

# Sports & Entertainment

## Iconic Tops Bar-B-Q announces re-grand opening in time for Fourth of July and America’s 250th birthday

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 25, 2026 — Tops Bar-B-Q is proud to announce the Re-Grand Opening of its historic Rhodes Avenue restaurant located at 3970 Rhodes Avenue in Memphis today. Following an extensive restoration and reconstruction effort after multiple fires forced the restaurant to close more than 18 months ago, the doors will officially reopen to the public, welcoming guests back to the oldest operating Tops Bar-B-Q location. Originally opened more than 65 years ago, the Rhodes Avenue restaurant holds a special place in the history of Tops Bar-B-Q and generations of Memphis families who have made it part of their traditions. While much of the building has been rebuilt from the ground up, great care was taken throughout the project to preserve the character and nostalgia that made the restaurant a Memphis landmark. Original brickwork was restored, the iconic chimney remains standing, and portions of the original flooring were preserved to honor the history of the restaurant and the community it has served for decades. "For many people, Rhodes Avenue isn't just another restaurant—it's a piece of Memphis history," said Randy Hough, Chief Executive Officer of Tops Bar-B-Q. "This building has welcomed guests for more than six decades and has created memories for multiple generations of families. It was extremely important to us that we preserve as much of that history as possible while creating a modern restaurant that will serve Memphis for decades to



come." The reopening represents far more than a construction project. It reflects the resilience of the Tops Bar-B-Q team, the support of the surrounding community, and the dedication of countless partners who helped bring the restaurant back to life. "We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Memphis Fire Department for their professionalism and dedication throughout this process," Hough said. "We also want to thank the Memphis Police Department for helping keep the property safe during the lengthy construction and restoration period. Their partnership al-

lowed us to focus on rebuilding and bringing this important location back to the community." Throughout the closure, Tops Bar-B-Q remained committed to its employees by retaining team members and providing opportunities at other company locations until they could return home to Rhodes Avenue. "One thing we were determined to do was take care of our people," said Hough. "Our team members are the heart of this restaurant. Because of their loyalty and commitment, we were able to keep every employee working throughout this process. As

guests return, they'll be greeted by many of the same familiar faces they've known for years. That's something we're incredibly proud of." The newly restored restaurant combines the heritage of the original building with modern equipment, updated dining areas, and improved operational capabilities designed to better serve guests while maintaining the quality and traditions that have defined Tops Bar-B-Q since 1952. "As we celebrate this reopening, we're reminded that restaurants are about much more than food,"

Hough added. "They're about community. They're about memories. They're about people. Rhodes Avenue has been part of the fabric of Memphis for generations, and we are honored to once again serve our neighbors from this historic location." The Rhodes Avenue location will be open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tops Bar-B-Q invites the community, former employees, longtime guests, and Memphis residents to join in celebrating the return of one of the city's most iconic barbecue destinations.

## SAF welcomes One Horse as newest corporate partner

BELLEVUE, Wash. — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) is pleased to announce that American firearms manufacturer One Horse has joined the organization as the newest Silver-level corporate partner. "At One Horse, we don't just manufacture firearms, we believe in what they stand for," said industry veteran and One Horse CEO Jeremy Hammons. "The Second Amendment isn't a footnote in American history, it's a cornerstone of the freedom this country was built on. Partnering with the Second Amendment Foundation is our way of putting action behind that belief and standing alongside the organizations fighting to preserve it for generations to come." Based in Brownstown, Ind., One Horse is a family-owned company that manufactures rifles, components and firearm platforms built around practical performance, disciplined production and American manufacturing. The new partner announcement follows closely behind One Horse's recent collaboration with another SAF corporate partner, Atrius Development Group. The two companies teamed up to build the One Horse Express Rifle, the first factory-built production rifle equipped with the Atrius Forced Reset Selector. "We are thrilled to welcome One Horse into the SAF family as the newest corporate partner," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "It's amazing what can be accomplished when we join forces with like-minded people to ensure our Second Amendment freedoms endure for generations. Companies like One Horse that support SAF firmly believe in our mission, and with the backing of such staunch donors, members and corporate partners, we will remain at the tip of the spear fighting for our right to keep and bear arms."

For more information about SAF's corporate partner program, contact Senior Vice President Lauren Hill at [LHill@saf.org](mailto:LHill@saf.org).

## Texas Southern University’s Ocean of Soul Marching Band featured in Vogue Magazine to celebrate Juneteenth from sports-Ent. 4

During Mr. Simmons' tenure, they've performed at Wrestlemania. They've become one of the most anticipated bands at Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans. In 2024, the Ocean of Soul accompanied Beyoncé Knowles-Carter during her iconic Beyoncé Bowl performance on Christmas Day. It was one of the most-watched sporting events of the year, bringing the HBCU marching band tradition to a global audience that surpassed 27 million views. The band also performed alongside Grammy-winning artist Lizzo at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, cementing their place at the intersection of HBCU excellence and mainstream American culture. "Every time we step onto a new stage, we carry the legacy of every student who has worn this uniform," said Director Brian Simmons. "There are no words that are adequate for what it means to see our students in the pages of Vogue, on Juneteenth. This is what we built this for. It is what our students prepare for daily."

The Vogue Summer 2026 feature showcases the full Ocean of Soul ensemble, including the marching band, drum majors, and the

*"This moment does not just belong to our students and the University, but to Houston and to every HBCU in this country," said J.W. Crawford III, President of Texas Southern University. "To be in Vogue is incredible, and for this to happen on Juneteenth, in the region where Juneteenth began, is revelational. The University's presence in such a renowned publication is an acknowledgment of sustained excellence, cultural roots, and a band program that has been revolutionary in its approach to communicating with and relating to diverse audiences while performing on the largest stages."*

Motion of the Ocean dance team, in an editorial spread that highlights the visual power, precision, and cultural identity of the program. The feature is available in the Summer 2026 print edition of Vogue and at [vogue.com](http://vogue.com). Texas Southern University and

the Ocean of Soul invite the public to be part of this historic moment. Supporters can contribute to the band program's High Tide giving campaign at [give.tsu.edu/campaign/623059/donate](http://give.tsu.edu/campaign/623059/donate). ABOUT THE TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OCEAN OF SOUL The Ocean of Soul is the official marching band of Texas Southern University, founded in Houston, Texas. One of the nation's premier HBCU marching bands, the Ocean of Soul has performed on stages ranging from nationally televised bowl games to major concert events, representing the university, the HBCU tradition, and the city of Houston with distinction for decades. ABOUT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY Texas Southern University is a historically Black university located in Houston, Texas. Founded in 1927, TSU offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs and serves as one of the largest HBCUs in the United States. TSU is committed to academic excellence, community engagement, and developing the next generation of leaders.

Have a Safe and Happy Fourth of July!



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