Fireworks

and fun

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Counties offer variety of events to celebrate July 4

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
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SENECA — Break out the red, white and blue!

The Fourth of July is right around the corner and our surrounding towns and cities plan on celebrating in a big way.

Have a craving for fireworks? No problem. CLEMSONFEST, Seneca Fourth of July Celebration, the town of Salem, Anderson Motor Speedway and Keowee Marina all have big plans to light up the sky on July 3 and 4.

For the first year, the town of Walhalla is holding Independence Eve, which organizers hope will serve as a free, fun family event as well as a chance to raise some serious money to re-open the city pool.



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Fireworks galore! Numerous events will offer firework displays on both July 3 and 4.

According to councilmember, Tjay Bagwell, the event will run from 4 p.m. until dark Tuesday and will include a free chili cook-off and homemade ice cream competition. Entries are still needed and those interested can register online at walhallachamber.com. Members can also show up on the day of the event and participate. There will be $25 prizes for the winners.

There will also be a chance to dunk the Walhalla council members in a dunking tank, free games and inflatables for the kids and a cornhole competition that costs $10 a person.

"It's going to be a great chance for families to stop by after work before their day off and have a fun time with the community," Bagwell said.

The event will be held on the greenspace next to Arby's on Main Street. The road will remain open.

In Clemson, the annual CLEMSONFEST will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Foothills YMCA Beach area Tuesday.

Food and craft vendors will be on site with activities for children. Live music will be provided by The Out of Towners and fireworks will explode over Lake Hartwell beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Entry fee is $10 per car load. For more information, contact Ruthie Millar at 654-1200.

At the Anderson Motor Speedway at 8 p.m. Tuesday, the Firecracker 150 will rev up followed by a fireworks display to follow. For more information, visit www.proallstars-series.com.

On July Fourth, Wednesday, the City of Seneca will hold its annual celebration at Gignilliat Park which will feature foot-tapping tunes, free inflatables for children, food vendors and a large fireworks display that will begin at around 9:15 p.m.

Three different bands will take the stage, starting with the Groove Planet at 4 p.m. followed by the Jamie Wright Experience at 6 p.m. and finally, the headliner group, The Tams, will round out the night beginning at 8 p.m.

The event is free and attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or chair to enjoy the entertainment.

In Salem, the town will hold a community-wide celebration beginning at 6 p.m. with a fireworks display to begin at 9:30 p.m.

According to Salem city clerk, Kim Alexander, local churches will provide free candy, food and toys for everyone attending. The fireworks are made possible by donation only and Alexander said checks can be made out to Town Hall with a memo of 'Salem 4th Celebration.'

At the Lake Keowee Marina, organizers encourage residents to pull up a seat and enjoy the colorful sky that will start around 9 p.m. Wednesday.

At the Greenville Zoo, an event to honor veterans will run throughout the day on Wednesday.

The event is aimed at giving a big thanks to veterans with a free lunch. Pre-registration is required by Monday for veterans planning to attend. Contact Stacey Davis at 803-776-4000, ext 7303 for more information.

And, if you want to start celebrating early, the Lake Russell Freedom Blast, is 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday at Blue Hole Recreation Area, Calhoun Falls. There will be food, fireworks and beach music from four-time Carolina Beach Music award winner Rhonda Hill McDaniel. For more and tickets, call the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce at (864) 418-8672.

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Four-year-old Sophie Matheson makes good use of the "Wall of Water" provided by the Seneca Fire Department during the 4th of July celebration in Seneca last year.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Saturday

■ Lake Russell Freedom Blast, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Blue Hole Recreation Area, Calhoun Falls

Tuesday

■ Walhalla Independence Eve, 4 p.m.

■ CLEMSONFEST, 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Foothills YMCA Beach.

■ Firecracker 150 auto race and fireworks, Anderson Motor Speedway, 6 p.m.

Wednesday

■ Seneca Fourth of July Celebration, 4 p.m. at Gignilliat Park.

■ Salem community-wide celebration beginning at 6 p.m. with a fireworks display to begin at 9:30 p.m.

■ Lake Keowee Marina fireworks around 9 p.m.