

Activities fill weekend

Scottish Games, balloon festival highlight busy Upstate holiday

draws — hot-air balloons, disc dog competition and music — and new events, like a Freedom 5K run and a 25- or 65-mile Freedom Ride cycling event.

This year brings a renewed focus to Memorial Day itself as runners sprint to the finish between rows of flags set up inside the Heritage Park Amphitheater in the festival's first 5K race Monday, said executive director Keri Hall.

A Wounded Warriors ceremony is set for 5 p.m.

Hall said the festival is expanding to include a grilling cook-off, lacrosse demonstration, baseball tournament and car show.

Instead of a bevy of venders, the event overhauled its food choices with a new concept that will be run by the event, Bi-Lo and local catering companies.



GWINN DAVIS / Staff

Scott Swanson with Modern Midways of Chicago builds a midway ride for this year's Freedom Weekend Aloft, which opens Friday. The Scottish games Saturday will feature heavy athletic events.

By Donna Isbell Walker and Nathaniel Cary
STAFF WRITERS

Memorial Day weekend promises to be memorable, with festivals, concerts and the chance to rub elbows with royalty.

Balloons will color the sky around Simpsonville as Greenville Hospital System Freedom Weekend Aloft takes off, and the Greater Greenville Scottish Games and Highland Festival gets under way Friday with an true British touch.

The Scottish Games for the first time will welcome a member of the British royal family. Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II, arrives today. He'll take part in Friday's Great Scot! Parade in downtown Greenville and Saturday's festival at Furman.



Edward

He also will present awards from his father's Duke of Edinburgh organization to 70 Miss South Carolina contestants who met requirements in physical fitness and community service.

The parade, with the prince riding in a 2010 Rolls Royce convertible, begins at 6 p.m. on Main Street. The parade is followed by the Great Scot! Ceilidh, a concert of Celtic music, at 6:30 p.m. in the Peace Center Amphitheater.

Saturday, the festival begins at 10 a.m. at Furman and will include heavy-athletics competitions, border collie demonstrations, music and dance performances, children's activities and a British car show.

Fans preferring rock 'n' roll can hear Neil Young in a solo show at 8 p.m. Sunday at Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium.

Freedom Weekend Aloft opens at 3 p.m. Friday at Heritage Park. It will offer a mix of its traditional

See WEEKEND on page 3A