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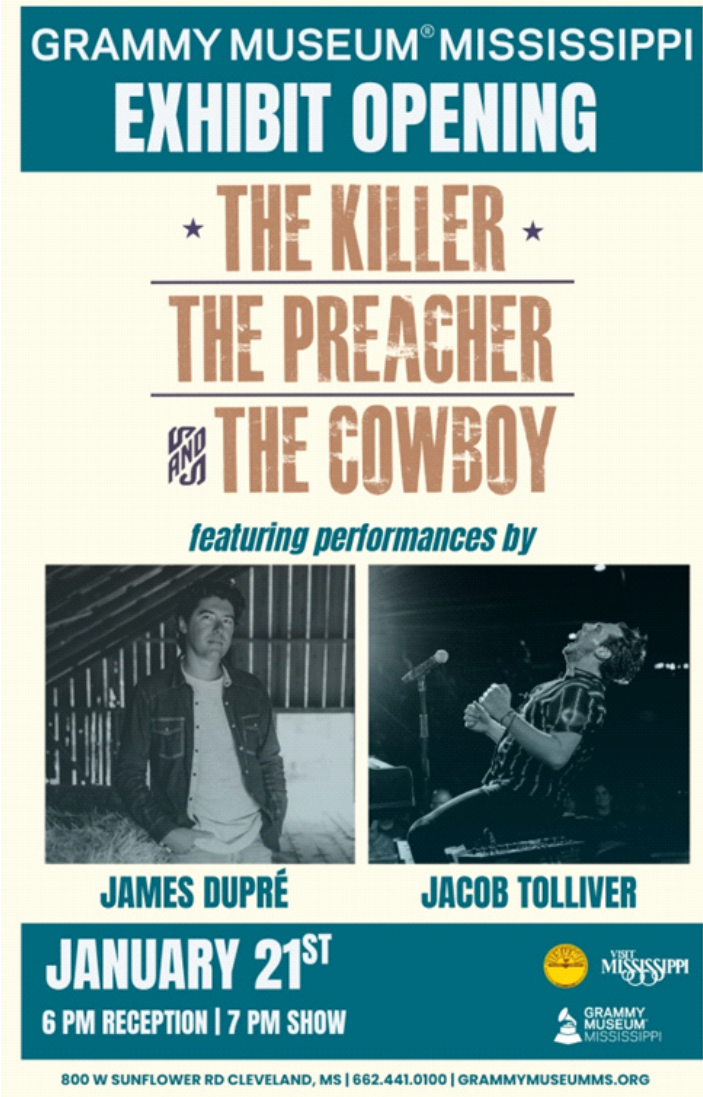
James Dupre and Jacob Tolliver to appear in special program for “The Killer, The Preacher, and The Cowboy” Exhibit at Grammy Museum Mississippi

CLEVELAND, Miss. -Dec. 22, 2025– James Dupré and Jacob Tolliver will appear at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi on Wednesday, Jan. 21 for a special program to mark the opening of The Killer, The Preacher and the Cowboy: The Legacies of Jerry Lee Lewis, Jimmy Swaggart and Mickey Gilley. Dupré is a Louisiana-born singer who was named a Country Artist You Need to Know by Rolling Stone and is currently the lead vocalist on the Randy Travis’ More Life Tour. Tolliver is a Nashville-based singer/songwriter and pianist who opened on tour for Jerry Lee Lewis from 2017 to 2019 and portrayed the icon in Million Dollar Quartet in Las Vegas early in his career.

The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will feature a Q&A with Dupré and Tolliver, followed by a special performance. Prior to the program, a reception will be held starting at 6:00 p.m. This event is made possible by sponsors Sun Records and Visit Mississippi. Tickets are \$50 and may be purchased in person at the box office or by visiting grammymuseumms.org.

The Museum’s groundbreaking new exhibit, which officially opens to the public the following day on Thursday, Jan. 22, spotlights three entertainment icons (who also happened to be cousins) from Ferriday, Louisiana and Natchez, Mississippi: Jerry Lee Lewis, Jimmy Swaggart and Mickey Gilley. Nicknamed “The Killer,” GRAMMY® winner Jerry Lee Lewis redefined rock and roll with his electrifying piano style, fiery performances and fearless personality. One of the most influential televangelists of the 20th century, GRAMMY® nominee Jimmy Swaggart built a global broadcasting ministry and reshaped modern religious media. Mickey Gilley, a GRAMMY®-winning, chart-topping country singer and nightclub owner, became synonymous with honky-tonk hits and Gilley’s Club — the Texas hotspot that helped spark the urban cowboy craze.

“Jerry Lee Lewis, Jimmy Swaggart and Mickey Gilley each carved out their own distinct place in American culture, whether through music, entertainment or ministry,” said Emily Havens, Executive Director of GRAMMY Museum Mississippi. “GRAMMY Museum Mississippi is proud to bring to light the stories of these three remarkable cousins from Ferriday and Natchez. Though all three of these legends have since passed on, they continue to have a last-



ing impact on generations of fans and followers.”

“We are thrilled to celebrate the opening of our new exhibit with an exciting program featuring talented rising stars James Dupré and Jacob Tolliver,” said Emily Havens, Executive Director of GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi. “With Dupré’s deep roots in Louisiana and Tolliver’s time on tour with the great Jerry Lee Lewis, it’s sure to be a memorable evening of music and conversation.”

The Killer, The Preacher and the Cowboy exhibit will be on display at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi through 2026. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Museum is closed on Mondays.

About James Dupré
James Dupré was born and raised in Bayou Chicot, Louisiana. Originally an aspiring meteorologist turned paramedic, Dupré became a YouTube sensation in 2007, leading to an invitation to perform on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.” Dupré then released his debut album, *It’s All Happening*, in 2010, gaining a spot on the Billboard music charts and leading to a record deal with Warner Music Nashville. Dupré began performing and touring full-time

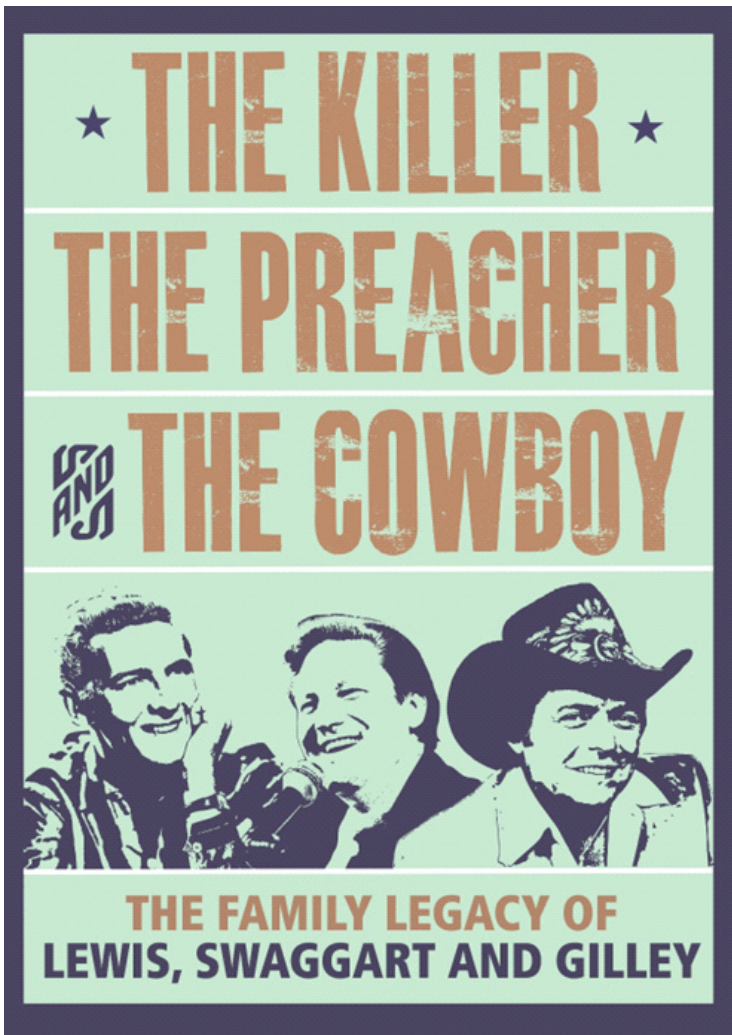
and appeared on season 9 of NBC’s “The Voice” with a four-chair turn, landing him a spot on Adam Levine’s team. Following his departure from “The Voice,” he released his 2016 sophomore album *Stoned to Death*, yielding two singles on the Billboard Indicator chart. He earned his first acting role in the 2015 country drama film *The Price*, playing the son of a country singer portrayed by legendary musician, Randy Travis.

In 2019, Dupré was handpicked by Travis and his wife, Mary, as the special guest vocalist for the *More Life Tour*. Along with Travis’ original band, Dupré performed the Country Music Hall of Famer’s biggest hits, and is currently on tour with the band again for new dates across the U.S. In 2024, Dupré was featured on “CBS News Sunday Morning” as the first ever “vocal bed” on the commercially released track, “Where That Came From.” This was the first new song released by Randy Travis in over a decade and was produced with the help of artificial intelligence to reimagine Travis’ legendary vocals on new music.

Dupré released his latest studio album, *It’s All Happening*, in August 2025. For more information, visit www.jamesdupre.com.

About Jacob Tolliver
Jacob Tolliver is an American

Dupre and Tolliver’s special program event is scheduled for January 21 to mark Opening



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singer, songwriter, and pianist known for his energetic performances and genre-blending musical style. Hailing from Portsmouth, Ohio, Tolliver’s early mastery of the piano and love for classic rock and roll shaped his artistic identity. Tolliver first gained widespread recognition in the Las Vegas production of *Million Dollar Quartet*, where his high-octane piano skills and dynamic stage presence made him a standout. Following this success, he had the rare opportunity to open on the road for Jerry Lee Lewis, further honing his craft and deepening his connection to the roots of rock and roll. Now, Tolliver is moving in an exciting new direction, focusing on his original music. His upcoming work blends the raw energy of rock with contemporary in-

fluences, creating a sound that is both nostalgic and forward-thinking. Tolliver’s genre-meshing style incorporates elements of pop, country, and blues, pushing the boundaries of traditional rock. As he continues to evolve as an artist, Tolliver is set to make a significant impact with his fresh take on classic sounds, carving out a unique place in the modern music scene. Keep up with his antics at jacobtolliver.com.

About GRAMMY Museum Mississippi
Developed by the Cleveland Music Foundation—a nonprofit organization founded in 2011—the 28,000-square-foot GRAMMY Museum Mississippi is housed near the campus of Delta State University, home of the Delta Music Institute’s Entertainment Industry Studies program, which features the most unique audio recording facilities in the South. Affiliated with the GRAMMY Museum Foundation™, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi is dedicated to exploring the past, present, and future of music, and the cultural context from which it emerges, while casting a focused spotlight on the deep musical roots of Mississippi.

For more information, visit grammymuseumms.org.

Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) celebrates 100 years of protecting Mississippi’s forests

PEARL, Miss. — The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) will mark a major milestone in 2026 as the agency celebrates 100 years of service to the State of Mississippi, commemorating a century of protecting lives, property, and forest resources since its founding on March 6, 1926.

For the past century, the Mississippi Forestry Commission has played a vital role in safeguarding Mississippi’s approximately 19 million acres of forestland, supporting one of the state’s most important economic engines while protecting public safety and natural resources. From wildfire prevention and suppression to forest management assistance and landowner outreach, MFC’s mission has remained focused on serving the people of Mississippi.

“Forestry is more than trees—it’s about protecting communities, supporting rural economies, and ensuring Mississippi’s forests remain healthy and productive for generations,” said Russell Bozeman, Mississippi State Forester. “As we reflect on 100 years of service, we’re also looking ahead to the future, and the continued role forestry plays in our state’s success.”

The Mississippi Forestry Commission was created to provide leadership in forest protection and management. Over the decades, the agency has evolved to meet changing needs while maintaining its core responsibilities, including:

- Wildfire prevention and suppression, protecting lives, homes, and forestlands
- Forest health monitoring, addressing insects, diseases, and invasive threats
- Sustainable forest management assistance for private landowners
- Urban and community forestry support for cities and towns
- Managing Sixteenth Section Land, which provides over \$9 million each year for Mississippi schools
- Community involvement, providing grants and equipment for Volunteer Fire Departments
- Forestry education and outreach, promoting responsible stewardship statewide

Today, forestry remains a cornerstone of Mississippi’s economy, particularly in rural communities, and the Mississippi Forestry Commission continues to provide essential services that support jobs, landowners, and local governments.

Throughout 2026, the Mississippi Forestry Commission will commemorate its centennial with a series of initiatives designed to honor its history, recognize the people behind the mission, and educate future generations about the importance of forestry. “These centennial efforts are about more than celebrating an anniversary,” said Ken Martin, MFC Board of Commissioners Chairman. “They’re about telling the story of how forestry touches every Mississippian—whether through wildfire protection, clean water, wildlife habitat, or the products we rely on every day.” As the Mississippi Forestry

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Happy New Year!

Walberg sends letter to NCAA president ... from sports page 1

vision II Management Council, and the Division III Management Council initially supported allowing student-athletes to bet on professional sports.”

Chairman Walberg continues: “[...]urvey data from the last few years shows that 21 percent of college students ‘have used financial aid and/or student loan money to gamble,’ and 61 percent of student gamblers who receive financial aid agree with the statement, ‘Receiving financial aid allows me to spend more on gambling.’...Gambling debt, including sports gambling debt incurred by student-athletes, can

impair borrowers’ ability to pay student loan obligations.”

The Chairman concludes: “Beyond concerns about federal funds, efforts to make it easier for students to bet on sports, such as those proposed by the rejected NCAA rule, raise broader risks about the integrity of intercollegiate athletics. Recent incidents illustrate these dangers. For example, in January 2025, the actions of three Eastern Michigan University basketball student-athletes triggered an NCAA investigation. Cell phones of the players were imaged by an NCAA enforcement vendor after

monitoring had revealed suspicious betting activity in three of Eastern Michigan’s games earlier in the season... Given these players’ transgressions while under the NCAA’s oversight, any efforts to move to relax NCAA gambling restrictions in the future would be imprudent... Whether implicit or direct, the encouragement of gambling debt—either through the endorsement of proposed NCAA rules or through the actual or potential use of federal funds for gambling—is a serious concern.”

Jaren Jackson, Jr. named Western Conf. Player of the Week ... from sports page 1

bounds and three blocks in Memphis’ 116-110 road victory on December 17 against Minnesota, the Grizzlies’ sixth road win in their last seven away from home. He finished the week by tallying 22 points and eight rebounds on December 20 vs. Washington.

The 26-year-old has started all 26 appearances and has averaged

a team-leading 18.0 points, 5.3 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.2 blocks in 29.6 minutes for the Grizzlies this season. He joins Zach Randolph (4), Ja Morant (3), Pau Gasol (3) and Marc Gasol (2) as the only players in franchise history to earn multiple Player of the Week honors.

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 31st Annual Black History Month “250” celebrating America’s Culture of *Freedom!*