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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS
Secretary Gary Westcott



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Angola to Host 60th Spring Rodeo April 18–19

Tickets nearly sold out for 'The Wildest Show in the South'

Baton Rouge, LA – The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections is excited to welcome the public to attend the 60th anniversary Angola Prison Rodeo, scheduled for April 18 and 19, 2026, at Louisiana State Penitentiary (LSP).

Rodeo gates will open at 8 a.m. with events in the arena beginning at 2 p.m. on both days. General Admission tickets are \$20. Tickets for the rodeo on Saturday, April 18 are already sold out, but hobby craft tickets will be available. Only 2,700 rodeo tickets remain for Sunday, April 19. The Department recommends that attendees make plans for an early arrival to avoid long wait times.

“For six decades, this annual event has drawn visitors from across the region and offered a full day of family-friendly fun,” said Darrel Vannoy, warden of Louisiana State Penitentiary. “From the rodeo competitions to the hobby crafts, every part of the experience reflects the hard work of both staff and the incarcerated population who make it possible.”

The weekend-long event, also known as ‘The Wildest Show in the South,’ will feature live music, arts and crafts booths, and a lineup of rodeo events including bust out, bareback riding, wild horse race, barrel racing, and bull-dogging. Signature competitions will also include chariot racing, wild cow milking, bull riding, convict poker, and the finale, guts and glory.

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase unique, handmade hobby crafts created by incarcerated individuals, including jewelry, leather goods, furniture, woodworking items, barbecue pits, toys, and paintings. Both cash and major credit cards will be accepted for these purchases.

Family-friendly attractions such as carnival games, pony rides, and an antique carousel will be available for children. A variety of food options will be offered through concession stands; however, concessions will be cash-only. An ATM will be available onsite for convenience.

Guests are reminded that smoking is prohibited and outside food, drinks and ice chests are not permitted. Clear or transparent bags are allowed, but subject to search.

For more information about the event, please visit the official online site, angolarodeo.com or call the correctional facility at 225-655-2030 or 225-655-2607, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Department advises that it cannot guarantee the validity of tickets purchased through third-party vendors.

No commercial documentary or film requests for either the 2026 spring or fall rodeos will be accepted due to the waiting list that currently exists. Only credentialed media with official passes will be allowed to enter the event and an LSP tour guide must accompany them at all times.

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