

Military, Law, and more ...

Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!

A Memphis Safe Task Force Report

Memphis Safe Task Force rings in New Year with 4,700 arrests and over 750 illicit firearms seized; Child found

MEMPHIS, Tenn., January 2, 2026 – Since it launched in October, the Memphis Safe Task Force -- a multi-agency initiative to combat violent crime in Memphis composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as the Tennessee National Guard – has been focused on arresting violent criminals, clearing warrants, seizing illegal firearms, and locating missing children. The MSTF has arrested 4,698 violent fugitives, seized 758 illegal firearms and safely located 132 children. Of those arrested, 463 have been gang members, 24 were for homicide, 76 for sex offenses and 505 for controlled substances. “Local, state, and federal partners form the collective shield that protects our citizens and sustains justice,” said Gadyaces S. Serralta, Director of the U.S. Marshals Service and Chair of the Memphis Safe Task Force. “I’m proud to lead this task force that President Trump established to combat violent crime by deploying federal law enforcement and the National Guard to Memphis. The tremendous success of this operation reflects the resolve of Attorney General Bondi and U.S. Attorney Dunnivant and the commitment of every officer from every agency on the task force. We have all dedicated ourselves to making the city of Memphis safer for everyone.” “Those who know and love our city are experiencing the difference of safer streets every day,” said Tyreece Miller, U.S. Mar-

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shal for the Western District of Tennessee. “Our task force has helped accelerate the path toward real change. We are committed to our partnerships and an even brighter future for Memphis.” **Notable MSTF arrests:** **Arsenio Davis**, 36, arrested on a first-degree murder charge October 22 after the MSTF responded to reports of a shooting in the 1600 block of Helsley Street. When they arrived on scene, officers located a female victim who was pronounced deceased on the scene. One officer sustained a non-critical injury from a dog bite and was transported to the hospital. A second officer was assaulted by a woman who unlawfully entered the active crime scene and struck the officer while being escorted out. She was taken into custody without further incident. After identifying Davis as a possible suspect, Task Force members returned to the residence, and Davis fled from the rear of the

property and was quickly detained. Inside the residence, officers discovered a second deceased individual who appeared to be partially dismembered. **Lawrence Williams**, 25, was arrested on a warrant for petition to revoke a suspended sentence for criminal attempt, especially aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor. Through an interagency collaborative effort, investigators learned the whereabouts of Williams, leading Task Force members to the area of Knotty Oaks Drive in Memphis. When Williams refused to open his door, Task Force members forced entry, and their K9 partner **Alex Rodriguez, aka Rodriguez Aguirres**, 52, arrested on an outstanding state warrant for rape of a child and aggravated sexual battery. The arrest occurred during a targeted warrant operation conducted by Task Force members. Rodriguez, a Honduran national, was also determined

to be unlawfully present in the United States. The warrant alleges that the victim of these offenses was between the ages of 8 and 13 years old. **Anthony Mason and Xavier Brown**, both **Kitchen Cripps** gang members and alleged witnesses to a December 20 homicide, were arrested December 21 for unlawful possession of a firearm while intoxicated at a residence in the 200 block of Grove Dale Street. MSTF officers sized nine firearms – six handguns and three rifles -- after they obtained and executed a search warrant for the residence and vehicles at the residence. **Eric Wilkerson**, 43, was arrested on December 17 in the area of East Hickory Bluffs on a warrant for attempted first-degree murder. Wilkerson is alleged to have been previously charged with aggravated assault in connection with the February 22, 2024, shooting that killed Adrian Goodrich, a former Bellevue Middle School football coach. **Dande Ashby**, 23, arrested December 11 in Horn Lake, Mississippi. Ashby is the alleged second shooter who participated in the February 2 murder of Adrien Prewitt. **Gabrien Rounds**, 20, charged with first-degree murder, two counts of attempted first-degree murder and employing a firearm during a dangerous felony following a June 18, 2024, homicide in Castalia Heights, was arrested December 2 in the 1500 block of Antona Place. **China D. White**, 25, a **Gangster Disciple** gang member charged with two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted first-degree murder in Shelby County following a July 2020 murder on Barron Avenue, was taken into custody at an apartment complex in the 3100 block of Pecan Lake Drive at approximately 9:15 p.m., December 2. **Nigel Farmer**, 30, was arrested November 19 in Omaha, Nebraska, for a first-degree murder charge stemming from an October 29, 2024, shooting death of a 31-year-old Shelby County woman. Anyone with information about wanted fugitives is encouraged to submit it via the USMS Tips app.

legal guns seized, missing child located **Charges include possession with intent, evading arrest, aggravated assault, strangulation** *** **MEMPHIS, Tenn. January 6, 2026** – Members of the Memphis Safe Task Force on Monday executed 50 criminal arrests, seized eight illicit firearms and recovered an endangered missing child. Of note: **Marquice Lester**, 31, was charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute and misdemeanor evading arrest following a controlled delivery of 36 pounds of marijuana to a house in the 670 block of N 6th Street. **Daryl Ray Jr.**, 23, was arrested for aggravated assault and strangulation at a hotel in the 6100 block of Shelby Oaks Drive. The MSTF also located a missing 12-year-old autistic child in the 1900 block of Asa Drive and returned the child to the child’s grandmother’s house. “I think this team checked all the boxes Monday,” said U.S. Marshals Service Chief Inspector Chad Hunt, Commander of the Memphis Safe Task Force. “Catching drug dealers and violent fugitives, seizing illegal firearms and finding lost kids is exactly what this task force was set up to do.” Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force initiative, officers have made 4,830 arrests and seized 788 illegal firearms, as well as substantial quantities of narcotics, and related contraband. These enforcement actions reflect a sustained commitment to reducing violent crime and removing dangerous weapons from Memphis neighborhoods. Launched in September 2025, the Memphis Safe Task Force is a multi-agency initiative to combat violent crime in Memphis. Composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as the Tennessee National Guard, the task force is focused on arresting violent criminals, clearing warrants, seizing firearms, and locating missing children. This operation reflects the Memphis Safe Task Force’s commitment to coordinated enforcement efforts and its mission to identify, apprehend, and hold accountable those who pose a threat to public safety.

Former Dept. of War advisor Nicole Lillyman joins Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference

NASHVILLE, Tenn. , January 5, 2026 – Former Senior Acquisition Advisor at the United States Department of War Nicole Lillyman has joined the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference as Deputy Director of Operations. Lillyman joins TNDAGC with nearly two decades of experience in federal acquisitions, program management, and strategic operational leadership. She most recently served at the Pentagon as a Senior Acquisition and Policy Advisor in the Office of the Secretary of War, supporting the Under Secretary for Policy and the Assistant Secretary of War for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (ASW (SO/LIC)). In this capacity, she provided critical oversight of U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF), ensuring the effective organization, training, and equipping of the SOF enterprise. Her portfolio encompassed analysis, advocacy, and oversight of a \$13 billion annual budget, including all SOF acquisition matters, while shaping policy and resource priorities to strengthen readiness and operational capability. Her career reflects a deep commitment to integrating civilian oversight with strategic defense objectives, ensuring administrative and operational requirements remain fully resourced and aligned with national security priorities. Her federal career includes extensive experience managing complex programs, contracting, financial, and technical portfolios across the Department of War and the Pentagon, including maritime systems, fixed and rotary wing programs, and advanced, autonomous, artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies. “The Conference continues to establish itself as a leader in bringing highly skilled professionals into public service in Tennessee; people who understand our mission and are committed to strengthening it. Nicole’s experience and perspective will bring a new depth of experience and a unique perspective to state government,” said Stephen Crump, TNDAGC Executive Director. In her new role at TNDAGC, Lillyman will bring her federal expertise to the state level, enhancing the Conference’s operational capabilities and leading the management of all fiscal and operational activities to support Please see sports-military 4

Memphis Crime Beat focuses on transparency and accountability

By Leslie Taylor, President, Memphis Crime Beat

Memphis Crime Beat continues to provide transparency and accountability as it tracks the Life of a Crime. In addition to operating a court watch program where volunteers identify opportunities to improve our justice system, it endeavors to gather data to gauge the performance of our law enforcement and justice systems. The Shelby County Sheriff’s Office Jail Report Card data is helping Memphis Crime Beat better understand some aspects of the

Life of a Crime. According to October’s report, 81% of the jail inmates had been incarcerated previously, and 49% had been in jail six times or more. Memphis Crime Beat also looked at data the Sheriff’s Office provided regarding jail bookings and releases. As shown in the graph below, we found that jail releases closely track jail bookings. In October, the jail netted 165 inmates. This data does not tell the whole story. We don’t know what these inmates were charged with and would like to know how many of these inmates received bond or

were released ROR. We have been requesting arrest detail from our local agencies so that we can better understand the system but have yet to receive it. However, the number of re-offenders in jail and releases closely tracking bookings suggests there is a revolving door at 201 Poplar. You can learn more about Memphis Crime Beat at our website, <https://memphiscrimebeat.org/> *** *Leslie Taylor is a member of the Crime Commission Board of Directors.*

Happy 2026! Happy Birthday, America!

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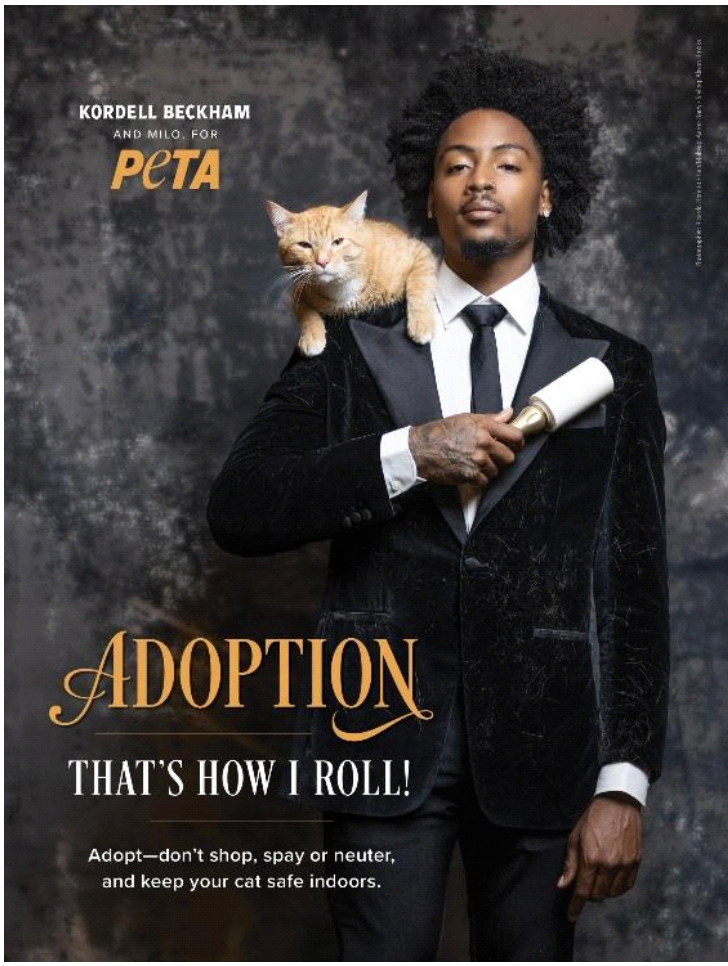
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The ‘E’ in DEI is for Equity, a Marxist Term. Research before you believe. -A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 31st Annual Black History Month Special Edition 250 in Celebration of America’s Freedom. Coming in February 2026.



KORDELL BECKHAM AND MILO FOR PETA

ADOPTION

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