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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PARADE inFAIRmation:**

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**MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR GRAND PARADE RETURNS  
IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 136<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**

TIMONIUM – The Maryland State Fair is seeking participants for the MY Maryland State Fair Grand Parade in celebration of the Fair’s 136<sup>th</sup> year. MY Maryland State Fair Grand Parade will be held on Sunday, August 27, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in front of the Grandstand. The parade route will be around the Racetrack.

MY Maryland State Fair Grand Parade will feature 4-H/FFA agriculture-related floats, a variety of horses, marching bands, color guards, antique farm implements, vintage vehicles, fire department vehicles, music, and more. The last consecutive parade, a Fair favorite for decades, was in 1981 at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and returned last year after 35 years.

All units must submit a registration form either by mail or email to [bcashman@marylandstatefair.com](mailto:bcashman@marylandstatefair.com) by August 1, 2017. Forms are available at [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com). Prizes and ribbons will be awarded for each category: floats, vehicles and novelty units, horses, marching bands, and walking and performing groups.

“Last year’s return of the parade, after a 30 year hiatus, was so well received that we are bringing it back again,” said Maryland State Fair General Manager Andy Cashman. “The excitement is already building among those who have participated last year and decades ago and the youth and adults who plan to participate or just enjoy the parade this year.”

“more”

**The 136th unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair presented by Toyota is a fun and educational destination complete with daily exhibits, presentations and entertainment that are sure to captivate visitors of all ages. No other event provides so much food, fun, family entertainment and education for so little. The Maryland State Fair, located in Timonium in Baltimore County, opens **Thursday, August 24 with a Ridemania Preview night and runs through Monday, September 4, 2017. General Fair hours are Noon to 10 PM, Monday through Friday and 12 Noon to 10 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday. See below for detailed Fair Hours.****

Hear **Live National and Local Entertainment** featuring **Halestorm** with opening act **Fatally Yours**; and, **Sabrina Carpenter** with opening artist **Alex Aiono**. Enjoy **thrills & chills on the Midway or Kiddie Land tame rides**. Taste a **feast of Fair and farm foods**. Experience **Live Thoroughbred Horse Racing**; Explore the **4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden, Exhibition Hall and the Mosner/Miller Museum/DNR Buildings** for thousands of the best-of-the-best of Maryland creations and exhibits. See all kinds of **livestock and horses in the Cow Palace, Barns, Show Rings and Birthing Center**. Participate in **U-Learn Farm agriculture education activities, Nature Play Space** and more.

**The 4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden and Exhibition Hall hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 10 PM, Saturdays – Sundays, 10 AM – 10 PM, and Labor Day Monday 10 AM – 8 PM. Mosner-Miller Museum/DNR Building hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 8 PM and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM. Main Midway and Kiddie Land rides, games and food stands area hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – Close and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10AM – Close.** Early risers are welcome to arrive early to attend livestock and horse shows in the various livestock barns, buildings and show rings. Go to [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com) for schedule.

**Admission to the Fair is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (62 and older) and \$3 for children (6-11). Children five-years-old and younger are admitted free. Rides are individually priced. Limited parking on the Fairgrounds is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$5. Taking the Light Rail is recommended. Visit [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com).**

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