

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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Missouri State Fair Offers Fun for Everyone

JEFFERSON CITY — The 106th Missouri State Fair is underway and promises to be another fun-filled event with lots of new entertainment and more affordable admission prices this year. The State Fair runs Aug. 7-17 at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia.

I can't think of anything more fun for families than the Missouri State Fair. It's worth the trip. As someone who grew up on a farm who still has a hand in the agricultural industry as a cattle and grain farmer, I appreciate the role the Missouri State Fair plays in highlighting Missouri agriculture as one of our state's top industries.

This annual event continues to provide an unbelievable amount of entertainment geared toward the whole family. This year's theme is "Go 4 It," and fair officials have done an extraordinary job of bringing in a wide variety of fun things to see and do.

One of the most unique attractions making a comeback this year is the Missouri Big Irons Cowboy Mounted Shooters Pro Classic Championship competition (Aug. 10-11). The sport combines skilled horseback riding with straight shooting. Participants shoot balloon targets using a .45 caliber single action revolver while stopping, turning and changing leads through an obstacle course. Sounds like fun.

The Amazing Anastasini Circus makes its debut this summer. Another new attraction includes cart rides for kids featuring Rhodesian Ridgebacks (South African "lion" dogs). Other new family-oriented items include a Kids' Zone featuring family-friendly entertainment, the IGX: Interactive Game Experience that allows guests to play a variety of the latest video games for free, more than 30 *Wild Science* interactive exhibits, and such shows as Wild West Comedy, and the Cannon Lady.

In addition to the usual great lineup of country and rock stars — including Missouri’s own Sara Evans — the fair will feature the Missouri State Fair Idol contest. The contest is similar to the wildly popular *American Idol* and is expected to bring out our state’s best amateur singers.

You can also look forward to the fair’s traditional offerings, including the Future Farmers of America and 4-H exhibits and livestock shows. This area will also feature a farm machinery exhibit and farm toy show. Plenty of mouth-watering foods, including corn dogs, funnel cakes and cotton candy, will also be available, plus a variety of other food items. Kids will also want to check out the exciting carnival midway.

Visitors will discover several admission price promotions. On the second Thursday (Aug. 14) — Governor’s, Legislators’ and Judges’ Day — the entry fee is \$2. On Half-Price Day (Aug. 17 – Closing Day), the price to purchase a ticket for adults is only \$4. The fair has also added a new \$5 after 5 p.m. admission every day. Regular daily senior admission tickets have been decreased to just \$6. Children age 12 and under are admitted free every day; and parking is free throughout the 11-day event.

It takes thousands of responsible individuals to organize and operate the remarkable Missouri State Fair. I hope you can attend this year’s event — one of the state’s oldest and richest summertime traditions.

For more information about the Missouri State Fair, visit <http://www.mostatefair.com/> or call (700) 422-FAIR.

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