events calendar

BYRAM

July 30

Swinging Bridge 5K! All proceeds go to the city of Byram parks and recreation. A two-day festival! Byram-ms.us or 601.372.7746





CANTON

June 30-July 3

Dozens of hot-air balloons will lead a fun filled weekend for children and adults! This four-day event will include competitive balloon races, two spectacular balloon glows, two incredible firework displays, a Run/Walk with hot air balloons, children's activities, great food and great entertainment. Fundraiser for The Good Samaritan Center.

ballooncanton.com

July 4

The "Big Stage" returns to the Historic



Canton Square for the annual Canton **Gospel Fest** Homecoming. Begins at 6 p.m. Expect to hear from the best gospel groups anywhere. Concert is free. Produced by recording artist and Canton's own Cynthia Goodloe

Palmer. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy! 800.844.3369.

COLUMBUS

July 7-9

Crawford Cotton Boll Festival annual community event features an array of live entertainment, speakers, a step show and more. Honoring the late Blues legend, Big Joe Williams. 662.272.5164.

July 7

The Sounds of Summer Concert Series 7–9 p.m. on the Columbus Riverwalk Stage. Concessions available; lawn chairs and blankets encouraged. No pets or coolers. 662.328.6305.

HATTIESBURG

July 28

Laughs 4 Life is a comedic fundraising event bringing laughter to the Hub City. 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Historic Saenger Theater in downtown Hattiesburg. Reserved Tickets \$50. Proceeds benefit the International Myeloma Foundation and the Forrest General Cancer Center through the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation. Laughs4life.com.

JACKSON

July 2

MS Children's Museum celebrates Independence Day with special activities from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

MSchildrensmuseum.org.



July 4

2016 Farm Bureau Watermelon Classic **5K Run/Walk** at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame & Museum. Participate in the 5K Run, 5k Walk or BCBS of Mississippi 1-Mile Fun **Run msfame.com** or 601.982.8264 Volunteers needed.



July 5, 12, 19, 26 MS Children's

Museum continues its "Tinker with Thomas" weekly enrichment program aligned with its visiting exhibit, Thomas & Friends: Explore the Rails!

Tinker with Thomas is a hands-on program focusing on science, technology, engineering and math. 3:30 p.m. 601.981.5469.

July 9

Annual Zoo Ice Cream Safari! In its 22nd year, this event has featured our local media celebrities and



special guests showing off their personalities and scooping favorite flavors

for your votes. Face painting, carousel rides, train rides, splash pad, bounce houses, a dunking booth, and more! jacksonzoo.org

July 14

Biking for Babies, sponsored by Pro-Life Mississippi. 6 p.m. at St. Richard Catholic



Church 1242 Lynwood Drive. Meet & Greet and support a cause that raises awareness and values life. Bikingforbabies.com



MADISON

July 16

The popular Bruin Burn 5K is back for its 6th year! 6:30 a.m. start. The course winds through scenic Madison ending at Saint Anthony Catholic School.

Come run one of Jackson's favorite races! 601.209.4619

PEARL

July 9

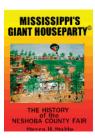
The Mississippi Opry Summer Show at the Pearl Community Room, 2420 Old Brandon Road from 6–9 p.m. Admission \$10. Children under 18 free. Sharon Fiveash 601.331.6672.

PHILADELPHIA

July 22-29

The Neshoba County Fair. No words for Mississippi's great house party. A little of everything here and an experience not to be forgotten.

neshobacountyfair.org



RIDGELAND

July 2

Annual "Race for Brain Injury" sponsored by Brain Injury Association of MS "Dash 'n' Splash" event. For avid runners and walkers, it's a 5k scenic timed course; for kids, families, and those who don't run, a healthy 1-mile walk; for those on wheels, a beautiful wheelchair roll!

Visitridgeland.com 🗪