Written by Jessie Williams
Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Pack up the lawn chairs and bring your entire family out to the 37th Annual Macon County Hillbilly Days event sponsored by the Lafayette Lions on June 14th, 15th and 16th at Key Park.

Beginning on Thursday, June 14th, an opening ceremony will be held at 6 p.m., followed up by the Itty Bitty Hillbilly Beauty Pageant at 6:30 and a cakewalk at 7 p.m.

Friday, the gospel concert will take place at 6 p.m. along with the highly anticipated 'All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry.' Cost for the fish fry, which includes catfish, slaw, fries, Mr. Ercie's famous hushpuppies and a drink, will be $8 per adult and $5 for children 12 and under.

Saturday will be jam-packed with exciting instrumental events for all ages kicking-off at 10 a.m. with a flat top guitar showdown, followed by mandolin, beginning fiddle (under 16), harmonica, banjo, Jr. Fiddle (ages 16-50), Sr. Fiddle (51 and up) the 3rd Annual Ped Scruggs Memorial Fiddle Challenge.

At 1 p.m., the Fried Pie Contest will be held at the back pavilion, followed by an the Billy & Joanna Roark Community Service Award and the Mr. & Mrs. Hillbilly contest will be held around 2:45. This year's Mr. Hillbilly is Ronald Birdwell and the 2012 Mrs. Hillbilly is Melissa Shrum. The two will battle it out to see which club raised the most money, with the loser receiving a pie

to the face!

Singing and dance competitions will take begin at 3 p.m. with the Buck Dance competition (ages 15 and under), followed by the 16 and up Buck Dance performers at 3:15, a Judge Jam Session at 3:30, male vocalist performances at 4 p.m. and female vocalist performances at 5:30 p.m.

First place winners in the music and dance competitions will win $150 in the Jr. Fiddle & Sr. Fiddle categories, $50 in the buck dance, harmonica and beginning fiddle categories and $100 for all other categories.

Second place winners will win $75 in the Jr. & Sr. Fiddle categories, $25 in the buck dance, harmonica and beginning fiddle categories and $50 in all other categories.

Third place winners will receive $35 in the Jr. & Sr. Fiddle categories, $15 in the buck dance, harmonica and beginning fiddle categories and $25 in all other categories.

The entry fee for each category is $5.

The Bluegrass Band Competition, better known as “The Big Show,” will end the 3-day event at 7 p.m. on Saturday, with the first place winner bringing home $700, the second place champ awarded $400 and the third place victor presented $200. A $30 entry fee is required to compete in the bluegrass competition and first and second place bands will perform for 30 minutes each after the competition is completed.

Those planning to compete in any of the competitions are to be registered at least one hour prior to the scheduled time of the category competing in.

Judges for this year’s competitions will be Jim Wood, Inge Wood and Boyd Deering. Sound and equipment will be provided by James Arnett.

Other activities for guests to enjoy throughout the event will be a variety of arts and crafts booths and plenty of games and rides for children.

“We already have over 60 vendors scheduled to set up booths during this year’s Hillbilly Days,” said Lafayette Lioness Club Secretary Monica Gann, “and we are still getting calls from people!”

Those who plan to attend are encouraged bring their lawn chairs and settle in for a day of Bluegrass music, entertainment, food and fun!

“Everyone looks forward to this event each year,” Gann remarked. “It’s a fun, family-friendly event, and it serves a great purpose. We hope to see everyone at this year’s Macon County Hillbilly Days…you won’t want to miss it!”

For more information contact Monica Gann at 666-5196 or B.J. Blankenship at 699-2495. For craft or booth information, contact B.J. Blankenship at 699-2495 or bjblank1322@yahoo.com.