

cloggers will return to this year's festival, which will take place through Sunday. GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Dogwood Festival returns with old, new favorites

By **Dustin Egan**
The Gazette Staff

PIKETON — Festivalgoers can look forward to one of southern Ohio's first outdoor events of the spring this weekend.

The 41st annual Pike County Dogwood Festival has several activities lined up, beginning today in downtown Piketon.

As always, live entertainment is a key component of the weekend festivities, which begin at 6 p.m. today with an opening ceremony on the village green. Among those scheduled to perform throughout the weekend, either on the village green or at the Middle Street stage, are Mays Gone, Lewis Brothers, Thomas Dirk, Tom Edwards, Stone Johnson, Appalachian Drift, Bob Howland & The Southern-Aires, Bobby Jo's Cloggers, the Piketon High School

Band, Shepherd's House Church, N'Step Dance Troupe and the Adelphi band.

But live entertainment isn't the only fun activity planned. Among other highlights of the weekend are:

» The annual Dogwood Tour bicycle ride beginning at the Piketon High School parking lot at 8 a.m. Saturday. The ride is 50 miles long, and participants can register the day of the ride for \$8.

» A 5K run and walk at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Piketon High School.

» Slide presentations by Jim Henry about the former Ohio-Erie Canal in Pike County conducted at various times in the Dogwood headquarters on Main Street.

» A car show from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the administration building with judging from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Theresa Parmeter, one of the festival's coordinators, is excited about the addition of two Easter-related activities to this year's festival. She said this is the first year the festival was scheduled on the holiday weekend. A community Easter sunrise service is planned for 7 a.m. Sunday on the village green, and an Easter egg hunt for children ages 10 and younger will be from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday in various Piketon locations per age group.

Another new activity is a puppy parade at 2 p.m. Saturday at the administration building.

Parmeter said among the festival highlights are the early American craft demonstrations. This year's demonstrations include spinning wool, pottery making and a 1760s reenactment group crafting arrows and lead balls.

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