

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

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WELCOME TO THE HAYWOOD COUNTY FAIR

The Haywood County Fair is a time to celebrate — bringing together a cross-section of our community to enjoy four action-packed days of entertainment, contests, games, food, family activities, exhibits and rides!

The fair is a time-honored celebration of Haywood County's agricultural traditions, from livestock shows to antique tractors. Don't miss the fair entries by your friends and neighbors in the exhibit hall, or stop and watch in wonder as chicks hatch and spread their baby wings for the first time.

Get eye-to-eye with a goat at the viewing zoo, or join your neighbor in song during the Haywood Unplugged community jam!

Contests galore round out the fair, from a kids demolition derby and truck pull to live-judged baking contest and Haywood Idol singing competition. Pull up a chair for bingo night, let down your hair for two nights of square dancing and grab your cowboy hat for the lively Friday night rodeo!

Come early and come often to partake in all the fair has to offer Sept. 26-Sept. 29!

Gate admission to the fair is \$8 for adults, \$6 for ages 6-12, and free for kids under 5.



The 2024 Haywood County Fair Guide is produced in partnership by The Mountaineer Publishing Company, the Haywood County Fair Committee and the Smoky Mountain Event Center. A special thanks goes to all the dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to put on the fair and to the Farm Bureau as a platinum level sponsor.

An advertisement for Hatton's Towing and Recovery. It features two tow trucks, one purple and one black, against a dark background with green and yellow geometric patterns. The text 'HATTON'S Towing And Recovery' is prominently displayed in a stylized font. At the bottom, the phone number '828-641-1476' and the location 'Canton, NC.' are listed.

HATTON'S
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An advertisement for Hatton's Towing and Recovery. It features a black tow truck with a black pickup truck on its bed, parked in front of a wooded area. The text 'RESPONSIVE SERVICE', 'PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE', and '24/7 TOWING & ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE' is displayed in large, bold letters. At the bottom, the website 'HATTONSTOWING.COM' is listed. A badge on the right side of the image reads 'THE MOUNTAINEER BEST OF HAYWOOD COUNTY 2024 WINNER' with a logo.

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MAKE MEMORIES ON THE MIDWAY



Whether you're a thrill-seeker willing to brave the Round-Up or prefer the gentle pace of the swings, the carnival midway at the fair has rides to please every age.

Rise high above the fairgrounds on the ferris wheel or swings. Pack the whole family into a spinning tub and jockey over who gets control of the wheel. Tots will ride in style on mini cruisers in the Hampton Combo Ride, enjoy going

round on the carousel or the Bear Affair rides.

Teens can get their adrenaline rush by strapping into the Sizzler for dizzying fun or test their balance coming off the Spinner or the swirling Paratrooper.

Friend groups can laugh at the whimsical elements of the funhouse or glide into a new fair memory with the giant slide.

Feeling lucky? Step right up to the carnival games. Play it safe with the prize-guaranteed duck pond or see if you have what it takes to ring the bell on the high striker.

The midway carnival and rides will be presented by R&D Amusements for the third year in a row and offer up new thrills, with rides like the ever-turning Scat, making their debut.

"I think it'll be a nice looking setup this year," said Rocky Brown, owner of R&D Amusements.

With more time and preparation, this year's midway will offer up more amusements and fair fun.

Wrist-bands for unlimited rides Thursday, Friday and Sunday are \$25. On Saturday, admission will be \$30 and will cover more hours.

Single tickets are \$1.25. Get a strip of 25 tickets for \$25 or go big with 50 tickets for \$45. Each ride takes three to six tickets or an armband to ride.



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DAY-BY-DAY FAIR SCHEDULE

Map out your fair experience with these day-at-a-glance schedules of all that's on tap during the 2023 Haywood County Fair. Come early and come often to catch all the action!

When: 5-10 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Sept. 26-27; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28; and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29.

Where: Smoky Mountain Event Center on N.C. 209.

Cost: Gate admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for ages 6-12, and free for kids under 5.



DAILY

The following activities will be held throughout the duration of the fair:

- Midway Carnival
- Viewing Zoo
- Buford Bear & His Mini Truck
- Professor Whizz Pop
- Face Painting
- Catch & Release Fishing
- Ax Throwing
- Gelly Ball Wars
- Mechanical Bull
- Exhibit Hall
- Food Truck Row
- Ole Smoky Tractor Show

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26

- Inclusion Day: 9 a.m. Private fair entry for those with sensory sensitivity and special needs
- Opening Ceremony: 5 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Bingo Night: 6 p.m. Apple Orchard Building



FRIDAY, SEPT. 27

- Special Persons Sheep Show: 6 p.m. Burley Barn
- Bailey Mountain cloggers: 6-8 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Sheep Show: 6:30 p.m. Burley Barn
- Costume Contest (all livestock): 6:30 p.m. Burley Barn
- Live Action Rodeo: 7:30 p.m. Great Smokies Arena



SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

- Goat Show: 9 a.m. Burley Barn
- Safety City: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Front lot under Flagpole
- Tractor Pull: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Live-Judged Baking Contests: 11 a.m. Dogwood Building
- Natural Beauty Contest: 11 a.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Beef Cattle Show: 12 p.m. Burley Barn
- Ice Cream Eating Contest: 1:30 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Haywood Idol: 2:30 - 5 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Kids Demolition Derby: 3 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Watermelon Eating Contest: 3:30 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Dairy Cow Show: 6 p.m. Burley Barn
- Bluegrass and Clogging: 6-9 p.m. Apple Orchard Building



SUNDAY, SEPT. 29

- Truck Pull: 2-5 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Haywood Unplugged: 1-3 p.m. Apple Orchard Building



RODEO

Rodeo takes the reins Friday night



This year's rodeo will break barriers with an action-packed night of riding starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27. Saddle up for some roughstock events. Hold onto your hats for some chute dogging, and sheep and



steer riding. Get ready for cowgirl barrel racing, and don't bail before laughing at the antics of the rodeo clown Cowpatty.

"Cowboys and cowgirls from all over the Southeast will be competing in the rodeo competitions," said Kenny Treadway, third generation cowboy and owner of Live Action Rodeo company.

This year's rodeo audience can get roped in by riders attempting to tame and ride wild horses, and can also brace themselves for the thrilling spectacle of wild Brahma bull riding.

This will be Live Action Rodeo's second year at the

Haywood County fair — and live action, laughs and fun is what audience members of every age will experience. Youth can even win a cash prize at the Kids Dance Contest.

The rodeo will kick off at 7 p.m. with an opening performance from Treadway's daughter Kenly, who will be riding in for the national anthem carrying the American flag standing up on her horse.

During the opening, the brave cowboys of the rodeo, hailing from all over the Southeast, will be introduced. Following this, someone will ride in with the Christian Flag and share its meaning.



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HORSE SHOW CAPS OFF COUNTY FAIR

The culmination of the Haywood County Fair will ride out in style with equestrians of all ages taking to the saddle for friendly competition. Catch the action of the Haywood County Fair Horse Show starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, in the Great Smokies Arena.

The horse show is an extension of the Haywood County Fair — though it is held the following Saturday to avoid overlapping uses in the arena during the main run of the fair. Riders of all ages and skill levels are welcome to attend, in a setting that promotes good horsemanship and community involvement.

The horse show features a range of classes including English, Western, Gaited, and Speed — there's something for everyone! From entry-level lead line classes to working English and Western events, and on to speed racking, barrels, and poles, the show covers it all. This year's fun classes will include the ever-popular costume class, "Ride a Buck" (where the winner takes all the bucks), and the fastest around the track. Spectators will enjoy watching hunters hack over fences, Western riders navigate trail obstacles, and Gaited horses float around the rail. The excitement will peak with pole bending and barrel racing as the grand finale.

The Haywood County Fair horse show is designed to promote good-natured competition and foster an environment where riders encourage, support and cheer for each other. Spectators are welcome and encouraged.

The entry fee is \$10 for regular classes, \$5 for fun classes, and \$15 for higher stakes Championship classes and open barrels. All divisions will have payout, along with ribbons and trophies. Arena opens at 9 a.m. For a complete list of classes, go to haywood-countyfair.com. Got questions? Contact the fairgrounds at 828-400-1704 or Melissa Jackson at 719-661-9786.



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Agriculture is not something new to Cataloochee Ranch, but we are proud to say that this tradition of producing food will be continued. Under the guidance of Trace Guyer, the Cataloochee Ranch Beef Cattle program has begun with 18 head of cattle. Trace is eager to produce quality Black Angus Beef sustainably and looks forward to sharing the importance of agriculture and intentional practices that protect and preserve not only the animals, but the land they live upon.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Catch the line-up of family-friendly fun

From a whimsical magician to a truck driving bear, the antics of entertaining performers is sure to keep audiences roaring during the Haywood County Fair. Kids can try their hand at fishing and family members can get rambunctious on the mechanical bull, test their aim with axe throwing or battle it out in a gellyball war. Those who need a break from the fair frenzy can unwind in the “chill zone.”



Buford Bear and his miniature truck

Keep an eye out for a 'beary' special traveler cruising around the fairgrounds! Buford the Bear is bringing loads of fun in his mini truck as he makes his rounds, stopping to chat and share jokes with kids.

“It’s an absolute free attraction that just rides around. It’s a kid magnet—they come right to it because it’s unlike anything they’ve seen before. It’s pretty unique in its own way,” said Jeff Mills, the person behind Buford. “He personally interacts with the kids, listens to their stories, and shares their jokes. The best part is seeing those kids’ smiles.”

Though Buford is stationed inside his truck, kids are welcome to step up, snap a photo, and enjoy the fun. Buford makes the journey all the way from Pigeon Forge, and on hot days, he might even squirt some ‘Smokey Mountain water’ from the truck’s radiator to cool things down.

Magic Mayhem

Experience a magical medley of fun with the whimsical Professor Whizzpop as he roams the festival grounds throughout the weekend. Dressed in his magician’s hat and vibrant threads, he’ll be performing impromptu tricks in front of fairgoers— from making an elephant disappear with a giant magic wand to an acrobatic fish stunt. Expect plenty of audience interaction during the spectacle.



“It’s magical mayhem,” said Tom Hughes, the magician behind the personality. “I’ll be combining traditional street magic with strolling performances around the fairgrounds—plus some balloon twisting too.”

While Whizzpop wows the crowds with his magical antics and impressive balloon art, they’ll also be surprise appearances from his pesky nemesis, a bird named Dave, throughout the show.

The show is free, and folks of all ages are welcome to enjoy a free balloon—though kids get theirs first, so a bit of patience might be needed.



First Bite Fishing

Get hooked with First Bite Fishing Tanks, an attraction meant to reel in audiences with hands-on fishing lessons. This traveling attraction has been coming to county and state fairs since 2007 and features a large tank with an abundance of fish, ensuring accessible mock catches.

The tank is 7-by-20 feet, but only 31 inches tall — perfect for young anglers to practice using a fishing pole, waiting for a bite and catching the fish.

"They get to see how to handle the fish once they're caught. They get to see how to handle the different baits that catch the fish, and basically will get to learn a little bit about each type of fish," said Rick Santisi, president of the company.

Santisi said there are always a couple fishing instructors on standby to bait and unhook the fish, as well as to assure and instruct that the fish stay over the water at all times.

"We're lucky to be doing what we do. It's a lot of fun," Santisi said.



Get rowdy on the mechanical bull

Test your rodeo skills on a mechanical bull while your friends cheer you on. Some tips for novice riders: Hold your free hand up in-sit forward in the saddle, squeeze the bull with your legs and lean the opposite direction of the bull like a see-saw. Rides are \$5.

Welcome to Safety City

Part meet-and-greet and part show-and-tell, Safety City gives fairgoers a chance to interact with local law enforcement officers and first responders who keep Haywood County safe.

The walk-through expo features interactive demos by public safety officers. K9 handlers will demonstrate skills with their trusty four-legged partners. Kids can try on firefighter hats, explore turn-out gear, and board an N.C. Wildlife Resources boat to learn about water safety. There will be photo ops with a wrecker tow truck, officers, and fire engines. Safety City also imparts an important message, like a demo illustrating the danger of not wearing a seatbelt.

"We're geared to every age group, and it's very, very interactive," said Ellen Pitt of WNC Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the WNC Regional DWI Task Force.

A crowd favorite is the "fatal vision" goggles, simulating impaired driving during a field sobriety test. A simulated traffic stop will also demonstrate what happens during a pull-over.

"It's a very serious endeavor, but we try to make it as much fun as we can," Pitt said. "It's especially impactful for teenagers who are just starting to drive."

The WNC Regional DWI Task Force will also share tips with youth on how to tell if a driver is impaired and how to avoid riding with someone who shouldn't be behind the wheel.

Safety City is organized by the WNC Regional DWI Task Force. It will be set up on Saturday.



Battle it out with axe throwing and gellyball wars

Kids, here's your chance to spike mom and dad without getting in trouble! Step into the gellyball arena for some friendly warfare, where teams shoot water orbs at each other while hiding and ducking behind bunkers. It's like starring in your own live-action video game. Players are provided with face-masks and eye protection before engaging in combat.



You can also try your hand at axe throwing with a real short-handled axe. Coaching is provided to help you land the axe in the wooden target. Spectators get in on the fun by cheering on the throwers. And you'll score major cool points when posting those axe-wielding pics on social.

Axe throwing is for ages 12 and up, \$1 a throw or \$10 for 15 throws. Gellyball is for ages 5 and up, \$5 a game or \$12 for three games. Provided by Jumpers Party Rentals.



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Funnel cake, corn dogs, deep-fried Oreos, ribbon fries, Philly steaks, candy apples, and billowing cotton candy. Come hungry and treat yourself to those once-a-year delicacies you can only get at the fair!

Some of Haywood County's favorite local food trucks will be front-and-center on vendor row as well, serving up a diverse menu to suit every palate. Don't miss home-cooked meals at the Apple Orchard concession window! Here's the line-up of food vendor offerings at the Haywood County Fair this year.



- **McLeod Concessions:** All the classic, mouth-watering fair foods, including hand-dipped corn dogs, funnel cakes, blooming onions, Italian sausage, ribbon fries, loaded fresh cut fries, fried Oreos and Philly cheese steak.

- **Appalachian Smoke BBQ:** Mouth watering pork, chicken and brisket with all the sides, plus BBQ potatoes.

- **J&K Lemonade:** Fresh-squeezed lemonade, need we say more? Cap it off with their mini donuts and baked goods.

- **TheIceCreamSocial:** Stroll the fair with a hand-dipped ice cream cone or thick home-spun shake.

- **Mi Montanita:** Discover the authentic Mexican taco truck everyone is raving about. Creative tacos with fresh toppings and sauces, plus loaded quesadillas.

- **Sunburst Coffee Co:** Get your caffeine fix with hot or iced coffee drinks, or your sweet-tooth fix with delicious baked goods and hot chocolate.

- **Woof Street Bistro:** Try their famous slider delicacies — like "The Emmie" laden with strawberry-jalapeno jam and goat cheese — blackened alligator tacos and gourmet hot-dogs done up right. Treat your fur baby to their frozen yogurt for dogs.

- **Kona Ice Truck:** Treat your taste buds to amazingly fine,

flavored shaved ice.

- **Great Smokies Arena:** The Canton Community Kitchen will serve up hamburgers, hotdogs and nachos from the concession stand in the arena in exchange for donations to support their mission of meals for those in need.

- **The Cheesecake Mousse:** One bite of the delectable concoction and your life will never be the same. This cross between ice cream, custard and cheesecake is light and refreshing, silky and smooth, and comes in infinite flavors.

- **Ruthie's Kettle Korn:** Crunch into a bag of delicious kettle corn from this veteran-owned and operated truck at the fair.

- **Apple Orchard Building concession stand:** Get some hearty country cooking served up by the Piney Grove Methodist Church. Thursday's night's



menu is homemade chili dogs, cheesy nachos, taco salad; Friday night is wood-smoked leg quarters with sides and desert; Saturday morning breakfast is sausage biscuits from 8-11 a.m., lunch will be hot dogs, cheesy nachos, taco salad; Sunday brunch will be friend chicken chicken with sides and desert from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.



STEP OFF THE SIDELINES AND INTO THE RING WITH THESE ACTION PACKED FAIR CONTESTS

Join the excitement of bingo night, take the ice cream eating challenge, whip up your best recipe for the baking contest, or step up to the stage for a natural beauty contest. The Haywood County Fair boasts a lively line-up of fun, crowd-raising competitions for all.

PULL UP A CHAIR FOR BINGO NIGHT

Nothing beats the friendly competition of Bingo Night, hands down one of the most popular events at the fair. Bingo night pulls in a full house of players armed with a stack of cards and ink in their quest for five-in-a-row.

Come out and join the lively tradition on the official opening night of the fair at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26. An opening ceremony to kick off the fair will be held at 5 p.m., leaving enough time to hit the food vendors before the Bingo calling begins.

The cost is 15 games, plus free dauber for \$15. The winner of each round will get a cash prize.

Bingo night serves as an important fundraiser for the Smoky Mountain Event Center. Held in the Apple Orchard Building.



HAY Y'ALL, GET CRAFTY WITH A SCARECROW

Nothing says fall like a dolled-up scarecrow. So round up the family, grab a straw bale and pitch in to make your very own scarecrow creation.

"If you're not a canner, if you couldn't make a quilt you tried, if you don't know how to paint, you can still make a scarecrow for the county fair," said Sally Dixon, Haywood County extension director. "It's like making a snowman in the fall."

If judges find your scarecrow is "outstanding in the field," you could be one of three lucky winners. The stakes are high, with cash prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25 for first, second and third place.

Deliver your scarecrow to the fairgrounds between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24, for judging the following day. They will be displayed throughout the fairgrounds over the course of the fair.



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BELLY UP TO THE TABLE FOR THESE LIP-SMACKIN' CONTESTS

Go for the gold with these fun-loving fair favorites while spectators cheer you on. To level the playing field, the contests have four age groups: 7 and under, 8-13, 14-19 and adults. Ribbons are awarded for 1st-3rd place in each age group, with participation ribbons for 7 and under.



Watermelon Eating 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28

Dig into a juicy slice of watermelon face first without using your hands. Worst case scenario, you get free watermelon!

Ice-Cream Eating 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28

Square off in a race to scarf down free ice cream. The first to finish their cup wins, so don't let a brain freeze slow you down!



BAKED TO PERFECTION: WOW THE JUDGES WITH YOUR BEST RECIPES

Pull out your apron for Haywood County's very own bake-off. Got a pound cake recipe passed down from grandma, mouth-watering Southern biscuits, a delectable apple pie crust or secret ingredient for moist chocolatey brownies? Then step up to the plate and enter the baking contest at the fair!

A panel of judges will sample the baked goods live in front of an audience at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, in the Dogwood building. Watch in anticipation as they move down the line and ooh-and-aah over each bite.

Continued on page 18



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Continued from page 17

If you like scratch-made baked goods — and who doesn't — you're in luck. A bake sale will be held immediately after the judging. Kids and teens can get in on the baking too, with two youth divisions for ages 8-13 and 14-19.

Along with ribbons and rosette awards, two special categories come with extra prizes: the Double-Crust Apple Pie contest and King Arthur Flour baking contest. Top three winners in each get \$25, \$15, and \$10, plus King Arthur winners get catalog gift certificates of \$75, \$50 and \$25 (provide bag as proof you used King Arthur Flour).

New to this year are the Sweet and Savory Hand Pies category, a bite size delight that is made by placing a small amount of filling into a piece of dough and sealing it off. Top three winners receive \$30, \$25, and \$20.

For youth, first place in each category gets \$5, and the top three winners in the King Arthur contest get \$40, \$25 and a tote bag.

Deliver baked goods to the Dogwood building at 10 a.m. For categories and entry instructions, go to www.haywoodcountyfair.com, click on "Exhibit and Competition Info" and view entry rules on page 1.

DON YOUR COUNTRY ATTIRE FOR A KIDS' NATURAL BEAUTY PAGEANT

Show off your adorable little tykes, oh-so-precious kids, and stunning teens in a fun pageant for both boys and girls from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28. New this year, with enough interest, will be a Miss, Ms., and Mrs. division, for older participants. All participants get their moment in the sun and receive a crown, custom awards and gifts.

The contest is divided into three age groups for boys and 10 age groups for girls, with a queen/king crowned in each age group. Judging is based on beauty, personality and overall

impression, with several special categories including best hair, eyes, smile and personality.

Attire is country-themed only. No heavy make-up. Entry fee is \$65, with on-site registration beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Apple Orchard Building. Hosted by "I Am Breathtaking" pageant organizers. For information or pre-registration, contact pageantbrats@bellsouth.net or 704-798-3739.



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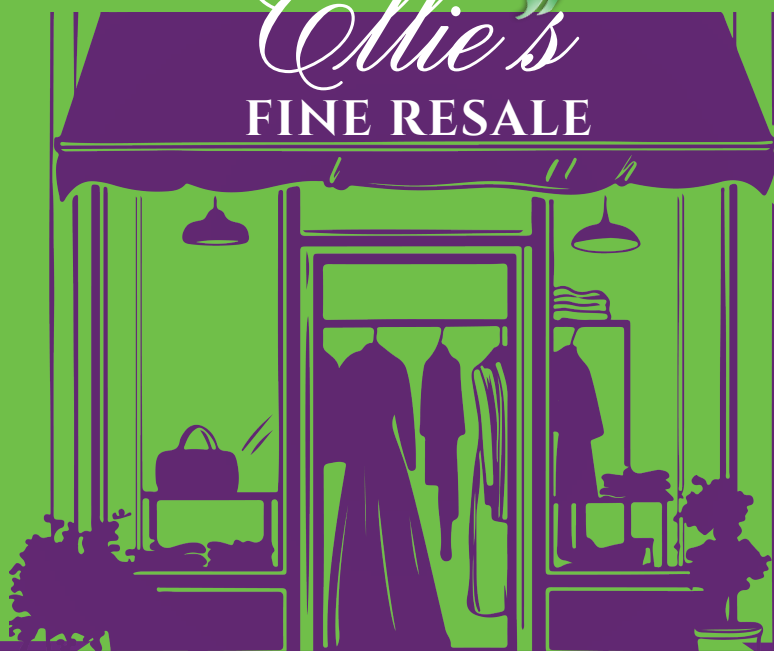
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LIVE MUSIC LIGHTS UP THE FAIR

Music from the heart of Appalachia sounds through the Haywood County fair, from a community jam session to toe-tap-pin' bluegrass. Plus, a lineup of local clogging groups will rope in the audience for hoe-down's two nights in a row.

CLOGGERS JIVE INTO THE FAIR

6-8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 27

For this first time, crowds can get a kick out of two nights of clogging at the fair. National champions Bailey Mountain Cloggers from Mars Hill University will take the stage Friday night of the fair.

"I'm excited about having new groups this year. I encourage people to come out because that's going to be an entertaining show, they're some high energy kids," said Kristal Finger Cherry, a member of the newly formed Balsam Mountain clogging group. "Fun Fact, I used to be a Bailey Mountain Clogger."

The college clogging group has traveled all throughout the U.S. and internationally, carrying on the tradition with groups of all walks of life.



Green Valley
Cloggers

BLUEGRASS BEATS AND CLOGGING FEET

6-9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28

Returning this year to strike up the dance floor on Saturday from 6-9 p.m. are the Green Valley Cloggers and The Southern Appalachian Cloggers, joined by the J Creek Cloggers and the Balsam Mountain Cloggers. The groups will take turns performing and welcome the audience to be part of the tradition.



Anne Melton, Balsam Mountain Cloggers

Audience members will have a chance to win a sweet treat with the cake walk — a jig kin to musical chairs, but when the music halts whoever is standing aside the special marker wins a cake. Join in for the broom dance, where dancers are coupled up — all except the dancer who fails to switch partners when the music stops, who takes the honors of waltzing with the broom.

"It's gonna be a great time," said Kristal Finger Cherry, a member of Balsam Mountain Cloggers. She said anyone who wishes to join the festivities won't be disappointed.

"We can't forget where we came from. This is what makes us who we are and where we are today," she said of the Appalachian dance traditions.

Hosting the clogging groups for the third year in a row is the band Branded Heart. The band brings in the tempo with some bluegrass and classic covers ranging from Creedence Clearwater Revivals' rendition of "Old Man Down The Road" to Tina Turners' "Proud Mary".

"It's just fun to get with friends and play music and watch them dance," said band member Tom Rhodes. "To just reminisce and have a good time."

JAM WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS AT HAYWOOD UNPLUGGED

1-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept.29

Join your neighbors in song for the inaugural Haywood Unplugged at the fair, all while raising support for a local shelter. Whether you're a seasoned keyboard player or just learned your first guitar chord, musicians of all skill levels are welcome to bring their instruments and voices for a community jam session on Sunday afternoon at the fair.

Richard Hurley, a Haywood musician and songwriter who works for WPTL radio station, will emcee the event. People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to come together, share the gift of music, and tell the stories behind their favorite songs, while playing off and learning from each other's talents.

Hurley will kick off the jam with gospel tunes, but the session is open to all genres — whether it's rock and roll, country, or jazz.

"If you play any kind of musical instrument, bring it to the fairgrounds. Join us for an 'unplugged' jamming session where we'll play and sing whatever music and songs come up," said Deborah Reed, organizer of the event and member of Piney Grove Methodist Church. Reed will also be on hand inside the Apple Orchard building, serving up hot meals participants can grab after coming off stage.

Churches and their choirs from across the county are invited to join after Sunday's service, as well as any other residents. There will be a donation bucket for Haywood Pathways Center, a family shelter for women and children currently at risk of closing due to financial challenges.



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ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR HAYWOOD IDOL

Get your ballots ready for the Haywood Idol competition, returning for another exciting year at the Haywood County Fair! This year, the event is expanding by welcoming musicians to join the competition.

Performers will step up to the mic — or bring their instruments to the stage — and give it their all during a live show from 2:30-5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, in the Apple Orchard Building. The audience gets to be part of the fun by selecting three People's Choice Awards, one from each age group: 7-12, 13-18 and 19 and older.

Meanwhile, a panel of judges will give the nod to a grand champion from among all the contestants. The judges will team up with a lively emcee to commentate and keep the fun rolling after each performance.

The homegrown version of American Idol will showcase some of the top vocal talent hailing from Haywood County. To land a spot on stage, contestants submit videos of their performance ahead of time.

"We would love to have contestants in each cate-

gory, I think that would be so fun," said Kendra Medford, organizer of Haywood Idol. "By opening Idol to instrumentalists as well as singers, we hope to have more participation."

The three People's Choice winners will score \$50 each; the three Judge's Choice winners get \$100 cash; and the grand champion will receive a voucher for a trip sponsored by Time to Travel inc. for a hotel in a tourist destination in Tennessee.

To enter Haywood Idol, contestants must contact Kendra Medford by text at 828- 400-7733, or email kyamedford@gmail.com and say they are interested in Haywood Idol between August 30 and September 15. She will then give each interested contestant instructions as to how to register and enter.

The deadline for contestants to register is Wednesday, Sept. 18.



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ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR THE FAIR

Inclusion Day offers fair experience for those with special needs

The Haywood County Fair strives to provide inclusive spaces for everyone in the community. The fair will have a designated private-viewing day for those with sensory sensitivity and special needs to enjoy the festivities when there is less activity and potential stressors.

"We want to make sure that every child can enjoy the fair," said Fair Coordinator Anessa Jaynes. "Inclusion Day offers that opportunity with less stimulation and less people."



Inclusion Day will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26, before the fair opens to the general public. Those with special needs and their families can enter the fair starting at 9 a.m., well before gates open to the public at 5 p.m. that evening.

"While the fair is closed to the public they can look at all the exhibits, experience the viewing zoo, all of that without having to fight crowds or the noise," Jaynes said. When a family member with special needs gets overwhelmed by the hubbub of the fair, the family may have to leave earlier than they would like. But with fewer crowds and less noise, families can enjoy the fair at their own pace on Inclusion Day. While fair rides don't start up until the gates open at 5 p.m., rides will operate without lights or sounds for the first hour — making the midway carnival a calmer experience.

Inclusion Day opens with bingo from 9 a.m. to noon in the Apple Orchard Building, open to older adults and adults with disabilities. Bingo will be followed by make-and-take craft stations, wagon rides and free cotton candy from noon-2 p.m. Guests can enjoy a leisurely walk around the grounds, stroll through the exhibit hall, chow down along food truck row and see the farm an-



imal viewing zoo while waiting on the rides to open at 5 p.m.

Those who wish to attend Inclusion Day must RSVP by texting 828-400-6232. In addition to Inclusion Day, there will be a 'Chill Out' tent during all four-days of the fair, that provides a safe haven to unwind and decompress — from coloring books to kinetic sand — located in front of the Dogwood Building.

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DRIVERS, START YOUR ENGINES!

The wheels will spin and dirt will fly during these tests of strength, skill and stamina at the Haywood County Fair. Back for a second year, little tykes can get in on the action with a Power Wheels Demolition Derby.

All events are held in the Great Smokies Arena and are included in fair admission.



Tractor Pull

10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28

These lean, mean tractors will go head-to-head pulling loaded sleds across the arena. It's not just about the machine, however. Witness the dexterity of the driver to coax the engine forward without bucking up or bogging down.

The tractor pull is a unique cultural phenomenon, offering a chance to experience Haywood County's agricultural scene in action. The tractor pull usually lasts through Saturday late afternoon.

Trophies go to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Onsite registration begins at 9 a.m. Sponsored by Smart Farms.

Truck Pull

2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29

The truck pull is one of the most popular, highly-anticipated events at the fair. The Great Smokies Arena stadium will be packed with spectators cheering and rooting on the drivers.

Trucks prove their might and mettle in 12 classes, from mini-trucks and



full size to diesel and hot farm. Spectators will get to pick the winner of an ugly truck contest. Or, get those hubcaps spit-polished to be a contender in the "best looking truck" contest.

For safety, no passengers are allowed inside the vehicle with the driver, and spectators may not lean on the wooden fence surrounding the arena.

First place trophies and 2nd-4th place ribbons are given out in each class, plus one grand champion trophy. Onsite registration begins at 1 p.m. Hook fee is \$15, or \$35 for 2.5 Open Diesel class.

Kids Demolition Derby

3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28

Power wheels will take the arena by storm in a Demolition Derby for kids ages 3-10 during the Haywood County Fair, back for its second year, except this time, the Sheriff's Office will be in tow to keep everyone in line.

"Let's get to the dirt arena and have a great time. Drivers get ready to show your skills, but remember — the Sheriff is watching," said Bill Wilke, sheriff of Haywood County. "I'll be looking to recruit some young deputies for the future."

Wilke said the Haywood County Sheriff's Office is looking forward to sponsoring this year's event.

Grown-ups can cheer on their little ones from the side lines as they scoot and root around this free-wheelin' version of bumper cars.

There will be two age groups for kids 3-5 and 6-10. Registration, including vehicle inspection and filling out a waiver, begins at 2:30 p.m. Helmets are mandatory and power wheels are limited to 12 volt batteries.



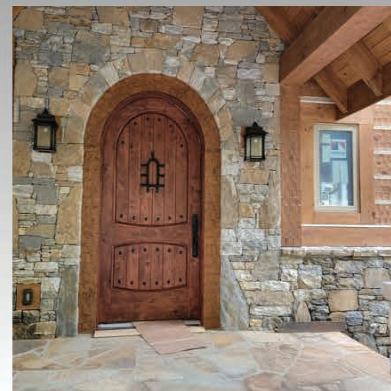


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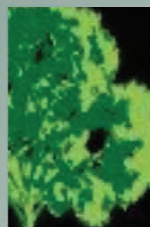


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HOOVES, FUR AND FEATHERS

Livestock shows at the fair



From dairy cows and pigs to goats and sheep, livestock shows are a not-to-be-missed experience. Catching a livestock show provides a relaxing break from the energy of the fair and a chance to commune with Haywood County's agricultural roots.

Mosey into the Burley Livestock Barn and take a seat in the stands to watch the proud handlers parade their livestock around the ring in the quest for a trophy.

A judge sizes up the fine specimens along with the showmanship skills of their exhibitors, while an announcer on a loud speaker provides commentary on each animal. Soak up the scene by wandering the periphery of the barn ahead of the shows for a peek at the contestants grooming and shining their livestock's coats.

A fun costume contest will be held Saturday night for the best dressed farm animals! Plus a viewing zoo of livestock and poultry will be housed in a special tent all four days of the fair, courtesy of Pisgah High FFA.

Register for livestock shows through Sept. 26 by going haywoodcountyfair.com and clicking on the 'Enter the Fair' tab. From there, click on the Fair Livestock Registration form.

WHEN TO CATCH THE LIVESTOCK SHOWS

Friday, Sept. 28.

- Special Persons Sheep Show: 6 p.m.
- Sheep show: 6:30 p.m.
- Costume Contest (all livestock): 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 29.

- Poultry Show judging: 8 a.m.
- Goat Show: 9 a.m.
- Beef Cattle Show: 12 p.m.
- Dairy Cow Show: 6 p.m.
- Swine Show: 6 p.m.
- Junior Market Swine Show: 6 p.m.



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course, including the whole gamut of farm birds. Judging for the poultry show will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, and will be on display throughout the day, offering fair goers a chance to see unique birds they've never encountered before.

For information on entering livestock shows, see haywoodcountyfair.com

CLUCK, CROW, QUACK AND HONK Poultry on parade at the fair

Cheer on our fine, feathered friends during the poultry show the fair, featuring chickens, roosters, ducks, geese and guineas. Given the burgeoning interest in backyard chickens, the poultry show offers a venue for those who don't own traditional livestock.

"There is a huge push for backyard poultry," said Joshua Justice, an agriculture teacher at Pisgah High School. "It's something that people can relate to even if they don't have a farm."

The poultry show is about more than chickens, of



Warm your heart at the Special Persons Sheep Show

Adults and kids with special needs or disabilities get the chance to step into the livestock ring with a gentle, friendly sheep during the Special Persons Sheep Show at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27. The sheep are provided by students with the Pisgah agriculture program, who are on hand to assist the participants.

No prior experience or knowledge of sheep is required. Anyone who would like to participate can contact Courtney Wade Smith at 828-593-8330 or cwade@haywood.k12.nc.us.

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DOWN ON THE FARM

Celebrate Haywood's rich agricultural legacy at the fair

Look no further than the county fair for proof that farming is still alive and well in Haywood County. The agricultural community comes out in force for the fair. Here's your chance to soak up our county's farming roots.



Catch a livestock show

Need a break from the hubbub of the fair? Set a spell in the Burley Barn and watch a livestock show. A parade of beef and dairy cows, goats, pigs, sheep and even poultry take the ring before a panel of judges.

Take a selfie with tractors

Stroll displays of antique tractors, courtesy of the Ole Smoky Antique Tractor and Engine Association. The rows of colorful antique tractors make a perfect photo spot that captures the essence of a county fair while paying tribute to the farming methods of our forefathers.



Stroll the fair entries

No trip to the fair is complete without a gander through the Dogwood Building to see the fair entries from your friends and neighbors. Gawk at the crook-neck squash and oh-and-ah over the colorful jars of canned goods.



Get eye-to-eye with livestock

Visit a viewing zoo of farm animals — both livestock and poultry — courtesy of the Pisgah FFA. As you walk through the tent, look for educational signs about each animal and play interactive games along the way. Pro tip: if you get in a staring contest with a goat, prepare to be defeated.

See chicks hatch

Step inside the Apple Orchard exhibit hall for hands-on activities while browsing the fair entries. Delight over chicks hatching in an incubator and spreading their baby wings for the first time in an observation brooder.

Folks from the Haywood Soil & Water Conservation District will be on hand with brochures covering everything from agricultural best practices to farmland preservation and ag education.



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COME ONE, COME ALL DISCOVER THE JOYS OF ENTERING THE FAIR

MAKE IT, BAKE IT, SEW IT, GROW IT, SHOW IT

Are your apples peachy keen this year? Got a bushel of beans to can? How about a flair for flower arranging?

Make the Haywood County Fair your own this year by displaying your green thumb and artistic talents with a fair entry or two or 20. There are more than 1,000 categories to choose from!

Take a gander through the sundry categories in the online fair entry catalog and you'll no doubt find something right up your alley. It's free to enter, and you just might come home with a ribbon or rosette.

Entering your handiwork in the fair is a great excuse to explore your crafty side or rekindle old hobbies. Pull out your knitting needles, dust off your wood-working tools, and share your secret talents with your Haywood County friends and neighbors.

If you have a hankering to try a new pastime, like broom making or basketry, entering the fair could be just the extra motivation you need to tackle that project.

Browsing the tables of fair entries is a popular pastime at the Haywood County Fair, and you'll beam with pride when you hear from your friends and family: "I saw your entry at the fair!"

FARM & GARDEN

For the gardeners and farmers of Haywood County, hundreds of fair categories are ripe for the picking. Agriculture is the root of the county fair after all!

Whether you've got a humble kitchen garden, a single prized apple tree, or a meager plot of corn, look no further than your own backyard for fair entry ideas. For the true farmers among us, the agronomy division includes categories like hay, silage and tobacco stalks.

With the fair falling in October, make way for a parade of squash — from patty pan and acorn to butternut and candy roasters.

If you're into bragging rights, go all in for the biggest tater, biggest carrot, biggest watermelon, biggest beet — and of course biggest pumpkin. There's even an "ugliest vegetables" category.



WANT TO ENTER SOMETHING IN THE FAIR? IT'S EASY!

Find out how on page 36.

KIDS CAN ENTER THE FAIR, TOO.

See how on page 35.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Every craft, hobby or trade that's been plied in these hills and hollers finds its way into the fair — from tin punching and chair caning to candle making and quilting. You'll find tried and true staples like basketry, woodworking and pottery, alongside more specialized crafts like leather work, glass blowing and even taxidermy.

Got an eye for the artistic? Check out the oodles of categories under painting and drawing. From rug hooking and macrame to cross stitch and embroidery, there's every form of needlework imaginable. You can spread your wings and try something new like origami, or stick to the simple crowd pleaser of painted rocks.

Continued on page 34





HOMESTEADERS

The fair is the perfect excuse to give canning, jamming or pickling a try. Turn that blueberry bush into heaven in a jar or cook up a batch of apple butter. Slice and dice that chow-chow, douse those cukes in vinegar and simmer that salsa.

Canning the harvest is a time-honored Appalachian tradition. You don't have to grow your own 'maters and beans to can though. Just hit the farmers market or farm stand to stock up on ingredients. The fair even has categories for canned meats.

Drying is another way to preserve foods, and the fair has that covered, too! Dried apples, dried chilis, dried fruit leathers — even dried herbs, both culinary and medicinal.

If you're a beekeeper, bring in your prettiest jars of honey, perfect specimens of honeycomb or even cosmetics and soaps made from your own beeswax. The Haywood County Beekeepers Association is "sweetening the pot" for honey entries, with cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 for best in show.

PHOTOGRAPHY

If you call Haywood County home, there's no shortage of stunning photography opportunities everywhere you turn. True to form, photography is one of the most popular divisions at the Haywood County Fair.

The categories run the gamut, from landscapes and farm life to portraits and human interest. Fair goers love to wander the photography displays, so if you want to show off that picture of your grandbaby on a tractor, here's your chance. New presentation expectations this year require photos to be 5x7 print size and matted on 8x10 black mats.

The competition is exclusively for amateur youth and adult photographers, whether you're just beginning with an iPhone lens or photography is your cherished hobby, as long as you don't earn annual income from the craft. Please note that photos that have previously won a ribbon at the Haywood County Fair are not eligible.



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BATTLE OF THE BLOOM

Do you have a show-stopping zinnia, a dazzling dahlia or impeccable rose in your garden? Snip it and vase it for one of the upteen flower entries at the Haywood County Fair. Every year, the fair's exhibit hall is bursting with color and blooms thanks to the flower section.

If your flower garden is waning by September, consider a dried flower, edible or wildflower arrangement. There's also categories for potted plants, like that prized jade or African violet you've been nurturing for years, and even dish gardens and terrariums.

KIDS

Hey kids, join the fun and be part of the fair!

Painted rocks, tie dye, models, clay figures, tote bags, friendship bracelets — even Lego creations. The Haywood County Fair boasts around 80 categories for kids and youth to show off their handiwork.

Got a garden? Pick the best of what you've grown, from maters and taters to sunflowers and pumpkins. Or put your creativity to work and make a flower arrangement.

Like to bake? Make a batch of brownies, cookies or muffins for a taste-off by judges. If you're a collector, bring in your leaf collection, rock collection, insect collection, flower collection and any other collection you may have.

There are lots of art categories, too, from painting and watercolor to drawing and computer art. Photography is also a favorite. There's even a category for selfies. There's three age groups for judging: 5-7, 8-13 and 14-19. Blue ribbons for each category in each age group get \$5, and kids ages 5-7 get \$1 for each entry.



**Continued
on page 36**

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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ENTERING THE FAIR

Where do I find a list of the categories?

Go to www.haywoodcountyfair.com, click on "Exhibit and Competition Info" to view the 2024 Fair Book. Browse through the divisions — from home economics to horticulture — to find the categories you're interested in. Youth entries start on page 25.

You can also request a printed hard copy from the Haywood County Cooperative Extension office between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, located at 589 Raccoon Rd., Waynesville, or call 828-456-3575.

How do I prepare my entries?

Instructions for how to label, mount or display entries are found under each section of the online Fair Book.

When and where do I deliver my entries?

Advance registration is not required this year. Simply bring your entries to the Dogwood Event Center (the second metal building at the fairgrounds) between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24. Come early in the day if possible! Pickup is on Monday, Sept. 30.

* Bring baking contest entries at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28

When will they be judged?

Judging is held on Wednesday, Sept. 25. Judging is closed, so you can see how your entries did when the fair opens to the public on Thursday, Sept. 26.

What do I get if I win?

Adults: Blue, Red, and White ribbons will be awarded in each category. Rosettes will be awarded to the top three entries in each department, with \$25 for blue rosettes; \$15 for red; and \$10 for white.

Kids: A first, second, and third place ribbon is awarded in every category for both the 9-13 and 14-19 age groups. Blue ribbons get \$3 each. Ages 8 and under get a purple ribbon and \$1 for each entry. Rosettes will go to overall winners in ages 9-13 and 14-19, with \$25 for blue, \$15 for red, and \$10 for white.

Special Prizes: Some categories have a special prize purse. The scarecrow contest comes with prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Youth Organizations and clubs may set up exhibit booths at the fair at no cost, and tap into cash prizes of \$100, \$75, \$50 and \$25, courtesy of AgCare Products (see page 27). So does the best overall honey, thanks to the Haywood County Beekeepers Association (see page 4).

The live-judged baking contest has special prizes in the apple pie and King Arthur's Flour contests (see page 15).



WOODLAND CAR SHOW



TOP 15
BEST OF
SHOW

SEPT. 28

7 A.M. - 2 P.M.

\$20 REGISTRATION

Breakfast - 7AM

Lunch - 11AM

Bake Sale

Live Entertainment

Bluegrass/Gospel



545 Crabtree Rd. | Waynesville, NC 28785

FOR MORE INFO CALL 828.454.5550

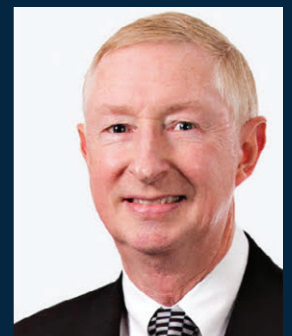
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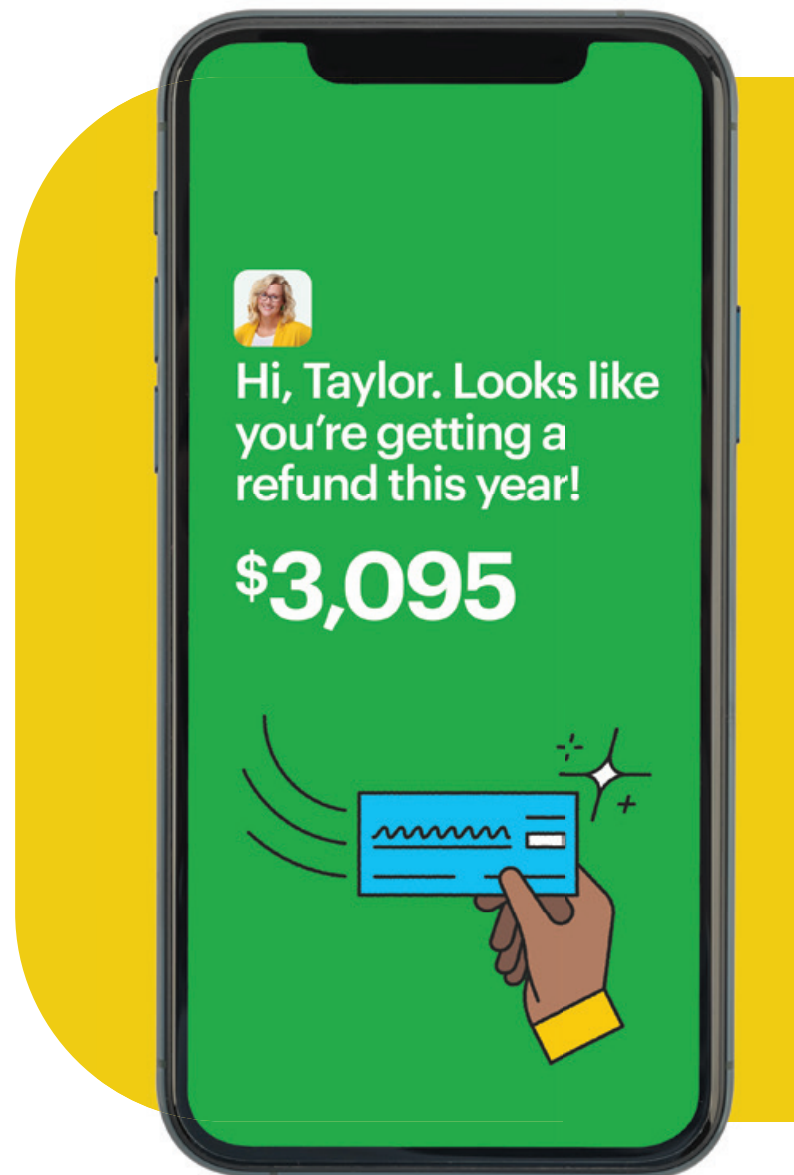
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All tax situations are different. Not everyone gets a refund.

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FACES OF THE FAIR

The Haywood County Fair is all about community — about the people who share this wonderful place we call home. Once a year, for four marvelous days, the fair brings our community together under one banner.



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Haywood County Schools
FOUNDATION

BINGO

Join us for an unforgettable evening of excitement, camaraderie, and the thrill of the win at Haywood County Schools Foundation Bingo! Get your dabbers ready and mark your calendars for an exciting fun filled evening!

PRIZES | FOOD | FUN

Saturday, October 5th, 2024

Tuscola High School Cafeteria
Doors open at 5- Games start at 6

\$20 FOR 20 GAMES



All proceeds will support the schools, students, and staff of Haywood County Schools.

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