

More sports, law, and military news...

College championship presented by Bass Pro Shops heads to Leech Lake; Weather to determine winner

WALKER, Minn., August 16, 2026 — Summertime patterns will be in full swing at Leech Lake when qualified teams arrive for the 2026 Strike King Bassmaster College Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops Aug. 20-22. However, according to 2025 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Under Armour champ Easton Fothergill, Mother Nature will have the final say in which patterns will shine and lead anglers to the trophy.

“The weather will completely determine how the tournament is won and what area it is won in,” said Fothergill, who’s from nearby Grand Rapids, Minn. “In perfect conditions, a three-day total weight would be between 74 and 77 pounds. That’s in perfect conditions for three days, which will never happen. So, if they get to fish for three days, I’m guessing around 60 pounds.” Daily takeoffs and weigh-ins will be held in Walker, Minn. Teams from across the country qualified via the six regular-season Strike King Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops events held throughout the spring.

The winning team at the College Championship will earn a spot in the 2026 Bassmaster College Classic Bracket presented by Lew’s, an event that will send one angler to the 2027 Bassmaster Classic. The overall Team of the Year will also be crowned at the College Championship and



will qualify for the Bracket event. They’ll be joined by the Lunkers Trail and Legends Trail Teams of the Year.

During the past two seasons, the Turtlebox Bassmaster Opens presented by Battery Tender have put Leech Lake in the spotlight. Fothergill, the hometown kid, won the Open held there in 2024 with 49 pounds, 13 ounces in an all-smallmouth performance. Laker Howell won the 2025 Open with all largemouth weighing 39-13.

Both tournaments were shortened to two days due to strong winds, which will no doubt be a potential factor for college teams to consider when putting together their championship game plans.

“We saw vastly different conditions in those two Opens,” Fothergill said. “That’s why the one I won took all smallmouth to win and the other took all largemouth. It is very conditional. There are massive ones in both species. If you have calmer, sunnier conditions, the smallmouth will dominate. If it is windy and nasty, the largemouth will dominate.” Smallmouth will be in their

summer patterns, staging on boulders and rock where they have plenty of rusty crawfish to feed on. Another group of smallmouth will be eating perch and cisco, Fothergill added.

Jighead minnows, drop shots and finesse football jigs will be key presentations.

“Boulders are the No. 1 target for smallmouth,” Fothergill said. “The smallmouth are still filling up the lake, and there are still parts of the lake with not many. Those areas, however, are often

where the biggest ones are living. You have to pick your poison on whether you want to go for numbers or giants.”

Anglers looking for quality largemouth will find those bass feeding on bluegill and crawfish around vegetation and docks. In the summer, the largemouth will gravitate to the wild rice fields as well as lily pad fields. Look for frogs and flipping baits to play the biggest role up shallow.

“They love wild rice. But it is very area-specific for the large-

mouth,” Fothergill added. “You’ll go a long way without getting a bite, and then all of a sudden you’ll run into a ton of them.”

Teams can certainly be competitive with all largemouth, but green fish will play an even bigger role if the weather turns nasty and smallmouth fishing becomes difficult.

“You may have one day of each condition,” Fothergill said. “So

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First Lady Melania Trump’s efforts prove successful in Ukraine and Russia

August 17, 2026- First Lady Melania Trump facilitated the reunification of another child with her family on Monday, August 17, 2026, after being separated during the Ukraine – Russia Federation conflict.

“There is nothing more powerful

than reuniting a mother with her child after an extended period of time. My representative and I are focused on helping facilitate the next reunification of individuals who have been separated from their loved ones because of the war between Ukraine and Russia,” asserted First Lady Melania Trump.

than reuniting a mother with her child after an extended period of time. My representative and I are focused on helping facilitate the next reunification of individuals who have been separated from their loved ones because of the war between Ukraine and Russia,” asserted First Lady Melania Trump.

To date, First Lady Melania Trump’s efforts have facilitated the reunification of 34 children and families since she penned the Peace Letter to Russia’s President Vladimir Putin.

Commission sends nominees to Governor for vacancies in 30th Judicial District

Nashville, TN, August 17, 2026 –The Trial Court Vacancy Commission met in Memphis to select nominees for two vacancies in the 30th Judicial District Violent Criminal Court. After holding a public hearing and conducting public interviews, nominees for the two vacancies include:

Paul Hagerman
Melanie M. Headley
Marques T. Young
Jessica Van Dyke

You are invited to view the nominees’ applications at Commission to Consider Ten Applicants for Two Newly Created Judgeships in 30th Judicial District. <https://www.tncourts.gov/news/2026/07/15/commission-consider-ten-applicants-two-newly-created-judgeships-30th-judicial>

Email sports and military news to MSTsports@prodigy.net.

A Memphis Safe Task Force Report (MSTF)

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the vehicle revealed a .38-caliber revolver and a bag containing approximately 2 grams of suspected ecstasy.

Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force initiative, officers have made 11,760 arrests, including 119 for homicide, 1,292 for controlled substances, 1,193 for firearms violations, and 118 for sex offenses. Of those arrested, 356 were juveniles and 1,271 were known gang members. The task force has seized 2,024 illegal firearms. These enforcement actions reflect a sustained commitment to reducing violent crime and removing dangerous weapons from Memphis neighborhoods.

For more information about the U.S. Marshals please visit www.usmarshals.gov.

Report from August 13, 2026
MSTF arrests 41 Wednesday, recovers 3 guns

MEMPHIS, August 13, 2026 — The Memphis Safe Task Force on Wednesday executed 41 arrests, including a man charged with murder, and recovered three illegal firearms.

Of note:

Darseantese Dean, 27, was arrested for a murder and an attempted murder warrant issued on July 13 out of Mississippi. After MSTF received information that was in the Memphis area, they located him in the driveway of a house in the 3500 block of Serenade Lane. During the arrest, MSTF members searched the vehicle and collected two 7.62 magazines and a high-capacity drum magazine for evidence.

Tho Ho, 55, who was indicted July 30 in Shelby County on charges of rape of a child, continuous sexual abuse of a child, and aggravated battery, was arrested in the 7300 block of North 68th Avenue in Glendale, Arizona. After MSTF members developed information Tuesday that Ho had fled to Arizona, they sent a collateral lead to the U.S. Marshals in the District of Arizona who located him and arrested him without incident. Both of his cellular devices were collected as evidence.

George Jackson, 26, charged with nine counts of robbery and felony possession of drugs was arrested in the 600 block of Triggs Avenu after MSTF responded to a home invasion service call from a victim who said Jackson, accompanied by a woman, had entered the residence and robbed them. The woman, identified as Makiyah Marks, was also arrested. Jackson was found hiding in a crawl space under the house and was taken into custody. MSTF members recovered 2 grams of crack cocaine and a scale.

Laquavious Young, 22, charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possession of a dangerous weapon in the commission of a crime, was arrested in the 3700 block of Barberrry Street after MSTF members executed a search warrant at the house, resulting in the recovery of a Glock 19 handgun, two magazines and 1.02 kilograms of marijuana.

Wesley Nunnally, 31, was arrested and charged with aggra-

vated assault at an apartment complex in the 4000 block of Berkshire Avenue after MSTF responded to a report of a man pointing a firearm at his girlfriend. The victim on scene told MSTF officers she was arguing with Nunnally when he produced a black pistol and pointed it at her and her mother, threatening to shoot them if they didn’t get out of the apartment. Nunnally was also charged with domestic violence and use of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony. Officers recovered a .40-caliber handgun.

Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force initiative, officers have made 11,728 arrests, including 118 for homicide, 1,290 for controlled substances, 1,189 for firearms violations, and 118 for sex offenses. Of those arrested, 356 were juveniles and 1,270 were known gang members. The task force has seized 2,017 illegal firearms. These enforcement actions reflect a sustained commitment to reducing violent crime and re-

moving dangerous weapons from Memphis neighborhoods.

The Memphis Safe Task Force is a multi-agency initiative established via a Presidential Memorandum signed by President Donald Trump on Sept. 15, 2025. Aimed at addressing violent street crime, the task force coordinates federal, state, and local law enforcement and includes mobilized members of the Tennessee National Guard. The MSTF is focused on arresting violent criminals, clearing warrants, seizing firearms, and locating missing children. Since the operation began, the MSTF has located 185 missing children.

This operation reflects the MSTF’s commitment to coordinated enforcement efforts and its mission to identify, apprehend, and hold accountable those who pose a threat to public safety.

For more information about the U.S. Marshals please visit www.usmarshals.gov.

MSTF from August 12
America’s First Federal Law En-

forcement Agency

West Tennessee Man Wanted for Child Rape Captured by U.S. Marshals

Crockett County, TN, August 12, 2026 -The U.S. Marshals Service Two Rivers Violent Fugitive Task Force (USMS) captured a man in Crockett County wanted for sexually assaulting a minor.

Patton Levi Mathias, 20, was indicted in Henderson County, Tennessee for Rape of a Child. A warrant was issued for his arrest on July 24, 2026, out of Henderson County Circuit Court.

The USMS was asked to assist in finding and apprehending Mathias.

On August 11, Deputy U.S. Marshals and Task Force Officers found Mathias at a residence in Maury City in Crockett County, Tennessee and took him into custody.

More information about the U.S. Marshals Service can be found at <http://www.usmarshals.gov>.

“One Citizen! One Vote!” Contact your Congressmen and Senators to Pass the S.A.V.E. AMERICA ACT

- An Editorial Message from The Mid-South Tribune-

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DEADLINE TO REGISTER AUGUST 21ST

REGISTRATION 11:00 a.m.
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Lunch and Snacks provided at the Clubhouse
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SPECIAL THANKS TO 