



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

P.O. Box 157-A, Whitfield, MS 39193
Phone (601) 351-8018 Fax (601) 351-8364
www.msh.state.ms.us

For Immediate Release

July 1, 2010

Contact: Adam Moore (601) 351-8262, adam.moore@msh.state.ms.us

HUNDREDS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY AT MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

WHITFIELD—Laughter, music and fireworks filled the air above Mississippi State Hospital on Tuesday, June 29 for the 750 people who were on the campus for the annual Independence Day Celebration.

Patients, staff, their family and other members of the community were at MSH Park for the games, face painting, music, dancing, and, of course, the professional fireworks display that lit up the sky in bursts of red, white, blue and all other colors as everyone celebrated the Fourth of July holiday a little bit early.

It is an annual tradition that everyone is welcome to join. Many people come just to take part in the fun and games and see a spectacular fireworks show. Prentis and Lakieshia Magee of Pearl came with their sons Jaylen and Jeremy after seeing signs advertising the celebration. It was their first time to visit the hospital.

“The kids saw the fireworks signs and we said ok,” Lakieshia said. “And it’s definitely something we’ll come back for. Everyone has been so friendly and so nice. We’ve had a good time and we look forward to coming back again.”

Before the fireworks began, everyone had a chance to listen to Serve Chilled, a local band who, despite being in high school, played classic tunes from The Beatles, Bob Dylan and even some of their own work that got plenty of people on their feet and dancing.

Others just grabbed a spot near the small lake on campus and spread out their blankets and lawn chairs so they could have a good view. Children enjoyed the space jump and games, and everyone else was free to enjoy the grilled food, snow cones and drinks that were offered.

The Independence Day Celebration was sponsored by BankPlus, Sam’s Club of Pearl and Siemens, in conjunction with Friends of MSH Inc.

MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

PHOTOS ATTACHED:

1: Prentis and Lakieshia Magee, of Pearl, came with their family to enjoy the Independence Day Celebration after seeing advertisements for the event. They are pictured with their sons Jaylen and Jeremy.

2: Serve Chilled, a band made of several local teens, entertained those at the July 4th celebration with classics from The Beatles, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix, as well as some of their own music.

3: Fireworks lit up the sky over Mississippi State Hospital in the professional display put on by New Orleans-based Pyrotecnico.