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COLLIERVILLE HIGH GRADUATE RETURNS TO INSPIRE AP LITERATURE STUDENTS

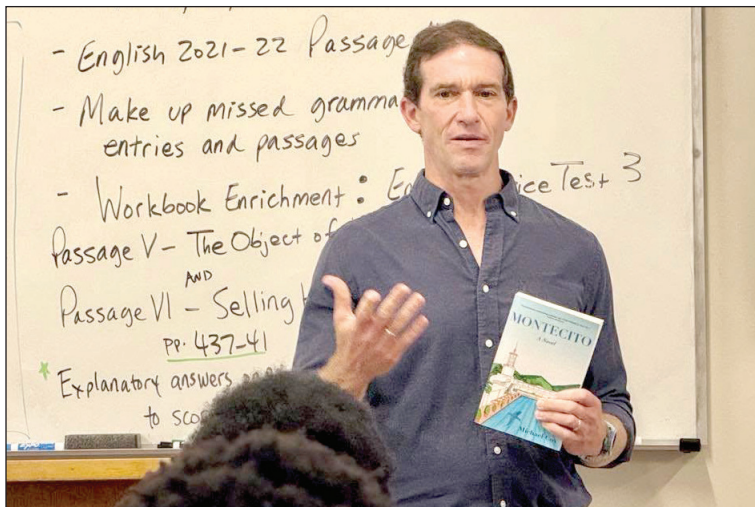
Author Michael Cox shares writing journey, hometown memories with Collierville students

Staff Report

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

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

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



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

Courtesy Collierville High School

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

See Cox, page 2



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

Courtesy of Collierville High School

COLLIERVILLE STUDENTS PUT FIRE SAFETY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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

Staff Report

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

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

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

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

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



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

Courtesy of Collierville Fire Department

fourth grade.

Samyuktha Kailash of Crosswind Elementary School won for

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

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

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

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

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

See Winners, page A8