



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2022 McLoud Blackberry Festival

The longest continuously running food festival in the state of Oklahoma!

The 2022 McLoud Blackberry Festival starts at 5pm-10pm on Friday, July 8th and goes through Saturday, July 9th. The festival is located at McLoud Veterans Memorial Park on the corner of 6th St. and Park St. in McLoud, Oklahoma - just east of OKC. The theme for this year's festival is "Keep Calm and Blackberry On".

The McLoud Blackberry Festival has been a tradition since the 1940's as a celebration of the end of harvest season for the local cash farm crop, blackberries. Since harvest season was completed in early July, when a community picnic had been held since the town was founded in 1895, the two were combined in the early 1940's to create the annual "Blackberry Festival".

In 1949, the McLoud Chamber of Commerce sent a crate full of fresh McLoud blackberries to President Truman via overnight air freight. The town made national news when President Truman received the blackberries and declared McLoud to be the "Blackberry Capital of the World". While blackberry farming may no longer be the agricultural strength of McLoud, the festival celebrated each year honors the city's proud history and has grown into an exciting event that draws thousands of attendees from across the nation.

McLoud is located about 20 miles east of Oklahoma City, right off I-40. Exit 176 at McLoud Rd. and go north 2 miles until you see the festival signs! Additional parking is available just west of the park on 8th Street.

The McLoud Blackberry Festival is loaded with fun for all ages! Our festival will have craft vendors, live music on stage, a huge carnival, a classic hometown parade through downtown, helicopter rides, "Cobbler Gobbler" blackberry cobbler eating contest, and more! We will be loaded with food trucks and all food vendors have a blackberry item on their menu including Silver Star Concessions with a blackberry drizzle for their famous state fair cinnamon rolls. Some of the other blackberry items vendors will have available are blackberry kettle corn, blackberry lemonade, blackberry margaritas, several blackberry wines in our wine garden, blackberry newburg, blackberry cobbler, blackberry sno cones, blackberry topped funnel cakes, blackberry BBQ sauce, blackberry soaps, blackberry bath bombs, and MUCH MORE! The Chamber of Commerce's booth at the park's pavilion will have fresh blackberries by the quart, delicious blackberry jam and the official festival t-shirts. The festival concludes with a huge fireworks display at 10pm on July 9th after 'The Wise Guys' finale performance!

For more information, go to the festival's website at: www.mcloudchamber.com/2022-blackberry-festival