

Sports & Entertainment

U.S. Sens. Blackburn and Hagerty support Nashville’s bid to host WNBA franchise from sports page 1

People want to visit Nashville—evidenced by the record 16.4 million visitors in 2023... In fact, Nashville has been named a top global travel destination by major travel outlets for more than a decade, in part because of the state of Tennessee’s investment in our unique culture and industries. The investment in our

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sports teams is evident, and Tennessee’s sports fans are unmatched. Tennessee’s fanbases extend across cities—everyone roots for the Predators, the Titans, Nashville Soccer Club, and the Memphis Grizzlies. In the good times and the bad, that support would be extended to the Tennessee Summitt.”

Nashville’s Infrastructure is Well-Equipped to Host the Tennessee Summitt

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WNBA Team Would Serve as Beacon of Opportunity for Tennessee Women

“Some of the strongest women in history have called Tennessee home—from suffragist Anne Dallas Dudley to artist and philanthropist Dolly Parton to athletes like Wilma Rudolph and Pat Summitt. A WNBA team in Tennessee—which would become only the second franchise in the Southeast—would serve as a beacon of opportunity for women and girls in the state and across the South. We are grateful for the legacy of Pat Summitt and to individuals like Bill and Chrissy Haslam, Candace Parker, Peyton Manning, Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, and others who have brought this forward. We urge you to award the bid for the Tennessee Summitt, and we stand ready to provide you with any additional information or support you may need as you consider this proposal.”

Country music legend T.G. Sheppard celebrates 50th anniversary with #1 hit ‘Tryin’ to Beat the Morning Home’... from sports-Ent. 5

Sheppard first topped the charts with his debut #1 single, "Devil in the Bottle," released in October 1974. The song quickly climbed to #1 on the U.S. country singles chart, remaining in the Top 40 for ten weeks and launching an extraordinary career. Over the years, Sheppard has amassed an impressive 22 #1 hits, including timeless favorites like "Last Cheater's Waltz," "I'll Be Coming Back for More," "Do You Want to Go to Heaven," "Party Time," "Only One You," "I Loved 'Em Every One," "Slow Burn," and more.

T.G. Sheppard is adding concerts weekly to his 50th Anniversary tour schedule:

APR 05 - Cactus Theater / Lubbock, Texas

APR 26 - Shoals Community Theatre / Florence, Ala.

MAY 31 - Lincoln Theatre / Marion, Va.

JUN 04 - 3rd & Lindsley (Country For A Cause) / Nashville, Tenn.

JUN 28 - Freedom Fest Campgrounds / Doniphan, Mo.

OCT 07 - Clay Cooper Theatre / Branson, Mo.

OCT 08 - The Mill Events / Granite City, Ill.

OCT 11 - 11th Street Cowboy Bar / Bandera, Texas

OCT 17 - Legends Pub House / Chickasha, Okla.

For more information on T.G. Sheppard and his upcoming 50th Anniversary Tour, visit his website or follow him on social media:

Website | Facebook | X | Instagram | YouTube

About T.G. Sheppard: T.G. Sheppard has always had an unstoppable passion for music. That passion and a steadfast dedication to entertainment have made him one of the most popular live performers in country music today. With 22 #1 hit songs, his live concerts are chock full of his chart-topping tunes like “Last Cheater’s Waltz,” “I Loved ‘Em Every One,” and “Do You Wanna Go To Heaven.” A few of his other career milestones include hosting “The T.G. Sheppard Show,” formerly on Sirius XM’s Elvis Radio and Prime Country. He was the voice of the Folgers ‘The Best Part Of Waking Up’ commercial and had the T.G. Sheppard Folgers NASCAR racing team. Sheppard was also a guest host for Nashville Now. Sheppard’s most recent solo album, ‘Midnight In Memphis’ is available now, with the title track being written by his friend, Sir Barry Gibb. With over 50 years of show business under his belt, it’s only natural that Sheppard has developed a reputation as a solid performer, producer and songwriter who delivers exactly what audiences want. All this and more, combined with a steadfast commitment to entertainment, has truly made T.G. Sheppard one of the great legends in country music and an official spokesman for Springer Mountain Farms.

Greg Gaston elevated to GM of Learfield’s locally-based team, Tiger Sports Properties

MEMPHIS, Tenn., February 12, 2025 - Learfield, the exclusive multimedia rights holder for Memphis Athletics, announced that Greg Gaston has been elevated to General Manager of its locally-based team, Tiger Sports Properties (TSP).

Gaston is a 12-year veteran with TSP, first joining the team as Account Executive in August of 2013. He has excelled over the years in cultivating strong relationships and developing innovative collaborations with brand partners, leading to promotions to Senior Manager of Business Development in 2018 and Associate General Manager in 2020 before being named General Manager.

As GM of Tiger Sports Properties, Gaston will serve as the primary Learfield liaison related to the university's comprehensive athletics multimedia rights agreement and corporate partner platform. He will work closely with Senior Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Dr. Ed Scott and the entire athletics administration on all aspects of the relationship between Learfield and Memphis Athletics, which is an enterprise-wide client utilizing Learfield's digital ticket and marketing platform provider Paciolan, digital solutions leader SIDEARM Sports, licensed merchandise agency CLC, and stadium and arena seating solutions provider Learfield Amplify.

"Greg possesses valuable experience and institutional knowledge as a graduate of the University of Memphis law school," Scott said. "Under Greg's leadership, we are excited for the future of the department's relationship with Learfield and look forward to strengthening our brand within the partnership. We would like to thank Todd Kucinski for his years of service at Memphis and appreciate his assistance ensuring a smooth transition for Greg and the Tiger Sports Properties team."

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While in college, Gaston held positions at Octagon Sports and Athletic Resource Management (now Creative Artists Agency).

At Athletic Resource Management, he spent the summer of 2007 with sports agent Jimmy Sexton handling sponsorship agreements for various NFL players, including former Tigers DeAngelo Williams and Stephen Gostkowski.

Prior to joining Tiger Sports Properties, Gaston began his professional career in Memphis as a civil and criminal defense attorney before finding his way back to his passion of working in the sports industry.

"The Memphis Tigers have been a big part of my family's life for many years, and I'm thrilled to move into the GM role at Tiger Sports Properties," said Gaston. "It's a transformative time in college athletics and an exciting time to be a Tiger, and I look forward to working together with Dr. Scott and his staff to continue advancing Memphis Athletics and Tiger Sports Properties while helping our brand partners create authentic connections with our incredible fanbase."

A 2012 graduate of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Gaston received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in 2009, where he was also a four-year letterwinner in football for the Terps.

Gaston is the son of longtime television voice of the Tigers and current Tiger Sports Network

radio broadcaster Greg Gaston. He resides in Memphis with his wife, Dory – who serves as Team Dentist for the Tigers – and their two children, Lucy and James.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Athletics, visit [www.GoTigersGo.com](http://www.GoTigersGo.com) and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

About Learfield  
Learfield is the leading media and technology company powering college athletics. Through its digital and physical platforms, Learfield owns and leverages a deep data set and relationships in the industry to drive revenue, growth, brand awareness, and fan engagement for brands, sports, and entertainment properties. With ties to over 1,200 collegiate institutions and over 12,000 local and national brand partners, Learfield's presence in college sports and live events delivers influence and maximizes reach to target audiences. With solutions for a 365-day, 24/7 fan experience, Learfield enables schools and brands to connect with fans through licensed merchandise, game ticketing, donor identification for athletic programs, exclusive custom content, innovative marketing initiatives, NIL solutions, and advanced digital platforms. Since 2008, it has served as title sponsor for the acclaimed Learfield Directors' Cup, supporting athletic departments across all divisions.

Legendary actress Pam Grier partners with Fast Channel on her new Soul Flix series from sports-Ent. 5



Pam Grier shows off “Pam Grier’s Soul Flix” logo. (Photo/Courtesy: Free TV Networks and Soul Flix PR)

Lauded by Quentin Tarantino as "cinema's first female action star," world-renown actress Pam Grier has been a force in the entertainment business for more than 50 years. Best known as "the meanest chick in town" in Foxy Brown (1974), Grier's additional feature film work includes The Big Doll House (1971), Women in Cages (1971), The Big Bird Cage (1972), Coffy (1973), Black Mama White Mama (1973), Scream Blacula Scream (1973), The Arena (1974), Sheba, Baby (1975), Bucktown (1975), Friday Foster (1975), and Tarantino's Jackie Brown (1997), a film adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel "Rum Punch," titled in Grier's honor and the Blaxploitation movies of the 1970s.

Grier also appeared in Something Wicked This Way Comes (1983), Above the Law (1988), Escape from LA (1996), Mars Attacks! (1996), Jawbreaker (1999), In Too Deep (1999), Holy Smoke! (1999), Bones (2001), Ghost of Mars (2001), Just Wright (2010), Larry Crowne (2011), and Poms

(2019).

Her television credits include Miami Vice (1985-1989), Night Court (1986), Crime Story (1986-1988), The Cosby Show (1987), The Fresh Prince of Bel Air (1994), Sinbad (1994), Martin (1995), The Wayans Brothers Show (1998), MadTV (1998), Linc's (1998-2000), Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (2002-2003), The L Word (2004-2009), Bless This Mess (2019-2020), and Snoop Dogg's video for "Doggystyle" (1994). Grier made her theater debut in Sam Shepard's Fool for Love (1985) at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, a performance that earned her the NAACP Image Award for Best Actress in a Play. She also starred in the Terrance McNalley play Frankie and Johnny at the Clair de Lune (1990) at the Hahn Cosmopolitan Theatre in San Diego. Earning Emmy, Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, and NAACP Image Award nominations throughout her career, Grier received the 2003 Special Achievement in Film Trumpet

Award and the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Toronto Black Film Festival. In 2010, Grier released her memoir, Foxy: My Life in Three Acts, with Andrea Cagan.

About Free TV Networks  
Free TV Networks (FTN) serves consumers as the leading independent owner of national premium free over-the-air digital broadcast networks ("diginets") and free ad-supported streaming TV (FAST) platforms. In partnership with global content leaders Warner Bros. Discovery and Lionsgate, and broadcast powerhouse Gray Media, FTN launched its first two Broadcast Networks on January 1, 2024, with 365BLK, serving African American viewers with blockbuster movies and hit series; and OUTLAW, showcasing iconic and legendary tales of the Old West. Both Broadcast Networks have corresponding FTN FAST Channels under the same branding. Partnering with A+E Networks, on July 1, 2024, FTN launched its

We are beyond thrilled to announce our collaboration with Pam Grier, a true icon. Her groundbreaking contributions to film and television have left an indelible mark on the industry; and her talent, charisma, and authenticity continue to inspire generations. Partnering with Pam on this exciting new venture is truly an honor as she showcases the cultural pillars of Black filmmaking," says Jonathan Katz, President and CEO of Free TV Networks.

third Broadcast Network, DEFY, featuring popular unscripted TV series. These three diginets are on air in 90% of the U.S.

On March 1, 2025, FTN launches its fourth Broadcast Network, BUSTED, offering audiences endless thrills through first-hand, high-adrenaline, crime-focused programming. It is anticipated to launch with more than 90% coverage of U.S. households via distribution on Scripps; Gray Media; Nexstar Media Group, Inc.; and HC2 Broadcasting TV stations nationwide.

FTN capitalizes on the resurgence of over-the-air viewing, the rapid growth in ad-supported streaming channels, and the rise of digital broadcast networks, which grew their total share of viewing by 13% during the 2023/2024 broadcast season, per Nielsen. Today, according to industry research, nearly one in three U.S. households – approximately 35 million – have a digital antenna, with the market projected to surpass 50 million U.S. households by 2027.

Black History is about ‘Equality’, not ‘Equity’. Learn the difference.  
Knowledge is colorless!  
See The Mid-South Tribune’s 30th Annual Black History Month Edition!