

# What's HAPPENING!

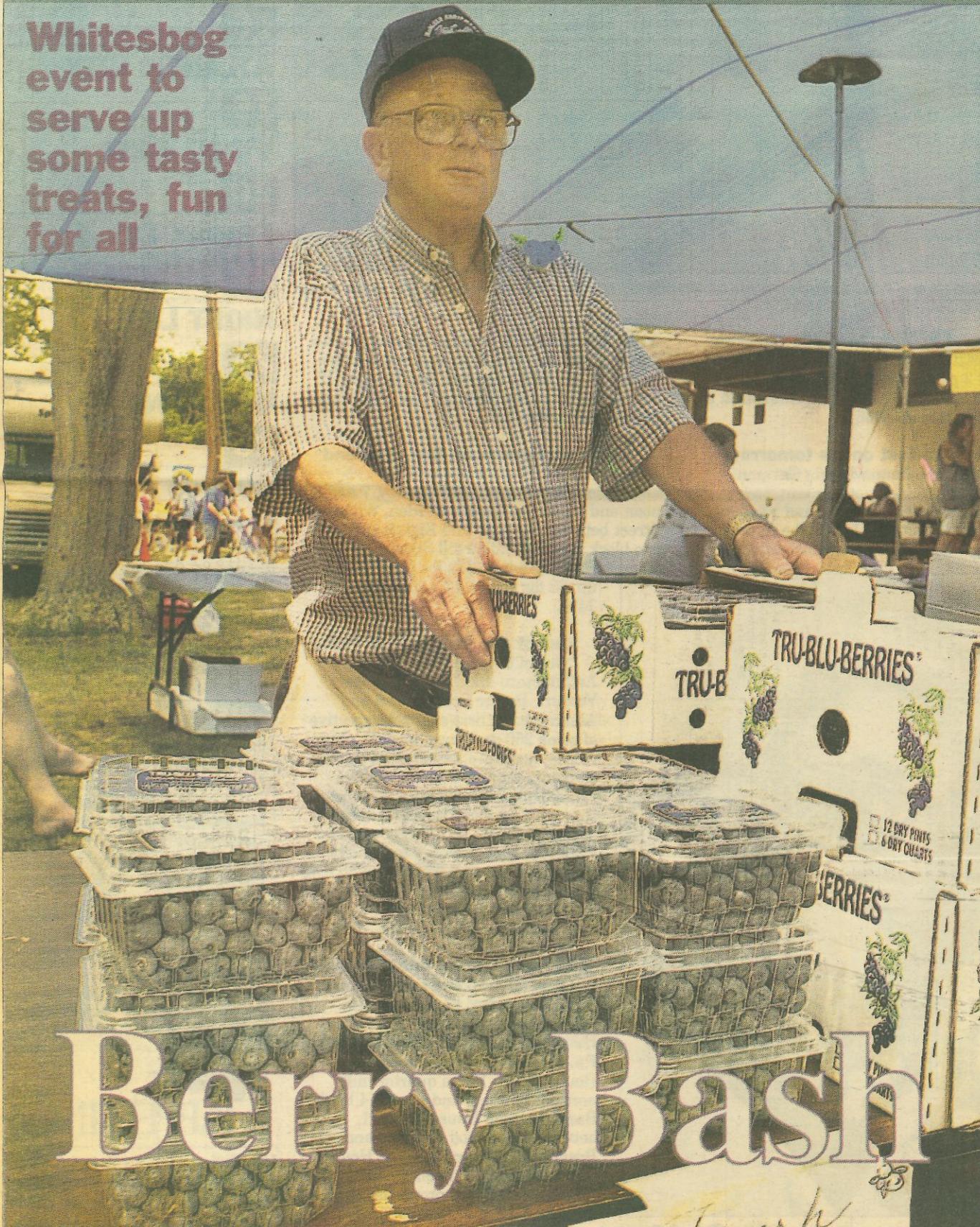
Friday, June 29, 2001

Burlington County Times

## FEATURE STORY

14

Whitesbog event to serve up some tasty treats, fun for all



# Berry Bash

Everett Robbins of Mount Holly offers visitors cases and pints of fresh blueberries at last year's Whitesbog Blueberry Festival. BCT staff photo/PETER F. PICKNALLY

## FILM REVIEW

4



'A.I.' with Osment, Law set for debut on silver screen

## CONCERT SCENE

10



Backstreet Boys will rock Tweeter Center in Camden

## HOLIDAY

12

Philly celebrates July Fourth with Welcome America

More than 3,000 visitors are expected to descend on the historic village of Whitesbog for a celebration of blueberries.



# BERRY BA

*Whitesbog festival will serve up some tasty t*

By David Levinsky  
BCT staff writer

**O**n most days of the year, Whitesbog Village resembles an 18th-century ghost town forgotten and lost in the Pine Barrens.

The general store, post office and schoolhouse still stand, but the hundreds of resi-

dents that once called the village home have vanished.

Tomorrow, though, Whitesbog makes a return to its heyday, as more than 3,000 visitors are expected to descend on the historic village for a celebration of its most famous invention: the cultivated blueberry.

Almost any local school child can recite the story of how the sweet, juicy blueberry was developed in 1916 by U.S. Department of

Agriculture researcher Frederick Coville and Elizabeth White, the daughter of village cranberry magnate J.J. White, from the small and sour huckleberry of the area.

The results will be available in large quantities at the 18th annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival tomorrow.

Festivalgoers will be allowed to pick their own blueberries, purchase packages of the fruit, or sample the many varieties of blueberry foods, including pies, doughnuts, muffins, fritters, sundaes and cheesecake.

"The festival is all

about the blueberry," said Sue Goldstein, acting executive director of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, which sponsors the festival, "because after all, Whitesbog is the blueberry's birthplace."

All proceeds from the fair go toward the restoration and upkeep of the homes and buildings in the village, which was once America's largest cranberry farm.

"The festival also offers the unique opportunity to view Whitesbog as it was back then," Goldstein said. "It's an old-fashioned country festival, and people still like that. It's a nice day for family fun out in the Pinelands. I think that's the draw to it."

Keeping with both ideas, Goldstein said organizers have added an antique car exhibit and several antique dealers to this year's festival.

"We thought it would be a nice tie-in harking back to the '20s and '30s when the village was in its heyday," Goldstein said. "We also thought it might bring a new audience."

Other additions to the festival include an animal release by the Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge and a display of alpacas — the smaller relative of llamas — from nearby Fenwick Manor Farm.

Traditional favorites such as walking tours through the village as well as its surrounding forest and wetlands will be back, Goldstein said, as will plenty of bluegrass and Pinelands folk music.

Eleven different tours and will be offered throughout the

Walking tours are titled "Memories," "Elizabeth White of the Highbush Blueberry In," "Elizabeth White's Garden Tour," "Village Walking Tour" and "Ecology."

Hay-wagon tours and van Whitesbog's cranberry bogs animals, plants and ecology.

The three lectures will be

tory of White White and the industry.

Also open be Suningav Elizabeth W

Special ev ties include:

■ Blue H Sponsored by Wildlife Refu

■ Old-tim 9:40 a.m.

■ Video se

"Voices of Whitesbog," the vil ning history film, will be hel day.

■ Wine tasting, featuring

The following groups will bluegrass music on the Villag

**Dave Orleans**, songwriter, s educator; **Linda Rouse** of H **Valerie Vaughn**, South Jers and tale spinner; **The Sugar Ramblers**; and **Glen Walde**

## IF YOU GO

### 18th annual Whitesbog Blueberry Festival

**Where:** Historic Whitesbog Village, at Mile Marker 13 on Route 530 in Pemberton Township

**When:** Tomorrow, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain date is Sunday.

**Admission:** \$5 per car for parking.

**Information:** Call (609) 893-4646



Frank Raines of Pemberton Township takes a group of people on a tour of the blueberry fields in a haywagon during last year's festival.



# ASH

*reats, fun for all*

Three lectures  
day.  
Whitesbog  
and the Origins  
dustry,"  
r," "Whitesbog  
the Barrens

ours will cover  
d Pinelands

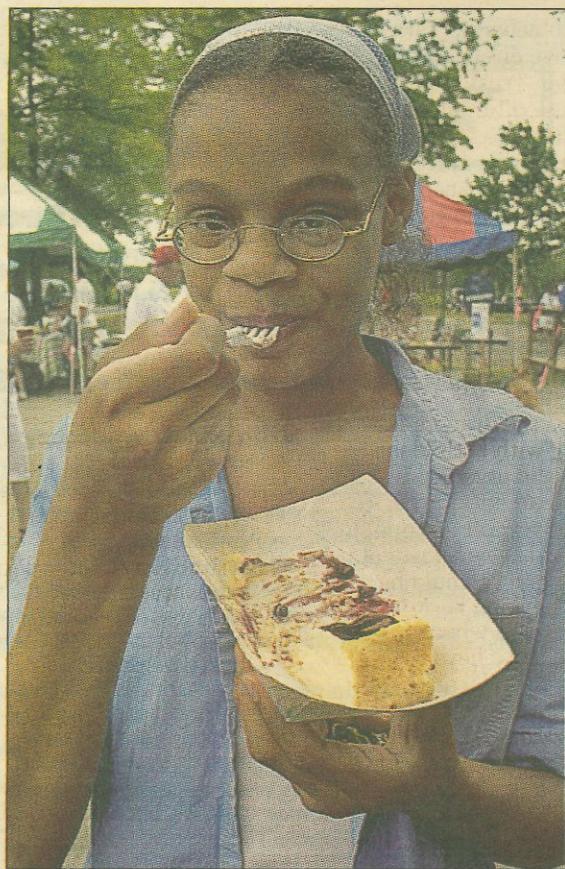
iven on the his-  
og, Elizabeth  
blueberry

or touring will  
the home of  
te.

nts and activi-  
on release.  
he Cedar Run  
e, 10:30 a.m.  
tractor parade,

eening of  
ge's award-win-  
throughout the

ueberry wine.  
rform folk and  
Commons:  
ryteller and  
ne Cookin';  
folk singer  
and  
k.



BCT staff photos/PETER F. PICKNALLY  
**Gabrielle Kent (above)** of Pemberton Township enjoys a slice of blueberry cheesecake, while Bryan Costello (right) of Lumberton competes in the pie-eating contest during last year's festival.

