

Meet and 3 festival planner hoping for good weather

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SENECA — Seneca Recreation Director Rick Lacey has booked the entertainment. He's set up street closures. He's worked with the Oconee County Education Fund to help plan a tasty barbecue cook-off. He's worked with Charter Communications to coordinate advertising efforts.

Even after all the things he and other Meet and 3 planners like City Councilman Joel Ward and Oconee County School District Director of Public Information Kay Powell have been able to meticulously plan, their influence is only so strong.

They can't control the weather.

The National Weather Service is forecasting a 40-percent chance of thunderstorms on Friday and Saturday, the two days the annual Memorial Day Weekend festivities are scheduled.

Rain or shine, Lacey said, the show will go on.

"We'll keep on going. It'll be played by ear," Lacey said. "There's no way we can just

cancel it. We'll go as long as we can."

The city has paid roughly \$10,000 to book musical entertainment, Lacey said. That money won't be lost, he explained, as their insurance on the purchased entertainment provides compensation of the lost funds should the acts not be able to perform due to severe weather.

"If there are bad thunderstorms or anything and they can't perform, we'll get reimbursed," Lacey said.

Currently the forecast does not call for day-long consistent rain showers, but a chance of scattered storms throughout the day Friday and Saturday.

The Meet and 3 is so-named because it combines three major events: Arts on the Alley, the Classic Car Cruise-in and the Barbecue Cook-Off.

This year's Meet and 3 will feature the country music duo The Bellamy Brothers, who perform 4:30 p.m. Saturday. They'll be accompanied by country music act, Alamo, that performed at last year's event. Saturday will also feature

the third annual Education Foundation Barbecue Cook-Off, with proceeds going towards the teacher mini-grant program that provides grants up to \$500 for individual teachers in Oconee County and \$1,000 for collaborative efforts. That portion of the event begins at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Lacey said after months of planning, the Memorial Day weekend festivities are looking good. The last event committee meeting devoted to the Meet and 3 will be held Wednesday to finalize the plans.