

Sports & Entertainment

Nicki Bluhm pays tribute to late Stax Records songwriter Bettye Crutcher’s “How Strong Is A Woman” from sports-Ent. 1

was really special. As we com-muned in Bettye's home – her elegantly smoking Parliaments – the biggest lyrical departure we agreed upon was changing the original line, ‘A woman is strong as the need of the man she loves’ to ‘A woman is strongest when she has her own self-love.’ The takeaway, of course, being that a woman's strength is not depend-ent on a man, but rather on how she honors and values herself. Music carries mantras, and I hope this is one that young women of today can hear and live by.”

Ross-Spang on the collabo-ration: “Some of my most fulfill-ing creative memories have come from collaborating with Nicki Bluhm. Her voice is a rare gift – one that seamlessly transcends space and time. Together, we dreamed up a vision to update the lyrics of ‘How Strong Is A Woman’ and transform it into a modern anthem. We knew we had our work cut out for us; the original version carries an in-credible energy, anchored by a legendary performance from Ann Peebles. We met Bettye at her home in Nashville, and just sit-ting with her, we instantly felt we were sitting with royalty. She welcomed us like family, serving up bowls of homemade gumbo and ice cream. She regaled us with stories of Stax and her be-loved husband, and in the pauses we reworked the lyrics. I hope this version inspires just as Bet-tye did for Nicki and me.”

Last fall, Bluhm released her



Listen now to “How Strong Is A Woman” via YouTube
<https://youtu.be/C39GZiILyPE?si=a7hMJLMkP-RN3NqR>

eighth studio album Rancho De-luxe, a musical patchwork quilt that captured Nashville’s col-laborative spirit and found the San Francisco native reflecting on hard-earned lessons from two decades in the music business. The record has since garnered ac-claim from Relix, Magnet Maga-zine, Atwood Magazine, Nashville Scene and Americana

UK, who hailed it as “a timeless collection of songs rooted in the here and now,” while Glide Mag-azine raved it’s “her strongest album yet.”

Rancho Deluxe was the follow-up to Bluhm’s 2023 Cher tribute album, The Beat Goes On, and her 2022 original LP Avondale Drive, which was met with praise

from PopMatters and The Blue-grass Situation. Over the years, she has toured with the likes of Phil Lesh and Bob Weir, sharing the stage with the same icons who have helped inspire her trademark mix of rock, Califor-nia country and hippie soul. On this latest chapter in her accom-plished career, she says, "I'm growing, I'm reflecting, and I'm

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recalibrating. I'm forging ahead in a new way, but doing it on my own terms this time.”

Visit Nicki Bluhm on her Website – Instagram – Facebook – Twitter – YouTube

Banham picks up American Honorable Mention

IRVING, Texas, Sept. 21, 2026–University of Memphis men’s soccer forward Carson Banham picked up his first collegiate honor, being named an American Conference Honorable Mention, the conference announced Mon-day afternoon.

Banham, a sophomore out of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has been Memphis’ “super sub” this sea-son, leading the team in goals with four after scoring the Tigers’ first goal of American Confer-ence play against Florida Atlantic last night.

Banham’s four goals have all come from off the bench, as the forward has made seven appear-ances in total, logging just 253 minutes. He also sits tied with Renan Syrio for the second-most points on the team, with both be-hind Miller Lashlee’s nine points.

Banham has played a crucial role in Memphis currently sitting 27th in total goals (17) and 18th in scoring offense, averaging 2.43 goals per match, while the sophomore sits 42nd in the coun-try in goals.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Soccer, visit www.GoTigersGo.com.

Downtown Memphis Commission announces lineup for inaugural Memphis Jazz Festival

MEMPHIS, TN. — The Down-town Memphis Commission (DMC) is excited to announce the official lineup for the inaugu-ral Memphis Jazz Festival, taking place October 9–11, 2026, in Downtown Memphis. The three-day festival will feature head-liners Theo Croker and Dear Silas, along with several notable artists.

The festival lineup includes: Theo Croker, Dear Silas, Parker-hurt Quartet, Memphis Jazz Or-chestra, Joe Restivo 4, Henry Conerway III, Deborah Swiney, Stephen M. Lee, The Power to the People Quartet, Pat Register, Hope Clayburn & The Memphis Manes, Gary Topper & Symme-try, Kenny Reed Quintet, and Alex Upton Trio.

The inaugural festival is a three-day experience.

• **Jazz After Hours** — Friday, October 9. The Memphis Jazz Festival will kick off at The Wes-tin Memphis Beale Street, hosted by Strictly Jazz entertainment. Guests can start their festival weekend with live music & cock-tails.

• **Saturday, October 10**, will bring the festival directly to the Main Street Mall between Pea-body Place and Union Avenue,

The Memphis Jazz Festival grew from the success of the Sunset Jazz series, which has brought live jazz to Down-town Memphis for the past seven years. The series is pro-duced by Deborah Swiney in collaboration with the Down-town Memphis Commission. Building on that success, DMC Chief Marketing Of-ficer Milton Howery III and Swiney began discussing how the experience could grow into a larger festival celebrat-ing Memphis' jazz community and music legacy.

featuring jazz workshops and two stages of live entertainment from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

• **Saturday Night, October 10th** - Jazz Jam at The Dame Sat-urday night, the festival con-tinues at The Dame at Hotel Pontotoc with an intimate jazz jam session sponsored by the Memphis Jazz Workshop and hosted by Henry Conerway. The session will bring musicians to-gether for an organic, collabo-rative celebration of jazz, creating the kind of late-night musical exchange that has long been central to jazz culture.

•**Sunday, October 11**, will close out the weekend with the Sunset

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For Us by Us Studios president John Askew launches media company Prime Time Productions TV to deliver original content to FUBU Network

Leveraging his leadership at For Us By Us Studios, Askew launches new venture set to de-liver eight new series

NEW YORK, Sept. 14, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- Entertainment executive **John Askew**, Pres-ident of For Us By Us Studios, has announced the launch of his media company, PrimeTime Pro-ductions TV, an independent pro-duction house focused on developing and producing origi-nal television and streaming content.

The launch builds on Askew's years of experience in film and entertainment. As President of **For Us By Us Studios**, he has worked alongside J Alexander Martin, Co-founder and CEO of FUBU Network, to develop en-tertainment and content initia-tives for over two years.

JOHN ASKEW - CEO
Primetime Productions TV
As Founder and CEO of Prime-Time Productions TV, Askew is expanding his focus on creating original programming for today's evolving streaming marketplace. His existing relationship within the FUBU Network ecosystem gives him a rare dual advantage: a direct pipeline to air on FUBU Network, bypassing the pitch-and-license cycle most producers must navigate, plus the entertain-ment relationships built over his career to place a show elsewhere if there's a stronger fit for its niche or genre.
"PrimeTime Productions TV is a natural progression of the work I have been doing in entertain-ment," said Askew. "My experi-ence as President of For Us By Us Studios has allowed me to un-



John Askew

derstand the importance of com-pelling original programming. With PrimeTime Productions TV, we are focused on creating enter-taining content featuring strong personalities, unique stories and ideas that connect with au-diences."
The company's initial lineup in-cludes:
•**Beauty Brains Business-At-lanta**, following entrepreneurs Khane'sha Monae and Treana McDowell as they build their empires and generational wealth
•**Haitian Baddies South Flor-ida**, a look at the culture and con-nection of a group of Haitian beauties
•**Snatched by Carmenlla**, fea-

turing a fearless female building her post-op care business
Future projects include:
•**Kitchen Baddies**, showcasing a saucy group of sexy chefs
•**Like Father, Like Son**, spot-lighting famous athlete fathers and their soon-to-be-famous ath-lete sons
•**Cartel Hustle**, following rapper Taki Willis as he rolls the dice and drops new music
•**House of Fragrance**, opens the door to iconic luxury scents from renowned designer Sue Phillips
•**Sculpted**, starring Nurse to the Stars Rachel Rush and her world-famous clientele
"John has demonstrated leader-ship, creativity and a strong un-derstanding of content

development," said J Alexander Martin, Founder and CEO of FUBU Network. "PrimeTime Productions TV creates an op-portunity for John and his team to develop original programming that can help meet the content needs of FUBU Network. I am excited to continue working with John in this new capacity and look forward to bringing these projects to audiences."
Askew will maintain separate roles at two distinct companies. Remaining President of For Us By Us Studios while leading Primetime Productions TV as CEO. Primetime Productions TV will develop and produce content, while FUBU Network will handle the majority of its distribution and streaming.

PrimeTime Productions TV is an independent production com-pany founded and led by CEO John Askew, developing original reality, lifestyle, entrepreneurial and entertainment programming for today's evolving marketplace. Learn more at primetimeproduc-tions.tv.

FUBU Network is a premier multimedia ecosystem founded by J Alexander Martin, co-founder of the iconic FUBU ap-parel brand, generating millions of unique impressions each month across internet, mobile, streaming and television plat-forms worldwide. Providing a platform designed to elevate cul-ture for viewers and creators while serving as a hub for inde-pendent filmmakers, storytellers, and curated entertainment content.

Learn more at fubumedia.com

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s Mid-Terms Election Special Edition “One Citizen, One Vote”

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