Sports & Entertainment

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NSSF supports OCC ripping back veil of banking discrimination

NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, is encouraged and supports the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) preliminary findings after reviewing large banks' debanking activities. The OCC report revealed what the firearm industry has known, and experienced, for years. Large banks systematically "made inappropriate distinctions" of lawful businesses, including those against firearm-related businesses, to restrict access to banking services.

In short, large banks including JPMorgan Chase Bank, Bank of America, Citibank, Wells Fargo Bank, U.S. Bank, Capital One, PNC Bank, TD Bank and BMO Bank, unlawfully discriminated against certain industries, including the firearm industry, for political reasons. This practice is unlawful and is demonstrative of corporate banks exercising an antigun agenda to deprive, starve out and eliminate firearm businesses despite the fact they lawfully produce and sell a constitutionally-protected product to law-abiding citizens. NSSF revealed that JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon was untruthful when he claimed his bank doesn't discriminate for political reasons and has repeatedly exposed unlawful debanking activities.

"NSSF is encouraged that the Trump administration, through

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50 years of Army-Navy Student Exchange Program keeps friendly 'prisoner exchange' between Naval Academy and Military Academy at West Point

By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Sarah M. Thielen

DECEMBER 12, 2025- Every year at the Army-Navy football game, one of the most anticipated traditions is the "prisoner exchange," and this year marks the 50th year of the exchange program between the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

At midfield, a handful of cadets and midshipmen are ceremonially returned to their home side of the stadium after spending the fall semester at their rival academy.

"The Service Academy Exchange Program is a voluntary and competitive application process at West Point," said Noah Keith, a class of 2027 West Point cadet. "At the beginning of second semester sophomore year, everyone with a cumulative GPA over 3.3 is invited to apply."

Under the program, cadets and midshipmen spend the fall semester at their rival academy, living in barracks, attending classes and training together alongside the other service. The memorandum of agreement between each school's commandant formalized the process. Today, it is considered a one-for-one swap in most cases.

"I got interested in the West Point exchange during my [freshman] year when I saw the prisoner exchange for the first time," said Michael Middleton, a Naval Academy senior. "I asked my upperclassmen who they were and how they got to do that. That interest grew as I became interested in commissioning as a Marine Corps officer."

Reasons for applying may differ, but for each academy it's not a guarantee you'll be accepted.

"West Point selects the cadets going to each of the service academies. I found out I was going to [the Naval Academy] around spring break," Keith said.

This tradition has its roots in

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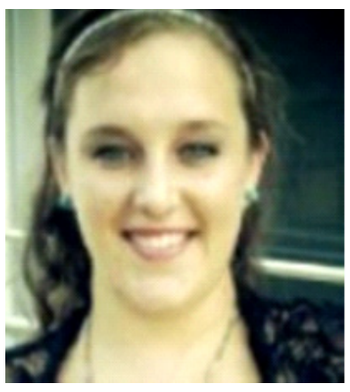
Meet some of BIHMST Sports Correspondents

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!

STOP

TN Titans Select Charles Rathbone High School Coach of the Year Presented by Whataburger ... *see sports page 4*
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Grammy Museum Mississippi's Groundbreaking New Exhibit Features Jerry Lee Lewis, Jimmy Swaggart, and Mickey Gilley in Jan. 2026 *see sports-Ent. 5*
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"Avatar: Fire and Ash" Takes Audiences Back to Pandora on Dec. 19
***
Pres. Trump Delivers Proclamation Honoring Specialist Sarah Beckstrom *see sports-Military 2*
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Christmas and Holiday Highlights at DA Office *see sports-Military 3*
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Sen. Blackburn Wants Greece to Partner with TN National Guard... *see sports-Military 2*
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Hundreds Attend 23rd "Season to Remember" *see sports-Military 3*
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Memphis Safe Task Force Report ... *see sports page 4*

Get ready, Tiger fans! Memphis softball head coach Trena Prater announces fully 'bloomed' spring schedule

MEMPHIS, Tenn., December 4, 2025 – Memphis softball head coach Trena Prater announced the full spring schedule.

"I am excited to share what our road map for this season is going to look like," said Prater. "I am not one to shy away from a challenge, and our schedule is a direct reflection of that. We are going on the road to play at some of the top softball schools in the country and we are also bringing historically great Power Four teams to play us at our house. My job is to win championships, and I believe that you have to beat the best to be the best. In my opinion, our preseason tournaments and midweek game opponents arguably make this schedule one of the toughest schedules in Memphis softball history."

Memphis' 56-game schedule features a total of 11 teams that made it to an NCAA Regional in 2025, including two teams that reached the Women's College World Series. Over half of Memphis's 2026 schedule will be played at Tigers Softball Complex, including the reintroduction of the Blues City Invitational, which was absent during the 2025 campaign.

The Tigers will play a total of 10 games against teams from a **Power Four** conference, including six games against teams from the Southeastern Conference. The 10 games against Power conference opponents are tied for the most in a season in program history, with the only other instance being the 2019 season.

"It is my mission to move this program from the bottom of the conference to the top," Prater remarked about the increased level of competition. "I built this schedule to help prepare us and to challenge for everything that we could possibly see once we

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Merry Christmas and a Happy 2026!