



THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

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There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today’s puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.



Dale Sanders, photographed hiking in Shelby Forest on July 30, 2025, became the oldest person to hike the entire Appalachian Trail. Now 91, he finished on Aug. 31, 2026, almost a year after he started on Sept. 6, 2025.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS DAY/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Memphis adventurer Dale Sanders reclaims Appalachian Trail record

Jack Armstrong
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Dale Sanders, a Memphis-area man who goes by the alias “Greybeard,” became the oldest person to hike the entire Appalachian Trail on Aug. 31. Sanders, 91, summited Mount Katahdin in Maine around noon on the last day of August with five days to spare, almost exactly a year after he set out on his journey on Sept. 6, 2025. “I’m still saying ‘no way,’” Sanders said on Aug. 30 ahead of his final day on the trail. The Appalachian Trail is a nearly 2,200-mile public footpath that stretches from Springer Mountain in northern Georgia to Mount Katahdin in northern Maine.

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Dale Sanders hikes on a trail in Shelby Forest in the early-morning hours of July 30, 2025.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Memphis makes list of best food cities

Brian Strickland
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

According to a new U.S. News & World Report ranking, Memphis is the “8th Best Food City” in the U.S. A recent Travel + Leisure list ranked the Bluff City as the best road trip destination in the country, so it’s been a celebratory few weeks for the city. Among the criteria U.S. News used to determine its ranking were “innovative dining concepts, awarded chefs and restaurants, and culinary diversity.” New Orleans ranked first on the list, followed by New York City and Chicago.

Memphis — the only Tennessee city to make the list — also received a special mention for a city that is “Best for Barbecue and Southern Staples” along with Dallas and Austin. Here’s exactly what U.S. News wrote about Memphis: “Between its dry-rubbed pork ribs and chicken wings doused in its signature honey gold sauce, Memphis will leave you with sticky fingers and a full stomach. With the highest ratio of barbecue joints in the country, including iconic venues such as Elwood’s Shack and Cozy Corner, Tennessee’s second-largest city is arguably the king of the ‘cue. Once you’ve napped off your lunch, dig into crispy catfish and Southern sides at one of Memphis’ soul food restaurants, or satisfy a late-night hankering with a perfectly glazed treat from Gibson’s Donuts.” Of course Memphis’ food culture is deeply rooted in barbecue, U.S. News noted, a local tradition that has helped put the city on the culinary map. While the city offers restaurants serving cuisines from around the world, the national news source reported, barbecue remains the city’s signature fare, with dozens of long-time and newer spots putting their own spin on the craft. It listed pork as the star, whether it’s ribs cooked low and slow or pulled pork piled onto a bun. Recipes vary from one restaurant to the next, with

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State could cover 100% of Imagination Library costs

Peter Burditt
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Tennessee could soon pick up the full cost of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, a move lawmakers say would preserve her literacy legacy for future generations. House Speaker Cameron Sexton, R-Crossville, and Senate Finance Chair Bo Watson, R-Hixson, announced the proposal Sept. 1, a week after Parton’s

death. If approved through the state budget process, Tennessee would begin covering costs currently paid by participating counties starting in 2027. “Dolly Parton’s commitment to early childhood reading has inspired millions in Tennessee. We are honoring her legacy by preserving the Imagination Library,” Sexton wrote in a social media post. “Today, Senator Bo Watson (TN-11) and I announced for the state to fund

100% of the Imagination library. This follows investing an additional \$4.5 billion in state dollars in k-12, and \$200 million in TN Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps which has lead TN to be ranked 18th in k-12 education and 4th for reading proficiency growth,” he continued. The proposal is not yet approved and must still go through the state budget process before it takes effect. If approved, the state would absorb the

Imagination Library’s Tennessee costs starting in 2027. What is Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library? Founded in Parton’s home county, Sevier County, in 1995 as a tribute to her illiterate father, the “I Will Always Love You” singer started the literary effort to See LIBRARY, Page 3A

