

Date: February 20, 2009
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Jackson Zoo to Celebrate 2009 Zoo Day

Make plans to visit the Jackson Zoo, Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for Zoo Day 2009! The day of festivity will incorporate a variety of activities, music, and fun for the entire family, including the **grand opening of the new temporary exhibit, Penguin Plunge! Penguin Plunge features six black-footed penguins in a self-contained exhibit that will be at the Zoo through mid-August.**

WAPT is the official medial sponsor of Zoo Day and the event will also feature live music throughout the day from Mississippi artists such as Ralph Miller and The Mississippi Improv. Alliance.

A variety of local craftspeople and other artisans are also coming out to celebrate Zoo Day. Visitors can even purchase some one-of-a-kind keepsakes. Some of the craftspeople who have signed up so far include:



Russell Christie : Photography

Suzanne Glenn: Necklaces

Phyllis Hurley: Friends of Uganda African Jewelry and Gifts

Amanda Brannan: Kids Bracelets

Hope Mallard: Kids Furniture

Carlos Hernandez: Doll houses

Jamie Walker: Children's Clothing and Decor

Vanessa Shiers: Children's Clothing and Decor

Jason Webb: Custom Frames

Tracy branch: Home Decor, Baby Items

Billie Allen: Home Decor

Tracy Hill: Children's Items and Hand-painted Easter Baskets

Be prepared for a day of family fun. Children can also enjoy a variety of activities including games, space jumps and slides provided by Gotta Jump, a coloring station, face painting, and performances by Inky the Clown. Costume Characters, including the Sno-Biz penguin and Stars Wars characters will be roaming the zoo taking photos with zoo-goers.

Children will not want to miss out on educational opportunities, dancing with Zany Zebra, and Keeper Chats.

Take a ride on the endangered species Carousel or ride the train for a charge of \$2.00.

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Page 2 of 2
Zoo Day

Zoo admission is \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 2-12, and \$6.30 for senior citizens (65 and over). Children under the age of 2, and Friends of the Zoo members, are admitted free of charge. There is an additional \$2.00 charge for the Penguin Plunge exhibit.

For more information, call 601-352-2580 or visit www.jacksonzoo.org.

Penguin Plunge was created by Animal Interaction Group – AIDG – Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Join the Jackson Zoo as it celebrates 90 years (1919-2009) of Education, Recreation, Conservation and Community! Visit www.jacksonzoo.org to check out exciting special events planned, animal updates, one-of-a-kind education programs, membership and adoption packages, and so much more.

The Jackson Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The AZA is America's leading accrediting organization that sets rigorous, professional standards for zoos and aquariums. The AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement by engaging and inspiring the 143 million annual visitors to its member institutions and their communities to care about and take action to help protect wildlife.

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