

Sports & Entertainment

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Grizzlies announce their big four-state Grizzlies Caravan Presented by Kroger Co



-- Eight Stops Included on the Four-State Route --

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The Memphis Grizzlies are tipping off the 2025-26 NBA season with a tour of the Mid-South by the Memphis Grizzlies Caravan, presented by Kroger.

For full schedule of events, visit grizzlies.com/caravan.

The Memphis Grizzlies Caravan will tour the Mid-South starting Friday, Aug. 1, in Huntsville, Ala. The Huntsville stop will feature a free Junior Grizzlies Basketball Clinic, presented by OrthoSouth, as well as a night out at the ballpark. The caravan will continue throughout September with seven additional regional stops in Little Rock, Ark., Searcy, Ark., Tupelo, Miss., Murray, Ky., Jackson, Tenn., and Nashville, Tenn. Fans along the caravan route can also pop-in at select Kroger locations for special perks and surprises.

As part of the Grizzlies Caravan, the team is offering free **Junior Grizzlies Basketball Clinics, presented by OrthoSouth**, at each caravan stop, giving young athletes ages 6-14 the chance to receive training from

the Junior Grizzlies Basketball Staff. Each clinic will offer skills instruction, contests, games and opportunities to win special prizes. Boys and girls interested in attending one of the Junior Grizzlies Basketball Clinics must register at Grizzlies.com/Caravan and are encouraged to register early as space is limited. Each clinic participant will receive a Grizzlies shirt or jersey, while supplies last.

In addition, the Grizzlies will offer fans prizes at each regional stop, including the opportunity to win a “Weekend in Memphis Getaway Package” for two. The package includes a two-night hotel stay at a downtown hotel in close proximity to FedExForum, tickets to a Grizzlies game, Grizzlies swag and passes to local Memphis attractions. Fans can learn more about Memphis, the home of the blues, soul and rock ‘n’ roll at memphistravel.com.

Fans are encouraged to check Grizzlies.com/Caravan for a full list of events, both new and current, and for up-to-date information on the 2025 Grizzlies Caravan.

Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2025-26 Season Tickets can do so now by going online to grizzlies.com/tickets. For more information on the Grizzlies, visit grizzlies.com, ‘like’ Memphis Grizzlies on Facebook or follow @memgrizz on Twitter/X and Instagram.

Statement from Chief Pentagon Spokesperson Sean Parnell on Medical Conditions to Disqualify Accession into the Military

JULY 22, 2025 -To ensure the readiness and high standards of the America's fighting force, the Secretary of Defense issued updated guidance on medical waiver eligibility for men and women seeking to join the U.S. military. Under this guidance, some medical conditions may now not be waived, and others may now only be waived by the Secretary of a Military Department.

The full details of the guidance may be found in a new memorandum titled, "Medical Conditions Disqualifying for Accession into

the Military." The memo directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) and the Secretaries of the Military Departments to update applicable regulations to reflect these waiver restrictions. USD(P&R) will regularly assess these categories and issue updated guidance as appropriate. The Department remains committed to mission success by ensuring that the young Americans who serve are physically and mentally capable of performing their duties in the harshest conditions.

Soccer head coach Mulrooney unveils Tigers 2025 fall slate; Regular season opens Aug. 21

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Memphis men’s soccer head coach Richard Mulrooney announced the official fall 2025 schedule, Tuesday morning.

“I like how our schedule came together with balance,” said Mulrooney. “The idea is to play teams in nonconference to prepare you for conference play and I think we did that in adding Jacksonville and Florida Gulf Coast to prepare for the teams from Florida, along with games that will help our RPI to keep us in the hunt for an at-large bid. It’s a mixture of home and away but at the end of the day, you have to take care of business and put yourself in the best position overall and in the conference.”

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Due to the construction of the new Liza Wellford Fletcher Stadium, temporary seating will be available in the form of bleachers placed on the track. Fans are also encouraged to bring their own seating for home matches.

After winning its first regular season conference title since

2004 and hosting the semifinals and final of the American Conference Tournament, Memphis looks to build with a schedule that features four teams that reached the NCAA tournament during the 2024 season. The 15-match regular season slate features six home contests at the Billy J. Murphy Track and Soc-

cer Complex, with nine games on the road.

Memphis’ preseason slate begins with the Blue and Gray intrasquad scrimmage on Aug. 5, which is open to the public. The month continues with a Saturday evening match against Pearl River Community College on Aug. 9. That following Monday on Aug. 11, the Tigers will have their second preseason contest against Central Arkansas, an opponent who Memphis faced in the regular season in 2024. The final match of the preseason will be against Southern Indiana on Aug. 16. All three preseason contests will be played at home.

The regular season opens at Lipscomb on Aug. 21, where Memphis looks to avenge a narrow 2-1 loss last season. Memphis’ regular season home opener is set for Aug. 24 against Belmont in a series where the Tigers have won the last four matchups. Senior Night will take place on Aug. 28 when Memphis plays host to Mercer. The month of August comes to a close when the Tigers

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Memphis Athletics celebrates a record-breaking fundraising year, securing \$30 mil-plus in new gifts

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis athletics department is excited to announce a record-setting year of philanthropic fundraising, securing \$32.03 million in over 6,000 new gifts and commitments during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This milestone reflects the continued generosity of alumni, fans and supporters who recognize the important role Tiger Athletics plays - not only on campus and in the Memphis community, but also within the evolving landscape of college athletics.

The historic fundraising year shattered the last year's record of \$30.74 million and was highlighted by a \$10 million gift from the late Fred Smith and the Smith family. The donation by the Smith Family was the first of five installments towards the Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium renovation.

Memphis Athletics also received a seven Principal Gifts (pledges of \$1 million or more) and 22 Leadership Gifts (6 pledges of \$500,000 or more and 16 pledges of \$100,000 or more) during the 2024-25 fiscal year. These game-changing investments continue to help position Memphis among the top-performing Group of Six institutions in annual fundraising success.

"Breaking this fundraising record is a reflection of the unwavering passion and commitment of our fans, alumni, and the Memphis community," Senior Vice President and Director of Athletics Ed Scott Ph.D. said. The generosity of our donor base fuels our student-athletes' success on and off the field and positions our program for a bold and competitive future. We are incredibly grateful for the belief in our vision and the momentum it creates

for what's next."

In addition, nearly \$210 million has been secured in support of two major facility initiatives - the Liza Wellford Fletcher Capital Campaign and the Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium Campaign. Beyond capital projects, Memphis Athletics supporters also gave generously to all 19 varsity sports programs, as well as to the department's Cheer, Dance and Pom squads, reflecting a comprehensive commitment to the success of Memphis student-athletes across the board.

The 2024-25 fiscal year marked a renewed emphasis on estate and planned giving, underscored by a \$7 million commitment from long-time supporters Gary and Barbara Bryant - their second major gift in the last decade. Contributions like these reflect

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Meet some of BIHMST Sports Correspondents



William M. Larsha, Jr.



Ashley Braun Gendek

BIHMST Travelers, join correspondents William M. Larsha, Jr. and Ashley Braun Gendek in their sports coverage of University of Memphis Tigers, Memphis Grizzlies, TN Titans, Southern Heritage Classic, FedEx St. Jude Championship, Memphis Showboats, UFL, NFL, Soccer and more on The Mid-South Tribune and the Black Information Highway at blackinformationhighway.com *Welcome, Travelers!*

- STOP
- SAF Defeats Motion to Dismiss CRPA v. LASD
Six Gun-Rights Organizations File Lawsuit ...*see articles on sports-Military 2*

- Randy Travis Visits Grammy Museum Mississippi
see sports page 3

- New Food and Beverage Partners Torchy's Tacos, Smackers, and Coca-Cola at FedEx St. Jude Championship
see sports page 4

- "Ease on Downtown" Dine Around Themed Deals Inspired by "The Wiz"
see sports-Ent. 4

- Marsai Martin Serves as Creative Ambassador of HBCU First LOOK Film Festival
see sports-Ent. 5

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