

Sports & Entertainment



Nicole Avant and Tyler Perry share journey to bring ‘True Story of the 6888th Battalion... from sports-Military 3

and they don’t understand the history that’s behind the baton that they’re passing on,” she added.

What is The Six Triple Eight based on?

That desire to live up to her parents’ example meant that, when the opportunity to make a movie about the 6888th came across Avant’s desk, she didn’t hesitate. The project started when producer Carlota Espinosa secured the rights to Kevin M. Hymel’s 2019 WWII History Magazine piece “Fighting a Two-Front War.” Espinosa then sent the article to her friend and producer Keri Selig, who brought Peter Guber and his Mandalay Entertainment on board. With no script or director yet attached, they developed a sizzle reel to show Avant, who immediately cham-

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Her first call was to Perry, a filmmaker she was confident would give the women of the 6888th their due. “Tyler Perry is the best writer, producer, director all wrapped up in one that I knew that could tell this story,” she said. “Tyler loves history even more than I do. He appreciates African American history and our part in the story of America.” Yet even for Perry, the exploits of the 6888th came as a revelation. “I was like, ‘Nicole, wait, what? This is a true story?’ ” he told Netflix. “The level of passion she had behind it, she got me excited right away.”



In this historic photo, members of the 6888th stand for inspection. (Archive Photo/Getty Image)

Memphis women’s basketball heads to Rice U

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. January 7, 2025 – Memphis women’s basketball heads to Houston to take on Rice on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 2:00 p.m.

Memphis will take on another second-year AAC program in Rice (8-6, 1-1 AAC) who will take on UTSA while the Tigers battle in Birmingham. The Blue and Gray have won five consecutive meetings against the Owls dating back to 2011 including home and away last season. Alex Simmons picked up her 100th career victory in an overtime thriller at home against Rice, pushing their all-time record to 9-4 behind 18 points and 14 rebounds from Smith.

Hailey Adams paces the Owls 8.8 points, 8.0 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.1 blocks. They have two double-figure scorers in Malia Fisher (12.5) and Dominique Ennis (11.6). The 2024 AAC Tournament Champions are coached by Lindsay Edmonds, a fourth-year head coach leading her first program.

Haggerty named to Wooden Award Midseason Watch List

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – PJ Haggerty has established himself as one of the best players in college basketball, which was endorsed Wednesday by the Los Angeles Athletic Club, as the redshirt sophomore guard was named to the John R. Wooden Award Midseason Top 25.

The list, comprised of 25 student-athletes who are front-runners for the sport's most prestigious honor, was determined by a poll of national college basketball experts based on the performances during the 2024-25 season thus far. Haggerty is looking to become the first Tiger to ever win the Wooden Award.

Memphis Grizzlies to celebrate National Mentoring Month with the focus on youth and MLK, Jr. Day

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Memphis Grizzlies and Memphis Grizzlies Foundation will celebrate National Mentoring Month throughout January, hosting numerous events to highlight the importance of mentorship and recognize the people and organizations that dedicate their time to supporting the success of young

More than 250 mentors, mentees, staff and community partners will attend the National Mentoring Month Awards, hosted at FedExForum on Thursday, Jan. 16, where award winners will be announced for Mentor of the Year; Mentee of the Year; Partnership of the Year; Mentoring Advocate of the Year; Mentoring Program of the Year and Mentoring Practitioner of the Year. Celebrating excellence in the mentoring community, the ceremony will also feature dinner and a performance by the Grizzlies Prep Boys Choir. During the 23rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Game on Monday, Jan. 20, fans will have the opportunity to engage with mentoring programs recruiting throughout the course at FedExForum as the

Memphians.

Additional Mentor Spotlights will take place during the

Grizzlies home games on Wednesday, Jan. 22, and Saturday, Jan. 25.

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Grizzlies tip-off against the Minnesota Timberwolves. Tabling will begin at 12:30 p.m. and continue until the end of halftime. A Mentor Mixer Paint & Sip will take place on the following day, Tuesday, Jan. 21, as the Grizzlies host 50 mentors from the TEAMmates Mentor Recognition Program at Contemporary Arts Memphis. Participants will choose between two designs to paint, with an evening of fun and fellowship to follow.

The Memphis Grizzlies Foundation will host a Foundation Partner Appreciation Brunch

on Saturday, Jan. 25, showing appreciation to school site contacts and TEAMmates provider businesses for their support of mentoring. Guests will enjoy food and gifts as the Grizzlies Foundation celebrates their support of mentoring in the Mid-South.

To close out the month, the Memphis Grizzlies Foundation will travel to Washington, D.C., to attend the National Mentoring Summit from Tuesday, Jan. 28, through Friday, Jan. 31. The annual convention serves as an opportunity for mentoring practitioners, researchers, philanthropic investors, youth leaders, government and civic leaders and affiliates from across the country to unite under the shared goal of driving positive change for young people. Various mentoring organizations from Tennessee will meet with U.S. Senators and

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U.S. Representatives to advocate on behalf of mentorship issues, followed by two days of conference sessions.

For more information on National Mentoring Month, visit grizzliesfoundation.org. Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2024-25 season tickets, single game tickets or partial plans 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.

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 30th Annual Black History Month Edition. Email events, photos, and press releases to MSTnews@prodigy.net, MSTsports@prodigy.net, or BlackInfoHwy@prodigy.net

