

38th Annual
COLUMBUS COUNTY
FAIR
October 10-15 2017



38th County Fair starts Tuesday

By **CLARA CARTRETTE**
News Editor

The Columbus County Agriculture Fair will kick off Tuesday, Oct. 10 with a 3:30 p.m. parade through downtown Whiteville. Fairgrounds will open to the public at 5 p.m. and Old MacDonald's Farm in the livestock building will be open.

Stage events get underway at 6 p.m. with the hat and pumpkin contests and the Columbus County Sheriff's Office Honor Guards will conduct a flag-raising ceremony at 6:25 p.m. A spelling bee for grades 3, 4 and 5 will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Outstanding entertainers are lined up to entertain nightly, some on stage and some on the midway. They include The Magic of Bob Bohm, Stardust Circus, Flimsy the Clown and lots of local entertainment.

Tuesday Parade

This will be the 38th year of the County Fair, but the 30th annual County Fair Parade. The parade officially opens the fair to the public. There will be a variety of farm and fair related units in addition to the traditional school, civic and political units, queens and princesses, tractors, unusual vehicles and much more at 3:30 p.m.

Units will be judged and the County Fair will pay \$50 for the first place units in four categories: best livestock unit, best row crop unit, best "other" unit and best dressed farm animal.

Gates open at the fairgrounds on Prison Camp Road at 5 p.m. A bounty of entertainment is planned throughout the week. Dreamland Amusements will provide carnival attractions and thrilling rides on the midway each night and Flimsy the Clown, who has been entertaining at the Columbus County Fair for many years, will be back to perform nightly, on stage and on the midway.

Three exhibit halls will have a variety of interesting and educational booths and a grand display of exhibits ranging from art and photography to canned goods, sewing, crafts and many other interesting displays.

Wednesday

Wednesday will be Special Friends Day for groups of mentally and physically challenged. They will have lunch and refreshments, ride some of the midway rides and enjoy Flimsy the Clown and other stage entertainment at 11 a.m.

Senior Day activities, including games and performances, will be held on the main stage beginning at 1 p.m.

Gates open to the public at 5 p.m. There will be Old McDonald's Farm at 5 p.m. Registration for the Tractor Pull at 5:15 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tractor Pull, Registration for the Diaper Derby at 6:30 p.m., and Diaper Derby at 6:30 p.m., A spelling bee for grades 6, 7 and 8 will begin at 7 p.m.

Entertainment nightly, some on stage and some on the midway, include The Magic of Bob Bohm, Stardust Circus, Flimsy the Clown and lots of local entertainment.



Half Price Thursday

Thursday is Half Price Night, with a \$4 gate admission and \$14 armbands sponsored by Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation. Gates open at 3 p.m. Registration for the children's tractor pull is at 6:15 p.m. and the children's tractor pull begins at 6:30 p.m. Chris Nash will perform at 7 and 9 p.m. and Elwud and The Gang will perform.

Entertainment nightly, some on stage and some on the midway, include The Magic of Bob Bohm, Stardust Circus, Flimsy the Clown and lots of local entertainment.

Friday

Gates open at 3 p.m. Friday, Old MacDonald's Farm will open at 5 p.m. Registration for the children's tractor pull will be 5:45 p.m. and the children's tractor pull begins at 6 p.m.

The Demolition Derby gets underway on the track at 7 p.m., with an additional charge to attend. A talent contest will be held at 8 p.m. and the Honey Don't Band will perform.

Entertainment nightly, some on stage and some on the



midway, include The Magic of Bob Bohm, Stardust Circus, Flimsy the Clown and lots of local entertainment.

Saturday

Gates open at 3 p.m. Saturday and the Children's Arts and Crafts in the Evelyn Rabon building will be at 3:30 p.m. Old McDonald's Farm at 4 p.m., Amy's Dance Academy (Stage 1) at 4:30 p.m., school chorus (Stage 2) at 4:30 p.m., the children's tractor pull registration at 5 p.m. with the tractor pull at 5:45 p.m. and the Demolition Derby will be held on the track at 7 p.m.

A talent Contest will begin at 8 p.m. The Blackwater Rhythm and Blues Band will perform.

Entertainment nightly, some on stage and some on the midway, include The Magic of Bob Bohm, Stardust Circus, Flimsy the Clown and lots of local entertainment.

Carload Sunday

A Sunday special will be \$30 Carload, with everyone in the car allowed to enter for \$30, and each driver will receive a number representing the number of people in their vehicle. At the gate, each per-

son in this group will receive Entrance and a Ride Band.

Gates open at 1 p.m. and the children's tractor pull finals will begin at 2 p.m. and the talent competition finals will begin at 3 p.m.

That closes out the stage performances but midway rides, games, food vendors and exhibit halls will remain open for a longer period of time.

Entertainment nightly, some on stage and some on the midway, include The Magic of Bob Bohm, Stardust Circus, Flimsy the Clown and lots of local entertainment.



Friends meet friends at the County Fair.

Tuesday, Oct. 10

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)
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Stardust Circus
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Wednesday, Oct. 11 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
 6 p.m. Tractor Pull
 6 p.m. Spelling Bee (Grades six, seven and eight)
 6:30 p.m. Registration for Diaper Derby
 6:30 p.m. Diaper Derby
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements

Stage Schedule

Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Stardust Circus
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Thursday, Oct. 12 1/2 Price Night

3 p.m. Gates Open
 5 p.m. Old McDonald's Farm
 6:15 p.m. Registration for Children's Tractor Pull
 6:30 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull
 7 & 9 p.m. Chris Nash
 9 p.m. Elwud and the Gang
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Stardust Circus
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Friday, Oct. 13

3 p.m. Gates Open
 5 p.m. Old McDonald's Farm
 6 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull
 7 p.m. Demolition Derby
 8 p.m. Talent Contest
 9 p.m. Honey Don't Band
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Stardust Circus
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Saturday, Oct. 14

3 p.m. Gates Open
 3:30 p.m. Children's Arts and Crafts
 4 p.m. Old McDonald's Farm
 4:30 p.m. Amy's Dance Academy
 4:30 School Chorus
 5 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull
 7 p.m. Demolition Derby
 7 & 9 p.m. Blackwater Rhythm and Blues
 8 p.m. Talent Contest
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Stardust Circus
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

Sunday, Oct. 15

1 p.m. Gates Open
 2 p.m. Children's Tractor Pull
 3 p.m. Talent Competition Finals
 Nightly Dreamland Amusements
 Nightly The Magic of Bob Bohm
 Nightly Stardust Circus
 Nightly Flimsey the Clown
 Nightly Local Entertainment

County Fair Parade Marshal is Col. Gary Bass

By CLARA CARTRETTE
 News Editor

The 38th production of the Columbus County Agriculture Fair kicks off Tuesday with the fair's 30th annual parade. It will begin at 3:30 p.m. 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.

Fairground gates open at 5 p.m. and at 6:25 p.m. a flag ceremony on the fairgrounds will be conducted by Columbus County Sheriff's Office Honor Guards to officially open the fair.

One of the fair's own, Col. Gary Bass, has been chosen as parade marshal. He was on board with the fair from the very beginning, when the fairgrounds were still woods with big trees growing on it. The Columbus County Law Enforcement Officers Association had



Col. Gary Bass

talked about taking on a community project and State Trooper Harold Lee came up with the idea of having a fair. Having lived in Robeson County, he had been involved in the fair in that county and thought it would be a good project.

Ironically, that was the 50th anniversary of Columbus County's last County Fair. As the officers looked over the woods in March and talked about having the fair

in August, one naysayer – me – noted that it might take another year to pull that off.

That's when Chief Deputy Stuart Sasser crawled up on a large piece of heavy equipment and started clearing new ground. Come August, there was a fair going on and in spite of rainy weather, attendance was good. There were no solid buildings on the grounds but there were giant tents that sheltered everything that needed cover, and a pretty good crowd attended.

The land that Sasser made sure got cleared in time was near the Department of Transportation on Prison Camp Road and it belonged to the state. Stuart's brother Rhone Sasser was a close friend of Gov. Jim Hunt, as they had attended N.C. State University together, so Rhone was able to help work out a deal with the governor to transfer the land to Columbus County.

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38th annual County Fair opens Tuesday

By **CLARA CARTRETTE**
News Editor

The 38th annual Columbus County Fair will be held Tuesday through Sunday, Oct. 10-15 at the fairgrounds on Prison Camp Road south of Whiteville.

The first Columbus County Fair to be held in 50 years was held in 1980, an effort of the Columbus County Law Enforcement Association. Land owned by the state became available through the efforts of local bank executive Rhone Sasser and Gov. Jim Hunt, who became friends while attending N.C. State University. It was property at the N.C. Department of Transportation office on Prison Camp Road that was not being used, so an effort to acquire it to be used as fairgrounds was successful.

Shortly into 1980, members of the Law Enforcement Association gathered on the wooded property to talk about the pending County Fair. The plans were to have the fair in

early fall, but a reporter who was there to write about the plans looked at trees larger than the trunks of the largest men there and declared "no way will it happen that soon!"

But it happened, thanks to a lot of land clearing, determination and hard work.

That was an exciting time for Columbus County. All of the events were held under large circus-type tents for a few years until permanent structures could be built.

The fair continued to improve and grow, offering more exciting events as time

went on. The fair had its first parade in 1988, which added an exciting new layer to the already successful fair.

Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham was invited to serve as the grand marshal for the fair's first parade, and he accepted. His choice "vehicle" was a farm wagon pulled by a mule team, which Sam "Mule Man" Claridy provided and was supposed to chauffeur the commissioner. However, Commissioner Graham would have none of

that. He took the reins and told Claridy to wave to the spectators while he drove the mule team.

Years later Commissioner Graham was still bragging about keeping that wagon tongue straight on the centerline of the streets in downtown Whiteville.

Graham and Claridy are both now deceased.

It was one of the best years for the fair, according to state competition. It won first place in its category.



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

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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.



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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.

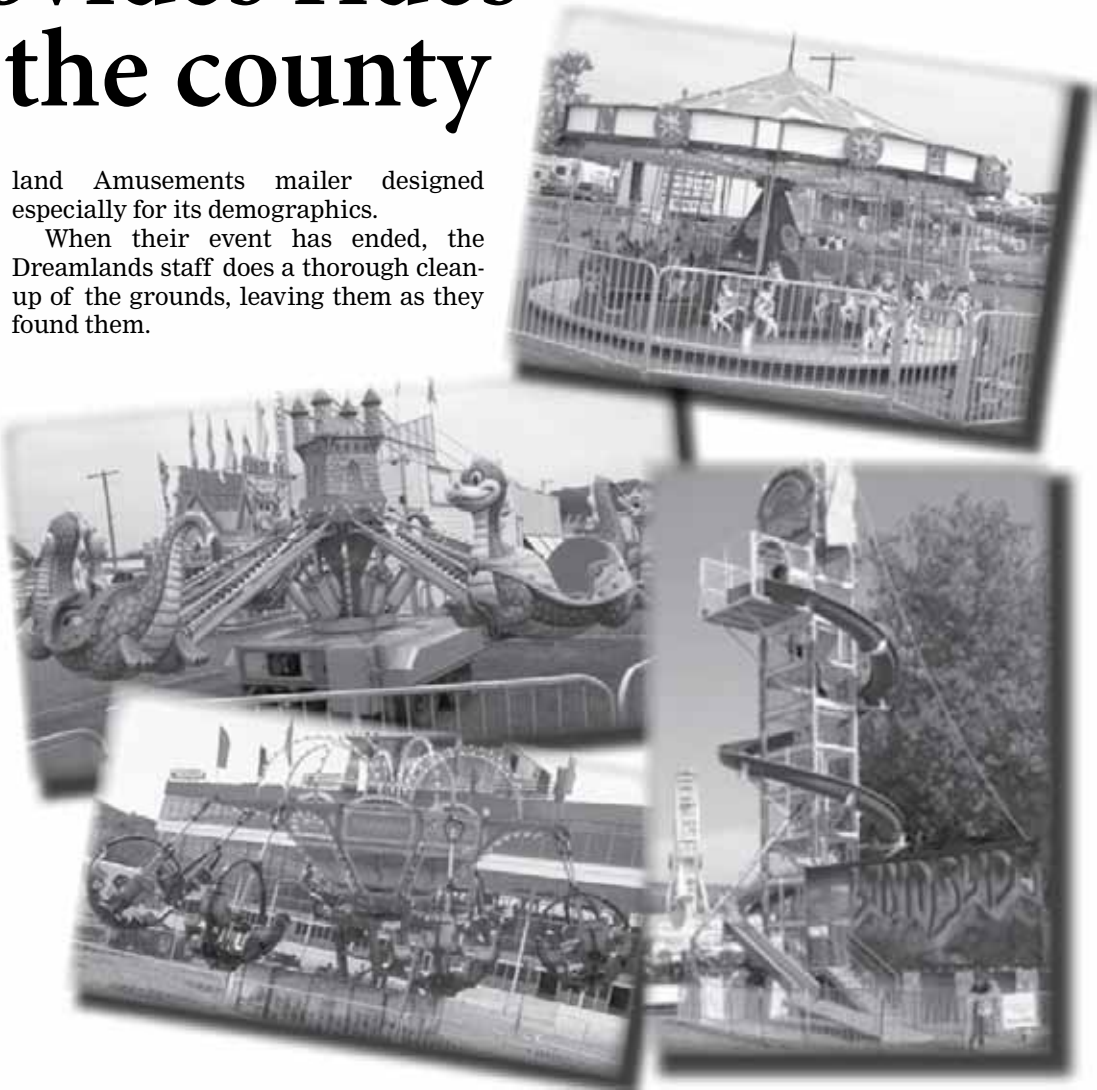
The rides then go on the road, traveling from New Hampshire to Miami, Fla., supplying rides, games and food stands for county and state fairs and also playing concert dates. The equipment has been featured in TV ads, at many private parties, corporate rentals and concert dates. The company supplies silent 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 trailer 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.

Events and entertainment to expect when the fair is open:

Old McDonald's Farm
Children's Tractor Pull
Flinsey the Clown
Pumpkin and Hat Contest
The Magic of Bob Bohm
Stardust Circus



County Fair Talent Contest

The Columbus County Fair will have a variety/talent contest on stage, with the finalists performing Sunday afternoon to determine the winner.

Pre-contest performances will be held Friday at 7 p.m. for ages 6 years and younger

(Division 3) and ages 16 and older (Division 4). Contestants should check in with Elaine Honeycutt, the talent show chairman, 30 minutes prior to performance time.

Accompaniment music must be on a CD-R if burned from a computer. Contestants

erone pass. Ages 16 and older get one individual pass only.

Performances will be held on stage. When contestants are given their passes at the gate, the stage will be to the left.

The top two scores for each division will be announced on Friday and Saturday nights. Those with top scores should return on Sunday at 3 p.m. prepared for two performances.

Overall winners will be announced Sunday. Check in with Elaine Honeycutt immediately after

entering.

If a contestant's name is called and he/she is not there, he/she will automatically be eliminated.

There is a three-minute limit on performances. Judges

will be timing and scores could be affected. Should any performance contain vulgarity, profanity or sexual related content, sound will be turned off and the contestant will be asked to leave the stage.



(Division 1) and ages 7-12 (Division 2). Pre-contest performances will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. for ages 13-15

names will be on a list inside the single gate to the right of the ticket booth. Contestants ages 15 and younger get a chap-



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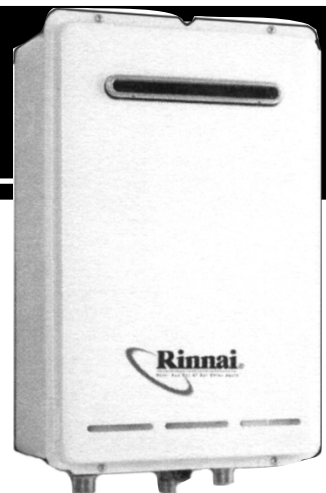
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Flimsey on Special Friends Day at the fair.



Flimsy, 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.



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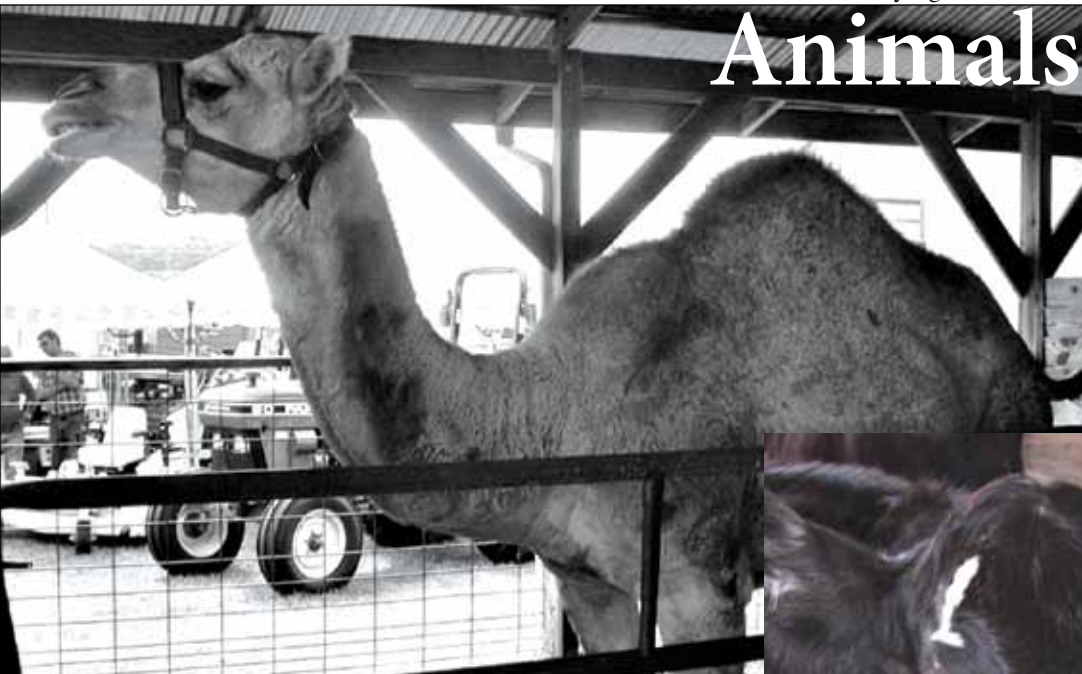
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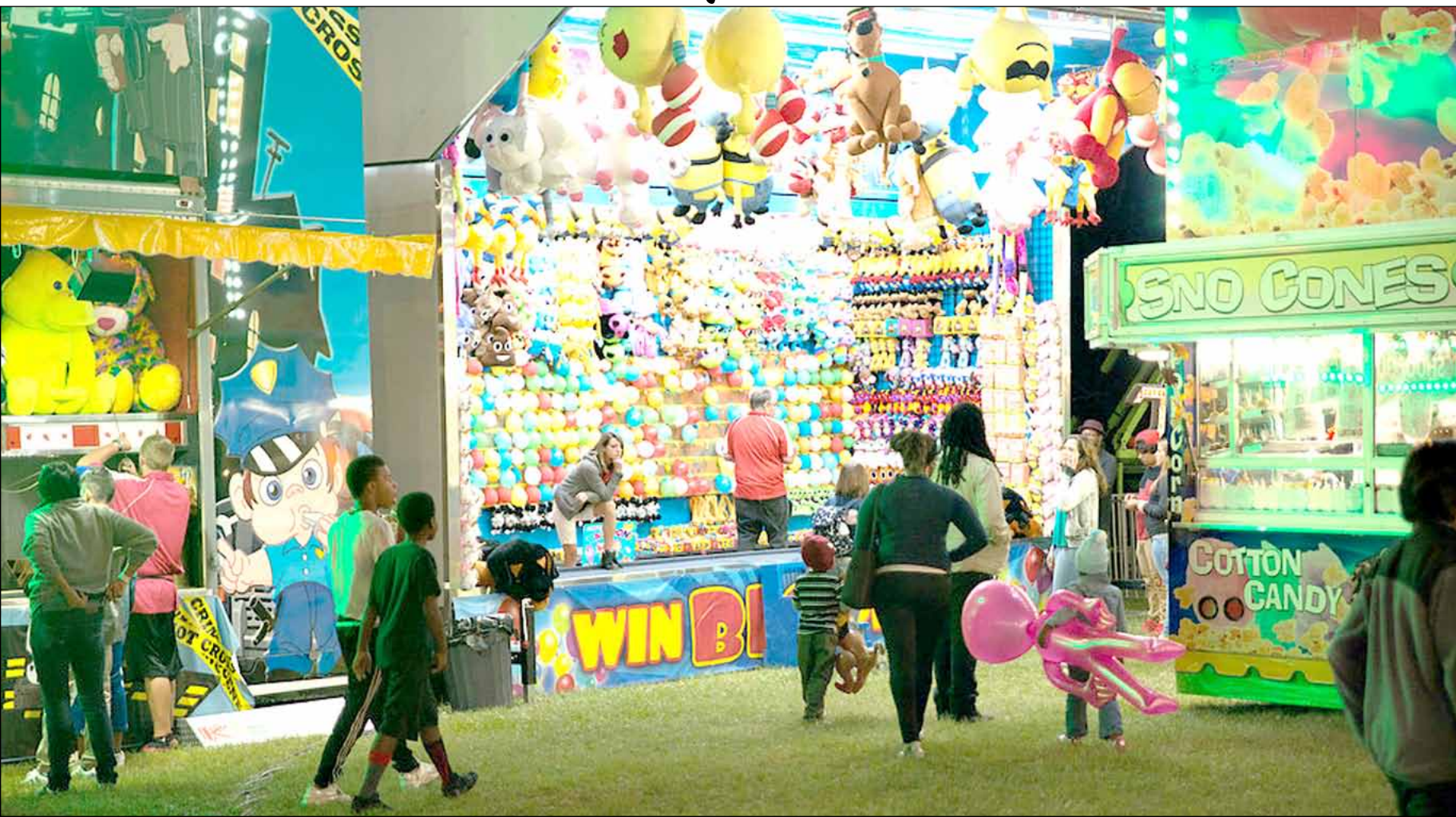
Midway Thrills



Midway Rides



Midway Games



Demo derby Friday, 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



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

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 imme-

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

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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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County Fair Book is dedicated to Jim Hill

The 2017 Columbus County Agriculture Fair book is dedicated to James Earl (Jim) Hill, Jr., a Whiteville attorney who has been a staunch supporter of the fair since its inception in 1980. The recognition was announced at the County Fair Appreciation Dinner Tuesday, Sept. 26 on the fairgrounds for people who are involved in planning and carrying out the fair each

his law career, first with Bob Burns and later opened his own practice.

Jim was appointed Columbus County Attorney by the Board of County Commissioners on Dec. 7, 1976 and held that position until 2005. Through this position Jim professionally and efficiently served this community. Through his training on the tobacco farm, Jim has worked hard to remem-

ber those ideals of service to others and providing help to those in need. Jim Hill has been an integral part of the County Fair through his service to Columbus County and for that we are very thankful.

Hill and his wife Dottie, a retired school teacher from Whiteville High School, have two sons, James Earl Hill III, an attorney in Greenville, S.C., and Jess H. Hill, who serves as Columbus County Clerk of Court, and a daughter, Kalee Louise Hill, a teacher at Edgewood Element-



Jim Hill with grandchildren Elijah "Eli" Hill, Audrey Gray Hill, Anna Kay Hill and James Earl Hill IV.



year.

In the fair book, the dedication noted that "Jim Hill is not only a strong supporter of the fair, but all of Columbus County. He truly embodies the spirit of giving back to the community that gives to you."

Hill, born Sept. 15, 1946 to James Earl Hill Sr. and Louise Thomson Hill of the Pleasant Plains community, he grew up on the Hill farm that has been in the Hill family for more than 100 years. His father Earl was a tobacco farmer, and like so many of his generation, Jim grew up learning the value of a good day's work underneath the sun in a tobacco field probably with a Farmall Super A.

After graduating from Whiteville High School and Wake Forest University, Jim worked a year with Whiteville City Schools as a vocational agriculture teacher and then joined the U. S Army. He enrolled at the University of South Carolina Law School in 1970. After graduating he moved back to Columbus County and began

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Car Load Sunday, a big hit last year, will be offered again this year

Rainy weather during final days of last year's County Fair kept a lot of people away, but the fair board experimented with a solution that brought in carloads of happy customers.

Board members decided 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 arm-bands allowing unlimited rides.

It worked, the board members said, and they're doing it all over 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 car-

load, including armbands.

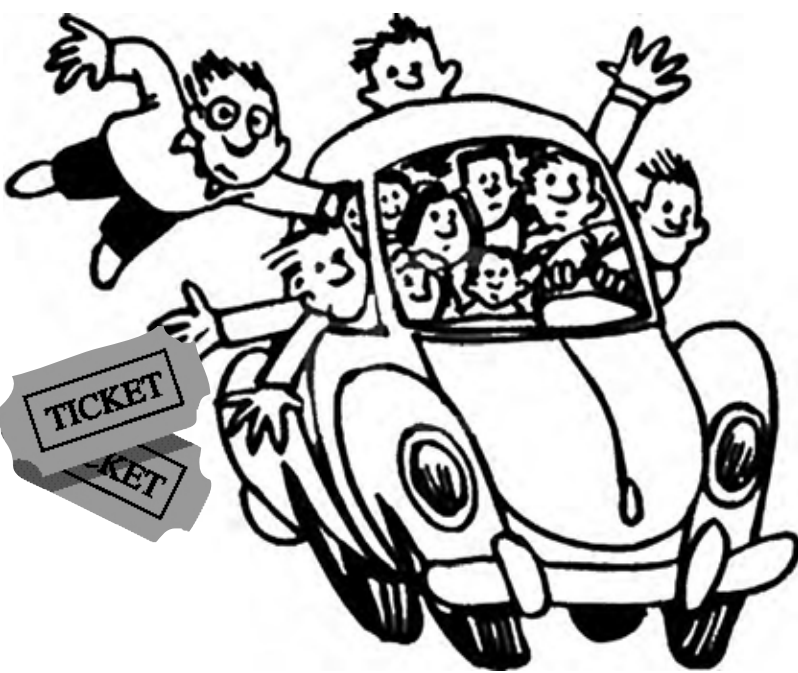
Upon entering fairgrounds parking, each driver will receive a number representing the number of people in their vehicle. When going through the gate, the driver will show his number and each person in his group will receive en-

trance 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 at 2 p.m., children's arts and crafts displays in the

Evelyn Rabon Building and a talent contest at 3 p.m.

Scheduled throughout the afternoon are Flimsey the Clown, Farmily Feud, Stardust Circus and local entertainment.



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Award-winning band to perform twice Saturday

Blackwater Rhythm & Blues Band will perform twice at the County Fair Saturday, Oct. 14, at 7 and 9 p.m. on the main stage.

The band was organized in September 2009 and on Nov. 15, 2015, it won the Rising Star Award at the Carolina Beach Music Awards (CBMA) Show at Myrtle Beach. Blackwater also won Song of the Year that year with "Dance Tonight."

The band won Group of the Year at the CBMA Awards Show in 2016 and Eddie Cogle, Blackwater's engineer, won Sound Engineer of the Year.

Blackwater has been nominated for four CBMA awards this year: Group of the Year; Williams Sellers, keyboard and vocals, nominated for Songwriter of the Year for "Birmingham;" Donald Jordan, guitarist, nominated for Instrumentalist of the Year; and the self-titled CD "Blackwater Rhythm and Blues Band" has been nominated for Group Album of the Year.

The band plays for private parties, weddings, festivals and any other event that needs entertainment. Band members perform in North and South Carolina and Virginia. It's a high energy band, playing funk, soul, R&B as well as classic beach music.

Meet the band: Donald Jordan, guitar, vocals; Fred Cook, saxophone; Frank Mills, bass guitar; William Sellers, keyboard and vocals; Andy King, vocals and trumpet; Greg Elkins, trumpet, valve trombone, keys and vocals; Dale Edwards, trombone and vocals; Devin Dove, drums; and Jeff Alspaugh, trombone. Most of them are from Bladen County.

With their diverse backgrounds and long time experience, they guarantee their patrons quality entertainment up and down the Carolina coast. They invite everyone to come to the County Fair Saturday night for a night of shagging and enjoy the tunes of the BWR&B Band.



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Includes 2 eggs, grits or hash browns & toast

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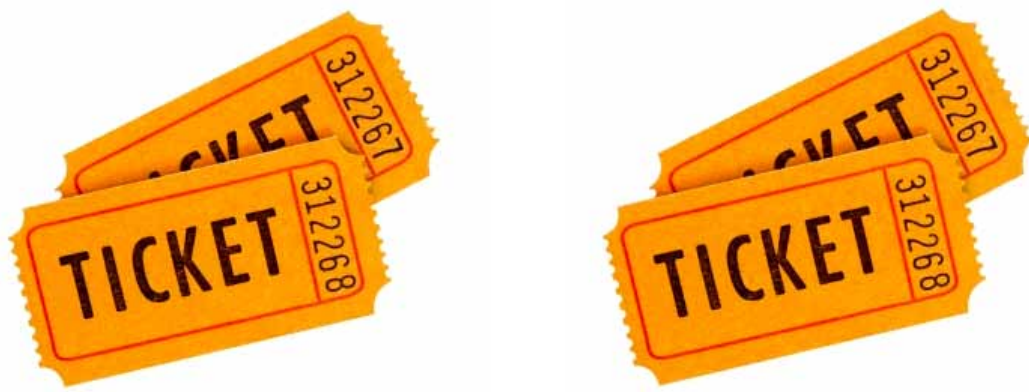
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Thursday is Half Price Night

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. A coupon, valid only Thursday night, with a copy of half price night arrangements is printed in this special section and it can be copied as many times as needed. Present the coupon at the gate and give the cashier \$4 instead of \$8.

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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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 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.



Previous hat contest winners.

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From left: Tammie Frick General Manager, Blair Page, Jenny Wright, and Brad Walker



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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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Oct. 10-15, 2017



Fearless Fair-ley, a giant white fiberglass rooster made by Graham Land Amusements of Bolton, stands sentinel at the County Fair. Carolyn Simmons of Chadbourn won the contest when County Fair officials were seeking a name for a giant fiberglass rooster that had been adopted as the fair's mascot. She chose Fearless Fair-ley one night after she stayed late and observed the giant white rooster standing guard over the fairgrounds. She thought about how many who attend the fair have lived on a farm and perhaps been chased by a rooster or mother hen. She thought about the hard work that goes into putting on a fair, and Fearless Fair-ley came to mind. Fair officials liked Carolyn's choice and adopted it.



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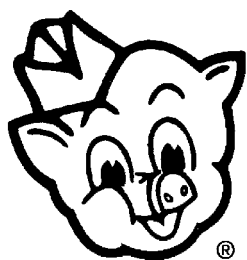
An aerial view of the Columbus County Fairgrounds Midway offers lots of entertainment.



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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Welcome to the 38th Annual Columbus County Agricultural Fair

I, Commissioner Amon E. McKenzie, am extending a very WARM WELCOME to all of the citizens of Columbus County, and to any interested person outside of Columbus County. I encourage all of the Columbus County personnel to frequent the fair to support all of the hard work that has been expended by the numerous workers in the preparation of this event. This event will provide educational materials for everyone, of all ages. There will be recreational activities for the young, and the young at heart. Food and snacks will be available for purchase for those who need such. This event will display the accomplishments of many of our citizens, of all ages, in the agricultural sector. This will be a time for family, group or individual entertainment, and in addition, an enlightening and educational event.



**I am looking forward to seeing you at the
38th Annual Columbus County Agricultural Fair.**

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 receipt until all available space is filled. In any case all en-

tries 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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2016 Diaper Derby winners were, left to right, Aubrie McPherson, 1st; Cole Nance, 2nd; Abel Moore, 3rd.



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Elwud and The Gang to perform Thursday night.

Elwud and The Gang performs Thursday night

So, just who is Elwud and who belongs to this talented gang, and what makes them so special they have a sold-out venue for their performances?

Elwud, or as most of us know him, Tabor City Mayor Royce Harper, said, "I am Elwud. That is right...I do comedy."

In 2004, Harper's father-in-law Bill Chipps wanted his family and his wife Lynda's family to get to know each other better. Harper's wife Lora's family always sang together, and since Harper couldn't sing, he did a comedy skit that had everyone laughing until they cried.

Performing as Elwud and the Gang in Maple Hill, N.C., for the first time, the group of 70 spectators asked when the

next "shindig" would be. As a result, the gang performs a two-hour show about once a year.

The "gang," Harper explained, consists of his wife Lora, who sings and acts out songs from legends such as Patsy Cline, Jeannie C. Riley and Dolly Parton, their son Chase plays the guitar and runs the sound system, their daughter Crystal who sings songs by Miranda Lambert, Carrie Underwood and others, his brother-in-law, Jerry Shannon, a.k.a. "Jerwud," who

sings and acts out favorites by Willie Nelson and Josh Turner, and Shannon's daughter Jessie who also sings and plays the guitar.



DID YOU KNOW?...The Columbus County Fair was judged best in the state in its category in 1988?

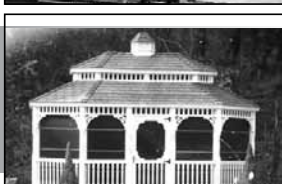
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Diaper Derby is a popular fair event

The Wednesday night Diaper Derby is one of the most exciting events at the fair for those who have contestants in the babies race.

The diaper derby got an early start at the fair, and it has been a popular event ever since. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and older siblings of the contestants stand around the stage yelling to the contestants and shaking keys at the finish line in hopes that their favorite contender will shove off and "git'er done" before another contestant takes the prize.

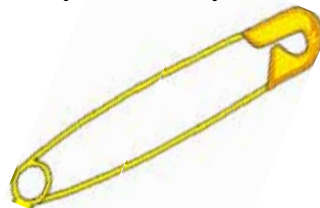
The prize is worth working for. The first place winner gets

\$65 cash, second place gets \$35 and third place takes home \$15.

The diaper derby must have been one of the favorite fair events for the late Jimmy Ferguson, a member of the fair board. Several years after the derby started Ferguson added another layer to the competition. He suggested choosing a Pick of the Litter winner, with no crawling or squalling necessary. Judges had free reign to pick a winner with no rules to consider. It could be whatever they liked...a cute smile, a friendly wave, a pretty outfit or hair ribbon...whatever caught their attention.

This will be the 16th annual Pick of the Litter contest. It will be held immediately after the Diaper Derby, which Pick of the Litter contestants must have participated in. Only a first place trophy will be awarded.

Additional information or entry forms are available from Kathy Faulk at 642-4009, 910-770-4595 or at the fair office on the day of the Derby.



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.

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

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

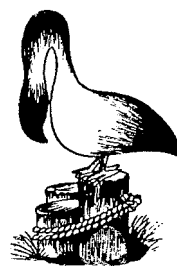


Art and photography are popular exhibits



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RUSTIC FARM WEDDING VENUE



Calendar of Events for SENC Agriculture Festival

FRIDAY - November 10, 2017

Thank-A-Farmer Hoe Down Dinner and Dance
Horne Bay Farm - Gathering Barn

SATURDAY - November 11, 2017

11:00 am - Parade, Downtown Fair Bluff on
Riverside Drive

Downtown Vendor Market

Horne Bay Farm



Kathy H. Ashley 910-840-4091 • Hornebayfarm.com

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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.



JOE'S BBQ



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910-642-2025



500 Greenhill Drive
Whiteville
(Behind Lowe's)

*Have a Great Time at the
Columbus County Fair!*



From
**Edwin
Russ**
*County
Commissioner*



Chris Nash will perform at the County Fair Thursday night at 7 p.m. and again at 9 p.m. He sings Rockabilly, Jump Blues and more.



Vintage farm equipment such as this keeps memories alive at the Columbus County Fair.

DID YOU KNOW?... Palmer Hammond of Cerro Gordo, 100-year-old World War I veteran and his wife Theo were grand marshals of the second annual County Fair parade in 1989? They were escorted by Milton Blake of Chadbourn in his horse-driven surrey.

Have A Great Time At The Fair!



Andy Martin

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Have a Great Time at the Columbus County Fair

*I hope everyone has a
wonderful and safe time!*

Brenden Jones

NC House of Representatives

Paid for by Jones for House



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Buyers of Land & Timber

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**Stop By And See
"Jimmy G" On Your Way
To The Fair!**

THIS IS JIMMY "G"....

"Remember, give a smile away every day!"

TS
Time Saver

C
Cash & Dash

Time Saver #1	Time Saver #2	Cash & Dash #3	Time Saver #4	Cash & Dash #5
270 Washington St. Whiteville	10296 S. W.R. Latham St. Clarkton	8901 Lake Arrowhead Rd. Myrtle Beach, SC	5010 James B. White Hwy S. Whiteville	1697 Hwy. 17 Little River, SC
Time Saver #6	Cash & Dash #7	Cash & Dash #8	Time Saver #9	Cash & Dash #10
1454 Vinson Blvd. Brunswick	701 Hwy 701 N. Loris, SC	1730 Church St. Conway, SC	3200 Hwy 701 N. Loris, SC	1960 Mr. Joe White Ave. Myrtle Beach, SC



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



Lumber River Old Iron may be in parade

Lumber River Old Iron Tractor Club is a group of fellow believers who share a love and interest in restoring and showing off their old rusted iron that has been given a new life.

Lumber River Old Iron was formed in February 2008, and now has about 120 members, including their families. They participate in parades, tractor rides and benefits, and help local communities as much as possible.

Maybe you'll see them in the County Fair Parade Tuesday.



Open Monday - Saturday • 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

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COLUMBUS COUNTY FAIR

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Building since 1983



Original 1932 building



Whiteville Florist

Larry Beltz, Owner

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Whiteville

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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.



**Guaranteed Low
Prices**

Tabor City & Whiteville





Family Feud will perform nightly at the fair.



Fair Days '17

Baldwin Woods

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PROUDLY SERVING YOU SINCE 1980
 OPEN AT 8:30 A.M. DAILY
 607 Jefferson St., Whiteville
 642-8141

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.



Fair officers and board members

The County Fair is operated by the Columbus County Agriculture Fair Board, Inc., a non-profit organization. Several of the officers and board members have been on the board since the beginning, in 1980.

Officers include Danny Benton, president; Bobby Worley, vice president; T. Mack Ward, secretary; Gary Bass, treasurer; and Calvin Duncan, fair manager.

Board members are William C. Gore, Jr., David L. Gore, Ann Ferguson, Ben Harrelson, Vickie Hardie and Donald Nealy.

Fair board members and officers are members of the N.C. Association of Agriculture Fairs and the International Association of Fairs and Expositions. The fair is licensed by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and



**Danny Benton
Fair Board President**

carnival rides are inspected by the N.C. Department of Labor.

Special Day for Special People

Every day is special at the Columbus County Agriculture Fair, but Wednesday is a very special day planned for very special people.

Gates open at 11 a.m. for Special Friends Day, special needs people who are invited to enjoy a few of the carnival rides, stage entertainment and fair foods until 1 p.m. Everything is free, including lunch provided by the fair.

Special Friends will be invited to go onstage to enjoy singing, dancing, gospel music and more.

A highlight will be Old MacDonald's Farm in the livestock arena where they can see and interact with cows, pigs, horses and other farm animals.

Senior Citizens Day will be observed Wednesday at 1 p.m. for seniors 60 years and older. A program of stage entertainment, gospel music, games and more is planned and seniors are invited to stay as long as they wish.

Seniors and Special Friends will also enjoy browsing through the educational booths in two buildings, and the exhibits, art and photography in the Evelyn Rabon Building.



'Gettin' down' on Special Friends Day.



Enjoying Senior Citizens Day at an earlier fair.

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Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00pm



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- *And Other Special Events*

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Contact Erica Evans at 642-3157

Special dedication to Joseph Samuel 'Big Joe' Jacobs

More than 25 years ago, the Columbus County Fair Board of Directors decided to promote and operate a "Demolition Derby" on Friday and Saturday night of each edition of the Fair.

They sought community involvement of someone with the knowledge, interest and ability to be responsible for the Derby. The Jacobs Family of Nakina stepped up. From the beginning it was a perfect fit with them having the equipment and expertise as wrecker towing and salvage yard operators and a strong work ethic. Big Joe, Sammy, and, in recent years, Little Joe Jacobs have organized and executed the Fair Demo Derby.

The result has been a safe well-organized derby which has thrilled many thousands of Columbus Countians over the years. It is not an overstatement to say that the Demo Derby would never have been possible without the volunteered time, labor and equipment that was provided by

the Jacobs Family.

On Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017, Big Joe worked at his salvage yard, "Joes Wrecker and Used Parts." After work, Big Joe drove home and peacefully passed away sitting on his front porch.

We at the Fair offer our appreciation and heartfelt sympathy to the Jacobs Family on the passing of their Patriarch. The fair wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the Jacobs family, particularly as it relates to their work on the Demolition Derby and to honor Big Joe by naming the demolition track the Joe Jacobs Memorial Demolition Track.

A new sign will be placed to so inform the public and Fair patrons of this honor in appreciation, honor and memory of Big Joe Jacobs.

By Unanimous Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Columbus County Agriculture Fair.



Booth winners will get cash prizes

The Columbus County Agriculture Fair pays well for exhibit winners in 4-H, schools and non-commercial divisions. Winners will be awarded ribbons and cash awards.

4-H winners receive \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, \$60 for third place, \$35 for fourth place and \$25 for fifth place.

Schools must decorate an 8x10-foot booth with an agricultural theme. Winners will receive \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place.

A \$100 prize will be awarded for the best overall booth of the three categories.

All three categories of booths are scored on educational value, 40 points; originality value, 30 points; arrangement, 20 points; quality of materials, 10 points. Booths must be set up between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday prior to the opening of the fair on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Judging will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday during fair week and no one will be allowed in the exhibit hall during the judging.

Worthington Funeral Home

Strawberry Blvd., Chadbourn, NC

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Densil Worthington

Welcome to the COLUMBUS COUNTY FAIR



Trent Burroughs
Chairman

Columbus County
Board of Commissioners

Have a great time at the Fair

Congratulations to the Columbus County Agriculture Fair Celebrating its 38th Year

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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 30th 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.



Jess Hill Clerk of Court enjoys a parade.



West Columbus High School Band 2015.

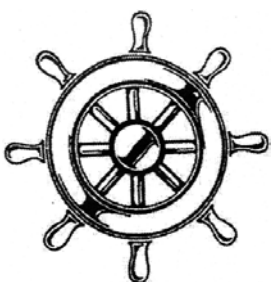


Oysters - Oct. 15 • Spots Now Available

**DALE'S
SEAFOOD**
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Free Registration for the month of October

"Thank you to all the children who enrich our lives."

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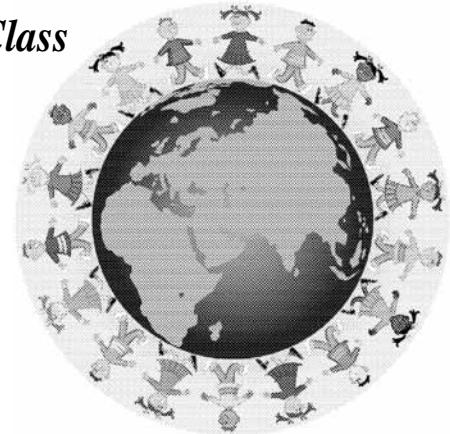
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Linda Singletary,
Assistant Director

Booth winners from a previous fair



Columbus County Sheriff's Office won a 1st place for best educational booth.



Columbus Humane Society won 3rd place for best educational booth.



Edgewood Elementary won 3rd place for best school booth.



Country Boy Outfitters won 2nd place for best commercial booth.



Old Dock School's first place booth.

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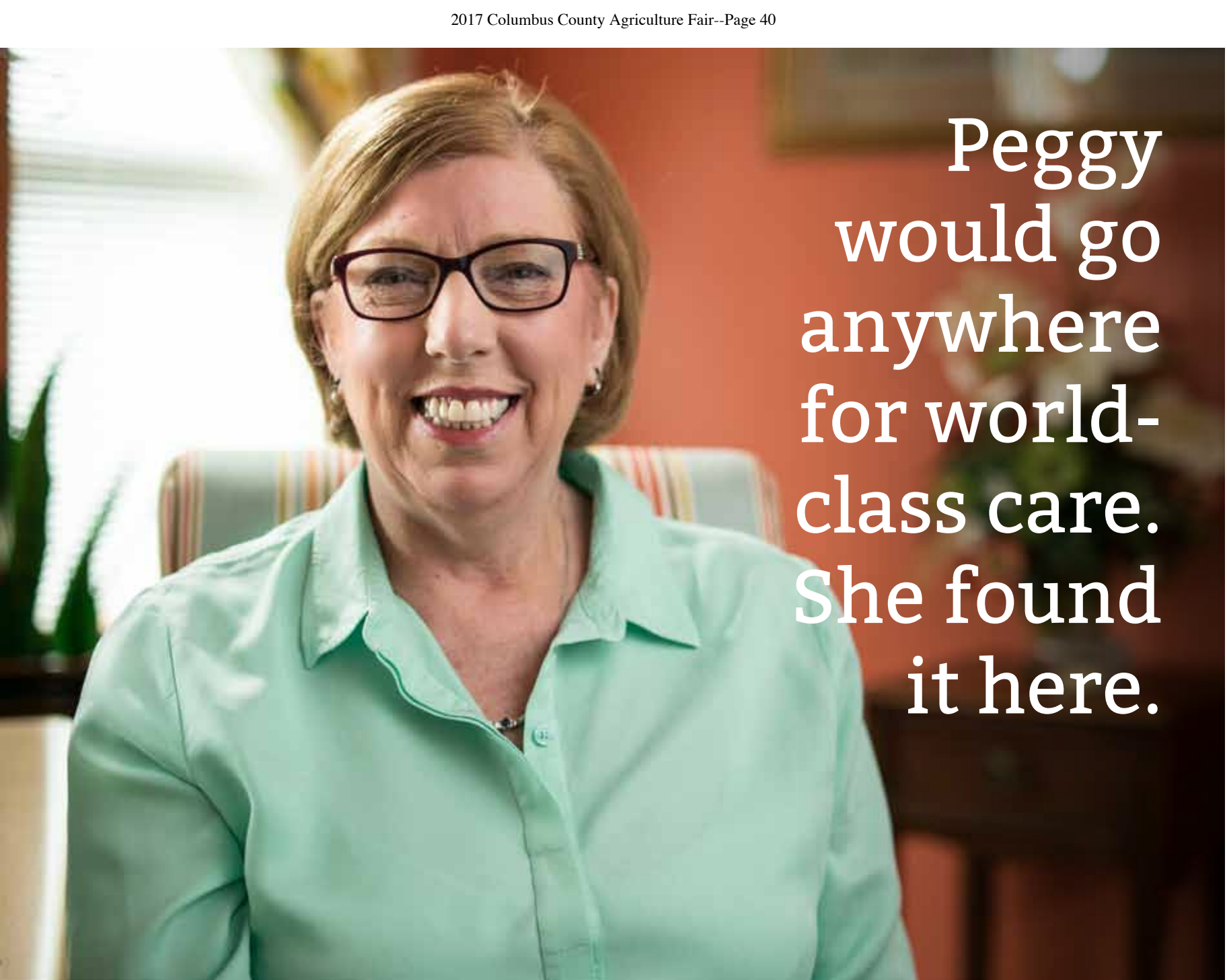
Enjoy the 38th Annual Columbus County Fair

Williamson, Walton & Scott, L.L.P.

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crhealthcare.org/peggy



Donayre Cancer Care Center
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