

The Mid-South Tribune Sports & Entertainment

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Memphian supported Artemis II recovery mission in the Pacific



Petty Officer 3rd Class Zackerie Noeman (center) is shown here with enthusiastic military personnel who showed patriotism in helping with Artemis II recovery in the Pacific. (Photo/Courtesy: Navy Office of Community Outreach Millington, Tenn.)

By Ashley Craig,
Navy Office of Community Outreach

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – When NASA’s Artemis II crew splashed down in the Pacific upon their return to Earth from their flight around the moon, U.S. Navy sailors stood ready to welcome them home. Petty Officer 3rd Class Zackerie Noeman, from Memphis, Tennessee, was among the sailors who supported the recovery of the crew and the Orion space capsule. Noeman, a 2022 graduate of Brighton High School, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to USS John P. Murtha, the ship tasked with retrieving the astronauts and spacecraft.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Memphis. “Growing up, I learned that results matter,” Noeman said. Noeman joined the Navy four years ago. Today, Noeman serves as an electronics technician, tasked with maintaining the ship’s radios for mission readiness. “I joined the Navy because I had a desire to see the world, visit foreign ports, experience life at sea and be part of missions that change the world,” Noeman said. NASA’s Artemis II mission sent four astronauts – NASA’s Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and the Canadian Space Agency’s Jeremy Hansen – on a nearly 10-day flight around the moon in the Orion capsule.

Tigers track and field team captures 18 victories at the Memphis Tiger Invitational

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 2, 2026– The Memphis track and field team concluded its regular season in dominant fashion, securing 18 victories Saturday at the Memphis Tiger Invitational held at the Billy J. Murphy Track and Field Complex. Overall, Memphis brought home 18 victories, 23 top-three finishes and 18 personal-bests. A full list of the 18 victories, top-five finishes and PRs can be found below. Comprehensive meet results can be found in the link above. Jumpers Lilith Stenger and Daryl Smith Jr. swept their respective events. Stenger claimed her second collegiate high jump title with a career-best leap of 1.76

meters. Smith captured his first career triple jump title with a mark of 15.55 meters. In the throws, Maddie Roberts and Edward O’Brien both found the top of the podium in the javelin. Roberts recorded a mark of 48.99 meters for her second career victory, while O’Brien earned his first career win with a toss of 58.18 meters. Memphis swept the 5,000-meter events behind strong performances from Ann-Marie Braese and Kenny Guy. Braese crossed the finish line in 17:52.36, while Guy clocked a 14:38.58. Both runners earned their second victories of the season, with Guy winning in back-to-back meets. The women’s 4x100-meter relay

team of Gizel Clayton, Destiny Jenkins, Rickaiya Whitman and Kaseiana Meriweather also took first place, recording a time of 45.57 seconds. The Tigers now turn their attention to the postseason, traveling to Denton, Texas, for the American Conference Outdoor Championships beginning Thursday, May 14. Wins Genesis Surlin, Women’s Long Jump, 5.94m Edward O’Brien, Men’s Javelin, 58.18m Maddie Roberts, Women’s Javelin, 48.99m Lilith Stenger, Women’s High Jump, 1.76m Please see sports page 4

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 The University of Memphis Tigers, Memphis Grizzlies, TN Titans, Southern Heritage Classic, and more!

‘Project Freedom’ aims to get thousands of commercial ships safely thru Strait of Hormuz

By C. Todd Lopez
Dept. of War

MAY 5, 2026 Iran has blocked safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf for commercial cargo and tanker vessels, trapping thousands inside the gulf and halting the free flow of commerce in the region. Project Freedom is meant to reopen the strait to commercial vessels, said Secretary of War Pete Hegseth during a briefing today at the Pentagon. It is also independent of Operation Epic Fury, which for now is in a ceasefire.

"President Trump has directed U.S. Central Command to restart the free flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz under the umbrella of Project Freedom," Hegseth said. "Project Freedom is defensive in nature, focused in scope, temporary in duration with one mission: protecting innocent commercial shipping from Iranian aggression." The secretary said as part of Project Freedom, American forces won't need to enter Iranian waters or airspace; but also, that Iran can no longer be allowed to stymie international commerce.

"Iran ... cannot be allowed to block innocent countries and their goods from an international waterway," Hegseth said. "Iran is the clear aggressor, harassing civilian vessels, threatening mariners from every nation indiscriminately and weaponizing a critical choke point for its own financial benefit." Already, Hegseth said, two U.S. commercial ships, along with American destroyers, have traversed the strait, proving that Iranian control of the strait is an illusion. Please see sports-military 3

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune F.Y.H. =
For Your Health Special Edition.

2026 Massachusetts Prostate Cancer Symposium (Virtual Event - Free)

on Friday, June 5, 2026 - 8:30 am ET

Symposium features leading specialists with Innovative Paths to Prostate Cancer Diagnosis, Treatment, and Research

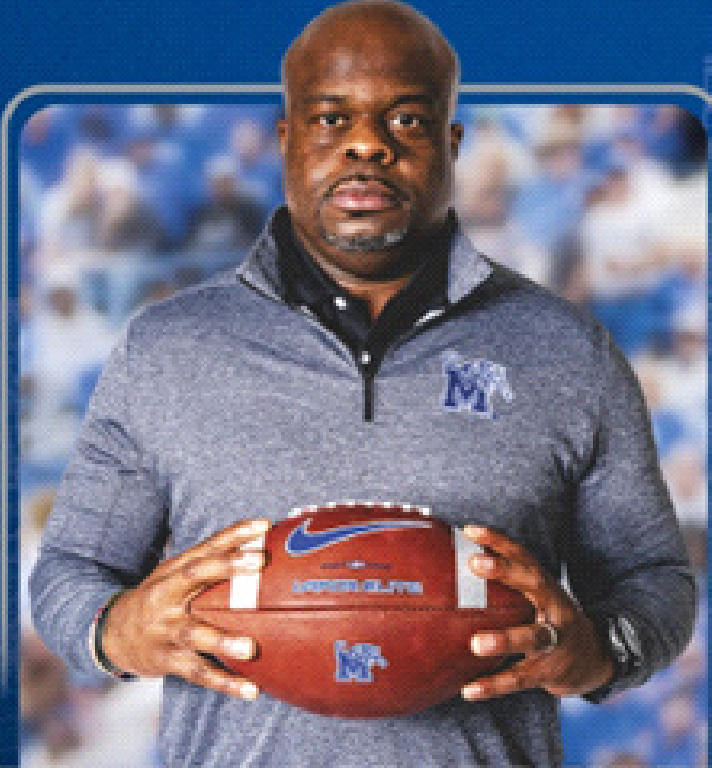
Register - Click HERE: MassPCC.org

See additional announcement on sports-Ent. 6

Legendary singer-songwriter Don McLean was honored at the Grand Ole Opry following his second appearance on the world-famous stage, where he performed as part of the Opry’s historic 100th anniversary celebration and in recognition of the upcoming 250th anniversary of America. See Sports-Ent. page 6

Memphis Hound Dogs Arena Football Is Coming To The Bluff City. Watch For More!

Engelbert Humperdinck Celebrates 90th Birthday... see sports-Ent. page 4 *** Sen. Blackburn says, “Republicans are putting American people first,” in Commentary... see sports-Military 2 *** A Report from the Memphis Safe Task Force... see sports-Military 2 *** TN Parks and Mother’s Day Events... see sports-Ent. 5 *** Cong. Van Drew Announces \$400 Mil for U.S. Coast Guard Building... see sports-Military 2 *** Bomesi & Cxmmunity Media Partner... see sports-Ent. 5 *** Taye Diggs Stars in Maverick Entertainment’s “Another Man’s Wife...” see sports-Ent. 4 *** NFL Delivers Big Stats on Draft... see sports-Ent. 4



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