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## AGRICULTURE NEWS

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### **AWARD-WINNING COUNTRY STAR HUNTER HAYES MAKES HIS FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE GREAT NEW YORK STATE FAIR'S CHEVY COURT STAGE**

#### ***Chevy Court Concerts Complement "Central NY Rising" - The Region's Comprehensive Strategy to Revitalize Communities and Grow the Economy***

Hunter Hayes, a mainstay of country music since his 2012 single "Wanted" hit number one, will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, August 26 on the Chevy Court stage at the 2018 Great New York State Fair. It will be the first performance at the Fair for the singer from Louisiana, who has been nominated for five Grammy awards and was named Favorite Male Country Artist in the 2015 People's Choice Awards. The concert is free with Fair admission, one of more than two dozen free shows by national touring acts to be presented this year. Concerts at Chevy Court, which drew more than a quarter million people in 2017, complement Central New York Rising, the region's comprehensive strategy to grow the economy.

"Hunter Hayes is clearly one of the shining young stars of country music and we could not be happier that we've managed to bring him to Upstate New York. We're assembling a top-class lineup of music for the Chevy Court stage this year and I know this is one show that will bring a lot of people to the Fairgrounds," said Troy Waffner, Acting Fair Director.

This is the fourth concert scheduled at Chevy Court for the 2018 Fair. Hunter Hayes joins:

- Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits, at 2 p.m. Monday, August 27
- Smokey Robinson, at 8 p.m. Monday, August 27
- Lil Yachty, at 8 p.m. Wednesday, August 29

The Chevy Court stage is the home of up to 26 national touring acts each year. A diverse 2017 lineup, including performers and groups such as Migos, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Earth Wind & Fire, The Beach Boys and Three Doors Down drew 264,600 fairgoers. Chevy Court won two Syracuse Area Music Awards in 2017 as People's Choice for Favorite Venue for Live Music and Favorite Festival or Music Series. The Fair's concert efforts earned it a nomination for Fair of the Year from the International Entertainment Buyers association, the trade organization for live entertainment industry professionals. Free concerts at Chevy Court are sponsored by Chevrolet, which also makes possible free tram service during the Fair.

### **About Hunter Hayes**

Hailed as a "force to be reckoned with" by the Huffington Post, multiple-award-winner Hunter Hayes is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who roared onto the music scene with his 2x multi-Platinum, No. 1 self-titled debut album and chart-topping sophomore album, *Storyline*, on Atlantic Records / Warner Music Nashville. With three No. 1 singles under his belt (the multi-Platinum smash "Wanted," double-Platinum "I Want Crazy" and Platinum-selling "Somebody's Heartbreak"), Hayes continues to surprise fans with new releases such as "Yesterday's Song" and his latest, "Rescue," which inspired his recent \$100,000 donation to renovate the music room at the Nashville School of the Arts. In addition to his Grammy nominations, the multi-instrumentalist has tallied over 40 award nominations and wins including the People's Choice Award for Favorite Male Country Artist in 2015 and the CMA Awards' coveted New Artist of The Year trophy in 2012.

### **Accelerating Central NY Rising**

Today's announcement complements "Central NY Rising," the region's comprehensive blueprint to generate robust economic growth and community development. The State already has invested nearly \$3 billion in the region since 2012 to lay the groundwork for the plan - capitalizing on global market opportunities, strengthening entrepreneurship and creating an inclusive economy. Today, unemployment is down to the lowest levels since before the Great Recession; personal and corporate income taxes are down; and businesses are choosing places like Syracuse, Oswego and Auburn as a destination to grow and invest in.

Now, the region is accelerating Central NY Rising with a \$500 million State investment through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, announced by Governor Cuomo in December 2015. The State's \$500 million investment will incentivize private business to invest well over \$2.5 billion - and the region's plan, as submitted, projects up to 5,900 new jobs. More information is available [here](#).

The New York State Fair, operated by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, runs from August 22 to September 3, 2018. The Fair's mission, reflected in its theme, "FIND YOUR GREAT," is to showcase the best of New York agriculture while providing top-quality entertainment.

The home of the Great New York State Fair is a 375-acre exhibit and entertainment complex that operates all year. A year-round [schedule of events](#) is available on the Fair's [website](#). Find [The Great New York State Fair on Facebook](#), follow [@NYSFair on Twitter](#), on Snapchat at nysfair and enjoy photos at the Fair's [Flickr photo archive](#). Also, New Yorkers are invited to send their ideas for the Great New York State Fair at [statefairideas@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:statefairideas@agriculture.ny.gov).

