Rates are down, and the market's heating up

Whether you're buying or selling a home, this is the time to act. Don't miss out.

Know your home's value. Then make your move.
Scan this code for a free valuation and the insight you need to plan your next step.

Discover more at
addressUSA.com

addressUSA

Knoxville NEWS SENTINEL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 | KNOXNEWS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

ICE arrests worker lawfully in U.S.

Maryville HS graduate was taken at work site

Tyler Whetstone
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Attorneys for a Maryville man arrested at his job site by U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement officers have filed a habeas corpus petition challenging his incarceration, which they say is unlawful.

Diego Hernandez Garcia was arrested Dec. 11 despite having been granted deferred action allowing him to remain in the United States with his immigration status to be determined at a future date, attorney Rachel Bonano said.

ICE's website makes clear that residents with deferred action are considered lawfully present in the U.S.: "An individual who has received deferred action is authorized by DHS to be in the United States for the duration of the deferred action period."

The El Salvador native has an order of removal, Bonano said, from when he was 14, but in the interim was granted Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. He later received deferred action to stay through May 12, 2026.

The juvenile status is typically given to minors who have been abused, abandoned or neglected by a parent, according to ICE's website. Once granted, recipients are eligible for a permanent resident card, commonly called a green card, though that process is not immediate.

Hernandez Garcia, 24, was arrested while working at a Hardin Valley construction site. He was not charged with a crime.

"He is a Maryville High School graduate. No criminal record. A member of a local church. Event after explaining all of this, ICE refused to release him," Bonano said in a text.

See ICE ARREST, Page 4A

Fall grads carrying Vol spirit to new careers

More than 2,000 students graduated from the University of Tennessee on Dec. 12 as the fall semester concludes. CAITIE MCMEKIN/NEWS SENTINEL

Meet three of nearly 2,100 UT graduates

Keenan Thomas Knoxville News Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

This week marks the final chapter for nearly 2,100 University of Tennessee at Knoxville students, and graduates walk away ready to make a difference in Tennessee and beyond.

Before they crossed the stage Dec. 12, Knox News caught up with a handful of new UT graduates who have big plans as they step into their careers: caring for expecting mothers through high-risk pregnancies, launching a nonprofit and combining military service with technical knowledge to continue pursuing excellence.

See GRADUATES, Page 3A

Photo gallery

See images from the University of Tennessee's 2025 fall graduation ceremony

SEC stars will visit Neyland in 2026

Kiffin, Manning among big names Vols to host

Adam Sparks
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

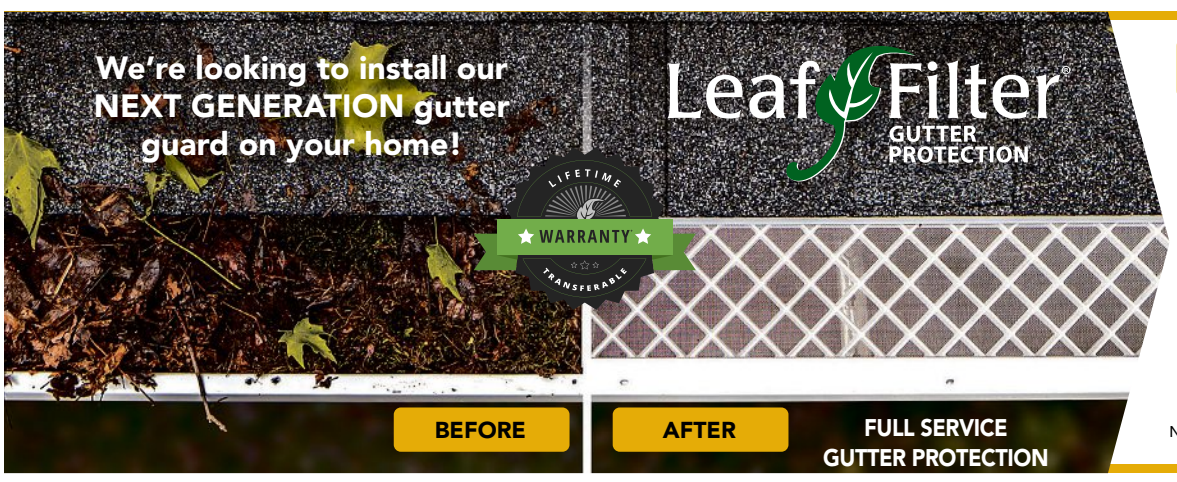
Tennessee football will host Lane Kiffin, Alex Golesh and possibly Arch Manning at Neyland Stadium in the 2026 season.

UT's opponents for the next four seasons were previously announced. On Dec. 11, the SEC released the dates of every conference game, providing the full picture of the 2026 schedule.

Game times and television designations will be announced later.

See SCHEDULE, Page 4A

Fireworks go off over Neyland Stadium as Tennessee runs through the "T" before an SEC game against Mississippi State in Knoxville on Nov. 9, 2024.
BRIANNA PACIORKA/NEWS SENTINEL



CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! **865-500-3798**

15% OFF Your Entire Purchase* + **10% OFF** Seniors + Military

Expires: 12/31/2025

++ We offer financing that fits your budget![1]

www.LeafFilter.com/grop | Promo: 364

+ See Representative for full warranty details. *One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. 1Subject to credit approval. Call for details AR 366920925, AZ ROC 344027, CA 1035795, CT HIC.0671520, DC 420223000087, FL CBC056678, IA C127230, ID RCE-51604, LA 559544, MA 213292, MD MHIC111225, MI 262300331, 262300330, 262300329, 262300328, 262300318, 262300173, MN IR810524, MT 266192, ND 47304, NE 50145-24, NJ 13VH13285000, NM 408693, NV 86990, OR 218294, PA PA179643, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VA 2705169445, VT 174.0000871, WA LEAFFLH763PG, WI No. 537-DCFRR, WV WV056912.

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper.
Enjoy every page by going to knoxnews.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device.
You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!

Volume 100 | No. 22
Subscribe 844-900-7097
©2025 $3.49