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The Millington Star

Shelby County Friend of Education Award Winner

A TPA Multiple Award-Winning Newspaper

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Marlon

Area Young Star Plays Jackson 5 Legend

The biggest and highest grossing movie of 2026 so far has been Michael. Not only is there a Memphis connection with the biopic based on the early life of music icon Michael Jackson, there is a Millington tie with the Roger Christopher and family. Their nephew Jaylen Lyndon Hunter played the younger Marlon Jackson in the film. The 16-year-old Memphian is representing the 901 worldwide. The film—following the rise of the Jackson 5 through the era of Thriller.

'Double Dipping'

City of Millington terminates MPD officer indicted on theft charges

Star Staff Reports
The Millington Star



Bryan Childress

Editor's Note: *The Millington Director of Public Safety Gary Graves released an official statement addressing the indictment and arrest of former Millington Police Officer Bryan Childress last week.*

Millington Police Lt. Bryan Childress was arrested and charged with work-related theft, according to the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury.

Childress, 48, was arrested last Thursday following an indictment and faces theft of property more than $2,500 and official misconduct charges.

The City of Millington announced on Friday that Childress has been terminated from his employment with the City, effective immediately, moving from unpaid suspension to termination.

"The City of Millington is aware that Millington Police Officer Bryan Childress has been taken into custody. We are awaiting the final investigative report to be released. Once that information is received and reviewed, we will release more information related to his indictments and arrest.

When concerns first came to the Public Safety Director's attention, the City Manager and City

leadership supported a thorough and independent review. The matter was promptly referred to the appropriate authorities. Matters involving public trust and allegations against public employees are taken seriously.

Matters involving public trust and allegations against public employees are taken seriously. While personnel investigations and criminal referrals often take time and cannot always be discussed publicly as they unfold, that does not mean they are not being addressed. The seriousness of these matters is precisely why they require careful, deliberate, and thorough review.

Public service is a public trust. Those entrusted with serving our community are held to a high

standard of integrity and professionalism. When credible concerns arise, the City will continue to refer matters to the appropriate independent authorities, cooperate fully with their investigations, and take appropriate administrative action consistent with the law and the facts. Our commitment to accountability, transparency, and earning the public's trust remains unwavering.

Investigators say it all started when a Millington city official reported questionable time reporting practices involving Childress."

The POST Commission was also notified regarding Childress' termination and arrest. Allegations against Childress include Childress' police department timesheet from January 2023 through December 2025 with records from his timesheet with Protos Off Duty Services, which is a company that coordinates off duty security work for law enforcement officers.

Childress had reported working for both employers during the same hours on 59 different days, investigators alleges. The overlapping time totaled 66 hours.

They say Childress acknowledged working off-duty security jobs through ODS and several other companies and that he never obtained the required approval for his outside employment. Investigators say Childress also understood ODS assignments were to be worked only while he was off duty from the police department.

Commission approves Site Plan, Final Plat for TCAT Aviation facility

By Bill Short
The Millington Star

The Millington Planning Commission has unanimously approved the Site Plan and Final Plat for the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Aviation facility near Veterans Parkway.

Commission members took the actions on separate motions during their July 20 regular monthly meeting.

Both documents were submitted by Joel T. Johnson of Burr & Cole Consulting Engineers Inc. on behalf of Dr. Gwendolyn Sutton of TCAT.

The entire site, zoned M-P, Planned Industrial District, consists of the 107-acre lot currently owned by the Millington Industrial Development Board.

It will be divided into two lots, with the TCAT facility constructed on 36.7 acres in the northernmost area.

That property is bordered by Veterans Parkway on the north and east, a sewer easement on the south and the Canadian National Railroad tracks on the west.

On Feb. 26, the IDB approved the sale of the property with the condition that TCAT will obtain a building permit from Shelby County within one year from the sale transaction date.

The development will consist of a 49,000-square-foot aviation-related educational building located adjacent to the Millington-Memphis Airport.

Cole Yoders, GIS coordinator and inspector for the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development, told the commission that the facility will support workforce development and technical education in the aviation sector.

It will include a combination of "functional" spaces, such as:

(1) an aircraft hangar
(2) instructional classrooms
(3) laboratories
(4) administrative offices; and
(5) an outdoor airplane maintenance area.

Yoders said the site layout "adequately accommodates" the operational needs of the aviation maintenance technology and avionics programs, while maintaining "compatibility" with surrounding land uses.

He noted that the site's vehicular traffic will be served by one ingress/egress access point at Veterans Parkway.

Two parking lots will provide a total of 272 regular stalls.

Eight van-accessible handicap stalls will be located across the front of the building, as well as two electric vehicle charging stations near the front.

Yoders said the site will have sidewalks ranging from 5-to-8 feet wide that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide access to the building from the public right of way on Veterans Parkway and each parking lot.

He noted that the development is designed to "adequately accommodate" all stormwater runoff by using three detention ponds.

The northernmost pond will be permanent and hold a minimum of 5 feet of water, while the other two will be temporary with no permanent pool.

The Site Plan also illustrates open-channel ditches to convey stormwater off the site.

The planning staff recommended that each area reserved for stormwater detention have a label on the Final Plat specifying its acreage.

Yoders said the building will have two stories in the front and one in the back, which will include "wings" of classrooms, laboratories and offices "integrated" along the edges of a large hangar.

The landscape plan includes a comprehensive list of plant materials, with specifications regarding their location, caliper and spread.

To break up expansive rows of parking spaces, a mix of trees, shrubs, perennials and groundcovers are proposed along the site's perimeter and within parking lot islands.

For the street trees along Veterans Parkway, Chestnut Oaks are proposed with 2.5-inch-caliper trunks spaced 40 feet apart.

They must also be placed so they will not interfere with the overhead utility lines or the sidewalks.

Yoders said the applicant provided lighting and photometric plans that align with the city's Design Guidelines.

Lighting poles will range from 14 to 24 feet high and feature a "full cutoff" lighting fixture with the appropriate footcandles for their specified locations.

He noted that 3-foot-tall bollards will be placed around the building's main entrance to provide pedestrian-scaled lighting.

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780700

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CLASS OF '26 SIGNING... 11A

Dance Nights

Millington Parks and Recreation Dance Nights 2026 kicked off in July with DJ Fernando and Russ Vaiden. The next two dates will be in August with Jim Mahannah Band on the Aug. 4 and Gary Abbott on Aug. 18. The rest of the year is scheduled and see Around Town inside to make future plans at the Baker Community Center located at 7942 Church Street from 6 to 9 p.m. There is a fee and for more information, call 873-5770 or visit parks4you@milling-







One Last Hurrah!

The City of Millington's Summer of Fun concluded at the end of July with the Millington Fire Department hosting the area children at the Baker Community Center. The firefighters treated the children to fun, games, fire safety information and the waterworks with the hose of the engine.







Got You Covered

Brighton's nest still full of talent and players dedicated to Coach Setler

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star



Last year's starting quarterback CayDen Young has transferred to Briarcrest Christian School.

Last season's standout freshman Reggie Holmes has been spotted at Tipton-Rosemark Academy.

Wait a minute… don't sound the alarm at Brighton High School, Cardinals Head Football Coach Keith Setler said he still has a lot of weapons returning to sport the red and black.

"This is my fourth year," he said. "It feels great to know we're reaching our young men. We've been talking as a staff these are our babies. This is the first group of kids that we had that first year and they've been with us. When you try to turn around a program, it's not going to be overnight."

With nearly 20 seniors on the roster, Brighton has a mixture of maturity and young potential to attack Region 8-5A. The Cardinals have reached the postseason the last two years under Setler, but both times Brighton had to travel far away to face powerhouses.

As Brighton Football continues to progress, Setler said the key factor to the Cardinals taking flight is consistency at the top.

"There's probably some instances around the country that (some teams) had some overnight success, different factors play into it," he noted. "But when you get to this point, the kids know you. They haven't been through two or three different changes.

"They know the standards and expectations," Setler added. "We know each other. We love these kids and I know them all in and out. It's a fun group to be around and we're excited to see what they can do."

Brighton will start its third new quarterback in as many years. The weapons on offense will be home-grown talent. The defense has size and maturity to complete with the elite of the Region like Memphis Central and Munford.

Setler said the approach at Brighton will remain the same, play with the players who are in the locker room.

"The game has changed," he said. "Anybody getting into the game of coaching now, they're coming in with new rules and new ways of doing things. Us old school guys having to adjust. Old school mentality still remains that it's next man up.

"You keep moving, you're always looking forward and not behind," Setler continued. "That's the way I've always been. I don't get too bogged down with what the state allows, whatever the county allows. I am going to coach whatever young man darkens our door. We'll keep it moving.

Setler said he wishes his former players the best of luck and he will continue 'TPW' approach in the middle of Tipton County.

"The program has to be bigger than any one thing — bigger than any player or even a coach," he concluded. "The program you establish together has to be bigger than all of that. I think we're at that point we as a staff no matter what happens we keep it rolling."



FIRE reports

JULY 26-AUGUST 1

45388404: No Emergency - False Alarm - Malfunctioning Alarm, on Aug. 1 @ 22:11

45387929: Medical - Other - Medical Alarm, on Aug. 1 @ 20:30

45387540: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm, on Aug. 1 @ 19:54

45382141: Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical) - Fire / Smoke Alarm, on Aug. 1 @ 18:24

45377641: Medical - Illness, on Aug. 1 @ 13:49

45376537: Medical - Illness, on Aug. 1 @ 12:16

45375576: No Emergency - Good Intent - No Incident Found Upon Arrival / Location Error, on Aug. 1 @ 8:58

45355463: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on July 31 @ 19:11

45354320: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on July 31 @ 16:57

45346750: No Emergency - False Alarm - Other False Call, on July 31 @ 15:36

45318526: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on July 31 @13:34

45314871: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on July 31 @ 13:04

45269328: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on July 31 @ 11:57

45268189: Medical - Illness - Altered Mental Status , on July 31 @ 14:06

45229317: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on July 31 @ 9:13

45214790: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on July 31 @ 8:27

45206556: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Citizen Assist / Service Call, on July 31 @ 10:11

45199314: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Citizen Assist / Service Call, on July 31 @ 7:24

45188547: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on July 30 @ 22:20

45145364: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on July 30 @ 12:22

45144910: No Emergency - Cancelled, on July 30 @ 14:31

45144880: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on July 30 @ 11:04

45144448: Hazardous Situation - Hazardous Materials - Gas Leak / Gas Odor, on July 30 @ 8:18

45115112: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm, on July 29 @ 21:04

45114181: Medical - Illness - Headache, on July 29 @ 18:43

45111268: No Emergency - Cancelled, on July 29 @ 18:44

45106194: Medical - Illness - No Appropriate Choice, on July 29 @ 11:42

45105862: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on July 29 @ 11:11

45105422: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm, on July 29 @ 10:52

45105411: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on July 29 @ 9:55

45085217: Medical - Illness - Diabetic Problems, on July 29 @ 12:30



45064590: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on July 29 @ 3:36

45062390: Medical - Illness, on July 29 @ 0:13

45059578: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on July 28 @ 21:09

45047929: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Assault, on July 28 @ 14:47

45047223: Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical) - Fire / Smoke Alarm, on July 28 @ 14:29

45046689: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on July 28 @ 14:04

45018764: Hazardous Situation - Investigation - Odor, on July 28 @ 12:22

44981794: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on July 28 @ 6:41

44981494: No Emergency - Cancelled, on July 28 @ 8:12

44979371: Medical - Illness - Cardiac Arrest , on July 28 @ 6:44

44978416: Hazardous Situation - Investigation - Odor, on July 28 @ 3:51

44970305: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on July 27 @ 18:40

44967971: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on July 27 @ 11:48

44937703: No Emergency - False Alarm - Malfunctioning Alarm, on July 27 @ 16:18

44935272: Medical - Illness - Altered Mental Status , on July 27 @ 10:25

44932694: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Motor Vehicle Collision, on July 27 @ 9:06

44924220: No Emergency - False Alarm - Accidental Alarm, on July 27 @ 9:07

44917980: Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical) - Fire / Smoke Alarm, on July 27 @ 3:21

44917879: Medical - Illness - Unknown Problem, on July 27 @ 0:58

44915730: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Assault, on July 27 @ 0:34

44915031: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on July 26 @ 23:36

44917656: Medical - Injury / Trauma - Fall, on July 26 @ 6 20:29

44913734: Medical - Illness - Sick Case, on July 26 @ 22:08

44913561: Medical - Illness - Abdominal Pain / Problems, on July 26 @ 17:06

44912690: Medical - Illness - Well Person Check, on July 26 @ 16:00

44910414: Medical - Illness - Chest Pain (Non-Trauma), on July 26 @ 13:01

44909073: Medical - Illness - Convulsions / Seizures, on July 26 @ 18:52

44908762: Medical - Illness - Abdominal Pain / Problems, on July 26 @ 10:59

44907278: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Citizen Assist / Service Call, on July 26 @ 17:58

44901823: Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical) - Fire / Smoke Alarm, on July 26 @ 14:23

44901595: Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical) - Fire / Smoke Alarm, on July 26 @ 14:04

44899614: Medical - Illness - Breathing Problems, on July 26 @ 13:03

44890393: Medical - Illness - Cardiac Arrest , on July 26 @ 6:20

44889417: Fire - Transportation Fire - Vehicle Fire - Passenger, on July 26 @ 4:49

44887989: Public Service - Citizen Assist - Lift Assist, on July 26 @ 2:54

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.

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.



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 millingtontn-lions@outlook.com

Senior Exercise

The senior exercise club meets Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Baker Community Center located at 7942 Church Street in Millington. For more information, call 873-5770.

Senior Club

The Millington Senior Citizen's Club is meeting again Wednesdays at 10 a.m. with entertainment weekly. The club meets at the Baker Community Center located at 7942 Church Street. For more information, call 873-5770.

Warrior's Heart Donations

The Warrior Hearts Foundation has donated toys to LeBonheur annually, along with clothes and, more recently, infant nursery equipment to the Cardiac Unit. The foundation's goal is to raise awareness of congenital heart defects and make a long-lasting difference. With your support, the Warrior Hearts Foundation has, and will continue to, carry out its mission of aiding and assisting children with congenital heart defects and their families. To donate visit, warriorsheart.org

CBC Monthly Meeting

The Millington City Beautiful Commission meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month at the Millington Public Library located at 4858 Navy Road. The public is welcomed to attend. Meetings begin at 5:15 p.m. Call 901-385-9858

Air Show coming Aug. 19-23

CAF AirPower History Tour (National Air Tour of Historic World War II Aircraft) is coming to Millington August 19-23 at the Millington-Memphis Airport located at 8182 Hornet Avenue. For information on the schedule, events, features and ticket prices, visit www.AirPowerTour.org

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 millington-chamber.com or call 872-1486.

USA/VFW Car Show Aug. 29

Gold Star Family Charity Car Show hosted by VFW Post 7175 and USA Stadium will be held Aug. 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. located at 4351 Babe Howard Blvd. in Millington. There is an entry fee and to register a car call 343-2719 or 301-7097 and to register as a vendor, call 336-4203. All proceeds to benefit a fall Gold Star Family Dinner and support local youth baseball programs.

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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CURTIS BRADLEY

Curtis Bradley, 82, of Munford, passed away on July 30, 2026 at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home. Funeral services was held Aug. 3 at the Macedonia United Methodist Church with interment in Macedonia Cemetery. The family received friends two hours prior to the service at the church. Covington Funeral Home had charge.

JANICE CAROL LAIRD

Janice Carol Laird, 77, passed away on August 3, 2026. The family received friends at Munford Funeral Home – Millington Chapel Aug. 7 until the service, with the interment at West Union Cemetery in Millington. Munford Funeral Home had charge.

ELIZABETH KAY MURPHY

Elizabeth Kay Murphy, 62, of Munford, passed away on July 29, 2026. A memorial visitation will be held at Covington Funeral Home on Saturday, Aug. 15 from 2 until 3 p.m., with a service to begin at 3 p.m. in the chapel. Cremation is under the direction of Covington Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Tipton County Paws & Claws.

MARY MARLENE RICH

Mary Marlene La Mask Rich, 83, passed away August 2, 2026. Funeral service was held Aug. 7 at the Munford Funeral Home-Munford with interment held in Helen Crigger Cemetery in Munford. Munford Funeral Home had charge.

TERRY SCHIELE

Terry Schiele, 60, of Brighton, passed away on July 30, 2026 at Baptist Hospital Tipton. Graveside services was held Aug. 3 at Magnolia Gardens Cemetery. Covington Funeral Home had charge.

GLENDA FAY TACKETT

Glenda Fay Tackett, 83, went to be with the Lord on August 3, 2026. The family received friends on Aug. 8, at Munford Funeral Home in Munford, with the interment at Helen Crigger Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Arthritis Foundation.



Michael K. Smith

Michael K. Smith, 61, passed away peacefully at home under hospice care after a brief illness on Friday, August 7, 2026. He was born in Memphis, on September 22, 1964, to Carl S. and JoAnn Smith. He was raised in Vermillion, Ohio, graduating from Vermillion High School in 1982. Mike excelled in basketball and baseball. He loved golfing with family and friends. Mike is survived by his mother, JoAnn Smith of Brighton; his brother, Carl J. (Joyce) Smith of Vermillion, OH; one niece, Renee Case of Port Clinton, Ohio; one nephew, Ryan (Cassie) Smith of Amherst, Ohio; three great nieces, Rylie and Raegan Case of Port Clinton, OH and Taelyn Nida of Amherst, Ohio; one great nephew, Trey Nida of Amherst. OH, and several uncles, aunts and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Carl S. Smith. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 13 at the Covington Funeral Home with interment to follow in Morrison Memorial Cemetery in Brighton. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service at the funeral home. Friends may sign an online guestbook at www.covingtonfuneralhome.com.

CHARLE ALAN WYATT

Charles Alan Wyatt, 59, went to be with the Lord on July 31, 2026. The family received friends at Munford Funeral Home - Millington Chapel on Aug. 6, until the service t with the graveside service at Quito Memorial Cemetery.

VIEWPOINTS

Small-Town Value



Dave's Raves

BY DAVID PEEL

There's a certain kind of small-town trade that never shows up on a balance sheet.

Think of the guy who ran the local plumbing company for thirty years. He fixed the neighbor's leak even when the bill was never going to get paid.

He sponsored the little league team, helped send kids on the church mission trip, showed up at career day, and more than once left his own dinner table to handle a single mom's emergency after hours—then somehow never got around to sending the invoice.

That kind of service is how a lot of these businesses were built. It's also why it's hard to blame the owners when they finally cash out. If there's no child interested in taking it over and no partner ready to step in, the offer starts to look like the only golden ticket left.

A buyer shows up promising to keep the name on the door and let the old owner stick around as a consultant for a while. It feels almost painless.

Then the rules tighten. Free work becomes harder to justify. After-hours visits get logged and billed. Recurring revenue and service agreements take priority. You see it in plumbing, HVAC, auto repair shops, funeral homes, dentists, and veterinarians.



The numbers are already larger than most people realize. Private equity and corporate groups now control 30 to 50 percent of general veterinary clinics—and as much as 75 percent of specialty and emergency practices—up from roughly 10 percent a decade ago.

In dentistry the share tied to private equity or dental support organizations has roughly doubled in recent years.

Even in the trades and funeral services, the pace of acquisitions is accelerating, with hundreds of local companies changing hands while the old names stay on the trucks and the signs.

Most people never notice the sale happened. But the difference is still there. You'll never get the same thing talking to a corporate manager that you used to get talking to the owner from start to finish. That real small-town service is getting harder to find. The next generation may never experience it at all.

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 PeelLawFirm.com wherein other articles may be accessed.

Methodist Le Bonheur to host Healthier 901Fest

Star Staff Reports
Special to The Star

MEMPHIS — Free, family-friendly celebration with music, fitness activities, live cooking demos, food trucks, giveaways and community wellness resources set for interactive festival.

A day of health, wellness and family fun returns this fall as Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare presents the 4th Annual Healthier 901 Fest on Saturday, Sept. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Shelby Farms Park.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare President and CEO Michael Ugwueke encourages all members of the community to join the more than 16,000 participants who have embraced the Healthier 901 movement since launching in 2023 by coming together to learn and experience the benefits of healthier living at this year's Healthier 901 Fest.

"Research continues to show that healthy habits are easier to build and sustain when people feel connected to others. Healthier 901 Fest brings people together through movement, education, and encouragement, creating opportunities to support one another on the path to better health," Ugwueke said.

"We know lasting wellness is about more than individual choices; it's about fostering a community that makes healthy living easier and more accessible for everyone.

Together, we're building a healthier, more connected Memphis, and we're proud to stand alongside our Healthier 901 participants every step of the way," Ugwueke added.

With more than 7,100 attendees in 2025, this free, family-friendly outdoor celebration is designed to inspire sustainable wellness through joyful movement, practical health education, and meaningful community connections.

New to the 2026 iteration of Healthier 901 Fest is a non-competitive one mile walk and a timed 4k run/walk. Attendees can register for these events up until the start of the event by going to https://healthier901.com/mile-walk/.

Healthier 901 and Healthier 901 Fest has enabled Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare to reach the Mid-South community in new and exciting ways that encourages healthier living through healthy habits that fit everyday life.

More than one-third of our community battles obesity, putting Mid-Southerners at higher risk for life-threatening conditions. Many neighbors, family and friends in our community are fighting or have been diagnosed with obesity, heart disease, cancer and overall poor health. Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare not only wants to change that, but also strives to be part of the solution.

The Healthier 901 movement focuses on practical, sustainable steps that help

participants build healthier routines and stay connected to resources that support their well-being. The upcoming Healthier 901 Fest is a great way to kick-start your journey to a healthier lifestyle.

This year's festival features a dynamic lineup of activities categorized into core community experiences:

Move Your Body: Attendees can participate in a new 1-mile walk or timed 4K run, alongside energizing group workouts on the Main Lawn led by the YMCA and local fitness instructors. Activities are tailored for all ages and ability levels.

Discover Something New: The Find Your Fit Zone will host more than 20 local organizations and wellness vendors.

Visitors can access free health screenings, check out live Kroger cooking demonstrations with Chef Ragan Oglesby-Phillips, and pick up health tips and event swag.

Celebrate Community: The Main Stage will feature a DJ, sponsor giveaways, and interactive activities throughout the day, all emceed by Kym Clark and Patrick Ellis of WMC Action News 5.

Le Bonheur Family Zone: Designed specifically for children and families, this area offers hula hoops, face painting, youth exercises, inflatables and educational games to keep kids active and engaged.

While the festival is a one-day celebration of health and wellness, it also connects participants to the year-round Healthier 901 movement, which offers the free Healthier 901 app, partner discounts and community events for Mid-Southerners of all fitness levels.

For more information about the event or to join the movement, visit the official

Healthier901.com/Fest. This year's Healthier 901 Fest is set for September 5, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Shelby Farms Park.



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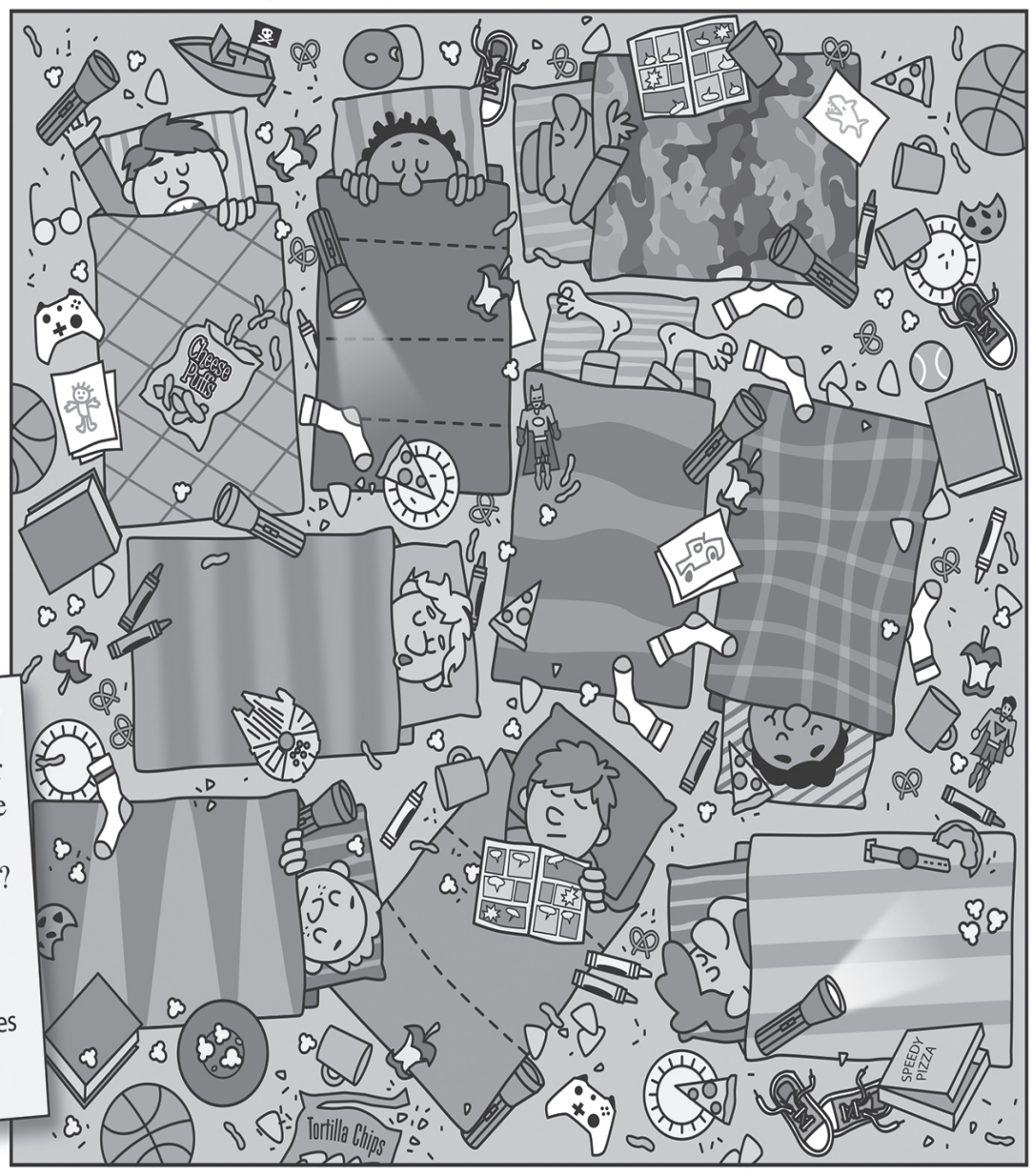
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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com
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Summertime is the perfect time to invite a group of friends over for

A GREAT SLEEPOVER!

Here are a few tips for planning the perfect slumber party:

- ☆ Create some colorful cards to invite your friends. Be sure to tell the start time and end time for the party.
- ☆ Have a plan for things your guests will enjoy, such as playing games, watching a movie, working on a craft, etc.
- ☆ Have yummy snacks such as s'mores, popcorn or fresh fruit.
- ☆ Encourage **everyone** to help clean up any mess the next morning! It's not fair to leave it for your parents to do.



Sloppy Slumber Party

Wow! The boys at Noah's slumber party had a lot of fun, but they sure made a really big mess. Can you find these items among the clutter?

- ❑ 11 pretzels
- ❑ 11 crayons
- ❑ 7 socks
- ❑ 6 cups
- ❑ 4 plates
- ❑ 6 apple cores
- ❑ 3 books
- ❑ 8 flashlights
- ❑ 5 pizza slices
- ❑ 2 action figures
- ❑ 3 basketballs
- ❑ 4 sneakers

Silly Sleepover Sentence

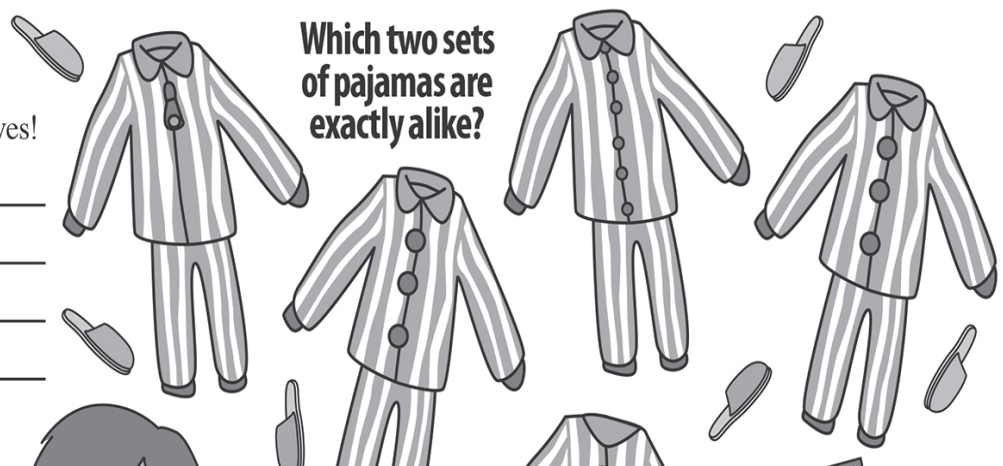
Write a sentence about a silly sleep over. Use one noun, one verb and three adjectives!

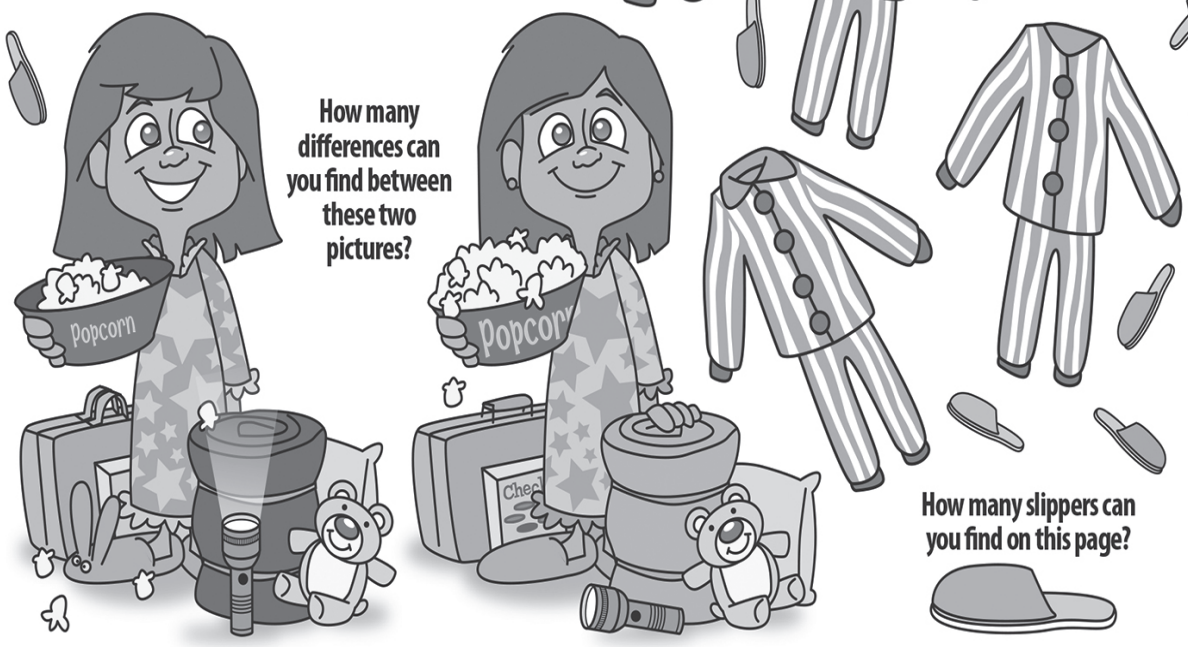
_____

_____

_____

_____





Standards Link: Visual Discrimination.

Extra! Extra! Sleepover Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find:

- ❑ A flashlight
- ❑ A picture of a bed
- ❑ Three nouns
- ❑ Four adjectives
- ❑ Five verbs

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Sleepovers are fun, but you'll need to catch up on your sleep. Why does sleep matter? Replace the missing words.

SKIN LEARN IDEAS ATTENTION HEALTHY INJURIES

Your brain needs sleep, so you can:

- Remember what you _____
- Pay _____ and concentrate
- Solve problems and think of new _____

Your body needs sleep, so your:

- Muscles, bones, and _____ can grow
- Muscles, skin and other parts can fix _____
- Body can stay _____ and fight sickness

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

SLEEPOVER
SENTENCE
PAJAMAS
HEALTHY
PILLOW
SPEECH
FIGHT
BRAIN
SOLVE
BONES
VERBS
GHOST
SKIN
GROW
BED

P	A	J	A	M	A	S	A	F	T
E	R	P	D	A	B	L	S	R	H
T	H	G	I	F	K	E	I	T	E
G	S	S	L	L	N	E	D	V	A
H	I	K	G	T	L	P	L	E	L
O	H	I	E	W	T	O	S	R	T
S	E	N	O	B	S	V	W	B	H
T	C	R	H	C	E	E	P	S	Y
E	G	O	U	T	B	R	A	I	N

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together:

A Goofy Ghost Story

Telling ghost stories at a slumber party is fun. But not all ghost stories are scary. Ask a parent for each type of word to fill in the blanks. Then, dim the lights and read it aloud tonight!

THE STRANGE VISITOR

Boris had fallen asleep in his _____ (NOUN) reading one night.
Around 2:00 a.m., a loud _____ (NOUN) startled him awake.
The room was completely dark.
"Who's there?" cried Boris.
A deep voice in the shadows replied, "It is I, a _____ (ADJECTIVE) _____ (NOUN). And there is no escaping my _____ (PLURAL NOUN)!"
Boris ran across the dark room and began to _____ (VERB) the stairs. But he felt a cold _____ (NOUN) grip his ankle.
He couldn't _____ (VERB) at all!
"Wait!" shouted Boris. "If I give you my collection of _____ (ADJECTIVE) _____ (PLURAL NOUN), will you leave?"
"You collect those, too?" said the voice. "That's amazing! Do you also like to eat _____ (ADJECTIVE) _____ (PLURAL NOUN) on toast?"
"My favorite!" said Boris.
He turned on the overhead _____ (NOUN) and the two hairy monsters shook _____ (PLURAL NOUN).
"Nice to meet you! I'm Boris!"
"My name is Edgar," said the other monster. "I know it's late, but I think we can still catch a few _____ (ADJECTIVE) _____ (PLURAL NOUN) before the sun comes up."
With that, the two monsters friends stepped out into the dark _____ (ADJECTIVE) night.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
SLUMBER

The verb **slumber** means to sleep, usually lightly.

Grandpa **slumbered** through most of the boring movie.

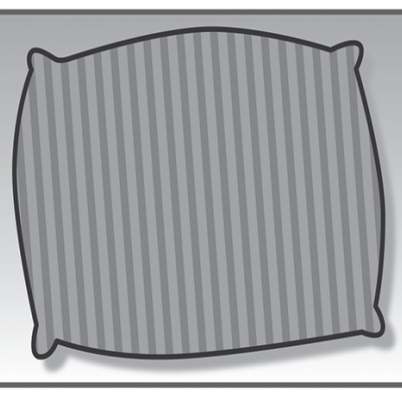
Try to use the word **slumber** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Opposite Headlines

Select five or more headlines in today's newspaper. Re-write each headline so that it says exactly the opposite of what the original headline said.

Standards Link: Vocabulary Development: Students understand and use antonyms to determine the meaning of words.



What happens when you sleep on a corduroy pillow?

ANSWER: You make headlines!

Write On!

That's Strange

What is one of the strangest things you have ever heard about? Write about it and share it with a friend or family member.



Remix Chicken Cordon Bleu

30-Minutes Cheesy Chicken Dinner Gastro-Pub Hearty Hot Pork Quick Salty Savory Stove-Top

Time : **25 Minutes** Yield : **4 Servings**

Recipe Background

French cooking with a twist! Remix Chicken Cordon Bleu takes the classic French dish and reformats it to make it even easier and speedier for the home cook. Chicken is piled high with creamy, buttery cheese and wrapped with savory ham before getting pan-fried into a crispy wonder. Remix Chicken Cordon Bleu then drizzles on a tangy mustard sauce to bring the most of the indulgent flavors. Served with baby greens, this is a complete meal in one dish that you can literally whip up anytime!

Ingredients

- **3** tablespoons fig jam
- **1/2** teaspoon fresh thyme chopped
- kosher salt to taste
- freshly ground pepper to taste
- **4** (6-ounce) chicken breasts skinless and boneless
- **1** cup Gruyere cheese shredded
- **8** thin slices black forest ham
- **5** tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil divided
- **1** shallot minced
- **1/2** teaspoon dijon mustard
- **2** tablespoons white wine vinegar
- **2** cups baby greens

Directions

Step 1 - In a bowl, mix the fig jam, thyme, salt, and pepper.
Step 2 - On a cutting board, lay out a long piece of plastic wrap. Place the chicken on the plastic.
Step 3 - Brush 1/2 of the jam evenly onto the tops of the chicken.
Step 4 - Mound the cheese evenly onto each chicken breast.
Step 5 - Wrap 2 slices of ham around each chicken breast to cover the cheese.
Step 6 - Place another piece of plastic on top of the wrapped chicken breasts.
Step 7 - Gently pound the chicken with a mallet or heavy skillet until they are about 1/4-inch thick.
Step 8 - In a medium nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil.
Step 9 - Add the chicken and cook until golden and crisp, about 3-4 minutes.
Step 10 - Flip and cook until cooked through at 165 degrees F internally, about 3-4 minutes.
Step 11 - Whisk the shallot, mustard, vinegar, and the remaining jam mixture in a medium bowl.
Step 12 - Slowly pour in the remaining olive oil, constantly whisking as you do so, until a smooth dressing forms.
Step 13 - Place the chicken on a plate.
Step 14 - Drizzle the chicken with the dressing.
Step 15 - Toss the greens with the remaining dressing.
Step 16 - Serve the chicken with the greens.



Hollywood Icons

An American Industry that created 10 stars to shine forever

One of the most American things we've established in the past 250 is making movies.

People all over the world who want to be actors strive to make it to Hollywood. The area in California is iconic for the huge sign on the side of a mountain, the Walk of Fame and multiple award shows.

Despite the rich history of Hollywood, lately the industry has been struggling. Some of the reasons for these setbacks are streaming, large budgets, less people going to the theater and the arrival of AI.

Studios are experiencing massive layoffs, with thousands of industry jobs lost, and many productions now require global multiples more than two and half times their budgets just to break even.

The list of box office busts has been growing since the year 2020. Today I want to reflect on a time when Hollywood was vital and a major part of our pop culture. In my Icons of America series, it's time to shine a light on 10 figures from the movie industry that made it a destination and dream jobs in the 20th Century and up to six years ago.

10. Anna May Wong

More than 100 years ago a graceful, elegant Asian American hit the big screen paving the way for many minorities the next century.

Wong was born on the doorstep of Hollywood in Los Angeles to second generation Taishanese parents. She jumped into acting at the age of 11 during the turn of the 20th Century. At that time, many white actors typically played Asian roles with makeup and accents.



Wong became Hollywood's first Chinese American star in the films Shanghai Express. Her first role was as an extra in the movie The Red Lantern in 1919.

Other notable films in her library areThe Toll of the Sea (1922) and Douglas Fairbanks' The Thief of Bagdad (1924).

9. Sidney Poitier

Born three years after The Thief of Bagdad was released was one of Hollywood's greatest actors — Sidney Poitier. The Bahamian-American actor was also a trailblazer in the industry as a director, activist, and diplomat.

Acting gave Poitier his platform to be a Civil Rights and humanitarian. In 1964, he was the first black actor to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for Lilies of the Field.

Poitier was recognized frequently for his performances with Golden Globe Awards, a BAFTA Award and a Grammy Award. He was also nominated for two Emmy Awards and a Tony Award. He belongs to the Golden Era of Hollywood's Mt. Rushmore gained fame for his leading roles in films such as The Defiant Ones, A Raisin in the Sun and In the Heat of the Night. My favorite Poitier movie was his starring alongside Bill Cosby in Uptown Saturday Night.

8. Martin Scorsese

This New York City native has conquered Hollywood and earned a place as one of the best directors of all time. His movies and style are influential to the audience and his peers. A lot of his methods are borrowed. Elite actors don't feel like they've made it until they are on a Scorsese set. He uses kinetic camerawork and raw dialogue to reveal characters true ambition. A Scorsese film will punch you in the gut and yank on your heart.

Just a few of his iconic movies are Taxi Driver, Raging Bull, Goodfellas, Cape Fear, Casino and The Last Temptation of Christ.

Some of his accolades include an Academy Award, four BAFTA Awards, three Emmy Awards, a Grammy Award, and three Golden Globe Awards. Scorsese has also been honored with the AFI Life Achievement Award in 1997, the Film Society of Lincoln Center tribute in 1998, the Kennedy Center Honor in 2007, the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2010, and the BAFTA Fellowship in 2012. Five of his films have been inducted into the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant"

7. James Dean

At the age of 24, he was gone from us. Before his death on September 30, 1955, James Dean was a rising star. We quickly learn he was a comet, just a bright star meant to be seen briefly flashing by in the sky. He made only three films before dying including Rebel Without a Cause. The reason Dean makes this list as an Icon of the Film Industry is his signature look that is still imitated today. Casting directors still look for the James Dean type, cool, young rebel. Go do a Google search on him and tell me he didn't have the 'IT' factor. He wasn't meant to grow old.

6. Judy Garland

This spot was reserved for either Shirley Temple or Judy Garland. I went with Ms. Judy because she transitioned from a child star to a legit adult star. Garland represents that aspect of Hollywood from tragedy to triumph the best. She survived the MGM studio machinery as a child star with her legendary performance in The Wizard of Oz.

It became known to the public her personal struggles with pill addiction and other ways of medicating her past pains. Garland marched on with her career to continue to make MGM more money with musicals including Meet Me in St. Louis (1944), Easter Parade (1948), and Summer Stock (1950). Her natural singing talent was accompanied by her sharpening acting skills by the time she starred in A Star Is Born (1954) and Judgment at Nuremberg (1961), both of which earned her Academy Award nominations.

5. Dorothy Dandridge

The good ones die young including Dorothy Jean Dandridge passing away on September 8, 1965. She was only in her early 40s but left an amazing legacy as an actress and singer.

Dandridge was the first black to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress for Carmen Jones (1954). That role came natural to Dandridge as she was a vocalist in venues such as the Cotton Club and the Apollo Theater. Wrapped in a beautiful outer package, Dandridge's natural talent was more welcomed in Hollywood. In 1959, Dandridge was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Porgy and Bess.

4. Katharine Hepburn

If you look up leading lady in the Hollywood dictionary, a picture of Katharine Hepburn should be right beside it. She mastered drama and comedy. She was a ball of fire blazing a path for women to get better scripts, directing opportunities and behind-the-scenes influence.

She won a record four Academy Awards and did it over a six-decade span. Hepburn went from



strong-willed, sophisticated woman to the star of a goofy comedy. Her accolades also include two British Academy Film Awards and a Primetime Emmy Award, in addition to nominations for two Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards and eight Golden Globe Awards.

3. Tom Hanks

The greatest actor of my generation is Thomas Jeffrey Hanks. Denzel Washington gave him a run for his money, but if you watch their film Philadelphia, Hanks did the heavy lifting in that classic.

That role illustrated the dedication Hanks gives to a part spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally. Hanks can lead a comedy and rip your heart out in a drama.

Hanks is a cultural icon and known worldwide for multiple roles.

Hanks ranks as the fourth-highest-grossing American film actor of all time. He doesn't depend on loud, action movies for his bankroll. Hanks brings butts to the seats through gripping dramas, historical pieces and Oscar-worthy screenplays. Hanks has two Academy Awards for best actor with Philadelphia and Forrest Gump. He has also added seven Emmy Awards, and four Golden Globe Awardsl. He was nominated for five BAFTA Awards and a Tony Award. He received the AFI Life Achievement Award in 2002, the Kennedy Center Honor in 2014, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016, and the Golden Globe Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2020.

The man has gone from Splash, Big and Tanner and Houch to A League of Their Own in 1992 and his two consecutive Academy Awards for Best Actor movies.

Hanks is also famous for working with one of the best directors of all time — Steven Spielberg: Saving Private Ryan (1998), Catch Me If You Can (2002), The Terminal (2004), Bridge of Spies (2015) and The Post (2017)—and three World War II-themed miniseries: Band of Brothers (2001), The Pacific (2010) and Masters of the Air (2024).

2. Steven Spielberg

Working with actors like Hanks and composers like John Williams, Spielberg is the highest grossing director of all time.

Any subject Spielberg can make is a classic from aliens, to archaeology adventures, to a Southern black woman to aquamarine horror. Spielberg has proven he is the best behind the camera.

He is the author of the modern-day blockbuster. The Cincinnati native made Hollywood his office back in 1971 with his directorial debut with Duel. Spielberg arrived on the big stage in 1975 with Jaws.

He was here to stay with Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977). A few other notables are E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982) and the original Indiana Jones trilogy (1981–1989). He mastered drama in The Color Purple (1985) and Empire of the Sun (1987).

He is the winner of three Academy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, four BAFTA Awards, twelve Emmy Awards, a Tony Award, and a Grammy Award. Add more awards and money, Spielberg is on the overall Mt. Rushmore of Hollywood.

1. Marilyn Monroe

If Hollywood had to choose one face to represent the industry, it's no contest. The timeless beauty Marilyn Monroe will easily win that honor. The blonde bombshell was talented with the sex appeal of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Northern California.

The glamorous beauty stole our hearts with her films like Monkey Business, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes,

The Seven Year Itch and How to Marry a Millionaire. She was a top-billed actress for a decade, and her films grossed $200 million (equivalent to $2 billion in 2025) by her death in 1962. She is another one who wasn't meant to age and be our forever pinup girl.

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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David Nolen, Pastor

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Sunday Morning
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
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Big Creek Baptist Church
6797 Big Creek Church Rd
(901)872-4702

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3728 West Union Road
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Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m.

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• Fellowship Potluck Lunch – 12:30 to 1:30
• Afternoon – 1:30 to 3:00 pm
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• Wednesday – 7 to 8 pm
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(731) 223-2258
Pastor Mitchell Combs

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
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(901)872-1509

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901-872-6087
www.harrischapelcogic.com

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Millington, TN 38053
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Pastor Jeff Patrick
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Faith Assembly of God
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(901)872-8443

Faith Heritage Baptist Church
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(901)872-0828

First United Pentecostal Church
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Family Life Center
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(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
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(901)872-3411

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

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Worship 10:15 am
Daytime Bible Study Tue:
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TPT (Turning Point Thursday)
Bible Study Thursday 7 pm

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(901)873-3000

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(901)872-0623

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Millington First Baptist Church
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3492 Quito-Drummonds Rd • Millington
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• 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
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Worship: 11 am

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St Anne's Episcopal Church
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Wednesdays 10 a.m.

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Pastor Charlie Coleman
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Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am

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Temple of Praise Community Worship Center
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(901)338-5369

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

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

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

West Canaan Baptist Church
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(901)872-2426

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(901)876-5757
Sunday School & Bible Study on Sun. at 10 am
Morning Worship at 11 am
Rev. James Hamblin, Pastor

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Along the Journey

Recently, I have been re-reading some of my favorite authors (in reference to my theological studies and contemplative nature) Henri Nouwen (a Dutch theologian) and John O'Donohue (an Irish theologian). Through the years both have spoken to my inner being and have helped to shape me as a person and as a pastor.

Like each of these authors who I have been re-reading, I have garnered a love for beauty and art …sometimes that is the landscape I am embracing, at other times it may be the music I am listening too, or to gaze upon the art of the artist, known or unknown. When I formally traveled speaking to or attending a conference, consulting with a church or individual pastor, or teaching in another city … I would plan an afternoon off, stay longer or arrive early so I could enjoy a museum of that city, the landscape of its parks, or the cathedrals and churches and their architecture dotted throughout the city. It was a contemplative practice for me and something I could do by myself. I think "artist" are often the first to rely on intuition. "Artists" do not insist on full understanding before they write a piece of music or start painting. An architect may do many free-hand drawings before moving to a more concrete concept. They trust the un-conscious , and that is what engineers and scientist are not primarily trained to do. They most often proceed by evidence.
I am grateful that my doctors proceed with logic, evidence, and reason; yet in my experience, it is the "artist," like the mystic, who intuits Reality first.

Jesus' primary metaphor for Reality or the Eternal Now is "the reign of God." He is trying to tell us that there is a place where we can live connected to the Real and the Eternal. That place is simply the here-and-now, which always feels like nothing, like "nowhere" (now-here), and is where everything always happens!

The reason we can trust the Now so much is because of the Incarnation and the Divine Indwelling. The oft asked question was/is "Where is God?" And it was answered straightforwardly: "God is everywhere." We cannot not be in the presence of God! Where would we go? As the psalmist says, if we go to the heavens or underneath the earth, we still can not get away from God. (Psalm 139:7-10 paraphrased.)

The early church theologians saw incarnation and divine indwelling as occurring as a metaphysical union with nature as a whole, not just in one human being (Jesus). They taught that God did not create genus and species but created "thisness". Each creature is a unique aspect of the infinite Mystery of God. God said that until we can experience each thing in its specific "thisness," as artists so often do, we will not easily experience the joy and freedom of the Divine Presence.

The doctrine of "thisness" is saying that we come to universal meaning deeply and rightly through the concrete, the specific, and the ordinary. We cannot know something spiritually by saying it is a "not-that"; we can only know it by meeting it in its precise and irreplaceable "thisness" and honoring its there. The principle here is "go deep in any one place and you will meet all places." God is here, and everywhere!

I find that as I continue my journey, my appreciation for art and artists continues to grow … so too does the depth of my faith and so is my prayer for you …

… in the journey with you!
Kenneth S Uselton

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2016 LEXS IS2
VIN# JTHBA1D22G5010547

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VIN# 3FADP4BJ5EM232811

2002 CHEV S10
VIN# 1GNCS18W32K114949

2020 BUIC ECR
VIN# KL4CJASB7LB051772

2016 CHEV TRX
VIN# 3GNCJKSB8GL276693

2007 BUICK LUC
VIN# 1G4HD57227U109036

2013 BUICK LAC
VIN#1G4GH5E33DF143532

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VIN# 1G2ZG528654168751

2012 HOND CIV
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2004 HOND ACC
VIN# 1HGCM563X4A131065

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VIN# 1G1ZD5STXJF198948

2024 CHEV MAL
VIN# 1G1ZC5ST1RF224349

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VIN# 4A3AA46G63F075397

2011 AUDI A4
VIN# WAUFFAFL8BN006308

2009 NISS ALT
VIN# 1N4AL21E99N408987

2022 HYUN KON
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2016 ACURA TLX

3VWDX7AJ0DM377778
2013 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA

3N1CN7AP8HL861530
2017 NISSAN VERSA

1C4PJLCB4GW216614
2016 JEEP CHEROKEE

1G1AL58F187193501
2008 CHEVROLET COBALT

KL4CJASB0JB689276
2018 BUICK ENCORE

5NPET46C89H539875
2009 HYUNDAI SONATA

2C3CDXCT3KH526528
2019 DODGE CHARGER

2T3WFREV9GW305410
2016 TOYOTA RAV4

5YFEPMAE6NP334517
2022 TOYOTA COROLLA

3KPFT4DE8TE332309
2026 KIA K4

4T1BF1FK4HU669619
2017 TOYOTA CAMRY

1FDBF6Z84MKA23595
2021 FORD TRANSIT

KNAFU4A22D5738975
2013 KIA FORTE

5NPE34AB9HH462835
2017 HYUNDAI SONATA

2T1BURHE3KC189835
2019 TOYOTA COROLLA

1G1PC5SBXE7158872
2014 CHEVROLET CRUZE

3CZRZ1H50TM718629
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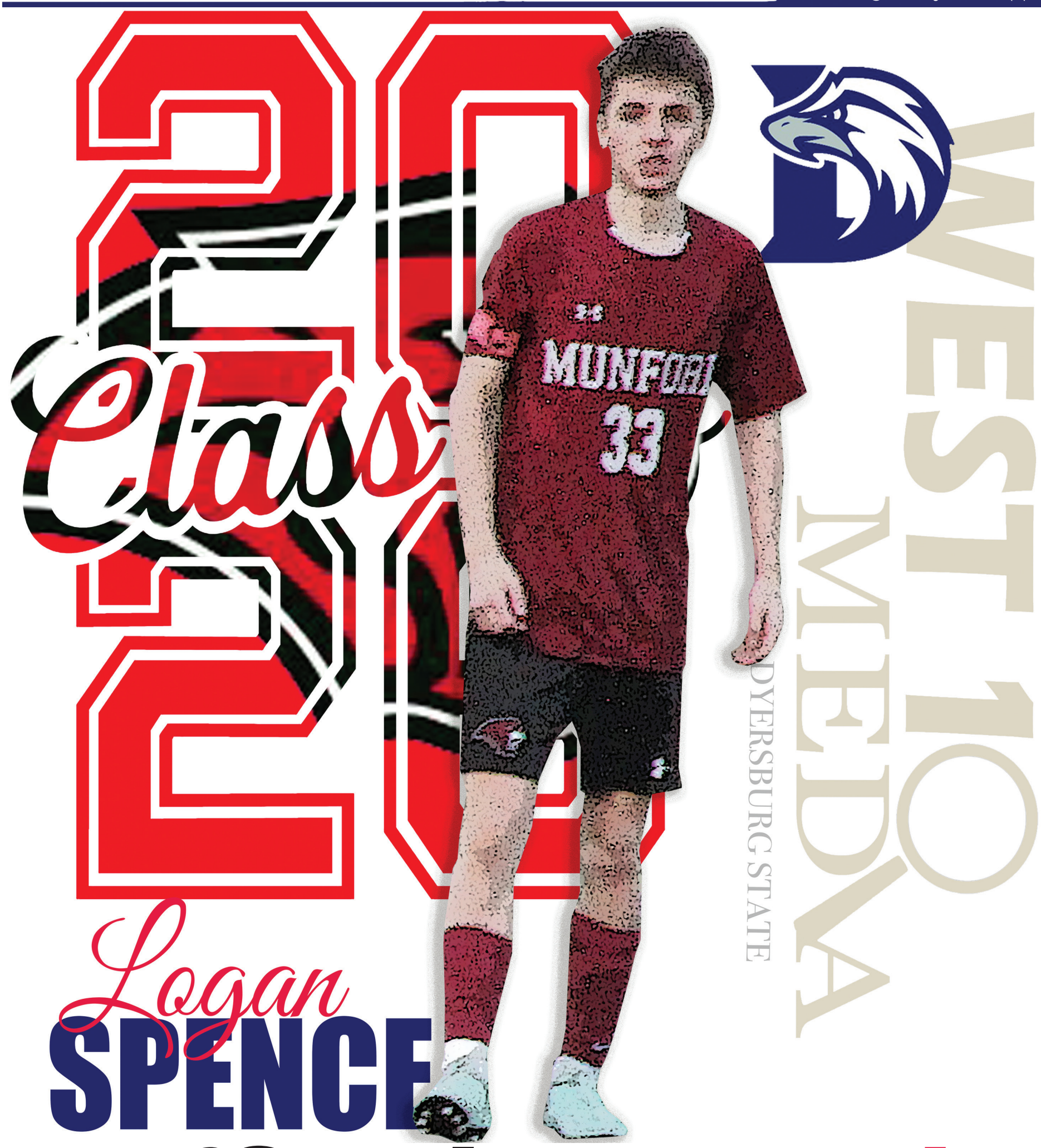
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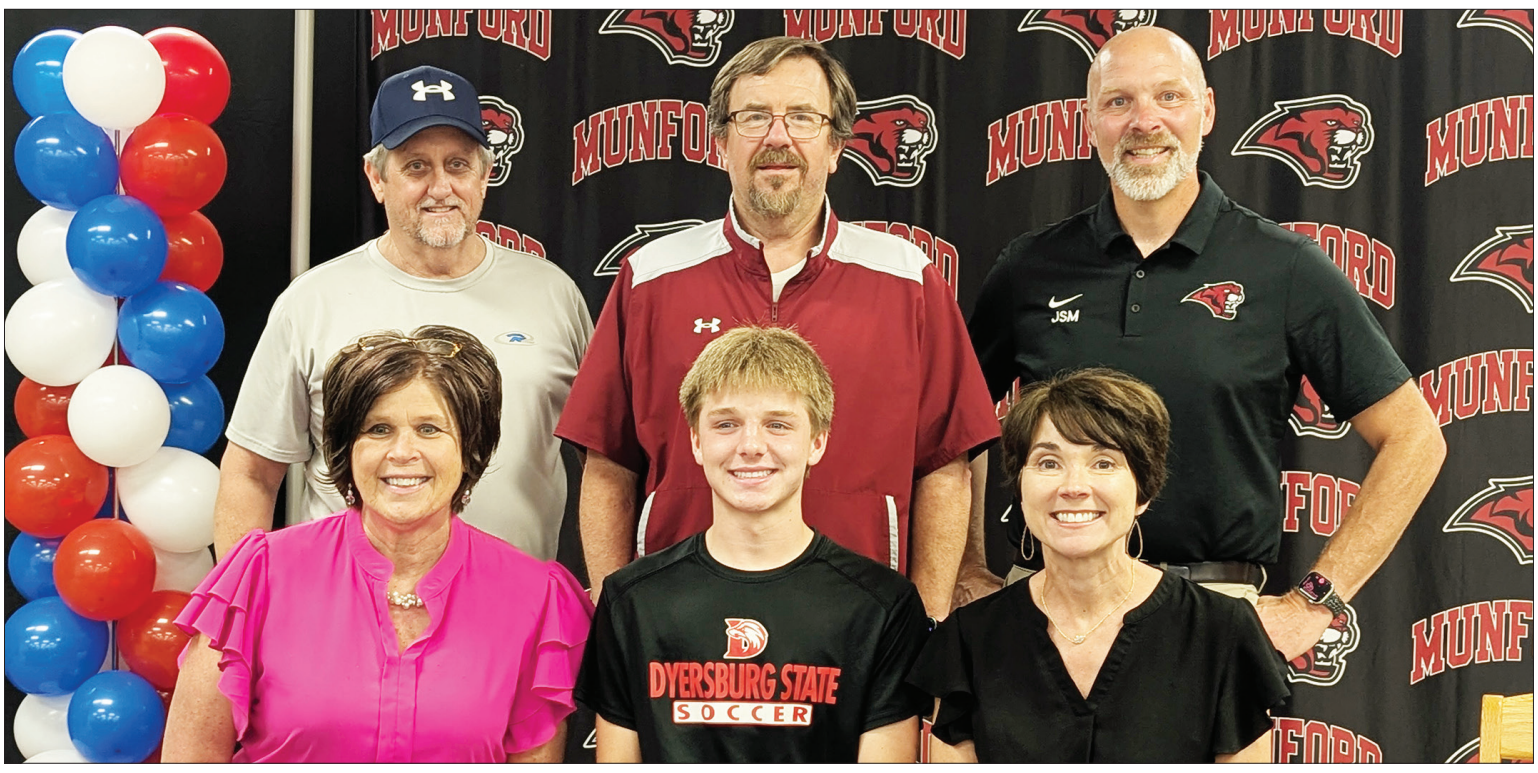
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Official Hat Trick

Munford graduate joins newly formed Dyersburg, adds to family old habit

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star



The smiles of Rob and Sara Spence were evident as soon as you walked into the Munford High School Cafeteria on May 18.

For the third time, the parental duo were attending the college soccer signing of one of their children. The Spence family achieved the 'hat trick' with Logan inking his letter of intent to play for the brand spanking new Dyersburg State Eagles program to be led by Head Coach Julian Beard.

"I didn't want to break the chain," Logan acknowledged. "I tried my best to get signed, so here we are. There were a lot of challenges to overcome over the years. A lot of pressure from everyone. My sisters did, so I felt I really couldn't be the only one not to do it. There was some pressure."

Back in 2021, the family donned COVID-19 mask as Ciara signed to play for the Lady Eagles. Fast forward three years, the protocols were gone and Emily was securing her soccer future with a commitment to Dyersburg in 2024.

"It's kind of come full circle for us," Sara said. "We never thought he would get the opportunity with boys having a harder time getting scholarships and doing things. But Dyersburg opened up a new program and we're just hopeful we can see him excel as much as his sisters did."

Also known as Coach Spence on the Munford campus, Sara has helped with both the boys' and girls' programs in recent years. The Spence children have been a part of record-breaking Munford Soccer teams.

"I've been so blessed with talented players and even better human beings," Munford Cougar Head Coach Jarrod Magan said. "Logan is another example of that. I knew he had a club pedigree coming in.

"He came out and he was going to be a wing for us," he continued. "He comes to me right before his sophomore season, 'Hey Coach, I think I want to try to play fullback.' Looking at this kind of slight guy, 'OK, we'll give it a try. We'll see, give you a shot.' He got in there and he never looked back. He asked great questions. He truly owned the position and just took off from there up to till this season. I had him out there and I never had to worry. He knew what we were trying to do."

Logan recalls making that request in order to be in a position to make the Cougars a better overall team.

"Growing up I did play wing up until middle school," he said. "I got to high school I was like, 'I am not cut out to play forward.' I went to defense. I felt like I am more of an efficient player."

Magan said Logan was also an efficient student of the game.

"When you're coaching the field, they can't hear you across the way," Magan noted. "You're on the other side. Having someone like Logan, 'Hey you guys won't be able to hear me. I am going to need you to be the coach on the field.'

"I never had to worry about that," he added. "In fact, I never really had to say what I needed to say. He understood what we worked on in training. His pedigree was definitely important."

Logan started on the pitch while in Pre-K. The little boy following his older sisters around lit a fire in him for the game.

"It's always been his dream to play and continue playing after high school," Sara said. "I do believe that God did open that door for him. Logan has been playing soccer since he was 5 years old following his sister.

"Logan is coachable," she continued. "He's always willing to do anything asked of him. He puts in the work and he never gives up. He's just a good solid all-around player."

Logan said the year of his graduation and Dyersburg starting a new program is not just a coincidence.

"I feel this is God's path for me," he said. "Doing this, He set it up for me in a way where this is my shot to do it. I got the offer and I thought it was the best choice to take it."

In recent years, Coach Magan has led the Cougars to a Regional title and a State appearance. Down the road in Millington, Coach Jerrett Everson guided his Trojans to State twice.

Robert Luttrell's Covington Chargers are in the mix every year in districts and Dylan Brown's Brighton Cardinals hosted Sectionals in 2026. Boys' soccer is growing along Highway 51.

"To me nothing else matters," Magan said. "To be able to offer something like this in the community, let's be honest football is going to always be first as it should. It's the kind. But we're starting to see that drive out of these young men. They have this outlet and they're not football players.

"They're coming into this sport, excelling at this game," he concluded. "I am in awe of what my counterparts are doing up in Covington, Brighton and even down in Millington. Coach Brown one game away from State this weekend. They're bringing a lot of soccer prowess to this area. I am just proud to be a part of it. Logan embodies that more than anybody else."



Family Affair

Two trusted Millington dentist offices come together under one roof

By Thomas Sellers Jr.
The Millington Star

For nearly a year, two-well known and respected dentists in the Millington area have been working behind-the-scenes to join forces.

On the afternoon of Aug. 7 at 8232 Highway 51 North, the teams of Hometown Smiles with Dr. Sarah Hartlerode and Comprehensive Family Dentistry with Dr. Janet Black came together to form Millington Park Family Dentistry.

The driving force behind the newest dental office in Flag City was President & Chief Operating Officer of Grove Park Dental KaShaundra "KayKay" Blackwood.

"I am absolutely relieved," she acknowledged with a smile. "It's been a long project from the construction to making sure it all ran smoothly. Patients transition from one location to here, it was a lot of communication involved to make all of that happen.

"Then putting two teams together who never really worked side-by-side, that was something that was a big task," she added. "We have been accomplishing it and doing very well."

Millington Park Family Dentistry is the fifth in the Grove Park Dental group bringing together Hometown Smiles and Comprehensive Family Dentistry from 8127 Highway 51 North.

"It feels fabulous to see an office that is new and





has the latest technology," Blackwood said. "So that we can show our patients what they have going on and get them the best opportunity and care they can possibly have. It feels very rewarding to know that we can offer that in the Millington area."

The team at MPFD have a range of skills, years of knowledge and some of the latest tools in dentistry to service the public.

"We have a lot of experience here," Blackwood noted. "We have two new doctors who just joined the group so there are four doctors here in total. We have experience in all ranges and they're covering every aspect in dentistry.

"We are open to see new patients," she concluded. "We would love for everybody to come in. We can do any type of work. If you have anxiety, you need to see the office beforehand. We have online a 3-D rendering that you would walk through. Almost like viewing a house. We do offer nitrous and same-day crowns."

The Millington Area Chamber of Commerce officially cut the ribbon for Millington Park Family Dentistry Friday afternoon with Executive Director Chris Thomas hosting the ceremonies. The event informed the public of visiting Millington Park Family Dentistry social media sites and call 872-7179 to set up an appointment.

