

Sports & Entertainment

Black Information Highway.com

Happy 2026 and Happy 250th for America!

TN Titans’ Simmons and Dike named to Pro Bowl

NASHVILLE, TENN., December 23, 2025 – Tennessee Titans DT Jeffery Simmons and PR/KR Chimere Dike have been named starters for the 2026 Pro Bowl, the NFL announced.

As a rookie, Dike leads the league in all-purpose yards (2,269), kickoff returns (60), kickoff return yards (1,535) and yards per punt return (18.2). He is tied for 12th with 21 punt returns and ranks third in punt return yards with 382. He is one-of-five players this season to record two punt return touchdowns.

Dike’s 1,535 kickoff return yards ranks fifth among rookie returners since the 1941 season. His

2,269 all-purpose yards rank third among all rookies in NFL history, behind only Hall of Famers Tim Brown, who recorded 2,317 during the 1988 season, and Gale Sayers’ 2,272 during the 1965 season.

Additionally, Dike is the franchise’s sixth rookie since the 1970 NFL-AFL merger to be named to the Pro Bowl and the first since returner Marc Mariani in 2010. The others to do so were running back Earl Campbell (1978), defensive end Jevon Kearse (1999), quarterback Vince Young (2006) and running back Chris Johnson (2008).

Please see sports-Ent. 5

Walberg sends letter to NCAA pres. Baker applauding Div. 1 rejecting athlete students betting

Education & Workforce Committee Chairman investigates NCAA’s attempts to relax student-athlete gambling restrictions and warns of potential misuse of federal student aid.

WASHINGTON—On December 19, Education and Workforce Committee Chairman Tim Walberg (R-MI) sent a letter to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) President Charlie Baker to applaud Division I schools’ rejection of a rule change that would have permitted student-athletes to bet on

professional sports. The letter also raises concerns about the NCAA’s initial support for the proposal and the potential misuse of federal student aid for sports betting.

In the letter, Chairman Walberg writes: “The recent decision by more than two-thirds of Division I schools to reject a proposed Na-

tional Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rule change that would have permitted student-athletes to bet on professional sports is a positive development... However, I remain concerned that the Division I Administrative Committee, the Di-

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!

Tennesseans urged to plant native trees during 12th Annual event

NASHVILLE, TN—Tennessee residents are invited to reserve native trees to plant at their homes, farms, and in their communities during the 12th annual Tennessee Tree Day event, taking place on March 21, 2026. Online tree reservations are open to the public now through March 1, 2026, and residents are encouraged to reserve trees as soon as possible to get the best selection. With 173 local pick-up sites to choose from, Tree Day is represented with at least one site in all 95 Tennessee counties.

All trees must be reserved online by March 1st and picked up on

Please see sports page 3

Get up! Start Walking! January 1st is First Day Hikes in America’s State Parks

From Outdoor Wire

Kick off America’s semiquicentennial with other outdoor lovers at one of the many First Day Hikes offered Jan. 1 at Indiana’s state parks and lakes.

First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start the new year. They offer a chance to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature, and connect with friends. Find one near you at [on.IN.gov/INStateParkEvents](https://www.in.gov/INStateParkEvents).

The hikes are organized by Indiana State Parks in cooperation with America’s State Parks. They will take place in all 50 states. First Day Hikes originated more than 30 years ago at the Blue Hills Reservation, a state park in Milton, Massachusetts. The program was launched to foster healthy lifestyles and promote



year-round recreation at state parks. For more information, visit the America’s State Parks website, stateparks.org. Some Indiana’s hikes are listed . More may be added, so check the

website if your favorite place isn’t listed. Make sure to wear sturdy, comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.

- Brookville Lake. Meet at the

For Tennessee Parks First Hikes, visit <https://tnstateparks.com>

For Arkansas Parks First Hikes, Visit <https://www.arkansas-stateparks.com>

For Mississippi State Parks and other state parks ,visit <https://www.americas-stateparks.org>

“The first version of the Pledge was written in 1885...” says patriot and hitmaker Neal McCoy who has partnered with Allied Flag to celebrate his 10th Anniversary of Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. See article on sports-Military 3



- Pres. Trump Announces New Class of Battleships see sports-Military 2 ***
- Memphis Safe Task Force Weekend Update see sports-Military 2 ***
- Mississippi Forestry Commission Celebrates 100 years see sports page 4 ***
- Turtlebox Audio Named Title Sponsor of Bassmaster Opens see sports-Ent. 5 ***
- TDOT and Holiday Travel see sports page 2 ***
- Dupre and Tolliver at Grammy Mississippi Museum see sports-Ent. 4

Jaren Jackson, Jr. named Western Conf. Player of the Week

Jackson Jr. Earns Second Career Player of the Week Award

MEMPHIS, Tenn., December 22, 2025 – The NBA announced that Memphis Grizzlies forward/center Jaren Jackson Jr. was named the Western Conference Player of the Week for games played Monday, December 15, through Sunday, December 21.

This marks the second career Player of the Week award for Jackson Jr., who averaged 27.0 points on 55.6% shooting, 8.0 rebounds, 3.3 assists, 1.7 steals and 2.7 blocks in 32.7 minutes and led Memphis to a 2-1 record during the week. He was the only NBA player to average at least 25 points, eight rebounds, one steal and two blocks per game this week.

Jackson Jr. recorded a season-high 31 points and five blocks in the Grizzlies’ 121-103 road win on December 15 against the LA Clippers and followed with 28 points, a season-high 12 re-

Please see sports page 4

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION



VS



DEC. 31 | 3 PM
FEDEXFORUM

GOTIGERSGOTIX.COM

