



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 24, 2015

Contact: Chaille Clements, Communications and Marketing Specialist
Phone: (601) 359-1140
E-mail: chaille@mdac.ms.gov

***Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey®* presents *Built to Amaze!* Entertained Visitors and Made Presentation at Ag Museum**

Jackson, Miss. – On April 23, *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey®* presents *Built to Amaze!* presented Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith with a golden hard hat and a \$500 contribution as the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum begins the process of re-building and improving the campus following last November's fire that destroyed the Children's Barnyard, along with the Veterinary Infirmary and maintenance shop. "We are thrilled to be teaming up with a world-class act such as the Ringling Brothers to bring awareness to the Ag Museum's cause. We had a setback with the fire last year, but we are on the road to recovery and aiming to restore everything that was lost and more ensuring that the museum is as educational and exciting as possible for all visitors," said Commissioner Hyde-Smith.

This unique collaboration was formed in order to bring awareness to the museum's fundraising efforts. "Properties that play in Jackson are proud to contribute to the rebuilding efforts of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. It is in the best interest of all of Jackson to be a part of this in any way they can, no matter how small or how large in order to continue to bring entertainment into the community creating jobs, additional revenue for the city, and restore a historic landmark for future generations," said Chad Ballard, Promoter: *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey* presents *Built To Amaze* and All Feld Entertainment, Inc.

Ringmaster Andre McClain and several performers from Ringling Bros. Circus were onsite to entertain visitors before the presentation. This event kicked off a full weekend of *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey®* presents *Built to Amaze!* held at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. The circus takes place from April 23 until April 26. Tickets are available at the Mississippi Coliseum Box Office or by calling 800-745-3000.

At the event, Commissioner Hyde-Smith also announced a fundraiser that will be held on June 12. Festivities will begin with the Mississippi Ag & Forestry Expo sponsored by Southern Ag Credit. Vendors from the Mississippi Farmers Market and other exhibitors will be set-up in Small Town, Mississippi, and large, state-of-the-art farm equipment from Mississippi Ag will be performing live demonstrations. Mississippi State Extension Service will be teaching seminars throughout the day with topics relating to landowners and producers. The Ag Expo is free to the public.

On the evening of June 12, there will be an outdoor benefit concert featuring local band “Southern Grass” and the popular Knoxville based “The Black Lillies”. The concert’s entry fee is \$1.00 for children 12 and under and \$10.00 for adults when purchased online and \$15.00 at the gate. All proceeds from the event will go to the Ag and Forestry Museum Foundation.

Anyone who wishes to make contributions and donations to assist with rebuilding efforts and future improvements needs to make checks payable to the Ag Museum Foundation, 1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS 39216 or call 601-432-4500 for more information.

###



Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey performers and Ringmaster Andre McClain (center left) joined Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith (center right) at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum to entertain visitors with a preview of the Built to Amaze! show which will be held at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson from April 23 until April 26. This unique collaboration was formed to bring awareness to the museum’s fundraising efforts following last November’s fire.