

Annual Forestry Festival has something for everyone



Thousands expected to attend this year's event Nov. 4, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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The South Alabamian

The 41st annual Forestry Festival is scheduled Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in downtown Jackson featuring dozens of vendors, a car show, food, contests of skill and musical entertainment.

The festival's newest activity will roll on College Avenue in front of the First Baptist Church beginning at 9 a.m. The Power Wheels parade encourages walkers, strollers, joggers, bikers, power-wheelers scooters and anything on wheels to join the fun. All participants under 12 will receive a medal.

Armbands for the day are \$10 for children ages 12 and under.

A wide variety of market vendors will set up downtown, including arts and crafts, collectible knives, woodworking, award-winning honey, boutique clothes, personalized jewelry, hair bows, candles and handmade goat-milk products. A unit from Mobile Infirmary will conduct free health screenings.

Food vendors will set up beside Jackson City Hall to offer roasted corn, barbecue, fish, burgers, gumbo, funnel cakes and snow cones.

Local artist Jason Gambol will open the entertainment, followed by Dynamic



Dance, Laura's Dreamland Studios, the Jackson peewee cheerleaders and the featured band, The Bigbee Boys.

Lumberjacks from all over the Southeast will compete at the annual lumberjack and saw competition, sponsored by Slayton Brothers and the City of Jackson. Local legend Wayne Slayton is expecting a huge turnout for the popular event, which will be located behind city hall.

Big Daddy (James) Lawler will emcee, providing colorful commentary throughout the competition. Lawler is a beloved crowd favorite and social media influencer who is well-known in this area for his "Gettin' Outdoors with Big Daddy Lawler" radio show and podcast.

The Smith Family Memorial Car Show is also a crowd favorite. Pre-registration has been heavy, so sponsors are expecting a large number of participants and spectators. Judging begins at noon and trophies will be awarded at 2:30 p.m.

The National Wild Turkey Federation-sanctioned turkey call will be held inside city hall beginning at 9 a.m.

For the kids, a children's area across from city hall will feature pools of corn, bounce houses and carnival-style games.

Armbands for the day are \$10 and are available for children ages 12 and under. Call the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce at 251-246-3251 for more information.

From a car show, a lumberjack competition, plentiful vendors and activities for the kids, the Forestry Festival in Jackson offers plenty of enjoyable activities.

Photos The South Alabamian archives

