



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
MISSISSIPPI FAIR COMMISSION**

COMMISSIONER ANDY GIPSON
CHAIRMAN

MEDIA ADVISORY

For October 1, 2018

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What: 159th Mississippi State Fair Opening Ceremony

When: Wednesday, October 3; 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 159th Mississippi State Fair

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson will officially open the gates to the 159th Mississippi State Fair with a ceremonial ribbon cutting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3, at Gate 1 located at the intersection of Jefferson and Amite Streets.

Mississippi Fair Commission Executive Director Steve Hutton and Danny Huston with North American Midway Entertainment will join Commissioner Gipson in kicking off the State Fair. Callaway High School JROTC will present the colors, and Miss Hospitality Anna McDaniel of Meridian will perform the national anthem. The Morton High School Marching Band will also perform.

Following the ribbon cutting, Commissioner Gipson will make his way down the Midway to the Biscuit Booth where he will personally greet fairgoers each day of the fair from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. "I am looking forward to welcoming everyone to this year's 159th Mississippi State Fair. Attending the State Fair continues to be a tradition for many families across the state who come for the delicious food, fun rides, 4-H and FFA livestock shows, musical entertainment and the many other activities. In keeping with tradition, the employees with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce will be serving warm, homemade biscuits at the Biscuit Booth on the Midway," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson.

Headlining acts performing on the Budweiser Stage located on the Midway, free with regular fair admission, include Chris Janson, Hinder, Hannah Belle, Jason and Destiny Project, En Vogue, The Marshall Tucker Band and Colt Ford. In addition to these great acts, Mercy Me will perform inside the Mississippi Coliseum on October 11 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for this performance are available at Ticketmaster.com or the Coliseum Box Office. Mercy Me will feature their hit song from the movie "I Can Only Imagine."

The MS Beef Celebrity Cook-off will be October 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the Trustmark Hospitality Tent. Senior American Day will take place on October 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Coliseum.

Daily activities will take place in the Trade Mart, the Kirk Fordice Equine Center and all along the 100 acres of the Mississippi Fairgrounds Complex. Employees from the Mississippi Department of Agriculture will be giving out made-from-scratch biscuits at the Biscuit Booth on the Midway. Children, and adults alike, will enjoy the Farm Bureau Petting Zoo Area and Pig Races and will be wowed by the circus performers of Joseph D Bauer's Great American Thrill Show located on the Midway. Fetch and Fish will perform in front of the Mississippi Trade Mart, and dozens of vendors and exhibits will be located in the Mississippi Trade Mart including 4-H exhibits, arts & crafts competition, food preservation, floral exhibits and an antique car show.

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 3, through Sunday, October 14, 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 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., with the exception of October 8. Like us on Facebook for more updates on ride specials, fair news and your opportunity to win tickets to the fair or visit <http://www.MsStateFair.com>

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