

More sports, law, and military news...

Tennessee’s Ewing Minor becomes youngest Kayak Series AOY with remarkable season with dozens of trophies

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., October 19, 2026— Ewing Minor was only 8 years old when he first started kayaking out to his local waters in Virginia. Admittedly, he was probably too young to be doing it on his own, but from that point on, it became his favorite way to fish.

With dozens of trophies and banners across multiple trails, the now 24-year-old is arguably the best kayak angler in the country right now and made his case even stronger by earning the most prestigious honor in the sport. Minor claimed the Pro-Guide Batteries Bassmaster Kayak Series Angler of the Year title, earning 995 points during the regular season and National Championship to claim the \$5,000 first-place prize, the youngest angler to do so in the short history of the event.

“I’ve been trying to get this one for a couple years now,” the Carson-Newman graduate said. “You really have to have an incredible season to do it. All the stars have to align across multiple events. My (top) finishes were 6th, two firsts and then the Championship.”

To calculate Angler of the Year, a competitor’s top three finishes over the six-event season are considered along with their National Championship finish. After opening the season with a 6th place finish at the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Minor won a weather-shortened Santee



Tennessee's Ewing Minor has claimed the 2026 Pro-Guide Batteries Bassmaster Kayak Series Angler of the Year title with a season-long total of 995 points. (Photo by Mark Cisneros/B.A.S.S.)

Cooper event and then claimed another first-place trophy at the Susquehanna River. He also finished a measly 13th at Caddo/Bistineau but was able to drop that tournament. He capped off the season in style, earning a come-from-behind at Lake Murray and hoisting both

the AOY trophy and National Championship trophy on the same day.

“They are both heavy trophies,” Minor said.

Along with his AOY title, Minor also won four events on his way to winning the Tennessee B.A.S.S. Nation Kayak Angler of

the Year. In 2026 alone, Minor scored nine victories in the Kayak Series, TN B.A.S.S. Nation and Tennessee Valley Kayak Anglers trails. In total, Minor has won five Kayak Series events since 2024 as well as five Hobie BOS events between 2021 and 2024.

At the beginning of the season, Minor set out with the goal to win the season-long title. Part of that process was fishing out of the kayak as much as possible and forgoing some of the bass boat events he might have participated in otherwise. While both vessels allow anglers to catch

bass, positioning and approach are much different.

“I have fished a bunch of boat tournaments, but kayak fishing is where I started, and I’m comfortable in it,” Minor said. “One thing for this year that helped me was I haven’t been fishing out of a bass boat. The transition from fishing in a bass boat to a kayak can mess you up, and I’ve had it mess me up before. I’ve spent so many days this year fishing out of my kayak.”

Any chance he can, Minor is out on the water trying to learn something new. As a student-angler for Carson-Newman, and now as the head coach of the Kayak Fishing squad, he has been able to pick things up from his teammates and apply them to his own strategy. Moving to the shore of Douglas Lake has also allowed him to work on pretty much any technique he wants to. “You hear people talk about young anglers being really good, and that is what Bassmaster has provided for college anglers. In my four years at Carson-Newman, I was learning. No matter where we went, there was someone on the team who was an expert at that type of fishing. We bounced ideas off each other, and it helped me become a more well-rounded angler.

Florida fisheries have always treated Minor well, but after a less than stellar practice for the Kissimmee Chain event, he wasn’t sure how things would unfold in the tournament.

“I wasn’t on a whole lot in practice and it just kind of developed throughout the tournament,” he said. “I was sitting in the mid-20s after the first day and jumped all the way to sixth with a big bag. Making those big jumps is more surprising to me than when I lead a tournament.”

He then won at Santee Cooper, an event shortened after strong winds and severe weather threat-

Blackburn welcomes AG Todd Blanche to Memphis to host roundtable ... from sports-Military 2

sec.”

“This is America's logistics hub, home to all of the Class I railroads, FedEx, the Port of Memphis, and world-class trucking companies.”

“It is also home to International Paper, xAI, St. Jude, and many other outstanding companies and organizations.”

“There is tremendous positive momentum in Shelby County right now, and everyone involved

has played a significant role in that success.”

“I am incredibly grateful for President Trump's commitment to Memphis and for Attorney General Blanche's partnership

over the past year in helping make Memphis safe again.”

“The Attorney General has truly been an invaluable partner in our efforts to fight crime.”

“Once again, I could not be more grateful that he has taken the time to come to Memphis today.”

“We will not stop our efforts until Memphis is the safest city in the United States.”

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The Memphis Safe Task Force (MSTF) Report... from sports-military 2

were arrested at the apartment. Malone was charged with simple assault and criminal trespass.

Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force initiative, officers have made 13,598 arrests, including 144 for homicide, 1,464 for controlled substances, 1,336 for firearms violations, and 126 for sex offenses. Of those arrested, 433 were juveniles and 1,523 were known gang members. The task force has seized 2,290 illegal firearms. These enforcement actions reflect a sustained commitment to reducing violent crime and removing dangerous weapons from Memphis neighborhoods.

The Memphis Safe Task Force is a multi-agency initiative established via a Presidential Memorandum signed by President Donald Trump on Sept. 15, 2025. Aimed at addressing violent street crime, the task force coordinates federal, state, and local law enforcement and includes mobilized members of the Tennessee National Guard.

The MSTF is focused on arresting violent criminals, clearing warrants, seizing firearms, and locating missing children. Since the operation began, the MSTF has located 196 missing children. This operation reflects the MSTF’s commitment to coordinated enforcement efforts and its mission to identify, apprehend, and hold accountable those who pose a threat to public safety. For more information about the U.S. Marshals please visit www.usmarshals.gov.

MSTF Report - October 14, 2026

MSTF arrests 34 Tuesday, recovers 6 guns

MEMPHIS, October 14, 2026 — The Memphis Safe Task Force on Tuesday executed 34 arrests, including one man who had an outstanding warrant for aggravated rape, and recovered six illegal firearms.

Of note:

Christopher Harris, 38, was arrested in the 3800 block of Democrat Road on an outstanding warrant for aggravated rape. Harris was with a woman who claimed he’d kidnapped her and who told MSTF officers that Harris was in the process of raping her before they arrived. A search warrant for the vehicle was prepared and charges for kidnapping and rape are pending. Harris was transported to the MPD for interview by the MPD sex crimes unit.

Jalen Pierce, 25, was arrested at the intersection of Roland Street and Fleetwood Avenue and charged with aggravated assault/theft of property. MSTF recovered an unknown amount of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and a Glock 19 handgun outfitted with a Machinegun Conversion Device, which is illegal throughout Tennessee.

Paul Guy, 52, was arrested at the intersection of West Byfield and Horn Lake Road on an outstanding warrant for possession of cocaine. Subsequent search warrants yielded more than 70

pounds of marijuana and \$40,000 in cash.

Juan Leal-Nunez, 25, was arrested at the Greyhound bus station and charged with possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine after he gave consent to MSTF to search his luggage which revealed approximately 43.5 pounds of methamphetamine. Leal-Nunez was booked at Shelby County jail.

Dontavious Simpson, 32, was arrested at an apartment complex in the 6500 block of Ballantrance Court, charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to manufacture/deliver narcotics. Officers recovered approximately 2 pounds of marijuana, approximately \$1,150 in U.S. currency, a Glock 27 handgun and various firearms components (conversion kit and high-capacity magazines). Simpson was processed at the Shelby County Sheriff Department. On Monday night, MSTF conducted a traffic stop at Overton Crossing and Pamela Drive of a vehicle for a moving violation that was also suspected of containing narcotics. At the stop, Tennessee Highway Patrol officers interviewed the driver and secured the driver’s license. Upon return to the suspect’s vehicle, the trooper discovered him to be unresponsive. CPR was performed by personnel on scene and medics were requested. The suspect was transported to the hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. A K9 unit made a positive alert on the vehicle, and a subsequent vehicle

search led to the discovery of 3 pounds of marijuana, which was seized.

Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force initiative, officers have made 13,569 arrests, including 142 for homicide, 1,460 for controlled substances, 1,335 for firearms violations, and 126 for sex offenses. Of those arrested, 433 were juveniles and 1,518 were known gang members. The task force has seized 2,283 illegal firearms. These enforcement actions reflect a sustained commitment to reducing violent crime and removing dangerous weapons

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