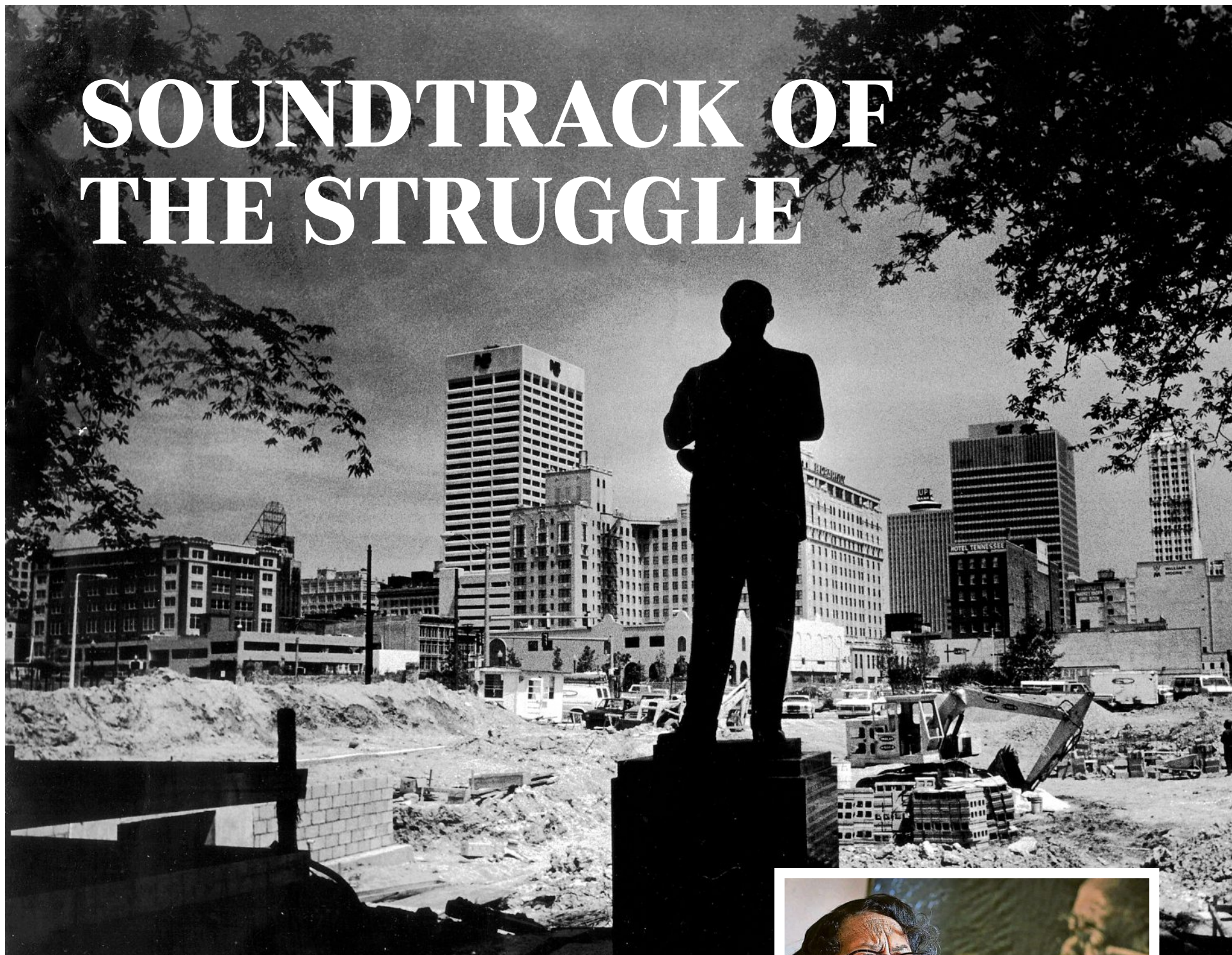




# THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL **weekend**

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 | COMMERCIALAPPEAL.COM

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## SOUNDTRACK OF THE STRUGGLE

### How Beale Street wrote the music behind the Civil Rights Movement

Jack Armstrong | Memphis Commercial Appeal | USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

**M**oments before he was fatally shot, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called out to jazz saxophonist Ben Branch from the balcony of the Lorraine Motel to request a song. • Today, Branch’s saxophone rests at the National Civil Rights Museum, much of which is contained in the Lorraine Motel. • Visitors can view the saxophone and listen to Branch’s rendition of “Precious Lord” in an exhibit titled “His Last Request.” • The brief moment is immortalized in Memphis history, and it demonstrates a long legacy of connection between the Civil Rights Movement and the blues and soul music of Memphis that helped shape it.

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Vivian Branch, 81, holds her husband Ben Branch’s saxophone. “This is the one that he had when he was going to play for Dr. King,” she said. JIM WEBER/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

**TOP:** The statue of W.C. Handy is surrounded by construction of a stage and seating area in Handy Park on Beale Street on May 10, 1982. THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL FILE

## Senate rejects measures to lower everyday prices

### GOP clears hurdle toward restoring DHS funds

Zachary Schermele | USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – In a flurry of rapid-fire votes, most Senate Republicans spurned a group of measures Democrats said would lower everyday costs for Americans, while separately moving

to approve billions of dollars for immigration enforcement.

In the early hours of April 23, Democrats tried unsuccessfully to attach a series of amendments to a federal budget blueprint. Their legislation, they said, would have ultimately brought down rates for gas, groceries, health care and school meals by creating reserve funds, blocking future price-hiking bills and reversing food stamp cuts.

GOP lawmakers accused their

counterparts of orchestrating a political stunt and said they were prolonging the record-long shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security.

The so-called “vote-a-rama” was one of the most significant, though futile, pieces of political leverage at Democrats’ disposal in a monthslong fight over immigration enforcement following the killings of two Minnesotans by federal officers in January.

Though the measures failed to move

forward, they represented some politically tough votes for members of the opposing party, especially during a consequential midterm election year that could swing control of Congress to Democrats in November.

Notably, two Republicans facing reelection in purple states – Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Dan Sullivan of Alaska – threw their support behind

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Volume 185 | No. 98  
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