

Public Radio Stations of Mississippi Public Broadcasting

Quarterly Issues and Programs Report

for the period of October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

MINORITY CONCERNS

EDUCATION

ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND POLITICS

HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*The licensee of the eight-station public radio network,
the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television,
has determined that these issues were of importance to the
citizens of Mississippi during the fourth quarter of 2023.*

The following list contains the most significant programming addressing those issues.

MINORITY CONCERNS

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 10/16/23

Length: 00:04:04

New president has a vision for Howard University at a time of major divides

Howard University in Washington, D.C., has been an incubator of great minds since its founding in 1867, minds like the late actor Chadwick Boseman.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/20/23

Length: 00:04:35

At Huntingdon College, the Gulf South's 1st NCAA women's wrestling team is ready to roll

The Hawks' fielding of the NCAA Division III team is a first for Alabama and the rest of the Gulf South, with no other programs operating in Louisiana, Mississippi or Florida.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 10/25/23

Length: 00:06:56

Immigrants are coming to North Dakota for jobs. Not everyone is glad to see them

The newest residents of this small city on the Great Plains have come a long way to get here.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 10/27/23

Length: 00:05:36

Remembering Richard Roundtree, 'Shaft' star and pioneer for Black actors

NPR's Juana Summers speaks with Tim Reid, an actor and filmmaker, to remember his friend, the late actor Richard Roundtree.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 11/15/23

Length: 00:04:36

The booming African art scene congregates at the biggest art fair in West Africa

The biggest art fair in West Africa draws artists and curators alike to build on the success of African art in the region and beyond.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/14/23

Length: 00:01:46

SPLC Report: far-right groups relying on misinformation in targeting LGBTQ+ community

A recent report released by the Southern Poverty Law Center says far-right groups across the country have increasingly relied on pseudoscience to manipulate public opinion and legislation regarding the LGBTQ+ community.

EDUCATION

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/06/23

Length: 00:04:13

Book bans are on the rise in the Gulf South. Here's what's being challenged in Mississippi

The number of challenged books across the United States has risen dramatically in recent years — especially in school districts — driven by new laws and regulations limiting the kinds of books young people can access.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 10/10/23

Length: 00:04:37

Study finds the school absenteeism rate is double what it was before COVID

Schools across the country lost track of students at alarming rates during the pandemic. Almost two years into the return of in-person education, schools still struggle with chronic absenteeism.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 10/17/23

Length: 00:03:51

Plumbers are training as substitute teachers so full time teachers can protest a bill

Texas plumbers are getting trained as substitute teachers to allow teachers to protest at the state Capitol against a school vouchers bill.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 10/24/23

Length: 00:01:27

Churches step in after Florida restricts how Black history can be taught

Black churches in Florida are now offering classes in African American history, as state leaders have limited how the subject can be taught in schools.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 11/08/23

Length: 00:03:54

Schools across the U.S. are trying a 4-day week. Why? To retain teachers

Many school districts around the U.S. are moving to a four-day school week to retain teachers.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 11/14/23

Length: 00:03:43

HBCU's recruit international athletes for tennis. Some are calling it into question

When it comes to tennis, many Historically Black Colleges and Universities recruit international players, despite growth in the sport among African Americans.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 11/28/23

Length: 00:07:07

In the battle over books, who gets to decide what's age-appropriate at libraries?

As Mississippi continues to face a critical teacher shortage, a new study shows a sharp decline in college graduates deciding to enter the field all together.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/15/23

Length: 00:00:58

Jackson State's Sonic Boom of the South is ready to prove it's ESPN's 'Band of the Year'

On Friday, Jackson State University's marching band will be dancing, strutting and grooving at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta in a head-to-head competition with North Carolina A&T University

ECONOMY

Program: Morning Edition
Air Date: 10/12/23
Length: 00:03:49

The cost of living is still going up, but not as fast as it had been

Social Security beneficiaries can expect a 3.2% cost-of-living increase next year. It's a smaller increase than the 8.7% bump recipients got this year, which was the largest in decades.

Program: Local News Segment
Air Date: 10/24/23
Length: 00:01:43

Nearly a year after legalization, Mississippi cannabis facilities adjust to new market, regulations

It's been 10 months since Mississippians began legally purchasing medical marijuana. How are dispensaries and cultivation facilities adjusting to a developing market and state regulations? There's only a few growing pains, one CEO says.

Program: Morning Edition
Air Date: 11/01/23
Length: 00:02:34

Nearly half of all health workers want to quit. A campaign aims to reverse that

A new federal campaign is pushing hospital leaders to change policies and practices to reduce burnout in the health care workforce.

Program: Local News Segments
Air Date: 11/13/23
Length: 00:01:31

Employees at Maximus call center strike over wages, benefits

More than 100 employees of a Maximus call center in Hattiesburg went on strike on Nov. 9. These employees of the federal government's largest contractor are demanding a minimum \$25 per hour wage, better health benefits and an end to alleged "union busting" tactics used by their employer.

Program: Local News Segment
Air Date: 11/20/23
Length: 00:01:22

JXN Water will implement tiered billing system, rate increases

Residents of Jackson will soon be under a new tiered water and sewer billing system. The system, which will be implemented at the beginning of next year, will see rates increase for most residents and businesses, but lower them for people with low incomes.

Program: Local News Segment
Air Date: 11/29/23
Length: 00:01:34

Mobile online sports betting examined by lawmakers, industry leaders

After the final meeting of the legislature's mobile-online sports betting task force on Tuesday, there were still many unanswered questions about what legalizing this form of gambling would look like in Mississippi.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/21/23

Length: 00:04:05

Despite strong economic signs, food pantry lines are still growing in the Gulf South

2023 was a hot year for the economy — at least on paper. Inflation has slowed down, the unemployment rate remains tight and the latest gross domestic product numbers were just under 5% — better than initially expected.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/22/23

Length: 00:03:51

This New Orleans restaurant made it through the pandemic. Can it survive water billing issues?

A few years ago, after living and traveling in India and learning how to cook from locals, they came home and realized that New Orleans was severely lacking in authentic Indian food options.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND POLITICS

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/10/23

Length: 00:01:57

No one would dare walk through here.’ Jackson residents fed up with sewage issues

Residents affected by Jackson’s failing sewage system say they want action and accountability.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/11/23

Length: 00:01:24

Voting rights groups educate Mississippians on voting options ahead of election

With the general election less than one month away, voting rights groups in the state are prioritizing educating Mississippians on the voting process.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 11/01/23

Length: 00:02:07

Reeves, Presley trade insults and accusations of corruption in gubernatorial debate

With less than a week until election day, Governor Tate Reeves and Democratic challenger Brandon Presley went head to head in the only debate of the 2023 election cycle.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/09/23

Length: 00:01:41

Justice Department investigating city of Lexington, police force over alleged civil rights abuses

The Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice is formally investigating the city of Lexington and its police force for possible civil rights abuses following years of complaints and several lawsuits alleging that Black residents have faced systemic abuse and harassment.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 11/20/23

Length: 00:04:14

The No Labels political group is contemplating a third-party presidential run

How would the 2024 presidential campaign be different if there were three serious candidates?

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 11/28/23

Length: 00:03:28

In less than 50 days, voting begins in GOP presidential race with Iowa caucuses

The field of GOP candidates in the 2024 presidential race is a lot smaller than it used to be. None of them come close to the front-runner former President Donald Trump.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/04/23

Length: 00:01:32

Resolution from a Mississippi Congressman leads to the sixth expulsion in chamber's history

Former U.S. Representative George Santos of New York was expelled from Congress on Friday after a bipartisan vote by his peers - a move spearheaded by a member of Mississippi's congressional delegation.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/13/23

Length: 00:01:41

Voter frustrations, doubts on display at Hinds County Elections Commission meeting

Frustration was on display at the Hinds County Election Commission's office in downtown Jackson Tuesday, where voters, advocacy organizations and former candidates called on election officials to explain ballot shortages across the county in last month's general election.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/20/23

Length: 00:01:29

House minority leader lays out 2024 legislative priorities

As Mississippi lawmakers prepare for the 2024 Legislative session, Medicaid expansion is still the top priority for Democrats in the legislature.

HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/05/23

Length: 00:01:39

New vaccines cover ‘tridemic’ of RSV, COVID-19 and flu

A trifecta of respiratory illnesses are seeing a resurgence in Mississippi.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/05/23

Length: 00:01:42

Broadband expansion could transform healthcare access in rural Mississippi, report says

As Mississippi prepares to spend \$1.2 billion in federal funding for broadband buildout, one group says universal high-speed internet would not only improve rural communities’ economic outlook, but also increase access to health care.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/29/23

Length: 00:01:43

Galloway Church holds lectures supporting health care access, Medicaid expansion

Mississippians gathered with faith leaders at Galloway United Methodist Church over the weekend for a series of lectures on how access to healthcare is a moral, Christian issue, not just a political one.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 11/06/23

Length: 00:03:34

Tai chi helps boost memory, study finds. One type seems most beneficial

There's plenty of evidence that exercise can help protect our bodies and brains.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 11/21/23

Length: 00:03:59

COVID is still around and there are precautions to take over the holidays

Hard to believe we are in our fourth holiday season with COVID-19 potentially crashing the party — always an unwelcome guest.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 11/30/23

Length: 00:04:05

EPA proposes new rule to require nationwide replacement of lead pipes

Under the Biden Administration's new guidance, most U.S. cities would have to replace lead pipes within the next 10 years.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/12/23

Length: 00:01:39

Testing facility finds pesticides, illegal levels of THC in over-the-counter cannabis products

A cannabis testing company has revealed the presence of unregulated and illegal over the counter cannabis products available across Mississippi.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/18/23

Length: 00:01:35

Mental health experts warn of risks during the holiday season

It's estimated that 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year -- disorders that mental health experts in Mississippi say can be made worse during the holiday season.

CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/02/23

Length: 00:04:57

Mississippi's growing Latinx population creates space to celebrate

Hispanic and Latinx history, heritage and culture are taking center stage across the country for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 10/04/23

Length: 00:03:46

Adults have a lot to say about book bans - but what about kids?

There's a lot of discussion and debate about the rise in efforts to remove certain books from school libraries and curriculums.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 10/09/23

Length: 00:04:01

Can cooking and gardening at school inspire better nutrition? Ask these kids

Farm to school events are happening all over the country this month aimed at bringing fresh food to students' plates.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 10/16/23

Length: 00:03:24

Mourners gather for 6-year-old Palestinian American boy who was fatally stabbed

A 6-year-old Palestinian American boy was fatally stabbed and his mother seriously injured in a Chicago suburb over the weekend in what authorities are calling a hate-crime killing.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/19/23

Length: 00:01:19

Mississippi health providers spread awareness about preventing SIDS

According to the state department of health, sleep-related deaths are the third-leading cause of death for Mississippi infants. Doctors are reminding parents of safe sleeping habits for babies during this SIDS awareness month.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/06/23

Length: 00:01:32

UM football fans take to The Grove in support of Governor Tate Reeves

The Democratic gubernatorial candidate won Lafayette County by six points in 2019, but you wouldn't have been able to tell on the campus of the University of Mississippi on Saturday.

Program: Morning Edition

Air Date: 11/30/23

Length: 00:05:54

How should caregivers help Israeli children who were freed from captivity?

Israel and Hamas have extended their truce for another day, which means more Israeli hostages are exchanged for Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/04/23

Length: 00:01:24

Henifin takes over sewer as residents complain of raw sewage exposure

A federal court order has put the management of Jackson's sewage system under a familiar third-party administrator.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/05/23

Length: 00:03:01

How Mississippi's outdoor workers dealt with the hottest August on record

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Mississippi and Louisiana had their hottest August on record so far. They averaged nearly 85 degrees and 88 degrees, respectively — continuing the trend of the hottest summer ever recorded on Earth.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 10/18/23

Length: 00:01:39

Worst drought conditions since 2016 take toll on Mississippi farm harvests

The U.S. drought monitor says Mississippi is experiencing some of the driest conditions since 2016. Farmers in the state say they're already seeing the effects on their crops and farmland.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 11/15/23

Length: 00:01:41

As statewide burn ban is lifted, forecasters warn Mississippi is still far from drought relief

More than 43% of the state is currently classified as experiencing 'exceptional drought' conditions, with almost the same number a step down but still under 'extreme drought' classification.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 11/27/23

Length: 00:03:06

Science says teens need more sleep. So why is it so hard to start school later?

Research about sleep and teens' brains has spurred a few states to bar high schools from starting classes very early.

Program: All Things Considered

Air Date: 11/30/23

Length: 00:03:54

Looking back at the transformative first year of ChatGPT

ChatGPT was introduced to the world a year ago. It has since become one of the fastest growing applications ever and potentially one of the most influential.

Program: Local News Segment

Air Date: 12/12/23

Length: 00:04:53

How making Jackson's famed Farish Street more green could also help cool it off

Urban areas like the Farish Street Historic District are, on average, warmer than the surrounding rural areas.