

Memphis Grizzlies recognize recipients of HBCU Empowerment Awards presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners during Black History Month

MEMPHIS, TN — The Memphis Grizzlies will recognize recipients for this year's HBCU Empowerment Awards, presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners, throughout the month of February. That first recognition began with the game against the Cleveland Cavaliers on February 1. The HBCU Empowerment Awards honor HBCU graduates who are dedicated to empowering the Memphis and Shelby County communities in areas such as education, health, wellness, service and youth development. Over the last six years, the Grizzlies have honored 35 individuals from 17 different Historically Black Colleges and Universities, each receiving a \$5,000 gift in their name to their alma mater. The 2024 HBCU Empowerment Awards Honorees include:

Through their annual programming, the Grizzlies strive to educate the public and fans about the city of Memphis' past and present contributions toward Black history; inspire excellence, innovation and creativity within all industries; and empower greater collaborations and shared purpose that uplifts the Black community.

To purchase tickets for HBCU Night, presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners, and to learn more about how the Memphis Grizzlies celebrate Historically Black Colleges and Universities, visit Grizzlies.com/HBCU. Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2023-24 single game 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.

Every year, the Memphis Grizzlies celebrate Black History Month throughout the month of February, reminding fans that Legacy Lives Here.

Grizzlies HBCU Recipients of Empowerment Awards Presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners Schedule of Games



Recipient Organization HBCU Game

- Dominique Primer St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Hampton University Thursday, Feb. 1 vs. Cleveland Cavaliers
- Erik Henneghan CourtesyPro, LLC Southern University Friday, Feb. 2 vs. Golden State Warriors
- Dr. Jason Lawrence Turner Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church Fisk University Thursday, Feb. 8 vs. Chicago Bulls
- Tutorial @Toni Williams Memphis-Shelby County Schools Clark Atlanta University Monday, Feb. 12 vs. New Orleans Pelicans
- Glenn Sessoms FedEx (Retired) Virginia State University Wednesday, Feb. 14 vs. Houston Rockets
- Jamond Bullock Alivepaint LeMoyné-Owen College Thursday, Feb. 15 vs. Milwaukee Bucks
- Kelvin Gates FedEx Jackson State University Friday, Feb. 23 vs. LA Clippers
- Shantelle Leatherwood Christ Community Health Services Tennessee State University Monday, Feb. 26 vs. Brooklyn Nets

Diversity Partner Award presented to Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation from N.onT.typical Outdoorsman

From The Outdoor Wire

Research has shown that millions of Americans have expressed a strong interest in taking up activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping or target shooting. Many of these interested

Eric Morris, Producer and Host of N.onT.typical Outdoorsman TV, has been leading the effort to expand racial diversity in the outdoors for well over a decade and states; "Talk is cheap, and action speaks louder than words. One group that has led the way in taking real action is Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation, and, for their efforts, we are proud to recognize them as our "Diversity Partner of the Year."



Eric Morris (left) partners with Jim Curcuruto of Outdoor Stewards Foundation. (Photo/Courtesy: The Outdoor Wire)

folks are people of color, women and youth.

With current demographics of these activities skewing towards older white males, there is a large opportunity to expand overall participation in hunting, fishing, trapping and target shooting through diversity.

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action speaks louder than words. One group that has led the way in taking real action is Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation, and, for their efforts, we are proud to recognize them as our "Diversity Partner of the Year."

Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation (OSCF) worked with N.onT.typical Outdoorsman TV to film six episodes of their television show that featured the recruitment of diverse staff from companies such as; Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson, the National Rifle Association and Primary Arms, as well as diverse staff from Virginia, Texas, Ohio, Vermont, Tennessee and Alabama state fish and wildlife agencies. OSCF's Executive Director, Jim Curcuruto, noted; "We had a great time working with Eric and the team at N.onT.typical Outdoorsman to showcase diversity in the outdoors and are extremely honored to receive this award. We thank all our industry and agency partners that supported this effort and we expect this project to shine a much-needed spotlight on the need to take similar actions that will help grow overall participation in the outdoors."

Episodes aired on Pursuit Channel throughout 2023 and were viewed by approximately 100,000 households each month, according to the latest ratings from Pursuit Channel. All six episodes can be viewed on OSCF's YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@outdoorstewardsofconservat2000/fe>

From the very beginning, Eric's goal was to create "the most diverse television show on the planet!" Over the past four years, the response from viewers across the country has been phenomenal and the show has lived up to its slogan tenfold by bringing the world a more diverse and inclusive outdoor television show.

atured as well as N.onT.typical Outdoorsman TV's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@n.onT.typicaloutdoorsmantv32/videos>

About: N.onT.typical Outdoorsman TV was launched in the Fall of 2019 as a result of not seeing any racial diversity depicted on the hundreds of hunting shows that were

airing on television. From the very beginning, Eric's goal was to create "the most diverse television show on the planet!" Over the past four years, the response from viewers across the country has been phenomenal and the show has lived up to its slogan tenfold by bringing the world a more diverse and inclusive outdoor television show.

About: Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation (OSCF) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that works with all facets of the outdoor industry to use research-based communications and engagement programs that help recruit the next generation of HATS (Hunters, Anglers, Trappers and Shooters) and promote the fact that HATS are primary funders and stewards of conservation in America. To learn more about OSCF programs; "Fill A Bag While Filling Your Tag", "Come With!", "Connecting with Conservation" and the "Outdoor Industry Communication Council", please visit www.OutdoorStewards.org or contact Jim Curcuruto at (203) 450-7202 or jim@stewardsof-conservation.org.

Silverfield and Henigan earn Sports Writers Assoc. honors... from sports 1

in 2020. Silverfield guided the Tigers to a 10-3 season in 2023, including a 36-26 win in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl over Iowa State. The 10-win season is just the fifth in program history, and his four bowl victories are the most in school history. His 31 victories are the second-most in program history for a head coach in his

first four seasons, while those wins rank in a tie for fourth nationally among head coaches hired in 2020.

The Tigers had nine student-athletes earn All-AAC honors in 2023, the most for the team since 2019. Running back Blake Watson and linebacker Chandler Martin earned first-team acco-

lades, while wide receiver Roc Taylor, offensive lineman Xavier Hill, Henigan and defensive lineman Jaylon Allen were named to the second team. Offensive lineman Jacob Likes and defensive back Simeon Blair earned spots on the third team, while linebacker Geoffrey Cantin-Arku earned honorable-mention. In 2023, Henigan earned Sec-

ond-Team All-AAC honors after completing 318-of-476 passes for 3,883 yards and 32 touchdowns. He also rushed for five scores on the season. Henigan set the program's single-season marks for completions and attempts and tied the completion percentage record (.668).

He was named MVP of the AutoZone Liberty Bowl after to-

taling five touchdowns (4 passing, 1 rushing), helping the Tigers earn a 36-26 victory over Iowa State for the team's fourth-consecutive bowl title. Also this season, Henigan became the program's career leader in completions (838) and passing yards (10,773).

Fans can secure their 2024 Memphis Football season tickets

with a \$10 deposit at GoTigersGo.com or by calling the Memphis Ticket Office at (901) 678-2331.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Football, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

University of Public Safety releases report... from sports-Military 2

last quarter of 2023 compared to 2022.

The major property crime rate is determined by the number of reported vehicle thefts, burglaries, and other felony thefts. During the last quarter of 2023, the major property crime rate declined 10.1 percent compared to the last quarter of 2022. The decline was driven by a significant 16.4 percent drop in Memphis and 16.0 percent decline countywide in the vehicle theft rate and a 10.3 percent in Memphis and 11.2 percent decline countywide in the rate for other felony theft offenses (which includes many thefts from vehicles).

For the entire year, the major property crime rate still increased by 17.4 percent in Memphis and 15.8 percent for the entire county compared to 2022 due to a 27.8 percent increase in Memphis and 26.0 percent countywide increase during the first three quarters,

driven by over 15,000 reported vehicle thefts stolen during that three-quarter period.

"Things turned around during the latter part of the year, with law enforcement being very proactive in meeting the challenge of vehicle thefts and break-ins. The Memphis Police Department has given out close to 10,000 steering wheel locks at no cost to residents. A special auto theft task force has focused on apprehending offenders, as have uniform patrol officers, averaging four vehicle theft arrests per day in 2023. And law enforcement worked to increase visibility during the holiday shopping season. Together, all of this paid off in terms of a reduction in vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles," said Bill Gibbons, executive director of the Public Safety Institute and president of the Crime Commission. The overall crime rate is deter-

mined by 54 specific types of reported crimes tracked by the TBI (called Group A crimes). While the overall crime rate was up 7.2 percent in Memphis and 6.0 percent countywide for the entire year compared to 2022, the rate declined 6.4 percent in Memphis and 7.2 percent throughout the county during the last quarter of 2023 compared to the last quarter of 2022.

The major violent crime rate remained fairly steady for the entire year, with a 7.4 percent increase in Memphis and a 6.3 percent increase countywide for the year compared to 2022. This increase was driven primarily by an increase in the robbery rate of about 20 percent.

A category of crime that was up for the year compared to 2022 and up even more so during the last quarter of the year was the rate of reported domestic violence offenses – up 3.6 percent

for the year in Memphis and 3.0 percent countywide over 2022 but up a disturbing 8.4 percent in

Memphis and 8.3 percent in all of Shelby County during the last quarter of the year.

Black History Month is February. Black History is also American History.

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