Lather

4. Track, Truck

5. Batter, Butler

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

1. Badge 2. Agile; solution

3. Object; 4. Engine

Even Exchange

Answers

1. Ravel, Raven

2. Police, Polite

3. Father, Lather

4. Track, Truck

5. Batter, Butler

CryptoQuip

Peculiar human society whose members always tend to hit each other on the head: bop culture.

FINANCIAL FOCUS:

Build confidence in your 401(k) decisions

In its simplest form, saving can mean putting money into a jar, adding to it and letting it grow slowly. A 401(k), or other workplace retirement plan, is a step beyond that. It’s more like a garden than a jar. Once you understand the basics of your 401(k), it becomes easier to feel confident in your decisions.

In a jar, your money only grows when you add more. In a garden, what you plant can begin to grow on its own. Your investments can earn returns, and those returns may in turn earn additional returns. That’s called compounding, and it can have a meaningful impact over time. Like a garden, however, growth is not guaranteed. Markets can rise and fall, and investments

can lose value.

Most workplace retirement plan contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, which lowers today’s taxable income; you’ll pay taxes when you withdraw it in retirement. Some plans also offer a Roth option: you contribute after-tax dollars and withdrawals in retirement can be tax free. Your plan administrator can provide more information.

Many 401(k) plans include an employer match, either up to a set dollar amount, perhaps \$500, or a percentage of your salary, typically 3%–5%. Contributions you make, as well as those from your employer, can grow over time. Try to contribute at least enough to capture the full match; anything less means

you’re leaving money on the table.

Now the question is how to invest your contributions inside your 401(k). The menu of investment options may seem complicated, but most fall into a few common categories.

- Stock or equity funds focus on stocks, which represent ownership in companies. Because they’re tied to company performance, they have the potential for higher growth over time, but their value can go up and down in the short term. When you’re decades from retirement, that short-term volatility matters less; you have time to ride out the swings.
- Bond funds invest in loans made to governments or corporations. These tend to be more sta-

ble than stock funds but typically grow more slowly. They can help balance the ups and downs.

- Balanced or blended funds hold a mix of stocks and bonds in a single investment.
- Target-date funds combine different types of investments in one fund. As you move toward a specified retirement year, the fund gradually adjusts to focus more on stability and less on growth.

The earlier you start planting, the more time your money has to grow. Even small contributions early in your career can end up as large amounts later, simply because they had more time to compound.

If you change jobs, keep in mind that your employer’s contributions may not be fully yours immediate-

ly. It depends on your plan’s vesting schedule, so it’s worth checking before you go.

The most important steps in a retirement plan are getting started, contributing consistently and taking advantage of what your plan offers. With a little knowledge, you can feel more confident moving forward. The garden is yours. Start planting.



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

BUCKMAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 2026 EVENTS

Event: Floral Infusion: New Works by Vera Feldman and Bobo Huettel **Date:** NOW to September 21, 2026

Gallery: Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s Episcopal School 60 Perkins Extended, Memphis, TN 38117

Contact: (901) 537-1483 or cyounker@stmarysschool.org

More info: huettelart.com, [instagram.com/ericavericn](https://www.instagram.com/ericavericn), buckmanartscenter.com

Ticket Price: Free

Description: Floral Infusion: New Works by Vera Feldman and Bobo Huettel will be on exhibit in the Levy Gallery of the Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s Episcopal School.

Event: BoDeans **Date:** September 18, 2026 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

Location: Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s Episcopal School 60 Perkins Extended, Memphis, TN 38117

Contact: (901) 537-1483 or cyounker@stmarysschool.org

ounker@stmarysschool.org

More info: bodeans.com or buckmanartscenter.com

Ticket Price: \$45

Description: Launching Buckman’s 29th season, BoDeans arrive in Memphis as part of its nationwide 40th Anniversary Tour. Known for its high-energy live performances and enduring roots-rock sound, the band has spent four decades crafting songs that have become part of the American musical landscape. Led by founder, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer Kurt Neumann, BoDeans’ catalog includes beloved favorites such as “Good Things,” “You Don’t Get Much,” “Idaho,” and “Closer to Free,” the iconic theme song from Party of Five. Throughout its storied career, the band has shared stages with U2, Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Tom Petty, The Pretenders, and David Bowie, earning a reputation as one of the most enduring live acts.

Event: Magic Carpet Presents Shake, Rattle, and Roll: A Musical History of Memphis with Brad Birkedahl **Date:** September 19, 2026 **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

Location: Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s Episcopal School 60 Perkins Extended, Memphis, TN 38117

Contact: (901) 537-1483 or cyounker@stmarysschool.org

More info: buckmanartscenter.com

Ticket Price: Pay what you can with donations accepted.

Description: Kids ages two and up are invited to grab their poodle skirt and leather jacket to bebop and sock-hop on over for a swell time! Legendary guitarist Brad Birkedahl will take us on a Memphis music magic carpet ride



celebrating everyone from Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, the King, and everything in between! Thank you. Thank you very much.

Event: A merging: New Works by Lauren Cannon **Date:** September 25 to November 2, 2026

Opening Reception Friday, September 25, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Gallery: Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s Episcopal School 60 Perkins Extended, Memphis, TN 38117

Contact: (901) 537-1483 or cyounker@stmarysschool.org

More info: lbscannonart.com or buckmanartscenter.com

Ticket Price: Free

Description: A merging: New Works by Lauren Cannon will be on exhibit in the Levy Gallery of the Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s Episcopal School.

Event: Lightwire Theater **Date:** September 27, 2026 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

Location: Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s Episcopal School 60 Perkins Extended, Memphis, TN 38117

Contact: (901) 537-1483 or cyounker@stmarysschool.org

More info: lightwiretheater.com or buckmanartscenter.com

Ticket Price: \$45

Description: Join Lightwire Theater, semi-finalists on NBC’s America’s Got Talent and recipients of the prestigious Jim Henson Foundation Grant, for an electrifying evening of wonder for audiences of all ages. Illuminated by electroluminescent wire, this glow-in-the-dark adventure combines puppetry, technology, dance, and music in a visually stunning theatrical experience. With dazzling imagery, heart-felt storytelling, and innovative choreography, Lightwire Theater transforms beloved stories into unforgettable family entertainment.

CAMPBELL CLINIC BECOMES THE MID-SOUTH’S LARGEST HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS MEDICINE NETWORK WITH EXPANSION OF SPORTS MEDICINE OUTREACH PROGRAM

New partnerships with Houston High School, Memphis University School, Lakeland Preparatory School, Millington Central High School and DeSoto Central High School grow Campbell Clinic’s physician-led athletic training and sports medicine program to 19 schools across Tennessee and North Mississippi

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Campbell Clinic Orthopaedics is proud to announce the expansion of its nationally recognized Sports Medicine Outreach Program through new partnerships with Houston High School, Memphis University School (MUS), Lakeland Preparatory School, Millington Central High School and DeSoto Central High School.

With these additions, Campbell Clinic now provides comprehensive sports medicine services to 19 high schools throughout the Mid-South and North Mississippi, creating the region’s largest integrated high school sports medicine network. The program combines fellowship-trained orthopaedic sports medicine physicians and surgeons with certified athletic trainers embedded with the school’s athletic program, providing student-athletes with immediate access to expert injury prevention, evaluation, treatment, rehabilitation, emergency care, and return-to-play management.

For decades, Campbell Clinic has invested in the health and safety of student-athletes by bringing orthopaedic specialists and certified athletic trainers directly to schools throughout the region. This latest expansion reinforces

es the practice’s commitment to ensuring young athletes have access to the highest level of sports medicine care, from the sidelines and training room to the operating room and back to competition.

“Campbell Clinic has always believed that exceptional sports medicine begins where athletes compete every day,” said Daniel Shumate, Chief Executive Officer of Campbell Clinic. “Expanding our outreach program to 19 high schools reflects our commitment to investing in the health of our communities and ensuring student-athletes have access to nationally recognized orthopedic specialists and certified athletic trainers. We’re proud to partner with these outstanding schools to help keep athletes healthy, prevent injuries whenever possible, and provide world-class care when they need it most.”

Houston High School will be served by Dr. Matthew Gilbert, an orthopaedic sports medicine physician and proud Houston High School alumnus and a multi-sport athlete, having played both baseball and football at Houston.

“Houston High played an important role in shaping who I am today,” said Dr. Matthew Gilbert. “It’s incredibly meaningful to re-

turn to my alma mater and care for the next generation of Mustang athletes. My goal is to help every student-athlete stay healthy, recover quickly, and safely return to the sports they love.”

Dr. David Spence (pediatric orthopaedic/sports medicine surgeon) and Dr. Tyler Brolin (shoulder/elbow orthopaedic surgeon) will serve as team physicians for Memphis University School (MUS). Dr. Spence, an MUS alumnus, Class of 1997, returns to the school where his own athletic journey began.

“MUS has always been a special place to me,” said Dr. David Spence. “It’s an honor to give back to a school that helped shape my life by caring for its student-athletes. I look forward to working alongside the coaches, athletic trainers, students, and families to help keep these athletes performing at their best.”

Dr. Austin Hardaway, sports medicine surgeon and an Arlington High School alumnus, will provide sports medicine surgical coverage for Lakeland Preparatory School, and Dr. Mariam Mansour will provide primary care sports medicine coverage.

Campbell Clinic will also provide comprehensive sports medicine services to Millington Central High School and DeSoto Central High School. In terms of the practice’s presence in North Mississippi, Campbell Clinic already serves Horn Lake High School, Center Hill High School, and Southaven High School. Whether in the Shelby County, Tipton County, DeSoto

County or other areas in the Mid-South region, Campbell Clinic’s sports medicine services help ensure that student-athletes have access to nationally recognized orthopaedic specialists and certified athletic trainers.

A cornerstone of Campbell Clinic’s outreach program is its team of 29 certified athletic trainers, who are embedded within each partner school and serve as the first line of care for student-athletes throughout the school year.

“Our athletic trainers become part of each school’s athletic family,” said Thaddeus Avery, Manager of Athletic Training Services at Campbell Clinic. “We’re there every day—not just on Friday nights—to help prevent injuries, respond when they happen, guide recovery, and advocate for every student-athlete. Having our physicians and certified athletic trainers working together gives schools and families confidence that their athletes are receiving not just emergency care, but the highest level of sports medicine preventative care.”

Today, Campbell Clinic’s Sports Medicine Outreach Program represents the Mid-South’s largest integrated high school sports medicine network, serving 19 high schools across Tennessee and North Mississippi. In addition, Campbell Clinic physicians proudly serve as the official team physicians for University of Memphis Athletics, CBU Athletics, Rhodes College, Memphis Redbirds and numerous other professional teams and clubs.

As Campbell Clinic continues to expand its outreach efforts, its mission remains unchanged: to keep athletes healthy, prevent injuries whenever possible, and provide world-class orthopaedic care that helps athletes safely return to the activities they love.

About Campbell Clinic

Founded by the late Willis C. Campbell, M.D. in 1909, Campbell Clinic is a full-service orthopaedic clinic that operates 30 locations in the southeast region fueled by a team of 140+ providers and more than 1,200 employees. Campbell Clinic is recognized as a national and international leader in the field of orthopaedics. Campbell Clinic physicians care for patients by integrating the latest orthopaedic treatment interventions and medical advancements in musculoskeletal care. Campbell Clinic specialists are experts in their fields, leaders in clinical research, and innovators of advanced modalities, treating all adult and pediatric musculoskeletal conditions. Campbell Clinic is proud to offer a full spectrum of care for all types of orthopaedic conditions including sports medicine, hip, knee, spine, shoulder and elbow, foot and ankle, hand and wrist, orthopaedic oncology, orthopaedic trauma, pediatric orthopaedics, general orthopaedics, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and urgent ortho care. For more information, visit www.campbellclinic.com.

Blackburn featured in new biographical coloring book

STAFF REPORTS

Really Big Coloring Books Inc. has released "Marsha Blackburn: An American Success Story," a 40-page biographical coloring and activity book about U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee.

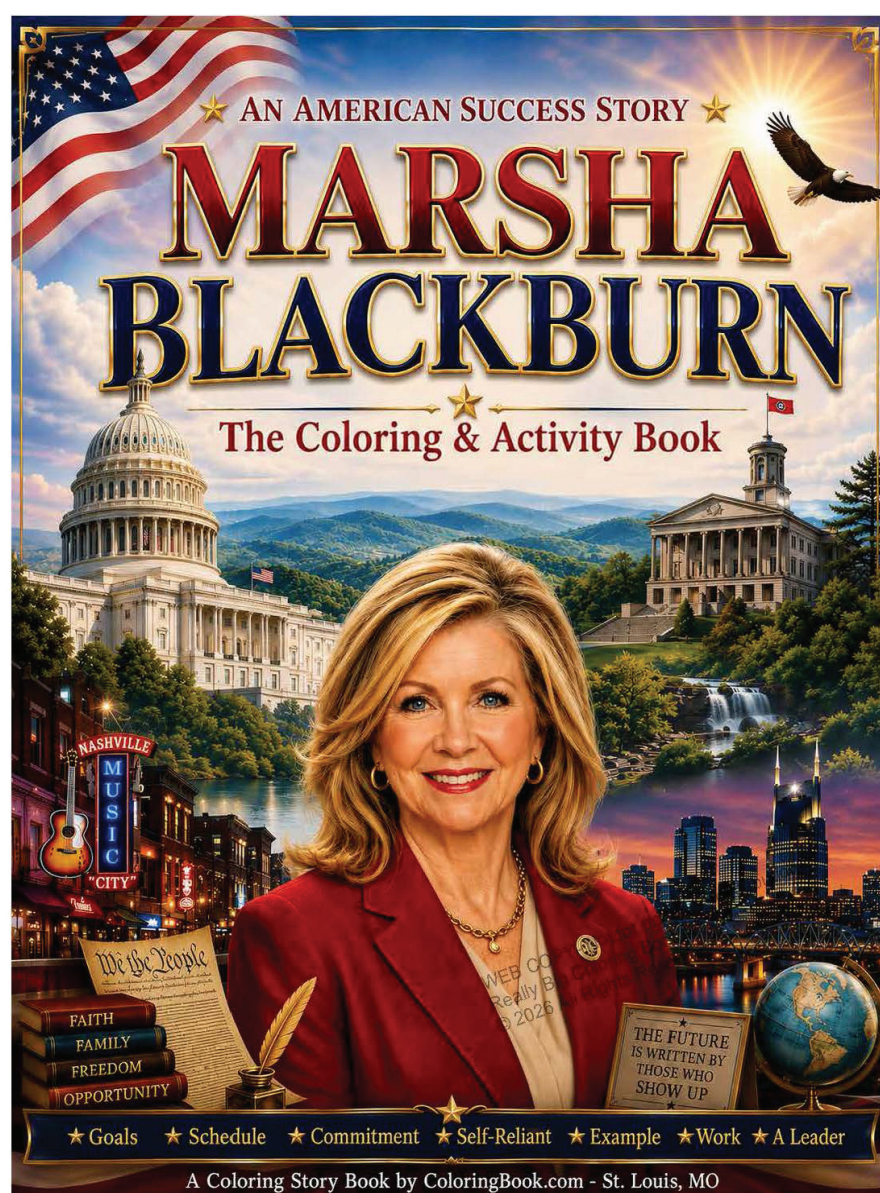
The 8.5-by-11-inch publication follows Blackburn's life from her childhood in Laurel, Mississippi, through her election in 2018 as the first woman elected to represent Tennessee in the U.S. Senate.

The publisher describes the book as an "official unauthorized biography." Blackburn and her staff were not contacted about the book's writing or design, and the publication was created independently using publicly available historical sources.

According to the publisher, the book is intended to provide a fact-based, nonpartisan account of Blackburn's personal and professional milestones. It combines black-and-white illustrations, activities and biographical storytelling for school-age readers, teens, families, educators, libraries and history enthusiasts.

The book covers Blackburn's studies at Mississippi State University, where she earned a degree in home economics in 1973; her early sales and business career; her work in Tennessee's entertainment and music-related public service; and her election to the Tennessee State Senate in 1998.

It also chronicles her service in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2003 to 2019 and her subsequent election to the U.S. Senate.



The cover of “Marsha Blackburn: An American Success Story” features illustrations and imagery highlighting Tennessee, government and public service.

Courtesy Photo

Wayne Bell, publisher and creator of the book, said the publication was designed as a storybook with interactive features and focuses on Blackburn's public-service career.

“The goal is to make an important public-service

story approachable for young readers while encouraging discussion, creativity and learning," Bell said.

The book also includes historically based scenes addressing Tennessee history, women in public leader-

ship, elections, government and civic participation. According to the publisher, the material is designed for use in settings including classrooms, homeschool programs, libraries and families.

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POWER 10

2026

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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 the 2026 season.

WEEK 1

- 1. Munford (1-0) vs. Millington**
W 58-0 vs. Memphis Business Academy
- 2. Briarcrest (1-0) vs. Fairley**
W 44-7 vs. ECS
- 3. St. George's (1-0) @ Harding Academy**
W 42-0 vs. Collinwood
- 4. Covington (1-0) vs. Haywood**
W 47-13 @ Lakeland Prep
- 5. Houston (1-0) @ Whitehaven**
W 40-6 vs. Germantown
- 6. Bartlett (1-0) vs. Germantown**
W 37-27 @ MUS
- 7. Arlington (1-0) vs. Memphis East**
W 48-6 vs. Raleigh-Egypt
- 8. CBHS (1-0) vs. White Station**
W 56-6 vs. Fayette-Ware
- 9. Cordova (1-0) vs. Oakhaven**
W 43-10 vs. Craigmont
- 10. Collierville (0-1) @ Oxford, Miss.**
L 19-7 vs. East Nashville



PRESEASON RANKINGS

1. Collierville
2. Munford
3. Briarcrest
4. St. George's
5. Covington
6. Houston
7. Germantown
8. Arlington
9. MUS
10. Bolton





