Round up the kids, pack up the car and head on over to the Iron County Fairgrounds – the 121st annual Iron County Fair is gearing up for another rip-roaring good time for Iron County residents and visitors of all ages.

After 121 years, you know the Fair Board is doing something right, and part of its success is providing some good old-fashioned fun for the whole family.

Like any major event we've had in the county, there are a lot of unsung heroes and volunteers who spend many sleepless nights making sure that Fair time in Iron County is one of the best planned events on the county's roster of places to be this summer.

Whether it's riding on the merry-go-round, the tilt-a-whirl or some of those other fast-moving go-arounds, walking through the various barns or lining up at one of the many food booths, the annual fair has something for everyone to enjoy.

Here's just a few highlights of what you'll find when you visit the Iron County Fair, which will be held at the fairgrounds beginning Thursday, Aug. 16, through Sunday, Aug. 19.

Of course, activities get under way in earnest on Wednesday, Aug. 15. That's entry day, so anyone who's planning to show off some of their skills and talents are already hard at work setting up their displays and registering their entries.

I remember "waaaay" back when I was in 4-H and lining up my items for exhibit. Believe it or not, I even won a couple of blue ribbons for some of my novice canning endeavors. Needless to say, I haven't canned since those days and thoughts of pressure cookers leave me "whistling" in the dark.

Thursday is Senior Day, but that doesn't mean you have to be an elder statesman to show up at the fair. It's just a way for the Fair Board to recognize all our seniors, many of whom now have traded in their days of exhibiting to now just "sitting back" and enjoying the show.

Thursday is also the day when the new Miss Iron County will be named, and that event is always a fun time, except for the candidates trying to calm their nerves and keep that stage fright at bay.

We have a lot of talented young women in this county and to see them demonstrate their talent and ability as they vie to be Miss Iron County is quite remarkable.

On Friday, there's the art and craft sale in the Rotunda, livestock judging, live music at the bandstand; Saturday, 4-H horse show, pedal pull contest, live music, a ventriloquist show, demolition derby; Sunday, tractor pull, live music, chick and corn feed and the fair raffle drawing.

There's a lot more on the schedule of events, to be sure. So, set some time aside and round up the family. It's going to be quite an event, and you just don't want to miss it.

--Allyce Westphal