

Dogwood Festival celebrates tonight

By LORI MCNELLY
Gazette Staff Writer

PIKETON — For three decades the Pike County Dogwood Festival has brought people into downtown for old-fashioned fun.

The tradition continues at 6 p.m. this evening when the 30th Annual Pike County Dogwood Festival kicks off with a special ceremony on the village green.

There, the symbolic dogwood tree will be presented to the village. It will be planted at the grade school at Zahns Corner, according to Theresa Parmeter, special events coordinator for the festival committee.

"During that we present the grand marshal for the parade," she said.

The ceremony will be followed by a street dance at 7:30 p.m. Live entertainment will be provided by the rock band "Rockin' Horse" at the Middle Street stage.

Some highlights of the weekend include a performance by the Waverly High School Jazz Band Friday at 6 p.m., the Cyclist Dogwood Tour on Saturday at 8 a.m. at Piketon High School and a car show at 9 a.m. on Sunday at the grade school.

Also on Sunday will be the annual Dogwood parade, which will feature

retiring Pike County Commissioner, and one of the original founders of the festival, Charles Osborne as grand marshal, Parmeter said.

Following is a complete listing of the weekend's events.

Saturday

Cyclist Dogwood Tour, 8 a.m.; Trail Ride, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the farm behind Piketon High School; Log sawing contest, 1 p.m. on Main Street; Dick Steele, noon to 2 p.m. at the Middle Street stage; Basketball Free Throw contest, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Clark Street; Bill Sanders/Traditional Country, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Village Green

Stage; Children's games, 2 p.m., at the grade school; Dogwood Fiddle Contest, 2:30 p.m., Middle Street stage; Pie Eating Contest, 3 p.m., grade school stage; Talent Show, 3:30 to 5 p.m., grade school stage; Bobbie Jo's Mountain Cloggers, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Village Green stage; Pike's Past slide presentation by Jim Henry, 5 p.m., Dogwood Headquarters; Poverty String Band, 5 to 7 p.m., grade school stage; Calvary Praise Team, 5 to 7 p.m., Middle Street stage; to be announced, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Village Green stage, Merle Moles/Salem Ridge Boys, Middle

Street stage; 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Dick Steele, grade school stage.

Sunday

Car show and registration, grade school, 9 to 11 a.m.; Ginger's Dance Flip & Twist, Middle Street stage, noon to 2 p.m.; Country Express, grade school stage; 12:30 to 2:15 p.m.; Grand Parade, 2:30 p.m., village streets; Country Express, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., grade school stage; drawing for Dogwood quilt, Middle Street stage, 4 p.m.; drawing for third edition Dogwood Basket, 4 p.m., Middle Street stage; Dogwood banjo contest, 4 p.m., Middle Street stage; Adelphi band, 4 to 6 p.m., village green.

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