-Sports-

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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

UofM student-athletes graduate with honors

MEMPHIS, Tenn. December 15,2024 - Twenty-eight University of Memphis student-athletes participated in the fall commencement ceremonies at FedExForum on Sunday, with 15 Tigers graduating with honors distinction. The University held two ceremonies for their fall graduates, one at noon and one at 4 p.m. at the home of the Memphis men's basketball team. In addition, a graduation reception was held for the student-athletes on Friday to recognize their success and accomplishment.

The 28 student-athletes represented eight different sport programs. Degrees conferred included 23 undergraduate degrees and five master's degrees or certificates in the fields of health sciences, marketing, business administration, psychology, and international business, among others.

"The entire athletic department would like to congratulate our fall graduates on their monumental achievement," University of Memphis Senior Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Ed Scott, Ph.D. said. "Graduating student-athletes is a primary goal of our mission as a department and we are extremely proud of our student-athletes who have thrived under the guidance of our support systems, coaches and academic staff. We are excited to see what our out-

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Tigers defeat W. Virginia in the Scooter's Coffee Frisco Bowl for 11th win

FRISCO, Texas, December 17, 2024 – The No. 25 University of Memphis football team earned its 11th win of the season, defeating the West Virginia Mountaineers, 42-37, in the Scooter's Coffee Frisco Bowl Tuesday night at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas.

The Tigers end the year 11-2 overall, finishing with the second-most wins in a season in program history and notching 11-plus victories for just the second time in 109 years of Tiger Football. Ryan Silverfield is the only head coach in program history with five bowl titles.

Tiger quarterback Seth Henigan was named the Scooter's Coffee Frisco Bowl Offensive MVP after completing 18-of-26 passes for 294 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for 61 yards on eight carries against the Mountaineers (6-7) to combine for 355 total yards in his 50th and final start in a Memphis uniform.

In the win, Henigan eclipsed 14,000 career passing yards, moving him to No. 13 in NCAA history to conclude his career with 14,266 yards. In addition, Henigan threw the 104th touchdown pass of his career and finishes tied with Houston's Clayton Tune for The American's career record.

Wide receiver Demeer Blankumsee led the Tigers with 120 yards and a touchdown on four catches, while Roc Taylor hauled in five balls for 116 yards.

As a team, the Tigers rushed for 180 yards and three scores on 30 carries. Mario Anderson Jr. paced the backfield with 70 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries. Greg Desrosiers Jr. toted the rock just twice but made them count with a 48-yard touchdown scamper. Brandon Thomas also scored in the fourth quarter to give him 35 for his Memphis career (top five all time).

Linebacker Chandler Martin was all over the field Tuesday night, racking up a Memphis career-high 17 tackles, including seven solo stops, tying Shareef White's record for most total tackles in Memphis bowl history (17 vs. Auburn in 2015) while earning Scooter's Coffee Frisco Bowl Defensive MVP. Elijah Herring recorded a season high-tying 10 tackles and grabbed an interception in the final seconds to help seal the win for Memphis.

NSSF denounces coordinated state effort to bring 'lawfare' against firearm manufacturer

From The Tactical Wire

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NSSF, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, denounces the coordinated "lawfare" effort by Democratic state attorneys general to abuse the judicial system through frivolous claims against a firearm manufacturer. New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin, joined by Minnesota's Attorney General Keith Ellison along with 13 other states and the District of Columbia, are coordinating and repeating the unfounded claims against GLOCK, Inc., filed by the City of Chicago, which wrongfully colluded with the Biden-Harris White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and the gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety. That improper collusion is currently under investigation by the U.S. House of Representatives Oversight and Government Accountability Committee.

> *"This is clearly an abuse of the courts to attempt to circumvent the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA)," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. "Attorneys General Platkin and Ellison, along with the other colluding states, are attempting to extend the frivolous claims that have no foundation in law and abuse taxpayer dollars to advance an unconstitutional gun..."*

"This is clearly an abuse of the courts to attempt to circumvent the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA)," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. "Attorneys General Platkin and Ellison, along with the other colluding states, are attempting to extend the frivolous claims that have no foundation in law and abuse taxpayer dollars to advance an unconstitutional gun control agenda. These claims are a devious manipulation of the courts by attempting to force a gun control agenda through judicial fiat and are contrary to the will of lawmakers and are expressly prohibited by federal law. This is the very definition of 'lawfare' and should be rejected by the courts."

NSSF previously applauded the House Oversight and Government Accountability Committee for investigating allegations that The White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention collaborated with the antigun billionaire Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety and the City of Chicago to target GLOCK, Inc., with a frivolous lawsuit, alleging the company is responsible for

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The NFL puts forth $800,000+ in grant funds for four new Inspire Change partners to make impact

A total of $800,000 in grant funds will be allocated to organizations advancing social justice across the country

NEW YORK – Dec 16, 2024 – As part of Inspire Change Week celebrations, the NFL approved four new Inspire Change grant partners, totaling $800,000 in additional funding to support social justice work across the country. Making an impact within the Inspire Change pillars of education, economic advancement, police-community relations, and criminal justice reform, this year's grant recipients include the **Center for Employment Opportunities, Harlem Children's Zone, Law Enforcement Action Project, and SMASH.**

"The fight against social injustice is ongoing, and the NFL family embraces its responsibility to be a catalyst for positive change and creating stronger, more vibrant communities," said Anna Isaacson, senior vice president of social responsibility for the NFL. "We are truly inspired by our grant partners who are unsung heroes committed to driving progress through grassroots efforts within their communities."

The new Inspire Change grant partners include:

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) provides immediate, effective, and comprehensive employment services exclusively to those recently released from incarceration. Inspire Change grant funding will support:

The Emerging Leaders Program, a 12-week work-based learning and training program.

"Having the support of the NFL is a game-changer for so many people rebuilding their lives after incarceration," said Samra Haider, president of the Center for Employment Opportunities. "By partnering with CEO, the NFL recognizes the scale of employment barriers faced by people re-entering their community after incarceration and demonstrates the NFL's commitment to eliminating them to ensure everyone has access to social and economic mobility. The Inspire Change grant will support CEO's work to help people obtain good-paying, quality careers regardless of their background."

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) is a preeminent anti-poverty organization based in Central Harlem that breaks the cycle of

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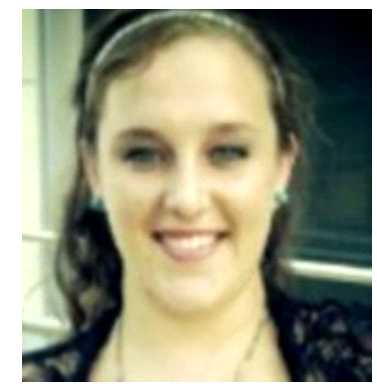
Meet some of BIHMST sports correspondents

William M. Larsha, Jr.



Ashley Braun Gendek

BIH MST 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!

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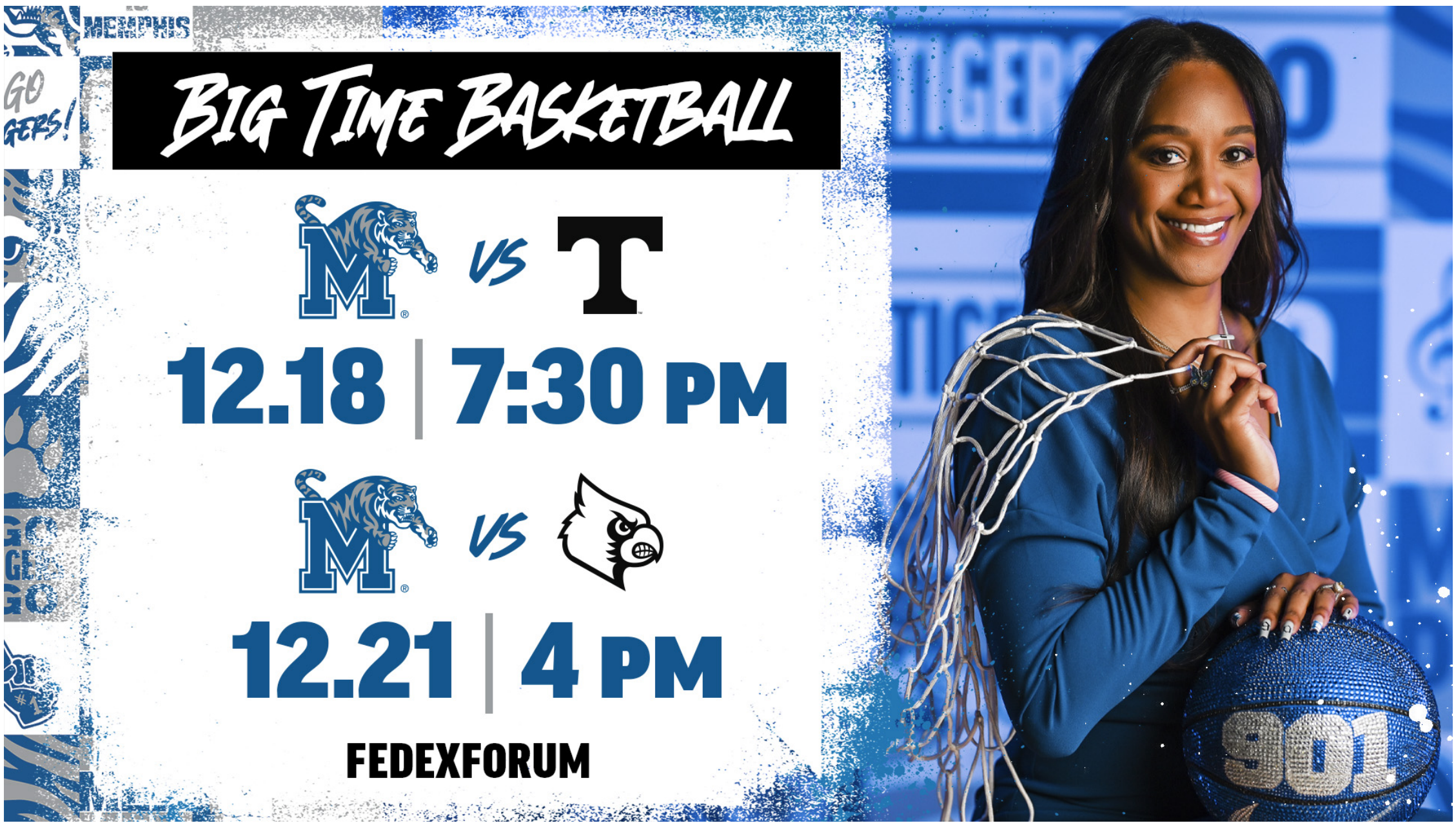
Sen. Blackburn Demands Answers from VA Affairs Sec. McDonough
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TDEC Invites Nominations for Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards
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Wilson County Tennessee State Fair Receives International Association of Fairs and Expositions Awards
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Memphis Holiday Market Rescheduled for Sat., Dec. 21
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DA Office Spreads Christmas and Holiday Cheer
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FedEx Air & Ground Nominees Announced
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