

2024 Fair Bluff, N.C. Watermelon Festival

Saturday, July 27



ALEXIS
WARD
Queen



ANISTON LEIGH
MCLAMB
Teen Miss



EMI
MOORE
Princess



BOBBIE JEAN
NANCE
Majestic Empress



TYLER
GRAINGER
Majestic Emperor



BRITTANY
MOORE
Majestic Queen



LILLIANA GRACE
CHACON
Ambassador



ANNA
JOHNSON
Junior Melon Princess



MADELYNN
PRICE
Little Melon Princess



EMMIE
LONG
Tiny Melon Princess



AVA
BRYANT
Petite Melon Princess



KEATON
NEALY
Petite Melon Master

Royalty 2023-2024



KARTER
RISING
Baby Melon Princess



ACE
BRYANT
Baby Melon Master



HADLEY
COX
Sweetheart

The News Reporter

Schedule of Events for the 2024 N.C. Watermelon Festival on Riverside Drive, Fair Bluff

Friday, July 26, & Saturday, July 27



Friday, July 26
7 p.m. A Fair Bluff Reception with "Picnic" (Tables open at 6 p.m., food starts at 7 p.m.)
RESCHEDULED

Saturday, July 27
7-8:30 a.m. Vendor set-up (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce)

7:30-9:00 a.m. Quality and Size Contest watermelon registration (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Watermelon Growers Association)

8:55 a.m. National Anthem by Bobbie Jean Nance - Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival Majestic Empress.

9 a.m. The Baby-Tiny Miss Pageant will be held at the Fair Bluff Baptist Church. (\$5 Admission)

9:05 a.m. Watermelon Festival Hat Contest (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce) Anyone can enter.

9:15 a.m. The Cover Society Band (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce)

10 a.m. Big watermelon weigh-in and awards presentation (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Watermelon Growers Association)

10:30 a.m. Watermelon Eating Contests, youth and adult. (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Watermelon Growers Association)

11 a.m. Quality Contest awards presentation. (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Watermelon Growers Association)

11:30 a.m. The Cover Society Band (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce)

Noon Lunch down by the River: Food trucks.

12:30 p.m. Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival Parade - No entry fee. Line up at 11:30 a.m. on Causey Road. (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Fire Department).

1:45 p.m. Farmerette Contest (Arrive by 1:30 p.m.) (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce)

2 p.m. Farmer Contest Competition (Arrive by 1:45 p.m.) (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce)

2:15 p.m. Little Gents Contest. (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce)

2:30 p.m. Bathing Beauties. (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce)

3 p.m. Fair Bluff Rotary Club Duck Race (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Rotary Club)

3 p.m. The Junior Miss-Princess Pageant & Melon Belle

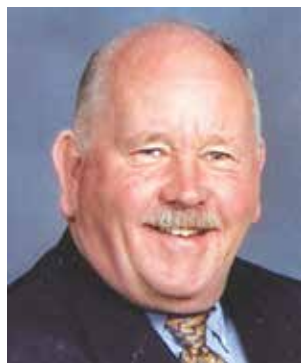
Contests will be held at the Fair Bluff Baptist Church. (\$5 Admission)

3:30 p.m. Recognition of Visiting Queens (Sponsored by the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce)

7 p.m. Teen Miss and Queen Pageant at the Christian Life Center at Fair Bluff Baptist Church - 1205 Main St., Fair Bluff (\$5 Admission)

fairbluffwatermelonfestival.org.

Welcome to Fair Bluff's 2024 Watermelon Festival



**Mayor
Billy Hammond**

A Message from the Mayor ...

On behalf of our town government and citizens, we welcome tourists and guests to our fine town and community!

It is my sincere hope that you will enjoy the many attractions we have in Fair Bluff. The picturesque setting of the Lumber River, especially viewed from a stroll along the boardwalk, will make photo memories to last a lifetime. The local Depot-Museum has over a hundred years of town history on display, including Civil War memorabilia. Columbus County's oldest building is located near the American Legion,

just west of town. It is known as the "Trading Post."

You're invited to browse our streets, visit our merchants and get to know some of North Carolina's finest people. We love tourists and hope your visit is a rewarding and wonderful experience.

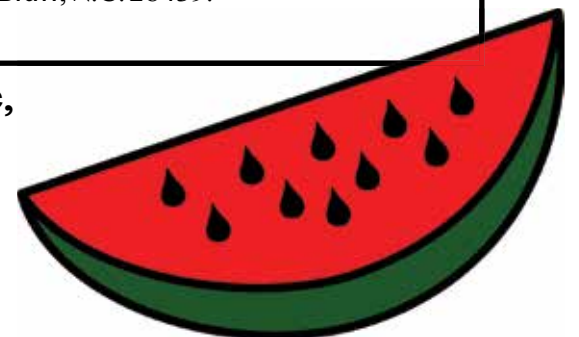
In the event you encounter a problem while in our town, I welcome your comments. You may call me at 910-649-7423 or write me at P.O. Box 157, Fair Bluff, N.C. 28439.

**Downtown Historic Fair Bluff welcomes everyone to come,
bring the family and have fun during this year's
Watermelon Festival.**

TOWN OF FAIR BLUFF

Billy Hammond - Mayor

Council Members: Randy Britt, Grayson Jarvis, Mayor Pro Tem - Clarice Faison, Ralph McCoy and Kathy Ashley, Town Clerk - Peggy Moore



The Cover Society

WE ARE EXCITED
TO HAVE
*The Cover
Society*
PERFORMING AT THE
FESTIVAL THIS YEAR

2024
Fair Bluff, NC
WATERMELON
FESTIVAL

CATCH THEM AT 9:15 AM &
11:30 ON SATURDAY, THE 27TH



Get ready to rock your socks off with The Cover Society Band at the Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival Saturday, July 27. Catch them live at 9:15 a.m. and again at 11:30 a.m. for a double dose of amazing tunes. Don't miss out on the fun, music and watermelon madness!

2024
Fair Bluff, NC
WATERMELON
FESTIVAL

Main Street, Fair Bluff, N. C.

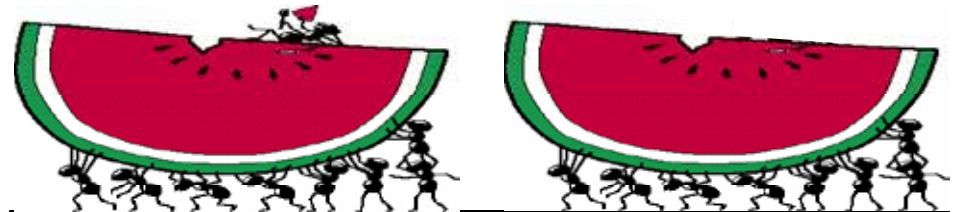
A FAIR BLUFF
REUNION WITH
"PIAZZ"

Featuring
The Pizazz Band
July 26, 2024
Gates open at 6pm
Band will start at 7 pm

If you grew up in, lived in, or just love Fair Bluff, come see downtown one last time before everything is demolished. There will be a guest book to sign as well as other activities.



A Fair Bluff Reunion with "Pizazz" featuring The Pizazz Band will entertain Friday, July 26, at 7 p.m. on Riverside Drive. Gates open at 6 p.m.



Enjoy the 2024 Watermelon Festival!

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CAUSEY ROAD - FAIR BLUFF



The Watermelon Festival Parade is set to begin at 12:30 p.m. Saturday with lineup beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Causey Road. Entries are free of charge. (Contact Fair Bluff Fire Department for additional information.)



Robert Worley rides in the 2023 Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival parade with his record-breaking melon that weighed in at 224.5 pounds.



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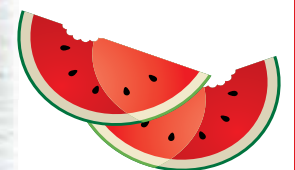
638 Brown Street, Chadbourn

Johnny's Drive In, Inc.



*Welcome to the
Watermelon
Festival!*

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New Ownership
Now Open
Tues. - Sat.*



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899 Main Street, Fair Bluff**



The Fair Bluff Watermelon Growers Association started the Educational Outreach Program in April. Youth were provided watermelon plants, growing instructions and fertilizer. Kids are asked to bring your melons to the Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival for a chance to win prize money and bragging rights. If still interested in growing watermelons, check your local nursery or plant shop for seeds or plants.



N.C. State Watermelon Queen Haley Davis will be attending this year's Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival Saturday, July 27.

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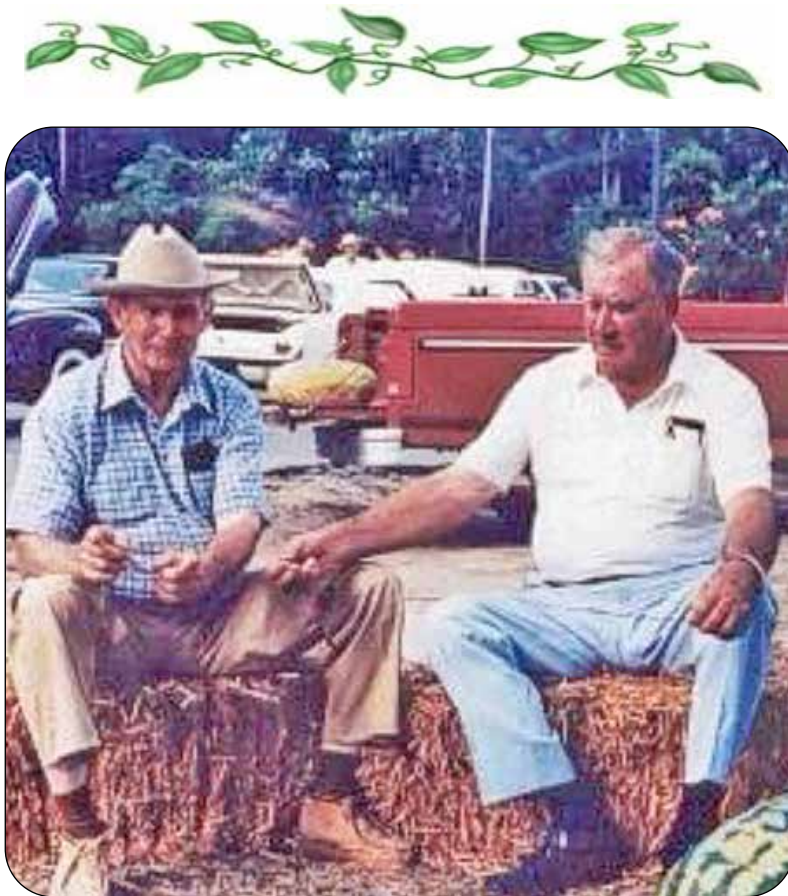
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Watermelon
Festival



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Festival founders A.J. Worley, left, and Monroe Enzor Sr.



The tradition continues with Adam Worley and Sawyer Enzor Strickland chairing the Fair Bluff Watermelon Contests. They are grandsons of the founders.



Like their grandfathers, these two young men are lifelong friends. Their agricultural roots run deep, and they have participated in the Watermelon Festival since birth, as this vintage photo shows. They both share a love of growing watermelons and duck hunting. It seems only natural that the two of them would take over the leadership of the watermelon contests.

RUSTIC FARM WEDDING VENUE

Located on the edge of the beautiful historic Fair Bluff, Horne Bay Farm has a rustic natural beauty and an easy elegance. Southern charm and Personality abound at the majestic barn, the open air pavilion overlooks ponds and horse pastures. Contrasting elements make this the perfect setting for any wedding or event.



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Horne Bay Farm



Kathy H. Ashley 910-840-4091

Hornebayfarm.com



Staff file photo by Justin Smith

Dumpin' the ducks for the annual Fair Bluff Rotary Duck Race

FAIR BLUFF ROTARY

JULY 27,
2024

3:00 PM

DUCK



\$10.00 PER
TICKET

UP TO \$1,000
FIRST PRIZE!

RACE

18th Annual Rotary Club Duck Race

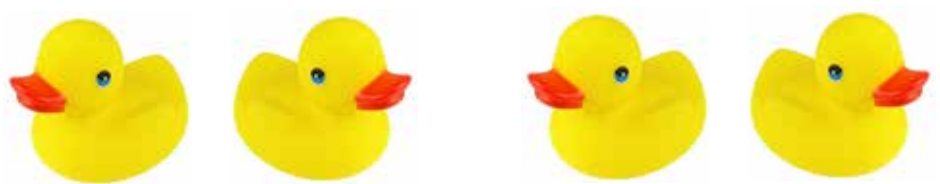
This year, the 18th Annual Fair Bluff Rotary Duck Race will be held on Saturday, July 27, at 3 p.m. The race is the signature fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Fair Bluff. All funds raised from the Rotary Club Duck Race are used by the club for community services. The race will be held as part of the annual Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival.

The race can be viewed from the riverwalk of the Lumber River, adjacent

to Riverside Drive in the Town of Fair Bluff. For more info on the Watermelon Festival go to facebook.com/fairbluff-watermelonfestival.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by contacting any current rotary member or online by visiting www.fairbluffrotary.org and clicking on the “donate” link.

Online ticket sales will close Thursday, July 25, at 7 p.m.



2024 T-SHIRTS NOW
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FRONT

BACK

\$20





•United Bank in
Chadbourn

•Fowler's Jewelers in
Whiteville

•Visitor's Center in
Fair Bluff

The 2024 Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival T-shirts can be purchased at the Fair Bluff Visitor Center, Fowler Jewelry in Whiteville and United Bank in Chadbourn. (\$12 youth and \$20 adult sizes)

See you at the

Fair Bluff
Watermelon
Festival

July 27th

FairBluffWatermelonFestival.org



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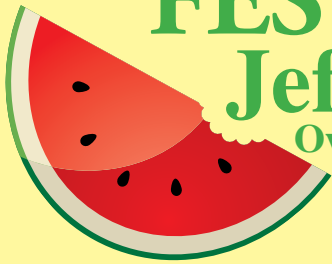
Christy Phillips, FNP-C

“Enjoy this year’s Watermelon Festival”

Welcome TO Fair Bluff

“Our compliments to the
2024 Watermelon Growers
and all the various committees,
queens and contestants.”

Have a Great
FESTIVAL!
Jeff Prince
Owner/Manager



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*Have a great time at the
Watermelon Festival!*



Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival

2024 Youth and Adult Quality/ Sweetness Contest Rules

1. Watermelons will be accepted from the counties of Columbus, Bladen, Brunswick, and Robeson in North Carolina. Entries may also be from Horry, Marion or Dillon counties in South Carolina.
 2. Growers must bring two watermelons of the same variety to enter in the contest. The judges will have the ultimate choice as to which watermelon they will cut to be judged. (Please do not prep or shine melons with any type of oil.)
 3. Only one entry per person is allowed in the quality/sweetness contest. There will be no more than a total of two entries (four melons total) per family/farm in the youth and/or adult division. (The entry may be in more than one person's name such as a husband and wife or multiple children.)
 4. Each grower must bring two (2) watermelons to Riverside Drive behind Main Street on Saturday, July 27, between 7:30–9 a.m. When watermelons are checked in, each grower will be assigned a number, which will be placed on the grower's watermelons prior to the beginning of judging.
 5. The overall winner, with the highest score, of the quality contest will claim the title of the "Best Tasting Watermelon of the Fair Bluff Watermelon Contest."
 6. The first place Quality Winners in both the youth and adult divisions will be asked to ride in the Fair Bluff Watermelon Parade. The parade will begin at 12:30 p.m. and the first place winner must report to parade line-up by noon. (Vehicle and signs will be provided for the winner to ride in the parade.)
- If additional information is needed for the quality contest, visit the website: fairbluffwatermelonfestival.org or reach out to us at fairbluffwatermelonfest@gmail.com



SPD&A

S. Preston Douglas & Associates, LLP



Matthew S. McLean, CPA

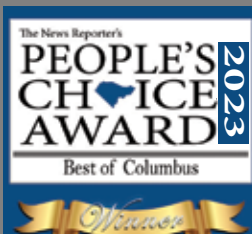


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Sometimes lifting the large watermelons can be a real chore for contest co-chairs Sawyer Strickland and Adam Worley

Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival

2024 Rules and Guidelines for the Largest/Size Contest

1. Watermelons will be accepted from the counties of Columbus, Bladen, Brunswick, and Robeson in North Carolina. Entries may also be from Horry, Marion or Dillon counties in South Carolina.
2. Only one entry per person is allowed in the largest/size contest. (Please do not prep or shine melons with any type of oil.)
3. Each grower must bring their entry to Riverside Drive behind Main Street on Saturday, July 27 between 7:30 – 9 a.m. When watermelons are checked in, each grower will be assigned a number, which will be placed on the grower's watermelon prior to the official weighing.
4. The first place winner will be asked to ride in the Fair Bluff Watermelon Parade. The parade will begin at 12:30 p.m., and the first place winner with their melon must report to parade line-up by noon. (Vehicle and signs will be provided for the winner to ride in the parade.)
5. If additional information is needed for the size contest, visit the website: fairbluffwatermelonfestival.org or reach out to us at fairbluffwatermelonfest@gmail.com



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Watermelon Festival
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Youth competitors brace themselves for Woody Strickland, holding the microphone, to announce the start of the watermelon eating contest. Be sure to join us at 10:30 a.m. for the watermelon eating contest. (Adult and youth divisions)

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Meredith Hammond
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113 West Smith St., Whiteville / Addison Agency 910-642-8206



Two of the hardest-working watermelon festival organizers, Judy Enzor and Kathy Ashley.



No matter one's age, watermelon is a good summertime snack.

A large graphic for the 'Lock Your Meds' campaign. At the top, a red dashed box contains the text 'Don't let anyone take what's yours.' Below this, two prescription bottles are shown. The bottom half of the graphic is red with a white warning triangle icon and the text 'Your Prescription Your Responsibility'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'RHCC Your Health Care Guardian' and the website 'lockyourmeds.org/nc'. The bottom of the graphic features logos for the 'NATIONAL FAMILY PARTNERSHIP' and the 'NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES'.

Plenty of vendors and food trucks will be on hand festival day



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Fun & Games

Strike out with seeds & stripes

Make **watermelon bowling** pins with empty, 2-liter plastic bottles. Using a 16-oz. bottle of acrylic paint, squirt a small amount of paint inside a plastic bottle and shake until the interior is coated. Repeat with other bottles. Add a line of hot glue to the caps before replacing. Paint the caps red and wrap the bases with green painter's tape.

Draw stripes on the tape and seeds on the bottles with green and black permanent markers. Set up the pins, and let kids gently roll the watermelon bowling ball. It's great motor skills practice!

Bonus Math!

When setting up pins, look up how much each one is worth and draw numbers on them. Kids add up the fallen pins to see who wins.



Easy peasy watermelon squeezezy

For this watermelon **sensory squish bag**, add ¼ cup of clear hair gel and a few drops of red food coloring (for flesh and juice) to a resealable plastic bag. Then, drop in some dry black beans for the seeds.

Seal it securely shut with duct tape before adding a second layer of green painter's tape for the rind. Draw stripes on it with a green permanent marker. Smoosh all the ingredients together until well combined.

Little fingers can squeeze, pinch and doodle! It's a great exercise for writing site words and numbers, counting, and drawing, all while working on their ever-important fine motor skills.



Content from the National Watermelon Promotion Board



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