



Hollywood legend Robert Redford dies

INSIDE, 4A

THE TENNESSEAN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 | TENNESSEAN.COM



PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Nicole Downs visits The Gentle Barn in Christiana in 2024 for Cow Hug Therapy. The nonprofit said its Tennessee location is in serious jeopardy of closing. PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE AMADOR/THE TENNESSEAN

NEEDING A HELPING HAND

The Gentle Barn animal rescue seeks \$2M in donations to stay open

Kelly Puente Nashville Tennessean | USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The Gentle Barn, a nationally recognized nonprofit that rescues abused and neglected farm animals, says it needs \$2 million by the end of September or it will be forced to close its Tennessee location. The organization says it will have to relocate most of its 60 animals from its Rutherford County farm to its main location in Santa Clarita, California, if it can't raise enough funds.

But the plan had raised red flags with many former staff and volunteers who have questioned why the nonprofit needs such a large amount of funds in a short time. They say they're also concerned over

the possible stress on the animals, including elderly cows, pigs and chickens, if they're shipped across the country.

The nonprofit quickly closed its third location outside of St. Louis in October 2024 due to lack of funds. Many of those animals were moved to Tennessee.

At the time of the Missouri closure, the organization in a social media post said the Tennessee and California locations were both "thriving."

See **NONPROFIT**, Page 8A

The nonprofit serves as both therapy for humans and a rehabilitation farm for abused and neglected animals, such as Lolli the goat, who lost the use of her back legs, due to frostbite injuries when she was born in 2018.



Predators elaborate on vision for arena

Team also ups price tag in latest presentation

Alex Daugherty
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The Nashville Predators presented their plans for \$750 million in upgrades to Bridgestone Arena — an increase from their original \$650 million figure presented in the spring — to the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 16.

Nashville Predators chief strategy officer Kyle Clayton, speaking to the chamber's economic development council at the arena, revealed new renderings of upcoming upgrades and details such as expanded concourses and the "largest rooftop bar in Nashville."

"We want the energy from Broadway to come inside and for the energy at our events to be outside," Clayton said. "The building was designed to be introverted, to keep everything inside. We want to flip that."

As previewed in spring 2025, when Predators majority owner Bill Haslam detailed his plans to make a bid for a

See **ARENA**, Page 17A

Trump and Lee announce feds' anti-crime plan for Memphis

Vivian Jones
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

President Donald Trump announced new federal crimefighting resources headed to Memphis with the creation of a new law enforcement task force during a ceremony at the Oval Office alongside Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee on Monday.

Trump signed a presidential memorandum on Sept. 15 creating the "Memphis SAFE Task Force," a multi-agency effort including the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, the

See **MEMPHIS**, Page 14A

By Travelers. For Travelers.

For reservations, call 615.933.3310 or see your Travel Professional and ask for Collette.

gocollette.com

*Restrictions apply. Visit gocollette.com for details. CST No. 2006766-20, UBI No. 601-220-855, Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST35613

SAVE UP TO **\$1500***

PER COUPLE

BOOK BIG. SAVE BIGGER.

Use Code **HELLO2026** | Sale Valid **8/25 – 9/26**

