

Sports & Entertainment

Grizzlies to host 2026 NBA Draft Party, presented by Southland Casino Hotel

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Fans unable to attend the Grizzlies Draft Party can tune into the 2026 Grind City Media Draft Show, presented by Southland Casino Hotel, with full coverage of the first round of the 2026 NBA Draft. The broadcast will be streamed live on the Grind City Media YouTube Channel, Twitter/X, Facebook and through the Grind City Media app.

more about the MVP-exclusive floor access experience or become a Grizzlies MVP Season Ticket Member can do so now by going online to grizzlies.com/tickets.

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Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's "250" Special Edition to Celebrate America's 250th Birthday!

watch alongside the first round of the NBA Draft with their favorite Grind City Media personalities including Jessica Benson, Bennett Doyle, Rob Fischer, CJ Hurt, Brevin Knight, Jon Roser, Gary Parrish, Chris Vernon, Michael Wallace, Devin Walker and Lang Whitaker.

To preview the draft, fans can tune into the 2026 NBA Draft Board Breakdown Show and 2026 NBA Mock Draft, presented by Southland Casino Hotel, on the Grind City Media YouTube Channel and GrindCityMedia.com. Fans are encouraged to follow @GrindCityMedia on Twitter/X for live updates from Michael Wallace, who will be on-site at the draft in Brooklyn.

Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2026-27 season 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.

and the staff."

"We are pleased to welcome Tracy McGrady to Wagner in this advisory capacity at an important moment for our institution," said Wagner President Jeffrey Doggett. "As we continue to thoughtfully strengthen our men's basketball program and overall student-athlete experience, Tracy brings a unique combination of perspective, excellence, and commitment to development both on and off the court. His engagement aligns with our broader vision of preparing students not only for success in their fields but for life, and we look forward to exploring this partnership in a deliberate and meaningful way."

"We are both humbled and honored to have Tracy join us in this new role as we build upon a successful first season we have had at Wagner, and look forward to a future for both our program and for the College community that is very bright," McMillan said. "It became very evident in our first conversation where both Tracy and Laymen expressed interest in transferring to Wagner that there was a commitment that was both special and very unique, and we are looking forward to having Tracy's help off the court as Laymen and our athletes develop on it."



McGrady, renowned as one of the NBA's greatest players, is not only celebrated for his remarkable basketball career but also for his dedication to making a positive impact off the court. Born on May 24, 1979, in Bartow, Florida, Tracy McGrady's journey to greatness began at an early age. His exceptional talent and unwavering work ethic propelled him from an unknown prospect at the legendary ABCD Camp to high school sensation and eventually to NBA stardom. McGrady was a seven-time NBA All-Star, a two-time scoring champion, and an NBA Most Improved Player. His ability to score effortlessly, create dazzling plays, and lead his teams to victory became legendary.

In 2017, Tracy received the highest honor in basketball, induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, a testament to his enduring legacy and influence on the game. His post-playing career has seen McGrady launch One's Basketball League,

the premier one-on-one basketball competition which will have its third season beginning on May 15, as well expand his broadcasting role now with the NBA on NBC and with his highly popular podcast "Cousins" with fellow NBA legend and his cousin Vince Carter, as well as becoming a partial owner of the Buffalo Bills of the NFL. In addition to his basketball achievements, he is deeply committed to philanthropy and community service. Through his foundation, he has touched the lives of countless individuals, focusing on initiatives that promote education, youth development, and community enrichment. He, with his wife CleRenda, have made philanthropy a core value of action in how they raise their four children Layla, Laymen, Laycee and Layden. The McGrady's are committed to making the lives of underserved communities better through education and personal youth development outreach.

Wagner appointed McMillan

head men's basketball coach on April 20 after he served as interim coach during the 2025-26 season, leading them to a 14-17 record which included a key road win at Central Connecticut in the NEC post-season tournament.

ABOUT WAGNER COLLEGE
Wagner College, founded in 1883, seamlessly blends exceptional professional programs with a traditional academic ethos for a comprehensive, experiential-forward education that fosters well-rounded, adaptable graduates. The college's verdant residential campus offers a traditional college experience on New York City's Staten Island, situated on a hilltop overlooking Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Atlantic. Wagner prides itself on robust student support services, including personalized academic advising, comprehensive career counseling, and a wide array of wellness programs. Students are prepared not only for professional success but also for meaningful lives through the faculty's dedication to promoting scholarship, achievement, leadership and citizenship. A Division I athletics institution and the No. 1 college in the U.S. for student theater, Wagner enrolls approximately 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students from 49 states and 48 countries.

Joshua Ray Walker's post-cancer opus "Ain't Dead Yet" now available; "Ain't Dead Yet" Tour underway for fans

Some Special Tour Dates in the Mid-South Area

Oct 17 - Open Chord - Knoxville, TN
Oct 18 - Songbirds - Chattanooga, TN
Oct 22 - Skinny Dennis - Nashville, TN
Oct 24 - Hernando's Hideaway - Memphis, TN
Oct 25 - White Water Tavern - Little Rock, AR

May 28, 2026 - **Joshua Ray Walker** started writing the title track of his new album **Ain't Dead Yet** when he thought he was dying of cancer. He finished after he knew that he would survive. The song is the centerpiece of Ain't Dead Yet, out now via **East Dallas Records/Thirty Tigers**, and a poignant ode to resilience and staring mortality squarely in the face. "Ain't Dead Yet" is the album I never knew I'd finish," says Walker. "Three attempts, three years, a death sentence, a miracle, and a massive shift in perspective. This album documents it all, and I'm extremely grateful that I'm alive to see it released into the world. The credits could have read 'in memory of..' but I ain't dead yet."

Walker's made a name for himself with poignant, human portraits of flawed, fascinating characters. Now, on Ain't Dead Yet, Walker's telling a more personal story – his own. Beneath the album's flippant title resides some of Walker's heaviest storytelling yet. Three years ago, when he started writing Ain't Dead Yet, Walker hadn't yet received the cancer diagnosis that rearranged and threatened his life (he currently has a clean bill of health). But that year was still uncommonly fraught with mental, physical, and career stresses. Pulling the songs out of the can to finalize them for the album – including re-writing and re-working almost all the songs – Walker, who was then undergoing and recovering from cancer treatment, was surprised by their prescience.

Coming out the other side of a fight with cancer offered Walker a second chance. But the angst inherent to facing death and the requisite perspective on the past figure thematically across the album. Ain't Dead Yet is equal



Joshua Ray Walker

parts defiant and bittersweet, a reflection on Walker's last few years and a time capsule. Walker has also been creating a different kind of time capsule with his 400days.to.400lbs Instagram account. What started as a spur of the moment personal accountability page of Walker's weight loss journey has become a major new way for people to connect with him. The account has over 472,000 followers. Much like Ain't Dead Yet, the 400days.to.400lbs account documents Walker's healing and desire to stay in the fight. Walker is touring extensively in support of the album, with U.S., European and UK dates through October.

Joshua Ray Walker - 2026 Tour Dates

Jun 6 - Milkboy - Philadelphia, PA
Jun 7 - Pearl Street Warehouse - Washington DC
Jul 3 - Byscenen - Trondheim, NO
Jul 5 - Blårøck Cafe - Tromso, NO
Jul 8 - Wiese - Lillehammer - NO
Jul 10 - Norsk Country-Treff - Breim, NO
Jul 12 - Ole Bull Scene - Bergen,

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NO
Jul 14 - Tou Scene - Stavanger, NO
Jul 17 - John Dee - Oslo, NO
Jul 18 - Pustervik - Gothenburg, SE
Jul 21 - Debaser - Stockholm, SE
Jul 22 - Garage Bar - Hoganas, SE
Jul 24 - Mojo - Copenhagen, DK
Jul 26 - Freideck Kantine - Cologne, DE
Jul 28 - The Lower Third - London, ENG
Jul 29 - The Deaf Institute - Manchester, ENG
Jul 30 - The Hug and Pint - Glasgow, SCO
Aug 1 - Whelan's - Dublin, IE
Sept 9 - Bluebird Theater - Denver, CO
Sept 10 - The Rialto Casper -



Black Promoters Collective

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people. With so many headlines in 2025 and 2026 about canceled tours, festival delays, and slow ticket sales, BPC has kept thriving — putting on successful national tours and events that stay true to its legacy, authenticity, and community.

Even more impressive: BPC hasn't canceled a single major tour or event.

"This moment shows the power of Black music and the fans who keep supporting it," states Gary Guidry, Black Promoters Collective CEO. "People come out for experiences that feel real, emotional, nostalgic, joyful, and rooted in culture. That's always been our goal."

"This is a defining moment for BPC and a testament to the incredible work of our entire team," said Shelby Joyner, Black Promoters Collective President. "To be recognized among the best in the industry is something we don't take lightly — and this is only the beginning." BPC's ongoing success just underscores what the industry already knows: Black audiences are among the most loyal, influential, and engaged fans in live entertainment.

In recent years, BPC has helped power some of the biggest and most celebrated live events and legacy tours in the culture, while also showing what Black-owned entertainment companies can really do.

Email sports & entertainment news and photos to MSTsports@prodigy.net

AMERICA



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AUGUST 12-16, 2026
TPC SOUTHWIND | MEMPHIS, TN