



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Above: Buffalo Barfield leads a jam session at Kidsfest at Hagood Mill. **Below:** The water-powered 1845 gristmill will be running throughout the day. Fresh, stone-ground corn meal, grits and wheat flour will be available, as well as Hagood Mill cookbooks and other items.

THE JOURNAL STAFF

PICKENS — Bring the family out to Hagood Mill in Pickens on March 17 for the 11th annual Kidsfest.

Kidsfest kicks off at the mill at 10 a.m. and will run until 4 p.m.

This year's event will feature concerts, a Young Appalachian Musicians Talent Show, workshops and an instrument petting zoo.

The fest is for kids of all ages. There is no admission fee for Kidsfest, Hagood Mill or the mill's petroglyph site that day, but there is a \$5 parking fee. Parking fees help offset costs at the mill.

Students in the Young Appalachian Musicians, which pairs experienced musicians with young people wishing to learn how to play traditional mountain music, will be performing throughout the day, beginning at 10:45 a.m.

Sweet Potato Pie Kids, the performance group of the YAM program, will also give special concerts during the festival.

Around 1:30 p.m., the "Traditional Bluegrass and Old-Time Talent Show" will kick off.

Sponsored by "Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music," the show is open to all youth of high school age and under.



Those wishing to perform can register at their schools if they are a YAM host school, or at the mill from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. the day of the festival.

The instrument petting zoo will give kids and adults a hands-on musical education. The zoo will let visitors explore a number of musical instruments up close. Adult musicians and YAM students will demonstrate how to hold, play and experience the instruments all day.

Available instruments include traditional ones such as guitars, banjos, mandolins and fiddles as well as mountain and jug band instruments, including spoons, bones, washtub bass

and washboards.

A craft table will be set up inside the petting zoo, giving kids a chance to build kazoos, while supplies last.

All kids are invited to take part in the festival's "Music & Milling Games." Teams of kids will play traditional mountain games including sack races, tug-of-war, jump the creek, wheelbarrow races and more.

Other activities include parachute games, archaeology adventures, creek critter identification, rock painting and horse painting.

Volunteers from Pickens County fire departments will be on hand providing kid-friendly safety demonstrations, as well as fire safe-

ty and survival strategies.

The Pickens County Rescue Squad will be performing a "vehicle extraction demonstration" showcasing the tools used in freeing trapped automobile accident victims.

Step into the past by observing folk life and traditional arts demonstrations, including blacksmithing, bowl-digging, flintknapping, chair-caning, moonshining, broom-making, basket-making, pottery, quilting, spinning, knitting, weaving, bobbin lace, woodcarving, open-hearth cooking, metal-smithing, leather-working, beekeeping and more.

The water-powered 1845 gristmill will be running throughout the day. Fresh, stone-ground corn meal, grits and wheat flour will be available, as well as Hagood Mill cookbooks and other items.

Food trucks will be on site serving up grub during the festival.

Hagood Mill hosts events the third Saturday of every month. Hagood Mill is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Hagood Mill Historic Site is located at 138 Hagood Mill Road in Pickens.

For more information, call (864) 898-2936 or visit Hagood Mill on Facebook.