

# RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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*Entertainment & Traditions Draw the Crowds as the  
86<sup>th</sup> Annual Fayette County Fair Returns in La Grange  
August 29-September 1*



Jarrod Birmingham



Granger Smith



Wade Bowen



The Triumphs with BJ Thomas



D'Vine Testament

Locals and visitors of all ages will definitely get their wide-range of music and activities as the 86<sup>th</sup> Fayette County Fair serves up a platter of entertainment from Friday, August 30 through Sunday, September 1 that just can't be surpassed. Headliners include Jarrod Birmingham, Granger Smith, The Triumphs with Special guest B.J. Thomas, Wade

Bowen, Steve Wariner, and a special church service Sunday morning with the ever-popular local D'Vine Testament.

Gracing the stages on Friday, August 30 will be performers Jarrod Birmingham and Granger Smith. Jarrod (a former professional bull rider) spawned a number one song in 2006 and earned the country music outlaw a top ten spot in the Best of Texas top 30 songs of the year. He attributes his pure and gritty musical style to his "true grit" life style. Granger Smith, a Texas born and bred singer/songwriter has been reinventing the face of traditional country one chart topping single at a time. With a pseudonym of Earl Dibbles, Jr., he provides a refreshing and unique variation on the growing independent country music scene.

Saturday's entertainment heats up with The Triumphs and special guest B.J. Thomas and Wade Bowen. This is the second year at the Fayette County Fair that the Triumphs and B.J. re-unite. The Triumphs, a nine-piece Houston, Texas-based band has roots that go back to the early days of rock 'n roll and also launched the career of 5-time Grammy award winner B.J. Thomas. Organized in the fall of 1959, The Triumphs had songs that remains favorites today scaling the charts to the Top 10 of Houston's Top 40 including: "Lazy Man", "I've Got a Feeling", "Garner State Park", and "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry", which boosted B. J. Thomas' solo career. The group disbanded in 1980 for 12 years, then reunited in 1992 packing in the Riverside Hall of East Bernard with 2500 fans.

Thomas has sold more than 70 million records and is ranked in Billboard's Top 50 most played artists over the past 50 years. He continues to perform throughout the United States and tours internationally and is considered an icon with many. A few years ago, after an interview with an online DJ, the host put music together for an hour package that could be accessed online---B.J. had 3.5 million downloads in three days—a remarkable number for a remarkable performer.

Also performing Saturday evening is Wade Bowen, who has risen from a collegiate greenhorn to the top of the Texas music and Red Dirt circuit with colleagues including Pat Green, Jack Ingram, and Eli Young Band. His collection is a document of artistic evolution with a dense and concentrated baritone and a command of songs. He has taken advantage of recent songwriting sessions to develop his love of ballad singing and the emotional side of country music.

Sunday provides an incredible wrap-up of entertainment with the Fayette County Fair beginning with an 11 am service at the German/Czech Mart featuring D'Vine Testament, a very popular local group consisting of Bruce Lebeda and David Machac of Schulenburg, Dennis Stryk of Praha, Chris Janca of La Grange, and Byron Wren of Lexington. All have attended and been on teams of an ACTS retreat weekend at one time or another and decided to get together last year to play for a picnic mass. After many encouraging requests, they put out a CD entitled, "One Pair of Hands", a collection of 14 Christian songs. All ages are invited to enjoy fellowship in a very unique setting that morning with D'Vine Testament.

The ever-popular (and traditional) Local Talent Show and Texaco Country Showdown will bring out the best in all and are definitely not-to-miss events, both scheduled for Sunday afternoon. Steve Wariner graces the stage Sunday evening. Wariner is a four-time Grammy winner, was also inducted into the Music City Walk of Fame in 2008, and most recently into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame. He joined Dottie West's band in 1973 at the age of 17 and became a bass player to Chet Atkins in 1977. Tried and true, Wariner has won Vocal Event of the Year, Best Country Vocal Collaboration, Best Country and was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry. He has charted over 30 top 10 singles, including 14 #1 hits—songs like “Some Fools Never Learn”, “Small Town Girl”, “The Weekend”, and “I Should Be With You”.

Besides the incredible music and entertainment offered for the fair ticket price, it's only “fair” to mention loads of other entertainment, parade, bar-b-que cookoff, carnival, horseshoe and washer pitching contest, loads of food, KIWI the Clown, Kids Celebration, loads of other children activities, livestock, culinary, and creative competitive venues for all ages. The “always” entertaining parade will be held Saturday, August 31 beginning at 10:30 am. Last year brought over 110 entries to a variety of categories including Best Out of Town, Most Comical, Best Hometown, Best Junior, Most Original, Best Fair Theme, Best Fayette County Small Town, and Best Western/Wagon/Rider, Best Antique Car, Best Antique Truck, Best Classic Car, Best Classic Truck, and Best Hot Rod. You never know who you are going to see decorated up!

Tally Amusement Company returns with carnival entertainment and opens from 6 pm until closing each night except for Sunday (4 pm). On Sunday only, \$5.00 is taken off the “all you can ride” wristband if you donate 4 or more canned goods (which will be donated to the AMEN Food Pantry). Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, the “all you can ride” wrist bands will be priced at \$35.00 and Friday are tickets only.

Tickets for the 86<sup>th</sup> Fayette county Fair are available from any of the queen contestants with pre-sale season tickets a nominal \$20.00, daily tickets \$15.00, and season tickets at the gate for \$25.00. Children 11 and under are free. Passports to Fun include admission for all four days of the fair and unlimited rides for all four days are \$70.00 each, are on a limited basis, and will be sold until Sunday, August 25. They may be purchased at: the Gardenia Janssen Animal Shelter, Hatfield Dental Clinic, World Travel, Electric Motor Service, or the National Bank & Trust in La Grange.

To contact a contestant to purchases tickets or to obtain more information/registration forms on the Fayette County Fair in La Grange from Thursday, August 29 through Sunday September 1, go to [www.fayettecountyfair.org](http://www.fayettecountyfair.org) or call 979-968-3911. La Grange is 65 miles east of Austin, 80 miles north of Victoria, 125 miles south of Waco, and 90 miles west of Houston with zip code of 78945 for GPS users.

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