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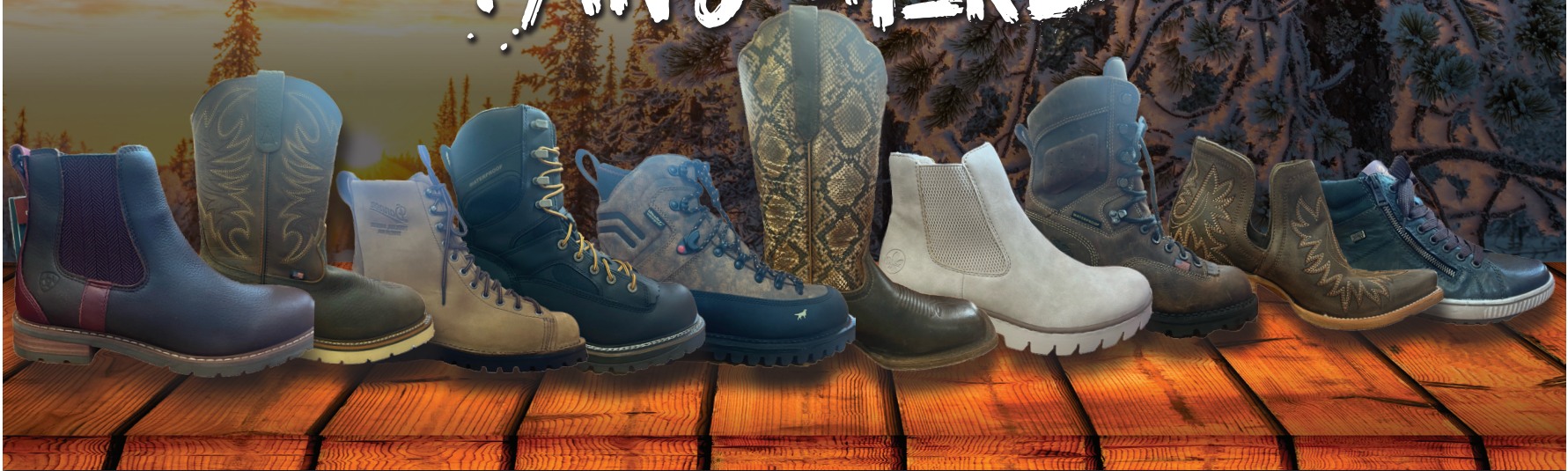
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WELCOME TO THE HAYWOOD COUNTY FAIR

Agriculture pride, County wide



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, where artists and crafters will also demonstrate their skills.

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 square dancing and grab your cowboy hat for the opening night horse show or lively Friday night rodeo.

Come early and come often to partake in all the fair has to offer Sept. 28-Oct. 1!

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



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Faces of the Fair

Celebrate the people of Haywood County who are brought together by the fair

The 2023 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.

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 jo-

key over who gets control of the wheel. Tots will squeal with delight on the motorcycle merry-go-round, and their own kiddie-sized coaster.

Teens can get their adrenaline rush from strapping into the Sidewinder for an upside down, stomach-dropping dive or catch their balance coming off the Spin-

ner or ever-turning Tempest.

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 second year in a row and offer up new thrills, with rides like the swirling Paratrooper making their debut.

When the original ride provider for last year's fair backed out, R&D Amusements was fortunately able to set the midway scene last minute, though it coincided with another fair already on its schedule.

"Last year the Cherokee and Haywood County Fair were at the same time, so we couldn't bring quite as much to the Haywood fair, but we plan on bringing more 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 are \$25. Single tickets are \$1.25 or go big with 50 tickets for \$40. Each ride takes three to four 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. 28-29; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1.

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
- Rollo the Stilt Walker
- Face Painting
- Catch & Release Fishing
- Ax Throwing
- Gelly Ball Wars
- Mechanical Bull
- Exhibit Hall
- Selfie Booths
- Food Truck Row

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

- Inclusion Day: Private fair entry for those with sensory sensitivity and special needs
- Opening Ceremony: 5 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Horse Show: 5 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Bingo Night: 6 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Pork Chop Revue: 6 p.m.
- Special Persons Sheep Show: 6:30 p.m. Burley Barn
- Pork Chop Revue: 8 p.m.



FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

- Poultry Show Judging: 6 p.m. Burley Barn
- Pork Chop Revue: 6 p.m.
- Ag and Heritage Demos: 6-8 p.m. Dogwood Building
- Sheep Show: 6:30 p.m. Burley Barn
- Costume Contest (all livestock): 7:15 p.m. Burley Barn
- Riding on Faith: 7 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Live Action Rodeo: 7:30 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Pork Chop Revue: 8:30 p.m.



SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

- Poultry Show: on display all day Burley Barn
- Goat Show: 9 a.m. Burley Barn
- Farm Bureau Simulator: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Safety City: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Tractor Pull: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Live-Judged Baking Contests: 10 a.m. Dogwood Building
- Cornhole Tournament: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Natural Beauty Contest: 11:30 a.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Pork Chop Revue: 11:30 a.m.
- Beef Cattle Show: 12 p.m. Burley Barn
- Ice Cream Eating Contest: 1:30 p.m. Dogwood Building
- Agriculture and Heritage Demos: 2-8 p.m. Dogwood Building

- Haywood Idol: 2 - 5 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Kids Demolition Derby: 3 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Pork Chop Revue: 3 p.m.
- Watermelon Eating Contest: 3:30 p.m. Dogwood Building
- Bluegrass and Clogging: 6-9 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Pork Chop Revue: 7 p.m.



SUNDAY, OCT. 1

- Dairy Cow Show: 12 p.m. Burley Barn
- Truck Pull: 1-5 p.m. Great Smokies Arena
- Agriculture and Heritage Demos: 2-4 p.m. Dogwood Building
- Community Gospel Celebration: 2-5 p.m. Apple Orchard Building
- Swine Show: 2 p.m. Burley Barn
- Pork Chop Revue: 3 p.m.



RODEO

Saddle up for the greatest show on dirt

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. 29. Saddle up for some roughstock events. Hold onto your hats for some chute dogging, calf roping 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 Kenly Treadway, third generation cowboy and owner of Live Action Rodeo company.

This year's rodeo audience can get roped in watching three-time Guinness Book of Records winner Ray Kozak, a world-renowned trick roper and horseman in the great American cowboy tradition.

This will be Live Action Rodeo's first 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.



Ridin' on Faith drill team thunders into the arena

The rodeo will kick off at 7 p.m. with an opening performance by the equestrian drill team, Ridin' on Faith, a nonprofit ministry with motto "sharing the Gospel one hoofbeat at the time." The mesmerizing horseback routines captivate audiences with their synchronized riding set to inspirational songs.

"Our prayer when we perform is that we touch lives through our Christian and patriotic routines," said Lisa Searcy, founder of Ridin' on Faith. "We're planting seeds of faith everywhere we go that will grow and flourish in the hearts of the people we meet."



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LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Catch the line-up of family-friendly fun

From acrobatic pigs to a world traveling stilt-walker, the antics of entertaining performers are sure to keep audiences roaring during the Haywood County Fair. Kids can try their hand at fishing or pose for pics at one of the farm-inspired selfie booths. Family members can get rambunctious on the mechanical bull, test their aim with ax throwing or battle it out in a gellyball war. New this year, those who need a break from the fair frenzy can unwind in the "chill zone."



Pork Chop Revue

Go "hog-wild" with Pork Chop Revue, an on-the-road family show featuring an array of acrobatic stunts performed by sensational swine. The pigs jump hurdles, roll-barrels and, of course, it wouldn't be a show without some showtunes.

The star studded cast is made up of barnyard friends, primarily pigs and hogs, including the famous "Oink the Original Singing Pig," who sits at a whopping 750 pounds.

Comedic relief is served up by amusing characters like 'Cousin Grumpy,' played by Les Kimes, who raises and trains the pigs with his family.

"It's country, it's fun and it's not just for kids, it's a family show. Everybody likes it," Kimes said, "It's Americana is what it is."

Kimes' father started Pork Chop Revue in 1956. Since then, the generational act has performed at state and county fairs all across the country. These talented swine are also televised sensations, featured on Animal Planet and quarter finalists in America's Got Talent.

It runs about 30 minutes, with two to three performances each day at the fair.

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.

Rollo the Stilt Walker

Fair-goers who have their head in the clouds should lookout for Rollo — a nine foot childlike cartoonish character sure to make you laugh.

Using comedic bits and improvised skits, Rollo's whimsical presence is a sure-fire way to fill the fairgrounds with laughter. Rollo will be waltzing all through the fair pulling out any tricks up his sleeve, from juggling his hat to shrinking himself down before your eyes.

"My main focus is the character and that's what I try to make people laugh with," said Steven Rohmer, stilt walker and the person behind the personality. "When people see me, I wanna leave a memory. I want to make people react, so that's my main focus — the tall, unexpected, funny sorta character."



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 facemasks 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.



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 the air for balance, 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.



Ham it up at the selfie stations

Round up the kids and pose, smile and click. Families can memorialize their fair-fun with selfies at handpainted stations. Life-sized selfie stands will be adorned with fall and farm scenes.

Unwind in the chill zone

As fun as it is, the fair can sometimes get overwhelming. Those wanting a break from the fair frenzies can kick-back with seating and lowlighting at the chill zone. This zone will be a designated tent for those with sensory issues who might be overstimulated by the fair sights and sounds.





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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.

▪ **The Ice Cream Social:** Stroll the fair with a hand-dipped ice cream cone or thick homespun 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 hotdogs 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.

▪ **Apple Orchard Building concession stand:** Get some hearty country cooking served up by the Piney Grove Methodist Church. Thursday's night's menu is wood-smoked leg quarters with green beans, mashed potatoes and coleslaw; Friday night is chili beans and cornbread; Saturday lunch is tacos and taco salad; and Saturday night is Brunswick stew cooked over open fire all day with cornbread and coleslaw. Come eat breakfast Saturday morning from 8-10 a.m. and brunch on Sunday 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 plate for a cornhole tourney. 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. 28. 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 only \$12 for 20 cards, plus gate admission of \$8. The winner of each round will get a cash prize, plus a guaranteed \$500 cover-all prize for the final round.

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



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.

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

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!

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

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



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 judges find your scarecrow is "out-standing in the field," you could be one of three lucky winners. The stakes are high, with cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 for first, second and third place.

Deliver your scarecrow to the fairgrounds between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 26, for judging the following day. They will be displayed throughout the fairgrounds over the course of the fair.



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. 30, in the Dogwood building. Watch in anticipation as they move down the line and ooh-and-aah over each bite.

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).

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/enterthefair, click on "2023 Fair Book" and scroll to page 15.



REV UP YOUR THROWING ARM FOR A CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

A cornhole tournament benefiting the Make A Wish Foundation will once again liven up the fairground's arena at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, with a \$1,000 prize purse to boot. All entry fees go toward funding the wish of a child facing a critical illness.

A blind-draw round-robin format will randomly pair players with different partners for each of the four rounds. Next up is a single-elimination bracket, where players are paired according to their standings from the round robin.

The tournament is organized by Tyler Stephenson of Mountain Thunder Cornhole, a former pro cornhole player who hails from Haywood. Stephenson Pest Control is sponsoring the prize purse

— for the top five in the blind-draw and top four in the single elimination — so entry fees can go to Make A Wish.

The entry fee is \$30. Onsite registration begins at 10 a.m. in the Great Smokies Arena.



DON YOUR COUNTRY ATTIRE FOR A KIDS' NATURAL BEAUTY PAGEANT

Show off your adorable little tikes, oh-so-precious kids and stunning teens in a fun pageant for both boys and girls from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30. All participants get their moment in the sun and receive a crown, custom awards and gifts.

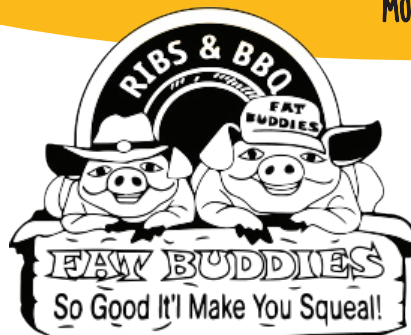
The contest is divided into three age groups for boys and 10 age groups for girls, with a queen/king crowned in each age group. Judging is based on beauty, personality and overall impression, with several special categories including best hair, eyes, smile and personality.

Attire is country-themed only. No heavy make-up. Entry fee is \$65, with on-site registration from 10-10:45 a.m. in the Apple Orchard Building. Hosted by "I Am Breathtaking" pageant organizers. For information or pre-registration, contact pageant-brats@bellsouth.net or 704-798-3739.



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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 live-stock 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. See schedule on page 28.



Strap on the dairy farm goggles

Strap on a 3-D headset for a behind-the-scenes journey of a dairy farm (Saturday afternoon only) from inside a tractor cab to the heart of a milking parlor in action. The virtual reality experience Discover NC Dairy 360° is provided by the Haywood County Cooperative Extension. Kids will love the module that shows how all the cow poop is managed!



Drive a combine

Climb into the Farm Simulator for a glimpse into the life of a farmer. Ride through the field harvesting rows of corn, cotton, wheat, soybeans or tomatoes. Seats vibrate and rattle, so it sounds and feels like a real machine. While kids play with controls and steering wheel, they learn some ag facts along the way. Saturday only.



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 a goat

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.





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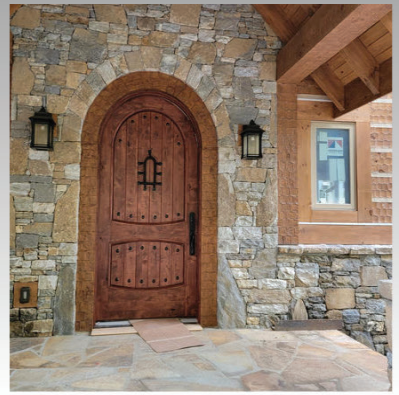


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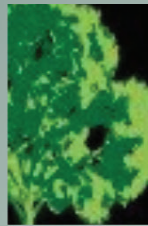
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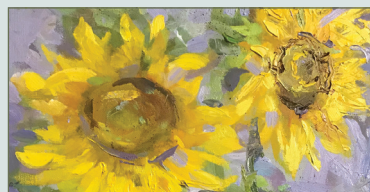
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LIVE MUSIC LIGHTS UP THE FAIR

Music from the heart of Appalachia sounds through the Haywood County fair, from soulful gospel to toe-tappin' bluegrass. Plus, a lineup of local clogging groups will rope in the audience for a Saturday night hoe-down.

Evening of Bluegrass and Clogging 6-9 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 30



Dixie Darlin's Cloggers

Step up and slide on over for some toe-tappin' tunes and performances from local clogging groups. Returning this year to strike up the dance floor are the Dixie Darlin's Cloggers, Green Valley Cloggers and The Southern Appalachian Cloggers. The groups will take turns performing and welcome the audience to be part of the tradition.

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 Crystal Finger Cherry, a member of Dixie Darlin's clogging group. 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 second year in a row is the band Branded Heart. The band brings in the tempo with some bluegrass and classic



Green Valley Cloggers

covers ranging from Creedence Clearwater Revivals' rendition of "Old Man Down The Road" to Tina Turner's "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."



BRANDED HEART



Sunday Gospel and Sing Along

2-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1

The Porter Family will elevate Sunday worship with a live gospel performance. The son-mother-father trio are dedicated to the Southern gospel tradition of sharing the love of Jesus through music. The trio is honored to be invited back for a second year to bring sacred songs to the fair.

"I've been excited about it and I want to get the community excited about it," said Shawn Porter, the son and lead singer of the group. "There's nothing better than fellowship. When we get the chance to sing together it's always fun and special for me."

This year, the group will amp up their divine set by inviting fair guests to join in with the singing on some classic numbers. Porter is an associate pastor at Dellwood Baptist Church and is passionate about creating a soulful faith-based sound to the fairgrounds.

"It's going to be a fun afternoon. We invite anyone and everyone to come out," Porter said. "People can get out of church, come to the fair and eat lunch, enjoy a good gospel concert and be finished in time to get back to church in the evening."

ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR HAYWOOD IDOL



Last year's winners of Haywood Idol (L-R) included Farrah Stevenson, Deziree Frizzell, Michsa Deese (grand prize winner, Molly Reece, and Addison Carpenter.

Get your ballots ready for the Haywood Idol competition, back for its third year at the Haywood County Fair.

Performers will step up to the mic and give it their all during a live show from 2:30-5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, 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 and runner-up from among all the contestants. The judges will also serve as emcees, offering commentary on the performances.

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.

"It's good to see people get up there and sing," said Kendra Medford, organizer of Haywood Idol. "We have a lot of talented individuals in the area."

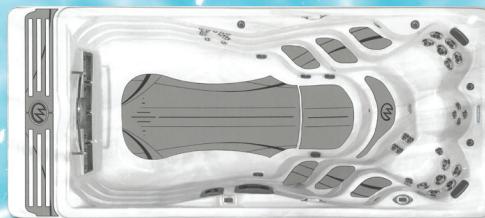
The three People's Choice winners will score \$50 each; the Judge's Choice runner up gets \$100 cash; and the grand champion will receive a prize valued at \$200.

The deadline for contestants to register is Friday, Sept. 16. For rules and entry instructions, email kyamedford@gmail.com.



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GIDDY UP Y'ALL! HORSE SHOW KICKS OFF OPENING NIGHT OF THE FAIR

The fair will ride into town with 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 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28, in the Great Smokies Arena.

The horse show has 29 events open to all skill levels in English, Western, Gaited and Speed — plus plenty of fun classes as well to keep spectators energized.

Squeal with excitement as barrel racers kick up the sawdust on tight turns or agile riders vault over poles. See riders trot around the ring while carrying an egg on a spoon or with a dollar bill tucked under their thigh in "ride a buck." Cheer for your favorites during the costume contest. In the "buddy pick-up" challenge, riders canter across the arena and scoop up a partner waiting on a barrel at the far end.

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.



The entry fee is \$10 for regular classes, \$5 for fun classes, and \$15 for higher stakes Championship classes. All divisions will have payout. Arrive by 4-4:30 p.m. For a complete list of classes, go to haywoodcountyfair.com. Got questions? Contact 719-661-9786 or jmountainqh@gmail.com.



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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 work to keep Haywood

County safe.

The walk-through expo offers informative and interactive demonstrations by local public safety officers. K9 handlers will be on hand with their trusty

companions. Kids will get to don firefighter hats while exploring turn-out gear. And the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will have a boat kids can board to learn about water safety.

"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.

While photo ops with officers and fire engines are always a hit, Safety City imparts an important message. One demo illustrates the danger of not wearing your seatbelt, for example.

A crowd favorite is watching people strap on "fatal vision" goggles that simulate being impaired, while being put through the paces of a field sobriety test.

"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 get out riding with someone who shouldn't be behind a wheel.

Safety City is organized by the WNC Regional DWI Task Force. It will be set up from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30.



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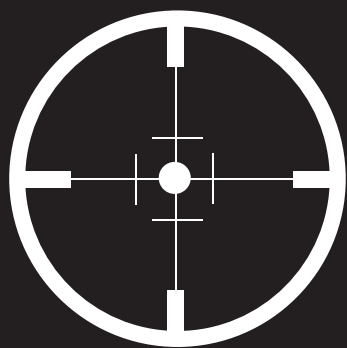
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The wheels will spin and dirt will fly during these tests of strength, skill and stamina at the Haywood County Fair. Back for a second year, little tykes can get in on the action with a Power Wheels Demolition Derby. All events are held in the Great Smokies Arena and are included in fair admission.



Tractor Pull

10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30

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

1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1

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 starting at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1.

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 noon. Hook fee is \$15, or \$35 for 2.5 Open Diesel class.

For classes and rules, go to www.haywoodcountyfair.com/enterthe-fair and click on "2023 Fair Book," and scroll to page 37.



Kids Demolition Derby

3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30

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. 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. For a complete set of rules, go to shorturl.at/nyFM0.



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.



New to the fair this year, a fun costume contest will be held Friday night for the best dressed farm animals! Also new this year, 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.

WHEN TO CATCH THE LIVESTOCK SHOWS

Thursday, Sept. 28

- Special Persons Sheep Show: 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 29

- Poultry Show judging: 6 p.m.
- Sheep Show: 6:30 p.m.
- Costume Contest (all livestock): 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 30.

- Goat Show: 9 a.m.
- Beef Cattle Show: 12 p.m.
- Poultry Show: on display all day

Sunday, Oct. 1

- Dairy Cow Show: 12 p.m.
- Swine Show: 2 p.m.

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 course, including the whole gamut of farm birds. Judging for the poultry show will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 29, and will be on display throughout the day on Saturday, Sept. 30, offering fair goers a chance to see unique birds they've never encountered before.

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 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28. The sheep are provided by students with the Pisgah agriculture program, who are on hand to assist the participants.

"It's a neat experience for both our FFA showmen and the show participants to do something they normally wouldn't have a chance to do," said Courtney Wade Smith, Pisgah agriculture teacher. "They go in and walk about the ring a couple times, get to hear their name called out over the loudspeaker and get a trophy. They are all grinning ear to ear."

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.



ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR THE FAIR

Inclusion Day offers fair experience for those with special needs

The Haywood County Fair has strived this year 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 wanted to make sure that every child could 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. 28, 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.-noon, 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 animal viewing zoo while waiting on the rides to open at 5 p.m.

To cap off the day, a Special Persons Sheep Show will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Burley Barn sponsored by the McLeod Family and Pisgah High School FFA.

Those who wish to attend Inclusion Day must RSVP by calling or texting 828-400-1704. 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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EXPERIENCE CULTURAL HERITAGE AT THE FAIR

Appalachian cultural heritage is alive and well in Haywood County. Traditions of yesteryear still being carried on today will be on display during the fair.

Cheer on the lumberjacks

Carve out some time to watch the Haywood Community College woodsmen team showcase their speed and strength with an ax and saw. The team is a cut above the competition on the collegiate lumberjack and lumberjill circuit. Let the wood chips and sawdust fly during displays of chopping, ax throwing, crosscut saw and chainsaw feats, and maybe even some log rolling and pole climbing!



Witness Ag in Action

See agriculture put to work in everyday life on the Ag in Action stage. Demonstrations will offer tips on flower arranging, how to can your fall harvest or capture the perfect landscape scene on a smartphone. The demos coincide with fair entry categories on display around the Apple Orchard exhibit hall.

"The demos will be an opportunity to see Ag in Action and also encourage fair entries for next year," said Sally Dixon, director of the Haywood County Cooperative Extension.




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Chicks, story walk, art station and more!

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.

Feeling inspired to unleash your creativity? Stop by the Haywood County Arts Council craft station. Meanwhile, the Canton Library will post a story walk around the exhibit hall. Akin to a scavenger hunt, kids follow the story as they walk, skip or hop from page-to-page of an agricultural-themed book.

There will be additional games for families to play, like giant jenga, and kids can practice staying in the lines for a farm-themed coloring page contest.

Crafters Lane

Take a stroll down Crafters Lane to see artists and crafters at work. Witness chair caning, basket weaving, fly tying, woodcarving and more. The interactive Crafters Lane will provide fair goers a chance to see these traditions come to life and purchase the hand-made wares.

If you're interested in demonstrating at the fair, go to haywoodcountyfair.com.



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

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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 broommaking 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!"

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, wood-working 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.



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.

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 cane for molasses.

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.

Continued on page 34



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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 this year is a category for professional photographers. The fair was previously for amateurs only, but Haywood County is a magnet for professional photographers, who now have their own showcase. The Haywood County Arts Council is sponsoring special cash prizes for the professional category of \$100, \$75 and \$50 for best in show.



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 bracelet — 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 (see page 16). 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: 7 and under, 8-13 and 14-19. Blue ribbons for each category in each age group get \$5, and kids 8 and under 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.haywoodcounty-fair.com, click on "Entering the Fair," then click on "Fair Book." Browse through the divisions — from home economics to horticulture — to find the categories you're interested in. Youth entries start on page 22.

You can also pick up a 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. 26. Come early in the day if possible! Pickup is on Monday, Oct. 2.

* Bring baking contest entries at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30.



When will they be judged?

Judging is held on Wednesday, Sept. 27. Judging is closed, so you can see how your entries did when the fair opens to the public on Thursday, Sept. 28.



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 \$100, \$75 and \$50 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd (see page 16). So does the best overall honey, thanks to the Haywood County Beekeepers Association. The professional photography category also has prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50, thanks to the Haywood County Arts Council. The live-judged baking contest has special prizes in the apple pie and King Arthur's Flour contests (see page 16).



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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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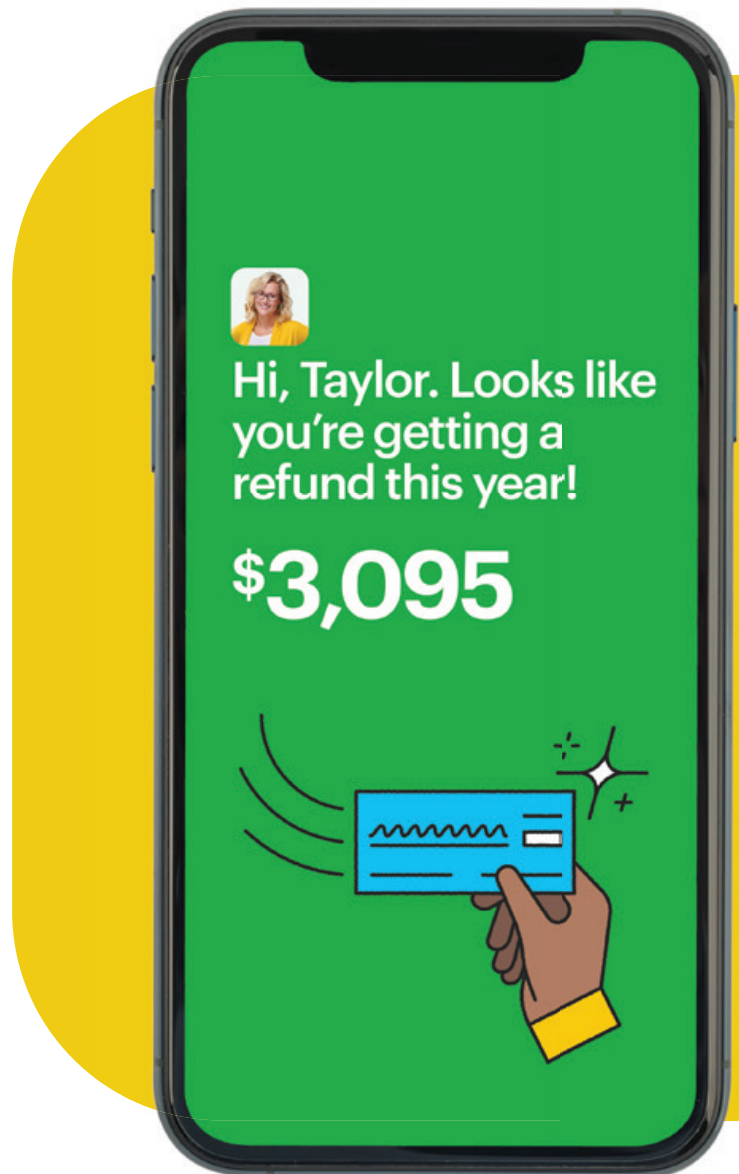
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