

The 91st Annual North Carolina

Strawberry Festival

Chadbourn, N.C.
April 30 — May 5, 2024



Carly Sanderson
Queen



Mia Soles
Princess

A publication of
The News Reporter

N.C. Strawberry Festival Queen farewell

This year has been filled with the most special memories that I will cherish for a lifetime. The North Carolina Strawberry Festival is near and dear to my heart, and I can't believe my year is already coming to an end.

I want to thank William and Robert for being the best pageant directors ever! I love you both so much and I can't put into words how amazing you both are. Thank you, Cassie, for being my go-to and doing anything and everything for your strawberry girls, I know that we all love you berry much! I want to thank the rest of the strawberry royals for being my best friends this year. Precious little Aniyah, my sweet Spencer-Margaret, my princess Mia, our pageant mom April, and the one and only Tyler, I am so happy that we got to spend this year together and I wouldn't have wanted it any other way! I want to thank Tommie-Lynn for always making me look picture-perfect and Anthony for driving me in almost every parade and being my escort tonight. I love you both! Thank you, Alex, for always driving me home so that I could make it to my events and thank you mom and dad for being the best pageant parents in the whole world! I love y'all and I couldn't do any of this without your help. To everyone who has supported me in any way, I want you to know that I am so thankful for your love, kindness and generosity.

I would not trade any parts of this experience for the whole world. From strawberry jammies to crab leg decorations and napping in the car to square dancing the night away, this year was absolutely perfect!

A very big thank you to the North Carolina Strawberry Festival Committee and the town of Chadbourn for letting me represent you. I hope that I made you all proud.

I will never forget being a part of the one-of-a-kind experience. I was truly blessed by the Lord with this amazing opportunity, and none of this would be possible without him.

Tonight, always, and forever, I am your 90th annual North Carolina Strawberry Festival Queen Carly Sanderson.



Aniyah Hill

2023 NC Strawberry Festival Little Miss

N.C. Strawberry Festival Princess farewell

Last April, I was given the opportunity to become the North Carolina Strawberry Princess; even though that was a year ago, it feels like it was just last month. I've been all over North Carolina representing, meeting new people, and learning how to actually dance. It has been an honor and a whirl of excitement, and I wouldn't go back and change anything, except for maybe making my reign a little longer. I couldn't have done any of this without some amazing people. I want to thank the most important person first, mom. No words can express how thankful I am; You're my number one supporter, my shoulder to cry on, my role model, and there's so many other things, but I want to say that I love you and I'm so lucky to have you. Tony, thank you for being the best chauffeur and for always listening to my rants and pageant stories. Abby, thank you for telling me I'm pretty before events. Papa, for being the best grandad someone could ask for and for being my escort tonight. Nanie, for always telling me how pretty I look and making sure I'm ok. B, for being my first ever best friend and always keeping it real. K, for providing some of the beautiful dresses I've been able to wear. To April for being the reason I got involved in pageants in the first place. To Lain, for being my best friend, bag holder, and personal cameraman. You mean the world to me and your friendship is so important to me. Tammy, for providing me with a vehicle anytime I needed one. Brooke, for letting me ride with you and Clara-Jean in Watermelon. To Robert, Cassie, and William for being my strawberry family, making sure my crown was always straight, and that I'm having fun at events. To Carly and Spencer for always making event fun and giving me someone to talk to at pageants. To Tyler, for always making me laugh. To Aniyah and Pagie for being my little pageant sisters. For all of my pageant friends I've met, I'm so glad we got the chance to meet each other. And lastly to the contestants, thank you all for taking a chance to become a part of the strawberry family. Remember to breathe, you all did amazing tonight and to the next princess, congratulations, you're gonna have so much fun, remember to be confident and to always be yourself. Be a good role model; everywhere you go there's a little girl looking up to you. Live in the moment and have fun. Try new things and always go to events on an empty stomach, strawberries will always make sure you're well fed. Becoming a princess comes with more than a crown and sash, it comes with a second family, new friends, and a bunch of new opportunities. Now this is the sad part where I have to say goodbye, but I don't want to think about it in a sad way. Charles Dickens once said, "The pain of saying goodbye has nothing on the joy of meeting again." And if I have anything to do with it, you will see me again. So, this is Mia Soles, and I will always be your 90th North Carolina Strawberry Festival Princess.

N.C. Strawberry Festival Little Miss Farewell

Hello, I am your 90th Little Miss Strawberry Festival Aniyah Hill. First of all, I am thankful for all the nice people that I have met. I had fun at all my pageant events. My favorite part was meeting all the new queens. I want to thank my mom for all the encouragement and getting me to all my events, all my parades, and to my dad for driving me and getting the best cars ever. I want to thank Paige for always being there to show me new things. I also want to thank Miss April for holding my hand when I was scared. Thank you, Miss Cassie, for always being there when I needed a helping hand. William and Robert, thank you for always believing in me. Thank you, Lexi and Teeya, for coaching me. Thank you to all my big brothers and little sister for being there. To all my pageant sisters, I will miss you. But most of all I want to thank the North Carolina Strawberry Festival Pageant for everything that you do. To the next beautiful young lady, cherish every moment because it goes by so fast. Enjoy yourself and embrace your beauty inside and out, I will forever be your 2023-2024 Strawberry Festival Little Miss Aniyah Hill passing the crown.



Spencer Margaret Soles

2023 NC Strawberry Festival Junior Miss

N.C. Strawberry Festival Junior Miss Farewell

My reign as your 2023 N.C. Strawberry Festival Junior Miss has come to an end. Saying goodbye to everyone is not easy, but every journey has a beginning and an end. I would like to thank the N.C. Strawberry Festival Association for continuing this tradition that has made all of this possible. William and Robert, I always looked forward to going places with you because I knew I would laugh the whole time. You have become part of my family, and you will always have a special place in my heart. I love you both. Cassie, thank you for always keeping everyone updated on parades, pageants and what to wear; your love for the festival and hard work did not go unnoticed. To my aunt Tray Tray, thank you for always making sure I looked and dressed my best for each event and taking me to all the places; we have certainly had an adventure. I love you more than you will ever know. To my mom, thank you for getting up all those early, early mornings to fix my hair and to make sure I was perfect for each appearance. I love you momma. Thank you, daddy, Will, and Fisher, for all your love and support. And finally, to my pageant sisters, Tyler, and April, you will always have a special place in my heart and thank goodness I have plenty of pictures to remind me of all the good times we had. You all are simply the best!!

N.C. Strawberry Festival Junior Miss, 2023-2024 Spencer Margaret Soles



N.C. Strawberry Festival Mrs. farewell

I can barely believe my reign is over: it seems like just yesterday I was crowned strawberry's first ever Mrs. and now, here I am, saying goodbye.

My time as Mrs. has afforded me the privilege of meeting a multitude of fascinating people and allowed me to spread the word of our wonderful N.C. strawberry festival from the mountains to the coast and everywhere in between.

None of this, however, would have been possible without the love and support of my family.

To my Lainey...thank you for being my photographer, makeup artist, co-pilot and chaperone. We have made some lasting memories in our travels and there's no one I would have rather had by my side. You are a gem and I hope you realize just how much you shine.

To Shannie...thank you for always believing in me and for instilling the love of strawberry from your reign as princess. You are more precious to me than you could ever possibly imagine and I am blessed because of you. I love you both unconditionally and I thank God for allowing me the pleasure of caring for two of his dearest children.

To my husband, Richmond...thank you for always being understanding of my commitments and for being right there alongside me through all of them. I honestly believe you enjoyed them even more than I did. I love and appreciate you immensely.

Tyler...thank you for always escorting me on and off stage at all appearances so that I didn't fall. You are a true gentleman and I love you.

To my pageant sisters...there is no one I would rather do pageant life with. You all have a special place in my heart and I am honored to be among such royalty. Continue to bless the world with your talents and smiles. You will do big things.

Last but never least, I want to thank my lord and savior, Jesus Christ. All things are possible with him and without him nothing is possible. Aside and apart from Christ, I am nothing. As much as this crown means to me, it means nothing compared to the one I will receive on the day I enter into his kingdom and it is my hope that you too, will wear that magnificent adornment.

To the newly crowned Mrs...savor every moment, because it will be over before you know it. Take advantage of each and every opportunity and who knows? Perhaps, just like Esther, you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.

I am now, and forever will be, your 90th annual and first ever N.C. Strawberry Festival Mrs. April Tedder.



April Tedder
2023 NC Strawberry Festival Mrs.



Tyler Grainger
2023 NC Strawberry Festival Mr.

N.C. Strawberry Festival Mr. farewell

This year, I had the honor of being selected as the second-ever Mr. Strawberry for The North Carolina Strawberry Festival. Throughout my reign, I have had the privilege of meeting many amazing people and making unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime. I owe my success as Mr. Strawberry to the numerous people who supported me and provided words of love and encouragement. For them all, I am incredibly grateful.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my savior, Jesus Christ, because I would be nothing without him and his guidance. I am also grateful to my wonderful parents for accompanying me on trips and making sure I had everything I needed. My best friend Jaelyn and my Ma Deidre deserve special thanks for always making sure that my car was the prettiest in the parade and that it was always sparkling clean.

I want to thank The North Carolina Strawberry Festival family and my dear friends William and Robert. I am thankful for all the car rides, the laughs we shared, and everything you, Cassie, and the Pageant Committee did for me. To April and each of my Berry Sisters, thank you for always including me and sharing your spotlight. I couldn't have asked for a better bunch of berries to make these memories with.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the countless others whose names were not mentioned but who supported me and contributed to my success. Your support was greatly appreciated. So, for the last time, forever proud to represent my hometown of Chadbourn and the oldest agricultural festival in the state, The North Carolina Strawberry Festival, I am the 2023 Mr. Strawberry, Tyler Grainger.



Oakland Wiggins
2023 NC Strawberry Festival Baby Miss

N.C. Strawberry Festival Baby Miss farewell

Welcome to the 91st annual North Carolina Strawberry Festival pageant. Throughout the year, I have met many new friends and experienced wonderful memories. I had the chance to participate in various community events, such as parades, fundraisers, and concerts. My biggest accomplishment since being crowned has been learning to walk but mostly run and say a few words like bye, hey, thank you, eat and please. My favorite animal is Diesel, and of course every dog I see I call Diesel. Serving as your NC Strawberry Festival baby miss was a great opportunity for me to represent my community. I would like to take the time to thank everyone who supported and guided me through the year, especially and mostly God, also the pageant committee, my family, and friends. I would like to especially thank Miss Cheryl for letting my daddy drive her Jeep. Even though being strawberry baby miss only lasted a year, I will forever cherish my new friendships, experiences, and memories. One must remember that a true queen is not determined by the crown on her head or a sash across her shoulder, but it is in her inner beauty, generosity, kindness and gracefulness that she carries in all aspects of life! To the newest strawberry baby miss I hope you enjoy your year as much as I have; it's going to be so much fun! For one last time I will forever be Oakland Wiggins, your 2023-2024 North Carolina Strawberry Festival Baby Miss.



Carly Jackson
2023 NC Strawberry Festival Wee Miss

N.C. Strawberry Festival Tiny Miss farewell



Journiee Banks Hunt
2023 NC Strawberry Festival Tiny Miss

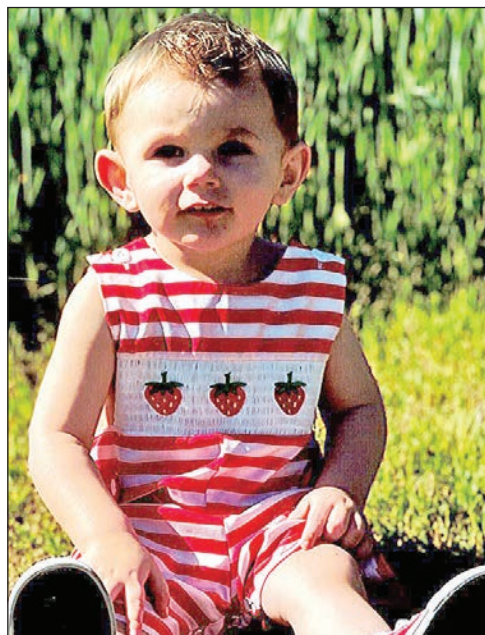
91st North Carolina Strawberry Festival, Page 4

It has been an honor and a privilege to be your 2023-2024 Tiny Miss North Carolina Strawberry Festival. I have learned so many things and made so many friends along the way.

First of all I want to thank God for always watching over me and being by my side. To my daddy, my superhero, thank you for knowing I didn't need a crown to be a princess, for always driving me in my parades and fixing my crown. You're truly the best daddy a girl could ever have. To my mom and my best friend, thank you for making me look like a fashion diva at every event. You are truly my biggest fan.

Also, I can't forget my brothers, who never miss a parade and put up with me being sassy and bossy. To my papa Ronnie and NayNay, thank you for always being you. I can't thank you enough for all you've done for me. To my papa Sanford, Aunt Brooke, and McKenna, thank you for never missing a parade and always showing your support. I love you all. And last of all, thank you to all my pageant sisters for an amazing year; we will always have a bond. This last year I have grown so much from where I first began; remember girls you don't need a crown to become a princess. Thanks for an amazing year. For the last time, I am and will always be your 2023-2024 North Carolina Strawberry Festival Tiny Miss Journiee Banks Hunt.

N.C. Strawberry Festival Baby Master farewell



Jaxson Carl Ray
2023 NC Strawberry Festival Baby Master

When I was crowned your North Carolina Strawberry Festival Baby Master I was excited; everyone was clapping for me and that made me so happy. I also got to crawl all over the floor and look at all the beautiful girls. This year has been so much fun, I have gotten to see so many pretty girls and take pictures with

them and visit different festivals. I have enjoyed going places to taste the yummy food. The Strawberry Encounters was my favorite. I got to eat lots of food and spilled a whole glass of tea on my mommy's lap. I met my very first crush, Miss North Carolina. Boy, was she pretty. Since then, I have met a lot of nice people and I went from crawling to walking. Thank you to my mommy for making me look my best and taking me to all the parades and making sure I was always on time. Daddy, thank you for always being there for me. My big sister, Paige, thank you for showing me the ropes and telling me what to do, and, Lane, thank you for always being there for me and showing me all the poses, I love y'all. Mimi, Papa Mike, Nanny and Papa, thank y'all for always making sure I looked my best. William and Robert, thank you for always making me smile and laugh. To all my pageant sisters and brother, I will miss all of you. Olivia thank you for always playing with me. I know we got into some trouble at the Christmas Party, but it was fun. Thank you to the town of Chadbourn and the North Carolina Strawberry Festival for this opportunity. Berry hugs and kisses to everyone, forever and always your 90th annual and first ever N.C. Strawberry Festival Baby Master Jaxson Carl Ray.

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Barbara Featherson
County Commissioner, District 1

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We hope you enjoy our annual



A Message from the Mayor . . .

Welcome to the 91st Annual North Carolina Strawberry Festival, the oldest agricultural event in the state.

The Town of Chadbourn is proud to carry on a tradition that began when the strawberry was king and more strawberries were shipped from Chadbourn than from anywhere else in the world. This year, the Strawberry Festival promises to be one of the biggest and best celebrations ever!

We are glad that you are here to enjoy all of the festivities with us. Enjoy your stay, and we hope to see you again soon.



Sincerely,
Phillip C. Britt, Mayor
Town of Chadbourn



COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Colene Kelly Faulk, Mayor Pro-Tempore, Shannon M. Britt,

Rashad J. Roberts, Danny W. Clewis, Sr., Tony C. Jordan

Interim Town Manager: Kenneth Elliott

TOWN OF CHADBOURN

Schedule of Events for the 91st Annual N.C. Strawberry Festival

Tuesday, April 30

5 p.m. Opening Ceremonies for the 91st North Carolina Strawberry Festival at the Main Stage at Strawberry Event Field.

5 p.m. Chicken Bog Fund-raiser in Strawberry Event Field (behind Hardee's). Tickets \$10 per plate.

5 p.m. Free pre-concert with a local band.

6 p.m. Free concert with Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot.

Friday, May 3

6-9 p.m. Evening of Strawberry Encounters at Chadbourn Pentecostal Holiness Church Family Life Center, 518 N. Elm St. Tickets include dinner, entertainment and fellowship and may be purchased on the website at ncstrawberryfestival.com. \$30 per person.

Saturday, May 4

7:30-9 a.m. Registration for professional arts, crafts and food court. Strawberry Event field.

7:30-9:30 a.m. Strawberry Quality Contest entries. Chad-

bourn Pentecostal Holiness Church Family Life Center.

8:30-10 a.m. Entries for Food Products Contests. Chadbourn Library.

9 a.m. until. The Racing Brotherhood Foundation Car Show registration. Located diagonally across Brown Street from the festival grounds.

9:30 a.m. until. Professional arts, crafts and food court. Event field behind Hardee's.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Racing Brotherhood Foundation Car Show. Located diagonally across Brown Street from the festival grounds.

10-11 a.m. Judging for Food Products Contest. Chadbourn Library.

10:30 a.m. until. Entertainment/Variety Show. Strawberry Event Field Main Stage.

11 a.m. Viewing for Food Products Contest. Chadbourn Library.

11a.m.-noon. Strawberry Luncheon. Chadbourn Pentecostal Holiness Church Family Life Center, 518 N. Elm St.

12-1:30 p.m. Auction of Strawberry Quality Contest entries. Chadbourn Pentecostal Holiness Church Family Life Center, 518 N. Elm St. \$25 per person.

1 p.m. The Racing Brotherhood Foundation Car Show Awards. Chadbourn Family Practice down to Town Hall.

2 p.m. North Carolina Strawberry Festival Parade. The parade will feature floats, marching bands, clowns, beauty queens, dignitaries and more.

5 p.m. Strawberry Spitting Contest. Strawberry Event Field Main Stage.

Sunday, May 5

12 p.m.-6 p.m. Strawberry Jam (youth event). Strawberry Event Field (beside Food Lion). Strawberry Jam is a family oriented event where kids can enjoy community interaction and entertainment. Free admission for everyone. Vendors will also be on site.



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91st North Carolina Strawberry Festival opening ceremonies

Opening ceremonies for the 91st N.C. Strawberry Festival will be held Tuesday, April 30, at the N.C. Strawberry Festival event field located behind Hardee's in Chadbourn. This year's event will begin at 5 p.m. with a chicken bog plate sale. Each plate is \$10 with all proceeds benefiting the North Carolina Strawberry Festival.

We will have outside tables and chairs for your dining pleasure, or plates may be carried out. Plate sales will continue throughout the evening until every last drop of this Southern delicacy has been consumed. Strawberry shortcake may be purchased throughout the evening.

Stick around for an evening of great food and even better music. Taking the stage first at 5 p.m. will be a local band to entertain with music of all types. Immediately following will be one of the Carolinas' number one beach bands, Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot, featuring beach, pop, rock & roll, classics and soul.

Throughout the evening, tickets will be sold for a 50/50 raffle. Ticket sales will continue until 9 p.m., at which time the winning ticket will be drawn. You must be present to win.

Bleachers are provided; however, if you prefer you may bring a lawn chair.

Come join us and dance the night away at the 91st N.C. Strawberry Festival.

We hope to see you Tuesday, April 30.



Contributed photo

Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot will be the featured act at opening ceremonies for this year's N.C. Strawberry Festival Tuesday, April 30. The band has received numerous awards at the annual Carolina Beach Music Awards including Group CD of the year 2020 and Song of the Year 2013. Gary Lowder also won 2021 Male Vocalist of the Year and Solo CD of the year 2013. The band will take the stage around the 7 p.m. The group performs Carolina beach music, oldies, line dance music, R&B and Motown. Chicken bog plates will also be available from 5-8 p.m. Admission is free. This event will take place at the Strawberry Event Stage located behind Hardee's on North Brown Street. For more information call 910-840-1447.

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Strawberry guide dedicated to memory of 'Guy' Long

For 91 years, The North Carolina Strawberry Festival has become a beloved tradition in the community. The hard work and dedication of the volunteers is evident in every aspect of the festival. The community looks forward to coming together once again to celebrate their shared love for strawberries and create lasting memories with friends and family. At this time, we would like to remember an unforgettable volunteer, Guy Long, who passed away on March 30, 2024. He was truly dedicated to his community and always willing to lend a helping hand wherever it was needed. His passion for serving others was evident in the numerous roles he took on throughout his life. He was an active member of Piney Forest Baptist Church and served on many boards in the area, including his two terms as president of The North Carolina Strawberry Festival. We would like to dedicate the 91st Annual North Carolina Strawberry Festival Guide to Guy Long and honor him for his service to the community.



Timothy 'Guy' Long

Mike Couch performs at opening ceremonies

Mike Couch will be performing on stage at the opening ceremonies Tuesday, April 30. Mike was originally from Greenville S.C. After serving in the military he settled in Columbus County and worked as a radio D.J. in Fair Bluff and Whiteville. Mike was a member of the band Angel Oak that recorded an album at Barnes Stone Studio in Fair



Contributed photo

Mike Couch

Bluff. A song from the album was featured in the 2018 movie "Summer 03." Mike plays oldies of all types as well as original songs.



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Taylor Loyd
Miss North Carolina 2023

*Guest of Honor Taylor Loyd
coming to Strawberry Festival*

Taylor Loyd, Miss North Carolina 2023 is a graduating senior at UNC-Chapel Hill studying psychology and music (classical vocal performance). Originally from Mooresville, she is a 14th generation North Carolinian and will represent the Tar Heel State at the Miss America 2024 Competition.

At the Miss North Carolina 2023 Competition she was awarded \$27,000 in scholarship assistance to pursue her educational and professional goals, but has earned over \$32,000 in scholarships since beginning her involvement as a teen in 2017. She plans to pursue a graduate degree and career in opera performance, and hopes to eventually teach students in a collegiate setting.

When Taylor was 7 years old, her younger brother was injured in a traumatic accident that changed her family's lives forever. Inspired by the healing power of music and art resources made available to herself, her brother and her family, Taylor founded Healing Hearts Through the Arts, 501(c)(3), a nonprofit aimed to provide music and art resources, education and advocacy as a tool for

mental health and wellbeing. Through her organization, she has presented to thousands of schoolchildren, veterans, policymakers and peers about the intersection of mental health and the arts, collected over 7,000 music and art supplies, and worked with policymakers from local N.C. communities all the way to Capitol Hill in promotion of her initiative.

Taylor has served as the Vice President of Recruitment for UNC Panhellenic Council, Co-Director of UNC Music Department Ambassadors, a UNC-CH Gillings School of Global Public Health Undergraduate Research Assistant, Support Professional for special-needs adults, Leadership Fellow at Addiction Professionals of N.C., winner of 2022 UNC Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, and recent opera credits include Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (2022) and Phoebe in *The Yeomen of the Guard* (2023.)

In her free time, Taylor enjoys hiking new destinations, cooking creative recipes, singing all genres of music and spending quality time with family, friends, and her rescue cat, Lottie.

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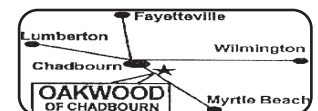
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Strawberry Spittin' Contest



The N.C. Strawberry Festival will have its Strawberry Spittin' Contest Saturday, May 4, at the Strawberry Festival event stage at 5 p.m. 1st place in the youth category pays \$25. 1st place in the adult category pays \$50.

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A white exclamation mark inside a white triangle, set against a red background.

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The logo for RHCC (Rural Health Care Cooperative) features a stylized eagle head and the text 'RHCC Your Health Care Guardian'.

The logo for the National Family Partnership features a stylized red and white design.

The logo for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services features a circular seal with a sun, mountains, and water.

lockyourmeds.org/nc

Supported by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Opioid STR/Cures (Grant #1H97T080257) and SPF-RX (Grant #1U79SP022087).

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The N.C. Strawberry Festival presents “An Afternoon of oldies, R&B, beach, Motown & line dancing” at the N.C. Strawberry Event Stage immediately following the N.C. Strawberry Festival Parade. This year’s event will feature two of the most popular bands in eastern North & South Carolina. The Clearwater Band and The Dirt Road Band. Clearwater will take the stage as soon as the last unit in the parade passes the stage. The afternoon will be closed by The Dirt Road Band. Plenty of food and merchandise vendors will be at this event and the admission is free.

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WVOE Radio and The N.C. Strawberry Festival presents "A Morning of Gospel Music" at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at the N.C. Strawberry Festival event field featuring Benny And the Gospel Angels. The group performed at last year's "Morning of Gospel Music" to a packed crowd. Come early to assure you get a good spot for this gospel music extravaganza.



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Chadbourn ECA is ready for festival foods contest

Members of the Chadbourn Extension and Community Association are getting ready for the annual Strawberry Food Products Contest, which will be held Saturday, May 4, at the Chadbourn Methodist Church.

Barbara Larrimore, the committee chair for the contest, is leading the organizational effort.

Entries will be accepted at the church from 8:30-10 a.m. on Saturday and must be ready to display before they are registered. Participants will not be allowed at the display tables.

Recipes are to be written or typed on 5x8 index cards and left with the strawberry dish. Judging will occur from 10-11 a.m. The food exhibits will be reopened for public viewing at 11 a.m. and will remain on display until participants pick up their entries by 2 p.m.

The contest is designed to promote the use of the strawberry as a nutritious and palatable product and the contest is designed so that a person of any age or sex may enter. Novice and experienced cooks have enjoyed presenting both traditional and innovative recipes, and over the years the cooks have enjoyed receiving acclaim for the efforts.

Three cash prizes, \$15 blue ribbon, \$10 red ribbon and \$5 white ribbon, will be offered in both the adult and youth (kindergarten through high school senior) divisions.

Qualified judges from a wide geographical area will judge the entries. They include retired extension home agents and school cafeteria personnel.

The N.C. Strawberry Foods Contest has been one of the highlights of the festival for many years, and members of the Chadbourn Extension and Community Association pride themselves in sponsoring the event.

Following are the contest rules:

1. The contest will be divided into two divisions:

A. Adult B. Youth (kindergarten through high school senior).

2. Dishes will be judged in five categories in each division. Only one entry from an individual in each category.

A. Appetizers. (Includes breakfast foods, breads, uncooked and cooked processed syrups, preserves, sauces, jelly and jam.) Note: Two individual servings of each recipe will be accepted by the Strawberry Food Products Committee.

B. Cakes. (One-fourth of a cake is acceptable or a whole cake may be entered.) No slices or squares accepted.

C. Pastries, Pies and Tarts. (Pastries: two individual servings of each recipe are acceptable. Pies: an eight-inch pie is acceptable.)

D. Salads and Other Desserts. (Includes all types of gelatin dishes, ice cream, etc. Two individual servings are acceptable.)

E. Low Calorie or Sugar Free.

The food exhibit will be closed to the public during judging and will reopen at 11 a.m., remaining open until 2 p.m.

Prizes will consist of cash awards (\$15 and blue ribbon for first place); (\$10 and red ribbon for second place); (\$5 and white ribbon for third place in each of the categories).

Participants will be responsible for collecting their dishes and prizes at 2 p.m. on contest day.

No entries will be sold or sampled by the public.

Recipes are to be written on 5x8 inch index cards and left with the strawberry dish. The correct ingredients and method for preparing should be listed. The recipes become the property of the Chadbourn Extension and Community Association.

Call Barbara Larrimore at 910-654-4540 for more information on the contest.



Strawberry cheesecake pie

8 oz. cream cheese, soft
1 cup whipping cream, whipped
1 cup sifted confectioners sugar

1/4 tsp. almond extract
9 inch pie shell
1 pkg. strawberry glaze
1 qt. strawberries, burred, quartered
1 tsp. vanilla

Beat cream cheese, confectioners sugar and vanilla together until smooth. Fold in whipped whipping cream. Pour into pie shell. Add almond extract to strawberry glaze. Mix in berries. Carefully spoon berry mixture over cheese layer. Chill until set.

~ Welcome To Chadbourn's ~ 91st Annual Strawberry Festival

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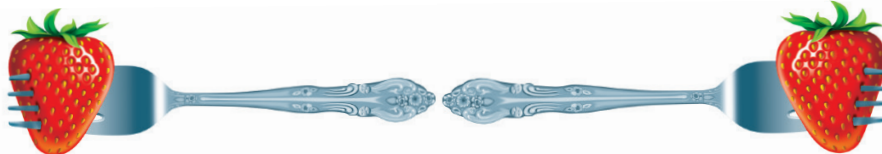


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Chicken bog to benefit N.C. Strawberry Festival

Proceeds from the chicken bog meal at the event field behind Hardee's in Chadbourn will benefit the N.C. Strawberry Festival. Plates will be served Tuesday, April 30, beginning at 5 p.m. and will be \$10 each. There will be outside tables and chairs for your dining pleasure or plates may be carried out.



Strawberry culture and the Strawberry Festival

Strawberry culture began in Chadbourn in 1895 when Joseph Addison Brown, merchant farmer and North Carolina state senator, bought and/or developed thousands of acres of timber lands of the Chadbourn area for productive farm lands. With the Wilson Publishing Company of Chicago, Illinois, a colony was formed named the Sunny South Colony.

Thus the advertisement for this desirable climate and fertile soil brought an estimated 160 families to the Sunny South Colony after 1895. Some of the colonists were successful, and many of the local farmers began the cultivation of strawberries.

The first planting

The first planting of strawberries failed in 1895, but the next year, six and three-quarter acres of berries were planted and J.A. Brown sold berries for a value of \$5,562. The growth of the industry continued and in 1907, 347,000 thirty-two quart crates were shipped and Chadbourn became the Klondyke Strawberry Capital of the World. In 1907, the largest one-day shipment of strawberries was made. One hundred eighty railroad box carloads of strawberries, all of which had been harvested between sunrise and sunset, requiring 15,000 workers, were moved by rail from Chadbourn to points all over the country.

The continued success of the industry eventually became a reason for entertainment. In order to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the strawberry industry, the first Strawberry Festival was inaugurated on May 26, 1926.



With the Wilson Publishing Company of Chicago, Illinois, a colony was formed named The Sunny South Colony. Chadbourn became the Klondyke Strawberry Capital of the World.



Chadbourn is located at the intersection of Hwy. 74/76 and Hwy. 410. It is approximately an one-hour drive from Wilmington and Myrtle Beach. The festival is held at Strawberry Blvd. and Brown Street.

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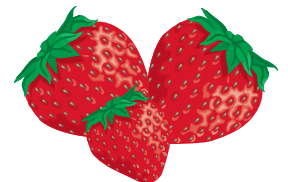
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Staff photos by Justin Smith

The Strawberry Wine Social kicked off last year's N.C. Strawberry Festival. Guests were treated to wine samples, a charcuterie spread and strawberry sweets at Chadbourn Depot Museum. Attendees included 2023 and 2024 Strawberry Festival President Jennifer Caines (top, center) and Chadbourn Mayor Phillip Britt and Council Member Shannon Britt (center, right).



Staff photos by Justin Smith
The 2023 N.C. Strawberry Festival's big week officially kicked off with opening ceremonies at the Strawberry Event Field. Volunteers served chicken bog and strawberry shortcake. Attendees enjoyed dancing to the music of Carl Brunson and Blackwater Band.

Strawberry Encounters

"The Strawberry Encounters" will be held Friday, May 3, from 6-9 p.m. at Chadbourn Pentecostal Holiness Church Family Life Center, 518 N. Elm St. The price for attending is \$30 and you may download the luncheon invitation at www.nc-strawberryfestival.com. Tickets include dinner, entertainment and fellowship.



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91st North Carolina Strawberry Festival Dignitaries and Strawberry Quality Contest

This year's Luncheon and Strawberry Quality Auction at the 91st North Carolina Strawberry Festival will prove to be one of the best. Not only will we be auctioning the sweetest, the most delicious and aromatic fruit of all, strawberries, grown by area growers, but also, on the agenda will be an appearance by Miss North Carolina Taylor Loyd.

Berries from a 60-mile radius of Chadbourn, grown by area growers, will be judged and auctioned during the luncheon. This exciting auction in the past has provided flats of berries that have sold for over \$2,400. You must be on hand to experience the excitement of the auction and the pride of the growers as they present to us their best.

The luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at the Chadbourn Pentecostal Holiness Church Family Life Center, 518 N. Elm St. in Chadbourn. The price for attending is \$25 and you may purchase tickets on the website at www.ncstrawberryfestival.com or contact Hannah Hazel at 304-374-6109. Due to the high demand for this event, ticket availability is limited.

Come join us at the 91st N.C. Strawberry Festival Luncheon starting at 11 and take part in the many events going on around town on Saturday, May 4.



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Welcome to the 91st Annual NORTH CAROLINA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL at Chadbourn



It is with great excitement and pride that we extend a warm welcome to all attendees, sponsors, vendors, and visitors who have joined us for the annual celebration of everything red, ripe, and delicious. The NC Strawberry Festival holds a special place in our hearts as a time-honored tradition that brings together communities to appreciate the abundance of nature's sweetest fruit.

This year's festival promises to be bigger and better than ever, with an exciting lineup of activities, live music, delicious food vendors, and, of course, an abundance of fresh, juicy strawberries for everyone to enjoy.

We are incredibly grateful for your presence and support, as it is your enthusiasm and participation that make this festival possible year after year. Together, we will create lasting memories and foster a sense of unity that reflects the spirit of our wonderful community.

On behalf of the NC Strawberry Festival Association, volunteers, and sponsors, we would like to thank you for being a part of this special event. May your time at the 91st NC Strawberry Festival be filled with joy, laughter, and the sweetness of strawberries.

Jennifer Caines
President, The 91st NC Strawberry Festival

Jennifer Caines

2024 NC
Strawberry Festival
President

