



Milan wins first state title in over 2 decades

SPORTS, 1B

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Elvis to GloRilla

Exploring Memphis' role in shaping America's music

Bob Mehr
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, it's also an opportunity to reflect on Memphis' part in that story. Perhaps no city — and certainly no city of its size — has made as much of an impact on American music and culture as Memphis.

Memphis has been many things: the birthplace of the blues, ground zero for the revolution of rock 'n' roll, and the city that perfected soul. It's given the world the Father of the Blues, the King of

the Blues and the King of Rock 'n' Roll, saw the bright light of Sun Records, the soulful sounds of Stax Records and Hi Records, the hitmaking machine of American Sound Studios, helped define Southern Rap and so much more.

In short, the Bluff City has produced more iconic musical figures, more significant records and more zeitgeist-shifting movements than should be possible. Here's a look at just some of the Memphis artists, producers, labels and scenes that have helped soundtrack the American experience.

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GloRilla performs during her inaugural Glo Bash concert at FedExForum in Memphis on July 25, 2025.

CHRIS DAY/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

TOP: Elvis Presley is reflected in the roof of his automobile as he looks into the camera after attending a luncheon Jan. 16, 1971, at what was then the Holiday Inn Rivermont. The luncheon was part of the festivities surrounding his being named one of the Jaycees of America's Ten Outstanding Young Men in America.

DAVE DARNELL / THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL



Smoke rises from the villages of al-Qlailah and al-Mansouri following Israeli air strikes in southern Lebanon on May 25.

KAWNAT HAJU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Pressure mounts as talks resume

Trump: Negotiations with Iran 'proceeding nicely'

Eduardo Cuevas, Zac Anderson, Aysha Bagchi, Francesca Chambers and Kim Hjelmgard

USA TODAY

President Donald Trump on May 25 faced mounting pressure to finalize a peace deal with Iran after lowering expectations that a deal was near.

Nearly three months since the start of the war, Trump is bound by expectations to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which has sent oil prices skyrocketing due to its closure, while also pushing to remove Iran's enriched uranium as part of the country's nuclear program.

In a Truth Social post, Trump said negotiations with Iran were "proceeding nicely" but also threatened renewed warfare if no deal is struck.

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Third grade TCAP reading scores out

Clock ticking to see if students will advance

Rachel Wegner
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

The May 18 release of reading scores for Tennessee third graders set off a fast-moving timeline to determine if tens of thousands of public school students will be held back or not.

Tennessee's third grade reading and retention law requires students to earn a passing score on the English language arts section of the annual standardized state test to move on to fourth grade. The Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program, or TCAP, tests wrapped up in early May statewide.

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