

Week of June 14, 2010



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## Missouri Summer Fun

If you're like me, you look forward to the many fairs, festivals and other events that are held in our communities over the summer. Here in the 31<sup>st</sup> District, and in other areas of the state, we have plenty of activities lined up in the coming weeks that will provide fun and fellowship for families of all ages.

One event many Missourians enjoy in the summer is the Show-Me State Games, which this year will be held July 16–18 and July 23–25 in Columbia. Thousands of athletes participate in this Olympic-style sports festival that features more than 40 sports for all ages and ability levels. From baseball, volleyball and basketball to miniature golf, kickball and bowling, there truly is something at the games for every participant and spectator.

The opening ceremonies will be held July 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hearnes Center located on the University of Missouri–Columbia campus, and will feature a torch lighting and parade of athletes. New for this year, the Show-Me State Games Village, modeled after the Olympic Village, will offer entertainment, food and family fun July 16–17. These events are free and open to the public. To learn more about the Show-Me State Games, register for an event or volunteer, go to [www.smsg.org](http://www.smsg.org).

The Missouri State Fair is another event that brings Missourians together from across the state to Sedalia. This year's fair begins on Aug. 12 and runs through Aug. 22, providing several days of affordable family fun, from rides, good fair food and top-notch entertainment (much of it free) to a celebration of one of Missouri's top industries—agriculture. This year's theme, "Growing Great Memories," reflects the event's roots in agriculture and farming. For more information on the state fair, visit

[www.mostatefair.com](http://www.mostatefair.com).

Local county fairs and festivals are also a great source of summer fun, and there are plenty in the 31<sup>st</sup> District to keep you and your family entertained. The Johnson County Fair runs July 5–10 in Warrensburg; the Cass County Fair will be held July 13–18 in Pleasant Hill; the Bates County Fair runs July 12–17 in Butler; and the Vernon County Youth Fair will be held July 5–10 in Nevada. For more information on other fairs and festivals that may interest you, go to [www.missourifairsandfestivals.org](http://www.missourifairsandfestivals.org).

I hope you and your family are able to take advantage of one of these many affordable family events this summer. Whether you are heading to your local county fair, the state fair in Sedalia, or attending another event on the other side of the state, have a safe, fun summer and enjoy all that Missouri has to offer.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with your questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

*Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31<sup>st</sup> State Senatorial District.*

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