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# Ogles creates fund to cover \$120K in legal fees

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U.S. Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Columbia, has incurred more than \$120,000 in legal and consulting fees related to investigations into reporting errors in his campaign finance reports, documents obtained by The Tennessean show.

The expenses were reported in a fund set up by Ogles to receive donations to help pay for those legal expenses. The records, which are largely inaccessible to the public, show that through June 30, Ogles ran up \$117,598.75 in legal fees at four different Washington, D.C. law firms to handle the investigations. The records also report Ogles incurring \$3,000 for consulting at Annapolis,

Maryland, consulting group GOP Compliance. During that time frame, he received no donations to his fund aside from a \$100 donation to open the account, the records show. The vast majority of Ogles’ legal bills, \$88,290, are to the Earth and Water  
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**Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Tennessee, talks with House Speaker Mike Johnson, right, on Jan. 3 as they arrive for the first day of Congress at the U.S. Capitol.** WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES



# SOUND of the future

Belmont unveils first phase of \$58M music business school expansion

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Belmont University’s Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business opened Aug. 12 the first of two phases of its \$58 million Music Row expansion. The renovation includes 17,000 square feet of song-writing rooms, listening spaces, live sound classrooms and student lounges at the former Buddy Lee Attractions/Capitol Records building at 38 Music Square East. The project was funded with a lead gift from philanthropist and music industry icon Mike Curb and the Mike Curb Foundation. The second phase will be a 71,900-square-foot facility built behind Belmont’s

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**Charcoal drawing portraits of songwriters are displayed at Curb College on Music Row Aug. 11 in Nashville. Mike Curb donated \$58 million to expand Belmont University’s College of Entertainment and Music Business to Music Row.**

**TOP: Brittany Schaffer, dean of the Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business at Belmont University, explains how the listening room will be used at Curb College on Music Row in Nashville. PHOTOS BY MARK ZALESKI/THE TENNESSEAN**

# Teacher bonuses tied to voucher program

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Teacher bonuses tied to Tennessee’s controversial voucher program expansion have begun to roll out statewide. However, some teachers have seen roughly 35% in taxes and deductions taken out of their bonuses. Lawmakers included one-time bonuses of \$2,000 for teachers as part of the Education Freedom Act passed during a special legislative session in January. Local school boards were required to adopt a resolution affirming their participation in the program to ensure teachers would receive the bonuses. For years, Gov. Bill Lee pushed to expand taxpayer-funded school vouchers to help families pay for private K-12 school tuition. Public school boards statewide have been among the most vocal opponents of vouchers, citing concerns about hampering funding, enrollment and other resources for public schools. State Sen. Heidi Campbell of Nashville is among state Democrats who have staunchly opposed vouchers. In an Aug. 6 Facebook post, she shared a note from a Nashville teacher who expressed shock over only receiving a \$1,329 bonus after taxes and deductions applied. “Tennessee just voluntarily gave a \$1.6B kickback to corporations, but

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