

## Fiddle King repeats...from page 1A

Mountain Fiddle King.

McDowell played *You Can't Time Races* and *The Tennessee Waltz*. Fox played *Ragtime Annie* and *The Right Melody*.

As the judges listened to both musicians and took score, they arrived at a final decision once the music had ceased. If the Devil had made it down to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, he certainly would have found himself without a chance against the competition in this year's event.

As the four judges, Chuck Nation, Red Henry, Mike Johnson and Todd Freeman rose from their seats and handed their final call to Master of Ceremonies Barry Palmer, it was announced that McDowell, a 17-year-old North Carolina native again was the best they'd ever seen.

Ultimately, McDowell was named the 2010 Georgia Mountain Fiddle King over Fox.

In 2009, McDowell defeated Campobella, SC's Richard Bain, a wiry veteran of the fiddle, to claim his first

Georgia Mountain Fiddle King title.

More than 20 musicians, including McDowell and Fox, ranging from ages 10 and up were at the top of this year's musical competition as the four judges decided who would be the best of the best.

Prizes were given in seven categories: mandolin, banjo, flat-pick guitar, finger-style guitar, Bluegrass band, junior fiddle, and senior fiddle. The events concluded with a fiddle-off for Georgia Mountain Fiddle King.

A crowd estimated at 2,500 turned out to see the close of the annual Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Fall Festival and the Official Georgia Fiddlers Convention.

The competition began Friday night including categories of beginning fiddler, harmonica, buck dancing, dulcimer, Dobro guitar and old-time banjo.

Early Saturday morning the competition resumed featuring additional categories mandolin, banjo, flat pick guitar, thumb (finger) style

guitar, Bluegrass band, junior and senior fiddle.

Taking the Bluegrass band category was Cherry Log's *Flatline*.

In the individual events, McDowell took top prizes for the mandolin, flat pick guitar and the junior fiddle. Weston Stuart won the banjo competition and Eli Rouzzi was deemed top Thumb (finger) style guitarist. Fox took the senior fiddle honors.

McDowell's musical roots run deep. He credits his parents with encouraging he and his sister Emma to feel out their musical talents at a very young age.

McDowell said that it was his parents that kept the music all around he and his sister in their early years.

"I knew all the instruments by the time I was 3 years old," he said. "My fiddle teacher is probably one of the greatest teachers around, Arvil Freeman; he's out of Weaverville, NC. Teaching is kind of his legacy. That's why I'm where I am today in terms of performing."



Hiwassee's Don Fox plays *Ragtime Annie* during the 2010 Georgia Fiddler's Convention. Fox won senior fiddler during the annual Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Fiddler's Convention held at Anderson Music Hall in Hiwassee. Fox finished second best to Bryan McDowell as the top senior fiddler at the annual convention. Photo/James Reese

### Ninth District announces dates for Home Heating Program

Households in which every member is age 65 and older -OR- in which every member is completely unable to leave the home due to health reasons, may apply for assistance with their home heating bills beginning on November 1, 2010. The Georgia Department of Human Resources will help pay heating costs for gas, electricity, wood, coal or kerosene. One-time payments will be made by checks issued to the home energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households. Eligibility for the program is based on the income of everyone living in the home. All eligible households must be responsible for their home heating bill.

When applying for assistance, persons will be required to present verification of age for everyone in the home, ver-

ification of all household income received within the past 30 days (check stubs, public assistance checks, unemployment checks, etc.), verification of Social Security numbers for everyone in the home, and the most recent home heating bill.

Depending on the availability of funds, the regular program will open to the general public on December 1,

2010.

All interested applicants are asked to contact Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. after 9 a.m. by telephone at 706-896-4783 for Towns County residents & 706-745-6596 for Union County residents on the date of the program they qualify for. No walk-ins, please. Additional information will be made available online at [www.ndo.org](http://www.ndo.org). NT10x20A23SH

### Energy Expo

A Southern Appalachian Energy Expo will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010, 9 a.m. – noon at North Georgia Technical College Conference Center, Blairsville, GA.

Mike Barcik of Southface Energy will provide Tri-State (WNC, NGA, TN) homeowners, building contractors/subs, realtors, lenders,

students, local government, other agencies and non-profit leaders with an overview of residential green building incentives and techniques.

For more information go to Upcoming Events at [www.sasbc.org](http://www.sasbc.org). Come and learn about energy savings and visit the Exhibitors. Free and open to the public! NT10x20Z11CA