

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

Gov. Sanders appoints Colonel Chad Bridges as Secretary of the Military and the 55th Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders today announced that she has appointed Colonel Olen Chad Bridges to serve as Arkansas' Secretary of the Military and the 55th Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard. "Arkansas' National Guard are the finest our state has to offer, and there's no one better prepared to lead them than Colonel Chad Bridges," said Governor Sanders. "Throughout his 32-year military career that includes leading Arkansas' soldiers in three overseas deployments, Colonel Bridges has led troops in the Middle East, served several important assignments in the Pentagon, and been a loyal public servant to our state and nation. I know he will excel as Adjutant General and ensure our men and women in uniform are ready to support the great state of Arkansas and the entire country."

"Arkansas' National Guard are the finest our state has to offer, and there's no one better prepared to lead them than Colonel Chad Bridges," said Governor Sanders. "Throughout his 32-year military career that includes leading Arkansas' soldiers in three overseas deployments, Colonel Bridges has led troops in the Middle East, served several important assignments in the Pentagon, and been a loyal public servant to our state and nation."

itary and the 55th Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard," said Colonel Chad Bridges. "As a proud Arkansan, leading the exceptional men and women of the Arkansas National Guard in our mission to serve our state and nation is a lifetime privilege. I acknowledge our service-members' families and employers whose support and sacrifice enable our mission success. We will continue to make the great state of Arkansas proud

by upholding the highest standards of service and commitment to our state and nation."

Colonel Chad Bridges Bio:

Colonel Bridges enlisted in the Arkansas Army National Guard in August of 1991 and commissioned in August of 1998. He assumed command of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in September 2021, leading the brigade headquarters' deployment to Grafenwoehr, Germany. Colonel Bridges' three previous assignments before brigade command were in the Pentagon. He was the Chief of the National Guard Bureau's representative on the 2022 National Defense Strategy Core Development Team. Before that, he served in colonel assignments in the Office of Secretary of Defense and Headquarters Department of the Army. Colonel Bridges has served in various other national, state, and tactical level assignments as a full-time Active Guard Reserve officer since 2006. He is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced

Courses, U.S. Army Command and Staff College, U.S. Air Force Command and Staff College, U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the Joint Forces Staff College. In 2017, he completed the United States Army War College as a distinguished graduate obtaining a Master of Strategic Studies degree.

He is an MIT Seminar XXI fellow, a Harvard Kennedy School fellow for Leadership in Homeland Security, and a Syracuse University Maxwell School National Security Studies fellow. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Defense Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, Combat and Expert Infantryman Badges, and various other awards and badges.

Most importantly, Colonel Bridges is married to the former Kari Zaccanti of Fayetteville, Arkansas. They reside in Conway, Arkansas with their two children: Carsten and Chloe.

Tigers' Mario Anderson Jr. tabbed as candidate for Doak Walker Award

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – University of Memphis running back Mario Anderson Jr. was tabbed a candidate for the 2024 Doak Walker Award on Tuesday, the PwC SMU Athletic Forum announced. The Forum annually presents the award to the nation's most outstanding college running back. Anderson Jr. was named Second Team Preseason All-AAC by Phil Steele after leading South Carolina in rushing last season with 707 yards and three touchdowns on 143 carries. He added 22 receptions for 153 yards and a score as a receiver out of the backfield. The 5-foot-9, 208-pound back topped the century mark on the ground against Tennessee and Vanderbilt.

The PwC SMU Athletic Forum Board of Directors will name 10 semifinalists in November, and three finalists, as voted on by the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee, will also be announced in November. The committee will cast a second vote in December to determine the recipient. The National Selection Committee consists of past recipients, former NFL All-Pro

and college All-America running backs, media members and selected special representatives. The recipient of the 2024 Doak Walker Award will be announced live on The Home Depot College Football Awards on December 12, 2024.

The award is named for SMU's three-time All-America running back Doak Walker. Each Tuesday of this season, The PwC SMU Athletic Forum will once again announce a Doak Walker National Running Back of the week.

Memphis football fans can see the Tigers at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium in the team's season opener on Saturday, Aug. 31. Single-game tickets for the 2024 season can be found at by visiting gotigersgo.com

The Pick Three Mini Plan is an additional option available that gives fans the flexibility to pick from any three Tiger home football games during the 2024 season at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium, starting at just \$69.

Fans can purchase season tickets at GoTigersGo.com, or by calling the office at (901) 678-2331.

Memphis Tigers bring in plethora of College Football Network (CFN) preseason awards and honors for fans

MEMPHIS, Tenn. August 6, 2024 – University of Memphis football received a plethora of preseason honors from College Football Network, CFN announced.

The Tigers were highlighted with CFN Preseason AAC Coach of the Year **Ryan Silverfield**, CFN Preseason AAC Quarterback, Offensive Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-American **Seth Henigan**, CFN Preseason AAC Wide Receiver of the Year **Roc Taylor**, CFN Preseason AAC Guard of the Year **Xavier Hill**, CFN Preseason AAC Kick Returner of the Year **Sutton Smith** and the **entire offensive line** being tabbed CFN Preseason AAC Offensive Line of the Year.

Entering his ninth season with Memphis (fifth as head coach), Silverfield has been tabbed Preseason AAC Coach of the Year by CFN. Silverfield has won a bowl title in each of his first four seasons and is the only head

coach in program history with four bowl wins after leading Memphis to a victory over Iowa State in the 2023 AutoZone Liberty Bowl. His 31 wins are tied for the second most of any Memphis head coach through four seasons and are the fourth most among head coaches hired in 2020.

Henigan earns CFN Preseason AAC Quarterback and Offensive Player of the Year honors after helping lead the Tigers to a 10-3 record and 2023 AutoZone Liberty Bowl championship. The 21-year-old was also named Honorable Mention CFN All-American and is entering his fourth season at the helm of the Tiger offense, making him the only fourth-year starting quarterback in FBS to spend all four seasons at one institution.

The senior quarterback had his best season yet in 2023, passing for 3,883 yards and 32 touchdowns to just nine interceptions while rushing for another five

scores and setting the single-season completions (318) record for the Tigers.

Henigan is the Memphis-career leader entering 2024 in completions (839) and passing yards (10,776) while his 79 touchdowns are just a dozen shy of Brady White's career record. The senior has logged 18-career 300-yard passing games and five 400-yard efforts over his career – both good for program records.

Taylor, a senior out of Oxford, Alabama, was named as the CFN's AAC Preseason Wide Receiver of the Year following a breakout 2023 season with the Tigers. With 69 receptions for 1,083 yards and four touchdowns, he ranked 20th in the NCAA in receiving yards and 23rd in receiving yards per game while becoming just the fifth 1,000-yard receiver in Memphis football history.

Taylor, a 2023 Second Team All-AAC honoree, was one of just

nine Tigers to start all 13 games on the 10-win squad – going over 100 yards receiving six times.

Smith was picked to the Preseason First Team All-AAC Kick Returner by Phil Steele after averaging 24.2 yards per return in 2023 to rank 18th nationally and second in The American and now adds CFN Preseason AAC Kick Returner of the Year to his resume. The versatile running back totaled 77 yards and a touchdown on four rushes and a pair of receptions in the 2023 AutoZone Liberty Bowl win.

Hill, a 2023 First Team All-AAC selection by Phil Steele, was a member of last season's 10-win squad that defeated Iowa State in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl, starting all 13 games during the season. The 6-foot-4, 318-pound guard was tabbed as CFN's Preseason AAC Guard of the Year entering the season.

The Memphis offensive line was picked as CFN's AAC favorite

heading into the 2024 season led by veteran returners in Hill, Jonah Gambill, Keydrell Lewis and Mitchell Gildehaus in addition to newcomers Trent Holler and Jaylen Nichols. The Tiger line helped Memphis to a 10-3 finish in 2023 where it finished the season ranked sixth in the NCAA in scoring offense (39.4), 10th in passing offense (306.5), 14th in total offense (548.5) and 17th in team passing efficiency (154.79) and completion percentage (.667).

In addition to the slew of preseason awards, seven Tigers landed on CFN's Preseason First Team All-AAC Team: Henigan (QB), Taylor (WR), Demeer Blankumsee (WR), Hill (OG), Trent Holler (OG), Davion Ross (CB) and Smith (KR).

Another pair of Tigers earned CFN Preseason Second Team All-AAC accolades in Mario Anderson Jr. (RB) and Chandler Martin (LB). Jaylen Nichols (OT), Greg Rubin (S) and Kour-

lan Marsh (Flex) earned CFN Preseason Third Team honors while Javante Mackey (LB) was named CFN Preseason Honorable Mention All-AAC.

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To catch all of the action in the highly-anticipated 2024 Memphis Football season, fans can also purchase season tickets at GoTigersGo.com, in person at the Memphis Ticket Office or by calling the 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.

The Bluff at 14 offers fans a new experience at FedEx St. Jude Championship on August 14-18... from sports page 1

Saturday from 12- 3 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. There will be two winners each day who will then compete in the final contest on Sunday after 2 p.m. Winners from Thursday through Saturday will be given grounds tickets to come back on Sunday to participate in the final round. The winner of the final round will be invited to the national Putt Your Way to \$10k contest in Atlanta, Georgia at a later date.

The Dock
Appreciate the breeze coming off the water and take in prime views of No. 14 green at the brand-new venue, The Dock. Accessed off No. 16 fairway, fans can revel in this unique experience by enjoying a beverage by the drink rail or relaxing under the shade in the complimentary seating available.

Birdies & Bubbles
Accessed in the shade off No. 16 fairway, returning fan-favorite Birdies & Bubbles is open to the public and will feature delicious signature dishes and exceptional

cocktails with a prime view of No. 14 green. Brought to you by James Beard Award finalists and famed Memphis duo chefs Andy Ticer and Michael Hudman, fans can enjoy their custom creations from the brand-new Adirondack chairs on the hill next to Birdies & Bubbles or from the water at The Dock.

Pronto Pup
New this year, fans can enjoy Memphis staple Pronto Pup at its second location at TPC Southwind on No. 14. Known for their delicious corn dogs, Pronto Pup is the perfect spot to take a break and grab a snack with the family.

Starting at 9 a.m. on competition days, the first 250 fans at The Bluff at 14 will receive a gift courtesy of FedEx. Each day, those initial fans to make it to No. 14 will have the opportunity to grab rally towels with differing tournament artwork based on which day they attend. In addition to the rally towels, FedEx is giving away different tournament branded items while supplies last. These items in-

clude: an electric neck fan, a three-legged golf stool, a bucket hat and an insulated koozie.

FedEx will also have coaches and players from the University of Memphis football and basketball programs as their guest from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at The Dock located at The Bluff at 14. Those planning to attend from the football program on Friday, Aug. 16 include coach **Ryan Silverfield**, and players **Seth Hennigan**, **Jaylen Nichols**, **Elijah Herring**, **Javon Denis** and **Chris Adams**. On Saturday, Aug. 17, men's coach **Penny Hardaway**, and players, **Dain Dainja**, **PJ Haggerty**, **Tyreek Smith**, **Tyrese Hunter** and **Colby Rogers** from the basketball team plan to be in attendance, along with **Tilly Boler**, **Alasia Smith** and **Elauna Eaton** from the women's basketball team.

Fans interested in exploring the rest of TPC Southwind after visiting The Bluff at 14 can utilize the Visitor Information Booth presented by Memphis Tourism

on 14 tee for any questions.

Daily Grounds tickets for the 2024 FedEx St. Jude Championship are still available for all days. Tickets are dynamically priced, so fans are encouraged to purchase early to secure the lowest available price. To purchase tickets, please visit FedExChampionship.com/tickets.

As the first event of the FedEx Cup Playoffs, the FedEx St. Jude

Championship marks the start of the PGA TOUR's most thrilling three weeks in golf where every shot counts. Don't miss out on the action! For more information about the FedEx St. Jude Championship, please visit FedExChampionship.com. Fans are also encouraged to follow the FedEx St. Jude Championship on Facebook, X and Instagram for tournament updates.

An Editorial Comment from The Mid-South Tribune:

"Real women should play in women's sports!"

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