Sports, Entertainment, Arts & Media News

Memphis-born sandwich chain Lenny's Grill & Subs goes long with first-ever Smash Burger

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 3, 2026 — After 28 years of serving its signature subs and Philly cheesesteaks, Lennys Grill & Subs is entering the burger business for the first time. The Memphis-born restaurant chain will launch a new Smash Burger Monday, Nov. 9, for a limited time only, putting a unique Lennys twist on one of America's favorite foods.

Unlike a traditional burger, the Lennys Smash Burger is served long on the restaurant's signature fresh-baked sub bread. Featuring sizzling, USDA Choice griddle-smashed beef patties topped with melted cheese, grilled onions, pickles, and the new Lennys Smash Sauce, the burger is available with one, two, three, or four patties to satisfy any appetite.

"We've spent 28 years making great sandwiches, so we knew that if we were going to introduce a burger, it had to be something uniquely Lennys," said Matt Cook, Chief Operating Officer of Lennys Grill & Subs. " It's packed with flavor, a special sauce, and guests can make it as big as they want with options for a double, triple or even bigger!"



Lenny's Smash Burger

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The introduction marks a new chapter for Lennys, which has built its reputation on freshly prepared subs, authentic Philly cheesesteaks, and generous portions. The Smash Burger brings a new option to the menu while staying true to the brand's sandwich-making roots.

The new Lennys Smash Burger will be available for a limited time at participating Lennys locations nationwide. To find a neighborhood Lennys, visit Lennys.com/locations.

About Lennys Grill & Subs

Founded in 1998 in Bartlett, Tennessee, in the Memphis metropolitan area, Lennys Grill & Subs is a restaurant franchise brand with locations across 12 states. The brand is built on a commitment to exceptional quality, generous portions, and outstanding value. The brand's authentic Philly cheesesteaks and signature deli subs feature freshly sliced meats and cheeses, along with bread baked fresh daily in its restaurants. Lenny's pairs its distinctive menu with warm hospitality to deliver a guest experience rooted in quality and value. Its franchise model brings that same commitment to entrepreneurs seeking to build a business in their communities. These principles remain at the heart of the brand's vision for growth.

For more information, visit Lennys.com

Stokes named American Conference Player of Week

IRVING, Texas , November 2, 2026– University of Memphis quarterback Marcus Stokes was named the American Conference Offensive Player of the Week for the second time this season, the conference announced Monday.

Stokes, a St. Augustine, Florida native, recorded his fifth 300-plus passing yard outing of the year and third straight, throwing for 371 yards and four touchdowns against Army on Saturday. He also accounted for a fifth touchdown on a red zone rush.

With that touchdown, he became the first Tiger in recorded history with back-to-back games accounting for five or more touchdowns. On the year, Stokes has totaled 19 touchdowns in American Conference play and leads all players in the conference in points responsible for (168).

Willi Carlisle laments that "She Only Loved Horses" on his latest single and shows in his double album "The Universal Bubba" why fans love him

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off-kilter characters living in his songs. The album was created in an all-time DIY effort, with Childers and his band joining Carlisle for two weeks of recording in New Orleans. Across the record, Carlisle embraces new sounds and instrumentation—including synthesizers, double electric guitars and more fretless 19th-century-style banjo than he has used on any previous album. With plenty of room to stretch across styles, The Universal Bubba has plenty of embellished folksongs and somber tales on its latter half.

Exploration aside, Carlisle's mission as a folksinger largely remains the same - documenting the stories and struggles of everyday people and balancing the humor and hope of existence. "I want to make a universal folk music. Songs for all kinds of weirdos," says Carlisle. "I want to write songs that prove the old weird America didn't go anywhere, that we are living and dying for it everyday. I believe there's noble work to do in that context. That if we feel despair, we don't need to because there's so much good work to do."

As Rolling Stone says, "Carlisle is here to do the work to make country and folk music a place of inclusivity and empathy." In that vein, Carlisle has announced "Bubbas In The Community," an initiative put together by Carlisle that invites mutual aid groups, nonprofits, and unions in different cities to set up a table on his tour to help fundraise, gain recognition, and expand their reach in their respective communities.

Speaking about the importance of bringing attention to these organizations, Carlisle stated, "In an age of increasing inequality and divisiveness, I want concerts to foster solidarity among working people. Most music, even political music, doesn't do this all that directly. This is one small way to make our social character more important than our social content. I hope our shows become a big tent where people share ideas, inspiration, and work!"

Fans can recommend their favorite organizations in their community by visiting his website.

Carlisle is in the midst of an extensive North American tour in support of the album, with a show tonight at Baby's All Right in Brooklyn, NY. The tour continues into 2027.



Willi Carlisle completes secret recording of new music in the Bywater District of New Orleans. ***(Photo credit: Brooke Cooper)***

The Universal Bubba Tracklist

1. Mason Jar at the Center of the World
2. Gas Station
3. Use Me Up
4. Good Morning, Midnight
5. Marlboro Vinyasa
6. The Master's Hammer
7. Contact High
8. The Universal Bubba
9. The Universal Bubba, Part Two
10. She Only Loves Horses
11. Ditchdigger's Song (Dust and the Devil)
12. Sadly Enormous
13. I Ain't Crazy
14. Red Leather, Yellow Leather
15. Old Milwaukee Onestep
16. Bigger'n Dallas
17. Golden Dragon Buffet

Willi Carlisle 2026 North American Tour Dates

NOV 7 - Burlington, VT - Higher Ground
NOV 8 - Kingston, NY - Assembly
NOV 10 - Pittsburgh, PA - Thunderbird
NOV 12 - Washington, DC - Union Stage
NOV 13 - Durham, NC - Stanczyks
NOV 14 - Atlanta, GA - The Earl
DEC 3 - Denver, CO - Bluebird Theater
DEC 5 - Salt Lake City, UT - Urban Lounge

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DEC 6 - Boise, ID - Shrine Social
DEC 9 - Vancouver, BC Canada - The Pearl
DEC 10 - Seattle, WA - Tractor Tavern
DEC 11 - Portland, OR - Mississippi Studios
DEC 12 - Trout Lake, WA - Trout Lake Hall
DEC 14 - San Francisco, CA - The Independent
DEC 15 - Felton, CA - Felton Music Hall
DEC 17 - Los Angeles, CA - Sid The Cat Auditorium
DEC 18 - San Diego, CA - Soda Bar
DEC 19 - Pioneertown, CA - Pappy + Harriet's
DEC 20 - Phoenix, AZ - Valley Bar
JAN 21 - Omaha, NE - Reverb Lounge
JAN 22 - Des Moines, IA - xBk
JAN 23 - Chicago, IL - The Empty Bottle
JAN 24 - South Bend, IN - Stockroom East
JAN 26 - Newport, KY - Southgate House Revival
JAN 27 - Louisville, KY - Zanzabar
JAN 29 - Johnson City, TN - Down Home
JAN 30 - Asheville, NC - The Grey Eagle
JAN 31 - Charlotte, NC - The Evening Muse
FEB 1 - Athens, GA - 40 Watt Club
FEB 18 - Tulsa, OK - Mercury Lounge
FEB 19 - Fayetteville, AR - George's Majestic Lounge
FEB 20 - Little Rock, AR - White Water Tavern
FEB 21 - Little Rock, AR - White Water Tavern
FEB 23 - Fort Worth, TX - Tulips
FEB 25 - Austin, TX - Antone's
FEB 26 - Galveston, TX - Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe
FEB 27 - New Orleans, LA - Saturn Bar

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Website | Substack | Facebook | Instagram | YouTube | TikTok | Spotify | Apple Music | Tidal

Ebony names its 2026 Power honorees Byron Allen, Keith Lee, Victor Glover, and Lena Waith

Grammy Award-Winning Artists T.I. and Kirk Franklin Take to the Hollywood Palladium Stage for Live Music Performances

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 28, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- EBONY today named the six members of its 2026 Power 100 Court - the special honorees who will be celebrated on stage at the EBONY Power 100 Gala on Monday, Nov. 9, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles.

Spanning space exploration, finance, media ownership, music and sports, this year's Court includes:

•Grammy-winning singer and actress Brandy
•Allen Media Group founder Byron Allen
•Seattle Storm WNBA player Flau'jae Johnson
•Digital influencer and culinary tastemaker Keith Lee
•Emmy Award-winning writer, producer and actor Lena Waithe
•NASA Astronaut Emeritus Victor Glover

The Court represents the honorees whose work most fully embodies this year's theme, "The Stories We Shape." Each member will be presented with a dedicated tribute and accept their honor in person on the Palladium stage.

"For more than 80 years, EBONY has kept the record of the people moving Black America forward, and the Court is that record at its most vivid. They wrote it themselves, and that is exactly what this year's Power 100 celebrates," said Eden Bridgeman, CEO of EBONY.

The program will also feature live musical performances from 20-time Grammy-winning artist Kirk Franklin, who will open the show, and Grammy-winning rapper, entrepreneur and member of this year's Music Innovators class T.I., who will close out the ceremony.

While the Court takes the stage, every member of the 2026 Power 100 will be recognized during the ceremony, and honorees will be photographed in the gala's portrait studio, adding the 2026 honoree class to EBONY's eight-decade visual record of Black leadership.

The evening will unfold inside "La Cour," the gala's immersive creative world, which reimagines the grand royal courts of history with Black excellence at their center.

Produced in partnership with Jesse Collins Entertainment (JCE), the private, invitation-only gala begins with a 5:00 p.m. red carpet and cocktail hour, followed by the 7:30 p.m. awards ceremony and a 10:30 p.m. post-reception. The 2026 Power 100 recognizes leaders across 11 categories, from the Junior Bridgeman Business Vanguards, named in honor of EBONY CEO Eden Bridgeman's late father, to STEM Trailblazers, Media Mavens and Generation Next.

This year's honors are supported by category sponsors including:

- BMW, sponsor of Community Crusaders
- Mielle Organics, sponsor of the Court
- United Airlines, sponsor of STEM Trailblazers
- Walmart, sponsor of Influential Creators
- Sela K.
- Tiffany & Co.

The complete list of 2026 EBONY Power 100 honorees is available at EBONY.com/Power100. Follow EBONY on social media for additional Power 100 updates: @EBONYMagazine on Instagram, @ebony_magazine on TikTok, and @EBONY on X and Facebook.

For more than 80 years, EBONY has served as a leading voice of the Black American experience and a global authority on Black culture. Through its commitment to storytelling, cultural coverage, entertainment, lifestyle, commerce and community, EBONY continues to illuminate the Black perspective and celebrate the people, ideas and movements shaping the past, present and future of the Black experience. EBONY Media Group is a division of 1145 Holdings LLC.

ABOUT JESSE COLLINS ENTERTAINMENT

Founded in 2012, Jesse Collins Entertainment (JCE) is a full-service, Emmy-winning production company behind many of television's most memorable moments, including the Emmy Awards, the BET Awards, the Soul Train Awards, and multiple Super Bowl Halftime Shows. Emmy Award winner Jesse Collins is Founder and CEO; Emmy winner Dionne Harmon is President.