

40th Annual
COLUMBUS COUNTY
FAIR
October 15-20 2019



County Fair promises a good time for all ages

By CLARA CARTRETTE

It's County Fair time, and the Columbus County Agriculture Fair will open Tuesday, Oct. 15 with a parade through downtown Whiteville, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Fairgrounds will open at 5 p.m., with Throwback Tuesday offering a special admission price of \$5. Plus, children younger than 5 years old and veterans with proper identification will be admitted free on opening day.

The annual hat and pumpkin competitions will be held on the main stage at 6 p.m., with prizes to be awarded to the winners. Hats should be decorated in a farm theme, so gather up some vegetables, pecans, peanuts, flowers or other enticing items to put on your hats. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Get creative with your pumpkin entries, as the competition is fierce for this event. Carve it, paint it or come up with original and special ways to impress the judges, as they'll award prizes to the winners.

The Columbus County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard will be in charge of the flag raising ceremony will be at 6:25 p.m., followed by spelling bees for third, fourth and fifth graders.

The midway, with exciting rides provided by Dreamland Amusements, will light up early every evening to provide exciting rides, games and other events. Nightly entertainment will include Brad Matchett-comedy hypnotist/agricadabra, Flimsey the Clown and other entertainment. Also on stage will be the Bedrock Brothers at 7 p.m. and Lee's Cutt Band at 8 p.m.

Wednesday

Gates will open Wednesday at 11 a.m. for Special Friends Day, beginning at 11 a.m., followed by Senior Citizens Day at 1 p.m., both stage events with special entertainment and participation by Special Friends and Seniors. Gates will open to the public at 5 p.m.

The exciting Children's Tractor Pull will be held at

7:30 p.m. This is a week-long event, with nightly winners competing to determine who the real champions are on closing day. Another special event, the Diaper Derby, will be held on Stage 1, with registration scheduled for 5:45 p.m., followed by the Derby itself at 6 p.m.

Flimsey the Clown, a County Fair favorite for many years, will be back again this year and will entertain nightly. Also on stage will be the Mark McKinney & Co. at 7 p.m. and Honey Don't Band at 8:30 p.m.



Half Price Thursday

Gates open at 3 p.m. Thursday for the general public, but Kindergarten Day will be Thursday. Students will come in on school buses and they will have the fairgrounds to themselves for awhile. This was an idea contributed by the late Jimmy Ferguson, and it has proven to be one of the most popular events. The little people have been able to get up close and personal with cows and have even squeezed a few drops of milk from them, a special treat for kids who didn't grow up on the farm. The kindergarteners also enjoy going through the livestock barn to see horses, pigs, chickens, ducks and other animals.

Thursday is also half price night, sponsored by Brunswick Electric Membership Corp, with a discounted admission charge of only \$4 and armbands for rides only \$14. The Bedrock Brothers will perform at 6 p.m., Blackwater at 8 p.m., Flimsey the Clown and Dreamland Amusements nightly.

Spelling bees for grades 6, 7 and 8 will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Friday

Gates open Friday at 3 p.m. with entertainment on Stage 1 at 6 p.m. with Classic Soul Duo and the local talent competition for Division 1 will be held for ages 6 and younger, and ages 7 to 12 for Division 2. Southern



Country Outlaws will perform at 8 p.m., fireworks at 9 p.m. and will close out with nightly entertainment including Dreamland Amusements, Flimsey the Clown and Brad Matchett-comedy hypnotist/agricadabra.

Saturday

Gates open Saturday at 3 p.m. The children's tractor pull registration will be held on Stage 1 at 3:45 p.m. with the tractor pull to follow. A talent contest for divisions #3 (ages 13-15 & younger) and division #4 (ages 16 & older) along with arts and crafts will be dis-

played in the Evelyn Rabon Exhibit Hall. There will be fireworks at 9 p.m.

Lee's Cutt Band will perform at 8 p.m. and Flimsy the Clown will take the stage. The usual late night entertainment will close out the evening.

Carload Sunday

Sunday was not the best day for the County Fair several years ago, but someone came up with an idea that has brought a lot more people to the fair on Sunday afternoons. Carload Sunday has been good for the fair and

good for those attending. Each carload, packed with as many people as the car will hold, gets in the gate for \$35, including armbands. Gates open at 1 p.m.

On tap for Sunday afternoon entertainment are the finals of the children's tractor pull at 2 p.m., the talent competition finals at 2:30 p.m., The Bedrock Brothers at 5 p.m., Chillin dixie Band at 6 p.m., Flimsey the Clown and Brad Matchett-comedy hypnotist/agricadabra and of course Dreamland Amusements.



Friends meet friends at the County Fair.

Tuesday, Oct. 15

3:30 p.m. Parade- Downtown Whiteville
5 p.m. Gates Open
6 p.m. Pumpkin and hat contest
6:25 p.m. Flag Raising Ceremony
Columbus County Sheriff's Office Honor Guards
6:30 p.m. Spelling Bee (Grades third, fourth and fifth)
7 p.m. Bedrock Brothers
8 p.m. Lee's Cutt Band
Nightly Dreamland Amusements
Nightly Brad Matchett - Comedy Hypnotist/Agricadabra
Nightly Flimsey the Clown

Wednesday, Oct. 16 Special Friends Day

11 a.m. Special Friends Day
1 p.m. Senior Citizens Day (60 and older-free admission)
5 p.m. Gates Open
6 p.m. Registration for Diaper Derby
6:30 p.m. Diaper Derby
7 p.m. Mark McKinney & Co.
7:30 p.m. Tractor Pull
8:30 p.m. Honey Don't Band
Nightly Dreamland Amusements

Stage Schedule

Nightly Brad Matchett - Comedy Hypnotist/Agricadabra
Nightly Flimsey the Clown

Thursday, Oct. 17 1/2 Price Night

3 p.m. Gates Open
5 p.m. Blackwater
6 Bedrock Brothers
7:30 Spelling Bee (Grades 6, 7, 8)
8 p.m. Blackwater
Nightly Dreamland Amusements
Nightly Brad Matchett - Comedy Hypnotist/Agricadabra
Nightly Flimsey the Clown

Friday, Oct. 18

3 p.m. Gates Open
6 p.m. Classic Soul Duo
7 p.m. Local Talent Competition
7 p.m. Demolition Derby
7 p.m. Local Talent Competition (Ages six years and younger)
8 p.m. Southern Country Outlaws
9 p.m. Fireworks
Nightly Dreamland Amusements

Nightly Brad Matchett - Comedy Hypnotist/Agricadabra
Nightly Flimsey the Clown

Saturday, Oct. 19

3 p.m. Gates Open
4 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull Registration
5 p.m. Talent Contest (Divisions #3 (Ages 13-15 and younger) and #4 (Ages 16 and older))
8 p.m. Lee's Cutt Band
9 p.m. Fireworks
Nightly Dreamland Amusements
Nightly Brad Matchett - Comedy Hypnotist/Agricadabra
Nightly Flimsey the Clown

Sunday, Oct. 20 \$35 Carload Sunday

1 p.m. Gates Open
2 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull
2:30 p.m. Talent Contest Finals
5 p.m. Bedrock Brothers
6 p.m. Chillin Dixie Band
Nightly Dreamland Amusements
Nightly Brad Matchett - Comedy Hypnotist/Agricadabra
Nightly Flimsey the Clown

County Fair Parade Marshal is Cody Sammons

The 2019 Columbus County Parade Marshal is Cody David Sammons. Cody is the 18 year old son of Allen David Sammons, stepmother Maggie Sammons, and mother Kelly Hughes.

Grandparents are James and Miriam Hughes and Orvin and Joyce Graham. Cody resides in the Old Dock Community with his Mother Kelly, and sister India Sammons, also known as his second mama.

He is also blessed to have a brother, Eli Sammons, and two stepsisters, Olivia Smith and Andrea Millener.

Cody was diagnosed at a young age with autism. However, through his faith and family, he continues to work hard and show improvement.



Cody David Sammons

Needless to say, Cody is an inspiration to all who know him. He is a student at South Columbus High School and attends Palmyra Baptist Church where is active in the Youth Group and loves to sing in the church. He enjoys playing the piano and visiting Alligator

Adventure and Daddy Joe's. He appears to be Columbus

County Agriculture Fair's #1 Fan and loves to tell everyone about our fair. He counts down the days each year until the Fair's return. Cody loves the food and the rides, but, most of all, he loves seeing all the people.

Years ago through the leadership of former Sheriff and Board Member Jimmy Ferguson, the Columbus County Agriculture Fair made a commitment to individuals like Cody. We continue this proud legacy by providing a day for Cody and others. Therefore, we are proud to have Cody as our 2019 Columbus County Agriculture Fair Parade Marshal.

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40th annual County Fair slated Oct. 15-20

By CLARA CARTRETTE

The 31st annual Columbus County Agriculture Fair will open Tuesday, Oct. 15 with a parade through downtown Whiteville. Anyone interested in entering a parade unit should contact Mack Ward at Fair457@gmail.com or fax 910-640-1085.

The parade, which will begin at 3:30 p.m., will line up on South Lee Street, take a left on Frazier Street to South Madison, proceed through downtown Whiteville and will dismantle at Whiteville High School.

Cody Sammons, the 18-year-old son of Allen David Sammons, stepmother Maggie Sammons and mother Kelly Hughes, has been selected as the 2019 parade grand marshal.

This will be the County Fair's 32nd annual parade, the first held in 1988 with N.C. Commissioner of Agri-

culture Jim Graham as the parade marshal. His driver was supposed to be Sam "Mule Man" Claridy with his two-mule team and wagon, but Graham, with a big cigar in his mouth, insisted

on holding the reins and told Claridy to wave to the crowds for him. Years later the commissioner was still bragging about how he held the wagon tongue right on the centerline of the streets.



Jim Graham was grand marshal for the fair's first parade.

Graham and Claridy are now both deceased, but their legends live on. It was the inaugural Columbus County Fair parade and one of the best County Fairs, proven by state competition when the Columbus County Agriculture Fair took the first place award in its category.

The parade will again award \$50 prizes to those who are declared first place winners for the best floats

depicting livestock, row crops, "other" and best dressed farm animal categories.

The Columbus County Agriculture Fair was initiated by the Columbus County Law Enforcement Officers Association. It was the first county fair held in Columbus County in 50 years. It was held in 1980 and has been a popular event every year thereafter.

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Fair licensed, rides inspected

The Columbus County Agriculture Fair is approved and licensed by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and is a member of the N.C. Association of Agriculture Fairs and International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

Midway rides, provided by Dreamland Amusements, are inspected by the N.C. Department of Labor.

The Columbus County Agriculture Fair began in 1980, 50 years after the last County Fair had been held in Columbus County. It was a project of the Columbus County Law Enforcement Officers Association. The first fair was completely dependent upon big circus tents, but as time passed nice buildings were built to house the commercial and educational booths, livestock barn and food stand. In more recent years an old building was remodeled to serve as the fair's office building.

Early on, the fair board asked the public to help give the fair a suitable motto, and a contest was held. The fair board liked "It's A Family A-Fair," so that became the motto.

Several years ago the fair called on the public again to choose a name for the fair's mascot, a gigantic fiberglass rooster who stood sentinel on the fairgrounds. "Fearless Fair-ley" was the name chosen by the fair board.



Events and entertainment to expect when the fair is open:

- Farm animals
- Children's Tractor Pull
- Flimsey the Clown
- Pumpkin and Hat Contest
- Fireworks
- Local Entertainment

Dreamland provides rides that winter in the county

Dreamland Amusements has been providing exciting rides for children and adults for the Columbus County Fair for many years, and their rides spend winters right here in Columbus County. The company has a 15-acre winter headquarters in downtown Delco, 15 miles west of Wilmington, where the equipment is stored until spring.

The rides then go on the road, traveling from New Hampshire to Miami, Fla., supplying rides, games and food stands for county and state fairs and also playing concert dates. The equipment has been featured in TV ads, at many private parties, corporate rentals and concert dates. The company supplies silent generators, benches and covered seating areas and at many fairs Dreamland Amusements does an extensive landscaping package. The company markets its events through Cable TV, radio, coupon distribution as well as a custom Dream-

land Amusements mailer designed especially for its demographics.

When their event has ended, the Dreamlands staff does a thorough clean-up of the grounds, leaving them as they found them.



County Fair book dedicated to Master Trooper Kevin Conner

The Columbus County Agriculture Fair is humbled to posthumously bestow the honor of dedicating the 2019 Columbus County Agriculture Tab to Master Trooper Kevin Keith Conner. Our community, state, and nation all breathe easier because of the dedicated service of Trooper Conner and the life he lived. Conner was killed in the line of duty in the early morning hours of October 17, 2018.

First and foremost, Kevin Conner was a family man. A devoted son to Glenn and Kay Conner, Kevin spent his youth growing up in Bladenboro, NC. Trooper Conner leaves behind this wife, Miranda of Clarendon, two children, Briley and Brax-

son, and an extended family. He also leaves behind a community of friends too numerous to name.

A graduate of Bladenboro High School, Trooper Conner obtained his Associate in Criminal Justice degree from Bladen Community College. After working as a member of the North Carolina Marine Patrol, Lumberton Police Department, and Bladenboro Volunteer Fire Department, he joined the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. Trooper Conner was the owner of K & M Auto Sales, part-time employee of Canal Woods, and partner of All Clean Pressure Washing Service. Finally, Trooper Conner was an avid outdoorsman

who enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends and family all over southeastern North Carolina.

The Columbus County Agriculture Fair was founded on the principals of honoring law enforcement officers through our association with the Columbus County Law Enforcement Association. From our first Fair Book dedicated to North Carolina Wildlife Officer Troy Sigmon to this Fair Book dedicated to trooper Conner, we continue to stand with all law enforcement officers and their service to our communities. May God continue to bless them as they continue to protect and serve all of us.



Kevin Conner

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Flimsy, always a County Fair favorite.

Flimsey Clown is back again

Flimsey, that wacky, funny clown who has been entertaining County Fair crowds for many years, will be back daily (and nightly) this year.

Flimsey is a talent with crowd appeal, making friends and clowning around with people from baby stage to the most senior adults. He wears his signature colorful striped trousers, painted face and a hat that bears his name in the event someone forgets who he is.

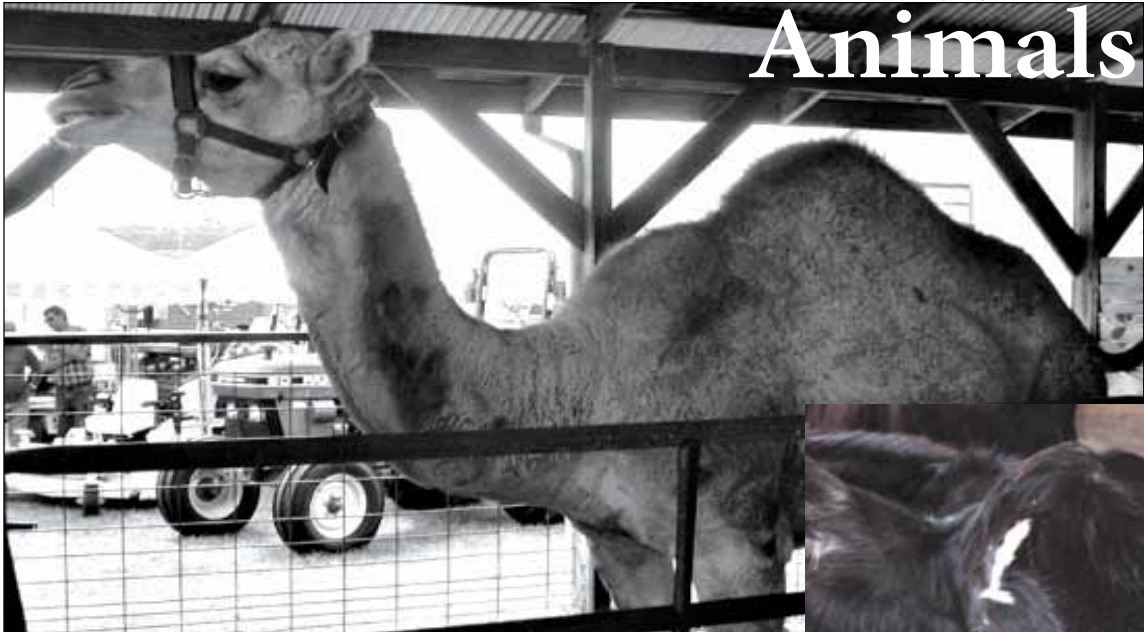
Flimsey does tricks on a skateboard, has been seen with a baby bottle in his mouth and cracks jokes at every turn. You'll not only see him on stage, but prowling the midway to entertain young and old.

If you haven't met Flimsey, introduce yourself.



Flimsey on Special Friends Day at the fair.





Animals



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Midway Thrills



Midway Rides



Midway Games



Demo derby Friday, Saturday nights



Demo Derby action begins at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights.

One of the most popular and exciting events at the County Fair is the Demolition Derby, held annually on Friday and Saturday nights, beginning at 7 p.m.

Registration will be from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the track, and there are no registration fees. There are four classes of vehicles, 4-cylinder class (small car), 6-cylinder class (up to 3500 lbs.), 8-cylinder class (3501 lbs. & up) and pro class (any cylinder).

4-cylinder class, 6-cylinder class and 8-cylinder class rules:

1. Any stock hard top automobile or station wagon is allowed.
2. Safety belts and safety helmets with goggles or shield are required.
3. All glass must be removed except windshield. If windshield is removed a center bar is required.

4. All decorative chrome must be removed, door handles may be left on.

5. Gas tanks are to be inside of car, six gallon tanks (plastic or metal). Tanks must be properly secured and covered.

Original tanks must have holes punched in them and flushed clear of gas, or be removed from car.

6. No special bumpers, trailer hitches, reinforcements or added weight are allowed on any part of the vehicle. *Bumpers shocks can be removed and the bumper welded*.

7. Doors should be welded or chained. If welded, must be in 4-inch welds.

8. Trunks should be chained shut or welded by 4-inch welds. Hoods can use 5/8-inch bolt or chained. Tailgates of wagons should be chained or welded so as

not to open during heat.

9. All sun visors, windshield blades and headliners must be removed.

10. Fenders may be cut for wheel clearance only.

11. Batteries should be secured inside vehicle and covered with tarp or heavy material to prevent explosion.

12. No solid white cars accepted!! Cars may be deco-

rated in any manner as long as it is in good taste.

Driver's door "only" should be painted "white" for derby number to be applied at registration. Numbers issued on first come first serve basis.

13. Tires filled with air "only".

14. Radiators must remain in their original position.

15. Drivers, "DO NOT"

leave vehicle unless instructed to do so by derby flagman!

Leaving vehicle is disqualification. "Stay with car until it has been removed from the track."

16. Any car catching fire that stops the event is automatically disqualified for that heat.

17. All cars must immediately leave track.

Continued on page 12

FUN & GAMES

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Defending champion looks for another win

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Mickey Cribb

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Demo Derby Pro Class Rules

1. Any stock hard top automobile or station wagon is allowed.

2. Safety belts and safety helmets with goggles or shield are required.

3. All glass must be removed except windshield. If windshield is removed a center bar is required.

4. All decorative chrome, must be removed, door handles may be left on.

5. Gas tanks are to be inside of car, six gallon tanks (plastic or metal). Tanks must be properly secured and covered.

Original tanks must have holes punched in them and flushed clear of gas, or be removed from car.

6. No trailer hitches, **bumpers can be removed and the bumper welded**.

7. Doors should be welded or chained, if welded must be in 4" welds.

8. Trunks should be chained shut or welded by 4" welds. Hoods can use 5/8 inch bolt or chained.

Tailgates of wagons should be chained or welded

so as not to open during heat.

9. All sun visors, windshield blades, and headliners must be removed.

10. Fenders may be cut for wheel clearance only. Height of vehicle must not be over (24 inches) from bottom of bumper to ground.

11. Batteries should be secured inside vehicle and covered with tarp or heavy material to prevent explosion.

12. No solid white cars accepted!! Cars may be decorated in any manner as long as it is in good taste.

Drivers door "only" should be painted "white" for derby number to be applied at registration.

Numbers on first come first serve basis.

13. Any size tires, four point roll cage / bars are acceptable. No hump plates or kickers !!

14. Radiators must remain in their original position.

15. Drivers "DO NOT" leave vehicle unless instructed to do so by derby flagman!!

Leaving vehicle is disqualification "stay with car until

it has been removed from the track".

16. Any car catching fire that stops the event is automatically disqualified for that heat.

17. All cars must immediately stop at the sound of horn / light / or flagman.

18. All hoods & trunks must have a 12" in diameter hole cut for safety.

19. No larger than 3/4 treaded bolts for chassis & body bolts.

Ladies Powder Puff

Saturday night only, (must have 6 cars)

Info@columbuscountyfair.com or Columbus County Agricultural Fair Inc. at 642-7585.

Derby

Continued from page 11

diately stop at the sound of horn, light or flagman.

18. All hoods and trunks must have a 12-inch in diameter hole cut for safety.



One of the County Fair's most exciting events is the demolition derby, held Friday and Saturday nights on the track at the back on the midway. An entry fee is charged in addition to the general gate admission. Registration from 4-6 p.m. and the derby starts at 7.

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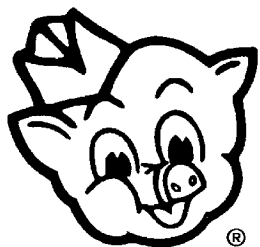
NIGHT 8:30



Congratulations Columbus County Fair Winners!

To all the contestants in this year's fair who have made, grown, preserved, sewed, decorated, exhibited, and participated, we say **"Great Job!"**

To all the winners in all the contests and competitions, we extend a **"Special Congratulations"** for your accomplishments.



piggly wiggly

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Car Load Sunday, always a big hit, will be offered again

Board members decided a few years ago to offer a bargain that would be difficult to refuse.

They advertised that people could load their cars with all the people they could pack in, and pay only \$35 per carload. And that included armbands allowing unlimited rides.

Board members have decided they're doing it again this year.

So if you're contemplating skipping the Sunday afternoon fair activities, give it some thought and load the car with as many people as you can pack in and come to the fair.

The bargain is only \$35 for a carload, including armbands and unlimited rides.

Upon entering fairgrounds parking, each driver will receive a number representing the number of people in their vehicle.

When going through the gate, the driver will show his number and each person in his group will receive entrance into the fair, including an arm band.

It will be several hours of good entertainment on the

cheap.

Gates open at 1 p.m. and stage activities include the children's tractor pull, children's arts and crafts displays in the Evelyn Rabon Building, a talent contest and entertainment nightly by var-

ious groups and bands.

Scheduled throughout the afternoon are Flimsey the Clown, Brad Matchett-comedy hypnotist/Agricadabra and local entertainment.



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Touchstone Energy's balloon is at the fair every year, as it is a corporate sponsor along with Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation.

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DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS - \$6.50 + Tax (Includes Bread & Tea, Lemonade or Water)

Tues: Pork Chops, Mac & Cheese, Cabbage or Butter Beans & Cornbread
 Wed: Chicken & Pastry with Green Beans
 OR Spaghetti with Salad & Bread
 Thurs: Country Style Steak with Green Beans, Rice & Gravy
 Fri: Meat Loaf or Country Style Steak with
 Mashed Potatoes, Corn or Green Beans
Vegetables daily subject to change

Muffins
 Blueberry, Chocolate
 and Lemon Cranberry
\$2.00

SOUP OF THE DAY

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Served with Crackers or Cornbread

Tues: Chicken Bog or Veg. Beef
 Wed: Chili Beans or Veg. Beef
 Thurs: Vegetable Beef
 Fri: Ham & Lima Bean or Veg. Beef

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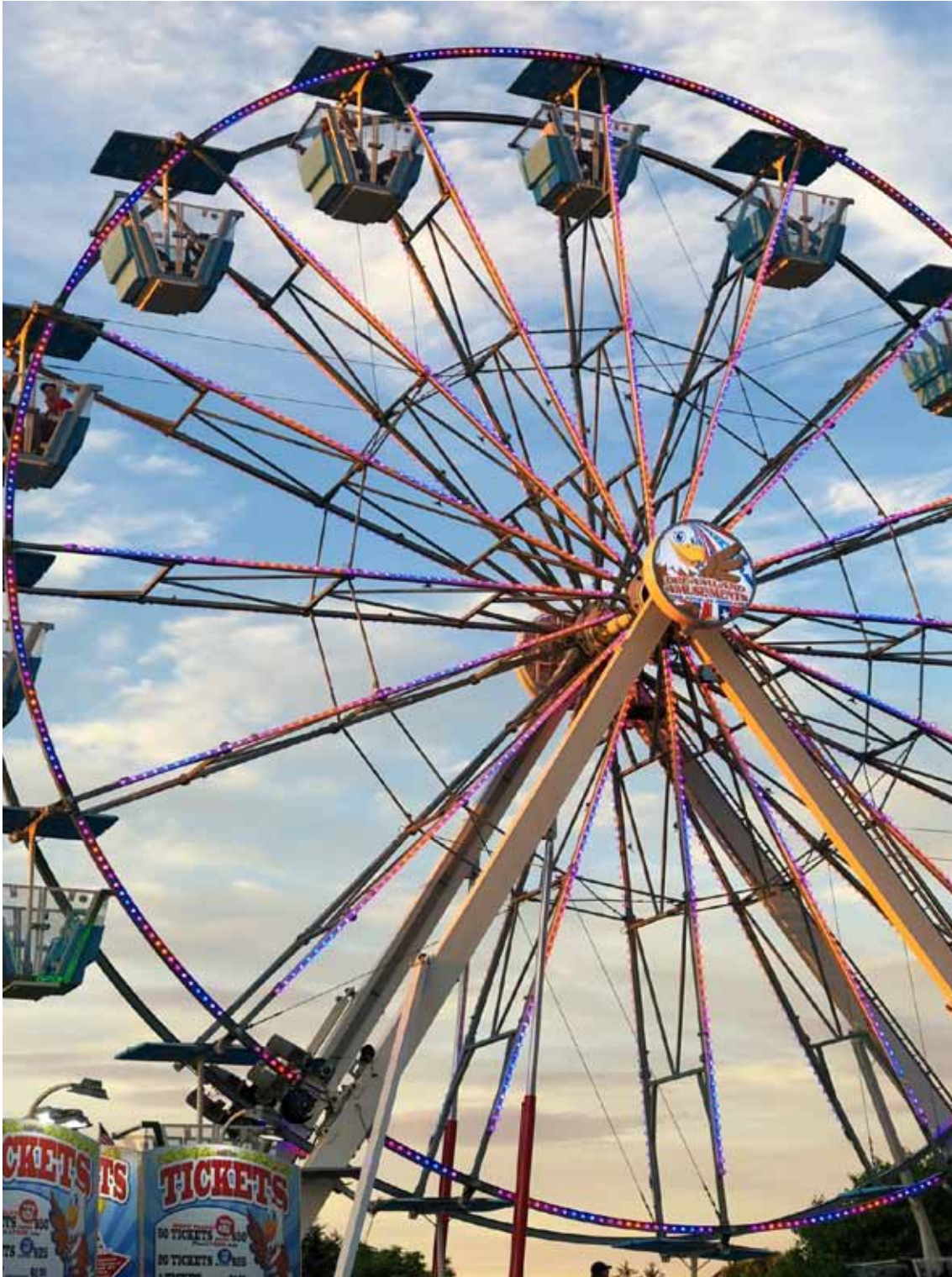
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CAUSEY ROAD - FAIR BLUFF



Dreamland Amusements will provide carnival rides, games, food booths and more at the County Fair.



HALF PRICE TICKETS

Thursday is Half Price Night

Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, has been one of the most faithful County Fair supporters through the years. The company has always sponsored half price night for everyone who attends, saving families lots of money to enjoy more at the fair.

BEMC will do the same this year, and Thursday night is Half Price Night. General admission is \$8, but the BEMC sponsorship will save everyone \$4.

BEMC and Touchstone Energy invite everyone to come out to the fair for good recreational fun for the entire family. Visit www.bemc.org for tips on saving energy, co-op news, programs and more. To see how the savings can add up, take an interactive energy efficiency tour of a manufactured or traditional home at togetherwesave.com.

HALF PRICE TICKETS

CRACKED OR BROKEN WINDSHIELD?

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Hat, pumpkin contests Tuesday

The first event of the Columbus County Agriculture Fair is the parade on Tuesday, at 3:30 p.m. but the first stage competition takes place on Tuesday night at 6 p.m. That's when kids will take their hats decorated in agricultural themes and carved and decorated pumpkins will be judged.

Hats must be delivered to the main stage by 5:30 p.m. Tuesday to be eligible to compete and they must be worn by the contestants in the competition parade. Go early, because entry forms must be filled out.

Hats must be decorated with anything and everything agriculture, from a to z. The first place hat winner will receive \$50, second place gets \$30 and the third place winner takes home \$15.

There are two divisions for the pumpkin contest, carved and decorated, and youth from any age up to 12th grade is encouraged to participate. Prizes of \$50, \$30 and \$15 will be awarded for the three best carved and best decorated pumpkins. Contestants can use any "props" they desire in creating funny or unusual faces for their pumpkins, which must be on stage by 5:30 to be eligible to compete.



Exhibits range from fancy clothing and elaborate cakes to simple things such as dried gourds, a plate of unshelled pecans, turnips, okra, branches of cotton bolls, a potted plant and there have even been prize-winning cockleburs exhibited at the fair. Everyone who wins a ribbon takes home a cash prize, so gather up those exhibits and take them to the fair. If you grow it or make it, it's eligible.



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Ferguson is missed at the Columbus County Agriculture Fair

Jimmy Ferguson was “knee deep” in the County Fair, working with other members of the fair board and offering suggestions to add new events to the fair. He was the board member who came up with the idea of having Kindergarten Day, allowing the students and their teachers to come to the fair on Tuesday morning before the crowds arrived in the afternoon. There was always a cow on the premises and the students had an opportunity to get up close and personal with the cows. Some even got to squeeze a few drops of milk from the cow.

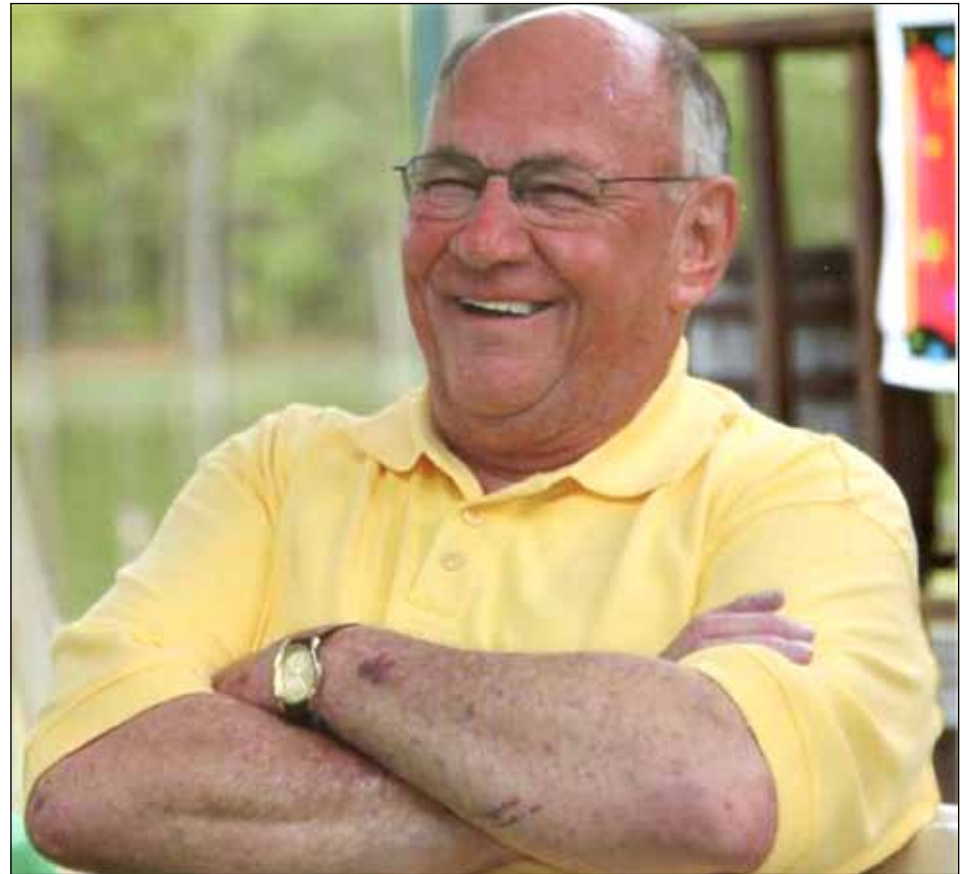
That was a special event for a lot of the students, as some had never seen a cow, much less get to milk one.

Ferguson also came up with the idea of choosing a “Pick of the Litter” baby from the Diaper Derby contestants. The choice had nothing to do with how well the babies performed on the “race track.” The Pick of the Litter was chosen on how cute they were and/or how cute their clothing and actions were.

Unfortunately, Ferguson died several years ago, and in an emotional tribute to a fallen comrade, the Fair Board dedicated the Jimmy P. Ferguson Building at its annual appreciation dinner for volunteers in 2011. Fair Board President Danny Benton said Ferguson was a mentor for him and had told him one day he would be president of the fair board.

“When Jimmy mentioned having Kindergarten Day, a lot of us thought he had lost his mind,” said Bill Gore, a fair board member. “How could you get that many children from point A to Point B, to point C and D, feed them and get them on the bus back to school in time to go home?”

But Ferguson had his way, and Kindergarten Day has worked out for years. Ferguson has not been there but his presence was felt as children played, squealed with joy on the hay rides as well as the midway rides and their eyes grow wide as they watched the “old timers” milk a cow. It was all Ferguson’s dream and he was able to live with that dream, to witness and enjoy that experience with the kids for several years.



Jimmy Ferguson



Livestock barn

The livestock barn is always popular with children and adults, especially those who did not grow up on a farm. There are usually cows, horses, chickens, turkeys, geese and other kinds of animals to entertain the crowd.



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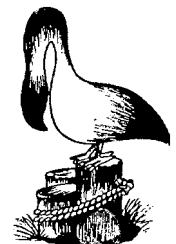
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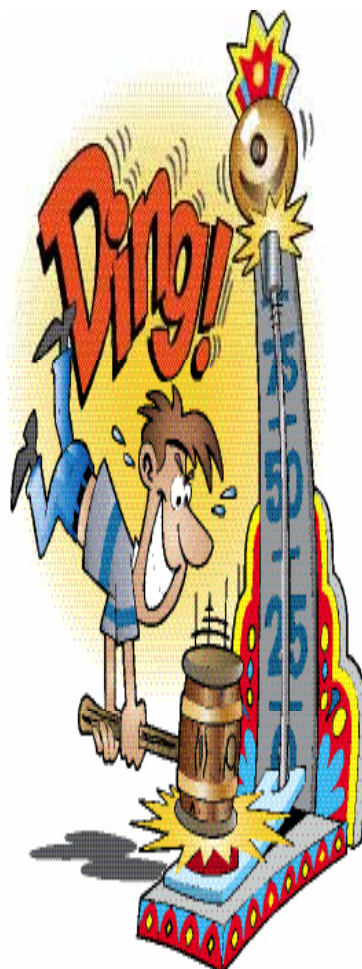
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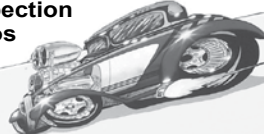
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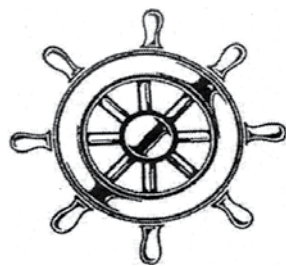


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How to enter exhibits at the Columbus County Agriculture Fair

Exhibitor's Rules and Agreement

1. Exhibitor's entries will be accepted for registration at the Exhibit Building on Friday, Oct. 11 from noon – 4 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. No other entries will be accepted after 4 p.m. Saturday. Judging will be done Monday. Cakes will be accepted Monday, Oct. 14 at 9 a.m.

2. All articles must have been prepared, made or grown by the exhibitor within the last 12 months.

3. All entries must be registered with the clerks in charge of registration at the Exhibit Building. All exhibits on display must remain in the Exhibit Building throughout the fair week. Articles may be reclaimed by the owner (ticket holder) following the Fair on Monday, Oct. 16. Any article removed from the Exhibit Building before Sunday will forfeit any cash prize awarded to said article.

4. Exhibits will not be accepted by mail or public transportation.

5. Exhibitors must see to

the proper delivery of any article or livestock on the grounds and the proper care to the latter, as no charge for transportation of drayage will be paid by the Fair.

6. All entries will be numbered and recorded in the book of entry of the proper department. Entry tags will be issued, bearing entry number and exhibit number - tag to be attached to the exhibit and the stub retained by the

exhibitor and presented on Monday when the exhibit is called for. These claim checks are your proof that you have entered all your exhibits as required. There will be one set of categories in which there may be a youth and adult entry. The designation "Y" will be added to the letter category for youth.

7. Any and all articles judged by the registrar to be obnoxious or repulsive in

character will be forbidden entry, or, if entered without being fully known, shall be removed at once.

8. The right is reserved to place an exhibit in its proper class if it has been incorrectly entered.

9. All entries should be for the first premium of the premium number, under which they are entered, but failing to take the first shall compete for the second, if second is offered, but shall not be awarded more than one premium under the same number.

10. No article or animal will be entitled to space until the proper entry has been made. Space is limited. (All entries will be accepted in order of re-

ceipt until all available space is filled. In any case all entries must be received by the date specified under each department and when all space is filled, the management reserves the right to refuse entries, even if received before the specified date.

11. The management reserves the right to withhold premiums in any case in which it shall appear to them that the regulations have not been complied with, or that fraud has been practiced and anyone wanting to enter a complaint should do so in writing, not later than noon Tuesday.

12. Should any person misrepresent his/her exhibit and a premium be awarded upon it, such premium will be withheld by the management.

13. Payment of premiums awarded: Premiums will be paid by check at the end of the fair week. All checks are void after Nov. 15. Individuals assume the responsibility of claiming their checks at the exhibit building between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday, when exhibits are picked up.



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Tents Are Ready For The Columbus County Agricultural Fair

County Fair Opens Today

By CLARA CARTRETTE

History will be made tonight when the Columbus County Agricultural Fair opens. It is the first county fair to be held in this county in over 50 years.

The fair will be held each night through Saturday on fairgrounds located on Prison

Officers Association, the fair's sponsor.

Gates will open at 5 p.m. today and a special dedication service will be held at 7:30 p.m. The fair will be dedicated to the late Troy Sigmon, wildlife protector and member of the Columbus County Law Enforcement Officers Association.

were those who thought and said that it couldn't be done this year, but the CCLEOA is a determined group. When the land deal was finally completed, it was early spring. Trees were growing on the property and it seemed an impossible task to get it

ready for a county fair production.

Long hours of labor, coupled with determination and a lot of community support have brought the first county fair in over half a century to reality.

County residents began

taking exhibits to the fair grounds Sunday for the livestock, crafts, cooking, sewing, crops, art, photography and other competitive events. Exhibits will also be accepted today, and all perishable exhibits

(Continued on Page 3)

Tents were ready for the 1980 Columbus County Agriculture Fair

By CLARA CARTRETTE

claracartrette@nrcolumbus.com

When the Columbus County Agriculture Fair opened for the first time in early October, 1980, there were no buildings on the fairgrounds. All of the exhibits, booths and planned events were under canvas tents.

Of course it rained, but even that didn't stop the fair. People came to the fairgrounds, hud-

dled under the tents and enjoyed the fair anyway. There were those who doubted that the fair would open, especially that soon, because just a few months earlier large trees were growing where the fairgrounds would eventually open.

Children and brave teenagers and adults enjoyed the midway rides, animals, entertainment and games on the midway. People were excited about the

fair. It was the first time that a county fair had been held in Columbus County in 50 years, and it's still going strong, with the 2019 opening coming on Tuesday, Oct. 15. There will be a parade through downtown Whiteville on Tuesday, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Gates to the fairgrounds will open at 5 p.m.

The two old photos show the green and white tents that held the fair in 1980.

At right: Getting ready for the 1980 Columbus County Agriculture Fair are Barry Herring, George Dudley and John Paul Lennon, left to right. They were among members of the Columbus County Law Enforcement Officers Association who worked on lighting for the fairgrounds during the weekend. Below, Probation Officer Gary Bass and State Trooper Harold Lee erect banners announcing the Oct. 6-11 event. It was the first County Fair held in Columbus County in 50 years. Fairgrounds are off Prison Camp Road across from the airport.



One Week Away

Getting ready for the Columbus County Agricultural Fair are Barry Herring, George Dudley and John Paul Lennon of the Sheriff's Dept., left to right, top. They were among members of the Columbus County Law Enforcement Officers Association who worked on lighting for the fair grounds during the weekend. Below, Probation Officer Gary Bass and State Trp. Harold Lee erect banners announcing the Oct. 6-11 event. The fair will be the first held in Columbus County in several decades and will be held on Prison Camp-Airport Road near the airport.



Diaper Derby is a popular fair event

The Columbus County Agriculture Fair has a lot of interesting and entertaining events and the Diaper Derby is one of them.

That event will be held on stage this year at 6 p.m. Wednesday, but registration is at 5:45 p.m. Entries must be between 6 and 12 months old and not walking. They must be residents of Columbus, Bladen, Robeson or Brunswick counties or Horry County, S.C. Only one adult may accompany the baby at each end of the race track and at no time can the parent or guardian enter the boundaries of the race track.

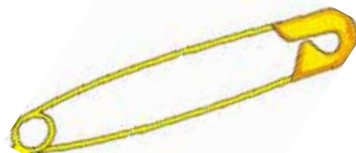
Babies will crawl the length

of the race track, a 10x20-foot carpet on the stage. If no baby has completed the race within three minutes, the baby closest to the finish line will be declared the winner. The first place winner will receive a \$65 cash award, second place will get \$35 and third place will get \$15. The 18th Annual Pick of the Litter winner will receive a first place trophy. That contestant is chosen as the winner by how cute he or she is or how entertaining they were on the race track while competing in this year's Diaper Derby. This division was an idea suggested by the late Jimmy Ferguson, who also suggested that the

board, of which he was a member, have Kindergarten Day.

Kathy Faulk, chairman of the Diaper Derby for many years, can provide additional information or entry forms. Call her at 642-4009, 910-770-4595 or forms can be obtained at the County Fair office the day of the Derby.

Diaper Derby registration is Wednesday at 5:45 p.m., Derby will begin at 6 p.m.



Diaper Derby rules

Registration for the diaper derby will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, with babies revving up at 6:30 p.m.

Following are the rules:

1. Babies must be between 6-12 months and not walking.
2. Entries must be residents of Columbus, Bladen, Robeson or Brunswick counties or Horry County, S.C.
3. Only one adult may accompany the baby at each end of the "Race Track."
4. At no time can the parent or guardian enter the boundaries of the "Race Track."
5. Babies will crawl the length of the 10x20-foot "Race Track."
6. Should there not be a winner at the end of three minutes, the baby closest to the finish line will be declared the winner.

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Art, photography contests open to ages 16 and older

1. Exhibit open to all permanent residents of Columbus County above the age of 16 years.

2. Entries are limited to (1) per division for each photographer and must have been taken in the last 24 months.

3. All photos must be framed or matted complete with an attached wire and ready for hanging.

4. Picture dimensions must not exceed 108 inches.

5. Entries will be accepted on the Saturday prior to the opening of the fair from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the Evelyn Rabon Building.

6. All work must be properly identified with an official entry blank on the back upper right corner.

7. The Columbus County Agriculture Fair will not be responsible for loss or damage to photographs, but will attempt to prevent any loss or damage that might occur.

8. The committee reserves the right to reject any entry upon their discretion. The committee's ruling is final.

9. Photos must be picked up on Monday, following the close of the fair from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Evelyn Rabon Building.

10. One (1) piece of artwork from the total show will be judged as "Best in Show" and receive an additional cash prize of \$50.

Photography Divisions

A 1 Portraits	\$20 — \$10
B 1 Pets and Animals	\$20 — \$10
C 1 Sports	\$20 — \$10
E 1 Flowers	\$20 — \$10
F 1 Special Effects	\$20 — \$10
F 1 Still Life	\$20 — \$10
F 1 Photo Collage	\$20 — \$10

1. Exhibit open to all permanent residents of Columbus County above the age of 16 years.

2. Entries are limited to (1) per division for each artist and must have been painted in the last 24 months.

3. All Artwork must be framed or matted complete with an attached wire, and ready for hanging.

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10. One (1) piece of artwork from the total show will be judged as "Best in Show" and receive an additional cash prize of \$50.

Art Divisions

A 1 Acrylics	\$35 — \$15
B 1 Water Colors.....	\$35 — \$15
C 1 Drawings.....	\$35 — \$15
E 1 Pottery, Sculpture and 3D	\$35 — \$15
F 1 Mixed Media.....	\$35 — \$15



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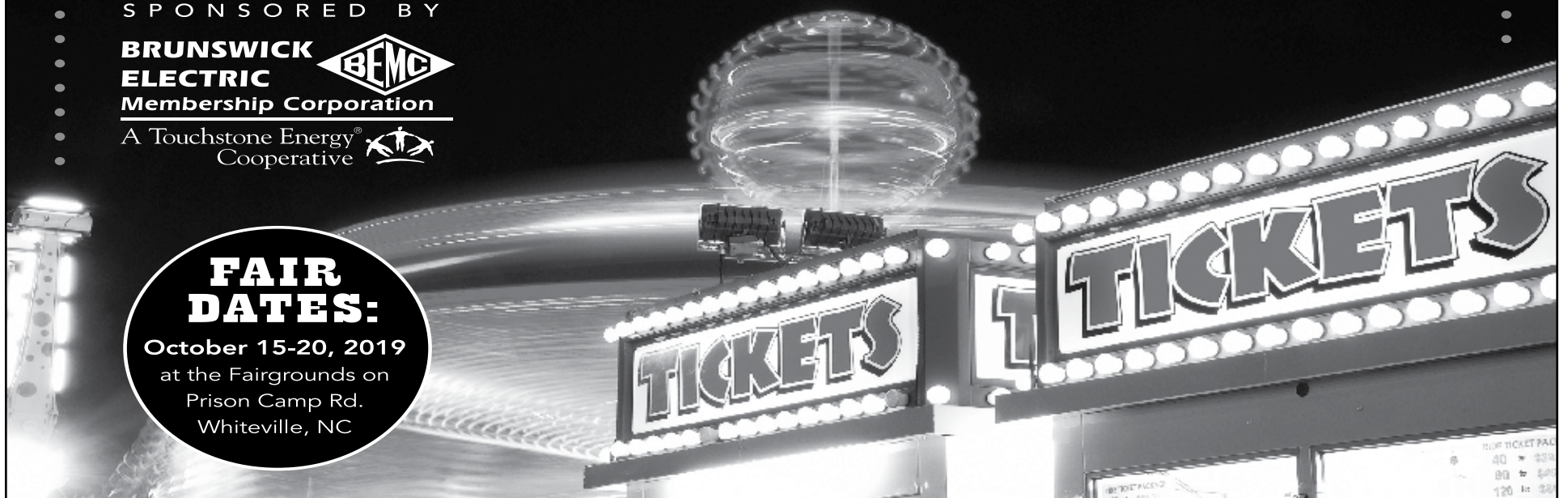
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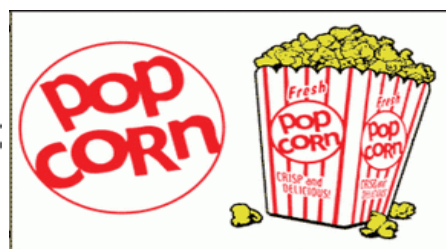
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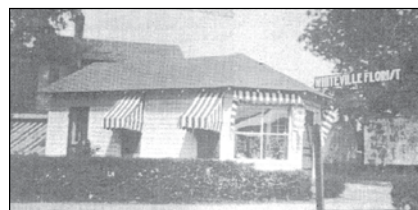
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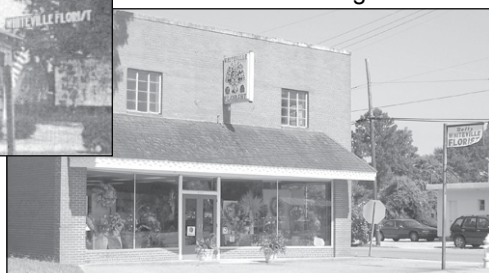
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Congratulations

Columbus County Fair Winners!

To all the contestants in this year's fair who have made, grown, preserved, sewed, decorated, exhibited, and participated, we say "Great Job!"

To all the winners in all the contests and competitions, we extend a "Special Congratulations" for your accomplishments.



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Funnel cakes are very popular at the fair.



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General information

1. The gates will open at 5 pm Tuesday through Wednesday; 3 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; and 1 p.m. Sunday

2. No automobiles or other vehicles will be allowed to service a booth, eating stands, shows or concessions after 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and after 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. No exhibitors' or workers' vehicle will be allowed inside the fair grounds after the gates open to the public. Any vehicle within the fair grounds after the opening of the gates to the public will be towed at the owner's expense.

3. All persons are requested to stay out of designated danger areas, as the fair will not be responsible for any accidents in these areas.

4. Vehicles of any type obstructing any passage or roadway on the fairgrounds shall be removed at the owner's expense. Any person or persons obstructing any passage or roadway on the fairgrounds will be asked to leave

the fairgrounds or be subject to the penalty of a misdemeanor.

5. No peddling, hawking, selling, or distributing material of any kind will be allowed except from rented space assigned by the fair manager.

6. No person will be permitted to remain on the grounds overnight, except those granted permission by the fair manager.

7. No illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages will be permitted on the fairgrounds.

8. Drunkenness, quarreling or the use of profane or obscene language will not be permitted on the grounds. The fair reserves the right to expel any objectionable person or persons from the fairgrounds.

9. Fireworks, petroleum, gunpowder or any other dangerous or objectionable material will not be allowed on the grounds without permission.

10. The Columbus County Fair Committee is not responsible for losses caused by fire or theft in the parking lot.

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Parade offers cash prizes

Cash prizes will be given for the best County Fair parade units for livestock, row crops, "other," and Best Dressed Farm Animal. Each winner will receive \$50.

Anyone who would like to participate in the parade should contact Mack Ward, P.O. Box 457, Whiteville, N.C. 28472 or email fair457@gmail.com. It will begin at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday after lining up on South Lee Street, turning left on Madison Street, proceeding through the downtown area, turning left on College Street and disassembling at Whiteville High School. This will be the fair's 31st annual parade, featuring antique and modern farm equipment, bands, beauty queens, politicians, children and adults on floats and other interesting units.



Sudan Shrine Morticians love a parade.



West Columbus High School Band 2015.



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