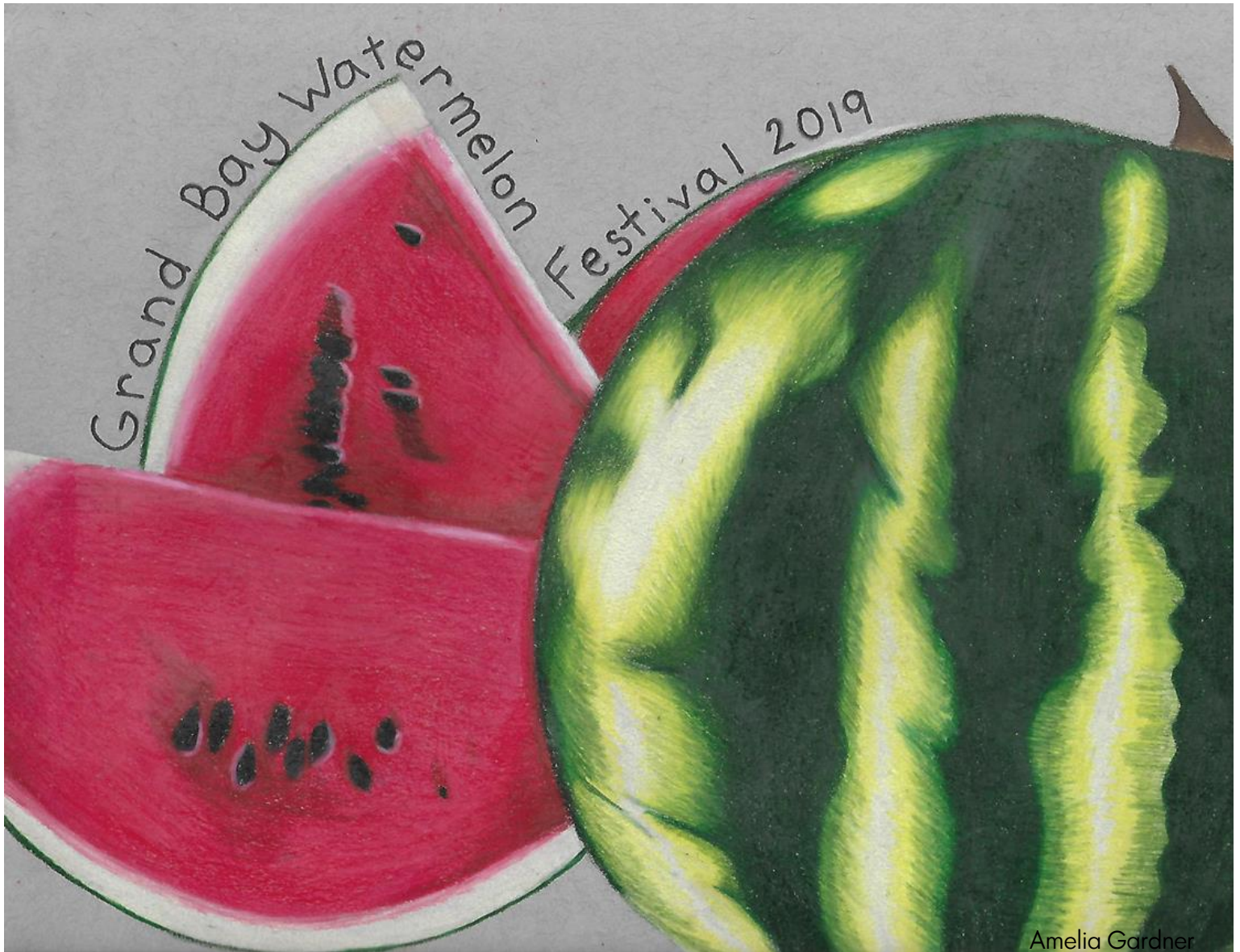


46th Annual Grand Bay Watermelon Festival JULY 3 - 4, 2019



PRESENTED BY INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
MARTHA REBEKAH LODGE #29
GRAND BAY LODGE #73



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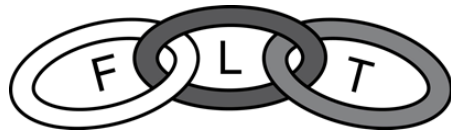
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Who we are: The Independent Order of Odd Fellows And Rebekahs

MOTTO:



“Friendship, Love, Truth”

We are the family of Odd Fellowship, composed of Men, Women, and Youth, believing in a Supreme Being, Creator and Preserver of the Universe, who have come together in our local communities having the same beliefs and values as others, that Friendship, Love and Truth are the basic guidelines that we need to follow in our daily lives. Through working in our local Communities, States, Provinces, or Nationally we understand that we can make a difference in the lives of people in our World.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) began in 18th Century England, it was deemed *odd* to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need without recognition and pursuing projects for the benefits of all mankind. Our deep history in North America began with the United States and Canada in 1819, and is continually expanding throughout the World where we are a worldwide fraternity in 26 countries. Grand Bay Lodge #73 was formed in 1873. The Lodge Charter was at Freeland Lane in downtown Grand Bay. The Lodge Charter was renewed in 1984 and is now located at Grand Bay Odd Fellows Festival Park.

The Rebekah's are also a Fraternal Order of the IOOF, as well as a Service Organization. Grand Bay's Martha Rebekah Lodge #29 was chartered in 1984. Rebekah's exhibit the true principles of Odd Fellowship which are Friendship, Love, and Truth and are extended to rendering service to our communities – SERVICE IS OUR GOAL. Ideally, an Odd Fellows lodge is a place for fellowship in all its forms, from hanging out and just having fun, to discussion, to networking, to collaboration on creative and constructive projects, all with an eye not only on our own satisfaction but on what we might offer to the community at large.

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are striving to make the world a better place in which to live, seeking:

To Improve and Elevate the Character of Mankind.

Do you believe that Friendship, Love and Truth should be the basic guidelines to live by?

Do you believe in a supreme being, the creator and preserver of the universe?

Do you want to make a difference? **YES?** Then we need you! **Your community needs you!**

ODD FELLOW VALEDICTION

I AM AN ODD FELLOW:

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, and the
Brotherhood of Man;

I believe in Friendship, Love and Truth as basic
guides to the ultimate destiny of all mankind;

I believe my home, my church or temple, my lodge,
and my community deserve my best work,
my modest pride, my earnest faith, and my
deepest loyalty, as I perform my duty “to
visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the
dead and educate the orphan” and as I work
with others to build a better world, because, in
spirit and in truth, I am and must always be,
grateful to my Creator, faithful to my country
and fraternal to my fellow-man;

I AM AN ODD FELLOW!

REBEKAH CREED

I AM A REBEKAH:

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, the Brother-
hood of man, and the Sisterhood of woman.

I believe in the watch-words of our Order –
Friendship, Love and Truth.

Friendship – is like a golden chain that ties our
hearts together. Love – is one of our most
precious gifts, the more you give, the more you
receive. Truth – is the standard by which we
value people. It is the foundation of our society.

I believe that my main concern should be my God,
my family, and my friends. Then I should reach
out to my community and the World, for in
God's eyes we are all brothers and sisters.

I AM A REBEKAH!

*Please Take the Time
To Remember Our
Men & Women
Who Are Serving Our Country
So That We May Be Free.*



*“Freedom is not free.”
Thank you to all of our Veterans!!*

Welcome to the 46th Annual Grand Bay Watermelon Festival

**Presented by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows,
Grand Bay Lodge #73 and Martha Rebekah Lodge #29**

Festival Chairman Monnie Tripp
Event Coordinator Patty Tripp
Queens Coordinator Judi Miller Poiroux



2018 Grand Bay Watermelon Festival Queens

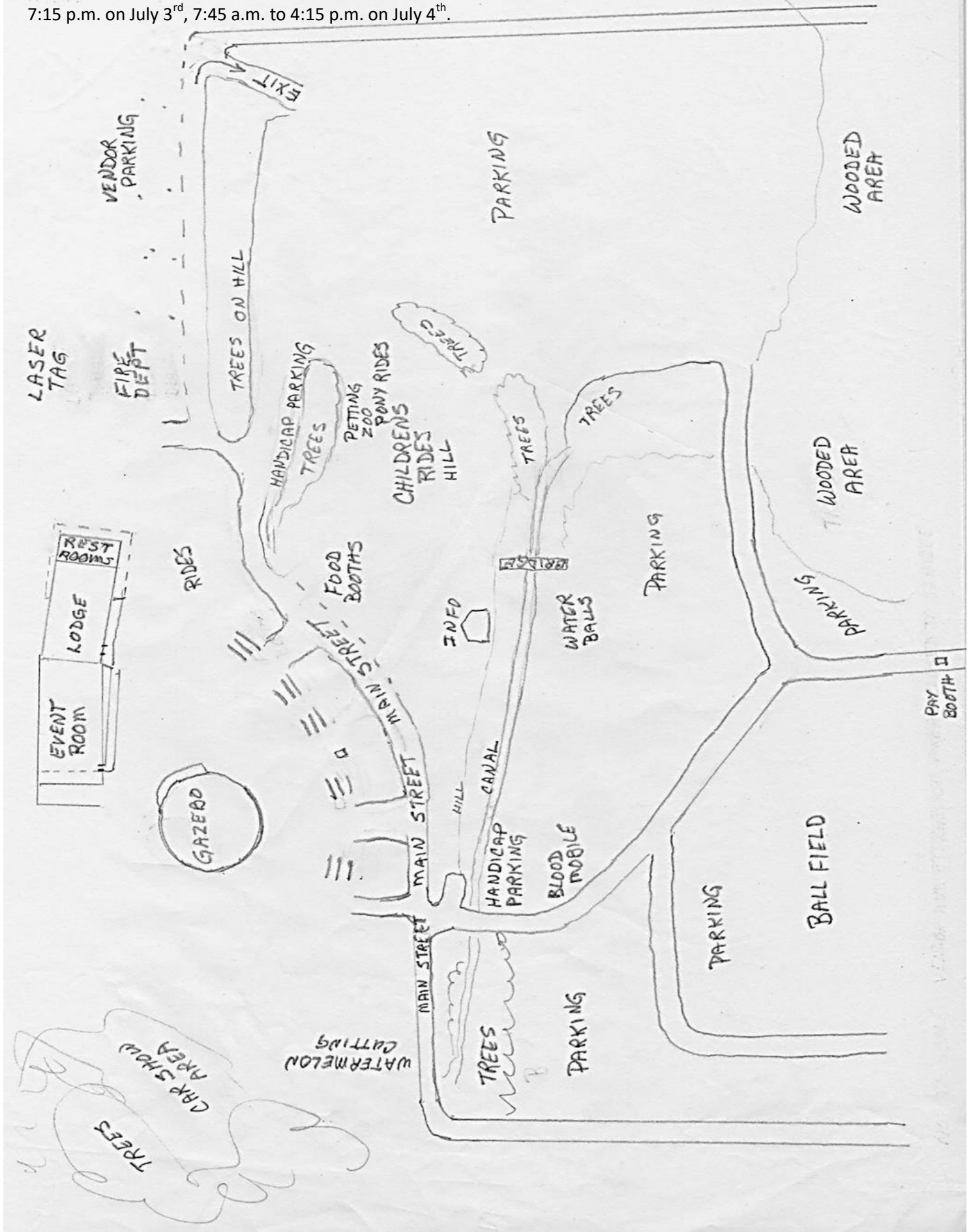
We want you to be sure to enjoy all the sliced ice cold Grand Bay Watermelon you can eat & have a wonderful time!

A SPECIAL THANKS!

We would like to thank the entire community for their support and encouragement of Grand Bay Lodge #73 and Martha Rebekah Lodge #29. We would like to thank our wonderful Sponsors, listed on our Schedule of Events page; all of our program advertisers; local TV and Radio Stations; Sessions Farm Market who donated our delicious watermelons; all of the volunteers; and to everyone else who helped in any way. *Many thanks also to Senator David Sessions, County Commissioner Jerry Carl, and Representative Chip Brown for their service to our community and the Grand Bay Watermelon Festival.* Please support all of our advertisers and sponsors with your business. They all really care about our community. If you would like to be one of our sponsors, or advertise in our program, visit our web site: www.grandbaywatermelonfestival.org. If you are interested in joining Grand Bay Lodge #73 or Martha Rebekah Lodge #29, call: 251-865-3456.

For our Program Cover this year we again offered a contest to the Art Class at Alma Bryant High School. Several students submitted entries. It was a very difficult decision but the winner chosen was Amelia Gardner. Thanks to all of our entrants! We appreciate your hard work!

NOT TO SCALE Vendor and Attraction Areas are closed to vehicle traffic during Festival times: 2:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. on July 3rd, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on July 4th.



46th Annual Grand Bay Watermelon Festival

Schedule of Events

STAGE PERFORMANCE AREA

July 3rd

- 2:00 – 4:00 Music by** – 151st Army Band
Alabama Army National Guard
- 4:00 – 5:00 Music by** – Terryel Wright
- 5:00 – 7:00 Music by** – TBA

*Entertainment, Food,
and Vendors open 3-7 pm*

July 4th

- Master of Ceremonies** – Representative Chip Brown
- 8:30 – Flag Ceremony** – Raising our flag are two local Veterans, Sgt. Charles Sessions, USMC, and SK1 Donna Lyles, USCG, Ret.
- National Anthem** – Kenlee Tillman
- Invocation** – Rev. Wayne Benbow, Minister of Youth and Education, First Baptist Church of Grand Bay
- 8:35 – Welcome Address** - Representative Chip Brown
- 8:45** – Demonstration by Coastal Taekwondo
- 9:00** – Music by Kenlee Tillman
- 9:30** – Music by Southern Relics
- 10:30 Recognition of Special Guests:**
- Oldest Person Present
 - Person Who Traveled the Farthest (to get here)
- 10:40** – Demonstration by Coastal Taekwondo
- 11:00 – K-9 Demonstration** – Mobile County Sheriffs
- 11:45 – Presentation of Festival Queens** – Queen’s Watermelon Eating Contest
- 12:00 – Dancing** by Minor Ballroom Dancers
- 12:30 – Races and Games** in front of the Gazebo - Hula Hoop Competition, 3 Legged Race, Potato Sack Race, Watermelon Carry Race
- Pre-register at the Information Booth**
- 1:00** – Music by Southern Relics
- 2:00 – Political Candidates Speak**
- 2:30 – Car Show Trophy Presentation**
- 2:45** – Demonstration by Coastal Taekwondo
- 3:00 – Music** by Southern Relics
- 4:00 – Closing Ceremony**

ENTERTAINMENT both days

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Meltdown | Rockwall |
| Train rides | Pony Rides |
| Gyro | Face Painting |
| Bowling | Petting Zoo |
| Bungee Jump | Mechanical Bull |

AREA ACTIVITIES July 4th

- 8:45 – Pretty Baby Contestants Line up**
(inside main building)
- 9:00 – Pretty Baby Contest Begins**
- 1:00 – Seed Spitting Contest** (inside main building)
- 1:15 – Corn Hole Toss Team Competition** (inside main building) \$1.00 Admission, \$4 per Team
- 3:00 – Watermelon Eating Contest** – Watermelon cutting area.

OPEN CAR SHOW July 4th

- Registration 8:00 – Noon**
- Voting by Children’s Choice (parents can help) for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place and Queen’s Choice Trophies
- Trophies courtesy of



Grand Bay Watermelon Festival

Sponsors:

- Greer’s Markets and Cash Savers
- Sessions Farm Market
- Sunny South Raceway
- The Flower Hut
- Cart Doctor



Children’s Ride Sponsors:

- Jerry Carl
- Mobile Bay Mustang Club
- Grand Bay Lodge #73
- Martha Rebekah Lodge #29
- Deep South Region of AACA
- Southern Oaks Townhomes

2019 GRAND BAY WATERMELON FESTIVAL QUEENS



Queens by age group:

17 – 18 Year Old Queen – Courtney Brown

15 – 16 Year Old Queen – Kassi Reynolds

13 – 14 Year Old Queen – Thao Nguyen

10 – 12 Year Old Queen – Sophie Davis

7 – 9 Year Old Queen – Vivian Wood

4 – 6 Year Old Queen – Emma Kate Tomes

FESTIVAL QUEEN: Courtney Brown

Congratulations to
Grand Bay Lodge #73
and Martha Rebekah Lodge #29
Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF)
For all their efforts to make this year's Festival a success!



Grand Master – Brother Rusty Collier
Rebekah President – Sister Julie Barginear

I.O.O.F State Executive Officers

A Special Thank You

*Thanks to everyone for all of your support and encouragement.
May God bless each of you, your community, our state, and our nation.*

IN MEMORY OF James Edward Holifield

July 18, 1938 ~ December 7, 2018 (age 80)



Brother James Edward Holifield, known to all of us as Ed, is dearly missed by all of his Odd Fellow brothers and sisters. Ed was born on July 18, 1938 and went home to Heaven to be with his wife on December 7, 2018. Ed was a true Odd Fellow, always helping others. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is an International fraternal organization that began in 18th Century England, where it was deemed 'odd' to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need, without recognition, and pursuing projects for the benefits of all mankind. Many years ago Ed became a member of an Odd Fellows Lodge in Mobile, Alabama. Later he followed his employer, Randall Fletcher and friends, transferring to Odd Fellows Grand Bay Lodge #73 where he remained a faithful member. The Odd Fellows symbol, three links of a chain, represents Friendship, Love, and Truth. Ed demonstrated all three very well. On just about any day of the week you could find Ed at the Lodge on our Tractor cutting grass, moving limbs, or any number of things that needed to be done. Our Lodge puts on the Grand Bay Watermelon Festival to raise funds to operate and support our charities. During the Watermelon Festival Ed would proudly wear his Odd Fellows shirt and work to make the Festival a success. He, with some help from Monnie Tripp, rebuilt the deteriorating walking bridge at the base of the hill so people could easily get to the Grand Bay Watermelon Festival from the parking area. The two of them also built the handicapped walkway up to the Lodge building. Ed worked on the bleachers, cutting down trees, and much, much more. All of his life Ed was a professional carpenter, and Monnie didn't understand what this meant until he started working with him. Monnie always thought the jobs they were working on went too slow. Ed was always leveling, straightening, measuring, and aligning posts or boards that they were working on, but the end product always turned out right because he applied his professionalism to every job he did. The Lodge grounds, and the Grand Bay Watermelon Festival, wouldn't have turned out as nice as they did without Ed's tireless work; and he never asked for anything in return. The members of Grand Bay Lodge #73, and Martha Rebekah Lodge #29, loved him and appreciated him very much. Ed is truly missed.

Everyone should Remember Ed Holifield, and remember –
HE WAS AN ODD FELLOW!

IN MEMORY OF **Randall H. Fletcher**

November 15, 1934 ~ December 13, 2018 (age 84)



Brother Randall H. Fletcher is dearly missed by all of his fellow brothers and sisters of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Grand Bay Lodge #73, Martha Rebekah Lodge #29, and the Grand Lodge of Alabama. Randall was 84 years old and spent over 37 years with the Odd Fellows. He entered Odd

Fellowship in 1981 at the Otis Trehern Lodge #81 in Irvington, AL and served a term as Noble Grand. In 1984 Randall transferred to Grand Bay Lodge #73. He worked through the chairs (positions) in the Lodge and later became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alabama.

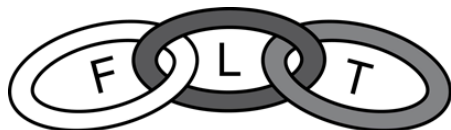
The Odd Fellows symbol, three links of a chain, represents Friendship, Love, and Truth. Randall demonstrated all three plus generosity his entire life. Following principles in the Bible and the Odd Fellows Creed, Randall was always taking in strays, whether it be dogs or people, he was always there to help. He was a farmer and a construction business owner. As a farmer, Randall often gave produce from his field not only to his friends, but also to the needy.

In March of 1984 Randall put a house on some property that he owned, at his own expense, for a Lodge Hall for our Grand Bay Lodge. This remained the home of the Lodge until April of 2000. The Lodge then moved to Festival Park, where they took over the responsibility of putting on the annual Grand Bay Watermelon Festival for many years. The Watermelon Festival raises funds to operate the Park and better support our charities. Randall worked the Watermelon Festival, proudly wearing his Odd Fellows shirt, and helped to make the Festival a success. He also provided the watermelons at no cost to the Lodge, and oversaw the watermelon cutting.

In 1987 Randall spearheaded the purchase of 100 acres of property for the Grand Lodge of Alabama as a Park in Clanton, AL. After purchase of the property Randall and other members of the Grand Bay Lodge donated time, equipment, and materials to turn the Park into a camping, fishing, and Lodge meeting area. Randall was Clanton Park Director for 12 years.

The members of Grand Bay Lodge #73, and Martha Rebekah Lodge #29, loved him and appreciated him very much. Randall is truly missed.

Everyone should Remember Randall Fletcher, and remember –
HE WAS AN ODD FELLOW!



Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Grand Bay Lodge #73 Officers

Noble Grand

Past Noble Grand

Vice Grand

Secretary

Treasurer

Chaplain

Trustees

Bratton McGregor

Monnie Tripp

Tommy Poiroux

Tony Wilson

Monnie Tripp

Fletcher Hayes

Monnie Tripp

Fletcher Hayes

Tommy Poiroux



Martha Rebekah Lodge #29 Officers

Noble Grand

Past Noble Grand

Vice Grand

Secretary

Treasurer

Chaplain

Patty Tripp

Etta Sullivan

Monnie Tripp

Jennifer Horton

Judi Miller Poiroux

Ann Bennett



ALABAMA STATE SENATOR
DAVID SESSIONS (R)
Senate District 35
 (Mobile County)
Phone Number: 334-261-0882
 Email: d.r.sessions@att.net

Senator David Sessions was elected to the Alabama Senate on November 6, 2018. He graduated from Mobile County High School in 1978 and is a farmer and co-owner of Sessions Farms, a diversified family farming operation in South Mobile County.

Senator Sessions currently serves as president of Grand Bay Water Works, and Producers Gin Co. LLC. Additionally, he serves as a supervisor on the board of the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District. He is past president of the Alabama Pecan Growers Association.

Senator Sessions is married to Lisa Driskell Sessions and they have three children. He and his family attend First Baptist Church in Grand Bay.

MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

JERRY CARL

District 3

(South Mobile County)

Commission President

(251) 574-3000

Email: district3web@mobile-county.net



Commissioner Jerry Carl is a native of Mobile. A successful career starting and managing several businesses makes Third District Commissioner Jerry Carl uniquely qualified to help run Mobile County. He entered public service due to his keen interest in the welfare of our community. As a fiscal conservative, Commissioner Carl makes sure that taxpayer money is spent in a wise manner. He's known to frequently question expenditures brought before the Commission.

Commissioner Carl, a native of Mobile, enjoys helping with community service projects such as speaking to students in our schools, or helping the Sheriff's Department build bikes for kids at Christmas. He is a member and deacon at Luke 4:18 Church. He's active in its mission work which has taken him all the way to Africa. He and his wife, Tina, have been married for 38 years and raised three children. They enjoy spending time with their four grandchildren. For leisure, he enjoys the outdoors with a dose of adventure. He is an avid hunter, fisherman, skydiver, scuba diver and airplane pilot.

ALABAMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CHIP BROWN (R)

House District 105

(Mobile County)

(334) 261-0447



Representative Chip Brown is a lifelong resident of South Alabama. He and his wife Aimee have been married for 16 years, have one son Harry, and live on Hollingers Island.

Representative Brown serves as the CEO of a security training firm. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Chip joined the Alabama Army National Guard and served on active duty with the US Army and US Central Command at the Forward Command Headquarters during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also deployed twice as a Military Adviser based in Kabul, Afghanistan for NATO-International Security Assistance Force and US Forces Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Representative Brown is a former Chairman of the board for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Alabama and for several years has volunteered his time serving as a youth baseball, football, soccer and basketball coach. He is a graduate of Troy State University, The Defense Department Information School and is currently in the Graduate Program of National University.

Representative Brown is a committed Christian and takes these values to Montgomery.

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***Have A Great & Safe
4th of July Weekend!***

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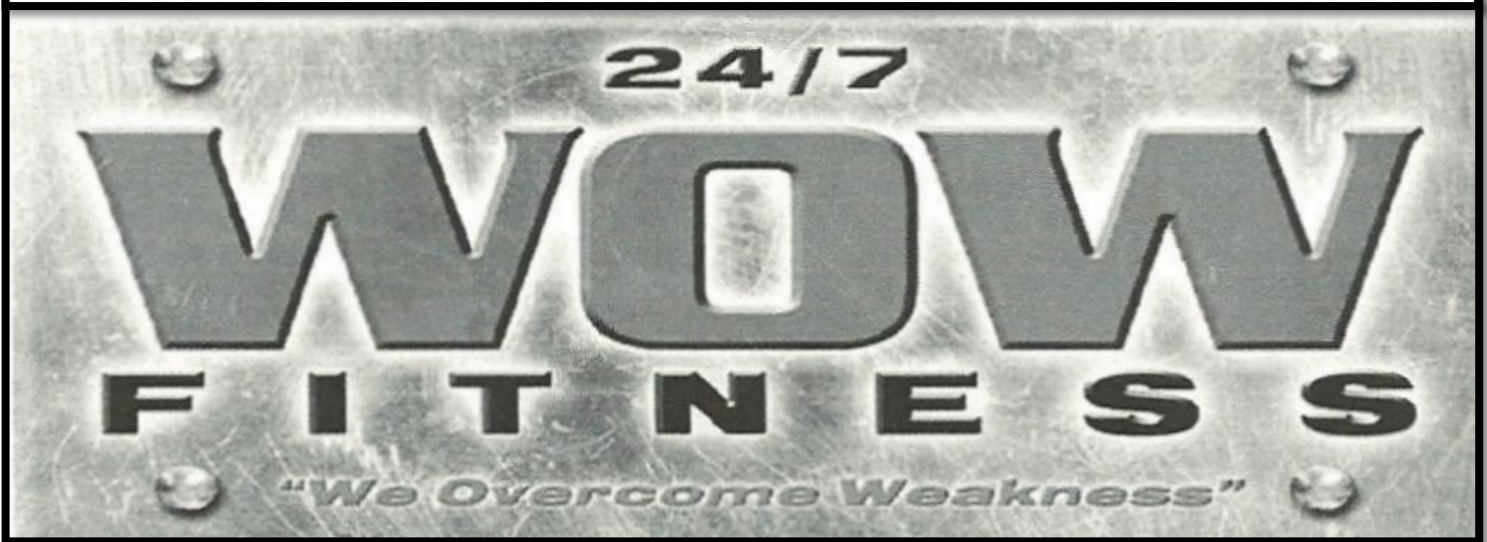
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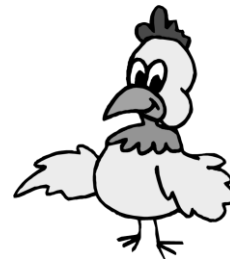


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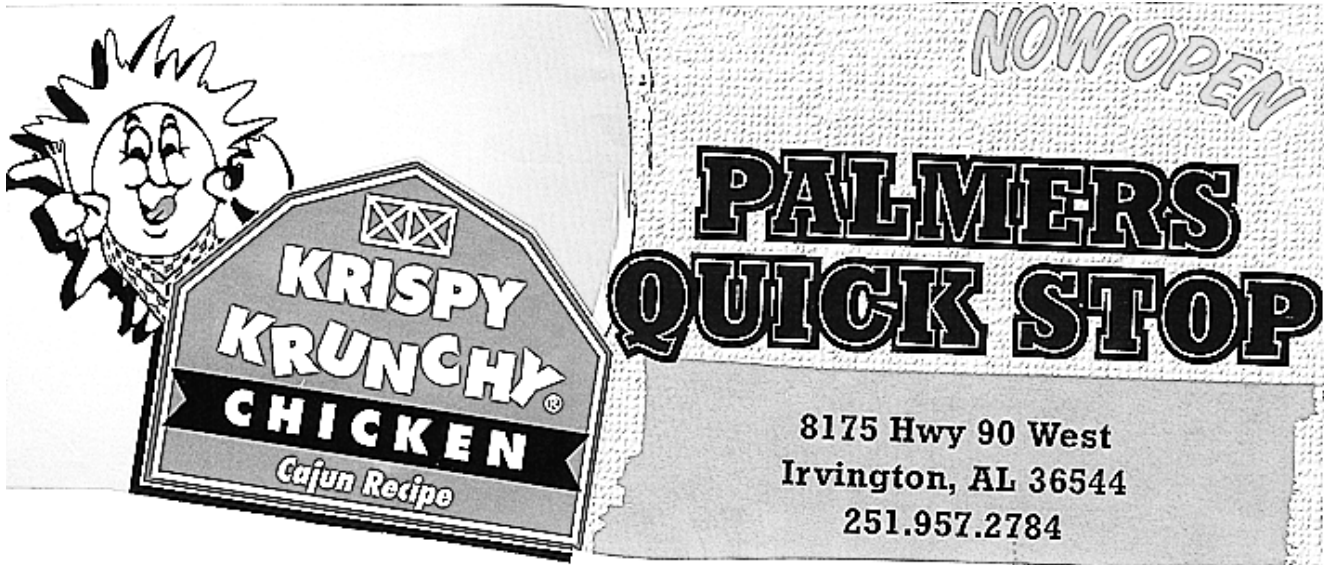
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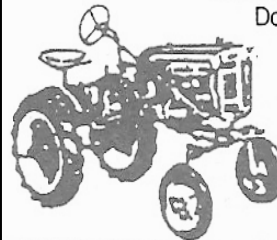
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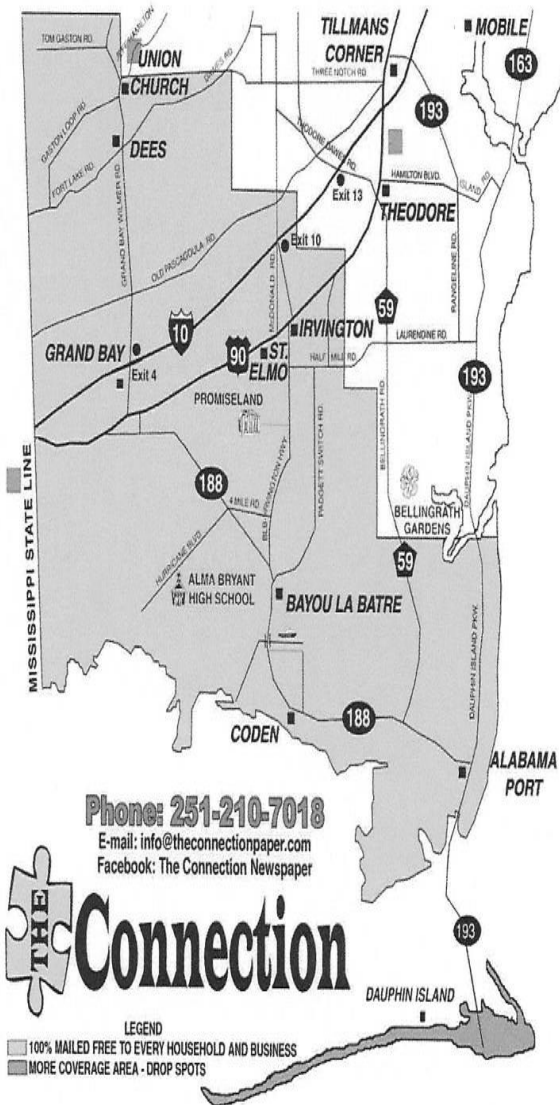
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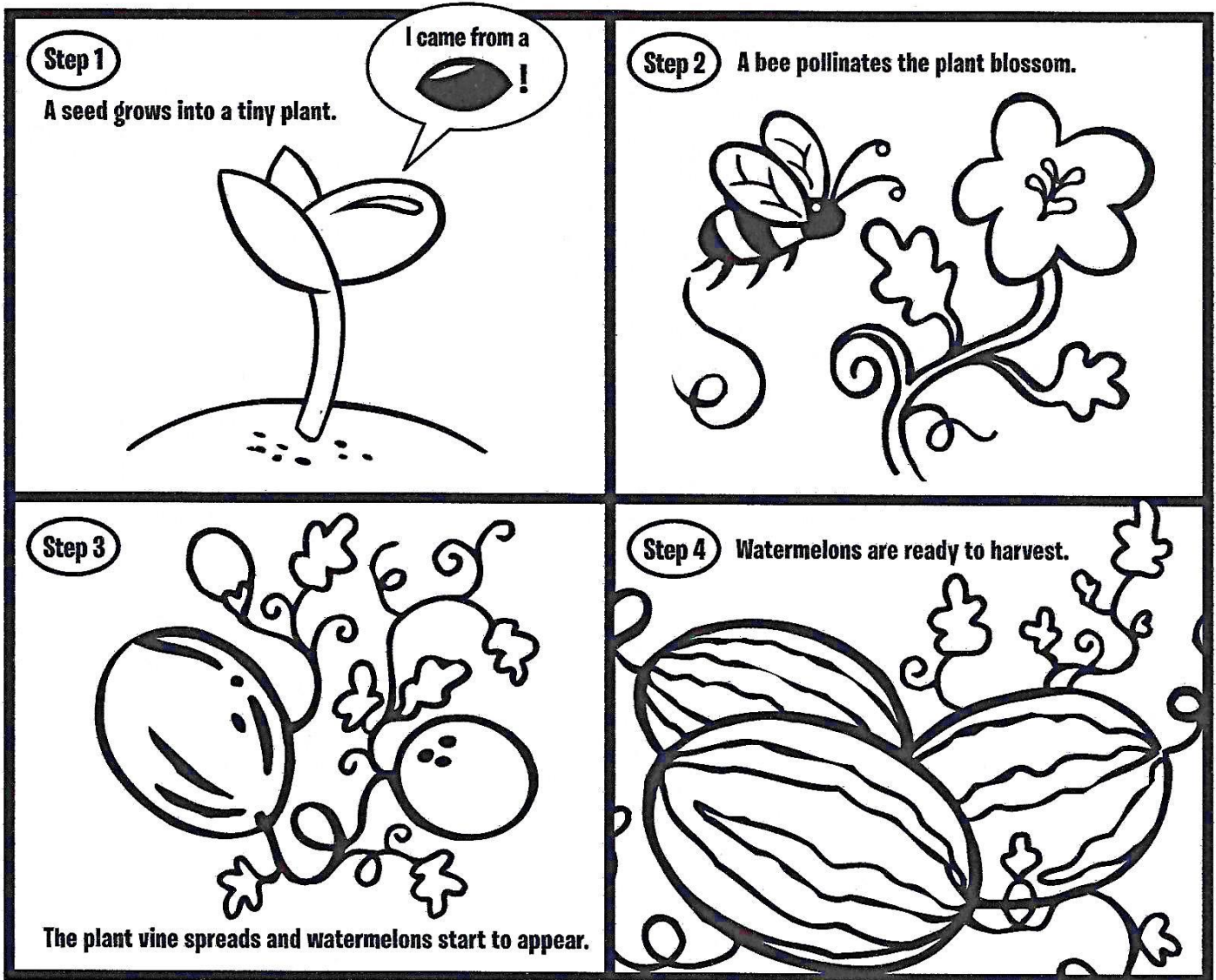
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How to Grow a Watermelon

You can plant your watermelon seeds right from your next watermelon slice!

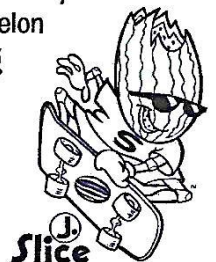
Supplies you will need:

- Watermelon Seeds (about 10-15)
- Planting pot or a sunny place outside to plant your seeds
- Dirt (enough to fill the pot)
- Water
- Sunshine

If using a planting pot, place your dirt inside planting pot. Place your seeds about 1 inch deep into the dirt. Water immediately after planting.

Water once a week and continue to weed out (remove) the weakest plants and any weeds that may grow close to your seeds. You should begin to see plants in about 10 days.

Keep in mind that to grow a watermelon takes extra special care. While you may not grow a watermelon, you should begin to grow the vine. If you do grow a watermelon, it may not taste as good as those you buy at the grocery store because watermelon growers have years of experience growing great tasting watermelons.



watermelon.org
National Watermelon Promotion Board



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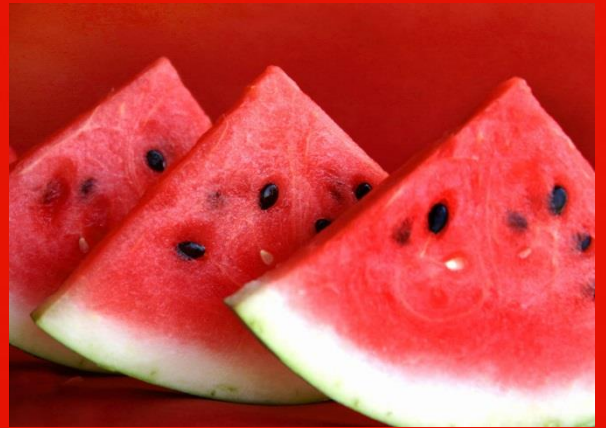
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