

Sports, Entertainment, Arts & Media News

Ducks Unlimited Expo (DUX) draws more than 30,000 to Memphis, marking another successful year for the nation’s largest waterfowl event

The second annual event brought together duck hunters, outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists, families, exhibitors, and industry leaders from across the country

MEMPHIS, TENN. – August 4, 2026– Ducks Unlimited is celebrating another successful Ducks Unlimited Expo (DUX), welcoming more than 30,000 attendees to the Renasant Convention Center in Memphis, Tennessee. The three-day event brought together duck hunters, outdoor enthusiasts, conservation supporters, industry leaders, exhibitors, and families from across the country to experience the nation's largest consumer event dedicated to duck hunting, waterfowl, conservation, and the outdoor lifestyle.

Featuring more than 300 exhibitors, DUX offered something for everyone, from the most passionate waterfowl hunters to those simply looking to learn more about the outdoors. Attendees experienced the latest hunting gear and equipment, educational seminars, retriever demonstrations, wildlife and habitat presentations, live ent-



tainment, family-friendly attractions, and opportunities to connect with Ducks Unlimited's conservation mission. "DUX continues to exceed expectations and showcase the pas-

sion that exists for duck hunting, conservation, and the outdoor lifestyle that brings people together," said DU Chief Event Fundraising Officer David Schuessler. "While DUX is proudly rooted in our rich waterfowling heritage, the event has become much more than a duck hunting expo. It's a place where hunters, conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts, and families can connect, learn, and celebrate the outdoor lifestyle. Seeing thousands of people gather in Memphis to support wetlands and waterfowl conservation while enjoying everything DUX has to offer is incredibly rewarding."

DUX also delivered significant economic impact to Memphis, driving hotel occupancy, restaurant traffic, and visitor spending while reinforcing the city's role as the home of Ducks Unlimited and as one of the country's leading destinations for outdoor events.

"The success of DUX would not be possible without our sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, attendees, and the countless staff members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes," said DU President Dr. Rex Schulz. "We're grateful for their support and proud to see DUX continue to grow as a destination for both

dedicated duck hunters and anyone who shares a passion for conservation and the outdoors. We look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead."

The continued growth and success of DUX is made possible through the support of dedicated partners who share Ducks Unlimited's commitment to conservation, the outdoors, and the hunting heritage that connects generations. Among those partners is Purina, which served as DUX's Presenting Sponsor for the fifth consecutive year.

"Ducks and Sporting Dogs go together like Ducks Unlimited and Purina," said Director of Purina Sporting Dog Group Karl Gunzer. "Judging by the crowds at the Pro Plan booth and attendance at our seminars, this was the best DUX by far. We also distributed a lot of Purina Pro Plan samples and fielded great questions from attendees. We're already looking forward to next year."

For more information about Ducks Unlimited and the Ducks Unlimited Expo, visit www.duckexpo.com.

Memphis Grizzlies hold final auditions for Grizz Girls on August 9

MEMPHIS, Tenn, August 3, 2026. – The Memphis Grizzlies will hold the final auditions for the 2026-27 Grizz Girls dance team at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, at The Halloran Centre at the Orpheum Theater. Final auditions will be free and open to the general public with doors opening at 3 p.m. Fans are encouraged to arrive early, as seating is limited.

The Grizz Girls Finals will be hosted by Grizzlies In-Arena Emcees Brandon Johnson and Sydney Neely. The finals will feature a special performance by the Blue Bunch in addition to a special appearance by Grizz and the Claw Crew, presented by American Marsh Pumps. The Official Outfitter of the Memphis Grizzlies Grizz Girls, Varsity Spirit, will provide gear for Sunday's finals. Grizz Girls will perform at FedExForum for all Memphis Grizzlies home games during the upcoming season and will represent the team at events both locally and regionally.

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.

U.S. Senate confirms Michael McDonald as 13th chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States Senate voted on July 31, 2026 to confirm Michael McDonald as the thirteenth Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). McDonald issued the following statement after his Senate confirmation: "I am deeply honored to be nominated by President Donald J. Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Knowledge of and access to history, civics, and culture are essential to a healthy democracy. I welcome this opportunity to help support and promote the best of the humanities in service to the American people."

McDonald joined NEH in 2003 and has worked in several positions at the agency, including the Assistant Chairman for Programs, the Acting Deputy Chair-



Michael McDonald

man, Acting Chairman, Senior Deputy Chairman, and, for most of his time at the agency, the General Counsel. Following the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump in 2025, Michael McDonald was appointed Acting

Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in March 2025, and served in that capacity until January 2026. He was nominated by President Trump as the 13th Chairman of NEH on February 4,

2026.

Michael McDonald received his Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures from the Catholic University of America. He also holds a J.D. from the National Law Center at George Washington University and is a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. From 1988 to 2002, McDonald was on the Board of Directors and served as President of the Center for Individual Rights, a non-profit public interest law firm in Washington, D.C. that he co-founded. In addition to writing for legal journals, McDonald has written scholarly articles, essays, and reviews for publications such as The American Scholar, The National Interest, The Wilson Quarterly, The Wall Street Journal, Academic Questions, The Italian Quarterly, The Claremont Review of Books, The New Criticism, The International Review

A Report from the Memphis Safe Task Force from sport-Military page 2

of Modernism, The Journal of European Studies, Commentary, and the Times Literary Supplement.

William English has served as the agency's Acting Chairman since April 2026. English will return to his previous position as a member of NEH's advisory board, the National Council on the Humanities.

National Endowment for the Humanities: Created in 1965, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.

for second-degree murder. McDowell's mother met MSTF at the door of the residence and called for him to come down to the first floor where he was taken into custody without incident. McDowell has a criminal history of robbing juveniles at gunpoint. **Jose Navarro, 37**, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for rape of a child and aggravated sexual battery. The victim was 12 years old. MSTF members found Navarro in the back room of a residence in the 3900 block of Raleigh Frayser Road and took him into custody without incident.

Terence Gray, 68, was arrested and charged with aggravated rape of a child, aggravated sexual battery, continuous sexual abuse of a child and theft of property under \$1,000. The victim was 9 years old. MSTF located Gray at a residence in the 900 block of Chelsea Avenue and took him into custody without incident.

Anyone with information about wanted fugitives is encouraged to submit it via the USMS Tips app. For more information about the U.S. Marshals please visit www.usmarshals.gov.

Kurt Stevens releases debut album ‘Better with a Breeze’ on Sept. 4; New single ‘Cast Away’ out now... from sports-Ent. 5

Better with a Breeze Track List:

1. Already Alright (Kurt Stevens, Mike Burke, Tyler Bank)
2. The Rain (Kurt Stevens, John Frank, Tom Pino)
3. Better With a Breeze (Kurt Stevens, Brian Alexander)
4. Cast Away (Kurt Stevens, John Frank, Tom Pino)
5. Smooth (Kurt Stevens, Bradley Collins, Brian Alexander, Kent Jenkins)
6. Bigger Boat (Kurt Stevens, John Frank, Tom Pino)
7. Over & Out (Kurt Stevens)

8. Learning to Be Patient (Kurt Stevens)
9. Might Collect Rocks (Kurt Stevens, John Frank, Tom Pino)
10. Everglades (Kurt Stevens, Adam Sickler, Tyler Bank)
11. Somewhere in the Stars (Kurt Stevens, Adam Sickler, Tyler Bank)
12. Flamingo (Kurt Stevens)
13. When the Wind Blows (Kurt Stevens, John Frank, Tom Pino)
14. Where Pelicans Fly (Kurt Stevens)

Stevens will perform at the annual Island Hopper music festi-

val in Fort Myers, FL, this September. He recently participated in Nashville Singer Songwriter Sessions and performed during the Key West Songwriters Festival.

His reflective lyrics share his passion for storytelling and simplistic view of life's greatest treasures, emphasizing the beauty of the world around us. Featured on SiriusXM's Radio Margaritaville and named a "Festival Find" at Maui Songwriters Festival, his music continues to inspire others to find joy in the

A classically trained pianist and multi-instrumentalist, he began his musical journey at just four years old, evolving through his South Florida upbringing before making his way to Nashville, Tennessee. A featured artist on SiriusXM Radio Margaritaville, Stevens has charmed audiences everywhere from intimate tiki bars to major music festival stages, drawing inspiration from artists like Bob Marley...

journey.

About Kurt Stevens

Kurt Stevens brings the warmth of the Sunshine State to every performance, blending laid-back tropical vibes with the storytelling soul of country music. A classically trained pianist and multi-instrumentalist, he began his musical journey at just four

years old, evolving through his South Florida upbringing before making his way to Nashville, Tennessee. A featured artist on SiriusXM Radio Margaritaville, Stevens has charmed audiences everywhere from intimate tiki bars to major music festival stages, drawing inspiration from artists like Bob Marley, Jack Johnson, Jimmy Buffett, and Kenny Chesney. He's previously opened for country hitmakers Luke Combs, Jake Owen, Maren Morris, and The Band Perry, among others, with his most recent releases including "Already Alright", "Warmer Days," "Flamingo," "Smooth," "Everglades," and "Bigger Boat." Additionally, Stevens recently played at the Key West Songwriters Festival and the Bowers Beach Buccaneer Bash, following his Maui Songwriters Festival "Festival Find" recognition in late 2025. His music continues to celebrate life and how we live it. Find out more at kurtstevensmusic.com.

Complimentary military tickets are available for FedEx St. Jude Championship, August 12-16.
For more information, visit FedExChampionship.com/military.

Also, watch for The Mid-South Tribune's William M. Larsha, Jr.'s coverage of the FedEx St. Jude Championship!

ONE CITIZEN!
ONE VOTE!

Ask your Congressmen and Senators to PASS the SAVE America Act to protect the integrity of Your Vote.

-An Editorial Message from The Mid-South Tribune-