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The

Millington Star

SHELBY COUNTY FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD WINNER

A TPA MULTIPLE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER

Volume 76 Issue 38 \$1.00

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1951

Thursday, September 17, 2026

75

Your Hometown Newspaper

Senior Running Back
BJ Martin

FOLLOW

The Trojans

'26

OPPONENTS & LOCATIONS

SCORE

Aug. 21

@ FAIRLEY Bulldogs

13-31L

Aug. 28

@ MUNFORD Cougars

0-61L

Sept. 4

vs. LAKELAND Lions

8-35L

Oct. 16

@ FAYETTE-WARE Wildcats

RESCHEDULED

Sept. 18

vs. BOLTON Wildcats

Sept. 25

vs. KIRBY Cougars

Oct. 2

@ HAYWOOD Tomcats

Oct. 8

vs. CRAIGMONT Chiefs

Oct. 23

vs. BRIGHTON Cardinals

Oct. 29

@ RIDGEWAY Roadrunners

Games Kickoff
at 7 p.m.

GOOD LUCK TROJANS

Ford unopposed for fourth term as Alderman in Position 3

By Bill Short
The Millington Star

Position 3 Alderman Chris Ford is unopposed for a fourth term in the Nov. 3 Millington city elections.

A native of West Memphis, Arkansas, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in business education at The University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

He moved to Millington with his family in April 2000 and became the owner of a State Farm Insurance Agency in the city.

A member of the Millington YMCA Board of Directors, Ford served as its chairman from 2005-2006 and in 2010.

A graduate of the 2004 Leadership Millington Class, he is a member of the Rotary Club and the Millington Area Chamber

of Commerce. Elected to the Chamber's Board of Directors in 2003, he served as its president in 2006.

Ford and his wife Amy have two children.

In 2007, after the death of Position 6 Alderman Jim Phillips, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen appointed Ford to serve the remainder of his unexpired term. The city's voters elected him to a four-year term in 2008 and re-elected him in 2012.

When Millington changed from a mayor-council to a manager-council form of government with the ratification of a new City Charter in 2012, Ford's fellow aldermen elected him the city's first vice mayor.

In 2016, he unsuccessfully challenged Mayor Terry Jones,

who was re-elected to a third term.

At its June 2022 meeting, the board appointed Ford to fill the vacancy created in Position 3 after Jon Crisp resigned the previous month to become executive director of the Millington Industrial Development Board.

In November 2022, Ford was elected to a third term when he defeated challenger Thomas Stephens.

Regarding ordinances or resolutions that should be passed or amended, Ford believes the city's growth needs to be "strategic and intentional," without rapidly reacting to "infrastructure issues" after they arise in the midst of building.

"Our board is about to undergo a comprehensive review of the code enforcement process, along with city ordinances," he noted. "This

is a necessary time to review all our current policies concerning planning, zoning and the ideal locations where Millington should grow."

Asked to list three significant issues in this election, Ford cited (a) responsible growth, (b) strengthening the fire and police departments and (c) seeking businesses that create "valuable jobs and recreational opportunities."

He noted that developing long-term plans and evaluating the city's resources and areas of growth are of "utmost" importance.

But he also acknowledged that growth can lead to "issues" that affect the quality of life for residents. He said the board wants to be "conscientious" in providing a safe place to live and work.

While noting that the city's "processes" that are provided to new business owners regarding

Ford

POSITION 3, pg. 2A



Grand Entrance

Briar Rose and Amiyah give their granddad "Papa Wes" a much needed break Saturday afternoon after a rainy start to the 2026 International Goat Days at the Ed Haley Sportsplex. With dozens of vendors, bounce houses, obstacles and of course goats, the girls were among hundreds to enjoy the annual Flag City tradition. For more information and pics, see the inside of this week's The Millington Star.

IDB approves contract for sale/purchase of land to construct manufacturing plant

By Bill Short
The Millington Star

The Millington Industrial Development Board has approved a contract for the sale and purchase of land for construction of a manufacturing plant east of Old Millington Road.

Board members took the action during their Aug. 24 regular monthly meeting on a motion offered by Doug Scott and seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Ken Uselton.

The motion was passed by five affirmative votes, with Vice Chairman Jack Langford absent.

The contract was submitted by Paul V. McGrory of Most Dependable Fountains Inc.

The company specializes in the manufacture of outdoor drinking fountains and showers, hand-washing stations and other water

features.

The property consists of 9.99 acres owned by the IDB and is zoned M-2, General Industrial District.

It is located on the east side of Old Millington Road and at the south end of Ryburn Drive.

McGrory submitted an offer of \$240,000 to purchase the property.

The contract authorizes IDB Chairman James Warberg to execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction.

Deanna Long, the city's Economic Development manager, told the board that the parcel will be "finalized" through a survey and subdivision process "prior to closing."

She said the contract provides "substantial protection" to both parties, while allowing sufficient time for evaluation of the property.

It gives the purchaser a 120-day "due diligence" period for

the completion of surveys, title examinations, environmental assessments and other necessary inspections.

By paying a non-refundable \$5,000 fee, the purchaser will have the option to extend the due diligence period for an additional 30 days.

Long said the purchaser will be responsible for survey costs, environmental studies, title insurance premiums, recording fees and other related closing expenses.

The IDB will remain responsible for title search costs, "corrective" title instruments and seller legal fees.

After the due diligence is completed, the transaction will proceed to closing.

The contract includes the following "key" terms:

(1) The purchaser must deposit \$10,000 of "earnest money"

within five days of the contract's execution.

(2) The property will be sold "as it is," with no representations or warranties by the IDB.

(3) The property must be "subdivided" prior to closing, which will occur within 30 days after expiration of the due diligence period.

(4) At closing, the purchaser will grant the IDB a "right of first refusal" if the property is offered for sale in the future.

(5) The purchaser will grant a future right of way if it is considered necessary to protect the city's or the IDB's ability to address infrastructure or access needs.

At its May 18 meeting, the Millington Planning Commission unanimously approved a revised

PLANT SALE, pg. 2A

780700
780700

INSIDE:

CLASSIFIEDS 6A

SPORTS 3A CHURCH 7A

COMMUNITY 2A OPINION 5A

OBITUARIES 2A POWER 10... INSIDE

Back in August The Millington Star office moved to 7731 Highway 70 in Bartlett. Now as of September, the latest news and information about Flag City can be found at millingtonstar.news. Scan the QR Code above or instead on Page 2A to access the new Millington Star website.

www.millingtonstar.news

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Jimmy E. Crum, 84, of Tipton County
Kenneth Wayne Hayward, II, 32, of Atoka
Sherryn Kay Williams Reece, 76, of Atoka
Randy Gerald Reed, 70, of Drummonds
Michael John "Mike" Simmons, 67, of
 Millington area
Bill Waits, 92, of Burlington
Alpine Wilson, 89, of Millington

AUG. 30- SEPT. 5

48202762: Medical - Illness - Heart Problems on Sept. 5 @ 23:48
48197209: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems on Sept. 5 @ 19:08
48197201: Fire - Structure Fire - Structural Involvement on Sept. 5 @ 14:38
48197154: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma) on Sept. 5 @ 21:08
48195003: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm on Sept. 5 @ 18:06
48194833: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm on Sept. 5 @ 17:58
48194568: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision on Sept. 5 @ 14:05
48182587: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision on Sept. 5 @ 12:35
48178038: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall on Sept. 5 @ 10:03
48178033: Medical - Illness - Unknown Problem on Sept. 5 @ 9:09
48177764: Medical - Illness - Heart Problems on Sept. 5 @ 8:34
48177721: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm, on Sept. 5 @ 7:54
48164334: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 4 @ 21:37
48163947: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Other Traumatic Injury, on Sept. 4 @ 20:36
48161242: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 4 @ 19:34
48158178: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on Sept. 4 @ 18:07
48154991: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 4 @ 16:27
48149290: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 4 @ 13:42
48149185: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Lift Assist, on Sept. 4 @ 12:07
48136995: Medical - Illness, on Sept. 4 @ 9:55
48131291: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 4 @ 7:15
48131245: Medical - Illness - Diabetic Problems, on Sept. 4 @ 0:28
48123658: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 3 @ 19:52
48123512: Fire - Outside Fire - Vegetation / Grass Fire, on Sept. 3 @ 21:30
48122254: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 3 @ 17:49
48122246: Medical - Illness - No Appropriate Choice, on Sept. 3 @ 17:32
48122035: Medical - Illness - Unconscious Victim, on Sept. 3 @ 16:49
48122018: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 3 @ 15:02
48118233: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 3 @ 18:34
48114981: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm, on Sept. 3 @ 16:56
48109341: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Citizen Assist / Service Call, on Sept. 3 @ 14:19
48109301: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 3 @ 8:19
48102262: Medical - Illness - Abdominal Pain / Problems, on Sept. 3 @ 12:07
48074954: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Citizen Assist / Service Call, on Sept. 3 @ 1:38
48074622: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on Sept. 3 @ 4:45
48072222: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Lift Assist, on Sept. 3 @ 1:29
48055924: No Emergency - Cancelled, on Sept. 2 @ 21:59
48047682: Medical - Illness - Heart Problems, on Sept. 2 @ 18:31
48010524: Hazardous Situation - Investigation - Smoke Investigation, on Sept. 2 @ 13:28
48009428: Medical - Illness - Psychological Behavior Issues, on Sept. 2 @ 12:43
48001342: Medical - Illness, on Sept. 2 @ 11:46
47990679: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on Sept. 2 @ 6:48
47989126: Hazardous Situation - Investigation - Odor, on Sept. 2 @ 7:41
47960107: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Sept. 2 @ 8:11
47956760: Fire - Structure Fire - Confined Cooking / Appliance Fire, on Sept. 2 @ 2:48
47944144: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on Sept. 1 @ 17:48
47943745: Public Service - Alarms (Non-Medical) - Other Alarms on Sept. 1 @ 17:45
47937717: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Sept. 1 @ 16:01
47913492: Public Service - Alarms (Non-Medical) - Fire / Smoke Alarm, on Sept. 1 @ 14:30
47883752: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on Sept. 1 @ 13:09
47856713: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Sept. 1 @ 10:55
47817771: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on Sept. 1 @ 9:28
47799869: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on Sept. 1 @ 8:58
47796021: No Emergency - Good Intent - No Incident Found Upon Arrival / Location Error, on Sept. 1 @ 7:20
47783242: Medical - Illness - Heart Problems, on Sept. 1 @ 7:22
47775695: No Emergency - False Alarm - Malfunctioning Alarm, on Aug. 31 @ 21:31
47772784: Medical - Illness, on Aug. 31 @ 16:30
47734237: Medical - Illness, on Aug. 31 @ 15:49
47730149: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Aug. 31 @ 12:37
47701034: Public Service - Alarms (Non-Medical) - Fire / Smoke Alarm, on Aug. 31 @ 15:18
47698854: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Citizen Assist / Service Call, on Aug. 31 @ 16:02
47633052: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Aug. 31 @ 12:25
47624626: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on Aug. 31 @ 11:38
47608146: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Aug. 31 @ 10:59
47599730: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Aug. 31 @ 10:14
47555085: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on Aug. 30 @ 19:46
47554721: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Lift Assist, on Aug. 30 @ 20:18
47554087: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Aug. 30 @ 20:07
47550453: Medical - Illness - Headache, on Aug. 30 @ 15:50
47549370: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on Aug. 30 @ 17:12
47547697: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Aug. 30 @ 15:21
47547114: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Aug. 30 @ 15:48
47545283: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Aug. 30 @ 11:44
47544090: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on Aug. 30 @ 13:57
47542569: Medical - Illness - Unconscious Victim, on Aug. 30 @ 12:56
47540068: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on Aug. 30 @ 11:13
47532910: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Other Traumatic Injury, on Aug. 30 @ 3:46
47530146: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on Aug. 30 @ 0:32



_____ POSITION 3, pg. 1A

code enforcement are “not understandable,” Ford said the board wants to be “business-friendly” to all applicants.

"I view the next four years as an opportunity to evaluate how effective we are in communicating internally and externally," he said. "It's imperative that we not only say, but demonstrate to our employees and citizens that we are listening to their ideas and concerns."

Ford also believes it is time to have a "thorough review" of the city and school finances to understand how they are working together.

Because of "One Millington"

 PLANT SALE, pg. 1A

Final Plat submitted for construction of the manufacturing plant.

The revision was submitted by Roy Lamica of EFI Global on behalf of Connor McGrory of Most Dependable Fountains.

At its March 16 meeting, the commission unanimously approved the Site Plan, Engineering Plat and original Final Plat for the property.

But the revised Final Plat alters lot lines from the previously approved documents.

Chamber Golf Tourney in September

The Millington Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament Let Freedom Swing (Education Fundraiser) will be held Sept. 26 at Glen Eagle Golf Course with check-in at 11 a.m. The shotgun start will be noon at 6168 Attu St. in Millington. For more information and to register visit millingtonchamber.com or call 872-1486.

@ 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.

Millington Food Pantry

The Millington Food Pantry is located on the grounds of Millington First United Methodist Church at 8029 Wilkinsville Road, is available to qualified residents of 38053 living in Shelby County. Hours of operation are each Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., every first Thursday and the third Saturday of each month 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Call 901-872-2771 to make an appointment. Appointments are not made in advance of the day the pantry is open.



But he acknowledged that Millington needs to pursue those who can provide larger, quality homes and businesses that add to its “unique charm” and improve its “great” quality of life.

Ford said he will promote continued research into state incentives, among other programs, to start businesses or relocate existing ones.

He will also pursue available grants and resources, while working with the Millington Area Chamber of Commerce to promote the city.

Because he currently serves as the city's "liaison" with the municipal school system, he wants to continue to "promote and enhance" that relationship. "I want to help any way

I can to improve academic testing scores,” he noted, “so our district can provide well-prepared candidates to businesses who have decided to open in Millington.”

Ford said the city's "current focus" has been to provide its public safety services with competitive compensation and benefits to retain quality individuals.

While it has made “considerable progress” in that area, he acknowledged that “more work” is necessary.

"My commitment is to lead with honesty and integrity, so that everyone can feel they can come talk to me with their ideas and concerns," he concluded. "It takes all of us to make a difference."

satisfied before the Final Plat is recorded

The originally approved Final Plan proposed a 330-foot extension of Ryburn Drive, with a required "turnaround" location for trucks and emergency vehicles.

But Yoders said the revised plat has a smaller dedication of public right of way that only extends Ryburn approximately 80 feet to connect with the northeast corner of the property line.

So, this modification will not require a turnaround location.



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 thomasmstar@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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Rivals Clash!

The sideline of Munford Lady Cougars Head Coach Brooke Johns resembles a casting call for the classic TV series MASH. As several key players limped around the Lady Cougar bench Thursday night in the Munford Soccer Stadium, the healthy Munford players took on the annual challenge of the rival Millington Lady Trojans. The Lady Trojans presented a tough challenge for Munford, but two Addie Turner goals made the difference in the Lady Cougars' 2-0 victory. Millington's defensive line of Autumn Cunningham, Alyssa Nix, Haylie Dockery and others assisted goalie Kiersten Ware limiting the Munford attack. Lady Trojan offensive players like Layla Batts, Aaliyah Wood and Danielle Bedford got shots on goal but were stopped by the Munford goalie. Turner gave Munford the 1-0 lead at the 6:16 mark of the first half receiving an assist from a free kick. Midway in the second half Turner iced the game with a breakaway goal with 14 minutes and 50 seconds remaining in the game.

Photos By Thomas Sellers Jr.

aroundTOWN



SWEET... HEART!

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR BRINGS HER CAKE POPS TO GOAT DAYS

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star Editor

The goal of the City of Millington's International Goat Days in recent years has been to add something new and exciting each year.

The 2026 edition held at the Ed Haley Sportsplex Saturday debuted the Kids' Market featuring more than a dozen vendors under the age of 18. From clothing to beverages to treats, young entrepreneurs took a shot at selling their products including Ashonte Rocher of Memphis.

The 14-year-old started her baking business about six months ago and started with selling to family members. With the support of her mother Quintonia and grandmother Gwendolyn, she branched out to area festivals to get her sweet treats "Popped by Nyari" to the masses (Nyari being her middle name).

"It's been going good," Rocher said. "I've a lot of orders. I've done a lot of family orders. I've seen a lot of events like this."

The baker began her business as a tribute to her late companion Myla.

"This started off from my dog passing away,"



she noted. "I was in a real deep mental low. It started from that and I just found my love for baking."

She followed baking instructions, then started experimenting with recipes to create her lineup of "cake pops made with

love."

The butter pecan and strawberry crunch were two of the most popular snacks in Flag City.

For now the business is a hobby for Ashonte as she has aspirations of being a nurse in the future.

Other attractions at the

2026 Goat Days were the Tipton Jeepers with a Jeep Contest, various bounce houses and slides and dozens of "adult" vendors.

There were health and information booths including the Millington Police Department and

Millington Fire Department.

Children from all across the Mid-South including Tristyn Rook, 4, of Millington joined his new friend Reese Perry of Covington in the traditional bounce house.

City of Millington em-

ployees took care of behind the scenes needs while enjoying family like "Papa Wes" with his grandgirls Briar Rose and Amiyah.

Drummond sisters Gianna and Natalyna left Goat Days with fire hats and multiple goodies.

Never Forgetting in Millington

Flag City civic organizations honor current first responders, remember September 11, 2001 to kick off Constitution Week

Star Staff Reports
Special to The Star

On the morning of September 11, VFW Post 7175 of Millington held a special remembrance ceremony.

First Responders, veterans, and members of the community paid somber homage to those Americans lost 25 years ago in New York City, Washington D.C and Pennsylvania. Following the ceremony, they were treated to a pancake breakfast, sponsored and served by Abandoned Antiques, River City Chapter, NSDAR, and the Mid-South Military Museum.

History of Constitution Week

In 2026, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution recognizes the 71st anniversary of Constitution Week.

"The Constitution of the United States is the binding document that has held our country together since it was conceived and designed in 1787 with ratification by nine states June 21, 1788. Without it, we would not be celebrating 250 years of these 'United' States in 2026.

NSDAR Past President General Gertrude S. Carraway was responsible for the annual designation of September 17-23 as Constitution Week. The DAR made its own resolution for Constitution Week, which was adopted on April 21, 1955.

Members of the United States Congress received the DAR resolution and on June 7, 1955, the resolution was discussed in the Senate. The first resolution to observe Constitution Week was made on June 14, 1955, by Senator William F. Knowland of California. Following the passage of the resolution by both Houses of Congress, President Eisenhower issued his proclamation on August 19, 1955.

The first observance of Constitution Week was so successful that on January 5, 1956, Senator Knowland introduced a Senate Joint Resolution to have the President designate September 17-23 annually as Constitution Week. The resolution was adopted on July 23, 1956, and signed into Public Law 915 on August 2, 1956.

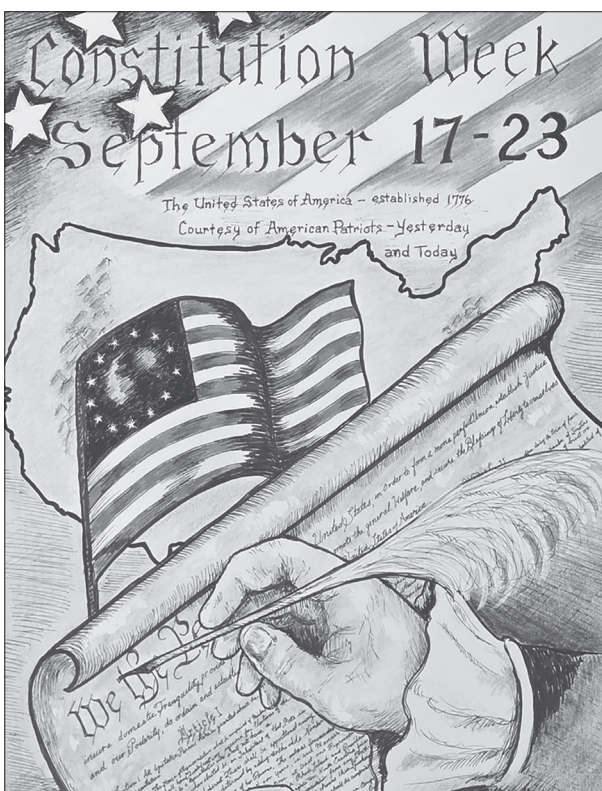
For his patriotic aid and interest, Senator Knowland received an Award of Commendation from the NSDAR Continental Congress in April 1956.

Daughters have been tasked to publicly celebrate and promote the Constitution since a resolution to do so was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956.

Constitution Week Poster Contest

All DAR members and non-DAR members, all ages, are invited to participate in the Constitution Week Poster Contest for 2026. The winning poster will be printed in the spring of 2027 and offered for sale at the DAR store. The poster should illustrate/celebrate the spirit or meaning of the U.S. Constitution.

If anyone is interested and would like more information about the contest, please contact chantigger@yahoo.com. Contest deadline to receive entry is no later than January 1, 2027.



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So When Is Thirty Years Not Thirty Years?

I was staggered when I actually worked it out. Back to the Future sends Marty thirty years back from 1985 to 1955. Everybody knows that. But sit with what those thirty years actually held.

1955 was filled with cars that look like nothing on the road today — chrome and fins and a shape that belonged to another century. It was the diner, not the drive-thru. Dad went to work in a suit with a briefcase and one income paid for the house, the car, a yearly vacation, and the family. Mom was home



running it.

That's not my nostalgia talking — that's Father Knows Best, the biggest family sitcom of the moment, airing that exact year. Leave It to Beaver picked up the same world a couple years later, and Happy Days went back and rebuilt it on purpose two decades on, opening its own story right around 1955. Three different shows, from three dif-

ferent decades, all pointing at the same year like it was a landmark. Looking back, it was.

And it wasn't just thirty years back. It was back before the yuppies of the early eighties, before the gas and hostage crises of 1979, back before the hippies of Woodstock, and even before the Vietnam-era disaffection of the sixties — four generations of upheaval stacked on top of each other before you even got to 1955. No wonder it felt like a different planet. It was.

Now do the same jump from where we sit in 2026.

Thirty years back only lands you in 1996. And here's the part that stopped me: 1996 doesn't feel thirty years gone. It feels like ten.

Think about why. The cars look a little older, sure, but they don't look like they came from another world — they look like last decade's cars. The music from '96 isn't a relic; if anything it's harder to pin down than the music of today, not easier. Fashion hasn't swung wildly in some new direction. And by 1996, the television— while much heavier—was already in color, the com-

puter screen was already in color, the cell phone already existed — it was just a brick instead of a slab of glass in your pocket. You can tell 1996 from 2026 the way you tell an old photograph from a sharp one. You can't tell it the way you tell a different world from this one.

So when is thirty years not thirty years? When the world underneath it quit remaking itself every decade. If you actually want Marty's experience — the fins on the cars, the different rules on the wall, the sense that you've landed somewhere foreign

— thirty years won't get you there anymore. You'd have to go all the way back to 1955 itself. That's seventy-one years now, not thirty.

The DeLorean still time travels. But the road behind us has gotten a lot longer.

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

Tennessee's Finest

Still processing the departure of the 'First Lady of the Volunteer State'

It's been a few weeks now and the country is still processing the loss of the legendary, iconic Dolly Parton.

I crowned her the all-time Miss Tennessee years ago on The Best Sellers' List. I didn't realize the feeling was mutual across the Volunteer State. When she passed away Aug. 25, I quickly saw the world loves Dolly Parton.

Dolly Rebecca Parton was so much to so many people in addition to being a singer, songwriter, actress, businesswoman, and philanthropist over the past 60 years.

She grew up in a small cabin in Sevierville with very humble beginnings. Alongside her parents and 11 siblings (six brothers and five sisters) she found a way to stand out and become a part of Americana.

"I've always loved being from where I am. I think my childhood made me everything I am today," Patron said. "I would trade nothing for being brought up in the Great Smoky Mountains."

Dolly's love and respect for her hometown led to Dollywood, a statue and even a clone being named after her.

In 1996, a female sheep and the first mammal cloned from an adult cell was bestowed with the name of Dolly. Sir Ian Wilmut, who led the team of scientists in Scotland behind the creation of Dolly, told the BBC, "Dolly is derived from a mammary gland cell, and we couldn't think of a more impressive pair of glands than Dolly Parton's."

She is a legend for so many other reasons. Those two didn't make the top 10 of things to know about Tennessee's Finest, Dolly Patron.

10. Dollywood

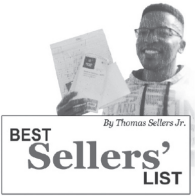
My daughter Liyah has been on the hollow grounds of Dollywood in East Tennessee. She joined her bandmates from Millington Central to win a competition. Of course they enjoyed the rides that Dolly never rode.

Many people didn't know that Patron didn't get on her own rides, but thousands of U.S. Americans first learned of her fame through Dollywood.

They later found out she has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2022. But the theme part made her a prominent figure.

The East Tennessee tourist destination opened in the 1960s, and it relaunched as Dollywood in 1986. Patron bought some stakes in the park's parent company.

"I don't ride the rides," she once told the New York Times. "I never have. I have a tendency to get motion sickness. Also, I'm a little bit chicken."



9. Dolly Parton's Many Wigs

Dolly might have also been concerned about losing her wig on one of the roller coasters. Her trademark hair came with receipts and tags. Along with her sparkly outfits and grown woman curves, Dolly was known for her big hair.

"Once somebody asked me, 'How many wigs do you have?'" I said, "Well, I must have at least 365, because I wear one almost every day."

8. Guinness World Record Holder

The list of Dolly awards and accomplishments is too long to list, but I was shocked to find out she also owns 11 Guinness World records. Real quick, she also has 11 Grammy awards too.

Back to the book, she was made a Guinness World Records ICON in the 2026 edition, with those 11 Guinness World Records, which includes most consecutive decades with Top 10 album entries on the Billboard country chart (female) and most studio albums released by a female country singer. Dolly was a hard worker.

7. Hannah Montana's Family

My daughter was introduced to Dolly by her love of the TV show Hannah Montana. Miley Cyrus was close to the legend and just penned a sweet tribute to her Godmother.

Back in the 1990s, Billy Ray Cyrus hit it big with the earworm classic "Achy Breaky Heart." He earned the honor to open up some of Patron's shows. He also appeared in her video for "Romeo."

That relationship led to Dolly being connected to Billy Ray's daughter Miley.

"We never did do a big ceremony, but I'm so proud of her, love her, and she's just like one of my own," Patron told "Good Morning America" anchor Robin Roberts in 2009.

6. Lost Memphis Connection

Dolly is beloved across the state from the Delta to the Smoky Mountains. The night of the annual M&M Bowl between the Millington Trojans and Munford Cougars, the packed stadium honored Patron by listening to "Jolene."

That is one of her most iconic songs, but maybe if she accepted a duet with the King of Rock and Roll Elvis Presley, the Memphis area would play that tune.

Presley wanted to take an attempt at "I Will Always Love You." Patron said Presley's manager, Colonel Tom Parker, once contacted her to discuss his client possibly covering the song.

What stopped Presley from recording the classic? The deal fell apart after Par-



ton realized that she would have to relinquish at least 50 percent of the publishing royalties.

"I cried all night. I mean, it was like the worst thing. You know, it's like, 'Oh, my God ... Elvis Presley,'" Patron recalled in an interview. "And other people were saying, 'You're nuts. It's Elvis Presley. I mean, hell, I'd give him all of it.'"

Good thing she held back on that deal...

5. Her Most Famous Song

Patron and the late Whitney Houston struck a deal that led to millions of dollars for both women. "I Will Always Love You," became iconic thanks to Houston's flawless delivery for the "The Bodyguard" soundtrack in 1992.

Patron took her proceeds and poured it back into black communities. While Houston gave the lyrics power and strength, Patron's remediation conveyed sorrow and pain. Contrary to popular belief, the song written by Patron was about a romantic partner.

Throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s, Patron performed with her mentor Porter Wagoner. When Patron was ready to leave the show and spearhead her

own career, a rift began to form between the pair.

"There was a lot of grief and heartache there, and he just wasn't listening to my reasoning for my going," Patron told CMT in a 2011 interview. "I thought, 'Well, why don't you do what you do best? Why don't you just write this song?'"

That experience was channeled perfectly into the song and it took another 20-something years for the perfect singer to pump a new life into them.

4. Lost a Dolly Parton-lookalike contest

Dolly was not only an iconic American and entertainment figure, she has a signature look that rivals 1970s Elvis, mid 1980s Michael Jackson and early era Madonna.

In many interviews Patron described herself as "flashy" and "flamboyant." The woman that modelled herself after the town's public servant was easy to duplicate. Her look was so popular that when she had the chance to participate in a lookalike contest where she just needed to be herself, Dolly lost.

"At a Halloween contest years ago on Santa Monica Boulevard, where all the guys were dressed up like

me, and I just over exaggerated my look and went in and just walked up on-stage ... I didn't win," she said in that same 2009 interview with Roberts. "I didn't even come in close, I don't think."

3. Dolly was Talented

The awards, accomplishments and multiple titles on her resume were backed up by her sharp mind and God-given skills.

The country music legend could add the title of instrumentalist. She could play the dulcimer, banjo, guitar, piano, recorder, and saxophone, among others.

"My family's very musical, and everybody played musical instruments, so we just grabbed up anything and tried to play," she said. "Like I said, I ain't all that good at it, but I can play enough to make a show!"

2. Created a Library to Promote Literacy

Patron has given back in so many ways that we will never know. She didn't brag about these things, but one charitable act was too awesome to keep secret. In 1995, Patron was inspired by her father's illiteracy and opened Dolly's Imagination Library in Sevier County. She wanted to honor her dad and provide an avenue

for children to learn to read by giving them free books.

"My daddy just loved it when all the little kids would call me 'The Book Lady,'" reads a quote from Patron on the library's website. "That meant more to him than the fact that I had become a star and worked my butt off."

The organization has since sent more than 120 million free books to children worldwide.

1. Dolly Parton Was Married for Nearly 60 Years

On March 3, 2025, the man behind the scenes of Dolly's greatness passed away in Nashville. The Tennessee native Carl Thomas Dean lived out many men's dream of being married to Dolly. Patron met her soulmate on her first day in Nashville in 1964. The couple united on May 30, 1966.

While Dolly lived a very public life and enjoyed the spotlight, Dean was ultra-private and hardly appeared in public. That made the couple work and balance each other.

A year and five months was enough time apart for the couple. Now they are Heavenly united and resting. Behind every amazing woman is a good man. Thank you Mr. Dean for sharing your wife and allowing her to be the supernova that will brighten up the world until the end of time.

"My husband and I, we've been together 56 years. We've just been married 54 years this past May," she told PEOPLE in 2021. "But we still have our little times, like in the springtime when the first yellow daffodils come out. Even if there's still some snow around it, my husband always brings me a bouquet. And he'll usually write me a little poem. Which to me, that's priceless."

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

Attention Area Veterans

Tennessee State Veterans Home in Arlington to celebrate opening with ribbon-cutting in December

Star Staff Reports
Special to The Star

ARLINGTON — The Tennessee State Veterans Home in Arlington will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, celebrating the completion of the new 126-bed skilled nursing facility serving Veterans in West Tennessee.

Tennessee Department of Veterans Services Commissioner Tommy Baker, Tennessee State Veterans Homes Executive Director Ed Harries, Shelby County Mayor Mickell M. Lowery, Arlington Mayor Michael Wissman, state and local elected officials, and other distinguished guests will attend the ceremony.

Located on 28.5 acres in rural Shelby County, the neighborhood-style facility features residential houses with 18 private rooms each, intimate courtyards and dining spaces.

A community center includes a bistro, large activity space, and state-of-the-art therapy gym.

“This new Veterans Home represents Tennessee’s commitment to ensuring our Veterans receive the dignity, respect, and exceptional service they have earned,” said Commissioner Baker. “We are

proud to celebrate this milestone and welcome Veterans to a facility designed to provide outstanding care while fostering a true sense of community. We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who supported this project. Their commitment, hard work, and continued support helped make this day possible and will have a lasting impact for generations to come.”

The Arlington Veterans Home expands access to quality long-term care for West Tennessee Veterans and reflects Tennessee’s commitment to honoring those who have served our nation.



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2000 CHEV TAH
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2000 DODG RAM
VIN# 2B5WB35Z2YK130992
2015 KIA FRT
VIN# KNAFK4A67F5330998
2014 FORD SPE
VIN# 1FMCU0F73EUD77391
2009 DODGE DUR
VIN# 1D8HB38P69F712959
2016 KIA SEDONA
VIN# KNDMB5C18G6197827

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210 Van Buren Ave.
West Memphis, AR 72301

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to satisfy storage and tow fees on
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AT 9 A.M.

2012 CADILLAC SRX
VIN# 3GYFNBE33CS596528
2015 CHRYSLER 200
VIN# 1C3CCB8B8FN696398
2012 CHEV MALIBU
VIN# 1G1ZB5E06CF219885
2012 TOYT CAM
VIN# 4T1BF1FK3CU183845
2012 DODGE RAM
VIN# 1C6GRD7FT0CS134481
2016 CHRY 200
VIN# 1C3CCAB7GN160450
2017 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN# 1N4AL3AP9HC119478
2001 NISSAN PATHFINDER
VIN# JN8DR09X31W561593
2008 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER
VIN# 4M2EU38838UJ13753
2017 HYUN ELN.
VIN# 5NPDB4LFXHH191569
2026 TOYT COR.
VIN# JTD8CMFEST3128005
2011 NISS VRS
VIN# 3N1BC1CP5BL491740
2010 DODGE CHARGER
VIN# 2B3CA3CV5AH156021
2010 FORD EXPLORER
VIN# 1FMEU6DE1AU37079
2002 TOYT COR
VIN# 1NXBR12E92Z591692
2013 FORD FOCUS
VIN# 1FADP3K23DL305452
2017 NISSAN ALT.
VIN# 1N4AL3AP8HC166727
2011 DODGE CAL
VIN# 1B3CB3HA5BD123604
2003 NISSAN XTERA
VIN# 5N1ED28T03C655147
2015 NISS VRS
VIN# 3N1CN7AP6FL801338
2005 GMC SIERRA
VIN# 2GTEK19B251225039
2008 ACURA TL
VIN# 19UUA66218A031307
2013 DODGE AVENGER
VIN# 1C3CDZAB89DN590511
2018 AUDI A5
VIN# WAUNNAF58JA009652
2018 CHEVY CRUZE
VIN# 1G1BC55MJ7229630
2008 DODGE CARAVAN
VIN# 2D8HN54P38R831049
2013 JEEP PATRIOT
VIN# 1C4NPBA7DD225709
2014 JEEP CHEROKEE
VIN# 1C4PJM54E4W281502
2008 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN# 1N4AL24E68C260741

AUTO AUCTIONS

A&A TOWING
4000 N. WATKINS
901-357-3330

The Following
Vehicles Will Be Sold On
10-1-26 AT 9 A.M.

2012 CHEVROLET CRUZE
VIN 1G1PJ55C8C7207207
1971 CHEVROLET EL CAMINO
VIN 136801K157579
2013 NISSAN ROGUE
VIN JN8AS5MV3DW606417
2024 NISSAN ROGUE
VIN 5N1BT3BA3RC687179
2006 NISSAN MAXIMA
VIN 1N4BA41E36C818827
2005 HONDA ACCORD
VIN 1HGCM56455A120131

DTS TOWING
3930 THOMAS ST., MEMPHIS, 38127

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WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON
OCTOBER 18, 2026 AT 11 AM

1FMCU0GN0PAA54500
2023 FORD ESCAPE
5N1BT3BB0RC692087
2024 NISSAN ROGUE
4T1BE46K18U242774
2008 TOYOTA CAMRY
3KPFU4DE2SE010244
2025 KIA K4
3FMTK3SU3PMA96685
2023 FORD MUSTANG
161ZD5ST5RF231981
2024 CHEVROLET MALIBU
JT3HN86R1X0201025
1999 TOYOTA 4RUNNER
1G1B5C5M867273467
2016 CHEVROLET CRUZE
4T1BE32K62U001770
2002 TOYOTA CAMRY
1NXBR32E25Z404339
2005 TOYOTA COROLLA
1N4AL3AP4HC472503
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12:00-6:00 pm
Call anytime with questions
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David Nolen, Pastor

Assembly of God First3719 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
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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,
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(901)482-7576
Sunday Worship:

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River of Life Church8850 Highway 51
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Nazarene**3865 Beaver Rd • Munford
(731) 223-2258
Pastor Mitchell Combs**Dominion Christian Center**7199 Raleigh-Millington Road
(901) 873-8020Pastor 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
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Elder John Adam Dixon, Senior Pastor
901-872-6087
www.harrischapelcogic.com

Grace Baptist Church9171 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
GracePoint Church
(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 Church3719 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 Church7003 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
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Church**4404 Sykes Rd
(901)872-1544**Unity Baptist Church**9596 Evander Rd
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Baptist Church**9090 Hwy 51 North
(901)-872-6919**West Canaan Baptist
Church**8715 Wilkinsville Rd
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Presbyterian Church**3099 West Union Rd •
Millington
(901)876-5757Sunday School & Bible Study
on Sun. at 10 amMorning Worship at 11 am
Rev. James Hamblin, Pastor**The WORD Church**8641 Greenhill Rd
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Along the Journey

Welcome to September, a time of transition on our calendars each year. Schools have begun their classes, the energy of football season has arrived, the fall harvest is beginning, and summer (hopefully) is giving way to Indian summer (warm days and cooler nights). I do believe it is my favorite season of the year. But it has become a time of reflection, a time of somberness and melancholy for me, also. This time frame brings the anniversary of the loss of my eldest son ... a spouse, a father, a brother, a son, and an uncle ... a teacher, a writer, a thinker, a humorist, a person of deep faith, a musician, a food and chef junkie ... and last but not least, a friend across all age levels from elderly to infant. In many ways he was a "renaissance man" for the ages who danced the dance of faith and doubt for he was always thinking, questioning, ... he was a tinkerer of thoughts.

As a father, pastor, life coach and a bouncer of thoughts for my son, our relationship contained an array of tentacles for us that would not be present for others often times. For instance, very intense and long discussions or debates around religious issues, beliefs and understandings was a norm for our conversations ... as well as the normal father/son chats of current day. He shared his writings of poetry and short story; he shared a desire to pen a novel at some point, and when preaching on laity Sunday he would bounce his thoughts and the focus of his message to me. As you can sense, there are some dark holes within my space.

I have shared this because I want to focus us today on the dance of faith and doubt which he and I often shared. If one believes, they will also have doubts. Even in our most confident moments, there are doubts. Basic religious faith is a vote for some coherence, purpose, benevolence, and direction in the universe. Unfortunately, the notion of faith that emerged in the West was a much more rational assent to the truth of certain mental beliefs rather than a calm and hopeful trust that God is inherent in all things, and that this whole thing is going somewhere good.

I worry about "true believers" who cannot carry any doubt or anxiety at all. People who are so certain always seem, like Hamlet's queen, to "protest too much" and try too hard. To hold the full mystery of life is always to endure its other half, which is the equal mystery of death and doubt. To know anything fully is always to hold that part of it which is still mysterious and unknowable.

Doubt and faith are actually correlative terms. People of great faith often suffer bouts of great doubt because they continue to grow. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, experienced decades of this kind of doubt, as was revealed after her death. In a letter to a trusted spiritual director she wrote, "Darkness is such that I really do not see ... neither with my mind nor my reason. The place of God in my soul is blank. I feel there is no God in me." The very fact that people were scandalized by this demonstrates how limited is our understanding of the nature of biblical faith. It seems a movement from certitude to doubt and through doubt to acceptance of life's mystery is necessary in all encounters, intellectual breakthroughs, and relationships, not just the divine. Human faith and religious faith are much the same except in their object or goal. What set us on the wrong path was making the object of religious faith "ideas" or doctrines instead of a spiritual creator being. Our faith is not to be a faith that dogmas or morals opinions are true, but a faith that the Creator, the Ultimate Reality, the Spirit of the Universe, God is accessible to us ... and journeys with us.

Our youthful demand for certainty eliminates most anxiety on the conscious level, so I can see why many are tempted to remain in such a control tower. We do not have enough experience of wholeness to include all its parts yet. The first-half-of-life naïveté includes a kind of excitement and happiness that is hard to let go of unless we know there is an even deeper and tested kind of happiness ahead of us. But we do not know that yet in the early years, which is why those in the second half of life must tell us about it. Without elders a society perishes socially and spiritually.

It is probably necessary to eliminate most doubt when we are young; doing so is a good survival technique. But such worldviews are not true ... and they are not wisdom. Wisdom happily lives with mystery, doubt, and unknowing and, in such living, ironically resolves that very mystery to some degree in our journey ...

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

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SPORTS *Extra*

Instant Classic on the Court

Brighton runs into improved Lady Red Devil team, pulls out five set thriller

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star Editor

GERMANTOWN — District 15-3A Volleyball is one of the toughest leagues in the state of Tennessee. There is no arguing that Collierville and Houston are on a whole other level. The likes of Bartlett and Arlington have hung banners in recent years as well in their respective gymnasiums.

Then the likes of Munford, Brighton, Cordova and Germantown have proud traditions and are starting to quickly understand they all are improving programs.

On Sept. 8, the Brighton Lady Cardinals made the trip to the Germantown Gymnasium to take on the Lady Red Devils. In recent matchups, Head Coach John Garrett's Lady Cardinals have been able to handle the Germantown squads of Head Coach Aaliyah Causey.

Coming into the 2026 showdown, Garrett tried to give his players a much-needed heads up.

"Germantown is a good team, much improved from last year," he declared. "I watched some film on them and I was worried about this one all weekend. I kept talking to them and telling them, 'Don't come in here and think you're just going to beat them like you did last year. That's a much better team.' My girls keep finding ways to win and learn. They get better, we get better everyday, every time we play a team like that."

Brighton survived the challenge of Germantown to emerge with a 25-19, 22-25, 27-25, 15-25, and 18-16 win.

"I keep calling them my 'Cardiac Kids,'" Garrett said. "We get into dog fights. Couple of weeks ago against Millington we went down 2-0 and we clawed back and won. That's a great team too."

"It's mental," he added later.



"You look out there every so often and see it on their faces. They're down and we're constantly talking to them, Coach McGinnis and I. 'You have to stay up. We can't do this without you.' We're learning how to win. They're learning how to get that killer mentality and winning mentality that we're looking for."

Things appeared to be business as usual after Brighton emerged out of the first set 25-19 winners. Then Germantown led by senior Taylor Harden made it clear it was going to be a long night.

"Taylor Harden is one of my captains and is a very, very great leader," Causey said. "We say all the time the setter is the quarterback of the team. She's the glue of

our team. She holds it together. She touches the ball every possession. If she gets a set we're going to be there. If you just got a great pass I am pretty sure Taylor just gave the set."

The Lady Red Devils jumped ahead 16-8 behind Harden locating her weapons like Dallis Smith, Aaniyah Vaughn and middle hitters Camora Cooper and Skyler Reliford.

"My middles are really great," Causey said. "Camora Cooper. Had really stepped up this season. There's a big difference from last season to this season. She's our leader now. She's going to make the most kills in a game. When she gets a swing or the perfect set, she's killing the ball. Skyler Reliford is



only a sophomore. So look out for her because she's a great middle. Put her on y'all radars."

Germantown's Megan Wilson kept her team ahead as Brighton rallied in the second set. Wilson scored on a tip at the net to keep the Lady Red Devils in the driver's seat.

Meanwhile the Lady Cardinals chipped away at the Germantown advantage with scores from Aeryl Potter, Briley Bennett, Emma Smith, Greta Garrett and freshman Molly Quirarte.

With the score 23-22 in favor of Germantown, Wilson scored on an overhead volley and Harden served up an ace for the 25-22 win.

The third set was tight the entire game with Quirarte serving up an ace to give Brighton a 19-16 lead late.

Cooper dominated the net for the next few possessions with a pair of kills that made the tally 21-20 in favor of the Lady Cardinals. Smith tied the frame up at 21-21 with a spike. Brighton closed out the frame outscoring Germantown 6-4 with Bennett scoring on a timely block.

The Lady Cardinals were ahead 2 sets to 1 set after the 27-25 win. With their backs to the wall, the Lady Red Devils played a nearly

flawless game sparked by the play of their seniors.

"Aaniyah Vaughn is a really great player on the outside," Causey said. "She's one of my senior leaders as well. She adjusted to those sets, made smart plays and figured out what was open on the court to use it to our advantage."

"Our libero Kassiday Johnson is a senior as well," she added. "She's a really great player and she's going to be there to back up all our players."

Germantown forced a fifth and decisive set to 15 points with the 25-15 win in the fourth set.

The final set was a summary of the entire match with both teams going back and forth. Quirarte had the closing point with an ace just over the net to send the Brighton side of the gym into celebration with the 18-16 win.

Despite leaving the court on the wrong side of the epic, Causey said her players exited the gym with validation.

"I feel really great about our performance today," she concluded. "We have really turned heads this season and I feel that has come from our summer practices. We have put in a lot of work and our girls now really want it. They're hard workers."

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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 5

WEEK 5

1. Munford (3-0) vs. Haywood
W 34-30 vs. Woodford Co. (Ky.)
2. Briarcrest (4-0) @ St. Benedict
W 49-20 vs. Father Ryan
3. St. George's (3-1) vs. North Panola (Miss.)
L 32-28 vs. Jackson Christian
4. Arlington (4-0) @ Collierville
W 55-20 vs. Ridegway
5. St. Benedict (4-0) vs. Briarcrest
W 50-6 vs. Kingsbury
6. CBHS (3-1) vs. Brentwood Academy
L 22-21 vs. MBA
7. Covington (3-1) @ Obion County
W 26-7 vs. Brighton
8. Bartlett (3-1) @ Houston
W 49-14 vs. Overton
9. Cordova (2-1) vs. White Station
L 43-6 vs. Center Hill (Miss.)
10. Germantown (2-2) vs. Lausanne
L 7-6 vs. Whitehaven

WEEK 4

1. Munford
2. Briarcrest
3. St. George's
4. Arlington
5. CBHS
6. St. Benedict
7. Covington
8. Germantown
9. Brighton
10. Cordova

POWER 10

2026

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