



Memphis football: Sutton Smith, Greg Desrosiers bonded over injuries

SPORTS, 1B

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025 | COMMERCIALAPPEAL.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Pedestrians cross the intersection of Peabody Place and South 2nd Street in Downtown Memphis, on August 27. PHOTOS BY CHRIS DAY/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Why are pedestrian fatalities so high in Memphis?

Jack Armstrong
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Memphis has the highest pedestrian fatality rate across the 50 largest U.S. cities, according to an analysis conducted by a personal finance research company.

The company, ValuePenguin, pulled data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s fatality analysis reporting system from 2019 to 2023 to calculate pedestrian fatality statistics.

According to ValuePenguin, Memphis recorded a total of 293 pedestrian fatalities during that period, ahead of Albuquerque, New Mexico, with 210, and Tucson, Arizona, with 202. Memphis saw a rate of 46.6 fatalities per 100,000 residents against the 50-city average of 15.6.

Pedestrian deaths also increased 58% in that period. The numbers from

See PEDESTRIAN, Page 3A



A pedestrian walks in a crosswalk on South Second Street in Downtown Memphis, on August 27.

FedEx cutting Memphis jobs

Corey Davis
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

More than 600 FedEx Supply Chain employees in Memphis will be laid off as part of a business transition.

The Memphis-based logistics giant filed a WARN notice (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification) on Aug. 27. FedEx notified the agency of plans to lay off 611 employees at facilities located at 4155 Quest Way and 5800 Challenge Drive.

The Commercial Appeal reported on the FedEx Supply Chain layoffs on Aug. 14, but the number of impacted employees was not disclosed at that time.

According to the WARN notice, the Greater Memphis Workforce Development Board’s rapid response team will coordinate services with FedEx and affected employees.

FedEx declined to provide any additional statement regarding the WARN notice to The Commercial Appeal.

FedEx previously stated that the FedEx Supply Chain customer that occupies space at 4155 Quest Way and 5800 Challenge Drive in Memphis would be transitioning a significant portion of its business to a new third-party logistics provider in a new location and expect this transition to be complete in October 2025. FedEx plans to retain a portion of the business at this location.

FedEx did note that employees at this facility were notified in advance and many will be eligible for other roles within the company. “We are committed to supporting affected employees through job placement assistance, relocation aid, or severance, as applicable, including at other nearby FedEx facilities in the area.”

FedEx said these changes are unrelated to its reshuffling operations as part of the Network 2.0 initiative, its previously announced network transformation strategy.

In July, FedEx announced plans to lay off more than 480 employees as part of the restructuring.

Corey Davis is the Collierville and Germantown reporter with The Commercial Appeal. He can be reached at Corey.Davis@commercialappeal.com or 901-293-1610.

Mississippi girl to perform ‘Chickenhead’ with rapper Project Pat at 901 Day event

Jacob Wilt
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nine-year-old Alaynna Doty is like many girls her age. She dreads going to school, but still has fun in certain classes. Her mom, Lauren Durham, describes her as a “girly girl,” but she still loves activities like hunting and riding in their side-by-side through muddy trails. Likely her biggest passion is singing.

And on 901 Day, she’ll be singing with Memphis rapper Project Pat.

The Byhalia girl’s journey to performing on stage with one of her favorite rappers began in mid-July with a trip to one of Alaynna and her mom’s favorite restaurants, Crazy Cactus in Olive Branch.

“I’ve been singing my whole life, but doing karaoke (about a year).” Alaynna said. “It just looked fun, I’ll really be listening to songs in the car and I’ll just sing.”

Most of the time, Alaynna sings country music — Lainey Wilson and Jessie Murph are two of her favorite artists. But she decided to switch it up this time and sing “Chickenhead” by Project Pat.

“I used to sing it all the time in the car because mom would play it a lot,” she said. It’s one of Durham’s favorites, and that love transferred over to her daughter.

Durham captured her daughter nailing the lyrics with the entire restaurant hyping her up and singing along with

her. Her original video on TikTok currently sits at 5.4 million views and 1 million likes, and has been shared and reuploaded all across the internet — including by Project Pat.

The video even briefly boosted the 2001 song back into the charts, hitting No. 8 in a late-July R&B/Hip-Hop digital song sales chart, and boosting the song to 1 million listens, a 219% increase in on-demand U.S. streams.

Alaynna said her best friend told her about her newfound fame.

“She was freaking out,” Alaynna said. “I was really happy, I just couldn’t believe it. (My other friends) said, ‘I think I saw you on YouTube,’ and I was like, you

See 901 DAY, Page 5A



Alaynna Doty (left) takes a selfie with her mom Lauren Durham (right) before a trip to their favorite restaurant with karaoke, Crazy Cactus. PROVIDED BY LAUREN DURHAM

