

-Sports-

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The NFL great Stephen Gostkowski will speak at University of Memphis spring commencement

2,858 to Graduate; Tigers Legend and NFL Great Stephen Gostkowski is Speaker

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (Tuesday, April 30, 2024) — Spring Commencement ceremonies for the University of Memphis will take place Saturday, May 4, 2024, at the FedEx Forum, with 2,858 students receiving a degree or certificate. Of those, 1,722 are students earning an undergraduate degree,

while 836 students will be obtaining their master's or specialist degree. A total of 115 certificates will be handed out, while 102 people will receive their juris doctor and 83 people will earn their doctoral degree.

Former Tigers football player Stephen Gostkowski, who played in the National Football League for 15 seasons, will be the commencement speaker.

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Showboats partner with FedEx Cares for diaper and formula giveaway

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—April 30, 2024) — The Memphis Showboats have a big Saturday (May 4) in store at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium. The team will be giving away Showboats bobbleheads (while supplies last) to fans in attendance for this week's rivalry game against the Birmingham Stallions. Kickoff is set for 11 a.m. CT.

In addition to the bobblehead giveaway, with Mother's Day on the horizon, the Showboats are

teaming up with FedEx Cares to hold a diaper/baby formula drive to support the Mid-South Food Bank. All fans in attendance are encouraged to donate diapers, baby formula or adult incontinence products when they arrive at Saturday's game. Mid-South Food Bank's mission is to change lives by eliminating hunger in the Mid-South and to support the Bare Needs Diaper

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NFL to open NFL Academy in Australia in partnership with A.B. Paterson College in Sept.

NFL Academy in Australia is the second of its kind globally, following the NFL Academy program in the U.K.

In partnership with A.B. Paterson College, and supported by the City of Gold Coast and the Queensland State Government, the elite football development program will enroll student athletes aged 12-18 years old from across the Asia-Pacific region



is driving football development efforts globally, and successfully changing the lives of young people around the world," said Brett Gosper, head of Europe and APAC with the NFL. "We look forward to bringing the program to the Gold Coast, Australia and continuing to build authentic player pathways for international talent, giving more young people from across the Asia-Pacific region the opportunity to play the game in the years ahead." The NFL Academy will be based at A.B. Paterson College in south-east Queensland on Australia's Gold Coast, and in partnership with the college will focus on athletic, educational and career pathway opportunities for the student-athletes and the wider community. Opening its doors in September 2024, student athletes aged 12-18 years old will be eligible to apply for a place in the elite football development program in Australia. The NFL Academy and A.B. Pa-

GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA — April 25, 2024 — The National Football League has announced it will open an NFL Academy in Australia in September 2024 to service the Asia-Pacific region, as the league continues to invest in long-term global football development efforts and pathways for international talent.

The NFL Academy is a major global initiative by the NFL offering talented student athletes the opportunity to combine full-time education alongside intensive training in American football (tackle) — under the guidance of a world class coaching staff.

"The NFL Academy program is a significant league initiative that

erson College will support students with the best education and resources, while promoting football performance, player pathways and future collegiate scholarship opportunities.

The NFL and A.B. Paterson College, supported by the City of Gold Coast and the Queensland State Government, will also fund and build an elite high-perform-

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Preview: Memphis Showboats vs. Birmingham Stallions in Rematch *see sports-Ent. page 5*

National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations Plans Special Podcast to Honor Buffalo Soldier, Brig. Gen. Charles Young. Also, link to view African Americans in "WWII: A Legacy of Patriotism and Valor" *see sports-Military 2*

Showboats Host Youth Clinic ...*see sports-Ent. 5*

Tiger Tennis Gets Bid in NCAA Tourney *see sports page 2*

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!

COMMIT
TO MEMPHIS FOOTBALL TODAY!
Season tickets start at \$149