

Sports & Entertainment



Below is an article, we received shortly before press time, about one of the most iconic bar-be-que restaurants in Memphis, reinforcing our editorial position on why the National Guard is needed in Memphis. Safety first!

- An editorial comment from The Mid-South Tribune-

See editorial on sports page 1

Arson Causes Significant Setback at Tops Bar-B-Q & Burgers Rhodes Avenue Location

MEMPHIS, Tenn., September 15, 2025 – The Tops Bar-B-Q & Burgers location at 3790 Rhodes Avenue was damaged significantly due to a fire last night that investigators are reporting as arson. The restaurant has been under construction and closed for about seven months, with utility services disconnected. The restaurant was approximately four weeks away from reopening after a major reconstruction effort was nearing completion to repair the restaurant from a fire in February of this year.

“As the safety and security of employees, customers, and communities is our top priority, we are thankful to report that no one was injured in the fire last night. We appreciate the work by the Memphis Fire Department to extinguish the fire and investigate the cause and origin, which is reported as arson starting in a third-party-owned outdoor used cooking oil recycling container near the restaurant building. Unfortunately, the fire spread to the building, damaging recent repairs and the significant investment made in materials and construction time since the fire in February. We are still investigating the damage to determine the full extent and how this event will affect the reopening of this location. We have been a part of the Rhodes Avenue community for decades, and we remain committed to supporting this area as we work through the aftermath of this incident,” said Randy Hough, CEO, Tops Bar-B-Q & Burgers.

Tops Bar-B-Q & Burgers will provide more information regarding reopening as it becomes available.

About Tops Bar-B-Q & Burgers:
Founded in 1952, Tops Bar-B-Q serves slow-smoked, real pit Memphis-style barbecue and fresh ground cooked-to-order flat-top burgers in a convenient, quick-serve setting at 17 locations across the Mid-South including Memphis, Tennessee; Southaven, Mississippi; Olive Branch, Mississippi; Corinth, Mississippi, and Marion, Arkansas. Tops also offers family meal packs for small groups and full-service catering for larger groups and events.

For more information visit: TopsBarBQ.com.

GOA & GOF mourn the loss of Charlie Kirk from sports-Military 3

Rob Young, Executive Director of Gun Owners of California, issued the following statement: "What happened today to Charlie Kirk is absolutely vile and inexcusable. Charlie was not only an incredible leader and trailblazer in the conservative movement, but he also led with a tremendous conviction of his faith in God. Without doubt, Charlie's voice will forever make an impact on future generations. Strip away the political spin, and what you have left is simple... this is not

about weapons, it is about whether good or evil triumphs. Our heartfelt prayers are with Charlie's family, his loved ones and the entire Turning Point team."

Gun Owners of America is a nonprofit grassroots lobbying organization dedicated to protecting the right to keep and bear arms without compromise. GOA represents over two million members and activists.

ABC picks up Memphis-Arkansas rivalry for a Saturday showdown from sports page 1

torically, over 90% of single-game tickets are purchased during game week.

Season ticket prices remain unchanged from 2024, following a perfect 7-0 home campaign. With prices averaging under \$25 per game, season tickets remain the best value for Tiger fans. Tickets can be purchased online at GoTigersGo.com or by calling the Memphis Ticket Office at (901) 678-2331.

For fans seeking more flexibility, the Memphis Football Mini Plan offers access to three premier matchups — Arkansas, Tulsa, and South Florida — starting at

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's 31st Annual Black History Month Edition in February 2026 Commemorating America's 250th Anniversary.

Titans host Colts and halftime will welcome Mike “Voice of the Titans” Keith into the Ring of Honor

Tennessee Titans (0-2) vs. Indianapolis Colts (2-0)
Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025 • 12 p.m. CDT • Nissan Stadium • Nashville, Tenn. • TV: CBS/WTNF-5



NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Titans (0-2) play their second consecutive home game this week, hosting the AFC South rival Indianapolis Colts (2-0). Kickoff at Nissan Stadium (capacity 69,143) is scheduled for 12 p.m. CDT on Sunday, Sept. 21.

At halftime, the Titans will induct former play-by-play announcer and vice president of broadcasting Mike Keith into their Ring of Honor. Keith, known by fans as the "Voice of the Titans," called every game for Titans Radio from 1998 through 2024. In January 2025, he departed to become the assistant athletics director of broadcasting and "Voice of the Vols" for the University of Tennessee. Keith will become the 19th member of the Ring of Honor.

THE BROADCAST
This week's contest will be regionally televised on CBS, including Nashville affiliate WTVF NewsChannel 5, as well as on Paramount+ in the Nashville market. The broadcast team

includes play-by-play announcer Tom McCarthy, analyst Ross Tucker and reporter Amanda Balianis.

Fans in Nashville can stream live Titans games on mobile devices with NFL+, which offers access to local games and all primetime games on phones and tablets. Out of market, fans can watch every Sunday afternoon game with Sunday Ticket. More information on ways to watch NFL games can be found at nfl.com/ways-to-watch.

The Titans Radio Network and Nashville flagship 104.5 The Zone carry all Titans games across the Mid-South with play-by-play announcer Taylor Zarzour, analyst Dave McGinnis, executive producer Rhett Bryan, game-day host Lucas Panzica, and sideline reporters Amie Wells and Will Boling.

TITANS LOOKING FOR FIRST WIN
The Titans played their home opener in Week 2 against the Los

Angeles Rams. Rookie quarterback Cam Ward completed his first touchdown pass, and Joey Slye added four field goals. But ultimately, the Rams prevailed by a final score of 33-19.

Ward started each of the past two games, including last week against the Rams. He completed 19-of-33 passes for 175 yards, including a nine-yard touchdown to fellow rookie Elic Ayomanor late in the second quarter. Ward is the second quarterback in franchise history (Marcus Mariota, 2015) to record starts in the first two games of his rookie season. Slye's four field goals included a 57-yarder in the third quarter, which was the second-longest field goal in franchise annals. Slye also made a 55-yarder to become the first player in franchise history to record two field goals of 55-plus yards in the same game. His eight field goals (eight attempts) through two games are the most in franchise history through two weeks of a season.

On defense, linebacker Cody Barton recorded an interception—his first in a Titans uniform and the sixth of his career. It gave the Titans five total forced turnovers in the first two games, which matches the high for the team through the first two weeks

of a season during the team's "Titans era" (1999 to present). In that span, the only other occasions in which the team forced five turnovers through two weeks was 2008 (five) and 2019 (five).

THE COLTS
The Colts enter Week 3 atop the AFC South. After beating the Miami Dolphins in their opener, they welcomed the Denver Broncos to Lucas Oil Stadium in Week 2. A 45-yard field goal by Spencer Shrader with no time remaining gave the Colts a 29-28 victory over the Broncos.

Quarterback Daniel Jones is in his first season with the Colts after spending his first six NFL seasons with the New York Giants. Through two starts this season, he has completed 45-of-63 passes for 588 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions (111.1 passer rating).

Colts head coach Shane Steichen is in his third season with the team. The former Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator guided the Colts to a 9-8 record in 2023 and an 8-9 mark in 20

Amanda Pascali reinterprets Sicilian folk music in “Roses and Basil” from sports-Ent. 5



Amanda Pascali, a Fulbright Scholar, contemplates music and books to create . (Photographer Credit: Davide Casciolo)

Paris and New York City. She and Pascali's father, a refugee from Communist Romania with Italian roots, met and fell in love in Brooklyn. But when their family moved from New York to Texas, Pascali struggled to fit in with her peers. "In the words of poet Ijeoma Umebinyuo, I constantly felt 'too foreign for here, too foreign for home, and never enough for both,'" she remembers. But picking up a guitar at age 12, and later beginning her work of reinterpreting Sicilian

folk music, she created a space for herself, one that has resonated with fans across the world.

"This album is for the outcasts, the third-culture kids, the oldest daughters of immigrant families, for those who've ever felt that push-and-pull of cultures and identities" she explains. "It's a collection of songs about girlhood, unrequited love, and the wild beauty of simply existing in the in-between—a reminder that

these stories are powerful and deserve to be heard."

Roses and Basil Tracklist
1. Amuri
2. Cleopatra
3. Santa Lucia
4. Roses and Basil
5. Intermezzo
6. Wake Up, Baby!
7. Amara Terra Mia
8. Sweet Sixteen
9. Amuri (acoustic)
Follow Amanda Pascali:
Website – Instagram – TikTok – YouTube

Memphis Hustle acquires returning rights to Jordan Minor

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 9, 2025—The Memphis Hustle announced the team acquired the returning player rights to forward Jordan Minor and a 2026 first round pick (via Maine) from the Long Island Nets for the returning player rights to guard Malachi Smith.

Minor (6-8, 242) appeared in 43 games (eight starts) as a rookie last season with the Long Island Nets and averaged 5.6 points and 3.3 rebounds while shooting 50.3 percent from the field in 12.0 minutes. The 25-year-old Boston native played one season at Virginia after beginning his collegiate career at Merrimack. Smith (6-4, 205) appeared in 42 games (14 starts) last season with the Hustle averaging 11.4 points and 4.2 rebounds while shooting 50.1% from the field in 25.3 minutes.

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's “Charlie Kirk, Safety, Second Amendment Rights, and a Salute to the National Guard” Special Edition.

PANEL DISCUSSION – THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE: WDIA AND THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

THURSDAY | SEP 25 | 6 - 7:30 PM
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Featured Panelists

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