

areaOBITS

Margaret Buss, 51, of Millington,
Terry "Devon" Fleming, 66, of Tipton County,
Ronald David "Dave" Francis, 70, of Munford,
Esther Lee Holloway, 71, of Millington,
Ron Murray, 63, of Brighton,
Betty Lynn Porras, 81, of Millington,

FIRE
reports

SEPT. 27-OCT. 3

50579906: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Lift Assist, on Oct. 3 @ 22:53
50579527: Fire - Structure Fire - Room and Contents Fire, on Oct. 3 @ 20:43
50576512: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Oct. 3 @ 21:13
50575405: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Oct. 3 @ 20:39
50573160: No Emergency - Cancelled, on Oct. 3 @ 18:49
50566921: Medical - Illness - Heart Problems, on Oct. 3 @ 15:23
50566472vMedical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Oct. 3 @ 12:12
50566433: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on Oct. 3 @ 14:57
50551547: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Lift Assist, on Oct. 3 @ 4:32
50551476: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Lift Assist, on Oct. 3 @ 0:43
50508147: Medical - Illness - Unconscious Victim, on Oct. 2 @ 19:23
50489210: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on Oct. 2 @ 16:38
50489071: No Emergency - False Alarm - Other False Call, on Oct. 2 @ 15:12
50486867: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on Oct. 2 @ 15:47
50485646: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm, on Oct. 2 @ 10:13
50482171: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm, on Oct. 2 @ 13:26
50471991: Medical - Illness - Abdominal Pain / Problems, on Oct. 2 @ 9:09
50454889v: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Oct. 2 @ 5:41
50436360: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Other Traumatic Injury, on Oct. 2 @ 4:07
50433819: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on Oct. 2 @ 0:05
50430372: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on Oct. 1 @ 20:23
50427053: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Oct. 1 @ 17:41
50426639: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Hemorrhage / Laceration, on Oct. 1 @ 12:00
50426389: No Emergency - Good Intent - Investigate Hazardous Release (Nothing Found), on Oct. 1 @ 11:39
50413749: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Stab / Penetrating Trauma, on Oct. 1 @ 14:39
50410939: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Lift Assist, on Oct. 1 @ 13:52
50410698: Fire - Outside Fire - Trash / Rubbish Fire, on Oct. 1 @ 14:38
50410275: Medical - Illness, on Oct. 1 @ 14:01
50403039: Fire - Outside Fire - Vegetation / Grass Fire, on Oct. 1 @ 10:18
50387402: No Emergency - Cancelled, on Oct. 1 @ 7:19
50386681: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Oct. 1 @ 8:44
50377240: Medical - Illness, on Sept. 30 @ 23:30
50366847: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on Sept. 30 @ 19:41
50361520: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 30 @ 18:26
50360084: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm, on Sept. 30 @ 9:54
50357159: Medical - Illness - No Appropriate Choice, on Sept. 30 @ 14:22
50356287: Medical - Illness, on Sept. 30 @ 11:24
50340970: Medical - Illness, on Sept. 30 @ 8:43
50336629: No Emergency - Cancelled, on Sept. 30 @ 7:59
50332443: No Emergency - False Alarm - Intentional False Alarm, on Sept. 30 @ 5:29
50275500: Medical - Illness - Psychological Behavior Issues, on Sept. 30 @ 5:16
50272752: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 30 @ 1:13
50272739: Medical - Illness - Diabetic Problems, on Sept. 30 @ 6:07
50256867: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Sept. 29 @ 14:22
50254574: Medical - Illness - Altered Mental Status , on Sept. 29 @ 13:12
50045189: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on Sept. 28 @ 20:06
50042146: No Emergency - Good Intent - No Incident Found Upon Arrival / Location Error, on Sept. 28 @ 18:09
49999939: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 28 @ 13:46
49950213: Medical - Illness - Overdose / Poisoning , on Sept. 27 @ 22:05
49950006: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on Sept. 27 @ 22:01
49946550: Medical - Illness - Abdominal Pain / Problems, on Sept. 27 @ 17:52
49935832: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 27 @ 12:03
49927289: Medical - Illness - Diabetic Problems, on Sept. 27 @ 7:15

communityEVENTS

Richland Church to celebrate
160th on November 1

October 24 will be a busy day for community
getting into the Halloween spirit

Star Staff Reports
Special to The Star

The Richland Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was "planted" in Rosemark (then called Richland) prior to the Civil War. But the church was soon organized in 1866 by one of America's oldest protestant denominations. When this area was first settled by Scotch-Irish immigrants the church's founding members committed to building a church and school for the community. The legacy of that founding group lives on in the ministry of Richland ARP Church and in the education at Tipton-Rosemark Academy. "We are inviting the community to our November 1, 2026, 160th Anniversary celebrations featuring: historic displays, visiting dignitaries, catered luncheon, tours of near-by museums and markers, and the pub-

POSITION 4, pg. 1A

accountability and a high level of trust between the city, district and community if we are going to fully support our student body," she noted. "I feel that confidence has been lost somewhere along the way, and that needs to be restored." (b) She will "partner" with the city to invest in a survey of households to determine where those students could be enrolled, if not within the Millington district. Thomas will also consider a citywide "recruitment" effort to inform parents that Millington is a "great" community school district. "Although families have options," she acknowledged, "choosing schools within our own neighborhoods makes

for a stronger, well-rounded community."

Thomas said the "goal" is to prepare students for post-secondary education, the workforce or military careers. She believes that will equip them with the skills, knowledge and experiences they need to succeed. "Ultimately," they will bring those skills back home to help "drive" the city's growth and development "for generations to come."

(c) "Unfortunately," Thomas said, teachers are "not truly" paid their "value." She fully supports pay increases, because they build "morale," promote desire for professional development and thereby encourage retention.

5. What do you think is the biggest concern facing the municipal school system at this time? Holsinger said that, until the district increases student achievement, it should be the No. 1 concern of the school system. Thomas agreed, citing the schools' "state testing scores."

Although the math and English Language Arts scores in the Primary and Intermediate schools have "shown some growth" compared to others in the state, she said the high school scores are displaying "weaknesses."

So, she noted that the concern is how to figure out where the "disconnect" is occurring in the "transition" of grades.

5. What do you think is the most important goal of the school system's new

Five-Year Strategic Plan and why?

Holsinger said improving student achievement on TCAP and ACT testing is the most "critical," because teachers want to teach at, employees want to work at, and parents want to send their children to "high-performing" schools.

From existing staff, Thomas said, at least one "dedicated" Professional Learning Community instructional coach should be deployed to every school. "This coaching/facilitation from peer to peer would build a level of instruction that would benefit each child at each grade level," she noted. "Everyone needs someone to lift them up and partner in education with them for the betterment of our students."

5. What do you think is the most important goal of the school system's new

lic worship of God at 11 a.m."

For more information, please visit the church website: RichlandARP.org

For detailed information about the November 1, celebration: <https://www.richlandarp.org/homecoming-sunday--richland.html>

Halloween In
Millington

Come join the Millington Education Foundation, Millington Parks & Recreation and Millington Municipal Schools for the Monster Dash on Halloween morning at the Millington Football Stadium at the high school on the morning of Halloween.

It's a fun run around the community with the kids and the family! Kids! Wear your costumes and after the run, we will be doing a trick or treat at the stadium! Scan the QR code to register

Also planned for Oct. 24 are the Millington Police Department Spookacular and Fall Festival. For more information, see Around Town below.



aroundTOWN



@ 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 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 have 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 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@sslibraries.com.

Lions Club

The Millington Lions Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at noon. For more information, contact President Linda Overstreet at 286-2094 or email millingtonlions@outlook.com

MPD Spookacular Oct. 24

Get ready for a Spooktacular evening Oct. 24 with the Millington Tennessee Police Department. Join the MPD for the Annual Trunk or Treat at Discovery Park located at 5152 Easley Street. Bring the whole family out for an evening filled with candy, spooky trails, and plenty of Halloween fun. Annual Trunk or Treat is from 5 to 7 p.m.
And don't head home just yet! Movie Night will follow Trunk or Treat, so stick around and keep the Halloween fun going! Want to join the fun and set up a booth? We'd love to have you! Email t.russell@millingtontn.gov for more information. Grab your costumes, bring your candy buckets, and join us for a fun evening with Millington PD!

Fall Festival set for Oct. 24

The City of Millington Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat for Saturday, October 24, at 5152 Easley Street. For more details, call 873-5770.

The
Millington Star

LETTERS POLICY

The Millington Star publishes Letters to the Editor on almost any topic relevant to Millington or South Tipton County: Send your letters to: Letters to the Editor, 7731 Highway 70, Suite No. 101, Bartlett, TN 38134, email to thomasstar@yahoo.com, fax 529-7687 or go online at www.millington-news.com by 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's edition. Letters should be hand signed and include writer's full

name, address and daytime/evening phone numbers. Letters to the Editor should be as brief as possible and should not exceed 300 words. E-mail letters do not need to be signed, but should include all other information. Anonymous letters and letters that do not adhere to the standards will not be published. Letters endorsing political candidates or advertising business will not be published.

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CONTENTS

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WINNERS' CIRCLE

Trojans have it all come together, earning first victory of 'The Scott Blair Era'

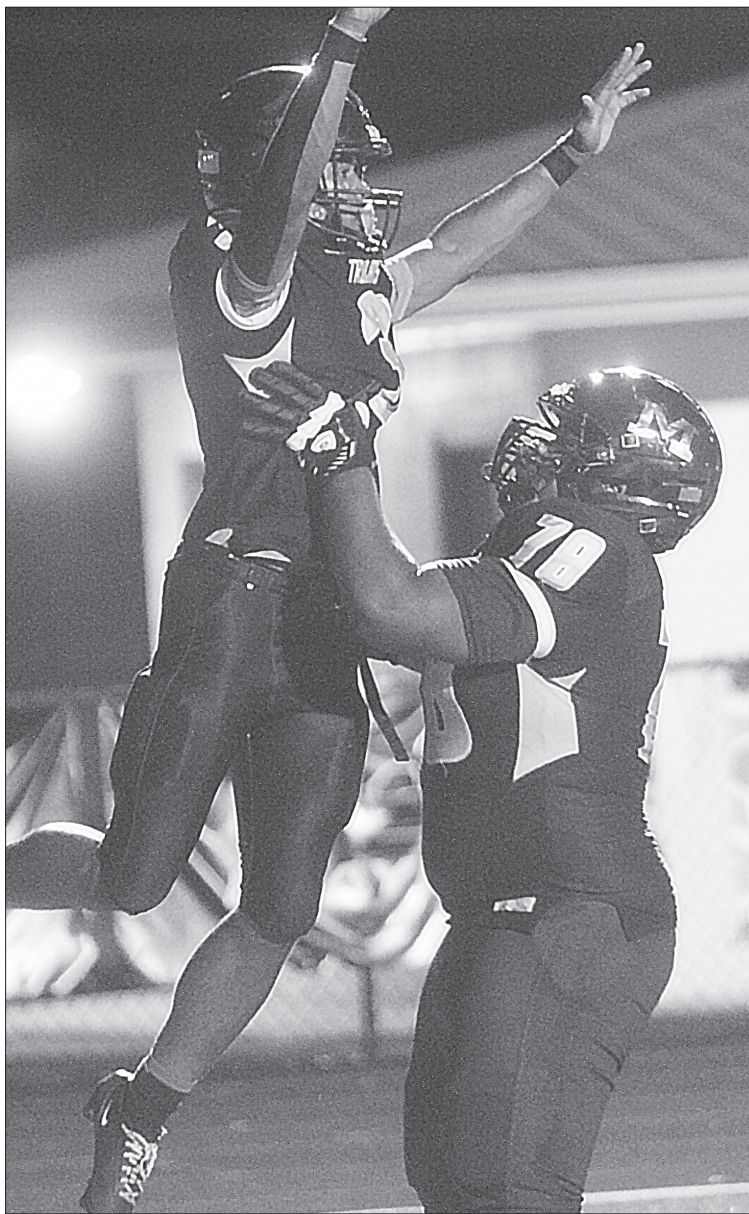
By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star Editor

Spectators barely broke a sweat Thursday night during Millington Central High School Homecoming 2026.

Meanwhile the host Millington Trojans executed a nearly effortless 48-0 win over the Craigmont Chiefs. But one individual left the turf of Mooney Boswell Field soaking wet. Trojans Head Coach Scott Blair was dished with a Gatorade bucket of water moments after securing his first win in the black and gold.

"This is something these boys have worked hard for," Blair said. "They've been working hard and this is the first game we've had our starting offensive line intact since May. We're all young but this was the first time we've had our entire starting line together. We've gone six, seven weeks and had that issue."

"We've worked hard on the little things like making sure we're hitting holes and staying on blocks," he continued. "All the little things paid off tonight and I am proud of these kids for coming out and doing their thing. I want them to celebrate and have a good time. But we have to come back to work on Monday because we've got the makeup game with Fayette-Ware on



Photos By Thomas Sellers Jr.
Above: Millington Trojan running back Chris Duckworth celebrates a two-point conversion with one of his offensive lineman last Thursday during Millington's 48-0 win over Craigmont.

Friday."

Millington (1-6, 1-3 in Region 8-4A) needed to win in order to keep their postseason hopes alive. The Trojans came into the Craigmont game needing to earn victories over the Chiefs, Fayette-Ware and Ridgeway to reach November football.

The journey started with a Noah Barrentine 15-yard touchdown run up the middle of the Craigmont defense. The Chiefs (1-6, 0-3) were trailing 6-0 just 3 minutes and 41 seconds into the game.

The Trojans were ahead 14-0 by the end of the first period when Millington's special team tackled the Craigmont punter at the 1-yard line. On the next play Millington senior Chris Duckworth crossed the goal line. He added the two-point conversion.

Duckworth's next touchdown was further out. In the second quarter Duckworth took a handoff 51 yards to the house to make the tally 21-0 just 29 seconds into the second quarter.

Later in the first half Baron Martin Jr. had two explosive runs deep into the Craigmont Red Zone to set up his own 1-yard TD run. Martin made the score 28-0 with 3:32 remaining in the first half.

The Trojans closed out the first half leading 34-0 when Noah Thomas broke loose for a 22-yard touchdown run.

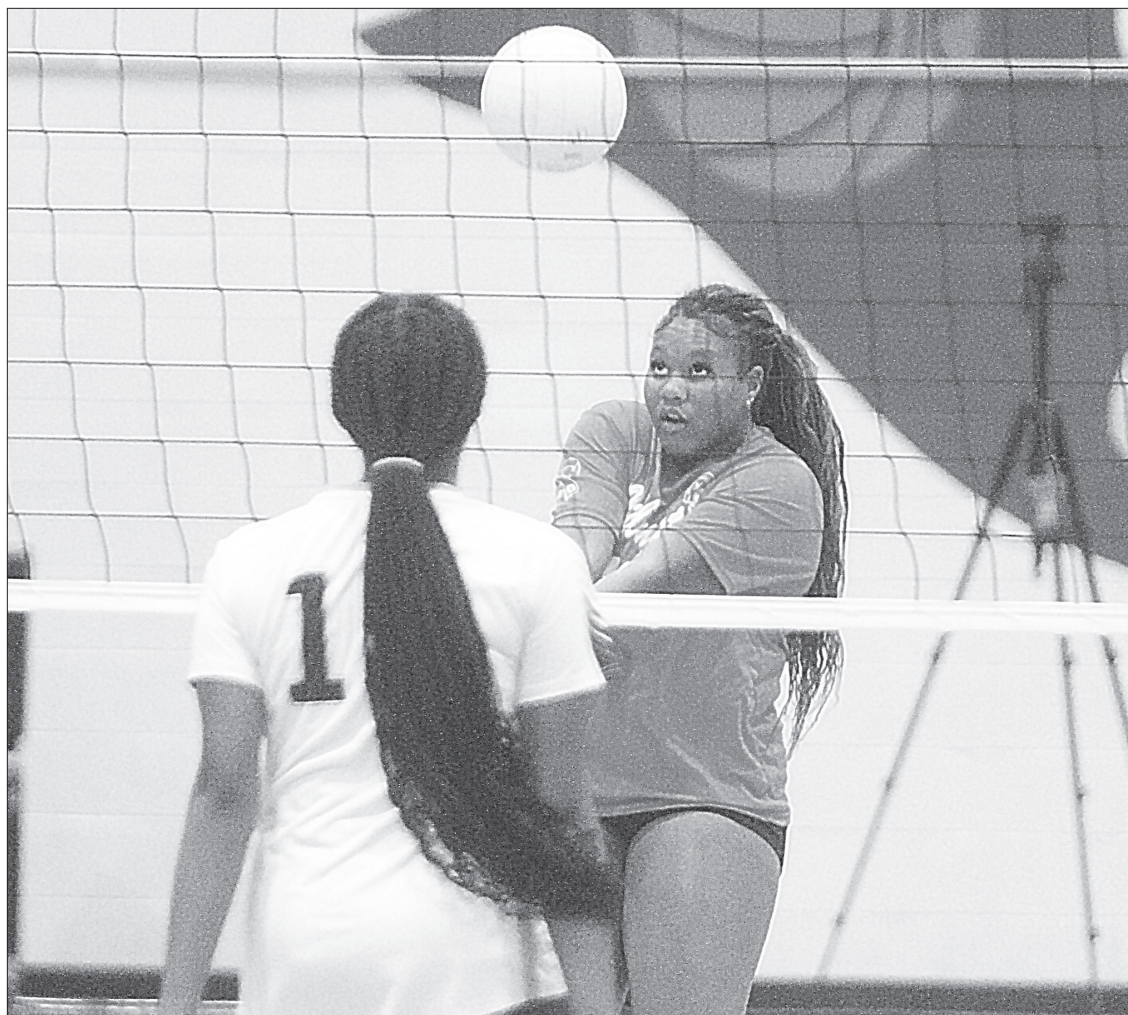
Duckworth iced the game and got the mercy rule into effect in the third quarter with his third TD run of the night. Duckworth's 3-yard touchdown run made the score 40-0.

The final touchdown of the evening came courtesy of Trojan Anthony Wooten. Millington was victorious 48-0 and now Blair has a chance to prepare his team for a week practice coming off a victory.

With the game at Fayette-Ware a battle for the postseason, Blair said his team has to learn how to balance their emotions to earn another chance for a Gatorade shower.

"I going to remind them of the feeling they had when they looked up at the scoreboard and they saw a 'W' and how that felt compared to when we left off the field at Munford," he said. "We took a picture of that scoreboard. Which one would you rather have? I will tell them how that felt. When we prep Monday through Thursday, it has to be like this. It's got to be like this and now I think they understand it."

"We're going to take this win," Blair concluded. "We're going to celebrate it and have a good time today. Then tomorrow and Monday we're going to get back to work and do everything we can to keep that same feeling next week."



Retaining Regionals

Photo By Thomas Sellers Jr.

MEMPHIS — The Ripley Lady Tigers arrived on the campus of Craigmont High School on a mission.

The crew from Lauderdale County wanted to end the trend of the District 15-2A Tournament championship game having the two participants of the Covington Lady Chargers and Millington Lady Trojans.

All Ripley had to do was upset the No. 2 seeded Lady Trojans and end the recent trend of Covington and Millington advancing to Regionals.

The Lady Tigers were on track after losing the first set 25-20 and pulling off a 25-22 win over Millington in set two. Then Millington snapped out of their funk and dominated the next two sets 25-12 and 25-13 to reach the title game and earn a spot in Regionals.

Millington mixed up lineups and rotations during the first two sets. Senior Katie Graves shined in the first set with blocks and tip scores to help the Lady Trojans prevail in the first set.

Ripley kept up the energy in the second set and took advantage of Lady Trojan serving errors to win the frame by 3 points.

Then Lady Trojan outside hitter Malorrii Carter (left) took over in the third set with multiple kills. Londyn Maclin controlled the net with her height and later helped Millington surge ahead behind the service line leading to the 25-12 win.

In the final set, Millington setter Charlotte Nelson located Carter and Taylor Lockhart for kills. Then Millington's other senior Hayley Stevens served up several points leading to the close out.

The next day in the championship game, the Covington Lady Chargers survived the challenge of the Lady Trojans in three competitive sets.

Candidates Respond: John Perales

Position: Alderman
Position 4
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?

I believe the City should respect the intent of the voters while also remaining fiscally responsible and responsive to the community's changing needs. Millington Municipal Schools are an important investment in our children and our future, and I will continue to support them. At the same time, I believe decisions regarding these revenues should be made carefully by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, based on the City's legal obligations, financial circumstances, and the overall needs of our citizens.

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 vision is to continue to be a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Millington where families thrive, businesses grow, and young people build their futures. I will focus on economic development, education, youth mentorship, and public safety while working as a team with the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, City Boards, and City Staff.

Two priorities are completing the Lone Sailor Monument and Plaza, honoring Millington's proud Navy heritage while creating a place that can inspire future generations, and expanding opportunities at N82 Gym, including mentorship from retired and Active Duty Chief Petty Officers and other community leaders to help our young people develop confidence, discipline, and leadership.

I also want to explore bringing SURGE Entertainment by Drew Brees to Millington as part of that same commitment to our youth. Our young people need safe, positive places to gather, have fun, and spend time with their families and friends. Combined with N82 Gym and strong mentorship programs, SURGE could help us provide more opportunities for our youth while also creating jobs and



By Brian McGovern

strengthening Millington's economy.

Every decision I make as an alderman will be guided by one question: Will this make Millington a better place for our families and future generations?

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?

I believe Millington's current seven-member Board provides broad representation and a diversity of perspectives for our community. I support keeping the current structure and allowing the voters to decide how long an alderman should serve based on their performance, commitment, and service to Millington.

During my nearly two years as the incumbent Alderman for Position 4, I have supported collaboration among the City Manager, Mayor, and Board to deliver measurable progress. Millington is experiencing significant growth; Astoria Square is back on track; the Lone Sailor Monument and Plaza are moving forward; and Target and Academy Sports have committed to locating here. The Harrold building is also being renovated, with potential to become a new entertainment or music venue.

Public safety remains the number one priority. We increased authorized police positions from 32 in 2024 to 38 today, added three part-time officers, and are working toward Fire Station No. 3 to strengthen emergency response.

I am asking voters for the opportunity to continue building on this progress, supporting responsible growth, strengthening public safety, and preparing Millington for a successful future.

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?

Yes, I believe the city manager form of government continues to serve Millington well. A professional city manager provides consistent day-to-day leadership

and brings experience and accountability to city operations, while the elected Mayor and Board of Aldermen remain responsible for setting the vision, priorities, and policies of our community. I support continuing this structure while maintaining strong communication, transparency, and teamwork among the city manager, Mayor, and Board.

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.



John Perales

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 strongly support Millington's continued growth, but growth must benefit our entire community. As we welcome new homes and businesses, we must also reinvest in our existing neighborhoods through strong code enforcement, well-maintained parks, improved streets and infrastructure, and greater traffic safety. I will work with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to ensure that every neighborhood receives the attention it deserves. Our goal should be simple: grow Millington while taking care of the people and neighborhoods that already call Millington home.

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?

I am motivated by a lifetime of service and a strong desire to give back to the community I call home. My priorities are to continue to promote responsible growth, strengthen public safety, support our schools and businesses, complete the Plaza and the Lone Sailor Monument, and create more opportunities and mentorship for our youth. I will also continue working with the Navy and our community partners to make the N82 Gym initiative a reality, providing our young people with a positive place to learn, grow, and build a brighter future.

Families, Teenagers 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

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Candidates Respond: Chris Everitt

Position: Alderman
Position 4
School Funding and the Half-Cent Sales Tax

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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?

I believe that if the voters approve something then the city should 100% honor the will of the people. Their vote is their voice, and elected officials have a responsibility to respect and follow that decision.

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?

As a 26 year old I plan I have many years to spend in millington and When I look 15-20 years into the future, I want to see a Millington that has grown while still keeping the small town character that makes this community special. I want to see good, safe neighborhoods, strong local businesses, better opportunities for our young people, and a city that is attractive to families, workers, and businesses that want to invest here for the long term.

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?

From the beginning, I've admitted that I'm not a politician. Do I think seven aldermen is too many? To an extent, yes, but also, no. Having seven aldermen means you have seven different people bringing different ideas, experiences, concerns, and perspectives to the table. That can be a good thing for our city because not every resident has the same priorities or concerns. At the end of the day, it takes four votes from the Board of Aldermen to move something forward. With seven aldermen, you have to work together, listen to one another, and find common ground. I believe that can lead to better decisions for



By Brian McGovern

Millington. I do believe 2-3 term limits should be set it gives more opportunity for others of the community to step up and help build.

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 would like to see the mayor's position become a full-time position and eliminate the city manager position. Shouldn't the city be led and held accountable by the mayor and the seven aldermen?

This approach would give elected officials more direct responsibility for the city's operations and decisions. It could also help avoid what some people are calling nepotism.

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 would like to see the city take a more balanced approach. As new developments come in, we should also be looking at our existing neighborhoods, roads, drainage, parks, sidewalks, lighting, traffic safety, and commercial areas and asking what needs attention. I also believe we need to listen to the people who already live here. They know firsthand what is working and what needs improvement. As an alderman, I would want to hear those concerns and bring them to the board.

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?

I love Millington, I'm raising my family here, I work here, and I believe I can bring a different voice

to the table. From the beginning, I've admitted that I'm not a politician, and I don't have all the answers. I'm a blue-collar working man who believes in showing up, working hard, listening to people, and finding solutions. I decided to run because I don't want to sit on the sidelines and complain about what could be better. I want to be part of making it better. At the end of my term I would say If I could've been a better voice for the people then I succeeded.

Families, Teenagers 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?

I believe the city already offers some pretty

great activities throughout the year, and I appreciate the effort that goes into providing those opportunities for our families. I've also talked with several residents who would love to see a private business come into Millington and build something specifically for kids, such as a Jump World or another indoor family entertainment facility. I know it isn't easy to get a business to invest in building something simply because the community wants it. But I believe we should listen to what our residents want and at least develop a game plan to see what we can do to make it happen. Even if the city can't build it ourselves, we can work toward creating an environment that encourages the right businesses to invest in Millington. I think giving our kids and families more things to do would be a great investment in the future of our community.

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?

I believe all city meetings should be recorded and made available to the public because the decisions being discussed affect every resident of Millington. Why shouldn't residents be able to go back and hear what was discussed and understand how decisions are being made? Do I believe every meeting needs to be live streamed? No, I don't. I believe there is value in encouraging residents to attend meetings in person when they can. It also puts more responsibility on aldermen to stay connected with their communities, talk with residents, hear their concerns, and explain what is happening at City Hall. Transparency is important,

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Semester's End?

If these trends continue, universities and colleges might start closing around the country

Currently there are thousands and thousands of fresh faces on campuses across America. For about a month or six weeks, those who were walking high school hallways this time last year are now getting a taste of independence at various colleges and universities. It is a long-standing U.S. American tradition that I participated in back in the fall 1999.

I completed the obstacle course by the spring of 2003 earning my bachelor's degree. A quarter of a century ago a college degree had more meaning and earning potential.

Fast forward to 2026, private colleges are endangered. Major public universities are suffering in many ways. The cloak over it all is a dark covering most teenagers are not sold on going to college to go into adulthood.

Here are 10 reasons colleges and universities have lost their luster and appeal.

10. Colleges don't do enough to help get jobs
According to most surveys, the top reasons most high school graduates still enroll into college was to improve employment opportunities (91%) and to make more money (90%). They do that in order to get a good job.

Then a recent trend of the workforce working jobs that don't involve their degrees or trades popped up. The job market became an unrecognizable field of landmines because of the 2008 Great Recession and pandemic of 2020. Colleges have not adjusted by creating programs to ensure students are equipped with the technical skills

employers increasingly require for entry-level positions.

9. Academic Integrity
When I exited college nearly 25 years ago, the biggest competition we had in the job market was previous graduates. Now with advances in technology, another job taker on the scene is artificial intelligence. The rapid rise of generative AI is starting to trickle over to the public sector. AI is already on campus, for better or worse. AI can unknow-

ingly to a professor, help a student with testing, essay writing, and homework. Why do I need advanced courses when all the answers are on my phone?

Several Gen Zers pull out their cell phones to figure out life's questions, not just to satisfy an academic query.

8. Campus Restrictions
It was a year ago, Charlie Kirk was assassinated on a college campus. Kirk went to various institutions of higher learning across the country to debate cultural topics. He faced hundreds of opposing thoughts and viewpoints.

Watching one of his old forums illustrates the divide on college campuses today. Free speech and diversity of thought is dying at universities and colleges.

There is a narrowing ideological spectrum among faculty and staff as well. Professors are feeding an one-sided ideology to impressionable young minds.

7. Eroding Public Confidence
I have told high school students recently, "You don't have to go to college." My other quote



had been, "I'm starting to think college is a big scam." The numbers and surveys back up my opinion that public trust and confidence in higher education have dropped to historic lows.

It's even getting political. Several states want to limit funding and programs for colleges. The debt forgiveness debate a couple of years ago divided households. It took me 10 years to pay off my loans, but my total cost was a fraction of what these students will have to pay back in the 2030s.

6. Low Graduation
We mocked our peers back then who were in college for nearly a decade. They were not pursuing degrees in law or medicine. They were professional students. Maybe they were in fear of repaying all those loans. That six-months goes by quickly.

Fast forward to the 2020s, the drop-out and non-completion rates remain high. IT is approaching 50 percent at many four-year institutions and even higher at

two-year colleges. Once you hear the horror stories from dropouts about the financial stress, it's best to never jump in the muddy waters.

5. Success away from the Campus
It is possible to be rich without going to college. With so many individuals in their 20s and 30s seeking online success and being an influencer, more and more are not attending college.

Once young people find out iconic names from the previous two generations made generational worth, they are trying to find other means to make that bag. The following people are the examples of high achievement not going to college: Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey, Sean Combs, Sergey Brin, Larry Page, Mark Zuckerberg, LeBron James and Michael Dell.

4. Institutional Financial Instability and Closures
The downward trends of enrollments has led to some closures already. Many small private colleges and regional public

institutions face severe budget deficits. The declining revenues, and shrinking endowments are making it hard for those types of institutions of higher learning to survive. They don't have major college sports to pull revenue from.

Reduced state appropriations, shifting demographics, and rising fixed costs have led to hundreds of college closures, mergers, and deep program cuts.

3. Declining Enrollment Trends
The Great Recession of 2008 made the potential parents at that time wait on having a family. Some never got around to it and are childless as of 2026.

Do the math, that was 18 years ago and the bodies needed to walk on campus don't exist. There is a drop in the college-going population. Add on top the shifting public skepticism and enrollment is going down.

2. Soaring Tuition/Student Debt
College is just not affordable today. And once you get out, you don't have a guarantee of mak-

ing life-changing money. Since I was in school, the tuition has just kept increasing each year.

The bells and whistles they offer on a campus are not worth the money or time at some point. We had a theater and computer labs in the early 2000s. Now they have state-of-the-art facilities, world-class university centers and elite fitness centers. But is all of that worth the debt?

The average annual tuition and fees have risen significantly leading to heavy debt and decades of payments. Then that little piece of paper won't open as many doors as it used to.

1. Bad ROI and Underemployment

All those previous factors have led to college having a negative return on investment.

With no guaranteed jobs and massive debt, investing four or more years in a broken system is not worth it. The American college and university system needs an overhaul and prior cut.

They have to change things soon or when the enrollment is down to zero, they'll get the point. A huge chunk of graduates face underemployment, working in jobs that do not require a college degree.

More and more, it appears trade schools are a better option, knowing the right person in a career and having ethics better serve this young generation.

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

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City, and what should be left to private businesses, nonprofits or other community organizations?

I believe the City has an important role in creating safe, positive places where families and young people can gather, learn, and grow. We should continue to invest in parks, recreation, and facilities like SURGE and the N82 Gym, while building strong partnerships with our schools, businesses, nonprof-

its, military community, and local organizations. By working together, we can provide more activities and mentorship opportunities that keep our young people engaged, build character and leadership, and strengthen families throughout Millington.

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?

Yes. I strongly support transparency and believe public meetings should be recorded and made easily available online whenever practical. I also support live streaming meetings of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and other key public bodies so citizens can stay informed and involved, even when they cannot attend in person. Open government builds trust, strength-

ens accountability, and gives every citizen a greater opportunity to participate in their city government.

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?

I support the responsible use of technology when it makes Millington safer. Red-light cameras and license plate readers can be valuable tools for traffic safety and law enforcement, but they must be used with clear policies, transparency, and strong protections for individual privacy.

Public safety and personal privacy are both important, and I believe we can protect both through responsible oversight and accountability.

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but so is communication. I believe we need both.

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?

I believe red-light cameras and license plate readers can be useful tools for public safety when used responsibly. They can help with traffic enforcement, stolen vehicles, and serious crimes. At the

same time, I understand residents' concerns about privacy and government surveillance.

I believe there should be clear limits on what information is collected, how long it is kept, and who can access it. I'm not against

technology that helps keep Millington safe, but I also don't believe government should have unlimited surveillance of its citizens. We need to find a balance between public safety and protecting residents' privacy.

Civil vs. Criminal Law

Civil law and criminal law can both arise from the same event, but they answer different questions, use different rules, and can reach different results. The O.J. Simpson cases are the clearest modern example.

In 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were killed. The State of California charged

Simpson with murder. That was a criminal case. A prosecutor, not the victims' families, brought it. The state had to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The defense argued the evidence did not meet that standard, including the famous moment when a glove recovered from the scene appeared not to fit. In 1995 the jury acquitted Simpson. An acquittal means the state failed to prove the charge. It is not a finding that

the defendant is innocent of every related claim, and it does not pay the families for their loss.

The families then filed a civil wrongful-death lawsuit. That case asked a different

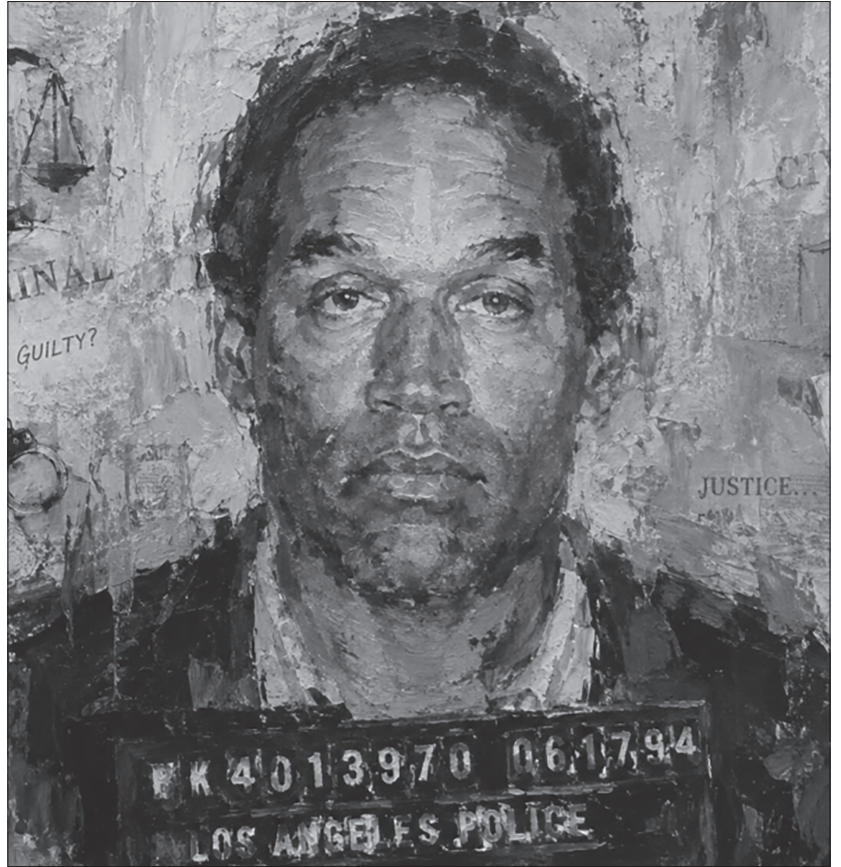
question: whether Simpson was legally responsible for the deaths and should pay damages. The burden of proof

was preponderance of the evidence, meaning more likely than not. In 1997 a civil jury found him liable and awarded substantial damages. No one went to jail because of that verdict. The remedy was money, not punishment. Most civil injury cases are not like that. In the average car wreck, the injured person does not sue because the other driver meant to cause harm. It is the opposite. The claim is that the driver was negligent: failed to

keep a proper lookout, ran a light, followed too closely, or otherwise did not use reasonable care.

That negligence is why the law requires the at-fault driver to make the injured person whole for medical bills, lost income, and other harm. Insurance is built around that distinction. A liability policy is written to cover accidental, negligent conduct. It generally does not cover intentional acts. Criminal law asks whether someone should be punished for a wrong against the public. Civil injury law, in the ordinary case, asks whether carelessness caused a loss that should be paid.

Peel seeks justice for those injured in truck, motorcycle and car crashes. He often addresses churches, clubs and groups without charge. Peel may be reached through Peel-LawFirm.com wherein other articles may be accessed.



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1C3CCCFB3GN182129

2001 JEEP CHEROKEE
1J4GX48S21C541908

2014 FORD FUSION
1FA6POH75E5398166

2013 CHRYSLER 300
2C3CCAAG4DH517023

2020 CHEVY MALIBU
1G1ZB55T0LF001794

2004 TOYOTA CELICA
JTDDR32T340171296

2019 MITIBISHI
OUTLANDER
JA4AP3AUXKU017302

2011 CADILLAC CTS
1G6DJ1ED0B0155962

DTS TOWING

3930 THOMAS ST., MEMPHIS, 38127

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES
WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON

NOVEMBER 15, 2026 AT 11 AM

4T1BE32K26U161229
2006 TOYOTA CAMRY

1HGCR2F30FA219755
2015 HONDA ACCORD

1G2JB34T0P7554732
1993 PONTIAC SUNBIRD

3N1BC1CP7CK805167
2012 NISSAN VERSA

3N1CP5CU7JL519364
2018 NISSAN KICKS

1HGCR3F90HA001490
2017 HONDA ACCORD

WDD6F4HB6EA958321
2014 MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS

KNMAT2MV9LP523589
2020 NISSAN ROGUE

5NMS2DAJ9PH625900
2023 HYUNDAI SANTA FE

1C3BC1F61BN503475
2011 CHRYSLER 200

JTHBE1BL4D5001845
2013 LEXUS GS 350

KL1TD66E79B360222
2009 CHEVROLET AVEO

5N1AL0MM0EC501657
2014 INFINITI QX60

KNA664J73V5538019
2027 KIA K5

4T1BF3EK2BU633133
2011 TOYOTA CAMRY

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MEMPHIS, TN 38127

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES
WILL BE SOLD FOR TO SATISFY
TOW AND STORAGE FEES ON
NOVEMBER 5, 2026 @ 9:00 A.M.

2015 NISSAN VERSA
3N1CN7AP1FL842007

1998 FORD RANGER
1FTYR14X2PA54180

2015 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4AL3AP5FC429043

2017 INFINITI QX60
5N1DLOMNXHC549628

2016 TOYOTA COROLLA
5YFBURHE1GP535937

DIRTY SOUTH TOWING

905 Estival Place,
Memphis, TN 38126

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

NOVEMBER 5
AT 9 A.M.

2017 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT
NM0LS7E75H1321072

2024 TOYOTA CAMRY
4T1C11AKXRU254297

2007 NISSAN XTERRA
5N1AN08W97C528753

2026 VW JETTA
3VVW5W7B1T1M034704

DIRTY SOUTH TOWING

905 Estival Place,
Memphis, TN 38126

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

NOVEMBER 19
AT 9 A.M.

1993 HARLEY DAVIDSON FXS
1HD1BK1L0PY010987

2013 CHRYSLER 200
1C3CCBCG4DN719595

2016 TOYOTA PRIUS
JTDKDTB35G1137445

2024 HYUNDAI TUCSON
KM8JECDD18RU170411

B&B TOWING, LLC

2574 SUMMER,
MEMPHIS 38112

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES
WILL BE SOLD TO SATISFY
STORAGE AND TOW FEES ON
11/4/2026:

2007 HOND ACC
VIN# 1HGCCM66597A016825

2007 INFI G35
VIN# JNKBV61E67M722789

2012 NISS ALT
VIN# 1N4AL2EP1CC116619

2007 HOND CIV
VIN# 1HGFA16897L055129

2011 CHEV IMPALA
VIN# 2G1WVG5EK1B1239523

1995 GMC SI
VIN# 1GTEC14Z0S2525070

2012 FRHT SPR
VIN# WDYPE8CC6C5666375

2004 DODG R15
VIN# 1D7HA18N145736418

2012 NISS VSL
VIN# 3N1BC1CP5CK202850

1993 MERCURY CAPRI
VIN# 6MPCT0363P8647596

2008 NISSAN ALT
VIN# 1N4BL24E98C252119

2011 KIA FORTE
VIN# KNAFU4A27B5452407

2012 MERZ GL3
VIN# WDCGG5GB4CF780238

2004 LINC
VIN# 1LNHM83W74Y685509

2015 CHEV SUB
VIN# 1GNSKJKC4FR687723

2014 CHEV MAL
VIN# 1G11B5SL2EF266216

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Adult Classes: Wed. & Thur.
6:00-9:00 pm
Office Hours: Wed. & Thur.
12:00-6:00 pm
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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
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Youth group meeting
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

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5885 Hamlet Road
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(901)574-9917
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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
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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
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• Morning – 10:15 am to
12:30
• Fellowship Potluck Lunch –
12:30 to 1:30
• Afternoon – 1:30 to 3:00 pm
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Civic Center Rm #106 • 8077
Wilkinsville Rd., Millington)
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• Wednesday – 7 to 8 pm
(Held at the Baker
Community
Center 8942 Church St,
Millington)

River of Life Church
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(901) 837-8781

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Nazarene**
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(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

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Church of God in Christ**
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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
Ministries**
Wilkinsville Rd
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(An Innovative Ministry of
L.C.M.S.)
425 Commercial Dr • Atoka
(901)840-2086
Sunday services are held at
Munford Middle School, 100
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
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Sunday Masses
Saturday (Vigil) 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am
and 11:00 am

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**Temple of Praise
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(901)338-5369

**Temple United Methodist
Church**
4404 Sykes Rd
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Unity Baptist Church
9596 Evander Rd
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**Upper Canaan Missionary
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(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
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Along the Journey

Through my years as a pastor and seeking to shepherd others, I have found that the practice of contemplation ... the action of looking thoughtfully at something over time ... (which for me has been my personal relationship to the Creator) has become the surest way for me to develop the virtue of compassion for both myself and others. Likewise this gaze upon and into God has deepened the relationship between God and myself.

Much of the early work of contemplation is discovering a way to observe ourselves from a compassionate and non-judgemental distance until we can eventually live more and more of our lives from this calm inner awareness and acceptance. In a contemplative stance, we find ourselves smiling, sighing, apologizing, and weeping at ourselves, much more than needing either to hate or to congratulate ourselves ... because we are finally looking at ourselves with the eyes of God.

Actually, what is happening is we are letting God gaze at us, in the way only God can gaze ... with infinite mercy, love, and compassion. God initiates a positive gaze, which now goes in both directions. Unfortunately, we seldom allow that to happen.

I believe compassion is everywhere. Compassion is the world’s richest energy source. Now that the world has become a global village we need compassion more than ever, not for altruism’s sake, not for philosophy’s sake or even theology’s sake, but for survival’s sake.

And yet, in human history of late, compassion remains an energy source that goes largely unexplored, untapped, and unwanted. Compassion appears very far away almost in exile. Whatever propensities the human cave dweller once had for violence instead of compassion seem to have increased geometrically with the onslaught of the industrial society. The exile of compassion is evident everywhere ...

In acquiescing in compassion’s exile, we are surrendering the fullness of nature and of human nature, for we, like all creatures in the cosmos, are compassionate creatures. (Note the relationships between most pet owners and their pets.) All persons are compassionate at least potentially. What we all share today is that we are victims of compassion’s exile. The difference between persons and groups of persons is not that some are victims and some are not: we are all victims and dying from lack of compassion; we are all surrendering our humanity together.

As we receive God’s compassionate gaze in contemplation, all negative energy and motivation is slowly exposed and will eventually fall away as counter-productive and useless. There will be no mistrust, fear, or negativity in either direction. If we resort to any form of shaming ourselves, we will slip back into defense, denial, and overcompensation. We will not be able to know as fully as we are known. (Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13:12)

But if we can connect the Indwelling Presence, where the Spirit bears common witness with our spirit (Paraphrase of Romans 8:16), it can and will change our lives. This mutually loving gaze is always initiated by God and grace. Once you (we) learn to rest there, nothing will ever satisfy you (us). This I believe to be foundational in the journey of life that is ours ...

... in the journey with you!
Kenneth S Uselton



GLAZING GRAVES

Senior has her dream come true with school selecting her as 2026 Homecoming Queen

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star Editor

In order to have a fairy tale night, you need a main character living out a dream and a cast of characters.

On the night of October 8, 2026 on the turf of Mooney Boswell Field, the little girl who attended EA Harrold Elementary and later moved up the newly formed Millington Central Middle High School, was now a senior and part of her final Homecoming Court.

With her dad Tony escorting her through the NJROTC Honor Guard of Aiden Guest, Macey Welch, Luis Diaz, Dillon Fitzgerald, Taylor Bishop, Cameron Steinfield, Jaxson Frix, Marifer Ruiz and Liliana Perez, Katie Graves couldn't hide her nervous smile.



After public address announcer Mark Healy read the names of the third, second and first runner ups, it was his duty to read the name of Katie Graves as the 2026 Millington Central High School Homecoming Queen.

"I want to say thanks to God because He gave me this opportunity," she said.

"I also want to say thanks to all my classmates who all elected me to obviously win. I also want to say they helped my dream come true. I've always dreamed of being Homecoming Queen since middle school. They made it a reality because I didn't think it would happen."

Graves grew up around

Millington Central activities with her older sister Brandie. Then she got a taste of Trojan Athletics supporting her three-sport athlete brother Tony "TJ" Graves Jr.

Now the youngest Graves is a two-sport standout at Millington in volleyball and softball. She has been a medical assistant trainer for football and wrestling. Along with her other activities, Graves has earned the respect of many of her peers.

"It's nice to know that you're loved by so many," she acknowledged. "It's not just them putting on a fake show. You're taking care of them and they actually respect me and I have good friends."

Graves court began with freshmen Carolina Duckworth and Landry Davidson representing the Class of 2030. Sophomore on the court were Caydance Doug-

las, Amariellys Cruz. Juniors were Peyton Frost and Karter Moore.

The seniors to make the court in 2026 were Ashland Phillips, Abigail West, Amyri Ransom and Graves.

The third runner up was freshman Duckworth. The second tiara handed out on the evening was Karter Moore as second runner-up. Runner up was sophomore Amaryllis Cruz. Then the final name read out for the ceremony was Graves.

With two siblings accomplishing a lot and parents Tony and Susan supporting Trojan athletics and events behind the scenes, Katie was proud to place this cherry on top of her family's strong legacy.

"It's nice to know I can add this to our family's name," she concluded. "It brings more respect to the Graves' name."

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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 9

WEEK 9

1. Munford (6-1) @ Brighton
W 63-0 vs. Memphis Overton
2. Briarcrest (7-1) vs. Lipscomb Academy
L 42-7 @ Brentwood Academy
3. Covington (6-1) @ Dyersburg
W 50-0 vs. Bolivar Central
4. St. George's (6-2) vs. Lausanne
L 13-7 @ St. Benedict
5. Bolton (6-2) vs. Wooddale
W 50-0 vs. Memphis East
6. Lakeland Prep. (5-3) @ Craigmont
W 44-36 vs. Kirby
7. CBHS (4-3) @ Lipscomb Academy
L 29-28 vs. Briarcrest
8. ECS (4-3) vs. Northpoint Christian
L 50-6 @ Lausanne
9. Collierville (4-4) @ Cordova
L 49-35 vs. Lausanne
10. Houston (4-4) @ Collierville
W 41-6 @ Arlington

WEEK 8

1. Briarcrest
2. St. George's
3. Munford
4. Covington
5. Collierville
6. Bolton
7. Arlington
8. CBHS
9. ECS
10. Lakeland Prep.

POWER 10

2026

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