## **Fiddlers battle**

The Official Indiana State Picking & Fiddling Championships will be held Friday, August 31 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, September 1 at 10 a.m. at the Gibson County Fairgrounds.

The Official Indiana State Picking & Fiddling Championships has had a long and rich tradition in southern Indiana, celebrating bluegrass and old time music for over 25 years.

Contest founder and organizer Tony Rothrock, along with the Pike County Old Time Music Association, began hosting the contest in Pike County. Early competitions were held each June at various locations in the Petersburg area, including Pride's Creek Park, Hornady Park and Pike Central High School.

With the help of state legislators Donald and Lindel Hume, the event was sanctioned in the mid-1980s by the governor of Indiana as the official state championships for bluegrass and old-time music.

In late 2002, the Gibson County Visitors & Tourism Bureau became the new sponsor of the Official Indiana State Picking & Fiddling Championships and the contest moved to its present location, the Gibson County Fairgrounds in Princeton.

The contest date was moved to September, which provided for more moderate temperatures and the expansive pavilion at the fairgrounds put everything under roof, eliminating the threat of i n c l e m e n t weather.

Since that time, while the competition has continued to evolve and change, the outstanding caliber of bluegrass and old-time music has remained constant. Musicians from across the country continue to gather to compete for cash prizes, trophies and the honor of being named "Indiana's state champion." In 2007, the Labor Day Association was welcomed as a new sponsor of the championships and the

event was incorporated into the annual Labor Day Celebration.

2007 Indiana State Picking & Fiddling Championships Judging Rules and Regulations are as follows:

#### General Regulations

1. No electric instruments permitted in any category.

2. No drums permitted in any category.

3. Contestants performing in the individual performer categories may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanists.

4. Any category with less than four entrants may be canceled.

5. Any performer winning first place in a category two years in succession must lay out for one year before competing again in the category in which they won first place.

6. No contestant is allowed to register

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#### See FIDDLE CONTEST on Page 16

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