Hattiesburg’s favorite outdoor attraction is geared up to celebrate 64 years this year with exciting announcements and events for the whole family.

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In July 2013, the Hattiesburg Convention Commission announced that the Zoo would receive a $277,000 grant from the Asbury Foundation for use toward this new education facility. The unique interior of the 2,200 square-foot facility is a collaboration between the Hattiesburg Zoo and California design firm, “Because We Can.” The steampunk-inspired building will offer a one-of-a-kind educational experience for guests of the Zoo, featuring viewable housing for many of the Zoo’s never-before-displayed education animals, a new home for the Zoo’s Galapagos Tortoises, viewable offices and laboratories for zookeepers and a venue for zoo classes, camps, special events and even corporate meetings.

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The headline birthday celebration will take place at noon when guests will celebrate 64 years of Zoo fun by singing “Happy Birthday” and enjoying complimentary cupcakes. The headline celebration will also feature an Explorer-Themed Animal Show. The curiously-good fun will continue throughout the day with mini-celebrations every hour on the hour, rotating among the Zoo’s four continents which include South America, Africa, Asia and North America’s Mississippi Habitat. For a full schedule of events, visit HattiesburgZoo.com.

Admission to the Birthday Bash is $10 per person and includes hourly celebrations, Animal Encounters, Wildlife Shows, unlimited train and carousel rides, birthday treats and so much more. The Asbury Discovery Center is not the only new addition to the Hattiesburg Zoo. The Zoo kicked off 2014 with the welcoming of many new animals to the Zoo family, including a second golden eagle, Talon, and two Sumatran tiger brothers, Cinta and Kuasa. Visit all of our new additions and enjoy a truly new adventure at the Hattiesburg Zoo!
New Wedding Packages @ LTCC

Expert planning for your wedding

A wedding is a celebration you will always want to remember, even long after the last toast is given and the final bubble is blown. From the ceremony to the reception, Lake Terrace Convention Center can help create lasting memories for a couple and their guests.

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Whether you’re looking for an elegant sit-down dinner or a reception that will have your guests dancing the night away, Lake Terrace has you covered. The most popular reception room opens up to a 41,000 square-foot lake-front terrace and private courtyard. Our menu options offer something for every taste and budget, including sit-down dinners, food stations and champagne toasts. Enhancements and beverage services can be added to packages for a little extra personalization.

The intimate atmosphere of our go-to ceremony room is perfect for large and small weddings. Packages include chandeliers, staging, specialty lighting, drapery and simple audio setup. Our event professionals will work closely with the bride and groom to create and execute every detail to perfection.

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African American Military History Museum Returns to Service

Museum reopened its doors in February 2014

Through the violent wind and torrential rain of the F-4 Tornado that blew through the Pine Belt on February 10, 2013, an iconic landmark and pillar of history in the heart of Downtown Hattiesburg stood strong. The beloved African American Military History Museum in Downtown Hattiesburg suffered significant damage as a result of the tornado, but hope was not lost and history was not erased. Now, a full year later, the African American Military History Museum has reopened its doors as a stronger-than-ever tribute to the endurance of its heritage – the history and legacy of the African American soldier.

On February 6, 2014, the African American Military History Museum celebrated its reopening in conjunction with the Museum’s Black History Month Kick-off program. The event drew guests from all over the Pine Belt as living World War II veterans were honored with certificates of appreciation for their military service. Also during the ceremony, the Museum unveiled a series of never-before-seen photographs of the USO Club building, courtesy of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby.

Black History Month continued with the opening of a special exhibit from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History entitled, This is Home: Medgar Evers, Mississippi and the Movement, detailing Evers’ passionate life and continued fight for justice. Medgar Evers, a native of Decatur, Miss. was drafted into the U.S. Army during WWII. Upon his return from combat, he was catapulted into the Civil Rights Movement, and on June 12, 1963, was assassinated in front of his home in Jackson.

The African American Military History Museum also hosted a “Meet and Greet” with PFC James Jones. Jones, a native of Laurel, spoke to guests about the trials he faced while serving during WWII. Upon his return from combat, he was catapulted into the Civil Rights Movement, and on June 12, 1963, was assassinated in front of his home in Jackson.

History Museum presented a documentary on the African American soldier. The African American Military History Museum in Downtown Hattiesburg suffered significant damage as a result of the tornado, but hope was not lost and history was not erased. Now, a full year later, the African American Military History Museum has reopened its doors as a stronger-than-ever tribute to the endurance of its heritage – the history and legacy of the African American soldier.

On May 23 at 2 pm, the African American Military History Museum will celebrate Memorial Day, as well as its fifth anniversary. The event will honor the sons of the Museum’s Gold Star Mothers with a special tribute and an exhibit focusing on the three soldiers. The newest artifact to the Museum, a WWII switching board, will also be unveiled.

The African American Military History Museum Returns to Service

To conclude the Museum’s Black History Month activities, an Open Forum titled, “Remember Medgar Evers and Clyde Kennard” was held on Saturday, February 22. Led and moderated by those who knew the men personally, including Sgt. Major Randolph Lindsey and Lt. Col. Raylawni Branch, a rich discussion on their lives and legacies honored their mission for peace and justice.

For more information, call 601.450.1942 or visit HattiesburgUSO.com or BlackHistoryMonth.com.

The African American Military History Museum is located at 305 E. 6th Street. For more information, call 601.450.1942 or visit HattiesburgUSO.com.
Fancy Nancy Comes to Life on the Saenger Stage

Beloved Fancy Nancy comes to Hattiesburg

Beloved storybook character Fancy Nancy will be bringing her one-of-a-kind flair to the Historic Saenger Stage with Fancy Nancy the Musical on Saturday, April 19.

Fancy Nancy and her friends, Bree, Wanda, Rhonda and Lionel are going to be performing in their very first show, “Deep Sea Dances.” Nancy is positive (that’s fancy for 100% sure) that she and Bree will be named mermaids in the show. However, when another girl gets picked for the coveted role, Nancy is stuck playing a dreary, dull tree. A hilarious and exciting plot unfolds as Nancy tries to find the “fancy” in this unfortunate situation.

“The Saenger Theater is so excited to present Fancy Nancy,” said Daniel Taylor, Saenger Theater Manager. “This upbeat and crowd-pleasing production will help create unforgettable memories for families.”

With two showtimes at 11 am and 3 pm, Fancy Nancy the Musical, is sure to entertain audiences of all ages! Tickets are $17 to $35 (plus applicable fees) and may be purchased by calling the Saenger Box Office at 601.584.4888 or visiting HattiesburgSaenger.com.

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The African American Military History Museum is now open with free admission each Wednesday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm and Saturday from 12 noon to 4 pm. To schedule a tour or to learn more about the Museum, visit HattiesburgUSO.com or call 601.450.1942.

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Celebrating 64 years of Zoo fun

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