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**HATTIESBURG AND PETAL PARTNER TO PRESENT  
STAR-SPANGLED CELEBRATION ON THE RIVER, JULY 3**

**HATTIESBURG (June 21, 2018)** — For the first time, the Downtown Hattiesburg Association and the Petal Area Chamber of Commerce are partnering to offer a family-friendly Fourth of July experience. The Star-Spangled Celebration on the River will take place Tuesday, July 3 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Hattiesburg’s Chain Park and Petal River Park, complete with a 9 p.m. fireworks display over the Leaf River.

“We are looking forward to celebrating America’s birthday at this brand-new event in the beautiful Chain Park in Downtown Hattiesburg,” Andrea Saffle, executive director for Downtown Hattiesburg Association, said. “We invite families and groups of all sizes and ages to join us for this patriotic, summer tradition and expect it to become another signature event for our community on both sides of the river for years to come.”

Presented by Coca-Cola, the celebration will be family-friendly for residents and visitors of both Hattiesburg and Petal. Live music, activities, a kids zone, and a range of food vendors will be on both sides of the Leaf River. Additionally, official event t-shirts and tank tops will be available for purchase in both parks. For more information on the music line-up and available vendors, follow the event on Facebook at “Star-Spangled Celebration on the River.”

“We are excited to partner with our sister city to connect our communities for a fun, laid-back celebration of our country’s birthday,” Valerie Wilson, executive director of Petal Area Chamber of Commerce, said. “We hope to create a first-class experience for all those who attend, and the Petal River Park will serve as a beautiful backdrop for it.”

Admission to the event is free, and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit back and enjoy the festivities. Pets, glass, tents, and personal fireworks are not permitted at this event. Parking onsite is limited, but offsite parking with shuttle service will be available. More information on parking can be found on the event's Facebook page.

This event is made possible by The First, City of Petal, City of Hattiesburg, and the Forrest County Board of Supervisors, in cooperation with VisitHATTIESBURG.

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