

For immediate release November 10, 2009

63rd Annual Plaquemines Parish Fair and Orange Festival

What: Celebrating a century of citrus cultivation, Plaquemines Parish will hold the Plaquemines Parish Fair and Orange Festival on Dec. 5th and 6th with a preview of the carnival on Dec. 4th at the Medal of Honor Park in Belle Chasse. Showcasing local foods, the Orange Festival offers some of Plaquemines Parish's saltiest seafood, juiciest citrus and the best southern hospitality. The Orange Festival has something for the entire family, from helicopter and carnival rides to a dedicated area for the little ones, we like to call the "Kumquat Korral." Also for your little ones is our Orange Festival Children's Revue held on Saturday. Visit our website orangefestival.com to see some of this year's highlights, such as Citrus Dessert contest hosted by Louisiana Cookin' Magazine and the 5K Run for the Oranges.

Reigning over the Festival this year as Orange King and Queen are Mr. Bill Bubrig, a local business man and Run for the Oranges chairman, and Miss Sophia Perlander, a senior at Belle Chasse High School.

Where: Louisiana's Medal of Honor Park, 1292 Barriere Road, Belle Chasse, LA

When: Friday, December 4th 5pm-10pm, Carnival only, Saturday, December 5th 10am-9pm and Sunday, December 6th 10am-6pm.

Music: Big River Band, Southern Cross, **Rockin' Dopsie**, Ernie Wilkinson & the Hot Sauce Band, Kayla Woodson and, **Bucktown All Stars**

History: In 1947, the first Plaquemines Parish Orange Festival was formed to promote cultivation and marketing of Plaquemines Parish's citrus crop. A stunning freeze in 1951 nearly crushed the organization in its infancy. To preserve the good work that had been accomplished up to that time, the focus of the organization was enlarged to include all of the bounty of the Parish. In 1955,

the Orange Festival was renamed the Plaquemines Parish Fair and Orange Festival. The official purpose of the organization is to promote the citrus, seafood, and other industries and support education and the arts in Plaquemines Parish through an annual fair and festival that includes exhibits and displays to encourage advancement of the natural resources, material prosperity, and progress of the Parish and its people.

For 63 years, parish citizens have looked forward to showcasing Plaquemines Parish's abundant seafood, oil, and gas resources and celebrating the harvest of the Parish's citrus crop the first weekend of December. The Festival offers numerous activities for the entire family. Young children's games and activities include a special Kumquat Korral which is free of charge with lots of games and prizes. Examples of adult activities and contests include Citrus Dessert Contest, Orange Eating and Peeling Contests, Shrimp-Peeling and De-Heading, Catfish-Skinning, Oyster Shucking, and Duck Calling. Additional entertainment designed for the entire family includes Live Music and Dancing, 5K Run/Walk, Carnival Rides, and Helicopter Rides. The majority of these activities are included within the cost of the entry or gate fee of \$4.00 for an adult and \$2.00 for a child between the ages of 3 and 12 years. Children under 3 years are admitted free. The family friendly festival is open to the public.

Historically, devastation caused by hurricanes and freezes halted the celebration of the Festival, but not in 2005. In December, 2005, just 3 months following Hurricane Katrina, the 2005 Orange Festival was held. Changes included moving the event from Fort Jackson, in the southern end of Plaquemines Parish, to the Medal of Honor Park in the northern part of the Parish in Belle Chasse. The Festival has been a great success at the Medal of Honor Park and Belle Chasse will be the Festival's home for several years to come. This location facilitates promotion of the Orange Festival to markets throughout southern and central Louisiana and the gulf coast (e.g., southern Mississippi and Alabama). Thus, the challenges associated with Hurricane Katrina created tremendous opportunities for broadening the Festival's visitor base, especially to day trippers. So, we invite you to visit the juiciest place in the south, *THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH FAIR AND ORANGE FESTIVAL!!!*

Call Karen or Dale at 504-394-3700 for more information.