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When the lights hit the Valley: Big Boogie Live!

It was a Valley Homecoming vibe like no other! *Read more about it on page 3*



Valley's first win of the season: a blowout!

Right on time for Homecoming! Read the full story on Page 8

An award-winning college newspaper, by students for students

OCTOBER 2025

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI

Volume 50 / Number 11

A Royal Night transpires at 'The Valley'

By Aaliyah Taylor, Staff Writer & Miss DDG 2025-2026

On the evening of Oct. 16 at 6 p.m., Mississippi Valley State University hosted its highly anticipated Coronation Ceremony, a grand celebration of elegance, leadership, and tradition.

The spotlight of the night was on the crowning of the 73rd Miss Mississippi Valley State University, Tynilya Watkins, and the 26th Mister Mississippi Valley State University, Jabari Johnson.

The event brought together students, faculty, alumni, and families who filled the auditorium in support of the newly crowned royalty. Dressed in regal attire, both Watkins and Johnson gracefully accepted their titles, representing the embodiment of Valley excellence, service, and pride.

Following their crowning, the newly crowned King and Queen led a stunning



Miss MVSU Tynilya Watkins and Mr. MVSU Jabari Johnson PHOTO BY MVSU COMMUNICATION & MARKETING/L. EVANS.

promenade, where members of the Royal Court joined in procession. The court included Miss Senior, Miss Junior, Miss Sophomore, Miss Freshman, and their respective Misters, along with organizational queens and kings who proudly represented various campus groups. Each member of the court was recognized for their leadership, campus involvement, and commitment to uplifting the MVSU community.

Another highlight of the night came when Miss Watkins performed a heartfelt song alongside her Delta Sigma Theta Sorority sisters, creating a touching and empowering moment that celebrated sisterhood and unity. The crowd applauded as the Delta women harmonized beautifully, showing both pride and support for their newly crowned Soror.

The ceremony closed with smiles, photos, and cheers as the audience celebrated the new reign of Miss and Mister MVSU. The Coronation was more than just a formal event -- it was a reminder of Valley's royal spirit, its strong traditions, and the bright leadership that continues to move the university forward.

Dr. Candace Carter Stevens answers the call to lead

By Gail H.M. Brown, DDG Faculty Advisor

ITTA BENA, Miss. — When Dr. Candace Carter Stevens was first approached about serving as Mississippi Valley State University's next Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Effectiveness, she hesitated.

"I was reluctant at first," Stevens said. "This was unfamiliar territory, and I knew the responsibilities would be significant. But after much prayer and thoughtful consideration, I realized this was a door God had opened." She said with His guidance, and the support of her family and colleagues, she stepped faithfully into her new role.

Stevens learned in late July that MVSU President Jerryl Briggs had approved her appointment following a recommendation from Provost Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden. The news, she said, brought a mix of humility and gratitude.

A Cleveland, Miss. native, Stevens joined MVSU in 2004 and has served the institution for more than 20 years. Though not an alumna, her ties to Valley are strong; her husband, Aaron C. Stevens, and many relatives are graduates. "Valley

has truly become home," she said.

Her colleague and former department chair, Dr. Latonya Garner-Jackson, said she was "genuinely happy" to hear of Stevens's promotion. "It was well-deserved and reflects her hard work, professionalism, and dedication," Garner-Jackson said. "While I was sad to lose her daily presence in the department, I was proud to see her step into a leadership role that perfectly aligns with her skills and commitment to Valley's growth."

Prior to her appointment, she served as president of the MVSU Faculty Senate. As Faculty Senate President, Stevens earned quite a favorable and respected reputation among fellow faculty members.

"Dr. Stevens is an amazing leader," said LaTonzia Dorsey-Evans, an instructor of English for the English and Foreign Languages Department of MVSU. "As her vice president, Dr. Stevens made sure to explain policies, goals, and other information in grave detail.

"With the Senate members, she included everyone in the decision, so everyone is heard and feels included. It was a true honor to be her vice president."

See "**Stevens**" Page 5

Nine students selected for prestigious TMCF Leadership Institute



CAPTION: (From left-right) Adin Lindsey, Preston Brantley, Teniola Oluwaseyitan, Eyimofe Ajagunna, Ariana Cobb, Faezeh Fathi, Ms. Essie Bryant, Dr. Latonya Garner-Jackson, Destyni Gipson, Bakri Diyaolu, Terrell Booker, and Mr. Jarrad Cartlidge, COURTESY PHOTOS

DDG Staff Report

MVSU is proud to announce nine of its students were selected to attend the 25th Annual Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) Leadership Institute, held Oct. 1-5, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

This event convoked top scholars from HBCUs across the country for four days full of leadership development, professional networking and career readiness training, all centered around the theme: "Be the Transformation."

Congratulations to the nine outstanding



Group photo of the students

students who represented MVSU with excellence, pride, and professionalism.

By Jaheim Wilder, Columnist

When I think of October, I think of family. I have multiple families. My blood family, college family, chosen family, and my recent family: my sorors.

I've been thinking a lot about what it means to be my sisters' and brothers' keeper. In every family I've been blessed with, there's been moments where someone needed support and someone else stepped in. Being my sisters' and brothers' keeper calls me to a higher standard. Not just to live for myself, but to show up for those I love.

In my blood family, being a keeper means remembering the sacrifices of those who came before me. It means carrying the resilience of my mother, my aunts, and my grandparents, who worked, prayed, and struggled so I could stand where I stand. It means remembering who and where I come from and keeping that legacy alive.

In my college family, being a keeper means holding one another accountable. It means dreaming big together, celebrating each other, and showing up where it matters most. It means persevering despite the roadblocks. It means being there for each other in the good and bad times. These bonds have carried me through some tough times. Knowing I can call on my friends and they listen, show up, and correct me when needed is a blessing.

In my chosen family, it looks like



Wilder

unconditional love and unwavering respect and support. It is the friends who have become family. The ones that know how I feel even when I don't speak. The ones I can call at midnight and

talk all night long. The ones who don't change with seasons. The ones I know will always be there.

Last but not least, with my sorors, this new family I've embraced, being a keeper is a promise. It is about lifting as we climb. It is about seeing the best in each other, even when the world tries to dim our light. It is about showing up in service, staying rooted in our ideals, and leading with love. Whether near or far, I can count on my sisters to be there for me. With them, I don't even have to ask. This bond is more than I can ask for. I'm blessed to have each and every one of them! They fill my life with joy, laughter, and genuine love.

So this month, I choose to honor my families. I love you all, and I am so grateful to have you in my life! Each of you has taught me important lessons that I will carry with me throughout my daily life. May God bless you and continue to strengthen our relationship.

With Love, Jaheim



Living for service

By Jaheim Wilder, Columnist

October has me thinking not only about family, but also about purpose. One question keeps popping up in my mind: What does it mean to live for service?

Service is not just a single act or an occasional project. It's a way of life. It's a daily commitment to use who we are and what we have for something greater than ourselves. To live for service is to wake up with the awareness that our lives are connected, that my choices and my actions can lighten someone else's load.

It doesn't always have to be large scale or public. Sometimes service is an encouraging message or a listening ear. Other times, it's about standing up for justice, creating opportunities, or giving back to the communities that shaped us. Whether big or small, service is love in motion.

Living for service requires humility. It asks us to set aside ego, to recognize that life is not just about what we gain but about what we contribute. It's not about recognition. It's about impact. The truest service is often unseen. It's those acts that change lives without ever making headlines.

Service is not a burden. It's a blessing. It grounds us, connects us, and reminds us of what matters. When we choose service, we choose legacy. We choose to plant seeds that may outlive us. We choose to become keepers of one another in a world that too often forgets how much we need each other.

I am reminded that we were not created to live only for ourselves. We were created to pour into others, to lift as we climb, to leave the world a little better than we found it.

Ultimately, to live for service is to live with love, with faith, and with purpose. That kind of life is worth striving for.

Newspaper now available at two additional locations

DDG Staff Report

You can get the Delta Devil's Gazette Newspaper at two additional locations! Right here on campus in the **Delta Devils Gazette Lab, MVSU**

OPL 141 and at the City of Itta Bena Mayor's Office Don't miss a single issue of MVSU's award-winning newspaper!

The Delta Devils' Gazette campus newspaper may also be picked up from the following business locations:

B B King Museum – Delta Interpretive Center, 400 Second Street Indianola, MS 38751

The Greenwood Market Place, 410 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS

Save-a-Lot, 719 W. Park Ave., Greenwood, MS

CitiTrends, 2608 US-82, Greenwood, MS

Dollar General Market, Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, MS **Double Quick,** Hwy 82 W., Itta Bena, MS

PEAK's Restaurant, Hwy 49, Tchula, MS

Conton 222 Vozoo St. Levingto

Center, 333 Yazoo St. Lexington, MS The Mayor's Office, 105 S.

State Street, Duck Hill, MS
Porter and Sons Funeral
Home, 237 Yazoo St.,
Lexington, MS

Greater Macedonia C.O.G.I.C CR - 247 Sidon, MS, 38954

Holy Temple M.B. Church, 5077 Cabaniss Circle, Jackson, MS (Sunday mornings only)

Urgent & Primary Care of Clarksdale, 125 Hwy 322, Clarksdale, MS 38614

Young Chapel M.B. Church, 1196 Young Chapel Road, Duck Hill, MS

W8 Restaurant and Sports Bar, 309 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Itta Bena MS

Walgreen's at 700 Park Ave, Greenwood, MS 38930

GAZETTE

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'Big Dude' delivers big energy at MVSU Homecoming concert

By Ruchawn Williams, Editor-in-Chief

As MVSU's homecoming was set in motion, one of the most highlighted events was the Comedy Show and Big Boogie Concert, held on Oct. 16, 2025.

The night began with laughter, featuring comedians Mr. Bankshot and Tyler Chronicles, who kept the hyped-up crowd entertained with jokes and exuberant energy.

However, the Valley audience was most hyped for Big Boogie, whom they had anticipated ever since MVSU announced in late September that he would be performing for their homecoming.

As Big Boogie entered the stage, the crowd was energized! The whole building was vibing and jamming to the exhilarating performance -- fans dancing, rapping, and waving their phones as he delivered a thrilling performance.

Big Boogie, also known to fans as 'Big Dude,' performed hit songs such as "Mental Healing", "BOP", and "Toot it Up", among others.

At the end of the concert, a few lucky attendees got the chance to get a picture with the popular icon, ending the night on a high note. In the photos at the right:

- 1. Big Boogie posing with one of the fans.
- 2. Big Boogie moves the crowd.
- 3. Mr. Bankshot performs his routine during MVSU's Homecoming Comedy Show.
- 4. Tyler Chronicles brings humor and energy to the stage, keeping the audience entertained throughout the night.

All photos are by MVSU Communications and Marketing









Greek Showcase, hosted by award-winning Rita Brent, was an electrifying event

By Aaliyah Taylor, *Staff Writer* & Miss DDG 2025-2026

ITTA BENA, Miss. -- The Mississippi Valley State University campus was buzzing with excitement on Thursday, Oct. 17, as students, alumni, and guests gathered for the 2025 MVSU Greek Showcase, hosted by Mississippi's own comedian Rita Brent.

The showcase brought together MVSU's Divine Nine organizations for an unforgettable night of stepping, strolling, and celebration of Greek unity and culture. Each organization delivered powerful performances filled with creativity, rhythm, and pride that had the crowd on their feet.

After a night of fierce competition, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. claimed first place, earning cheers for their intensity and precision. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. took home second place, impressing with their confidence, coordination, and commanding presence. Rounding out the top three, Kappa Kappa



Psi Honorary Band Fraternity secured third place with a high-energy, musically

inspired routine.

Host Rita Brent kept the audience



laughing and engaged throughout the night with her quick wit and humor, making the event both entertaining and memorable.

"This was one of the best showcases we've had in years," said one student attendee. "You could really feel the school spirit and the pride of every organization."

The 2025 Greek Showcase once again highlighted MVSU's strong tradition of excellence, unity, and community. As the night came to a close, it was clear that the Valley's Greek organizations continue to embody the spirit of "One Goal. One Team. One Valley."

Other 2025 MVSU Homecoming Highlights











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Radio pioneer Cyreio Hughes inspires MVSU students with lessons on legacy and innovation

By Addison Howell, Student Writer

Mississippi Valley State University students gathered gathered Oct. 16 to hear a veteran broadcaster Cyreio Hughes share his story and insights on radio and leadership in the Mississippi Delta

Hughes, the longtime programming director of WGNL and WGNG in Greenwood, Miss., spoke about his 40-year career and the legacy of his father, who founded the first Black-owned radio station in Greenwood nearly 38 years ago.

During his talk, Hughes discussed the challenges of maintaining Black ownership in radio, the importance of professionalism, and the need to keep up with advancing technology, such as AI. He encouraged students to "create programs that people will actually listen to" and to "make a plan to make that plan go through."

Hughes also reflected on his faith, explaining how his stations dedicate airtime to gospel and community programming.

His visit left students inspired to pursue their goals in broadcasting while remembering the importance of culture, innovation, and perseverance.

"Something I learned from Mr. Hughes is that if you ever feel awkward or shy just practice in the mirror and you should gain confidence in talking in the microphone," said Mussa Mzein, a mass communication major, who is concentrating in broadcasting.



Unity in Pink brightens the day



Group photo of participants of the Breast Cancer Walk. PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

By Jontavia Randle, Staff Writer

Mississippi Valley State University students recently participated in the university's 13th Annual Breast Cancer Walk.

It began at the Sutton Administration Building and continued approximately two miles to the campus cafeteria.

The atmosphere was filled with energy and purpose as students, faculty, and staff wore bright pink shirts to show their support for individuals affected by breast cancer.

The event was organized to promote awareness about the importance of early detection and to honor both survivors and those who have lost their lives to the disease. Throughout the walk, participants encouraged one another, shared smiles, and reflected on the strength of those who continue to fight breast cancer. Many

students expressed that it was rewarding to take part in an activity that brought the university community together for such a meaningful cause.

When the group reached the café, participants gathered for refreshments, photos, and closing remarks from organizers who expressed gratitude for

everyone's involvement. The event served as a reminder of how unity and compassion can inspire change and increase awareness within the community.

The Breast Cancer
Awareness Walk at MVSU
represented more than a campus
tradition. It demonstrated the
university's commitment
to education, empathy,
and service. Through this
collective effort, students
and staff showed that
supporting health awareness
is an essential part of building a strong

t cancer. Many and caring campus environment.



Gazette Correction Memo:

In the September 2025 print edition, the name Abedin was incorrectly placed below Karis Robinson's photo. We apologize for the error, which has been corrected in the e-edition.

Valley Players to present a dramatic original play by MVSU student

DDG Entertainment News

The Department of Communication at Mississippi Valley State University will present its annual Fall Production, featuring the original play Old Flame

by Shakyla Johnson, on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 13, at 11 a.m. in the Social Science Auditorium. The event is free and open to

This signature campus production continues the longstanding tradition of using the performing arts to bring the Valley family together through live performance, creativity, and community engagement. Presented every spring and fall semester, the event fosters campus pride and unity while welcoming students, faculty, staff, alumni and local

community members.

Old Flame is a dramatic, original work written by MVSU student Shakyla Johnson. The play explores themes of love, lies, and consequences, promising a powerful and thought-provoking experience for attendees.

it's a reflection of our community, and we're especially proud to highlight student-written work that captures both personal and shared

"The Fall Production is

more than a performance,

The production is directed by Barbara Baymon and offers students a valuable, hands-on learning opportunity that strengthens their communication and performing arts skills while enriching the cultural life of the campus.

experiences," said a faculty member from

the Department of Communication.

2025 Tonya Boone Memorial Scholarship awarded



Teniola "Jennifer" Oluwaseyitan (right) recieves the Tonya Boone Memorial Scholarship from a church and family member. PHOTO BY OMARION WILLIAMS

DDG Entertainment News

The Thompson-Boone Family and Delmar Avenue Church of Christ established this scholarship in memory of the late Tonya Boone. Ms. Boone was a mathematics major at Mississippi Valley State University. The \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a full-time Junior majoring in Mathematics. The student must have a minimum GPA of 2.75. The recipients of this Scholarship are chosen by the Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences Department. This year's recipient is Teniola "Jennifer" Oluwaseyitan.

MVSU welcomes international teachers

By Ana Ortiz, MVSU Global Editor

MVSU continues to grow every day, and in this edition, we want to welcome our new international teachers who are joining our community. Their presence is a new opportunity to learn, share experiences, and be part of cultural

We want to share a brief message from our teachers introduce themselves and greet our community.

Hello! My name is Abuther Alothman, and I Alothman am excited to work

as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching

Assistant at Mississippi Valley State University. I am from Iraq and hold a master's degree from the University of Putra Malaysia. I work at MVSU as an Arabic Lecturer. I look forward to sharing my experiences with the students

Hi, I'm **Dr. Yueh-Neng Lin**, Lin a visiting scholar from Taiwan,

currently spending a year at Mississippi Valley State University. Back home, I'm a Finance professor at National Chung Hsing University, where I also served as Associate Dean of the College of Management. I've been in academia for over 20 years, with a passion for teaching and research -- particularly in areas like financial derivatives, investment strategies, and sustainable finance. I earned my Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Manchester in the UK. During my time at MVSU, I hope to connect with students and faculty, share



GAZETTE

Pansari

ideas, and learn from this vibrant community. It's a great opportunity cultural exchange and academic growth, and I'm truly excited to be here.

I am Shubhrika Pansari. I am the

Foreign Language Teaching Assistant from India. I am teaching Hindi Language at MVSU. I was working as Assistant Professor at Maharaja Surajmal Institute, New Delhi, India. I have an M.Phil. in English Literature and a

> Post Graduate Diploma in Translation. In my academic oeuvre, I have presented papers in various National and International conferences. My research areas include Indian mythology and Indian Fiction. I love Mandala Art and creating artworks from waste materials. I am fascinated by the diversity of cultures and love to curate cultural events.

Being an FLTA at MVSU is a great opportunity for cultural exchange and academic growth. During my time here, I plan to foster a deeper understanding of cultures by exchanging knowledge about the diverse social, religious, and regional practices. I aspire to utilize my Fulbright experiences to explore new teaching methods and to come up with more practice-oriented pedagogies grounded in art and literature.

Office of International Programs supports students through passport initiative



By DDG Staff Report

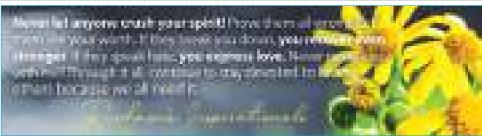
The Office of International Programs proudly hosted the IIE American Passport Program, which will financially support 25 freshmen and first-year transfer students (U.S. citizens) in applying for their first U.S. Passport.

Even though the deadline passed, the opportunity remains an essential highlight to assist students interested in

Study Abroad. Selected students will receive full funding to cover the cost of their passport application.

This program reflects MVSU's growing commitment to diversity and helping students explore educational experiences beyond Valley.

For more information, please contact the Office of International Programs at 662-254-3092.



A JOURNEY ABROAD!

An interview with Byron Stuckey

By Ana Ortiz, MVSU Global Editor

As more students explore international scholarships and exchange programs, we sat down with Byron Stuckey, a recent participant in the Muscle Program, to hear about his experience studying abroad in Japan. From cultural immersion to personal growth, their story shows the impact of saying "yes" to global opportunities.

Where did you go and what program did you participate in?

I went to Tokyo, Japan and participated in the muscle program

Why did you decide to apply for this program/scholarship?

I've always wanted to travel the world and increase my knowledge in any way possible

What was your first impression when you arrived?

Everything felt surreal

What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?

I faced cultural shock and a language barrier but that didn't last long because I overcame it by making friends and actually taking the time to learn Japanese when I could in my free time.

How did this experience change you personally or academically?

It made me view the world in a whole new light. I knew then that I'd continue to travel the world for the rest of my life while I continued to grow personally and



academically.

What is one memory or moment that really stands out from your time abroad?

I'd say my first day of attending Musashi University and being greeted by everyone because of their curiosity for me.

Would you recommend this opportunity to other students? Why?

Yes, because there's nothing like experiencing new things in life.

What advice would you give to students who are thinking of applying?

I would say keep an open mind and to network as much as possible because life is mainly about who you know, not what you know.



In a moment of mentorship and legacy, Dr. Sharon Freeman imparts guidance to Dr. Candace Carter Stevens, her successor. COURTESY PHOTO

Stevens

Dorsey-Evans currently serves as Senate President. "She is always a call away if I ever need anything," Dorsey-Evans said.

Dr. Carter Stevens said that serving in the capacity as Faculty Senate President was a blessing in disguise. "I was merely a vessel, striving to be used for the betterment of the MVSU faculty and the advancement of our shared mission," she said.

"It taught me invaluable lessons in leadership and teamwork."

And speaking of her leadership, Garner-Jackson also described Stevens as "a data-minded leader with heart." She added, "Her analytical mindset, research experience, and ability to approach challenges with both logic and empathy make her an excellent fit for this position."

Looking ahead, Stevens said she plans to help strengthen MVSU by turning data into purpose. "Every chart, report, and

continued from page 1

analysis represents a student's journey," she said. "I stepped into this role with a servant's heart -- committed to advancing Valley's mission, supporting student success, and giving back to the Delta that raised me."

Dr. Carter Stevens added that: "This road has not been easy, but with the faith instilled in me by my mother, Susan C. Rash, and my grandmother, the Late Christine Bunch Carter, and by God's grace, I remained faithful and now see the fruits of my labor. I am grateful to the many mentors and leaders who poured into my journey, and especially to Dr. Golden and President Briggs for their confidence in my leadership. This role is more than a title for me; it is an assignment to help move Valley forward."

She was appointed to the position following the retirement of long-serving Dr. Sharon Freeman.

FACULTY CORNER:

Dr. Green's lesson beyond history: Keep reading, keep growing

By Ruchawn M. Williams Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Kathryn L. Green joined MVSU during the 2006-2007 academic year, bringing extensive experience. A devoted historian and lifelong educator, she has taught at numerous locations, from the University of Florida to the University of the Cayman Islands, before eventually finding a home at Valley.

"My husband and I had moved from Europe to Mississippi," Dr. Green shared. "He was from Mississippi, and we just said, let's try to put out my application here and see if it would work. They called me right away, and the rest is history."

Her passion for history began early. "I was probably nine years old, and I knew that's all I wanted to do," she recalled. "I had a really great junior high teacher who made me catch fire with the topic. It's not about memorizing facts and dates; it's about understanding why things happen."

Dr. Green holds bachelor's degrees in history and French from the University of California at Davis, and both her master's and Ph.D. from Indiana University in Bloomington. At MVSU, she teaches a wide range of history courses. She also plays a key role in the Prison Education Partnership Program (PEPP), which provides higher education opportunities to incarcerated



Green

"They see the advantage getting a good education when they get because everybody gets out most of the time," she said. "That they can better their life,

which is what most people see education is for, but they really are intent."

Dr. Green has earned Fulbright fellowships, grants, and has published articles. Yet, she says what truly inspires her is her students.

"Student success motivates me," she said. "When I see people acting kindly toward each other, that is really motivating because I think we're losing that in this country."

Her advice to Valley is: "Read. Just read. There is so much out there that will enrich your life, help you understand our current situation, and give you joy. It's great. Mississippi is well blessed with great writers. That is what I would wish people at Valley to really do. And some of course do, but I wish more would do

When asked if there were any final thoughts she wanted to share, Dr. Green emphasized the importance of supporting the PEPP.

Staff Spotlight

Petty reflects on leadership

By Ruchawn M. Williams Editor-in-Chief

MVSU's very own Jerome Petty has dedicated shaping engagement and student culture at Valley. A proud graduate, Petty returned to MVSU in May 2012, driven by a desire to "give back to the place that first

believed in me."

"This institution shaped me, challenged me, and believed in me long before I believed in myself," Petty shared. "I returned because I wanted to ignite hope, cultivate hope, and remind every student that their dreams truly matter."

As the Director of Campus Petty Life, Petty supervises numerous

campus involvements, including the Student Government Association, the Royal Court, and other student organizations. But for him, it's not just about leadership; it's about the students.

"What I enjoy most is the privilege of shaping lives—to help students move from uncertainty to confidence," he said. "Each day, I am reminded that I hold a small piece of someone's tomorrow in my hands. My life's purpose is to aspire to inspire before I expire."

Over the years, Petty has witnessed numerous students transform from uncertain individuals to self-assured leaders. "When a student returns after graduation and says, 'Thank you for not

giving up on me,' it reaffirms everything. It reminds me that leadership is about love, truth, and accountability -- and sometimes, saying 'no' is the most loving thing you can do for a student's growth," he expressed.

Taylor Wilson, who serves as Mister

Senior, said, "As a leader, he never lets anyone deter him from what is right, and he gives everyone the same amount of compassion, understanding, and respect while also having his own issues. He really is someone who puts others before himself, and he wants students to feel comfortable. He is a man of his word, but

that does not mean he does not change things for students to feel heard and seen. These things are what make him a great leader and a great mentor."

In addition to his work with students, Petty helped establish the only Mainframe Lab in the Mississippi Delta, secured the T3 Grant, and contributed to the NASA Grant initiative. Among his many accolades is the honor of Humanitarian Teacher of the Year; yet his greatest achievement remains his faith and family.

"My greatest accomplishments are meeting God, becoming an educator, and being a father—because those roles define purpose beyond profession," he





SALUTES OUR ALMA MATER ON

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE



Leroy Riley, President Leroy Johnson Dr. Walter Roberts Cleo Riley Modera Rand Von Alice Williams Florine Lewis Clemetene Cooper Roy Newmon Jessie Meeks Mary T. Delaney Powell H. Rucker Peggy Boston-Bedford Rosie Landfair Ennis B. Rucker Gloria Roberts LaToya Chante' Riley Dorothy Turner Pluma Gibson Shawanda Givens Margaret A. Tate China Stephens Bogan Lisa McGee Samuel Johnson Dolly H. Collins Ethel Bailey

Earscine McClendon India M. Gresham Carmella Hart Larry McGee Barbara Ellis C.L. Londfoir Edna Nelson Carolyn Wilson Smith Jacquline Saffold Brenard McKinney Lina Young Winford Ross, Sr.

STATE/COMMUNITY

Pathfinders travel to Greenville for College and Career Fair

By Omarion Anderson, Staff Writer

GREENVILLE, Miss. – Oct. 3, 2025 -- Mississippi Valley State University's Career Services group, Pathfinders, received the opportunity to attend the Bennie Thompson College and Career Fair, which took place at the Washington County Convention Center.

The event was an opportunity that allowed high school and college students to network with various employers and schools offering undergraduate/graduate programs, internships, and employment opportunities to kick start their scholastic and/or professional careers.

Over 30 schools and employers were at the event including Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, Jackson State University, Tugaloo College, Planters Bank, FedEx, Delta Health Alliance, Toyota Mississippi, Hope Credit Union, and Mississippi Valley State University.

There were also military options for students who were interested in a military career or those who did not have a clear direction for themselves after high

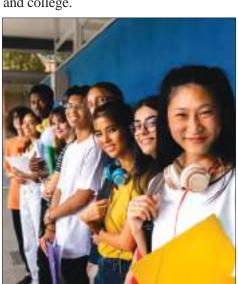


Thompson

school, such as the United States Marine Corps and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Overall, it was a stellar networking event for students to

discover opportunities after high school and college.





CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

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Upcoming Community Events

Event: Fall Festival
Location: Sunflower Park, Itta
Bena, Miss.

Time: from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. **Date:** Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025

Event: Mass Comm Speakers Series Speaker: Dennis Turner, Delta NewsTV Location: Business Ed. Auditorium

Time: 11 a.m. - Noon **Date:** Nov. 20, 2025



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8 SPORTS

GAZETTE OCTOBER

Devils excite fans with Homecoming game



Delta Devils clashing against Lincoln's Oaklanders. PHOTO COURTESY OF MVSU COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

By Hillary Victor, Sports Writer

The Mississippi Valley State's Delta Devils Football Team gave fans plenty to cheer for during Saturday, Oct. 18, Homecoming game.

They earned their first win of the season with a 49-0 victory over Lincoln University (CA) at Rice-Totten Stadium.

The offense moved the ball often, scoring with passes and runs. The defense also added points with an interception return.

The big win brought excitement back to Itta Bena as the Delta Devils look to keep the momentum going this season.

According to MVSUSports.com, Valley's "Defense pitches first shutout since 2008; Offense scored most points in eight years."

New Date, Same Energy: MVSU Set for FAMU Match at Home

DDG Staff Report

Mississippi Valley State University is informing the Valley community that one of the most anticipated football games between MVSU and

Florida A&M University has been moved from Oct. 4 to Nov. 29, 2025 @2PM.

The game has also been moved from the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta to Valley's home turf at Rice-Totten Stadium in Itta Bena, Miss.

MVSU knows how this unexpected change has impacted fans alike, and Valley will continue to provide a quality game-day experience to make it up.

While this change of schedule has been disappointing for MVSU's fans and community, MVSU's focus remains on upholding the standards and integrity of our athletics programs.

MVSU and FAMU remain committed to excellence on and off the field, and they will continue to provide our student-athletes and supporters with competitive and high-quality experiences.

Cool Valley Football Fact



Did you know that Valley's Homecoming 2025 football game was the first Valley game to feature two female kickers? One with MVSU and one with LU, the opposing team. In addition to that, MVSU's Nina Schiks (No. 27) not only became the first woman to score points in an American football game, but she is also the first MVSU female football player!

SOURCES: SWACTV and MVSU Athletics News

Schiks prepping for a field goal kick after MVSU scored a touchdown. SCREENSHOT FROM SWACTV.

Valley Madness brings excitement to campus



Female and male basketball teams, cheer team, and coaches pose for group photo with Dr. Briggs and Director of Athletics Dr. Alecia Shields-Gadson PHOTO COURTESY OF MVSU COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING.



Athletic staff and Greeks pose with Dr. Briggs, Carlos Palmer and Dr. Gadson. PHOTO COURTESY OF MVSU COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING.

By Aaliyah Taylor, Staff Writer & Miss DDG 2025-2026

On Oct. 9, students and staff packed the gym for Valley Madness, an exciting kickoff event celebrating school spirit and the upcoming basketball season.

The night started with a highly anticipated Greeks vs. Staff basketball game, where the staff showed no mercy, defeating the Greeks with a dominant 59–25 victory.

The energy in the gym was electric as the crowd cheered for every basket and highlighted play. After the game, the spotlight turned to the school's cheer team and coaches, who were introduced to loud applause. The introductions continued with the women's and men's basketball teams, along with their coaches, as they geared up for a promising season ahead.

The event closed with an unforgettable dunk show from the men's basketball team, leaving the crowd on their feet and hyped for what's to come this season. Valley Madness proved to be more

Valley Madness proved to be more than just a game; it was a celebration of community, competition, and school pride.

