



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
MISSISSIPPI FAIR COMMISSION**
COMMISSIONER CINDY HYDE-SMITH
CHAIRMAN

MEDIA ADVISORY

For October 5, 2016

Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Phone: (601) 359-1163
E-mail: paige@mdac.ms.gov

What: 157th Mississippi State Fair Opening Ceremony

When: Wednesday, October 5; 5:00 p.m.

**Where: Gate 1 of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds
(Gate located at the intersection of Amite and Jefferson Streets)**

Ribbon Cutting Marks Grand Opening of the 157th Mississippi State Fair

The gates to the 157th Mississippi State Fair will officially open as Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith cuts the ceremonial ribbon at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, at Gate 1 located at the intersection of Jefferson and Amite Streets. Joining Commissioner Hyde-Smith to kick off the State Fair will be Miss Hospitality Mary Elizabeth Stringer of Starkville. Jay Herrington will perform the national anthem.

“Please come join us at the fair this year which gets underway on Wednesday, October 5, at 5:00 p.m. with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce’s Grand Opening Ceremony. Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith will officially open the fair, and the popular brass band Southern Komfort will lead us down the midway,” said Mississippi Fair Commission Executive Director Rick Reno. “Traditional favorites such as the ever popular Biscuit Booth will return dispensing delicious free biscuits. Experience thrills and chills watching “Freestyle MX” the new daredevil motorcycle act! Stroll through expanded exhibits and merchants in the Trade Mart, and don’t get wet when you stop to see the High Flying Retriever Show. Come ride all of your favorite rides on the “Mile Long” midway, and enjoy your favorite musical artists on the Budweiser pavilion music stage this year featuring an open air setting,” continued Reno.

Voted as one of Mississippi’s best fairs or festivals in *Mississippi Magazine’s* Best of Mississippi 2016, the Mississippi State Fair continues to be one of the most enduring and enjoyable traditions in the state. “For 12 days each year, the Mississippi State Fairgrounds comes to life as it is transformed into an amazing amusement park. Whether it’s for the food, the rides, the 4-H and FFA shows or the musical entertainment, fairgoers continue to return to the midway every October. This year, as in previous years, visitors can expect a family-friendly atmosphere and exciting entertainment offering fun for those of all ages,” said Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith.

Daily activities will take place in the TradeMart, the Kirk Fordice Equine Center and all along the 100 acres of the Mississippi Fairgrounds Complex. Headliners in this year’s entertainment lineup, free with regular fair admission, include Travis Tritt, Frank Foster, Luckenbach Tribute Band, Alter Bridge, Boyz II Men, Old Dominion, American Authors, Miles Flatt, Jesse Robinson Blues Band, Harmony & Grits Bluegrass Band, Bill Perry Trio, Brandon Mitchell & SWAP, Delta Mountain Boys, and First Baptist Providence Quartet.

For the latest updates, fairgoers can download a free mobile app from the App store for their Apple and Android devices. With the app, fairgoers can easily get updated concert and event information; view a map with all the attractions; have their own mobile Fair Fun Guide, livestock schedule, and Premium Book; and even get alerts about weather. The app also features a parked car finder, so visitors can easily find their car when leaving the fair. The app also allows users to submit and share photos through social media, as well as receive push notifications for the livestock shows including show times and competition winners.

The Mississippi State Fair runs Wednesday, October 5 through Sunday, October 16, with a gate admission price of \$5.00 per person. Children under the age of 6 are admitted free of charge. Enjoy free admission weekdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. For additional information, download the Mississippi State Fair mobile app, or visit www.msfair.net.

###