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The
Bartlett Express

Bartlett, TN | Volume 50 | Issue 44 | Thursday, October 29, 2026 | bartlett-express.news $1.00

CITY TO BEGIN LEAF COLLECTION NOV. 1

Staff Report

BARTLETT, Tenn. — The city's loose-leaf collection season is set to run from Nov. 1 through March 31.

Residents are reminded that loose leaves must never be placed in the roadway or drainage ditches. The city offers four options for disposing of leaves and other yard waste.

Mulching is one option for residents. Mulching leaves with a lawn mower allows nutrients to return to the soil and helps reduce the city's solid waste fees.

Yard waste carts are available for purchase from the city for $55 each. The 95-gallon carts may be used for leaves, sticks, small trimmings and other organic yard waste. Grass clippings are not permitted because mulch contractors do not accept them. Once purchased, the cart becomes the property of the resident. Each resident may purchase a maximum of three carts.

Bagging leaves is another option. Residents may place bagged leaves at the curb for collection on their scheduled pickup day. Each bag must weigh no more than 50 pounds.

Leaf bags must not be placed in the roadway or beneath low-hanging power, cable or telephone lines. They also must be kept away from drainage ditches, fire hydrants, utility poles and support cables, utility boxes, power transformers and mailboxes.

Loose-leaf collection will be available through the city's leaf vacuum trucks from Nov. 1 through March 31. Residents may place loose leaves at the curb or along the shoulder of the roadway in a dome-shaped pile or windrow.

See **Leaves,** *page 3A*









Children with special needs and their siblings enjoyed Bartlett's first Special Needs Trunk-N-Treat at Shadowlawn Park, where families celebrated Halloween and explored the park's newly upgraded inclusive playground. The event was organized by the City of Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department, with Tracy Herring and other parks staff helping bring the event to life.

Photo: City of Bartlett and City of Bartlett Parks and Recreation Department

BON LIN MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM FINISHES THIRD IN STATE TOURNAMENT

Staff Report

BARTLETT, Tenn. — The Bon Lin Middle School girls volleyball team was recognized at a recent Bartlett Board of Education meeting after completing a historic season with a 21-3 record, district and regional championships, and a third-place finish in the Tennessee Class AA State Tournament.

The team's accomplishments were recognized by the Bartlett City Schools superintendent and Board of Education during their meeting.

Bon Lin's three losses came against the previous year's state champions and the current season's state champions, according to the school district.

The team's performance marked a significant accomplishment for Bon Lin Middle School and Bartlett City Schools, with players demonstrating teamwork and determination throughout the season.

Team members are Addison Yarbro, Deylah Christjohn, Athena Sabijon, Juliett Nunez, Rowan Kelley, Reaghan Nichols, Paisley Jordan, Jazlynn Rivera and Madison Deboise.

Kate Rikard served as head coach, with Grace Driver as assistant coach.



Photo/Graphic Bartlett City Schools



Bartlett Students Tackle Real-World Budgeting

Staff Report

BARTLETT, Tenn. — Bartlett High School students are applying lessons from their personal finance classes to real-world financial decisions through a Financial Reality Fair sponsored and facilitated by Leaders Credit Union.

During the hands-on exercise, each student receives a life scenario and must make financial decisions involving housing, transportation, clothing, technology, child care, family expenses and other everyday responsibilities.

The activity challenges students to develop a budget, prioritize needs and make informed spending decisions while considering how their choices affect their overall financial well-being.

See **Classes,** *page 3A*

JERRY JENKINS for ALDERMAN Position 1

"Business Sense and Common Sense"
CINDY CROMWELL for ALDERMAN POSITION 2
John Cromwell, Treasurer

TAMISHA DuBOSE
ALDERMAN POSITION 3

Ready to Serve Bartlett!

Inside: Community News - Page 2A and 3A | Church Listings - Page 4A
Classifieds - Page 5A | Puzzles - Page 6A

The Bartlett Express
Go to Bartlett-Express.news
Your online source for local news.

HALLOWEEN AT SINGLETON









BARTLETT, TENN. — Bartlett families and visitors enjoyed an evening of Halloween festivities during this year's Halloween at Singleton. The event featured a haunted house open Thursday and Friday, offering visitors a spooky experience. Friday's Halloween Carnival included games, candy and a costume contest, providing entertainment for attendees of all ages.

Photos City of Bartlett

Welcoming New Businesses



Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed Baaloo Coffee Roasters with a Ribbon Cutting on Thurs., October 22. Stop by and try some their coffee that is Rooted and imported from Ethiopia and roasted in Bartlett. Baaloo is the closest coffee that you can get "farm to table" in the country. Go check them out and taste some of their delicious creations.

Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce



K9 Gus and Officer H. Haler have earned certification in Advanced Trailing and Land and Water Cadaver detection. Congratulations to the team on this achievement.

Bartlett TN Police Department

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FIRE PIT FRIDAYS ARE COMING THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

Staff Reports

Fire Pits Fridays are returning to Freeman Park, offering families an opportunity to gather around the fire and enjoy an evening outdoors.

The event will run from 6 to 9 p.m. Fire pits will be available for roasting marshmallows, visiting with friends and neighbors and meeting new people.

Limited benches will be available, so attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs or other seating.

Source: City of Bartlett



CLASSES,

Continued from 1A

The fair provides students with an opportunity to put classroom concepts into practice and gain experience managing the financial responsibilities they may face as adults.

Bartlett City Schools thanked Leaders Credit Union for providing the learning opportunity and recognized the volunteers who helped facilitate the event, including members of the Bartlett City Board of Education.

The experience is designed to help students build practical financial skills as they prepare for life beyond the classroom.

LEAVES,

Continued from 1A

Piles must contain leaves only, with no limbs, sticks, twigs or other debris. Leaves must be placedno more than 5 feet from the pavement and must remain out of the roadway and drainage ditches.

The city's loose-leaf crews will complete one full collection of the city before beginning another collection cycle. The time between collections will vary depending on the volume of leaves awaiting pickup.



Residents are encouraged to follow the city's guidelines to help crews collect leaves safely and efficiently throughout the season.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY
The *Bartlett Express* welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns (300 words limit). We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. All letters/columns must be signed. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters may be mailed to *Bartlett Express*, 7731 Hwy. 70, Ste. 102, Bartlett, TN 38134; or PO Box 529, Covington, TN 38019.

Living with Purpose

By David Peel

The Quiet Shift in How We Say Goodbye



Around West Tennessee, the old pattern is changing. Traditional burials are fewer, and even full funeral services are less common than they once were. Families still gather, but the long casket visitation and graveside service is no longer the automatic choice.

National numbers make the trend plain. The National Funeral Directors Association projects that about 63 percent of U.S. deaths in 2025 will end in cremation, while burial sits near 32 percent.

More families here are choosing cremation, and a large share of those cremations are direct: no viewing or formal service before the body is cremated, sometimes with a later memorial, sometimes without.

Cost is part of the reason. A full traditional funeral with burial often runs several thousand dollars more than a simple cremation. Families are also more scattered, more concerned about land and upkeep, and more open to simpler ways of remembering. Scripture never forbids cremation or commands a particular method. Burial was the common practice in biblical times, yet the central promise is not the condition of the body but the power of God to raise the dead. Whether a body rests in the ground or returns more quickly to dust, the same hope remains: the person we loved is not defined by the vessel that held them here. What matters is the life they lived, the love they gave, and the trust they placed in the One who holds every soul.

In our corner of Tennessee the old cemetery rows still speak of long lives and deep roots. New choices simply mean the ways we honor those lives are growing more varied. The gathering can still be warm, the stories still told, and the comfort of faith still present—whether the service is traditional or quiet, whether the final resting place is a plot or an urn. The love endures either way.

Mr. 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. Mr. Peel may be reached through PeelLawFirm.com wherein other articles may be accessed.



It's Almost Time ...

FINAL 2026 PLANT SWAP

When:
Saturday, Nov. 7,
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where:
Meeting room hallway

Plant enthusiasts are invited to attend the final plant swap of the year. Bring a plant to share and leave with a new plant friend. The event offers an opportunity to exchange greenery and connect with fellow plant lovers.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bartlett Historic Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 16, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex located at 6382 Stage Road, Bartlett, Tennessee 38134.

The Commission will hear the request of Tameca Parker for approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a chimney removal. The property is located at 2978 Court Street within the Bartlett Historic District. A Certificate of Appropriateness is required by the Bartlett Zoning Ordinance, Article VI, Section 25.

A copy of this application may be seen in the Planning Office at the Bartlett City Hall Annex, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Comments may be addressed to the attention of Kim Taylor, Director, Planning and Economic Development, 6382 Stage Road, Bartlett, Tennessee 38134 or by calling the Planning Office at 901-385-6417, and are to be received no later than 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 16, 2026. Individuals having an interest in this application may also address the Commission at the hearing.

David Parsons
Mayor

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Is God Dead? ... by *Ty B. Kerley, DMin.*

The Evil of Others

This week, we continue looking at five biblical reasons why God may allow evil to exist. As part of our survey to better understand the Christian perspective on suffering, we began last week to look at the biblical concept of suffering and evil as punishment for sin. Undoubtedly, suffering and evil as punishment for sin is far and away the most common reason given for God allowing evil and suffering presented in the Bible. In fact, it appears throughout the Bible, from Torah to the prophets, the wisdom to the Gospels, and the epistles to Revelation. Over and again, the Bible presents two paths down which man makes their own free will choice to travel. There is no coercion to the left or to the right. God tells the Israelites, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing" (Deut 30:19). Therefore, the choice is simple: "Choose this day whom you will serve" (Josh 24:15). It is truly a free will choice.

Even so, the Bible also speaks of evil and suffering that comes about as the consequence of other people's sin. In our daily lives, much of the evil and suffering we experience is of this tribe, both direct and trickle-down evil perpetrated by others. Just recently, it was reported that a US retailer lost $45 billion due to shoplifting. The consequence of this evil is that the innocent has to make up for this loss through higher prices. That is evil suffered as a consequence of other people's sins. The young mother killed by the drunk driver, the man mugged by the drug addict, the innocent child shot at school by a classmate. What about the rape, murder, and torture of Ukrainians in their own land. The list is at once horrific, and extensive.

The story of Cain and Abel is the first biblical account of evil suffered as a consequence of another's sin. As the story goes on, Cain becomes jealous of his brother because Abel "found favor with God," while Cain does not. As a result, Cain kills innocent Abel, who suffers as a consequence of another's sin. But this barely touches the hem of the garment; the biblical text is full of examples of sinful people hurting innocent people. Perhaps it is because of the sheer volume of human suffering caused by the sins of others that how people treat one another is one of the most critical topics in the New Testament. In fact, according to Scripture, Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was. Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and body, and love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt 22:37ff).

Make no mistake, how people treat one another ranks so high in God's economy. It should come with little surprise that the first code of conduct handed down by God, The Ten Commandments, explicitly describes man's relationship horizontally among fellow men in six of the ten commandments. Within the Christian motif, it is well understood that dishonoring one's parents, committing murder, committing adultery, stealing, lying, and coveting incorporate, in some form or fashion, every evil that one man can commit against another, including the crucifixion of an innocent man. And yet, the Bible testifies that this is what human beings do. And it is not just the Bible; secular law across the board criminalizes most all of these commandment violations as well. These are, it would seem, universal laws written upon the heart of mankind regardless of religious belief.

Perhaps there is no greater case of one suffering as a consequence of the sins of others than the sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross. The Bible clearly testifies that "Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him to share our sin so that in union with him we might share in the righteousness of God" (2 Cor 5:21). The implications are astounding! If there were no such thing as suffering as a consequence for the sin of others, there would not be, nor could be, any transference of righteousness from the truly sinless One to the multitude of sinful men who instigate suffering and evil in the first place, including the suffering of the Cross itself.

After the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus recorded in the Gospel accounts, the apostles, as ambassadors of Christ, succeeded Him in suffering great evil as a consequence of others' sins. The disciple Steven is soon after stoned to death simply for his belief in the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 7). Peter and John are imprisoned and beaten (Acts 4). Paul recounts in, "Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea" (2 Cor 11:25). Christian doctrine holds that Peter, James, and Paul were each put to death, not for evil they had done, but as a consequence of other people's sins.

At any rate, and once again, human suffering and evil are the result of the exercise of human free will, not the agency of God. At least in the case of the sacrificial death of Jesus, God has a morally sufficient reason for allowing evil to exist in the world as a means to His ends. In that, the resurrection of Jesus is nothing less than the intersection of both the existence of evil in the world and God's primary reason for allowing it to exist.

Join us next week as we continue this miniseries on five biblical reasons why God may allow evil to exist. Until then, the question remains: *is God dead?*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Ty B. Kerley, DMin., is an ordained minister who teaches Christian apologetics and relief preaches in Southern Oklahoma. Dr. Kerley and his wife, Vicki, are members of the Waurika church of Christ and live in Ardmore, OK. You can contact him at dr.kerley@isGoddead.com

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Memphis, TN 38128
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Calvary Chapel Bartlett
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901-385-3854

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901-385-3555

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_____

_____

_____

_____

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Call to place your ad today!

RICHARDSON MEDIA GROUP

901.476.7116

SERVICES

Special!! General yard work, leaves raked, Putting down mulch. Free Estimates. Reasonable. PaCerno 901-323-2822

AUTO AUCTIONS

B&B TOWING, LLC
2574 SUMMER, MEMPHIS 38112

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD TO SATISFY STORAGE AND TOW FEES ON 11/18/2026:

2011 CHEV MAL
VIN# 1G1ZB5E18BF359492

2009 HYUN SON
VIN# 5NPEU46F79H503876

2014 VOLK JET
VIN# 3VW2K7AJ3EM237778

2020 NISS RGE
VIN# 5N1AT2MT8LC800099

2021 NISS VRS
VIN# 3N1CN8EV6ML812979

2018 KIA FRT
VIN# 3KPFK4A75JE167678

2012 HOND ACC
VIN# 1HGCP2F60CA006963

2011 MERZ E35
VIN# WDDHF5GBXBA408367

2023 NISS ALT
VIN# 1N4BL4DV3PN369502

2026 DODG DUR/GT
VIN# 1C4RDJDG4TC229700

2000 HOND PAS
VIN# 4S6CK58W3Y4420162

EASY GO GOLF CAR
TN#2409-523028

The following vehicles will be sold at auction on NOVEMBER 13, 2026

Paul & Crew Towing LLC
711 S. Dudley, Memphis, TN 38104

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
5XYZK4AG9BG073613

2006 HONDA ACCORD
1HGCM56756A180048

2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
2C4RDGCG6CR206334

2020 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT
JN1BJ1CV9LW280976

2005 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
2CNDL13F556025081

2013 FORD F-150
1FTEX1CMXDFD37915

2006 HUMMER H3
5GTDN136768269141

901.632.2320

A Ladies Wrecker Service:
709 S. Dudley, Memphis, TN 38104

2016 HYUNDAI GENESIS
KMHGN4JE3GU106698

2006 FORD FUSION
3FAHP07ZX6R142504

2013 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4AL3AP7DN550075

2009 HONDA CIVIC
2HGFA16539H368991

901.686.3737

AUTO AUCTIONS

BIG RIVER TOWING
2219 Filmore Ave.
Memphis, TN 38114

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction to satisfy towing, storage, and related charges on
NOVEMBER 29, 2026 AT 11 A.M.

WBAVB13506KR58062
2006 BMW 3 SERIES

DTS TOWING
3930 THOMAS ST., MEMPHIS, 38127

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON
NOVEMBER 29, 2026 AT 11 AM

3FA6P0HR9DR182544
2013 FORD FUSION

2G1WB57K591139785
2009 CHEVROLET IMPALA

1D8GT28K07W619472
2007 DODGE NITRO

DAN'S TOWING
3911 THOMAS
MEMPHIS, TN 38127

The Following Vehicles Will Be Sold on
11/13/2026 @ NOON

1997 FORD RANGER
1FTCR10A9VUB12135

2016 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
5XYZT3LB9GG367612

2010 FORD FUSION
3FAHP0HAR169188

2015 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
5NPDH4AE1FH574291

2014 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4AL3AP6EC143684

2016 SUBARU OUTBACK
4S4BSBNC6G3209488

2011 BUICK ENCLAVE
5GAKRBEDXBJ203238

2016 CHRYSLER 200
1C3CCCBB7GN188019

2011 JEEP PATRIOT
1J4NT4GB0BD167458

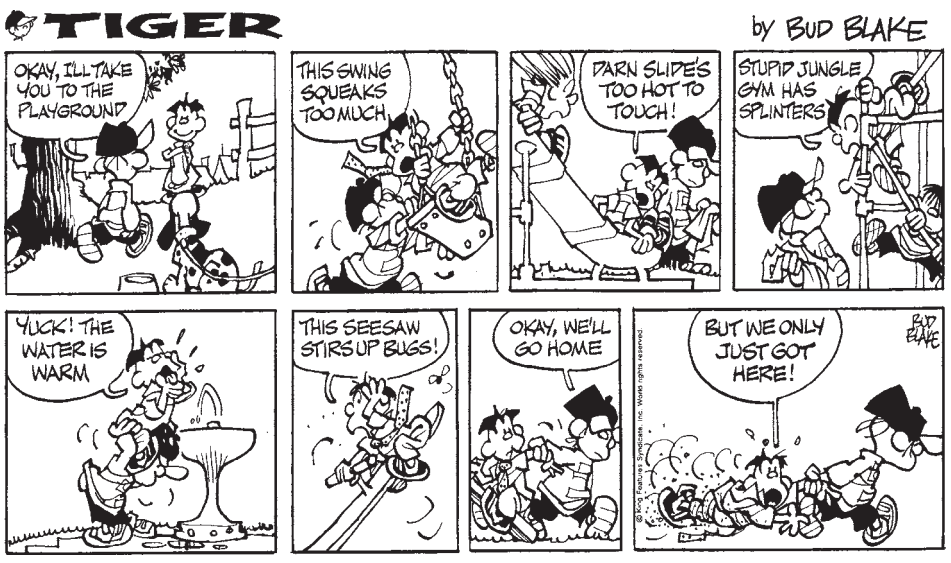
ADVERTISE WITH
The Bartlett Express, The Collierville Herald-Independent, The Millington Star and *The Germantown News & Shelby Sun Times*
BY PLACING AN AD IN
The Shopper News Classifieds!
(901) 476-7116

WE'VE MOVED! OUR NEW LOCATION IS: 7731 HWY 70, SUITE 102, BARTLETT TN 38134

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Millington Housing Authority will begin accepting applications for one (1) bedroom only (Please see website for occupancy standards). Effective
November 9, 2026 to November 13, 2026
Applications will be available online at the link below.
TheMillingtonha.org
Please note these applications are for the waiting list, NOT for immediate housing.

Shawna Bell, Executive Director
The Millington Housing Authority



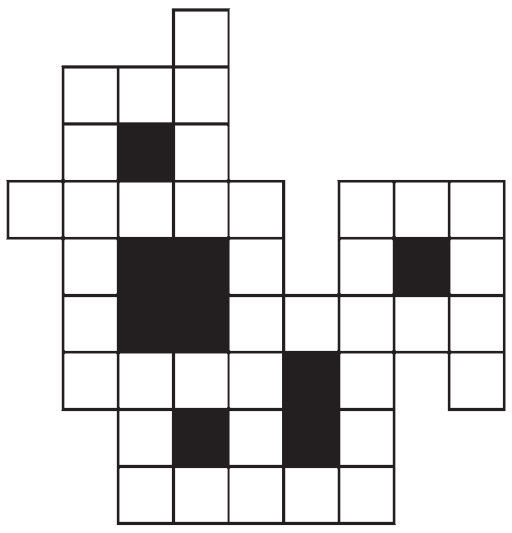


FEAR KNOT™

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

HDO
ANIMLE
♥ NERGA
♥ HCMU
RITHEM
♥ RAF
RTFE
OLTDA
♥ OMT
CRIFLO
♥ RTNHO
♥ IETD



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Even Exchange

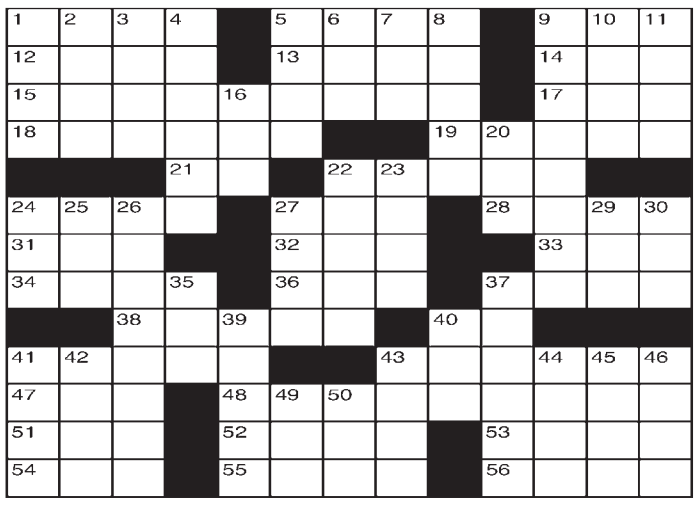
by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from M**A**STER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Portugal's hilly city	_ _ _ B _ _	Sonny boxer	_ _ _ T _ _
2. Alert	_ _ _ _ E	Accolade	_ _ _ _ D
3. Baseball official	U _ _ _ _ _	Royal realm	E _ _ _ _ _
4. Fall predecessor	_ U _ _ _ _	Cook slowly	_ I _ _ _ _
5. Bath sheet	_ _ _ _ L	Eiffel or Pisa	_ _ _ _ R
6. Push	_ _ O _ _	Remove whiskers	_ _ A _ _
7. Pester	_ O _ _ _ _	Tub user	_ A _ _ _ _
8. Cake layers	_ _ _ R _	Supermodel Cheryl	_ _ _ G _
9. Cologne's river	R _ _ _ _	Gleam	S _ _ _ _
10. Contemplate	_ _ N _ _ _	Talcum	_ _ W _ _ _

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King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Off-white
5 "Star Trek II" villain
9 Yoga pad
12 Lopsided win
13 — the Great (kid-lit detective)
14 Yucatan "Bravo!"
15 Lead singer of Matchbox Twenty
17 Present location?
18 Most devious
19 Den fixture
21 ICU worker
22 No-frills
24 Big cheese
27 Warm-up run
28 Kitten calls
31 — Jima
32 Noshed
33 Slangy denial
34 Arrears
36 Roast VIPs
37 Hereditary unit
38 Jazz legend Vaughan
40 Concerning
41 Prefix with violet
43 Social blunders
47 Egg — yung
48 Workplace invitations
51 Sharing word
52 Sciences'
53 Coup d'—
54 Messy room
55 Diner dish
56 D.C. baseball team

DOWN
1 Blunders
2 "Neato!"
3 July birthstone
4 Says
5 Shoelace snarl
6 Deli choice
7 — premium
8 Tree houses
9 Frenzied gathering
10 Lotion additive
11 Libretto
16 QVC alternative
20 Energy
22 Foul up
23 Ice and Bronze
24 Auction action
25 Have bills
26 Pitiful tale
27 Magazine for docs
29 Pallid
30 That ship
35 Pitch
37 Lincoln Center's David — Hall
39 Indian prince
40 U.K. fliers
41 Sci-fi vehicles
42 Lummox
43 "Gee whiz!"
44 Greek salad cheese
45 Part of Q.E.D.
46 Swift jets
49 — pro nobis
50 "Dynamite" band

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Weekly SUDOKU

		5					6	8
4		8	6	7	5	1		9
9		6		8	1		4	
		4				2		7
6	7							3
3			7		9			1
2		9				5		
	6	3	9	5				
8	5			1		9	3	4

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **E** equals **F**

BE EKGQWN NBAHCL YBQA SCLC NMQLBAH VQAMKVM FCANCN, SJKM EFWBY GBHJM NJC WNC? VCFBAC NQFWMBQA.

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See This Week's Answers In Next Week's Edition

Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

8	2	6	4	9	7	1	5	3
3	1	7	2	5	6	4	8	9
9	4	5	1	3	8	7	6	2
2	3	1	5	6	9	8	4	7
6	9	4	8	7	2	5	3	1
5	7	8	3	4	1	9	2	6
7	8	3	9	2	5	6	1	4
4	5	9	7	2	3	6	1	8
1	6	3	9	8	4	2	7	5

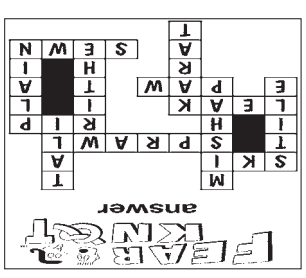
King Crossword — *Answers*

Solution time: 24 mins.



Even Exchange answers

1. Garden, Warden
2. Scold, Scald
3. Prize, Price
4. Banter, Barter
5. Pouch, Touch
6. Water, Wafer
7. Devour, Devour
8. Silver, Salver
9. Trail, Train
10. Kernel, Kennel



STICKELERS [sic].

by Terry Stickels

If I used the words forte, allegro, baroque, diminuendo and mezzo, you would tell me I was speaking about music.

If I said pinner, wye, turnout, big hole and highball, you would tell me I was referring to _?_.

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"We've got to stop seeing each other like this, Debra — I hate _____."

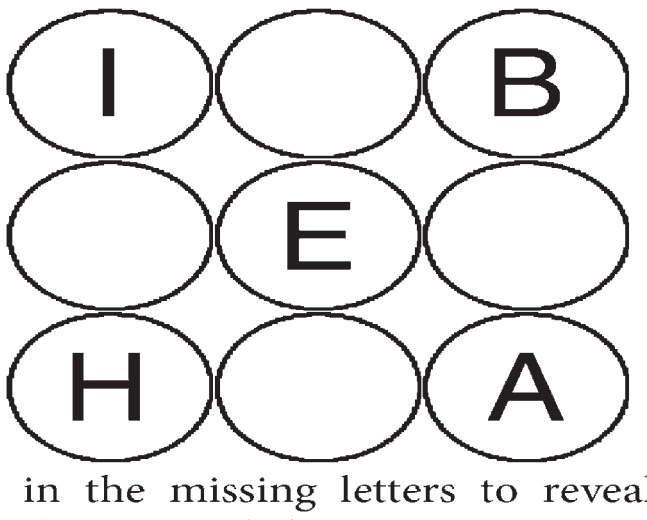
SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Vicar **APRONS**
Brisk **SCRIP**
Altar **INSHER**
Absorb **PENGOS**

TODAY'S WORD ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

WORD SPIRAL



Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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Wishing Well®

3	5	7	8	6	4	6	5	7	3	4	7	3
A	P	C	V	C	G	H	R	O	W	O	N	A
6	8	3	8	3	8	4	7	4	5	2	5	6
A	A	Y	L	T	U	A	S	L	A	G	I	R
7	3	6	5	6	7	6	4	8	7	4	3	5
I	O	M	S	I	D	N	S	E	E	A	S	E
3	4	6	5	3	6	3	8	2	7	5	4	6
U	C	G	C	C	N	C	F	O	R	O	H	E
4	8	7	5	3	6	7	6	8	4	7	4	5
I	R	A	W	E	W	C	F	I	E	H	V	O
6	7	4	3	6	3	7	6	4	7	6	5	7
R	A	E	E	I	D	N	E	D	G	N	R	E
8	5	8	2	6	8	5	2	5	2	8	2	2
E	K	N	A	D	D	E	H	R	E	S	A	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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CryptoQuip answer

Climbing structure with rungs that receives fabulous reviews: a ladder of recommendation.

SCRAMBLERS *Solution*

1. Camber; 2. Offset
3. Carpet; 4. Tide

DEBRIEF

Today's Word

Word Spiral Answer

PALATABLE

SCRAMBLERS *Solution*

1. Camber; 2. Offset
3. Carpet; 4. Tide

DEBRIEF

Today's Word

A FEW TENNESSEE CHILLS



Ad Veritas

Daniel Richardson

With Halloween approaching, I thought this might be a good week to explore some of the stranger corners of Tennessee history. There is something more interesting about a spooky story when it involves a place you could actually drive to, rather than a fictional castle somewhere across the ocean.

Of course, there is a difference between a story that has been told for generations and something that has been established as fact. As a newspaper publisher, I ought to respect that distinction—even when a good ghost story is involved.

Take the Bell Witch, probably Tennessee's most famous contribution to the subject. The legend centers on the Bell family near present-day Adams in Robertson County. Around 1817, according to the traditional account, strange disturbances began at their home. The stories describe unexplained noises, bedcovers being pulled away and an unseen presence that eventually began speaking to the family.

Apparently, this was not a ghost content to creak a floorboard and leave everyone wondering. In the telling, it argued, imitated voices, and tormented members of the household. John Bell died in December 1820, and the legend attributed his death to the mysterious visitor. His death belongs to history; the supernatural explanation belongs to the story.

One detail I found especially interesting involved a fellow newspaper man. In 1937, Tennessean columnist T. H. Alexander helped revive the legend by publicizing a prediction that the witch would return that year. According to the Tennessee Historical Society, Alexander was himself a skeptic who enjoyed a good ghost story. Nevertheless, his writing helped stir up fresh fears and reports of strange happenings. The year ended without proof of a supernatural return.

That may be a useful reminder for those of us who work with words: a story can take on a life of its own, even when its subject apparently cannot.

For something eerie that requires considerably less imagination, consider our state Capitol.

William Strickland, the architect who designed the building, died in 1854 before construction was finished. He was buried in the Capitol's north wall. Samuel Morgan, who helped oversee the building's construction, was also eventually entombed in the building. These are not merely portraits of distinguished men hanging on the walls. Their remains are actually inside them.

Ghost stories have grown around those permanent occupants, including tales of voices arguing when nobody appears to be there. Those are stories, not established evidence of a haunting. But the burials themselves are real, which seems like plenty of material for an uncomfortable conversation if you happen to be the last person leaving the building at night.

Then there is Carnton in Franklin, where the unsettling part of the story needs no supernatural explanation at all.

During the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864, the home became a field hospital for hundreds of wounded Confederate soldiers. The following morning, the bodies of four Confederate generals lay on its back porch. According to the Battle of Franklin Trust, the floors of the restored house still bear bloodstains from the men treated there.

That is a different kind of haunting. It is not a tale about something someone might have heard in the dark, but a physical reminder of suffering that happened in an ordinary home. The McGavock family later provided land beside their family cemetery for the burial of nearly 1,500 Confederate soldiers killed in the battle.

I think that is part of what makes these places so compelling. Beneath the legends are real families, real buildings and lives that were much more complicated than a paragraph on a historical marker can explain. Sometimes a spooky story gets our attention long enough for us to learn the history underneath it.

There is room to enjoy the storytelling without accepting every detail, and room to appreciate the history without turning someone's tragedy into entertainment.

So enjoy Halloween and a good Tennessee tale or two. Just remember which parts are documented and which parts became more interesting with each retelling.

HEALTH INSPECTIONS — Bartlett — week of October 20–26, 2026

BARTLETT MOBILE UNIT SCORES 99 IN THE WEEK'S ONLY POSTED INSPECTION

Mila's Pupusas cited for a missing food-grade thermometer

BARTLETT — Mila's Pupusas, a mobile unit at 6337 Summer Ave., scored 99 in a routine inspection October 26, the only Bartlett inspection posted for the week of October 20 through 26.

The person in charge was unable to locate an individual food-grade thermometer for review, and the inspector directed the operator to obtain one to monitor hot and cold foods. The report also asks that the current food inspection be posted for public viewing.

It is the second consecutive week in which Bartlett has had a single posted inspection.

Inspection reports are public record. Complete reports for all Tennessee establishments are available at inspections.myhealthdepartment.com/tennessee

This Week's Inspections at a Glance

Bartlett health inspections, October 20-26, 2026. Source: Tennessee Department of Health / Shelby County Health Department.

Mila's Pupusas (mobile unit) — 66337 Summer Ave.
Food service, routine, October 26 — **Score: 99**
Person in charge was unable to locate for review the individual food-grade thermometer. Corrective action is to obtain a food-grade thermometer to monitor and measure hot and cold fo b4ods. Please post your current food inspection for public viewing.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

1. Publication title: BARTLETT EXPRESS (THE)/BARTLETT EXPRESS (THE)
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Contact person: Daniel Richardson, (901) 433-9138

8. Headquarters: 144 W Main St, Camden, TN 38320-1786
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13. PUBLICATION TITLE: BARTLETT EXPRESS (THE)/BARTLETT EXPRESS (THE)

14. Issue date for circulation data: September 24, 2026

Columns: Average copies each issue during preceding 12 months; single issue published nearest filing date.

15-16. Extent and nature of circulation	12-month average	Single issue
15a. Total number of copies (net press run)	1,100	1,100
15b(1). Paid, mailed outside county	7	7
15b(2). Paid, mailed in county	178	178
15b(3). Paid distribution outside mails	745	757
15b(4). Paid, other USPS classes	0	0
15c. TOTAL PAID DISTRIBUTION	930	942
15d(1). Free/nominal, outside-county mail	0	0
15d(2). Free/nominal, in-county mail	1	1
15d(3). Free/nominal, other USPS classes	0	0
15d(4). Free/nominal, outside mail	25	25
15e. TOTAL FREE/NOMINAL	26	26
15f. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	956	968
15g. Copies not distributed	144	132
15h. TOTAL	1,100	1,100
15i. Percent paid	97.28%	97.31%
16a. Paid electronic copies	0	0
16b. Total paid print + paid electronic copies	0	0
16c. Total print distribution + paid electronic copies	0	0
16d. Percent paid (print and electronic)	0.00%	0.00%

Electronic/print paid-copy certification box: Not checked on the filed form.

17. Publication of statement: Required; will be printed in the October 29, 2026, issue.

18. Signed: Kelcee McMillin, Business Manager
Date: October 1, 2026
Source timestamp: 10/01/2026 09:43:45 AM

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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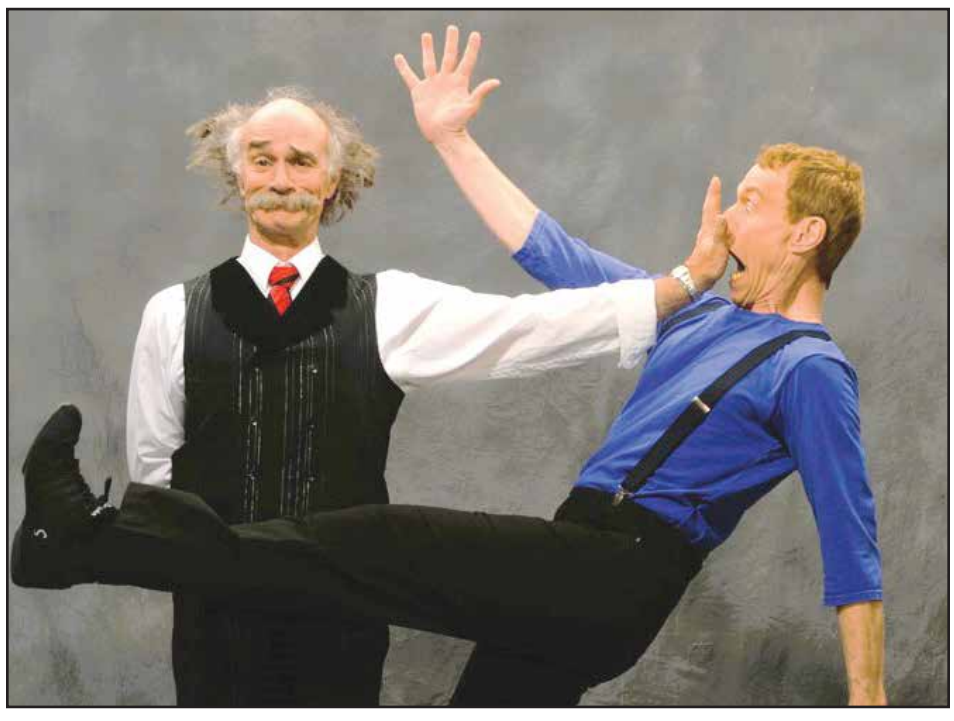
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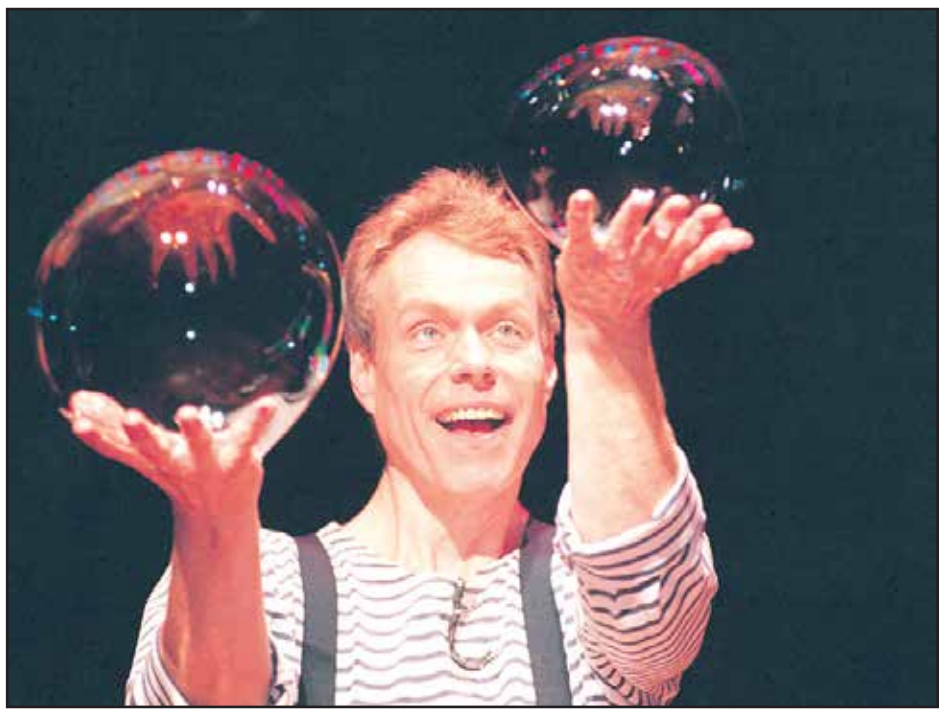
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SUPER SCIENTIFIC CIRCUS BRINGS SCIENCE, COMEDY TO BARTLETT ON HALLOWEEN

Staff Reports

Science will take center stage with a few laughs, circus tricks and plenty of audience participation when Super Scientific Circus comes to the Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center at 2 p.m. on Halloween, Oct. 31.

Starring John Lepiarz, known as Mr. Fish, and Trent Arterberry, known as Trent the Mime, the show blends circus skills, magic and comedy to introduce audiences to scientific principles in an entertaining, hands-on way.

With boomerangs, bubbles, beach balls and bull whips, the performers demonstrate concepts such as friction, inertia, centripetal force, aerodynamics, air pressure and sonic booms. Trent the Mime's comic antics add to the fun as the two performers turn scientific lessons into a lively stage experience.

Lepiarz brings an extensive circus background to the production. He performed as a master of ceremonies and clown with the Big Apple Circus, and his skills include juggling, plate spinning, stilt-walking, wire walking, knife throwing, bull whips, bubbles and magic. He also has appeared on HBO and ABC.

Arterberry has toured North America and Europe and opened for musicians including B.B. King, Julio Iglesias and the Kinks. One of his more unusual performances took place in the Giant Ocean Tank at the New England Aquarium, where he was filmed underwater among sharks and eels.

The longtime friends have toured together throughout all 50 states and internationally, including Canada, Mexico, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Their Super Scientific Circus combines physical comedy and impressive stunts with lessons that show how science shapes the world around us — proving that learning can be as entertaining as it is educational.

Tickets and information are available by calling the Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center at 901-385-5588 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or visiting BPACC.org anytime.





Following a $1.5 million renovation, Bartlett's first fully inclusive playground officially opened last week at Shadowlawn Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by the mayor. The improvements also include resurfaced pickleball courts, new restroom and concession facilities, accessible walkways and 50 additional parking spaces.

Photos: City of Bartlett

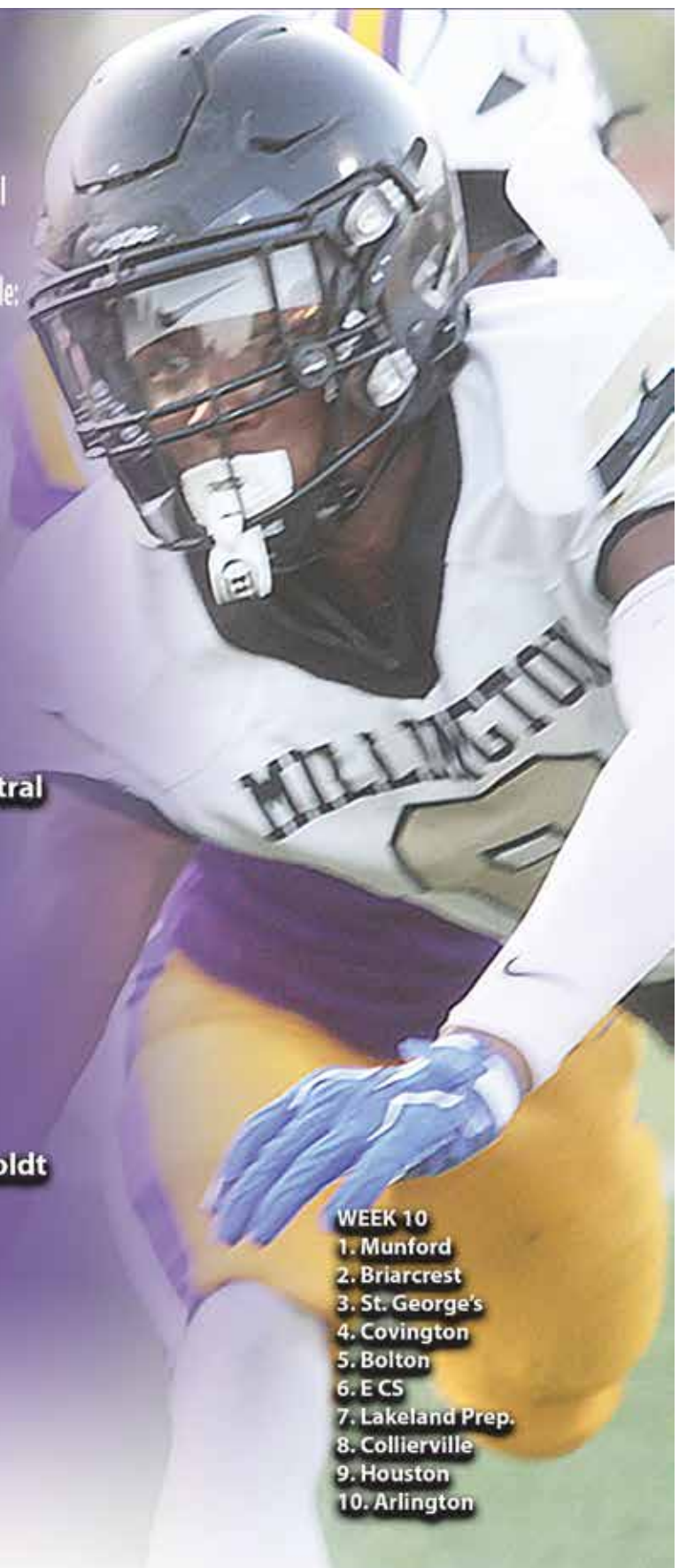
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POWER 10
2026

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 11

WEEK 11

1. Munford (8-1) @ Memphis Central
W 15-13 @ Germantown
2. Briarcrest (8-1) vs. MUS
W 28-22 vs. Lipscomb Academy
3. Covington (7-2) vs. Westview
W 63-28 @ McNairy Central
4. Bolton (7-2) @ Raleigh-Egypt
W 12-6 vs. Wooddale
5. ECS (6-3) @ St. George's
W 44-0 vs. St. Benedict
6. Lakeland Prep. (6-3) vs. Humboldt
W 49-6 @ Craigmont
7. Collierville (5-4) vs. Houston
W 45-0 @ Cordova
8. St. George's (6-3) vs. ECS
L 63-35 vs. Lausanne
9. Houston (4-4) @ Collierville
W 41-6 @ Arlington
10. CBHS (5-4) @ Father Ryan
W 35-14 @ MUS



WEEK 10
1. Munford
2. Briarcrest
3. St. George's
4. Covington
5. Bolton
6. E CS
7. Lakeland Prep.
8. Collierville
9. Houston
10. Arlington

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WINNER

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Una Famiglia Vera

Nearly a decade of success and strong staff, vital to Little Italy winning Business of the Year

Thomas Seller, Jr.
Richardson Media





Photos by Thomas Sellers, Jr.

Dedication and devotion are two main ingredients to the success of Angelo's Little Italy Ristorante and Catering in Bartlett.

Since 2018, owners Mona and Angelo have used their heritage, experience, natural gifts and love of serving good food to create one of the best restaurants in town. Their hard work, leadership and mission to offer the best of Italy in Bartlett has led to multiple 2026 The Bartlett Express Readers' Choice Awards including Business of the Year.

"Have you seen or heard about those big Italian families in New York, having long Sunday family gatherings, with long tables, where mom and grandma and the girls are cooking and chatting in the kitchen," Mona said. "While the children are playing around, turning the house upside down and the men are outside grilling and having like 5-6 espresso each? Well that was us, from there comes the tradition and passion for cooking nonstop for long parties , long hours , spending time with the loved ones till past sunset.

"Time is flying and we all move out, life is happening, we get married - Angelo proposed one week after we met," she continued. "We will celebrate 18 years soon. Time is flying so fast when you spend it together with the love of your life. We all go places to visit or live our life, try to live that big dream and do the best to make it happen.

The couple worked for many years, since their college days in food service, from small restaurants to five-star hotels.

"An opportunity came in our way and we took a chance on it, we moved miles away from New York, family and friends," Mona said. "It will be nine years in a short few months since we moved here. Bartlett is awesome. The people are awesome. We have awesome customers for sure, they are the best."

The staff that greets you at Little Italy are Jackson, Matt, Mr. Larry, Patricia, Gracie, Nate, Cameron, Olivia, Jocelyn, Samantha, Lily, Conner, Kiplin, Jacob and Charles.

"When we took over in 2018, there were other Little Italy pizzerias around," she recalled. "We wanted to differentiate from them and ours being completely independent, managed and operated just by the two of us. We changed the name to Angelo's Little Italy Ristorante and Catering in Bartlett being full time owners.

"We changed a lot from the small menu we started with bringing our signature and our family recipes in place, developing from year to year," she continued, "having a bigger menu with so many choices to be able to accommodate more food preferences and budgets."

Mona and Angelo have built a family atmosphere at 7717 Highway 70 and the team at the counter and behind the scenes makes that possible.

"Our Employees are just great, respectful, sweet, polite, kind, dedicated and very hard working humans," she said. "It's a mix of ages, old generation meets the new generation. With that, lots of learning on both sides, lots of them grew up with us and we got a bit older.

"Sometimes it gets wild in the kitchen, all stations are busy because we make our foods fresh to order," Mona added. "Nothing like a busy weekend night, but after all these years we have now our system to make it work. We pull through and we feel definitely very blessed to do it the next day from start, again and again. We have in our team employees that some have been with us for six years, and the last one joined us just a few days ago, most of them are part - time as they still go to school."

Little Italy is open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. -9 p.m. Little Italy is closed Sunday and Monday and all major holidays.

You can bring Little Italy to your home with catering.

"Angelo's Little Italy Ristorante & Catering services are set for online or in store menus," Mona noted. "Where we can guide the customers to choose the right foods and quantity for their party or event either at home, office, school etc.

"The catering order can be picked up or delivered," she continued. "We were proud to be part of a few big weddings, baby showers, engagements, birthday parties, graduations, birth or even life celebrations. Every Holiday to be part of someone's tradition with our foods, it's very humbling, personal and emotional and we are very thankful for it. Catering trays size feeds 6-8 people, all pastas come with complimentary bread sticks. We can customize the order according to your number of guests."

Whether it is bringing a taste of Italy to your special occasion or popping in for a quick lunch, Angelo's Little Italy is motivated to give every customer its best.

"The members of our staff are very kind and really hard working people and we are very proud and blessed to have them," Mona said. "They all have a personal story to tell you , individual challenges , as we all have and would take probably another interview to listen to them from a different point of view of their ages, their life pathway, dreams and future plans, to honor them and their jobs and their individual importance in our workplace, but also all of us working as a whole unit.

"We always tell them that we are training them as much as possible for life and their future," she added. "This is not just a job,

See **Angelo's**, *page 4B*

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Quinn over Quantity

Bartlett Alderman named Man of the Year with transparent, consistent approach

Thomas Seller, Jr.
Richardson Media





Photos by Thomas Sellers, Jr.

Over the past three years Kevin Quinn has been even more committed to his service as an elected official for his adopted home of Bartlett.

When the Bartlett Alderman was voted 2023 Bartlett Express Readers' Choice Man of the Year, he made a private declaration to live up to the title through all his roles including husband, father and fellow citizen.

"The greatest changes I feel like, I've learned more about the position (alderman), the city and the people," Quinn said. "We meet people every day, getting new Facebook followers and new people moving to town, people interact with me. I use Facebook as a gauge for how people are reacting to me."

Another online platform netted Quinn his second Man of the Year recognition from The Bartlett Express. Through online voting on BartlettExpress.new, Quinn secured the top spot in the category.

"It's just really amazing and really humbling to think that people think enough of me to write my name," he noted. "It's not like you're clicking some pre-arrange boxes. You have to actually go in and select the category and write somebody's name in.

"They're actually thinking about you," Quinn continued. "I voted for a different business and remember thinking, 'Whoa, this is a lot of typing.' I really do appreciate the trouble people went through for selecting me."

Quinn, an Arkansas native, has lived in Bartlett for more than two decades and lived in Shelby County for more than 35 years.

The 59-year-old lives in Tree City with his wife Crandall and their three children. Since his first Man of the Year victory, Crandall has become CFO of the Memphis Zoo and Elizabeth is attending The University of Memphis.

Meanwhile some things have stayed the same like Amelia and Robert going out for a slice of pizza with their dad at Little Italy.

Quinn was elected as Bartlett Alderman Position 6 in 2020 and re-elected in 2024. He serves on the board of the Tennessee Municipal League as the District 8 Director. Quinn is also a member and past Chairman of the Bartlett Historic Preservation Commission. He has served as the President of the Bartlett Historical Society and of the Davies Manor Association (the historical site).

"Knowing your history has everything to do with how your future is going to be," he said. "I know the path we took to get to where we are and the things that were thought about but never tried. Or tried but failed, that's very important. I know the progress of things."

Now a common part of everyday life is social media with Quinn being that medium's advisor to the Northeast Shelby Republicans. He is on the advisory board as a member of the Wolf River District, Chickasaw Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Over the last three years, Quinn has kept busy with his civic work and building up a Facebook following to better connect with the public. When Quinn was named 2023 Man of the Year he had 120 followers on the social media platform. Now he has more than 6,200 people staying informed about Bartlett through his lens.

"I feel like it means a lot because people want to interact with me and engage with me," he said. "It's really nice meeting people all the time who just moved to Bartlett and they found me on Facebook. 'We feel like we really know what's going on because we're following you. We really want to be involved in the community.'

"It's really nice and I feel like part of my job is catching people up on what's going on now and the history of Bartlett," Quinn added. "How history plays on what's going on today and tomorrow."

Today Bartlett is growing and Quinn wants to make sure it is quality development so the city won't lose its essence.

"I am very proud of living in Bartlett," he said. "I am very proud of the people of Bartlett. I am a little frustrated by some of the 'progress' because I don't feel like it's really progress. Because things are changing doesn't mean it's for the good. I do believe some people look at progress as anything that happens that makes things bigger.

"I don't think necessarily that should be the goal of the city to always be bigger," Quinn acknowledged. "You need to grow your citizens and your citizen base, but it does worry me that we're losing the things people came here for."

Quinn noted how the borders between places like Memphis and Bartlett are starting to blur. He wants Bartlett to hold onto its unique character while providing competitive wages for first responders, more affordable living, safety and overall secure nature.

"I know with people, we're not always going to agree," Quinn noted. "People know I am going to be honest and open with them, telling them everything I can outside of what's illegal or confidential with a business. Transparency is very important. I've always been a government nerd. I wasn't elected for anything until I was 55. I've always been on the periphery of things like that. I've always felt like that's the government I want. Everybody to be open and honest as much as we can legally.

"Everybody is a shareholder," he added. "We're like a company, the city, the state, this nation, we're all shareholders. We all have financial interest and personal interest. Our lives depend on these governments, especially on a local level."

Quinn stated three years ago that he's not a politician but an elected official.

"I do have people tell me they appreciate the transparency and openness," he said. "They don't always agree with me and that's fine."

Quinn said he would like to see more open forums, debate platforms to let the public speak on issues and have their voices heard.

Quinn makes sure the voices of the past can still reach the current generation. He devotes time to worthwhile causes and takes his job as an alderman seriously.

"On one hand it means I am doing something right," he said of his latest Man of the Year honor. "On the other hand, it sets the bar higher. That means I have to work harder. Can I work harder? I'll try. Can I be in more places like two places at once, I have to double down my efforts to make them proud of me. I am very happy to take people's comments and complaints. Anywhere from the city, I love going out meeting people."

Being a two-time winner of a community award, Quinn said he has to live up to the destination.

"I am really glad they trust me enough that if I don't know the answers or solutions, I will find the person to help them," he concluded. "I'll point them to the right person in the city, health department, county government and even federal sometimes. Anything I can, I am here to help. I am just honored to be an elected official in Bartlett and have the honor of Man of the Year."

ANGELO'S, *Continued from 2B*

we wanna try to help them build a good future."

Quality staff, family traditions and passionate ownership help make Angelo's Little Italy Business of the Year.

"The restaurant is somehow an extension of our home kitchen," she said. "The opportunity to have our small mom-and-pop Italian style restaurant and to cook and feed so many people in our community, either from our daily menu, or a special event.

"It's a real honor and blessed to be loved by so many, making them happy," Mona concluded. "Also it's always a big honor to be able to give back to our community, to be part of charities, to donate and sponsor as much as we can, or when we are asked to help out."

For more information, call 901-380-5504 or visit www.littleitalybartlett.com Facebook : Angelo's Little Italy Ristorante & Catering in Bartlett Instagram: Angelos_littleitalyristorante





Angelo's

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Thank You Very Much to Everyone in Bartlett for your *Love* and amazing *Support* through good and bad times! We are deeply honored, humbled, thankful and blessed to have been voted in previous years: The BEST CATERING, BEST CHICKEN, ITALIAN FOOD & The BEST PIZZA, and this year:

The BEST BUSINESS, BEST RESTAURANT, BEST ITALIAN FOOD and BEST PIZZA in *The BARTLETT EXPRESS* Reader's Choice!

Thank you very much for all these multiple awards!

We also want to say a big *Thank You so much* to all of our dedicated, amazing and hard-working team members next to Angelo and Mona: Jackson, Matt, Patricia, Gracie, Mr. Larry, Nate, Olivia, Jocelyn, Cameron, Samantha, Lily, Conner, Kiplin, Jacob, Mona and Angelo - our growing team that we appreciate and love dearly, who, since 2018, have prepared, cooked, served and delivered our delicious authentic Italian homemade food cooked to order! We are not perfect, but we promise that we will work even harder and will do the very best for all our dear Customers.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN SOON! COME VISIT US ANYTIME at 7717 Highway 70 in Bartlett. Call us : 901-380-5504 or visit our website: www.LittleItalyBartett.com













Meet the Bartlett Express 2026 Reader's Choice Award Winners

TOP FIVE WINNERS

WOMAN OF THE YEAR
DAWN BARROM

MAN OF THE YEAR
KEVIN QUINN

BEST RESTAURANT
ANGELO'S LITTLE ITALY

BEST BUSINESS
ANGELO'S LITTLE ITALY

BEST CITY EMPLOYEE
MATT CRENSHAW

AUTOMOTIVE

BEST AUTO REPAIR
UNCLE DAVE'S AUTO REPAIR

BEST CAR WASH
SPARKLE IMAGE

BEST NEW CAR DEALERSHIP
WOLFCHASE NISSAN

BEST USED CAR DEALERSHIP
HONDA-WOLFCHASE

BEST TIRE STORE
DISCOUNT TIRE

BEST WRECKER SERVICE
PLAN B TOWING

BEST MECHANIC
DAVE STEWARD (UNCLE DAVE'S)

HEALTH

BEST ALZHEIMER'S CENTER
QUAIL RIDGE

BEST ASSISTED LIVING
AVE MARIA HOME

BEST CHIROPRACTIC PRACTICE
WORTHINGTON CHIROPRACTIC

BEST DENTIST
BARTLETT SMILES (DR. BROOKLIN BYRD-JAVINS)

BEST EYE CLINIC
BARTLETT VISION CLINIC

BEST FITNESS CENTER
HOTWORX

BEST PHARMACY
KIRBY WHITTEN PHARMACY

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ROBINWOOD

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ALTRURIA ELEMENTARY PTO

DINING

BEST BAKERY
SMALL CAKES

BEST BBQ
TY'S SMOKEHOUSE

BEST CATERING
TY'S SMOKEHOUSE BBQ

BEST CATFISH
TY'S SMOKEHOUSE

BEST CHICKEN
FAT LARRY'S

BEST COFFEE
THE PHARMACY COFFEEHOUSE

BEST CUPCAKES
SMALL CAKES

BEST DELI
LENNY'S

BEST FAST FOOD
CHICK-FIL-A

BEST HAMBURGER
FAT LARRY'S

BEST HOME COOKING
POP'S COMFORT KITCHEN

BEST HOT WINGS
TY'S SMOKEHOUSE

BEST ITALIAN FOOD
ANGELO'S LITTLE ITALY

BEST MEXICAN FOOD
LOS PILARES

BEST PIZZA
ANGELO'S LITTLE ITALY

BEST PRODUCE
BARTLETT STATION FARMER'S MARKET

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TY'S SMOKEHOUSE

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BEST ROOFING COMPANY
LDM ROOFING

BEST SMALL ENGINE REPAIR SERVICE
BARTLETT SMALL ENGINE REPAIR SERVICE (BSE)

See **Winners**, *page 13B*

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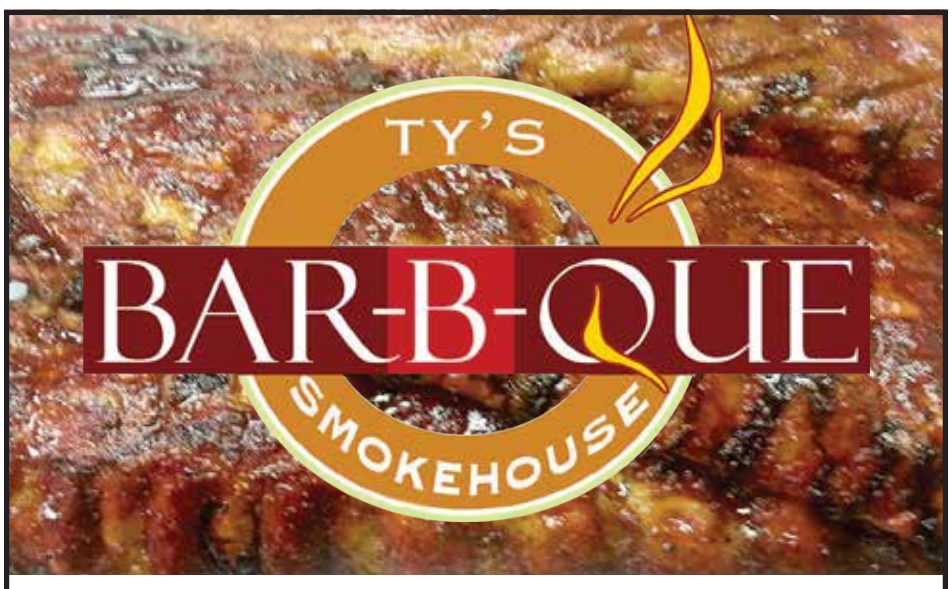
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JILL BAILEY | DIRECTOR

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To everyone who voted, thank you from the bottom of my heart. To our Grace families, thank you for entrusting us with your most precious gifts. And to my incredible staff, this recognition belongs just as much to you. Grace would not be what it is without your love, patience, and dedication.

Grace has never been just a childcare center to me. It's been a home, a family, and one of the greatest privileges of my life.

Here's to the little hands we've held, the lives we've helped shape, and all the beautiful chapters still to come.

2026 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS THE BARTLETT EXPRESS WINNER

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READERS' CHOICE Bartlett 2023

2024 BEST OF THE BEST The Bartlett Express READERS' CHOICE

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Thomas Seller, Jr.
Richardson Media





Photos by Thomas Sellers, Jr.

The 2026 The Bartlett Express Readers' Choice Restaurant of the Year resides at 7717 Highway 70.

Most who visit the best eatery in Bartlett say it's like a quick trip and taste of Italy. Angelo's Little Italy Ristorante and Catering in Bartlett has become one of the must-eat places in the city for nearly a decade.

"Growing up with very strong family values, cooking and having daily homemade food was very important to our parents," said owner Angelo. "That's why we wanted to offer a 'Full Italian Experience,' from our many appetizers/ antipasti platters or salads, side dishes, lots of choices of pizzas and pasta, finishing with cakes, cannoli, tiramisu, gelato and Italian cookies next to your coffee."

Husband and wife duo/ owners Angelo and Mona have plenty on the menu to give a customer the 'Full Italian Experience.'

"Having an extended menu gives a lot of choices to our dear loyal customers and the new ones, in today's economy people can choose according to their budget," Angelo noted. "We also have Tuesday-Friday lunch specials from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a Seniors Menu from 3 to 5 p.m. We have very good combo values and food variety."

Food at Little Italy is freshly made and composed of fresh ingredients.

"Nothing is better than simple, fresh homemade food made from scratch when possible," he said. "Our produce is fresh, our lettuce, tomatoes, onions, peppers, mushrooms, basil, garlic etc. are cut fresh daily. We shred our cheese daily. We make our pizza and bread dough daily, sometimes twice a day.

"Pizza sauce and our marinara sauce is made in house, it's so good," Angelo continued. "We bake our bread, make our own signature garlic knots and breadsticks. Our beef lasagna is the best, it is made in house, same as all our sauces, from our simple but delicious marinara to the Bolognese meat sauce to our GF fresh made-to-order Alfredo or vodka sauce. We bake our chicken, sausages, fresh eggplant etc. — it's all a labor of love. If you don't love to cook and to stay in the kitchen for long hours almost every day, this isn't a place you can last long."

Little Italy has regulars who get the usual. Some familiar faces like to take advantage of the variety and newcomers welcome suggestions from the extended menu.

"We think that probably everything is popular," Angelo said with a smile. "Our customers love the fact that can try always something new, from our Italian family traditional pastas to real New York pizzas , Sicilian Thick Square Pizza or Thin Square Grandma Pizza and also new Southern signature pizzas,

"Angelo's Deli Style Subs, lots of choices of Salads and delicious desserts to gelatos , ice cream and espresso," he continued. "We add new items almost every year and remove some, but the traditional ones stay. Refreshing our menu it's a must for us."

Angelo and Mona have created a family atmosphere from the dining room to the kitchen. That type of environment has led to traditions at Little Italy.

"We would like to think that we have a strong social connection with our guests talking with them one by one if possible, offering great food, great service and hopefully they leave with a great experience to come back with more family and friends," he said. "Most of them give us great reviews on the spot. We love the good ones and learn how to fix our mistakes from the other ones. We are not perfect but we strive to be. We definitely treat everyone like family. We might be too loud, but hey this is the real Italian-European culture.

What to expect when eating at Little Italy?

"We talk loud, it's not screaming and lots of hands in the air," Angelo noted. "The smell of fresh cooked food, lots of garlic in olive oil roasting, hot pizza or hot bread, a strong coffee smell and always good music as background. The customers can change the TV on any channel they want just like home.

"The all-year-around tall, ceiling-high white snow Christmas tree decorated accordingly to every season and holiday, and the red Poinsettia on tables — as time goes on, getting older, we learned that sadly not all will have a chance to celebrate or see the happy lights or the magic of another Christmas with their loved ones."

Customers have a chance to leave a little bit of themselves at Little Italy.

"The walls are full of souvenirs or hats and shirts brought by customers from their vacations, lots of photos or just, 'sayings and quotes,'" Angelo said. "We even have a couch full of pillows and stuffed toys, so the kids can play and later some take a nap, while the parents enjoy a meal in a little peace.

"These are just a few of our small traditions that we have as our signature," he added. "That makes us who we are, and people know what experience they get when they come to see us. Is nothing fancy about us and our place. It's just a simple and small Italian Ristorante with lots of delicious foods, made with passion and love for Italian - New York homemade style foods, we made it our style — Angelo's Little Italy Ristorante style."

Everyone is welcome to Little Italy Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. -9 p.m. Little Italy is closed Sunday, Monday, and all major holidays.

"When we got the news, we were shocked and also very grateful," Angelo said of the 2026 Readers' Choice honor. "I'm sure many others would be too. It means a lot to us. We are so very humbled and it's a huge honor to be voted Best Restaurant and Best Business, along Best Pizza and Best Italian Food for 2026. We sincerely wanna say a big thank you so very much for all these awards to all that voted for us. We couldn't have done it without all our employees: Jackson, Matt, Mr. Larry, Patricia, Gracie, Nate, Cameron, Olivia, Jocelyn, Samantha, Lily, Conner, Kiplin, Jacob and Charles. They are great to work with and you can see that they care in what they do and it's a sense of also being proud.

"Every customer matters to us, every employee matters to us," he concluded.

See **Little Italy**, *page 12B*



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LITTLE ITALY, *Continued from 10B*









"Thank you for choosing us, for your amazing love and continuous support and we can't wait to have you back, seeing us again and again, and trying all our foods. Thank you again for your patience, for voting for us, and for giving us all these awards. For us, it's an honor to have you come in. Food is very personal, and every person matters to us. Many of you came as customers, and in time became dear friends or our extended family. Come and see us, with lots of love, appreciation and gratitude, Mona and Angelo and the whole team."

For more information, call 901-380-5504 or visit www.littleitalybartlett.com Facebook : Angelo's Little Italy Ristorante & Catering in Bartlett Instagram: Angelos_littleitalyristorante

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DAVID WIEMAR
(WIEMAR'S JEWELERS)

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(BARTLETT THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE)

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Barrom Back-to-Back

NexGen's owner voted Bartlett Woman of the Year for second consecutive year

Thomas Seller, Jr.
Richardson Media





The Bartlett Express Woman of the Year Award is staying put as the readers' choice is Dawn Barrom of NexGen Health & Wellness again.

The 2025 winner of the prestigious honor was voted 2026 Woman of the Year along with Nurse of the Year and Best Health & Wellness.

"These awards mean so much because they came from the community we get to serve every day," Barrom said on Facebook. "To everyone who took the time to vote, who supported the NexGen Team, and show Dawn some love, thank you! We are so grateful to be part of the Bartlett community and couldn't have done this without our patients and wonderful staff.

Here's to continuing to take great care of our community."

The advanced nurse practitioner started working in Bartlett in 2012 and later went on to open her business at the end of the decade. Fast forward to 2025, NexGen is growing and Barrom has expanded her footprint in Bartlett.

"Always been located in Bartlett, but I live in Millington," Barrom noted. "I've been out here and this is the community in which I work. I try to do as much as I can for this community. I just went to Youth Villages this month. I am a Holiday Hero, providing for the Bartlett Chamber their needs. We're assigned a child and we shop for them. We do the community Expo and other outreach."

Barrom's presence in Bartlett hasn't gone unnoticed by the readers of The Bartlett Express with her being voted the 2025 and 2026 Woman of the Year.

"It's amazing, I couldn't have done it without my family and staff," Barrom said. "And of course the patients."

Barrom and her husband Dewayne make their home in Millington. They are empty nesters as son Dillon is married with two children. Their daughter is now Daylee Craig.

Dewayne has supported his family for several years as the owner of Norman's Body Shop. Dawn started her medical career in labor and delivery for several years before becoming a practitioner.

"I felt leaving my previous place of employment at the time was the best thing for me to do and I had an opportunity to do so," she recalled. "To reach out and stretch out to see what I could do on my own.

"I had the support of my husband," Dawn continued. "He's owned his own business since the 1980s. He's a business owner so he guided me through the process of owning my own business. So I really appreciate that."

NexGen opened on June 13, 2019. Dewayne did some of the metal work to help decorate Dawn's new business home.

"I made it through COVID, stayed open through COVID which I consider a big success," Barrom acknowledged. "Not too many places were able to do that, especially for a wellness clinic. We were deemed essential through COVID.

"I was in a location for five years a few suites over and I outgrew that location," she added. "I moved here in this suite in November 2024. Growth is good. I had to expand and add more practitioners to the business so we could more easily take care of patients exceptionally. We love to give the best care we can."

That care is being administered at 7424 Highway 62 Suite 111A in the center of the shopping center.

NexGen specializes in weight loss and testosterone treatments. From lab work to weight loss consultation, NexGen's staff becomes an ally in a health or weight loss journey.

"My goal is to bring something for Bartlett, even though I don't live in this community, I am still helping out the community," she said. "I also have people who come from the community to see me out here. They come from other communities, other states Arkansas and Mississippi.

"With customer service, at the end of the day they're all patients who deserve good customer service," Barrom continued. "It's things you can provide to give customers peace of mind, especially when they're coming from that far for their treatment. Sometimes they're only here for 5 minutes but they've driven 20 miles."

Those who make it to NexGen for a treatment are walking into the 2025 Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year. Nex Gen is also in the top 3 for Best Weight Loss Clinics in the Memphis area.

I am just honored and blessed," she concluded. "Thank you to all."

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It's an honor each and every day to serve the people of Bartlett. I really appreciate all of the community's engagement, involvement and support. Together, we can continue the work of bettering the future of Bartlett. - Kevin Quinn

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