

Military, Law, and more ...

University of Memphis Police Services welcomes first K-9 to strengthen campus safety measures

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The University of Memphis saw a 36% reduction in overall crime in 2024 compared to 2021, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

In the latest effort to bolster campus security, UofM Police Services welcomed Pharaoh — its first-ever K-9 — to its task force on Feb. 18. Pharaoh is a 16-month-old Belgian Shepherd. Officer James Anderson is serving as Pharaoh’s handler.

“We are excited to introduce Officer Anderson and his K-9 partner Pharaoh,” UofM Chief of Police Keith Humphrey said. “Our new K-9 team recently completed more than six weeks of intensive training. The UMPD K-9 unit is a new resource that will play a multifaceted role on our campus. The unit will provide additional safety, community engagement and education and provide an overall safer environment for students, faculty and staff. We believe this presence can also reduce theft, assaults and other criminal activity.”

Pharaoh is a dual-purpose K-9, trained in searching and detecting. His name was selected following a closely contested social



Officer James Anderson with K-9 partner Pharaoh stand willing and ready to protect. (Photo by Matt Smith/University of Memphis)

media poll — which received 627 total votes — from a list that included Zeus, Major and Ace. In addition to adding a K-9 to campus, the University has been steadfast with substantial security

upgrades beginning in 2023 at the Central and Park Avenue Campuses with the fencing of open parking lots. To date, fencing has occurred in a total of 11 parking lots and the perimeter of

the Park Avenue Campus. Nine parking lots now have controlled access gates at the Central and Park Avenue Campuses. Bollards have also been strategically installed in vulnerable areas

throughout campus. The University has enhanced lighting throughout campus with LED lights in parking lots, interior walkways and streets. A Please see sports page 3

TN Highway Patrol assists drivers during winter storm

NASHVILLE, TN, Feb. 21, 2025 – The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) helped hundreds of drivers as a winter storm impacted Tennessee on February 18 and 19. Troopers worked tirelessly to assist stranded motorists, clear roadways, and investigate incidents amid hazardous conditions. Statewide, THP responded to 195 crashes, assisted 289 stranded motorists, and addressed 45 abandoned vehicles and 14 roadway obstructions. State Troopers also investigated two fatal crashes occurred during the time period.

“The men and women of the Tennessee Highway Patrol worked around the clock to keep drivers safe during this winter storm,” said Jeff Long, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security. “

The highest call volumes were recorded in the Nashville, Chattanooga, and Memphis districts, with additional significant responses in Knoxville, Fall Branch, Lawrenceburg, Cooke-

ville, and Jackson districts. These districts are administrative regions established by the THP to efficiently manage and deploy troopers across Tennessee’s 95 counties. Each district encompasses multiple counties and has its own headquarters to coordinate law enforcement activities and resources.

“We continue to urge drivers to use caution, reduce speed, and avoid unnecessary travel when winter weather impacts our roads,” said Colonel Matt Perry of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. THP remains actively engaged in monitoring road conditions and assisting motorists as recovery efforts continue.

Drivers are reminded to check road conditions before traveling and to call *THP (*847) in case of emergencies.

NSSF congratulates new FBI Director Kash Patel who also takes on reins as ATF Acting Director

NSSF, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, congratulates Kash Patel who President Donald Trump appointed on Monday as the Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). In addition to serving as Acting ATF Director, Patel was recently sworn in as the Senate-confirmed Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

“President Trump nominated Kash Patel as FBI Director for his unwavering dedication to protecting the Constitution and the adherence to the rule of law. Those same traits serve him well as he carries out President Trump’s plan to reform ATF,” said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. “Like the FBI, the ATF was weaponized by the previous administration. In the case of ATF, it was to carry out a radical gun control agenda. President Trump’s appointment of Acting Director Patel to lead the ATF will return the bureau to its proper role as a law enforcement agency laser focused on combating violent crime and illegal firearms trafficking, and to act as a non-partisan regulator of the firearm industry.”



Newly installed FBI Director Kash Patel will also serve as Acting AFT Director.

NSSF is confident Acting Director Patel will view members of the firearm industry, including licensed retailers, as ATF’s partners on the front lines of keeping

firearms out of the wrong hands, combatting illegal firearms trafficking and preventing violent crime involving the misuse of firearms.

The firearm industry hopes Acting Director Patel will move quickly, in consultation with Attorney General Pam Bondi, to carry out President Trump’s Protecting Second Amendment Executive Order. Thirty U.S. senators, led by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), sent a letter to Deputy Assistant Director Marvin G. Richardson last week imploring him to swiftly roll back

the punitive and unconstitutional policies and final rules the Biden administration used to target the lawful firearm industry and gun owners. NSSF strongly supports the senators’ requests and President Trump’s swift action to refocus ATF to its Congressionally mandated role of combatting violent crime. For more information, visit nssf.org.

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