

Sports & Entertainment

The Grizzlies Foundation and MENTOR tip off National Mentoring Month to celebrate importance of mentoring



MEMPHIS, TENN- January 10, 2026 — The Memphis Grizzlies Foundation and MENTOR Memphis Grizzlies (MMG) are tipping-off 2026 with National Mentoring Month, designed to celebrate mentor and mentee relationships and showcase the importance of mentoring in the Memphis community.

The Grizzlies began the month-long celebrations on Thursday, Jan. 8, by hosting Visualizing the Dream 2026, presented by Ford and your Mid-South Ford Dealers. Inspiring young voices across Memphis, the event brought Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to life through dynamic elements, including a panel discussion led by the Youth Advisory Council, showcasing how Dr. King's legacy has positively impacted access to opportunities for success. Supported by MENTOR Memphis Grizzlies, Contemporary Arts Memphis and the National Civil Rights Museum, the event also featured an Air Force 1 sneaker painting installment, as well as a performance by the STAX Street Corner Harmonies. The painted sneakers will be displayed throughout FedExForum Monday, Jan. 19, through February in the Sissy's Log Cabin Floor Seat Lounge, at the MVP Desk across from Section 116 and on Pinnacle Level across from Suite 232.

The team will celebrate Mentoring Night, presented by Ford and your Mid-South Ford Dealers, at FedExForum on Wednesday, Jan. 21, as the Grizzlies face the Atlanta Hawks. More than 500 mentoring advocates, mentors and mentees will join the Grizzlies game in celebration, including 20 mentoring organizations that will participate in recruitment tabling in the main concourse and a Young Actors Guild mentee who will perform the National Anthem. The first 3,000 fans to arrive at FedExForum will receive a Mentoring Empowers Memphis T-shirt. Mentors, mentor organizations, partners and mentees across the Mid-South will be honored on Monday, Jan. 26, at the University of Memphis, where MENTOR Memphis Grizzlies will host the National Mentoring Month Awards. The annual awards celebrate mentoring excellence in the Memphis community, welcoming guests for

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dinner, entertainment and recognition of award recipients. A webinar for Memphis-Shelby County Schools will be held on Thursday, Jan. 29, designed to help mentor organizations explore effective mentoring approaches, obtain available resources and learn how to connect their programs with the school district.

For more information on the Memphis Grizzlies Foundation and National Mentoring Month or to get involved and become a mentor, visit grizzliesfoundation.org and follow @grizzcommunity on Twitter/X and Instagram. Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2025-26 season tickets, single game tickets or partial plans 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.

ABOUT THE MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES FOUNDATION:

Harnessing the power of sport to transform lives, the Grizzlies Foundation is dedicated to closing the Opportunity Gap for children in underserved communities and, since 2004, has focused on finding, funding and creating youth mentoring and development programs that prepare students for success in college and career. Through the Foundation, the Grizzlies have invested over \$54.5 million in schools, community organizations and innovative projects that give students the tools to achieve their full potential.

NSSF's Protect Liberty PAC and NASGW contribution from sports page 3

"This is an extremely generous contribution from NASGW and represents their belief in Protect Liberty PAC's mission to elect candidates who will fight for our liberties and freedoms, including the Second Amendment," said Lawrence G. Keane, Protect Liberty PAC's Treasurer

Protect Liberty PAC is an independent-expenditure only political committee and can accept unlimited personal and corporate contributions from companies in or outside of the industry, so long as they do not have federal contracts. Protect Liberty PAC will expressly advocate for the election or defeat of specific candidates and that advocacy will be completely independent of any

candidate or political party. Contributions to Protect Liberty PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Federal law requires Protect Liberty PAC to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and the name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Protect Liberty PAC can accept unlimited personal and corporate contributions.

However, contributions from foreign nationals, federal contractors, national banks, and federally chartered corporations are prohibited.

For more information or to contribute to Protect Liberty PAC, visit www.protectlibertypac.com.

Big Radio Records label artist Christopher Wyze & the Tellers will beat the blues with record year; Lands Roots Music reports top 200 blues albums



Lands Roots Music Reports Top 200 Blues Albums, Top Contemporary Blues Albums, and Top Blues Song Charts!

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Big Radio Records label artist Christopher Wyze & the Tellers has had an extraordinary year, becoming the only artist to place two albums within the Top 100 of Roots Music Report's Top Blues Albums for the Year 2025. Media coverage for the band included features in Living Blues, Blues in Britain, The Boston Chris Show, The Hollywood Times, Americana Highways, Corning, New York's Big Fox News, Blue Monday Monthly, Spotify Recent Music, Indianapolis' WISH-TV, Success Made To Last, The Doctor Ward Bond Show, The Donna Drake Show, Nashville's Local On 2, Huntsville's Tennessee Valley Living, Nashville Music Guide, and more.

Kicking off the new year with a bang, Christopher Wyze & the Tellers received multiple honors from Roots Music Report on their "Best of 2025" Charts, based on global radio and DJ streaming play. • Their 2025 album release, 'Live In Clarksdale,' landed at #28 on the Top Blues Albums Chart, as well as #17 on the Top Contemporary Blues Albums Chart.



- Their debut album (2024), *Stuck In The Mud*, landed #93 on the Top Blues Albums Chart and #46 on the Top Contemporary Blues Album Chart.
- And on the Top Blues Song Chart, "Back To Clarksdale" (#38), "Three Hours From Memphis" (#60), and "Stuck In The Mud (Live)" (#83) scored the Top 100 chart positions.

Along with presenting at the 2025 Josie Music Awards, Christopher Wyze & The Tellers also

recently won the 2025 Blues Blast Music Award for Best New Artist Debut Album for their thirteen-track release 'Stuck in the Mud.' The album, which appeared on multiple blues charts around the world, received critical acclaim for its raw storytelling and powerful, fresh take on contemporary blues. Presented by Blues Blast Magazine, the annual awards recognize excellence across all styles of blues music, with nominees selected by a panel of industry professionals and winners determined

by global fan voting. Christopher Wyze & The Tellers joined an impressive roster of this year's winners, including Tab Benoit, Derek Trucks, Charlie Musselwhite, Shemekia Copeland, Bobby Rush, and Keb' Mo'.

For more information, visit christopherwyzeandthetellers.com.

About Christopher Wyze & The Tellers:

Christopher Wyze & The Tellers blend the grit of traditional blues with the storytelling spirit of Americana, creating a sound that's raw, soulful, and unmistakably their own. Led by frontman and songwriter Christopher Wyze, the band's music captures life's highs, heartbreaks, and hard-earned lessons with honesty and fire. Their debut album, *Stuck in the Mud*, earned international acclaim and won the 2025 Blues Blast Music Award for Best New Artist Debut Album, landing on blues charts around the world. With authentic lyricism, powerhouse musicianship, and an energy that connects across generations, Christopher Wyze & The Tellers are redefining what modern blues can be—real, rootsy, and relentlessly human.

Titans' Dike and Simmons named to First-Team All Pro, marking first time in same season Titans have two players in AP All-Pro... from sports page 1

son and was the highest by any qualifying punt returner since 2020. It is the highest punt return average for a rookie since Jack Christiansen recorded a 19.1 average in 1951. He also became the first player since 1952 to qualify with an average of 17.0-plus yards per punt return and 25.0-plus yards per kick return in the same season. In addition, Dike tallied two punt return touchdowns to tie for the most in the NFL this season. His first punt return score against the L.A. Chargers was the first

by a Titan since Darius Reynaud in 2012. Simmons earns his first AP All-Pro First-Team honor after being named to the second team in 2021 and 2022. This season, Simmons led all interior defensive linemen in solo tackles (39), tackles for loss (17), sacks (11), sack yards (79.0), quarterback pressures (60), pressure rate (14.5) and forced fumbles (tied 3). In the last 10 seasons (2016 to 2025), Simmons (2025) and Aaron Donald (2021) are the only NFL defensive tackles to

produce at least 10 sacks, 16 tackles for loss, three forced fumbles and three passes defended in a single season.

Simmons also recorded his second career offensive touchdown on a one-yard reception in Week 15 at San Francisco. The next week, he recorded his first career safety against Kansas City. He is the only defensive tackle with a safety and a touchdown in the same season since at least 2000. Simmons was also named the AFC Defensive Player of the Month for December/January.

He was voted to the Pro Bowl for the fourth time in his career and named the Titans' Walter Payton Man of the Year club winner for the third consecutive season.

A cornerstone of the Titans, Simmons is one of the longest tenured members of the team and was voted as a team captain for the fifth consecutive season. He ranks 12th in franchise history with 42.5 sacks, which is good for fifth in team history during its "Titans era."



Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's 31st Annual Black History Month Special Edition.

We celebrate America's 250th Anniversary and our culture of *Freedom, Freedom, Freedom!*

The Constitution of the United States of America provides the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments as testament of America's culture of Freedom and *the Pursuit of Happiness!*

Coming in February!