

Hagood Mill Kids Fest scheduled for Saturday

THE JOURNAL STAFF

PICKENS — Hagood Mill will host the 10th annual Kids Fest concert and Young Appalachian Musicians Talent Show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday on the historic grounds of Hagood Mill.

Emcees and hosts Gregg "Buffalo" Barfield, Michele Barfield and Steve McGaha will present a variety of instrument workshops and musical performances.

Hagood Mill director Billy Crawford said kids and adults will enjoy strolling through the hands-on instrument petting zoo.

"An instrument petting zoo is a wonderful opportunity for kids of all ages to get up close and personal with a musical instrument," he said. "Whether you're a 2-year-old or a 92-year-old, the zoo will enable you to explore a variety of traditional instruments in a hands-on way."

Adult pickers and YAM students will demonstrate how to hold and play traditional instruments including guitar, banjo, mandolin and fiddle as well as many mountain and jug band instruments such as spoons, bones, washboards and washtub bass.

At a craft table located in the petting zoo, kids can build their own make-and-take kazoo. And all kids are invited to participate in the mountain music and milling games from 12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

"Teams of kids will take part in a variety of traditional mountain games like sack races, tug of war, jump the creek, ball in the cup and wheel barrow races," Crawford said. "All of this while they complete tasks within an obstacle course designed to incorporate both musical-themed activities and the traditional milling chores associated with running a historic grist mill like Hagood."

Performances by YAM students, representing many of the area's schools, will take place throughout the day and will include special performances by

the Sweet Potato Pie Kids.

A traditional bluegrass and old-time talent show is planned for 2:45 p.m. The show is open to all youth, ages 18 and under. Registration will take place at YAM schools or from 10:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m. at Hagood Mill on the day of the festival.

"Throughout the day there will be other events to take part in as well," Crawford said. "Volunteers from various Pickens County Fire Departments will be on hand providing kid-friendly safety demonstrations along with teaching the proper techniques and safety strategies crucial to survival if confronted with a home fire situation."

The Pickens County Rescue Squad will perform a vehicle extraction demonstration showcasing the tools used in freeing trapped victims involved in serious automobile accidents. And the old gristmill and other demonstrations will run from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"The water-powered 1845 gristmill is one of the finest examples of 19th century technology in the Upstate and operates just as it has for the last century and a half," Crawford said. "In the old mill, fresh stone-ground corn meal, grits and wheat flour will be available as well as Hagood Mill cookbooks and a variety of other mill related items."

Hagood Mill hosts a variety of folk life and traditional arts demonstrations each month, including everything from blacksmithing, bowl-digging, flintknapping and chair-caning to broom making, basket making, pottery, quilting and bee keeping.

"So head on out, enjoy some good old southern cooking prepared by the Gatehouse Restaurant and enjoy a day at the mill," Crawford said.

Admission is free, but there's a \$5 parking fee. Hagood Mill is located at 138 Hagood Mill Road in Pickens. For more information, call (864) 898-2936 or visit pickenscounty.com/calendar.