



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson Kicks-Off Mississippi Mudbug Festival

JACKSON, Miss. – The 2021 Mississippi Mudbug Festival opened yesterday at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson officially kicked-off this inaugural event, which runs through Sunday, April 11, with a ribbon cutting today at 12:00 p.m.

“We’re excited to launch the first inaugural Mississippi Mudbug Festival,” said Commissioner Gipson. “We had what we called a soft opening last evening and cooked about 1,500 lbs. of crawfish. I want to thank all our sponsors for this incredible event, and we invite everyone to come out and enjoy some good company, entertainment, and of course, boiled crawfish.”

The Mississippi Mudbug Festival includes food vendors and over 20 carnival rides provided by North American Midway Entertainment with daily ride specials; beverages provided by Southern Beverage Company and Clark Beverage Group; and crawfish plates provided by The Back Porch restaurant for \$15 per plate. Feature events include a crawfish eating contest on Saturday, April 10, and the ‘Battle of the Crawfish’ cooking contest on Sunday, April 11, as well as musical performances by Frank Foster, Doctor Zarr, Chad Wesley, Fordie Hays and J Edwards. General admission is free and parking is \$5 per car.

Rides will open each day and advanced ride wristbands can be purchased online at <https://tickets.authentigate.ca/store/#/NAME/546>. The Tails and Ales Courtyard will be open daily with crawfish and beverages available for purchase. Tickets for Saturday and Sunday night’s performances inside the Mudbug Music Area can be purchased online at www.Ticketmaster.com.

Schedule of the Mississippi Mudbug Festival is as follows:

Thursday, April 8, 2021

- o 12:00 p.m. – Gates open - Free admission
- o 2:00 p.m. – Rides open
- o 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Ride-A-Thon - Attendees can enjoy over 20 great rides for one low wristband price of \$25
- o 2:00 p.m. – Crawfish and beverages will be available for purchase inside the Tails and Ales Courtyard
- o 10:00 p.m. – Gates close

Friday, April 9, 2021

- o 12:00 p.m. – Gates open - Free admission
- o 2:00 p.m. – Rides open
- o 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – Ride-A-Thon - Attendees can enjoy over 20 great rides for one low wristband price of \$25
- o 2:00 p.m. – Crawfish and beverages will be available for purchase inside the Tails and Ales Courtyard
- o 4:00 p.m. – Mudbug Music Area opens - Free admission
- o 6:00 p.m. – J Edwards performance
- o 8:00 p.m. – Fordie Hays performance
- o 8:00 p.m. – Crawfish Eating Contest
- o 11:00 p.m. – Gates close

Saturday, April 10, 2021

- o 12:00 p.m. – Gates and Rides open - Free admission
- o 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – Ride-A-Thon - Attendees can enjoy over 20 great rides for one low wristband price of \$25
- o 2:00 p.m. – Mudbug Music Area opens - Entry will be \$20
- o 2:00 p.m. – House music/DJ will start
- o 3:30 p.m. – Chad Wesley performance
- o 5:30 p.m. – Chad Wesley performance
- o 7:30 p.m. – Frank Foster performance
- o 11:00 p.m. – Gates and Mudbug Music Area close

Sunday, April 11, 2021

- o 12:00 p.m. – Gates and Rides open - Free admission
- o 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Ride-A-Thon - Attendees can enjoy over 20 great rides for one low wristband price of \$25
- o 12:00 p.m. – Mudbug Music Area opens - Entry will be \$15
- o 1:00 p.m. – Doctor Zarr performance
- o 1:00 p.m. – Battle of the Crawfish begins
- o 7:00 p.m. – Mudbug Music Area closes
- o 8:00 p.m. – Gates close

Sponsors for the Mississippi Mudbug Festival include The Back Porch, Southern Beverage Company, Clark Beverage Group, Deviney Equipment, Gray-Daniels Auto Family, Visit Jackson - The City with Soul, Quality Chemical & Supply, Inc., Polk's Meat Products, City Limits Bar & Grill, Sunbelt Rentals and Watkins Construction & Roofing.

To find a complete schedule of events or more information on the Mississippi Mudbug Festival, visit www.MississippiFairgrounds.com online or follow the Mississippi State Fairgrounds on Facebook.

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Photo attached.



Commissioner Andy Gipson officially kicked-off the inaugural Mississippi Mudbug Festival, which runs through Sunday, April 11, with a ribbon cutting at the State Fairgrounds. Pictured left to right: Chad White, general manager at Southern Beverage Company; Jeremy Bolian, senior commercial director at Southern Beverage Company; Michael Lasseter, acting director of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds; Commissioner Gipson, Wendy Hutchins with Watkins Construction & Roofing; Michael Dier, owner of Watkins Construction & Roofing; Ryan Bell, sales representative with Watkins Construction & Roofing; Ralph and Missy Elmore, owners of the City Limits Bar and Grill.