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Chiefland Watermelon Festival attracts a crowd



Harold Tillis, an established farmer in the area, weighs a watermelon. This was one of the melons in competition for being the heaviest. Tillis Farms provided the free watermelon that was sliced and given to people at the festival.

**Story and Photos By Micaiah Johnston © June 5, 2016 @ 8:57 p.m.
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CHIEFLAND – A crowd of people ebbed and flowed in and out of the beautiful downtown Chiefland area on Saturday (June 4) as the 62nd Annual Chiefland Watermelon Festival was hosted by the Chiefland Woman’s Club.

This festival has taken place almost every year since 1954, becoming one of Chiefland’s largest and most popular events. There was one first Saturday in June a few years ago, when inclement weather made it a washout.



Tim Piro, a vendor with Mini Delights sells miniature donuts.

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Gayle Ambrose, who was selling her homemade crotchet rugs at the festival, shows some of her wares here.

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The 2016 Chiefland Watermelon Festival provided many different vendors, who arrived early in the morning to set up their stands for the special watermelon-themed occasion.

At these stands, various crafts and foods were sold, many of which were homemade. Along with this, festival guests were treated to live music, rides for the children, and many more attractions.

One of the most important parts of the festival is its theme of watermelons. A large amount of locally-grown watermelons were brought in, and they were provided in slices for free to the guests of the festival.

Watermelons were for sale as well, including during the auction.

There were many watermelon-oriented beverages and activities. If they arrived early enough, guests could see the Watermelon Weigh-in.

The Chiefland Watermelon Festival provided the area's residents and visitors with much to see and do, making a fun and family-friendly environment. Just as this year's was, next year's festival is an event to look forward to.

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Emma Dotsoe from Ginger Sweets selling her homemade sweets.



(from left) Commandant Rosanna Powers, Alex Arnold, and Brody Lord at the Marine Corps League and Ladies Auxiliary booth.

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Here are a couple of the children's activities and rides at the festival.



(from left) Zac Petty, Houston King and Peter Cruz perform the song Folsom Prison Blues by Johnny Cash.