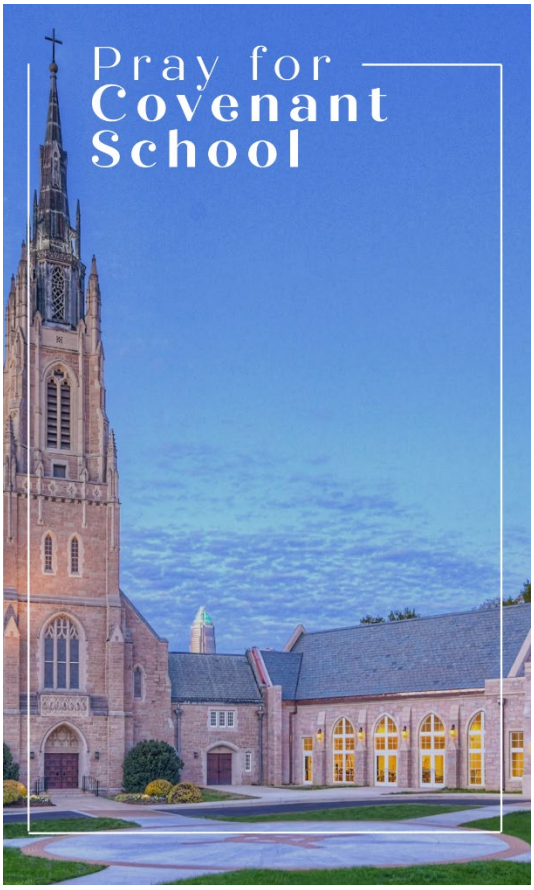
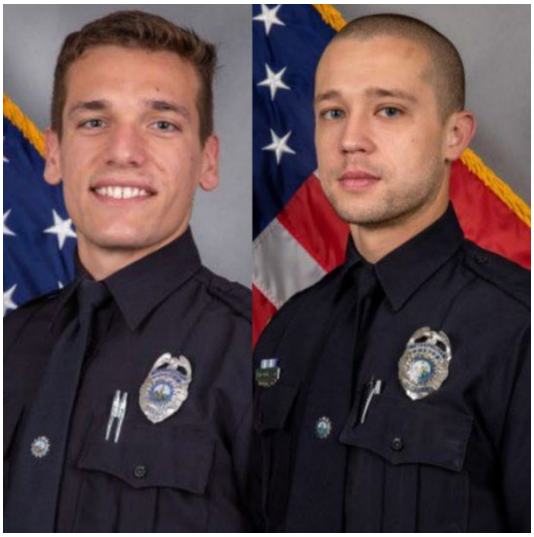
What's New on the Hill



Our hearts grieve with the families of the victims and the Nashville community over the tragic loss of life at Covenant School. Like many other parents, we have felt a sense of disbelief and helplessness related to Monday's tragedy.

For all of the families that are hurting, we express our deepest condolences and sympathy to you; the students, staff, families, and entire Covenant School community. While we cannot directly feel the pain and heartbreak you must be experiencing, we empathize greatly and stand with you during this unimaginable time.

Members of the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department ended the terror in a matter of minutes. We want to express our utmost gratitude and appreciation to the heroic officers who selflessly risked their lives to protect the students and staff.



Officers Rex Engelbert, a 4-year veteran, and Michael Collazo, a 9-year veteran did not hesitate to enter the school and take down the shooting suspect. God bless these heroes of MNPD!

One way to help is by donating to organizations such as the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, who are actively providing aid and resources to the survivors and their families. By donating through the link, you can help support the school and community as they begin to heal and rebuild. Every contribution, no matter how small, can make a significant difference in offer support to those effected.

Response to the Shooting

- **McNally sends school security recommendations to governor following shooting.**
  Senate Speaker Randy McNally is outlining his recommendations for improving school safety in a letter to Gov. Bill Lee following the fatal shooting at the the Covenant School in Nashville this week: Securing windows and glass in school buildings, magnetic locks on doors, centralized and modernized camera systems, and armed guards. Read More
- After the shooting that occurred on Monday, Speaker Cameron Sexton and Lt. Governor Randy McNally

postponed the discussion of bills scheduled for the evening's floor sessions and committees delayed debates on gun law bills, including one that would permit carrying rifles in public without a permit, following the Monday shooting.

- Lawmakers are thinking about making the session longer than April's end to tackle issues related to enhancing safety at public and private schools, and restricting access to firearms for individuals with severe mental health issues. The governor's office is scheduled to present Lee's revised budget plans in the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday, but implementing new policies takes more time than allocating funds.

- **Taking The First Step Together: Democrats and Republicans Finding Common Ground in Addressing Gun Reform Following Monday's Shooting.**
  Former Tennessee governors, Republican Bill Haslam and Democrat Phil Bredesen, have joined forces to offer ideas for implementing Senator Baker's wisdom in changemaking, with the goal of working collaboratively to find solutions that better protect children and schools in the wake of the tragedy. Bill Haslam and Phil Bredesen Guest Columnists. Read More
- Gov. Bill Lee: What happened at The Covenant School

yesterday was a tragedy beyond comprehension. I want to speak directly to Tennesseans about the way forward. Watch here

On Thursday, the the TN General Assembly gave the final approval to pass Governor Bill Lee's Transportation Modernization Act, worth $3.3 billion to prepare rural & urban Tennessee for continued growth

The bill aims to develop a new strategy and to accommodate the state's record growth. This landmark bill will prioritize infrastructure projects, including repairing roadways and bridges, providing funding for public transit and expanding access to broadband, and exploring optional choice lanes for congested interstates. The bill's passage is a significant step in modernizing Tennessee's transportation infrastructure, and it is expected to create new job opportunities while also improving the state's communities.

PRESS RELEASE

Redistricting Maps Legal Challenge Set to Go to Trial

After being denied motions for summary judgment by both the Democratic plaintiffs and the state attorney general's office, a legal challenge of the new state legislative maps is set to go to trial on April 17.

The lawsuit alleges that Republican lawmakers violated the Tennessee Constitution and case law by dividing 30 counties while developing new House districts, and the Senate disregarded a consecutive numbering rule for seats in Nashville. The judges took note of the state attorney general's inducements, including a promotion for one member to a generalship in the National Guard if he voted for the bill, although Casada, the former speaker of the House, denied making any such deals.

In the News

What we know about Tennessee's gun laws after Nashville shooting

Over the last few years, gun laws in Tennessee have become less strict after lawmakers approved legislation that removed requirements for permits and background checks.

abcnews.go.com - March 28, 2023

Emotions, tempers flare at Tennessee Capitol hours after Nashville school shooting

Emotions and tempers flared Monday night inside the Tennessee Capitol, just miles from the Nashville private school where three children and three staff members were slain in one of the deadliest school shootings in the state's history.

Tennessean.com - March 27, 2023

Tennessee Democrats want tighter gun policy after Covenant School shooting; Republicans say don't politicize it

After Monday's mass shooting at Covenant School, Tennessee Democrats are calling on their Republican counterparts to limit access to guns. But Republicans do not want to talk about it.

Wpln.org - March 27, 2023

Crump to step down to take new post as executive director of Tennessee District Attorney Generals Conference

Tenth Judicial District Attorney General Stephen Crump will step down in July for a job as executive director of the Tennessee District Attorney Generals Conference in Nashville.

"My last day in the DA's office will be July 15, and my first day as executive director will be July 16," Crump, 56, said Monday in a phone interview.

timesfreepress.com - March 28, 2023

Banning Noncompete Contracts for Medical Staff Riles Hospitals

Dr. Jacqui O'Kane took a job with a hospital in southern Georgia in 2020, as the lone doctor in a primary care clinic in a small town that's a medically underserved area. She soon attracted nearly 3,000 patients.

nashvillemedicalnews.com - March 27, 2023

Exclusive: Why small steps are first steps for Democrats, Republicans on gun reform | Opinion

Democrats and Republicans may be at an impasse on big picture gun law reform and assault rifles, but it doesn't mean progress can't be made. Red flag laws, personal responsibility good places to start.

tennessean.com - March 30, 2023

Bullhorn in hand, freshmen lawmakers could face sanctions after disrupting Tennessee House floor session

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WTVF) — Gun legislation wasn't technically on the calendar of the Tennessee General Assembly Thursday, but given the presence of some demonstrators and the heavy hearts of lawmakers, the topic definitely came up. Which also meant, the temperature at the statehouse did too.

newschannel5.com - March 30, 2023

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