

JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

John-Furman Matheson takes a bite out of an apple at last year's South Carolina Apple Festival in Westminster.

Apple Festival set for next week

BY NORMAN CANNADA
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WESTMINSTER — Plans are set for the 53rd South Carolina Apple Festival next week, with events beginning Tuesday and running through next weekend.

Today's edition of The Journal includes a special section on the festival with full schedule and more details about events.

The five-day event begins Tuesday with the Rotary Golf Tournament at Oconee County Country Club. The tournament opens with

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registration at 11 a.m. and a noon shotgun start. The four-man captain's choice format will be limited to 108 players. Prizes will be awarded, and proceeds from the tournament will benefit the West-Oak Senior Scholarship Fund. For more information, call (864) 647-5487.

Events move to the water on Wednesday with the Chattooga River Float beginning at 10 a.m. at Wildwater Ltd. in Long Creek. For details and reservations, call (864) 647-9587.

The festival officially moves downtown on Thursday, beginning with the Apple Baking Contest at the Westminster Depot. Entries will be accepted from 9-10 a.m. and judging will begin at 11 a.m.

At 6 p.m. is the Elvis show and Westminster Area Historic Preservation Society's (WAHPS) annual fish fry at the Apple Festival Pavilion on Main Street. Ken Culbertson will be back as the Elvis impersonator. There will be seating, or people can bring their lawn chairs. Bobby Moore and his crew will provide the fish fry. Dinner plates with a drink and dessert will be sold for $9. Plates will be served from 6 p.m. until the food is gone.

Friday and Saturday will feature full days of activities, with events beginning at 11 a.m. and running as late as 8 p.m. on Friday and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. The arts and crafts show, live entertainment at the pavilion, children's rides and food vendors will all be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The children's rides will include rock climbing and a mechanical bull. The bull will also be open for adults. Tickets must be purchased for all rides. A quilt show is scheduled for 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at the Westminster Depot.

Friday will also include the Rotary Club luncheon at 1 p.m. at Westminster Baptist Church, where the club will name its Citizen of the Year. The Friday activities will also include the Apple Festival Parade, from First Baptist Church to First Citizens Bank. The parade is scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m. and will feature a variety of organizations, as well as the winners of the different levels in the Apple Festival Pageant held last weekend.

Saturday will begin with the 33rd annual Apple Festival 5K/Fun Run race beginning at 7 a.m. in the West-Oak Middle School parking lot. The event is sponsored by the West-Oak High School wrestling team. A classic car show is among the events set for downtown Saturday. The car show is sponsored by Crime Stoppers of Oconee County and will run from 10 a.m. to noon, with registration scheduled for 9 a.m. Free children's activities will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., also in the downtown area.



More than 10,000 people are expected to descend on downtown Westminster for t 53rd annual South Carolina Apple Festival next week.