

39th Annual
COLUMBUS COUNTY
FAIR
October 9-14 2018



County Fair time in promises a good time for all age groups

By CLARA CARTRETTE

It's County Fair time, and the Columbus County Agriculture Fair will open Tuesday, Oct. 9 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 only \$2. 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 Bob Bohm Magic, comedy, Farmily Feud, Anastasini, Flimsey the Clown, Disney Princess and local entertainment.

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. Farmily Feud will be held on Stage 2 at 5 p.m.

The exciting Children's Tractor Pull will be held on Stage 1 at 5:15 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 at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Spelling bees for grades 6, 7 and 8 will begin at 6:45 p.m. and the local Honey Don't Band will perform on Stage 1 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. Dancing with a Princess will take place on Stage 2 at 5 p.m., Shades of Gray at 6 p.m., Flimsey the Clown at 6:45 p.m. and Shades of Gray again at 7 p.m.

The famous beach music Band of Oz will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, and nightly entertainment will continue, including Dreamland Amusements on the midway, Bob Bohm Magic, comedy, Farmily Feud, Anastasini, Flimsey the Clown, Disney Princess and local entertainment finishing out the evening.

Friday

Gates open Friday at 3 p.m. with entertainment on Stage 1 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. when the local talent competition for Division 1 will be held for ages 6 and younger, and ages 7 to 12 for Division 2. Entertain-



ment to be announced will be held on Stage 1 at 8:30 p.m. and will close out with nightly entertainment including Dreamland Amusements, Bob Bohm Magic, comedy, Farmily Feud, Anastasini, Flimsey the Clown, Disney Princess and local entertainment.

Saturday

Gates open Saturday at 3 p.m. The children's tractor pull registration will be held on Stage 1 at 3 p.m., with the tractor pull to follow. A Columbus County Schools performing arts program will be held on Stage 2 at 3:30 p.m. and children's arts and crafts

will be displayed in the Evelyn Rabon Exhibit Hall. Flimsey the Clown will perform on Stage 1 at 4 p.m. and at 8:15 p.m. The talent competition will continue on Stage 1 at 5:30 p.m. for ages 13-15 and ages 16 and older.

Southern Just Us will perform on Stage 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Flimsy the Clown will take the stage at 8:15 p.m. 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 \$30, including armbands. Gates open at 1 p.m.

On tap for Sunday afternoon entertainment are the finals of the children's tractor pull at 1:45 p.m., the talent competition finals at 2:30 p.m., Shades of Gray at 4 p.m., Flimsey the Clown at 4:45 p.m. and Shades of Gray at 5 p.m., all on Stage 1. Entertainment at 6:45 p.m. will be announced later.



Friends meet friends at the County Fair.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

3:30 p.m. Parade- Downtown Whiteville
 5 p.m. Gates Open
 5 p.m. Old McDonald's Farm
 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)
 8:30 p.m. The Dockers
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Elsa and Anna "Frozen" characters
 Nightly Anastasini
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Wednesday, Oct. 10 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
 5 p.m. Old McDonald's Farm
 5:15 p.m. Registration for Tractor Pull
 5:30 p.m. Tractor Pull
 5:45 p.m. Registration for Diaper Derby
 6:30 p.m. Diaper Derby
 6:45 p.m. Spelling Bee (Grades six, seven and eight)
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Elsa and Anna "Frozen" characters
 Nightly Anastasini
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Stage Schedule**Thursday, Oct. 11 1/2 Price Night**

3 p.m. Gates Open
 5 Dancing with Queen Elsa & Princess Anna
 6 & 7 p.m. Shades of Grey
 7:30 Band of Oz
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Elsa and Anna "Frozen" characters
 Nightly Anastasini
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Friday, Oct. 12

3 p.m. Gates Open
 5:30 p.m. Nadine & Stevie
 5:45 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull Registration
 6 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull
 6:30 p.m. Nadine & Stevie
 7 p.m. Demolition Derby
 7 p.m. Local Talent Competition
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Elsa and Anna "Frozen" characters
 Nightly Anastasini
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Saturday, Oct. 13

3 p.m. Gates Open
 3 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull Registration

3:30 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull
 3:30 p.m. Children's Arts and Crafts
 3:30 p.m. Columbus County Schools
 Performing Arts

4 p.m. Flimsy the Clown
 5:30 p.m. Talent Competition
 7 p.m. Demolition Derby
 7:30 p.m. Southern Just Us
 8:15 p.m. Flimsy the Clown
 8:30 p.m. Southern Just Us
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Anastasini
 Nightly Elsa and Anna "Frozen" characters
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Sunday, Oct. 14

1 p.m. Gates Open
 1:45 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull Registration
 2 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull
 3 p.m. Talent Competition Finals
 4 p.m. Shades of Grey
 4:45 p.m. Flimsy the Clown
 5 p.m. Shades of Grey
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Elsa and Anna "Frozen" characters
 Nightly Anastasini
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

County Fair Parade Marshal is Rhonda Thompson

When it comes to the Evelyn Rabon Arts and Crafts building of the Columbus County Agriculture Fair, there is a dedicated group of individuals who work tirelessly to make sure that all entries are treated like a blue ribbon winner. One of those dedicated volunteers who has helped organize, catalogue and arrange these entries is Rhonda Gail Thompson.

As the saying goes, "once you get sawdust in your shoes, you're hooked!" Rhonda Gail has been around the Columbus County Agriculture Fair since the beginning. Her grandfather, Calton Thompson, was one of the founding board members. For several years the Arts and Crafts entries were under the supervision of Evelyn Rabon, for

**Rhonda Gail Thompson**

whom the building is named. After Rabon's departure from her duties, Rhonda decided to continue the family tradition of service to the fair. Since 1996, Rhonda has supervised the Arts and Crafts entries. On average, the Columbus County Agriculture Fair Arts and Crafts division is responsible for more than 2,500 entries. Without

Rhonda Gail and the rest of the volunteers, the Arts and Crafts division would not be a success. Rhonda gives credit to all of the many volunteers who have helped her over the years including her fiancée, Michael Gore, parents Ronald and Brenda Thompson, Aunt Michelle Simmons and cousin Michelle Higgins. Rhonda was born and reared in the Whiteville area. She graduated from Whiteville High School in 1988 and obtained her Nursing Degree from Southeastern Community College in 1991. She has been employed with Columbus Regional Healthcare, Liberty Home Care and Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear. She is currently employed as a case manager for Liberty Home Care.

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39th annual County Fair slated Oct. 9-14

By CLARA CARTRETTE

The 31st annual Columbus County Agriculture Fair will open Tuesday, Oct. 9 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.

Rhonda Thompson, the young lady who checks in hundreds and maybe thousands of exhibits that are displayed in the Evelyn Rabon Exhibit Hall each year, has been selected as the 2018 parade grand marshal.

This will be the County Fair's 31st annual parade, the first held in 1988 with

N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture 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 ci-

gar 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.

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.



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

Have A Great Time At The 39th Columbus County Fair



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County Commissioner District 7

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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
Flinsey the Clown
Pumpkin and Hat Contest
The Magic of Bob Bohm
Anastasini

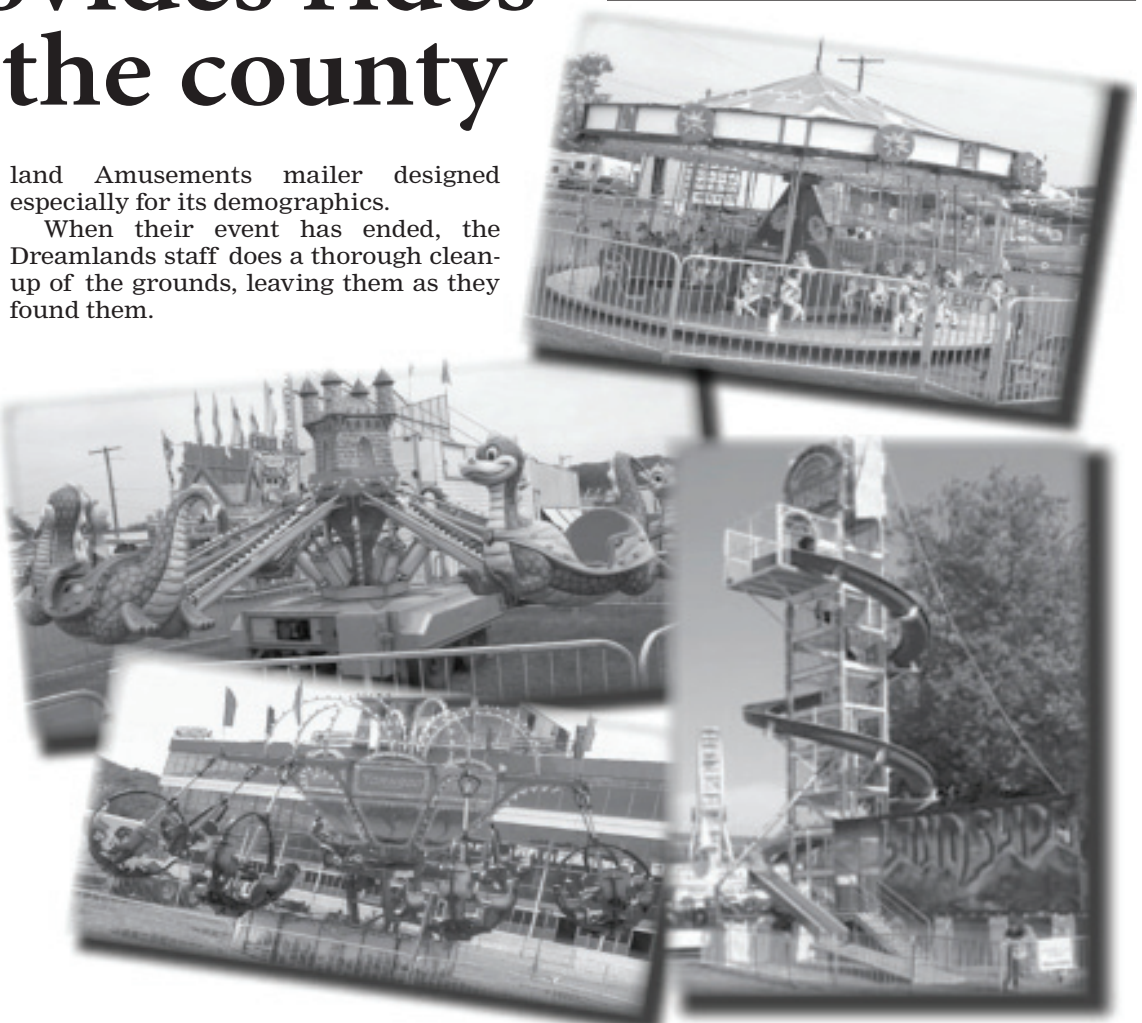
Dreamland provides rides that winter in the county

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 Mr. Law Enforcement, William Sibbett

The Columbus County Agriculture Fair board has dedicated its 2018 fair book to William Sibbett, who recently retired after working with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office for 45 years.

Co-workers described him as Mr. Law Enforcement, stating that he probably knew more about the workings of the Sheriff's Office than anyone. He began working at what was then the County Police Department in 1973 through the CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act), a federal program started in 1973 to train workers in public service. With service under Chief Jesse Barker of the County Police, he has worked under seven sheriffs — Clayton Norton, Bill Rhodes, Henry Rowan, Harold Raines, Jimmy Ferguson, Chris Batten and current

Sheriff Lewis Hatcher.

William contracted polio when he was six months old. He was scheduled for a polio vaccine on a Monday, and came down with the malady that affected so many of his generation during the previous weekend. However, he adjusted to this adverse condition and it never interfered with his ability to work hard, always with a pleasant demeanor. He not only adapted to the condition that required him to use crutches, but he excelled and was the "go to" man when his co-workers needed an answer to their questions.

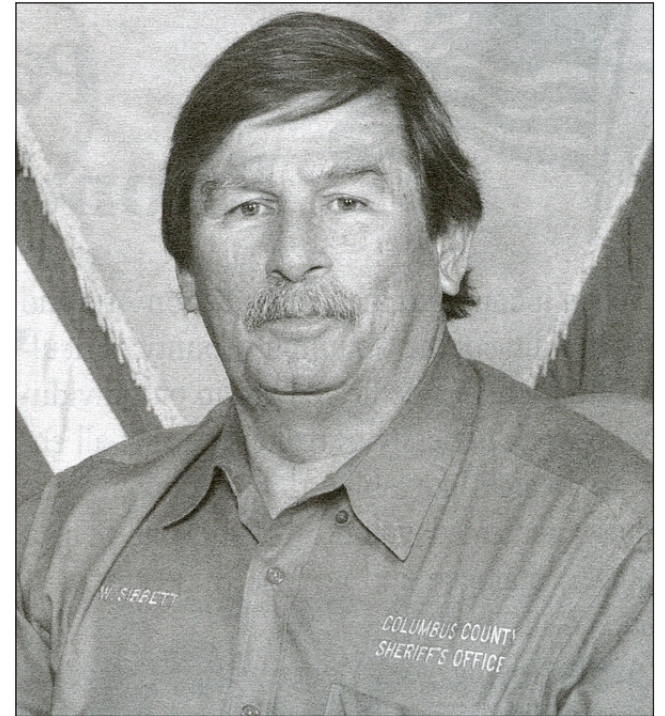
"I always loved my job and I enjoyed meeting and helping people and discussing papers with the officers," he said. "I've never let my handicap slow me down."

William has played a big role

in the County Fair, always part of a team of dedicated volunteers who tirelessly to help assure that the County Fair was going to be a success. He has greeted generations of families at the ticket booth with a hello and a smile.

William is the proud husband of wife Tina and their three children, Bonnie Jean, Jason and Shawn. They reside in the Sellerstown community where he is enjoying retirement in his wood-working shop and traveling.

"We can think of no one more worthy than this outstanding public servant who has dedicated his life not only to the Columbus County Agriculture Fair but also to the citizens of Columbus County," the County Fair Board said of their dedication to Sibbett.



William Sibbett

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Flimsey, always a County Fair favorite.

Flimsey Clown is coming back!

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.

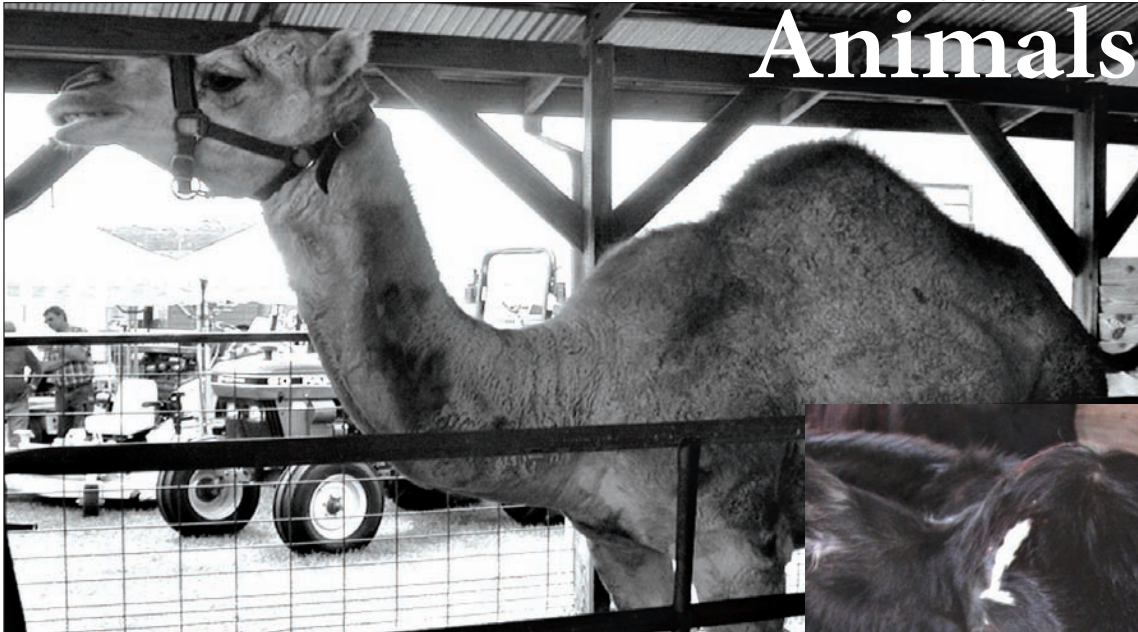
If you haven't met Flimsey, introduce yourself.



Flimsey on Special Friends Day at the fair.



Animals



You just never know who you'll see at the County Fair!



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Rabbits



Cows



Horses



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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 im-

Continued on page 12

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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 role 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)

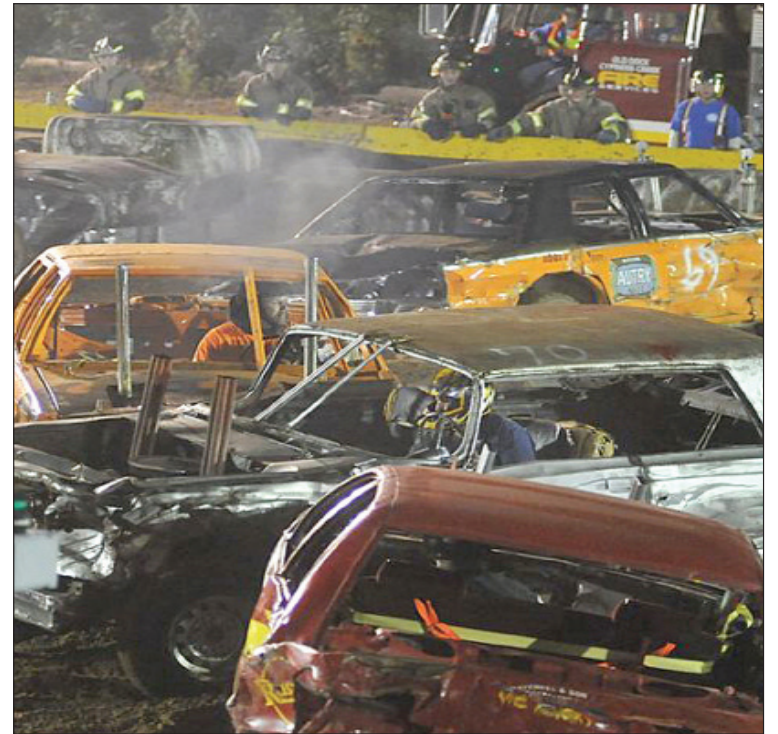
Info@columbuscountyfair.com or Columbus County Agricultural Fair Inc. at 642-7585.

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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Thursday, October 11

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FAIR DATES: OCT. 9 - 14, 2018

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HONEY DON'T BAND

PERFORMING

WEDNESDAY

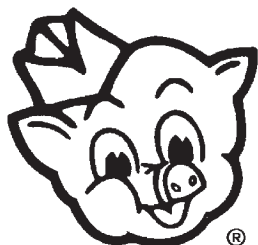
NIGHT 8:30



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

Riegelwood
Shopping Center

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

Board members decided last year 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 \$30 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 the same this year: only \$30 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.

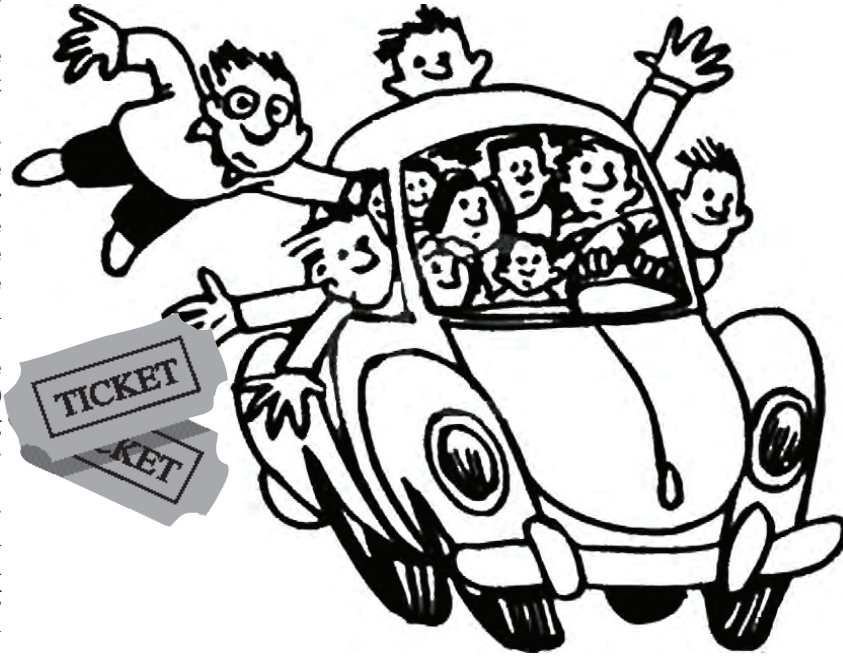
It will be several hours of good entertainment on the

cheap.

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

and bands.

Scheduled throughout the afternoon are Flimsey the Clown, Anastasini and local entertainment.



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Band of Oz performs
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• DELCO: Hwy. 74-76 • LAKE WACCAMAW: Old Hwy. 74, across from post office
• CHADBURN: 101 Strawberry Blvd.





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

DONUTS . . . AND MORE!

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS - \$6.50 + Tax (Includes Bread & Tea)

Tues: Pork Chops, Cabbage or Peas, Mac & Cheese

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

Sm \$4.00 Lg \$5.00

Served with Crackers or Cornbread

Tues: Potato Chowder or Veg. Beef

Wed: Broccoli & Cheese or Veg. Beef

Thurs: Seafood Chowder or Veg. Beef

Fri: Ham & Lima Bean or Veg. Beef

BREAKFAST PLATES

Bacon **\$6.00**

Fresh, Smoked or Linked Turkey Sausage,
Turkey Bacon, Breakfast Ham, Grilled Turkey
Liver Pudding or Corn Beef Hash..... **\$6.00**

Philly Steak **\$7.00**

Includes 2 eggs, grits or hash browns & toast

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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.



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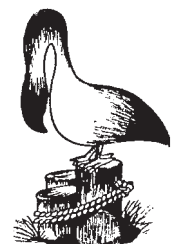


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Hat, pumpkin contests Tuesday

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. 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 \$10.

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 \$25, \$15 and \$10 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 cockleburrs 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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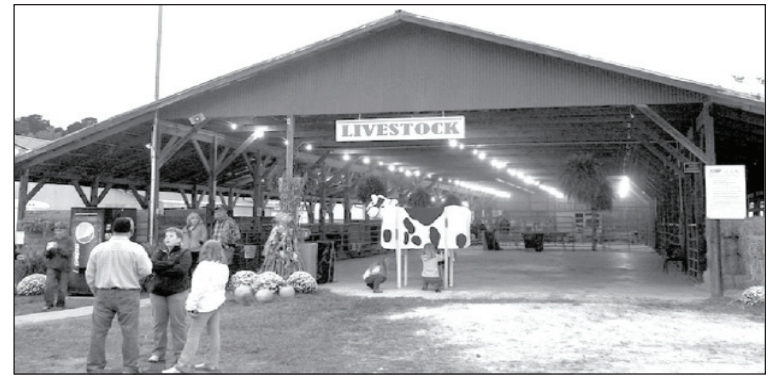
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Have a great time at the fair!

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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 a few 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

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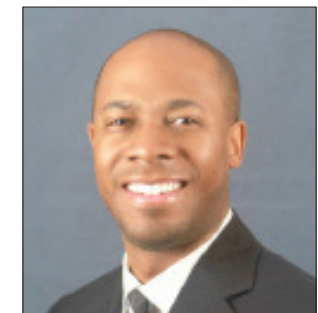
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Shades of Gray will perform at County Fair

The Shades of Gray band will perform on stage at the County Fair Thursday night at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., playing "Just Good Ole Rock 'N Roll."

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"What A Great Show! Shades of Gray was our most popular band during our sum-

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"They have the professionalism, talent and charisma to captivate an audience." — Duncanville Chamber of Commerce



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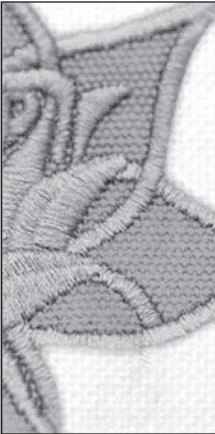
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How to enter exhibits at the Columbus County Agriculture Fair

Exhibitor's Rules and Agreement

1. Exhibitor's entries will be accepted for registration at the Exhibit Building on Friday, Oct. 6 from noon – 4 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 7 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. 10 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 2018 opening coming on Tuesday, Oct. 9. 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 5:30 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.

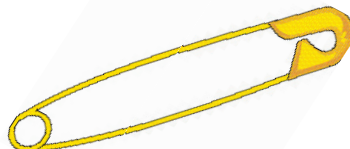
Babies will crawl the length

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 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
F 1 Scenic	\$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.

4. Picture dimensions must not exceed 108 inches.

5. Entries will be accepted



on Saturday, prior to opening of the fair, from 1–5 p.m. at the Evelyn Rabon Building.

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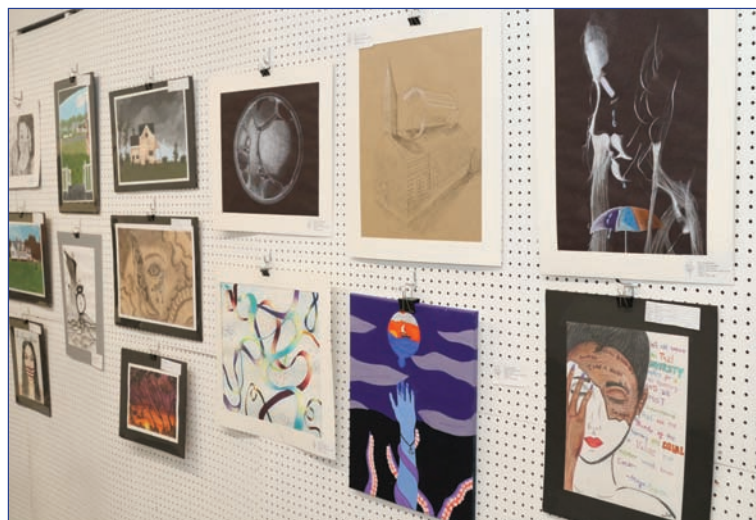
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9. Artwork must be picked up on Monday, following the close of the fair from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Evelyn Rabon Building.

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.

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



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What is it?

How many people know what that object leaning against the wall at the left is? Not too many, unless you're an old timer and grew up on the farm.

It's a homemade straw broom, made of straw gathered from ditch banks or other places on the farm, and it won a blue ribbon and cash prize at an earlier County Fair.

This homemade broom probably brings back memories of yesteryear for many seniors, as it was a necessary item to help keep the floors cleared of tracked-in dirt and other debris that found its way to the floor.

Items such as the homemade straw broom are often seen at the County Fair, rekindling memories of years gone by for the older generations and teaching younger people what it was like in the old days.



The County Fair revives memories of yesteryear when people exhibit such things as a cornshuck mop, above. Grandparents should explain the old-timey items to their grandchildren.



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This vintage tractor makes an interesting decoration for the Columbus County Fairgrounds.



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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.



Get your picture taken with Elsa or Anna. Appearing nightly.



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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.



Enter to win!

Series 3 GPS & Cellular Apple Watch

Learn how to Support Local Education on the ballot this November!



Stop by the **1/4 of a Cent Sales Tax Booth** located in the Indoor Arena and enter to win a Series 3 GPS & Cellular Apple Watch!

Only one winner will be selected. Winner will be randomly selected the last evening of the fair. Winner will be contacted using information provided on entry form and will be notified by Friday, October 19, 2018. Winner does not have to be present to win.













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