

The Mid-South Tribune Sports & Entertainment

Black Information Highway.com

Sixteen-year-old Kristin Liutova wins inaugural Memphis Classic Tennis Tournament at Leftwich



By William M. Larsha, Jr.,
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And the
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MEMPHIS- After more than 20 years, professional women's tennis returned to Memphis with the WTA Memphis. The Tournament concluded on August 2, 2026 at the newly remodeled **Leftwich** Tennis Center.

A surprise victor emerged. Kristina Liutova, age 16, became the

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youngest player to win a Tour level event. She outlasted Darja Vidmanova two sets to one in the final. To make matters even more surprising, Liutova had to play through qualifying rounds just to get to the main draw. She won the match 1-6,61, and 6-3 "The victory means a lot. I want to keep to going," Liutova told reporters afterward. "I hope to stay healthy and just keep working toward my goals."

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All said, a star was born in Memphis!

Grizzlies announce Grizzlies Caravan presented by Kroger to tip off 2026-27 NBA Season

-- 10 Stops Included on the Four-State Route --

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 31, 2026– The Memphis Grizzlies are tipping off the 2026-27 NBA season with a tour of the Mid-South with the Memphis Grizzlies Caravan, presented by Kroger.

The Memphis Grizzlies Caravan will tour the Mid-South starting Saturday, Aug. 22, in Florence, Ala. The caravan will continue throughout September and into October with nine additional regional stops in Huntsville, Ala., Madison, Ala., Little Rock, Ark., Hot Springs, Ark., Searcy, Ark., Jonesboro, Ark., Nashville, Tenn., Jackson, Tenn., and Tupelo, Miss. Fans along the caravan route can also pop-in at select Kroger locations for special perks and surprises.

As part of the Grizzlies Caravan, the team is offering free Junior Grizzlies Basketball Clinics at each caravan stop, giving young athletes ages 6-14 the chance to receive training from the Junior Grizzlies Basketball Staff. Each



clinic will offer skills instruction, contests, games and opportunities to win special prizes. Boys and girls interested in attending one of the Junior Grizzlies Basketball Clinics must register at Grizzlies.com/Caravan and are encouraged to register early as space is limited. Each clinic participant will receive a Grizzlies shirt or jersey, while supplies last.

In addition, the Grizzlies will offer fans at each regional stop prizes, including the opportunity to enter to win a “Weekend in Memphis Getaway Package” for two. The package includes a one-night stay at the Westin hotel, located directly across the street from FedExForum, tickets to a Grizzlies game, Grizzlies swag and passes to local Memphis attractions, courtesy of **Memphis Tourism**. Fans can learn more about Memphis, the home of the

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blues, soul and rock ‘n’ roll at memphistravel.com.

Fans are encouraged to check Grizzlies.com/Caravan for a full list of events, both new and current, and for up-to-date information on the 2026 Grizzlies Caravan. A complete listing of events can be found below. Appearances subject to change.

Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2026-27 season tickets 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.

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!

Set Your Calendar!



Harry Lennix to star in “Speak, Salvation, Speak” at Hattiloo Theatre August 14-Sept. 26. Lennix is known to millions as Harold Cooper on NBC’s The Blacklist and Matrix Reloaded.

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Volleyball Coach Lindsay announces Brooke Hudson as Assistant Coach

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — University of Memphis head volleyball coach Cheri Lindsay announced the addition of Brooke Hudson as an assistant coach ahead of the 2026 season. “Brooke possesses an outstanding understanding of the game

and a coaching style that is both innovative and impactful,” Lindsay said. “Her unique skill set adds tremendous value to our staff and enhances every aspect of our program.” Hudson comes to Memphis after spending the 2025 season at Flor-

ida A&M University, where the Rattlers won the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship following a 9-7 mark in conference play. “I’m honored to join the University of Memphis and excited for the opportunity to work under Coach Lindsay,” Hudson said. “She has built an outstanding foundation, and I look forward to contributing to the program’s continued success. I’m especially excited to be working together again and can’t wait to get started.”

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Before entering coaching, Hudson played five seasons of collegiate volleyball as a defensive specialist, spending her first three years at Colorado State (2019–21). During her time in Fort Collins, Hudson appeared in 64 matches with 18 starts, contributing 54 assists and 348 digs. She transferred to Florida A&M in 2022, where she was named the SWAC Libero of the Year after setting a single-season school record with 553 digs to lead the conference. Hudson also helped guide the Rattlers to co-regular season and tournament

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AUGUST 8, 2026

SIMMONS BANK LIBERTY STADIUM

3:00 PM

STOP
Editorial: We Endorse Space XAI Building Largest World Supercomputer on TN-Mississippi State Line
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X-Men 97 Second Season ... see sports-Ent. 4

Memphis Safe Task Force Report... see sports-Military 2

Kurt Stevens Releases “Better Than A Breeze” ... see sports-Ent. 5

Ducks Unlimited Expo Draws 30,000 to Memphis... see sports page 3

Memphis Grizzlies Hold Auditions for Grizz Girls... see sports-Ent. 6

Tennessee’s Ewing Minor Wins Bassmaster Kayak Series... see sports page 3

Sen. Blackburn’s Statement on Senate Advancing Todd Blanche Nomination... see sports-Military 3

Pres. Trump’s Military Spouses Commission... see sports-Military 3
SAF Submits Comments to AFT... see sports page 3



Michael McDonald was named the 13th Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). See sports-Ent. page 6

Get ready for Fan Fest on August 8

The event is free and open to the public

Parking is free and lots will open at 12 p.m. (Fans may park and tailgate in the Pink, Silver and Tan lots only)

First 1,500 fans will receive a Memphis Football Shirsey thanks to FedEx

Fans can enter through Gate F ONLY (Entry 6)