By JAMIE PATTERSON
Managing Editor

When conversations steer toward the subject of gospel singing and raw talent, it doesn't take long for the Kaiser Singers to be included in the discussion.
The Yazoo group has reached beyond the walls of rural churches to national recognition over the course of four decades. People from all walks of life know the Kaiser Singers.
"When we sing, we are singing for His blessing," said Pastor Linda Jackson, group member.
Though they remain humble, the Kaiser Singers have reached out to both young and old with their spirited performances, heartfelt songs and dedication to the Lord. And as they continue to gain popularity nationally, they remember their beginnings inside their family homes.
"Growing up, we loved to get together, just to sing," Jackson said. "It was in our blood."
The Kaiser Singers were formed in 1968 by Mrs. Beatrice Kaiser and her daughters, Annie, Hattie and Estella.
Estella Ross said music was always found within their home. She and her siblings grew up alongside the sounds of gospel and music in general.
"My grandmother and mother sang, and we all just took it off from there," Ross said.
The gift of music continued to pass on to other generations of the Kaiser family.
"We teach each generation to keep it going," Jackson said. "We want to keep them singing."
Even without music, the family sang a cappella, learning to make harmony with all their voices. Before long, their sound began to go beyond the walls of their family church, Stranger's Home in Vaughan.
"Our grandpa and grandma, James Brown and Hattie D. Brown, really sang in our family church," Ross said. "But our mom, Beatrice...she was the one who had the drive to take it beyond. She was determined to be the best singer she could be."
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