

# Dogwood days are coming to Pike Co.

Festival in Waverly through weekend

By DAVE LAVENDER

CHILICOTHE — One person does not make a Dogwood Festival without walking South Hill.

For the 27th year, Howe will be out on the streets of Pikeston walking 25 to 30 miles running errands and making sure everything is done right at the festival which annually kicks off Pike County's festival season.

Never dipping under 10,000 people for the weekend, the festival, which runs tonight through Sunday, has blossomed well under the more casual atmosphere given it by Howe and a handful of volunteers who keep the Dogwood rolling.

This year, crafters from nine states will fill the festival which selectively screens its vendors.

From the beginning, the festival has always attracted to culture history and lower edge of old-time crafts such as candle making, tin working, blacksmiths, apple butter making, soap making, and, of course, the Dogwood Fiddle Contest (7 p.m. Saturday) and the Dogwood Banjo Contest (4 p.m. Sunday).

"We want to promote the old crafts," Howe said. "You have to know how to do those things."

Lately, the Dogwood Festival does not have to go far to find some of the best Appalachian crafts people anywhere.

In the cozy Dogwood Festival headquarters, which used to be a din-floor garage, about a dozen ladies meet every Tuesday at 8 a.m. to quilt.

"They are the Pike County Dogwood Quilters — and you can see your work by them."

"They are like a potluck. No matter the weather, they meet anyhow," Howe said, showing off some of the quilts that will be on display.

A quilt made by the group has been a standard at the festival for 17 years. Each year, more quilts made by the ladies are displayed. The dogwood quilts are raffled off. Howe said one year she knew it got put to good use since the winner was from Alaska.

Even if it may not be her cup of tea, Howe knows a festival must include new and different things. Like Sunday's motorcycle show along with the old standards like the Adolph Band, the parade and old-time games like a pie-eating contest and sack races.

Other fun events include Saturday's child car concert (12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the



From left Amy Nace, Thelma Kinchely, and Ruth Matthews work on a picnic jar quilt they will raffie off at this year's Dog Wood Festival this weekend in Pikeston.

## Get the scoop

The 27th Annual Pike County Dogwood Festival's opening ceremony begins 8 this evening. The festival runs from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. The 50-mile Cyclist Dogwood Tour leaves Pikeston High School at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Market Street Stage) and a good mix of bands from people, rock, country, bluegrass, brass bands and swing.

Showcased at this year's festival will be Pikeston's new branch library, 200 E. Second St. Open house at the S27,000 library that opened in February will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also for the first time, the festival will utilize the old courthouse/jail building in downtown Pikeston for displays.

A few weeks before the festival Howe quilts volunteering at Pike Community Hospital.

just long enough to take care of Dogwood business.

"Here we go," says the spiky silver-haired Howe springing from a couch and answering a call from a vendor in northern Indiana.

Dogwood. She was at the festival's first meeting 27 years ago and hasn't missed out since.

Last year, on festival Friday, she got mowed down by a couple kids riding bicycles.

Frused and battered, Howe got stitched up at the hospital and returned to the Dogwood.

"I am the only treasurer they have ever had," Howe said of the festival that has paid for itself since the second year. "They must trust me."

Every year, Howe said she evaluates whether she will be back for one more Dogwood. The answer really never is in doubt. She loves the village and the people who help out on the festival.

"I always tell them I think I can do it next year. We never have any arguments and we always have a good time."

## Festival schedule

**Thursday, April 24**  
6 p.m. — Flag ceremony, presentation of symbolic dogwood tree, Hoopin Redcross Band, village green.  
**Friday, April 25**  
4.5 p.m. — Bobbie Jo's Mountain Cloggers, village green stage.  
7.9 p.m. — Southern Reign, village green stage.  
9:10 p.m. — Poverty String Band, middle street stage.  
**Saturday, April 26**  
8 a.m. — Cyclist dogwood tour, Pikeston High School.  
10 a.m. — Games, children's immunization, Pike County Board of Health, grade school area.  
11:30-1:30 p.m. — Gingers Dance, Flip and Toss, middle street stage.

12:30-2:30 p.m. — Chain saw contest, market street stage.  
1 p.m. — Berryard horse shoe contest, grade school area.  
2 p.m. — Children's games, contests, grade school area.  
2:30 p.m. — Dogwood fiddle contest, middle street stage.  
3 p.m. — Pie eating contest by 8-94 FM, Chillicothe station, grade school area stage.  
4:00-6:30 p.m. — Bobbie Jo's Mountain Cloggers, village green stage.  
5:7 p.m. — Almost Country Band, grade school stage.  
5:7 p.m. — Fathers of Men, middle street stage.  
7:30-8:30 p.m. — Southern Reign, village green stage.  
7:30-9:30 p.m. — Rock Bottom Band, middle street stage.

7:30-9:30 p.m. — Southern Variety, grade school stage.  
**Sunday, April 27**  
8 a.m. noon — Antique car show, grade school area.  
11-12:30 p.m. — Bike show, Clark Street.  
12:30-2:15 p.m. — Country Knights, grade school stage.  
Noon-2 p.m. — Back Porch Swing Band, middle street stage.  
2:30 p.m. — Grand parade, village streets.  
3:30-5:30 p.m. — Country Knights, grade school stage.  
4 p.m. — Adolph Band, village green stage.  
4 p.m. — Dogwood banjo contest, middle street stage.  
4 p.m. — Drawing for dogwood quilt.

the front grounds and parking lot of Waverly High School. The grand parade is set for 2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 15. Artists and crafters, parade participants, public service displays interested in taking part in

receive an application, rules and regulations and an information sheet on the festival which hopes to draw about 20,000 to Waverly. For more information call 1-614-947-2008.

The Pump House Art Gallery has the following schedule: Through May 12, Woodcarving: Several Visions; May 24 to June 21, Michael McFarland, One Man Show; Bantle, Chillicothe, Ohio.

## Where to go

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