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***Tradition and History Embrace Fun & Entertainment as the
86th Annual Fayette County Fair Returns to La Grange
August 29-September 1***



For almost nine decades, the Fayette County Fair of La Grange has served up a tradition of fun and entertainment while enjoying the incredible preserved heritage that has encompassed this community. The 86th Fayette County Fair is no exception including entertainment, parade, loads of children's activities bar-b-que cookoff, carnival, horseshoe and washer pitching contest, loads of food, livestock, culinary, creative competitive venues—an incredible array of events wrapped in the cultures of the community that promises to keep all ages busy. This year it will be held from Thursday, August 29 through Sunday September 1 (always Labor Day weekend) and showcasing this event include the popular sounds of Jarrod Birmingham, Granger Smith, Wade Bowen, Local Talent Show, Texaco Country Showdown, and Steve Wariner. There are more favorites performing throughout the remainder of the fair in different locations at the fair grounds as well.

And yes for all of the fans, B.J. Thomas is returning this year with The Triumphs! They will be performing Saturday, August 31 at the Main Stage by popular demand.

Additional benches will be available as well as areas to kick up those heels. Last year the group entertained at the historic Fair Pavilion stage (constructed in 1925 and formerly known as the Round-Up Hall).

Volunteers to the Fayette County Fair have been hard at work the entire year with a multitude of projects, including addressing last year's survey that reeled in several hundred responses to questions regarding the fair. Several of those surveys included a Sunday morning service request—answered by way of a local group, D'Vine Testament, who will be performing Sunday morning beginning at 11:00 am with services. And to make the token process a little smoother, a separate dedicated area will be arranged for alcohol purchases. All results from the surveys were carefully reviewed by the Fair Board.

Visionaries to the community organized The Fayette County Fair in the 1920's with a goal of cultivating unity, hospitality, and prosperity with a single venue and multiple events surrounding it. It is and always has been a volunteer base that works endlessly throughout the year to ensure that the legacy continues. Events in the early days included horseracing on a race track, vaudeville acts, better baby shows, and football games all on the historic 80+ acre property that is still used today. The spirit of that festivity, tradition, and competition continues to be the driving force behind the Fayette County Fair.

The tradition of preservation continues today. Besides the vocal entertainers, all ages may experience the traditional bbq cookoff and cuisine, a carnival with a spectacular array of rides, competitive exhibitions, horseshow and washer pitching contest, loads of livestock activities, the annual pageant, Texaco Country Showdown, local talent contest, KIWI the Clown, Kids Celebration, and much more. Livestock exhibits include: poultry, rabbit, pigeon, hay, horse, goat, lamb, and heifers. And, some of the competitive exhibitions include: Memorable Collections, Photography, Quilting, Crafts, 4-H, Fine Arts, Ceramics, Needlepoint, Canning, Culinary, Collectibles, Scrapbooks, and Educational—all part of the fabric that weaves the cultures of Fayette County. Make no mistake--this is an event for all ages that will keep folks busy and happy for a nominal fee—AND it's for the sake of scholarships (a definite win-win). If you can make it or raise it, there's probably a category for it!

As the visitor works up an appetite they won't have far to go as many of those "local booths" are non-profit organizations serving up their yummys to provide scholarships right back into the community for the area youth. Included will be: chicken fried steak burgers, friend fish baskets, gorditas, tacos, pizza, hamburgers, sausage on a stick, funnel cakes, ice cream, baked potatoes, roasted corn, blooming onions, loads of drinks and much more.

Tickets 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 purchase 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 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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