

RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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Cultures Celebrated through Music, Entertainment, and Traditional Activities at the Fayette County Fair in La Grange Thursday, September 3-Sunday, September 6



There's so much that connects the visitor to the Fayette County Fair in La Grange each year and music depicting cultures of the decades past, mixed with the traditions of competitive venues, and seasoned with incredible entertainment for all ages sum up a true home-town celebration held from Thursday, September 3 through Sunday, September 6 (always Labor Day weekend). This is the place to be if you, your friends, and family like different kinds of entertainment, parades, children's activities bar-b-que cookoff, carnival, horseshoe and washer pitching contest, livestock shows, culinary events,

creative competitive venues, awesome music---all for the price of one ticket--a real win-win. Loads of familiar names in music and entertainment (thanks to an untiring army of volunteers and Fair Board of Directors) are showcased this year that includes:

- On Thursday, the traditional Queen's Scholarship Pageant (7:30 pm on the Main Stage), Diva's Thru the Decades (before and during the Pageant from 7:00 - 8:45 pm), and Wayne Toups (9:00 pm at the German Czech Mart) take to the stages.

Divas Through the Decades pay a musical tribute to influential female vocalists in pop music with a stage show filled with electrifying vocals, cutting edge choreography, costume changes, and a high energy performance. Wrapping up the evening is Wayne Toups (a popular return to the Fair), a "Four Time Hall of Fame Recipient" who has been dubbed as the Cajun Springsteen because of his high-energy showmanship mixing Cajun sounds with the rhythms of zydeco, adding elements of soul music and Southern rock, and calling it "**zydecajun**"-- "a Cajun fusion band with a rock 'n' roll attitude." He has recorded more than a dozen albums, tour more than 20 countries, and has been booked at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival for 27 years.

- On Friday, September 4, look for the return of yet another all time favorite to the area and who has drawn national acclaim for decades--BJ Thomas, who will be joined by The Triumphs on the Main Stage from 7:30 pm - 11:00 pm. Expect great music with roots back to the early days of rock 'n roll--true nostalgia portraying an important part of that era.
- Saturday, September 5, spotlights iconic ZZ Top at 10:00 pm at a special stage area by the VFW Hall. "That Little Ol' Band From Texas" is indeed the longest running major rock band with original personnel intact and folks, that's right at 45 years of rock, blues, and boogie on the road and in the studio.
- Sunday, September 6 kicks off with Divine Testament (a local group) from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm with a special musical Sunday service. Earl Thomas Conley closes the show performing at 9:00 pm on the Main Stage. Conley, who has achieved hits seldom achieved by other artists in any genre, relentlessly pursues writing and singing better songs and demands of himself to grow musically throughout the years.

And that's just a part of the entertainment throughout the four fabulous days--look for a hypnotist, juggler, and comedy Wild West Gunfight show to name a few. Jaydee is a professionally trained stage hypnotist from Canada that performs clean, classy, and funny hypnosis shows for children and adult audiences. In his travels, Jaydee has headlined in Las Vegas and performed above the Arctic Circle and has enhanced his professional entertainment career via his standup comedy. Jaydee Hypnotist will be performing all four days four (one hour shows daily).

Bruce Manners, another showstopper, will be bringing his strolling comedy and juggling act all four days to the Fayette County Fair. Manners, who credits his occupation to his mother who gave him a "Juggling for the Complete Klutz" book when he was still in high school, has performed and entertained all ages with his stand-up comedy, Las Vegas variety act, and proves to be a crowd favorite. In recent years, Bruce Manners relocated to Houston, and continues to thrill audiences.

If you want an entertaining twist to the Old West, ramble over to Tumbleweed crossing, a comedy Wild West Gunfight Stunt Show that will be performing Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with three shows per day (about 24 minutes long). Watch how Marshal Luke Stephens (a strong friendly fellow) protects his fair town with his not so smart Deputy Leon. You might even catch a singing/storytelling cowboy on guitar!

Fayette County Fair tickets are available from any of the queen contestants with pre-sale season tickets a nominal \$35.00, daily passes for Thursday, September 3 is \$15.00, for Friday, September 4 is \$15.00, Saturday, September 5 is \$50.00, and Sunday, September 6 is \$20.00. Children 11 and under are free. Ticket admission, daily or season pass, includes all entertainment, but does not include carnival rides.

Passports to Fun includes admission for all four days of the fair and unlimited rides for all four days are \$70.00 each, are on a limited basis. They may be purchased at: the Gardenia Janssen Animal Shelter, World Travel, National Bank & Trust in La Grange, Electric Motor, or Aaron's. To contact a contestant to purchase tickets or to obtain more information/registration forms on the Fayette County Fair in La Grange from Thursday, September 3 through Sunday September 6, 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.

Cathy Chaloupka
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