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THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026 | THELEAFCHRONICLE.COM | CLARKSVILLE, TENN. PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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.

ELECTION 2026

Trump visits to ‘reward’ voters



President Donald Trump makes his entrance Oct. 10 during a rally at F&M Bank Arena in Clarksville. He predicted there would be an economic depression if Democrats win the midterm elections. PHOTOS BY DENNY SIMMONS/THE TENNESSEAN

Implores Tennesseans to back GOP as midterms approach

Vivian Jones
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

CLARKSVILLE – Days before early voting begins in the 2026 midterms – where as many as three U.S. House seats in GOP-favored districts could be in play – President Donald Trump held a rare midterm rally in Clarksville on Saturday, Oct. 10 to “reward” his base in Tennessee and defend his war in Iran and efforts to lower crime and boost the U.S. economy.

Light rain was drizzling outside when Trump walked on stage at F&M Bank Arena about 3:20 p.m. — 50 minutes behind schedule — after an introduction by singer-songwriter Kid Rock.

“Ladies and gentlemen of Tennessee, the golden age of America is upon us, but you must get out and vote. You have to vote Republican,” Trump said, with all Republicans on the ballot for federal office alongside him. “These are unbelievable people. You have to vote for them.

See **TRUMP**, Page 3A



Guests gather to pray during the rally for Republicans on Oct. 10 at F&M Bank Arena in Clarksville.

“Ladies and gentlemen of Tennessee, the golden age of America is upon us, but you must get out and vote.”

President Donald Trump During his Clarksville rally

Tennessee wanted execution advice four years ago

Evan Mealins
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

As former U.S. Attorney Ed Stanton begins a new investigation into Tennessee executions, a review of his 2022 report on Tennessee’s capital punishment indicates the state has failed to fully follow his advice before.

Unprecedented scrutiny is on the Tennessee Department of Correction, its execution protocol and how it attempts to carry out death sentences after the failed execution of Christa Pike on Sept. 30. Pike survived after being administered two rounds of lethal injection drugs.

On Oct. 3, Gov. Bill Lee announced the Tennessee attorney general’s office had retained Stanton to perform an outside review of the failed execution of Pike. Lee said the review will focus on whether the department followed its lethal injection protocol, and whether any updates are needed to ensure the protocol is lawful and effective.

More News

Christa Pike is released, **6A**

This is Stanton’s second probe into Tennessee’s execution problems in five years.

This ongoing review could prompt changes to Tennessee’s execution protocol, just like Stanton’s 2022 review did.

TDOC declined to comment for this story.

What led to Stanton’s 2022 review

Roughly one hour before the state was set to execute Oscar Franklin Smith by lethal injection in May 2022, Lee stopped it. He paused executions in the state and ordered a third-party investigation over issues with the testing of the drugs used in Tennessee’s lethal injection protocol.

He chose Stanton, who was lead federal prosecutor in West Tennessee from 2010-2017, to lead the review.

Stanton’s findings, released in a December 2022 report, were damning: The Tennessee Department of Correction had failed to follow its lethal injection protocol since it was introduced in 2018. Specifically, three drugs used in Tennessee’s lethal injection protocol

See **EXECUTION**, Page 6A

Kennedy launches new push on vaccine injuries

Ahmed Aboulenein
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. last week launched an agencywide effort to study and document any health problems reported after vaccination, the Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services said on Oct. 8.

The initiative is the latest step by Kennedy, who spent years questioning vaccine safety and founded an anti-vaccine group before taking office, to reshape federal immunization policy.

The American Academy of Pediatrics

says childhood vaccines are studied in placebo-controlled and comparison-group trials and monitored for safety after approval.

The federal Vaccine Injury Table lists 14 compensable injuries across 16 vaccine types under the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, a no-fault sys-

tem in which claimants file against the government, not vaccine makers. Since 1988, it has awarded roughly \$5 billion across about 12,300 injury and death claims.

The new moves, which appear to be

See **VACCINE**, Page 5A

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Volume 138 | No. 239
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