

areaOBITS

Juanita Fayne, 90, of Brighton;
Michael W. "Mike" Garrett, 71, of Munford;
Sara Glover, 72, of Brighton;
Emma Mae Stephens, 80, of Millington;
Carol Moore Vardell, 83, of Millington;



SEPTEMBER 13-19

49640339: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on Sept. 19 @ 16:38
49636652: No Emergency - Cancelled, on Sept. 19 @ 15:21
49635387: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Heat / Cold Exposure, on Sept. 19 @ 14:53
49632336: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Heat / Cold Exposure, on Sept. 19 @ 13:04
49632258: Medical - Illness - Psychological Behavior Issues, on Sept. 19 @ 11:17
49629886: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 19 @ 8:21
49627726: No Emergency - False Alarm - Malfunctioning Alarm, on Sept. 19 @ 10:14
49624762: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Assault, on Sept. 19 @ 8:32
49624517: Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical) - Fire / Smoke Alarm, on Sept. 19 @ 4:07
49618811: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 19 @ 1:51
49616809: No Emergency - Cancelled, on Sept. 18 @ 21:31
49616721: No Emergency - Cancelled, on Sept. 18 @ 20:44
49616276: No Emergency - False Alarm - Malfunctioning Alarm, on Sept. 18 @ 19:13
49615820: Hazardous Situation - Hazard Non-Chemical - Electrical Power Line Down / Arching / Malfunction, on Sept. 18 @ 17:53
49615193: Fire - Transportation Fire - Vehicle Fire - Commercial, on Sept. 18 @ 8:15
49614673: Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical) - CO Alarm, on Sept. 18 @ 19:19
49604669: Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical) - Fire / Smoke Alarm, on Sept. 18 @ 15:40
49603837: Medical - Illness - Allergic Reaction / Stings, on Sept. 18 @ 15:26
49601551: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 18 @ 12:58
49601194: Hazardous Situation - Investigation - Smoke Investigation, on Sept. 18 @ 13:51
49598189: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 18 @ 11:27
49596791: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 18 @ 11:06
49582341: Medical - Illness - Abdominal Pain / Problems, on Sept. 17 @ 23:44
49578326: No Emergency - Good Intent - No Incident Found Upon Arrival / Location Error, on Sept. 17 @ 20:11
49573804: No Emergency - False Alarm - Other False Call, on Sept. 17 @ 18:07
49566664: Medical - Illness - Unconscious Victim, on Sept. 17 @ 15:29
49566627: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Hemorrhage / Laceration, on Sept. 17 @ 17:06
49561906: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Choking, on Sept. 17 @ 12:28
49559829: Medical - Illness - Abdominal Pain / Problems, on Sept. 17 @ 12:08
49544904: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Sept. 16 @ 21:03
49541811: Medical - Illness, on Sept. 16 @ 19:41
49541264: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Assault, on Sept. 16 @ 19:43
49540013: No Emergency - Good Intent - No Incident Found Upon Arrival / Location Error, on Sept. 16 @ 17:55
49539206: Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical) - CO Alarm, on Sept. 16 @ 16:38
49538888: No Emergency - Good Intent - No Incident Found Upon Arrival / Location Error, on Sept. 16 @ 15:32
49530017: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 16 @ 13:35
49511723: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Assault, on Sept. 15 @ 23:01
49511719: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on Sept. 17 @ 13:40
49511370: No Emergency - Cancelled, on Sept. 15 @ 22:25
49509335: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Sept. 15 @ 21:02
49508564: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Sept. 15 @ 20:29
49503378: No Emergency - Cancelled, on Sept. 15 @ 16:41
49499171: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 15 @ 15:10
49493362: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Hemorrhage / Laceration, on Sept. 15 @ 12:12
49491217: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Sept. 15 @ 11:05
49491037: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Sept. 15 @ 10:59
49483195: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on Sept. 15 @ 5:21
49444162: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Citizen Assist / Service Call, on Sept. 14 @ 20:47
49362980: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 14 @ 16:15
49329387: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Sept. 14 @ 12:46
49325335: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Citizen Assist / Service Call, on Sept. 14 @ 11:56
49249003: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on Sept. 14 @ 9:57
49066108: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 14 @ 3:53
49058660: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on Sept. 13 @ 19:43
49056642: Medical - Illness - Stroke / CVA, on Sept. 13 @ 18:21
49055007: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 13 @ 17:51
49048972: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 13 @ 14:21
49046755: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 13 @ 13:02
49041038: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 13 @ 9:24
49040085: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on Sept. 13 @ 8:44
49036803: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Lift Assist, on Sept. 13 @ 4:55

POSITION 7, pg. 1A

The winner of Position 7 in the election will serve the remainder of Caruthers' unexpired fifth term, which ends on Dec. 31, 2028.

Smith, Denson and Turner recently responded to the following questions prepared and distributed by The Millington Star, but Reed did not respond:

1. What suggestions will you make to the mayor regarding ordinances or resolutions to be passed or amended?

Smith said he will suggest starting with "visions and concepts" that promote a "strong, balanced" city the residents will be proud of. Then, to intentionally "move" on those that are "attainable" and best for Millington's future.

Denson said he will begin by "listening and learning" before proposing changes simply for the sake of change.

He wants to review ordinances and processes affecting small businesses, property owners, development, public safety and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

"We should identify unnecessary barriers, while maintaining appropriate standards for safety and responsible growth," he noted. "And periodically determine whether existing ordinances still accomplish their intended purpose."

Because many of Millington's ordinances may no longer "align" with the city's "development pace," Turner said her "strongest" suggestion will be to conduct a "full review" of those that are "outdated, incomplete or missing."

This will involve "updating language" to reflect current departments and processes, adding "clear" enforcement timelines and ensuring that ordinances include community "expectations."

Turner believes these updates will "improve transparency" and "reduce confusion" for residents, developers and city staff.

2. List three significant issues in this election.

Smith said (a) securing strong leadership, (b) responsible growth and (c) reducing crime.

Denson cited (a) strategic

growth and infrastructure, (b) public safety and essential services and (c) fiscal responsibility and public trust.

Turner listed (a) transparency, (b) responsible growth and (c) public safety.

3. Specifically, how do you plan to deal with each of these issues if you are elected?

Smith said he will review all the data generated by Millington's "visioning" process and then "prioritize" it to build a stronger and more "balanced" city.

Denson said he will advocate for long-term growth planning that considers infrastructure and city services "alongside" development, not "after" it.

Because more "rooftops" and businesses mean greater demands on police, fire and emergency services, he will work with the city's public-safety leadership to understand current staffing, response capabilities, equipment and projected needs.

Denson said residents deserve transparency, "responsible priorities" and confidence that their tax money is being used wisely.

So, he will study the facts, listen to residents, ask "difficult" questions and work with the mayor and the other aldermen to build support for "responsible" solutions.

Turner said she will open communication "channels" by making meeting "materials" available earlier, proposing three readings for approval of agenda items and ensuring that all meetings, except for attorney-client or litigation matters, are public and recorded.

For Millington to grow "strategically" without "overwhelming" its existing resources, she will propose a moratorium on new developments until infrastructure needs, zoning pressures, drainage concerns, road capacity and long-term planning can be evaluated.

Turner said she will support "strong police staffing," elimination of 12-hour shifts to prevent "burnout" and a "smooth" transition when the new police chief is appointed.

4. What do you think is the biggest concern facing

the city at this time?

Smith said managing Millington's growth, specifically, in reference to strong education, development of business and industry, quality of life and infrastructure, and a "secure and safe" city.

Denson cited faster growth than the city is able to support.

He noted that it puts "greater demands" on roads, drainage, utilities, police, fire, emergency services, schools and other resources. "I want Millington to grow strategically," he said, "without sacrificing the quality of life that attracts people here in the first place."

Turner listed rapid growth and the "potential increase" in crime that it will bring.

She said Millington's "small-town feel, warm and friendly residents and beautiful scenery" are what make the city "special."

"It's why I'm concerned about the pace of change we're seeing today," she noted. "I worry about whether our city can realistically support this expansion."

5. What will you do to help recruit more businesses and industries to locate in Millington as a way to increase economic development?

Smith said he will continue to be a "strong" supporter of the Industrial Development Board, Millington Area Chamber of Commerce and the municipal school system.

He will also help work toward a "more enhanced" workforce through commitments like Millington has with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology, NSA Mid-South and other businesses arriving in the city.

Denson said Millington must create an environment where "responsible" businesses want to invest, and local entrepreneurs have an opportunity to succeed.

"Communicate our advantages," he noted, "and listen to existing business owners about obstacles they encounter. When a local business succeeds, one of our neighbors succeeds, too."

Turner said she will meet with local business owners

to build strong working relationships and explore "responsible" tax incentives.

She will also "collaborate closely" with "surrounding" suburban city leaders to strengthen public safety partnerships and address shared infrastructure challenges.

Turner will work closely with the IDB and Chamber of Commerce to strengthen communication between the city and local businesses, support economic growth that "fits Millington's character" and encourage investment that benefits residents.

She will also continue attending meetings of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals to promote transparency and "predictability," and ensure that new residential subdivisions and commercial projects meet community "standards."

6. What will you do to ensure that Millington is a safe community with enhanced amenities that inspire individuals and families to make it their permanent home?

Smith said he will work with other community leaders to ensure that the city has a strong police force, fire department and team of first responders.

When deciding where to "put down roots," Denson said, families consider safety, schools, neighborhoods, parks, businesses, recreation, infrastructure and "a sense of community."

He noted that, as Millington grows, the police, fire and emergency services must have the resources necessary to accommodate it.

While making "thoughtful investments" in quality of life, he said, the city must also "take care"

of the parks, public spaces, roads and facilities that taxpayers already own.

Turner said she will support expanding the use of "grant-funded" programs to bring more "family-focused" activities and facilities to the city.

She will also work to "strengthen and maintain" the amenities that allow residents to enjoy life here "without leaving Millington," while also supporting "safe, well-maintained" neighborhoods.

aroundTOWN

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Saturday October 17 10am-12pm

MILLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
4858 NAVY RD, MILLINGTON, TN 38053
901-872-1585
MILLINGTONPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

@ Millington Public Library

STORYTIME Every Wednesday 11am
Every Wednesday at 11am Millington Public Library has a Storytime for 0-5 years old. Storytime includes stories, songs and a craft! Is your little one still struggling to sit still? No problem! Storytime is a great way for littles to learn how to sit still, before preschool, in a low stress environment the includes breaks to dance those wiggles out!

Every Monday at 11 a.m., the Millington Public Library has a Seniors Computer Class. If there is a specific skill you are wanting to learn, you can call the library at 901-872-1585 to make sure you attend the correct date.

Every Monday at 4 p.m., the Millington Public Library has a Lego Club for ages 6-12. This program has a challenge each week but free building is always allowed. For area preschool and toddlers, the Millington Public Library has two programs weekly both at 11 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday is Storytime and Thursday is an educational playtime called Literacy Gym.

The Millington Library Boosters will be hosting a book sale August 13-16 in the library meeting room. Come out and discover your next great read. The Millington Public Library is located at 4858 Navy Road in Millington.

October @ Millington Library

October 1 from 5-7 p.m. the Millington Public Library will be hosting a magical event celebrating the most popular fantasy series ever written. The Library will have activities, crafts, and adventure! Everyone is welcome to dust off their robes and wands and come join.

October 17 10 a.m. to noon, the Millington Public Library will be holding its annual Spooktacular. This is a trick-or-treat style event where families are welcome to come and celebrate Halloween in a fun and safe environment. If you are a business or club and want to participate and hand out candy, contact our programs coordinator by emailing amanda.bucher@lsslibraries.com.

Annual Fall Consignment Equipment Auction

Saturday, Oct 3 @ 9 A.M.

© Ferge Auctions & Realty 315 S. Bass Ave., Whiteville, TN 38075

Live & Online Bidding

Featuring tractors, farm equipment, trucks, trailers, and more!
Consignments accepted through October 2nd • Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Saturday: 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. To have your equipment included in the online auction, please ensure that your consignment is received by Wednesday, September 30. Please feel free to contact us!

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The Millington Star

LETTERS POLICY

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POSTMASTER

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On That Level

Lady Rebels push No. 1 Lady Bruins to fifth competitive set in Rosemark

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star Editor

The Tipton-Rosemark Academy Lady Rebels have been tested all season on the court.

With plenty of tough lessons and victories to match, the arrival of the University School of Jackson Lady Bruins was sort of a final exam for TRA Head Coach Mischa Butler's crew.

The test got off to a good start for the Lady Rebels beating the Lady Bruins 27-25 in the first set.

The thrilling opening frame would be a microcosm for the five set affair. When the night concluded in the TRA Gymnasium, USJ was relieved to get back on the bus to Madison County surviving the Lady Rebel challenge 25-27, 25-23, 25-21, 23-25 & 15-12.

"We did come out on the wrong end of it, but they fought for every single point," Butler said. "This is the No. 1 seed in

our district and we gave them a fight. I couldn't have asked for a better outcome — except to win. They did amazing and fought for every single point."

The Division II-A West Region No. 1 Lady Bruins entered the contest with a 12-3 overall record. TRA was up for the challenge early with players like Caroline Roland, Lauren Pickett and freshman Andi Richardson scoring at the net to pull out the 27-25 victory.

USJ earned victories in the next two sets with timely scoring and overcoming TRA comebacks. In those frames, Lady Rebels like Allie Marcum, libero Kaitlynn Crull and senior Bailey Treadwell gave TRA a chance at victory with tips and volleys for points.

USJ tied the overall count of sets at 1 to 1 after winning the second set 25-23.

Then the highlight of the night occurred in the third set with TRA trail-

ing 18-17 after a Pickett score on a tip.

The table was set for the point of the night that lasted more than 40 seconds. Toward the end of the exchange between the Lady Bruins and Lady Rebels, USJ returned the ball back over the net quickly.

TRA was able to set a save that wasn't clean. As the ball darted toward the court, Roland sticks out her foot with poise and control to set the ball for a return back over the net.

Fittingly TRA was able to win the point with a kill and deadlock the third frame 18-18.

Despite that setback, USJ outscored TRA 7-3 down the stretch to prevail 25-21.

Facing defeat, TRA rose to the occasion erasing a 19-15 USJ advantage in the fourth set. Lady Rebel Elizabeth McCalla scored on a service ace to make the tally 20-18 in favor of the Lady Bruins. Moments later TRA took the lead when Savannah Forbess scored on a tip



to make the score 22-21. Treadwell scored on a spike and Richardson hit a cross-court kill to make the score 24-22 in favor of TRA.

The Lady Rebels' 25-23 win forced a fifth and final set. USJ displayed its championship pedigree prevailing 15-12 and earned the win.

Butler said despite losing on the scoreboard, she saw that winning DNA in her team.

"We're definitely a championship team, absolutely without a doubt," she said. "Our girls have to have confidence in themselves. We're a young team. We've got a lot of freshmen on the

team. We have to build confidence and be able to step up when we play."

Butler said pushing USJ to the limit has her players on the doorsteps of learning how to be champions.

"I hope they learned no matter who you're playing, you can play amazing," she concluded.



TURNING THE CORNER

Trojans have a chance at victory, Kirby escapes using late turnover for win

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star Editor

The upward trend of 'The Scott Blair Era' was one play from being rewarded with a game-winning touchdown.

Then Kirby Cougar athlete Cordaro Lackland stepped in front of a pass from Millington Trojan quarterback Cole Hawkins late in the fourth quarter.

When Lackland crossed the opposite goal line 92-yards later, the Cougars earned a hard-fought 22-10 win while the Trojans were left with the dreadful moral victory.

"The moral victory is not what they're here for," Trojan Head Coach Blair said. "They came in here to play well and win. It's hard to tell those kids about a moral victory.

"They've got to know that they played better, prepared better and moving forward we've got

Haywood next week, then Craigmont, Fayette-Ware, Ridgeway and Brighton are on the schedule. We've just got to keep moving forward," he added.

Although Millington came up on the wrong end of the outcome, the Trojans displayed progress and growth.

The Trojans (0-5, 0-2 in Region 8-4A) took the lead early behind the defensive efforts of players like Ayden Folsom, Kolyn Clark, Najee Bolton and Kaleb "Batman" Clark. The Cougars were forced to punt and turnover the ball on downs.

Late in the second quarter the Trojans grabbed a 3-0 advantage when Hawkins retrieved back a yard from the center for his place kicking duties.

Hawkins drilled a 34-yard field goal with room to spare to make the tally 3-0 with four minutes and 36 seconds remaining in the first half.

Kirby (4-2, 3-0) final-



ly had a response with Jalandis Summerall locating Lackland for his first TD of the night. Lackland's offensive touchdown was a 47-yard reception to make the score 6-3 in favor of the Cougars.

Before Kirby could enjoy the lead, Trojan

special team specialist Christian Green fielded the kickoff at the 18-yard line. Green raced through the white jerseys of the Cougars and exploded up the field for the touchdown regaining the lead for the Trojans 10-6 with 2 minutes and 6 seconds on the clock.

It took Kirby nearly half of the third quarter to take back the lead when Antonio Christon capped off a Cougar drive with a 10-yard touchdown run to make the score 14-10.

The next 15 minutes of game action was a seesaw affair with the defenses limiting the opposing offenses.

What felt like Millington's last chance to win the game, Hawkins led the Trojans deep into Kirby territory with less than 2 minutes on the clock.

Facing fourth down and 20 yards to go at the 24-yard line, the Trojans took one shot down the field. Lackland saved the day for the Cougars and returned a pick-six 92 yards for the score with 1:03 on the scoreboard.

"We played better tonight," Blair said. "We prepared better. This was one of the first times we did all things right from point A to right now. Man I just hate it for them. We've been practicing

hard. We've got to put more points up on the board. We've got to.

"Defensively, we still have to get off the field," he continued. "We gave them a couple of extra things. It's tough. This one is tough for the kids. I hope they understand that they're getting better each and every week. Eventually they'll turn the corner. As soon as we learn to take care of those little bitty things. I thought we had them there at the end. I really thought we did."

Millington travels to Haywood still in search of win No. 1 in league play and overall. For now another moral win is evidence to those in the program, the lessons are working.

"We're going to turn the corner and make it happen," Blair concluded. "It's going to take some patience. We've got to be able to stop people and put some points up on the board."

Candidates Respond: Cody Childress

Position: Alderman
Position 2
School Funding and the Half-Cent Sales Tax

In 2012, Millington voters approved a half-cent increase in the local sales tax during the effort to establish and fund a new municipal school system. Although the City is not legally required to direct all revenue generated by that half-cent tax to Millington Municipal Schools, the tax was closely associated with funding the creation and operation of the municipal school system.

Regardless of the City's legal obligation, do you believe the City has an obligation to honor the intent under which voters approved the tax by directing all revenue generated by the half-cent increase to Millington Municipal Schools? Why or why not?

City records show that between 2014 and 2026, approximately \$6,801,701 was invested in the school system. That figure also includes \$690,657 paid under the 2014 settlement agreement with Shelby County Schools, bringing the total to approximately \$7,492,358.

The numbers tell an important story:

Approximately \$24.85 million was generated by the half cent sales tax, while approximately \$7.49 million can be identified as going to the school system.

That leaves a difference of roughly \$17.36 million. So the issue is not whether the city was legally required to split the tax 50/50 with the schools. The more important question is whether the city honored the purpose for which Millington citizens approved the additional half cent sales tax in 2012.

Vision for Millington

Conversations about Millington's future can sometimes focus more on why something won't work here than on what we could become. What specifically do you believe Millington should become?

Looking 15-20 years ahead, describe your vision for Millington. Who should we be trying to attract and retain, what should distinguish us from surrounding communities, and how would that vision guide your decisions as an alderman?

A Vision for Millington
I believe the future of Millington should be built around one thing above all else: the family.

The family is the foundation of our society, and we should make Millington a place where families want to live, raise their children, and stay for generations.

That begins with attractive, quality homes that meet the needs of today's families. We also need walking and recreational trails throughout our city and wooded areas, giving families opportunities to enjoy the outdoors together.

While not every job will be located in Millington, we need a strong local economy. Light industrial, distribution, medical facilities, and other quality businesses can provide jobs, strengthen our tax



By Brian McGovern

base, and create a stronger community.

Our airport is one of Millington's greatest assets. While it operates independently, I believe we should continue supporting its growth, including aviation training through TCAT. Looking ahead, I envision the Memphis-Millington Airport expanding opportunities for Executive travel stops.

Millington also needs a central business district—a true Old Town or Town Square. A place with locally owned shops, restaurants, festivals, concerts, and community gatherings.

My vision is simple: Put families first and build a Millington our families will be proud to call home.

Structure of the Board of Aldermen

Millington has seven aldermen, all elected at large. Do you believe seven is the right number, or would a smaller Board create more competitive elections and a stronger pool of candidates?

Should aldermen be subject to term limits? If so, what limits would you support, and would a smaller Board change your view?

Right-Sizing Millington's Board of Aldermen

It is time to take a serious, practical look at the size and structure of Millington's Board of Aldermen. Reducing the board from seven members to five would not eliminate representation; it would create a more efficient governing body while still keeping aldermen accessible to residents.

Millington has approximately 13,000 residents and seven aldermen, meaning each alderman represents about 1,850 citizens. With five aldermen, each would represent approximately 2,600 citizens. That would still provide a strong level of local representation and would be comparable to Arlington, which has about 15,700 residents and six aldermen.

Millington's current ratio is also far lower than those of nearby communities. Germantown has approximately 40,000 residents and five aldermen, or 8,000 residents per alderman. Collierville has approximately 52,000 residents and five aldermen, or 10,400 per alderman. Bartlett has approximately 56,500 residents and six aldermen, or about 9,400 per alderman. These comparisons show that a five-member board would remain appropriately representative while reducing unnecessary duplication, simplifying decision-making, and making accountability clearer.

I also believe we should consider changing how aldermen are elected. Rather than candidates running against one another for individual positions, candidates could run together for the available seats. If four seats were open, the four candidates receive

ing the most votes would be elected. This approach could give voters more meaningful choices and ensure that the candidates with the broadest support serve on the board.

Finally, I support term limits. Two four-year terms should be enough for anyone serving as an alderman. Term limits would encourage new ideas, broaden civic participation, and prevent public office from becoming a permanent position.

The goal is not to reduce representation. It is to create a government that is efficient, accountable, appropriately sized, responsive to residents, and open to new leadership.

City Government Structure

In 2012, Millington changed its form of government, shifting significant responsibility for the City's day-to-day administration from the elected mayor to a professional city manager who is accountable to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

More than a decade later, do you believe this remains the right structure for Millington? Why or why not?

I believe Millington's current city government structure, established by the city charter, is appropriate for our community.

Millington does not have the population or tax base to support the salary needed to attract a qualified full-time mayor. While an elected mayor may be popular, popularity does not necessarily reflect the administrative, financial, or management skills required to lead city government effectively.

A city manager can be selected based on qualifications, experience, and professional ability. The Board of Aldermen can evaluate applicants and hire the best person to manage daily operations.

Under this structure, elected officials set policy, approve the budget, and represent residents. The city manager implements those policies, supervises departments and personnel, coordinates services, and oversees daily administration.

This approach combines democratic accountability with professional management. Residents elect their representatives, while the Board of Aldermen hires and supervises a qualified administrator who can be held accountable for performance.

The city charter should continue to clearly define the responsibilities of the mayor, Board of Aldermen, and city manager. Maintaining this structure allows Millington to benefit from professional management without placing responsibility for daily operations on an elected official who may lack the necessary qualifications.

New Growth and Existing Neighborhoods

Millington is experiencing significant new residential and commercial development, while many of our existing neighborhoods and commercial ar-

—CHILDRESS, pg. 5A

Candidates Respond: Steve DeClue

Position: Alderman
Position 2
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In 2012, Millington voters approved a half-cent increase in the local sales tax during the effort to establish and fund a new municipal school system. Although the City is not legally required to direct all revenue generated by that half-cent tax to Millington Municipal Schools, the tax was closely associated with funding the creation and operation of the municipal school system.

Regardless of the City's legal obligation, do you believe the City has an obligation to honor the intent under which voters approved the tax by directing all revenue generated by the half-cent increase to Millington Municipal Schools? Why or why not?

Yes, they should honor their obligation and provide at least 75% collected directly to the School System. The residents fully believed when voting, all the money raised would go directly into the school system. It's very hard to compete with high schools like Lakeland (Math/Reading TCAP scores of 66.4%/63.8%, grad rate is 95.2%, avg ACT score is 25), Arlington (math/reading TCAP scores of 72.8%/63.8%, grad rate is 97.5%, avg ACT score is 24), Munford (math/reading TCAP scores of 43.9%/42.5%, grad rate is 86.5%, avg ACT score is 22.5) while Millington is (math/reading TCAP scores are 22.1%/28.8%, grad rate is 87%, avg ACT score is 20.5). These numbers are cited from multiple sources for year 2025-2026. The city must invest in our school system now if we want our children and school system to be successful. If our school system is successful than our City will be successful. When families look for a place to live, especially Military families, the top items are is affordable housing, school grades and crime rate/safety. I know, because we were that family for 24 years. When elected I intend to seek a full review of school and city funding compared to future needs.

Structure of the Board of Aldermen

Millington has seven aldermen, all elected at large. Do you believe seven is the right number, or would a smaller Board create more competitive elections and a stronger pool of candidates?

Should aldermen be subject to term limits? If so, what limits would you support, and would a smaller Board change your view?

For me a even board of 6 with a mayor is ideal. With a board of 5 or 7 and a mayor, the mayor is never put into a decision-making position. There will never be a tie and need for further discussions on items with an odd numbered board. I don't believe the amount of board members will make it more competitive or create a larger pool of candidates. If this were the case why are positions 1 and 3 running opposed? Board members should be limited to no more than 8 years total. Same for any city board, appointed commission/board member and the mayor. The number of board members to me is really irrelevant as long as the residents are equally representative based on our current population. We must ask ourselves this questions. Of all the the candidates running for Alderman, how many currently or have been on a city board or commission for more than 8 years with out a break and what have they done for the city and residents?

Vision for Millington

Conversations about Millington's future can sometimes focus more on why something won't work here than on what we could become. What specifically do you believe Millington should become?

Looking 15-20 years ahead, describe your vision for Millington. Who should we be trying to attract and retain, what should distinguish us from surrounding communities, and how would that vision guide your decisions as an alderman?

My first question is why won't it work? I see Millington as the place that has it all. Small town community with Flair. Safe place to live, raise your family and retire. We must have change, in the right way. My vision for our future is to be an upscale country community. We have to recruit/entice our next



By Brian McGovern

generation (25-35 year old's). What's their wants/needs? Types of housing, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, etc. While keeping it affordable. Speak with our High School/college students about what will keep them here and bring them back after college. We have attributes surrounding communities don't have. The Navy Base with Veterans and retirees traveling for shopping and medications. Land for development and a airport giving us unlimited industrial growth options with better paying jobs. As your Alderman I want better checks and balances. Does infrastructure support our growth. I want to know, why, who will benefit, what's it cost, footprint, how long to do and what's the return on investment. I plan to work with the Chamber of Commerce and City Boards to seek out investors and businesses to revitalize Navy Road while recruiting businesses to move back from HWY 51.

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City Government Structure

In 2012, Millington changed its form of government, shifting significant responsibility for the City's day-to-day administration from the elected mayor to a professional city manager who is accountable to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

More than a decade later,

do you believe this remains the right structure for Millington? Why or why not?

I believe we should have both. I view the management of the City as a corporation or Military Chain of Command which has a CEO/Commanding Officer (mayor), Board of Directors/Senior Leadership (board of alderman) and a COO/Operations Officer (city manager). However, I believe the city manager position must have some hiring restrictions.

-MBA in Business management or equivalent experience.

-Minimum of 10 years' experience as upper-level management to include leadership and finance backgrounds.

-Be a performance-based position that has an annual progress reviewed completed by each of the Board of Alderman (BOA), documented in writing, reviewed by HR, presented to the mayor and reviewed with the city manager.

-Must be thoroughly vetted.

New Growth and Existing Neighborhoods

Millington is experiencing significant new residential and commercial development, while many of our existing neighborhoods and commercial areas are aging.

How should the City balance encouraging new development with reinvesting in and improving what is already here? As Millington grows, how would you ensure that existing neighborhoods receive the same attention to appearance, code enforcement, parks, infrastructure, traffic safety and quality of life that often accompanies new development?

I have learned since deciding to run is demographics of a city effects everything. I realize it will be a challenge to recruit investors and businesses based on our population of 12,935, 4,640 households, Median income of \$49,979.00 and poverty level at 16.5%. We first must know how our current codes/ordinances effect things like building updates/improvements, access, parking and zoning. What incentives can be offered by the city, Grant Money availability and is there any historical value? Once these questions are answered, the city can build a plan with the Chamber of Commerce and IDB to recruit/entice investors to improve and revitalized our aging areas. Homes in our older areas are owned by elderly/retired on fixed incomes that can't afford improvements/code violations. We must work as a community, look to local organizations/business/volunteers to donate and assist these residents. Landlords and renters alike must be held accountable by the city. My goal when elected is to ask for a review the current infrastructure compared to development. A brief on all current code violations. Recommend Public Safety Director, Fire/Police Chief tour different parts of the

—DECLUE, pg. 5A



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Taking a Leave

Get your cameras ready for some of the best looking trees of October and November

The best time of the year is finally here.

Autumn has about 90 days and most of those have nice temperatures, calm conditions and enough sunlight to have a blessed day.

This time of the year has become the second wedding season and of course there will be plenty of festivals in a town near you.

Toss in Friday night lights, College Football Saturdays and NFL on Sundays, the fall season is almost like Heaven.

Now autumn is the doorstep for winter. Cold weather is near and the transition involves some terrifying days with severe weather.

Despite a few days of fear, most of the time from late September to mid-November is crisp, cool and colorful. The backdrop to most wonderful fall days is a picturesque tree line.

I want to give a scientific breakdown of the best trees and brushes to capture by eyesight or camera every autumn.

10. Blueberry

The leaves are not blue, rather they are a bright red. The bonus is this beautiful plant produces a delicious berry. The blueberry provides any fall foliage a dash

of color if you have a garden nearby. Blueberries are easy to grow. The ideal conditions are acidic soil and a light, yearly pruning.

9. Witch hazel

The next entry is not a tree either with the shrub known as witch hazel. It is a dense brush that offers some of the last blooms in fall. When most trees are bare, the witch hazel still has a little life left in them.

You can spot them with their mostly yellow base with some orange or red highlights.

Plant in partial shade, such as on the north side of a house or a north facing slope where moist but well-drained soils predominate.

8. Smokebush

Still on the shrubs with the smokebush. It is considered a small tree and it provides some pop to any fall foliage. The smokebush is a deciduous shrub with plume-like flower clusters that resemble puffs of smoke.

Those signature blooms appear in late spring to early summer. Then a few months later the smokebush offers vibrant fall colors, with leaves turning shades of orange, red, and purple. If I were to plant a version of the smokebush it would be



‘Royal Purple.’ The shrub tolerates a wide range of soils and will usually survive dry conditions once established.

7. Shumard Oak

Confession time, the first three entries I selected from photo evidence. The Shumard Oak is the first on my countdown I’ve witnessed in person over my life. This tree is a southern native and goes from a summer shade tree to a fall treat. Shumard oaks characteristics are fast growing and adaptable. The Oak can tolerate the droughts of the summer and winds of November. Then in the fall you get a burgundy red fall foliage addition to your tree line.

6. Black Gum

You walking in the part in October and out of nowhere you see a tree standing alone with a strong presence. Al-

though there are rows of trees standing taller right behind this natural beauty, you realize quickly it must be a black gum. Also known as the tupelo, this tree is a native shade tree with scarlet fall color. While the tree is great for us to look at and gives a tree line some needed pop, the black gum has wildlife value, supporting native bees, tree frogs, and birds.

5. Juniper

This plant provides a camellia-like bloom. It is a flowering tree common in the South. The juniper has a papery white bloom with golden stamens in the summer. Then in the fall it transforms into a golden look.

Then there is an additional treat in the winter time with multicolored exfoliating bark, which peels away revealing strips of gray, orange, and brick red.

For the past three months, 90 percent of the trees you have encountered have been green. Then the cool temperature of the fall hits and you are missing that green pop. Thank God for the evergreens and the king of them, the pine tree.

Pine trees provide food and shelter to a variety of wildlife. And for us humans, it is our primary Christmas tree and a great backdrop to the variety of new colors in the forest.

3. Bald Cypress

It can hold onto its green plush look throughout the fall or transition over to a combination of red, brown, orange with a dull green base. The bald cypress makes a great addition to the autumn landscape with a dose of cinnamon and copper-colored foliage. These trees rank so high because they have multiple hues.

Despite the tree’s association with ponds, bald cypress tolerates a range of growing conditions, from somewhat dry soils to standing water.

2. Ginkgo

The bright yellow can be spotted from miles away. The ginkgo tree is like the official tree of the fall. It’s the grand marshal who opens up the parade of photographers, selfie-seekers and those who get hypnotized while walking in the park.

The best part about the ginkgo is bittersweet. The tree reaches a peak fall foliage look that suddenly deteriorates into the leaves dropping off. There is a moment when there is a 50/50 split of leaves on the tree and right underneath. It is a remarkable sight.

Their foliage is unique among trees, with a distinct fan shape and a brilliant gold fall color that ignites the landscape.

1. Red Maple

I see your golden tree and raise you a red maples. Of course this tree produces a bright scarlet color come the fall. The name red maple says it all with it being known for its flowers, fruit, and twigs. Give this shade tree plenty of room to spread its roots. Plants tolerate wet soil, making them useful in rain gardens. From the forest to your front yard, the red maple can be the star of the autumn show every October.

THOMAS SELLERS JR. is the editor of The Millington Star and both the sports editor and a weekly personal columnist for West 10 Media/Magic Valley Publishing. Contact him by phone at (901) 476-7116, by fax to (901) 529-7687 and by email to starmillington@gmail.com

CHILDRESS, pg. 4A

dential and commercial development, while many of our existing neighborhoods and commercial areas are aging.

How should the City balance encouraging new development with reinvesting in and improving what is already here?

As Millington grows, how would you ensure that existing neighborhoods receive the same attention to appearance, code enforcement, parks, infrastructure, traffic safety and quality of life that often accompanies new development?

Let’s address existing neighborhoods first. Too many established neighborhoods are overwhelmed by rental properties. In many cases, these homes are neglected because occupants do not own them and may be struggling to pay rent and utilities. This is not just a Millington problem; it is a nationwide challenge.

Most rental-property owners view their properties as investments. Creating opportunities to purchase older homes, renovate them, or replace them with new construction could greatly benefit the city. Buildings do not last forever, and there is no simple solution. However, neighborhoods can regain pride and value when infrastructure improves and older properties receive new ideas and purposes.

New growth should complement existing neighborhoods rather than leave them behind. Thoughtful redevelopment can preserve the character of established communities while creating safer, more attractive, and more valuable places to live.

By encouraging responsible

investment, supporting homeowners, improving infrastructure, and developing practical solutions for deteriorating properties, Millington can strengthen existing neighborhoods while preparing for future growth.

Motivation and Priorities

What motivated you to run, and how does that motivation translate into specific priorities you would pursue as an alderman? At the end of your term, what would need to have changed or been accomplished for you to consider your service successful?

My motivation for running for alderman is rooted in my 13 years of service on the Millington Municipal School Board.

The half-cent sales tax issue that has affected our city for more than a decade is a major factor in my decision to run. I understand that the city must have adequate funding to operate, and I recognize the city’s success in increasing employee salaries, particularly for our police and fire departments. In the past, those departments often served as training grounds for larger municipalities. By raising salaries, Millington has been able to retain more of its personnel.

Our school system faces a similar challenge. Although it has a substantial budget, it has struggled to compensate certified teachers competitively. Neighboring school systems are offering higher salaries, and as a result, we lose too many excellent educators to districts with

the resources to pay them what they are worth. We must retain our best teachers just as the city works to retain its police officers and firefighters.

Another reason I am running is the current construction of cookie-cutter homes. Millington

deserves builders and developers who have the city’s best interests at heart and who will help create neighborhoods that strengthen our community.

By the end of my term, I hope Millington’s schools will be receiving the sales-tax funds they are owed. I also want to see our educators compensated at least as well as those in neighboring school systems, if not better.

A city’s greatest attraction for families is its school system—not its restaurants or shopping, but the quality of education available to their children.

Families, Teenagers

What role should the City play in creating activities, recreation and gathering places for families and teenagers? What should be provided or supported by the City, and what should be left to private businesses, nonprofits or other community organizations?

A clear vision for Millington’s future should guide our decisions. The city may have a five- or ten-year plan, but I have never seen it, and I doubt many people in the community have seen it either.

A worthy vision would include entertainment for young people,



Cody Childress

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provide access to city facilities and make them available for free or low cost. We host events for our seniors, why not for our families and teens? However, when providing for teenagers we can’t close the doors at 8pm. Many cit-

ies across the Country own and operate a community pool. This would be a great partnership between the city, Naval Base and the school system. We must get local businesses and churches involved for support and sponsorship as well as our residents. Work with YMCA to provide low cost passed to residents? Whatever the city does/does not do we must have something for our families and teenagers. We loose sales tax dollars every time we go out of town to a movie, dinner, club, bowling, shopping, SAMS/COSTO and the list can go on. We have to recruit and entice new business. I believe in full transparency so I refer back to a previous commit and that’s our city demographics. Busi-



Steve DeClue

dents. Some of our current leadership doesn’t think the same way as the residents that elected them. We must slow down growth, review our infrastructure to growth, review our school capabilities, bring in family enter-

tainment/something for our teenagers to do, 24 hour emergency care, Women’s Health Clinic, Sam’s/Costco, sit down family restaurant just to name a few. I would feel successful at the end of my term if our schools were improved, we have family entertainment/something for our teenagers and a Sam’s/Costco.

Families, Teenag-

ers and Quality of Life What role should the City play in creating activities, recreation and gathering places for families and teenagers? What should be provided or supported by the City, and what should be left to private businesses, nonprofits or other community organizations?

The City can play a huge role through Parks and Recreation to

activities for senior citizens, and places where families can spend time together in a safe, welcoming environment.

Private business partners have always played an important role in developing green spaces and entertainment venues. Millington could pursue possibilities such as an amphitheater for outdoor music events, bowling alleys, arcades, batting cages, driving ranges, and miniature golf.

Improving quality of life is not merely a dream. It is a feeling, a vision, and a goal that should guide our community. With thoughtful planning, public input, and partnerships with private businesses, that vision can one day become a reality.

Public Meeting

Transparency

Some Millington public meetings are currently recorded and made available online. Do you believe the City should require all public meetings to be recorded and made available online? Why or why not? Should any meetings also be required to be streamed live?

Currently, Millington Municipal School Board meetings are streamed, and meetings involving the school board are recording and made available to the public.

I believe the same standard should apply to our city government. Aldermen meetings, IDB meetings, and Planning Commission meetings should all be recorded and made available to the public. If practical, these meetings should also be streamed live and made available through a community YouTube channel or other public platform.

nesses are in the job of making money. If they can’t make money they will not come. Some may say that is harsh, but it is reality and transparent.

Public Meeting Transparency

Some Millington public meetings are currently recorded and made available online. Do you believe the City should require all public meetings to be recorded and made available online? Why or why not? Should any meetings also be required to be streamed live?

All city public boards and meetings should be recorded from the very beginning, streamed and available online. It should also include all personnel comments made by residents or business owners. Many residents may not be able to attend and would be able to watch live or later. I would like a website made available for residents to text or email questions to the boards ahead of time and an answer provided at the meetings. I want to establish a quarterly city Q&A town hall at different locations around the city. No business, just questions and answers.

Surveillance and Traffic

Enforcement

Millington uses both red-light

Not everyone can attend a meeting in person because of work, family responsibilities, or other commitments. Recording and streaming these meetings would allow citizens to see what was discussed, what decisions were made, and how their elected and appointed officials voted.

To me, this is simply good government. Transparency builds trust, and the citizens of Millington deserve the opportunity to see their government at work

Surveillance and Traffic

Enforcement

Millington uses both red-light cameras and automated license plate readers. What are your views on the use of these technologies? How do you weigh their potential public safety and traffic enforcement benefits against concerns about privacy and government surveillance?

Since Millington has invested in Flock cameras for several years, how many arrests or criminal cases can the Police Department document where information obtained from a Flock camera materially contributed to locating or identifying the suspect?”

My most concern is this, is the 4th Amendment being violated? Who has access to the information? How long is the information stored? All valid questions to which I have no answers for.

As far as Red light cameras go, I have applied for a public record from the city of Millington. All the accidents that have occurred at these intersections since the cameras were installed and were the accidents, a right angle collision or a rear end collision. I don’t have this information at this time so I will withhold my opinion until I have data.

cameras and automated license plate readers. What are your views on the use of these technologies? How do you weigh their potential public safety and traffic enforcement benefits against concerns about privacy and government surveillance?

Red light cameras are a complete waste of money. No one pays for tickets.

They do nothing for traffic enforcement and probably cost more than they bring in. Not including the postage paid to send them out several times. If elected I would investigate having them removed and possibly redirecting the money to more hands-on traffic enforcement like speeding. License plate readers to me are a double edge sword.

They can be a great tool if monitored and used correctly. I try to look at the positive side of how many trafficked persons have been saved and criminals taken off the street by them. Yes, many think it’s an invasion of your privacy but everywhere you go have cameras. Walmart, gas stations, restaurants, church, school, parking lots and just about every home now have them.

Best-Selling Cars by Decade

The 1950s belonged to the Chevrolet Bel Air, whose tailfins, two-tone paint, and V8 power captured postwar American optimism and suburban prosperity.

The Chevrolet Bel Air, especially the 1957 model, epitomized '50s car culture, and its chrome features, tailfins, and two-tone paint jobs made it the quintessential car of the decade. Hard to believe it's about to turn 70.

The 1960s were defined by the Ford Mustang. When it debuted in 1964, Ford priced it within reach of younger buyers, gave it sporty proportions, and offered a wide menu of options and engines, and the result was more than 400,000 sold in the first year and over a million by 1966.

Economic turmoil reshaped the 1970s. Amid the oil crisis and emissions regulations, the Oldsmobile Cutlass became

America's best-selling car for much of the decade by offering balance rather than extremes. Meanwhile Toyota gained ground: the Corolla offered a solution to the oil crisis, environmental regulations, and quality issues, becoming popular for its fuel economy and durability.

By the 1980s, compacts and Japanese imports dominated. The Ford Escort was one of America's best-selling cars, even topping passenger-car sales in years like 1987 and 1988.

The 1990s saw Detroit's last stand at the top: the Ford Taurus sold over 1.9 million units from 1992 to 1996, the longest best-selling streak besides the Camry, before Toyota's Camry took over in 1997.

The 2000s and 2010s saw the Camry be the bestselling car in America almost every year



since 1997, peaking in 2007.

But among all vehicles, the Ford F-Series has topped U.S.

sales 1980s. That reign finally ended recently: F-150 sales fell 5% to 460,915 in 2024 while

Toyota RAV4 sales rose 9% to 475,193, ending Ford's near 50-year run atop U.S. sales.

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(901)872-3558

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4899 Easley St • Millington
(901)489-9622
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Adult Classes: Wed. & Thur.
6:00-9:00 pm
Office Hours: Wed. & Thur.
12:00-6:00 pm
Call anytime with questions
or prayer concerns
David Nolen, Pastor

Assembly of God First
3719 Shelby Rd
(901)873-3000

Anchor Baptist Church
8054 Nelson Rd
(901)872-2454

Awakening Church
245 Commercial Drive,
Munford
(901)292-8432
Contemporary Services
Sundays at 10:00 am
Youth group meeting
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

**New Historical Belmont
Missionary Baptist Church**

5885 Hamlet Road
Millington,
(901)574-9917
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Pastor Dr. Janet Morgan

Bethlehem Baptist Church
8801 Bethuel Rd
(901)872-7929

Big Creek Baptist Church
6797 Big Creek Church Rd
(901)872-4702

**Promiseland Missionary
Baptist Church**
3728 West Union Road
(901) 872-2565
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.

Bolton Full Gospel Church
7333 Pleasant Ridge Road
(901) 872-2744
Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m.

**Christ International
Ministries**
4081 Lelah Ln
(901)872-1594

**The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints**
9604 US Highway 51 North
(901)873-3582

**Church Street Church of
Christ**
Brother Brian Ayers,
Evangelist
(901)482-7576
Sunday Worship:
• Morning – 10:15 am to
12:30
• Fellowship Potluck Lunch –
12:30 to 1:30
• Afternoon – 1:30 to 3:00 pm
(Held at The Millington
Civic Center Rm #106 • 8077
Wilkinsville Rd., Millington)
Weekly Bible Study
• Wednesday – 7 to 8 pm
(Held at the Baker
Community
Center 8942 Church St,
Millington)

River of Life Church
8850 Highway 51
(901) 837-8781

**Crossroads Church of the
Nazarene**
3865 Beaver Rd • Munford
(731) 223-2258
Pastor Mitchell Combs

Dominion Christian Center
7199 Raleigh-Millington Road
(901) 873-8020

Pastor Lenard J. Hardaway
Sunday School: 9:00 am
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
Wednesday Night Bible
Study: 6:30 pm
Where Living Over-All is
Good (Ps 8:5-7)

East Acres Baptist Church
6915 Navy Rd
(901)872-1509

**Harris Chapel
Church of God in Christ**
6941 Sledge Road, Millington
Elder John Adam Dixon, Senior Pastor
901-872-6087
www.harrischapelcogic.com

Grace Baptist Church
9171 Brunswick Road
Millington, TN 38053
(901)409-0389
Pastor Jeff Patrick
10:30 a.m. Sundays

Faith Assembly of God
9540 US Hwy 51 North
(901)872-8443

**Faith Heritage Baptist
Church**
4274 Duncan Rd
(901)872-0828

**First United Pentecostal
Church**
4209 Shelby Rd
(901)872-3558

**Greater New Hope COGIC
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Sunday services are held at
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Education Ave, Munford at
9:30 am

Family Life Center
5010 W Union Rd
(901)873-8929

**First United Methodist
Church**
8029 Wilkinsville Rd
(901)872-4414

**Hampton Global
Methodist Church**
7835 Armour Road
(901) 872-2349
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:45 a.m. Service

**Historical First Baptist
Church**
4284 Shelby Rd
(901)872-3411

**Holy Faith United
Ministries**
7997 Martha St • Millington
(901)873-1808
hfadmin@hfum3.org

Pastor Orlando Hughes
Sunday Morning
Instruction 9:00 am
Prayer 10:00 am
Worship 10:15 am
Daytime Bible Study Tue:
11:45 am–12:45 pm
TPT (Turning Point Thursday)
Bible Study Thursday 7 pm

Lighthouse Church
3719 Shelby Rd
(901)873-3000

Lucy Baptist Church
4005 Lucy Rd
(901)872-0623

Millington Church of Christ
7320 Raleigh-Millington Rd
(901)872-4426

**Millington Church
of God in Christ**
7614 Raleigh-Millington Rd
(901)872-6298

**Millington Church of the
Nazarene**
6840 Raleigh-Millington Rd
(901)872-7602

**Millington First Baptist
Church**
5010 W. Union Rd •
Millington
(901)872-2264

Mt. Herman AME Church
3492 Quito-Drummonds Rd •
Millington
Weekly Worship
Opportunities: Sunday
• 10:00 am Church School
• 11:00am Worship and Praise
Wednesday
• 7:15 pm Bible Study (after
2nd and 4th Sundays)
Rev. I.W. Booker, Pastor

**Mt. Sinai Missionary
Baptist Church**
(901)872-0711

New Hope Baptist Church
7003 Raleigh-Millington Rd •
Millington
(901)872-3453
Sunday: Family School
10:00 am
Preaching Service 11:00 am
Bible Study &
Prayer: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Discipleship
Service: 7:00 pm

**New Beginning Non-
Denominational Church**
8054 Nelson Rd
(901)412-0241

**New Living Well Worship
Center**
7996 Wilkinsville Rd •
Millington
(901)283-0823 -or-
(901)568-6248
Sunday School: 8:00 am
Sunday Worship Services:
9:00 am
Wed. Night Bible Study: 6:45
pm to 8:00 pm
Carolyn A. V. Brown, Pastor

**Power For Living Christian
Church**
4201 Pleasant Ridge Rd
(901)872-3757

**Rosemark First
Presbyterian USA**
8592 Kerrville – Rosemark
Rd Rosemark
(901)829-2051
Sunday School: 10 am
Worship: 11 am

Sanctify Holiness Outreach
8921 US-51
(901)873-4833

St Anne's Episcopal Church
4063 Sykes Rd • Millington
(901)872-0303
Service held Sunday 10:30 am
Wednesdays 10 a.m.

St. James CME
Pastor Charlie Coleman
6836 Navy Road, Millington
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
Bible Study-Wednesday @ 12 Noon

**Saint William Catholic
Church**
4932 Easley St • Millington
(901)872-4099
Sunday Masses
Saturday (Vigil) 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am
and 11:00 am

Tabernacle Missionary
Baptist Church
(901)873-4854

**Temple of Praise
Community
Worship Center**
5099 Easley St
(901)338-5369

**Temple United Methodist
Church**
4404 Sykes Rd
(901)872-1544

Unity Baptist Church
9596 Evander Rd
(901)872-7233

**Upper Canaan Missionary
Baptist Church**
9090 Hwy 51 North
(901)-872-6919

**West Canaan Baptist
Church**
8715 Wilkinsville Rd
(901)872-2426

**West Union Cumberland
Presbyterian Church**
3099 West Union Rd •
Millington
(901)876-5757
Sunday School & Bible Study
on Sun. at 10 am
Morning Worship at 11 am
Rev. James Hamblin, Pastor

The WORD Church
8641 Greenhill Rd
(901)872-6695

Zion Hill M.B. Church
4470 Duncan Rd
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Along the Journey

Compassion is the love that recognizes and goes forth to identify with the preciousness of all that is lost and broken within ourselves and others. At first it seems as if compassionate love originates with our free decision to be as compassionate as we can be toward ourselves as we sit in meditation. As our practice deepens, we come to realize that in choosing to be compassionate, we are yielding to the compassionate nature of God flowing through us, in and as our compassion toward our self as precious in our own frailty.

God is revealed in Christ as a compassionate love that recognizes and goes forth to identify with us as precious in our frailty. This is what Jesus reveals to us in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). We all know the story of the son who goes off against his father's wishes and squanders his share of his father's money. When he runs out, he realizes how foolish he has been and returns home As he continues homeward, ashamed and remorseful, he is not prepared for the moment in which he first looks up to see his father running toward him with open arms.

The father embraces the son as preciousness almost too precious to bear. The son is at once undone and restored to wholeness in a flurry of embraces received and given. The two of them stand together out on the open road, each laughing and crying at once. Each causes the other to lose his balance as each holds up the other. We can sense in their awkward dance of compassionate love the dance we all long to dance. For we all intuit a taste of heaven in the compassionate embrace that welcomes home one who has been lost . . .

In the actual moment of the encounter there is, for the father and the son, nothing but their overflowing, compassionate encounter. The parable reveals God's version of reality. It reveals the way God always is toward us, regardless of how foolish and hurtful we may have been.

As we yield to compassion, we are caught in the up-draft of grace that carries us aloft. Then, in one single continuous movement of love, compassion draws us downward into the preciousness of all that is lost and broken within ourselves. The deeper the brokenness, the greater the momentum of the descent. The greater the momentum of descent, the more deeply compassionate love descends into the innermost recesses of our doubts and fears. Suddenly encountering such love , our doubts and fears melt in the love that sets us free ... free to dance in the journey that is ours with the Creator ...

... in the journey with you!
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Earning Their Wings

Lady Cardinals go into final regular season week still building toward a championship

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star Editor

Prior to their showdown for the district championship against the Millington Lady Trojans, the Brighton Lady Cardinals had the business of Senior Night. The evening of Sept. 24 on the Brighton Soccer Field, Lady Cardinals Head Coach Kelsi Williams shined the spotlight on her 12th graders Brooke McClelland, Mia Rodriguez, Tiana Farrie, Abby Young and Autumn Mink. The night was made extra special by Brighton beating the Ripley Lady Tigers 9-0. Last year the Lady Tigers

didn't even exist, with Ripley shutting down its soccer program in 2025. From the return in August at Tipton-Rosemark Academy to the game in Tipton County against the Lady Cardinals, the Lady Tigers have made improvements and displayed a resolve reflective of a program heading in the right direction. The standard for Brighton in 2026 is competing for a championship. Williams said her team started slow and she wants to see that be eliminated heading into October. "We just need to settle down and connect our passes," she noted. "We get a little over excited and jum-

bled up. As long as we keep our spacing and connect, we're good." Brighton took advantage of the developing Lady Tigers starting with a McClelland penalty kick less than 3 minutes into the game. After McClelland scored again on a corner kick bouncing off a Ripley player, the Lady Cardinals went ahead 3-0 when Rodriguez connected from a corner kick. The tally was 4-0 at the 14:35 mark after another on-goal. Rodriguez scored her second goal of the night 35 seconds later. The first half closed out with two more Lady Cardinals goals with Tiana Farrie

blasting in a shot to make the halftime score 7-0. The mercy rule was put into effect less than 8 minutes into the second half when Presley Hildebrand scored and McClelland ended the night at the 32:22 mark of action. After McClelland dribbled through the Ripley defense she launched a shot across her body that sailed into the air and landed in the corner. "I know they're looking forward to Millington," Kelsi concluded. "They have some revenge plans coming back from last year. I know it's nice to have Senior Night, but they're looking forward to Monday."



Running the Race Together

Millington Education Foundation enters new phase, continues mission for area youth

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star Editor

The first year of the Millington Early Learning Center has garnered rave reviews. Progress is continuing on the construction of the future Millington Middle School and there is still a buzz about the 2026 Millington Trojan Track team's State title. On the morning of Sept. 24, the Millington Education Foundation brought together many of Millington's leaders and those subjects were major topics among the guests at Olympic Steak & Pizza located 8500 Wilkinsville Road. The annual MEF Appreciation Breakfast was a chance to shine a spotlight on those who contributed to those students and athletes. MEF's Cary Vaughn had a chance to make two major announcements of special donations with Houston Carson presenting a check for \$2,500 to the foundation on the behalf of the Millington Ro-



tary Club and Patriot Bank. Millington Municipal Schools Superintendent James "Bo" Griffin joined Vaughn and donors Terry Roland and Kapil Dalsania for a \$5,000 presentation to finish the drive to purchase top level State championship rings for the Trojan Track team. For more than 15 years the MEF has been the driving force behind being a conduit on connecting sponsors and donors with the schools. More than \$200,000 has been

poured back into Millington's schools in grants. Millington School Board members Cody Childress and Chris Denson were in attendance alongside Aldermen Don Lowry, John Perales, Bethany Huffman and Chris Ford. Millington Mayor Larry Dagen addressed the gathering of nearly 50 people about the growth of the MEF. Then new MEF Board members were recognized like Larry Jackson, Bill Howard, Maggie Gamble, Rachel Blakeman, Erika Deaton, Wendy Strevel and Christina

Halleron. Millington Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Chris Thomas also spoke announcing half of the proceeds from the annual Chamber Golf Tournament will be donated. It will be added to the pot of the 2026 Grants that will be announced later in the year. Principals and administrators like Patricia Speight reflected on how the grant has been used over the years to enhance the education of the children in Millington. The MEF mission statement is

to generate and distribute resources for the benefit of the Millington Schools to enrich, maintain and expand programs needed to meet the schools stated mission of excellence in education. The goal is to promote and enhance educational excellence by providing independent funding that would not typically be covered by the school budget for worthy educational projects, enrichment programs, and other educational initiatives beyond the standard curriculum. One way the Millington Education Foundation's mission is accomplished is through a Grant Program available to all teachers in the Millington Municipal Schools each year. These grants are used to carry out innovative projects that enrich the standard curriculum in ways that directly affect students' day-to-day classroom experiences as well as improve the education system as a whole. For more information, visit millingtoneducationfoundation.org



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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 7

WEEK 7

1. Briarcrest (6-0) @ CBHS
W 38-30 vs. Southwind

2. St. George's (5-1) @ Northpoint
W 1-0 @ HW Byers (foreit)

3. Munford (4-1) vs. Kingsbury
L 40-13 vs. Whitehaven

4. Covington (5-1) vs. Bolivar Central
W 49-3 vs. Ripley

5. Arlington (5-1) @ Cordova
W 21-7 vs. Lakeland Prep.

6. Bolton (4-2) @ Hamilton
W 40-0 vs. Douglass

7. ECS (4-2) @ Lausanne
W 33-0 vs. Hardin County

8. CBHS (4-2) vs. Briarcrest
W 42-12 vs. PURE

9. Collierville (3-3) vs. Craigmont
W 49-14 @ Bartlett

10. Houston (3-3) vs. Oak Grove (Miss.)
W 46-0 vs. Cordova

WEEK 6

1. Munford

2. Briarcrest

3. St. George's

4. Covington

5. Arlington

6. St. Benedict

7. Bartlett

8. CBHS

9. Bolton

10. ECS

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