Movies and music by the Lake



World of Energy kicking off summer events with movie night, concert



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Oconee Nuclear Station's World of Energy, located at 7812 Rochester Highway in Seneca, is hosting its first movie night of the season Friday at 9 p.m. "Penguins of Madagascar" will play on the peninsula seen at the top right of this Google Maps image, so it can be viewed by boat from the lake as well.

BY CAITLIN HERRINGTON
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Summer may still be a few weeks away, but with temperatures in the 80s, it feels like it's already here.

Oconee Nuclear Station's World of Energy is taking advantage of the warm weather and kicking off its outdoor family movie nights Friday.

"Penguins of Madagascar" will be hitting the big screen at 9 p.m., and moviegoers are invited to come out early to snag a viewing spot and grab a snack.

"Families usually come a little earlier than the movie to set up," communications consultant Mikayla Kreuzberger said. "They can bring lawn chairs, blankets and snacks and have a little picnic before the show."

Those who find themselves with extra time before the movie can peruse the hundreds of art pieces at the Oconee County Student Art Display, which will be up through Saturday inside the World of Energy.

"The student art show showcases student artwork from all ages in Oconee County schools," Kruezberger said. "It shows off a lot of talent — there are some really talented kids in Oconee County. There are paintings, pencil sketches, pottery, ceramics, paper mache, mixed media and all different forms of art."

If that sounds like a lot of walking for little feet, Kreuzberger said transportation from the parking lot to the peninsula where the movie is played will be provided — but those who come by boat won't have to do much walking.

"You can come by car or you can watch on the lake by boat," Kreuzberger said, adding pets and alcohol are not allowed on the premises.

Though the event is free, those with cash on hand will be able to purchase snacks such as popcorn and cotton candy from Cub Scout 162, with all proceeds going directly to the scouts.

"We like to do these things as a way to give back to our community," Kreuzberger said. "We've been here for more than 40 years, and our community has done a lot for us, so this is one way we can give back to them."

The family movie nights are in their sixth year, but the peninsula at Oconee Nuclear Station will host a first on May 28 when the Daniel High School band performs its spring concert.

"It'll be set up just like

SEE **MOVIES,** PAGE **B2**

May 14, at Duckett-Robinson Funeral Home, Central. The family requests no flowers, and memorials may be made to Oconee ARP Church, 121 Rochester Highway, Seneca, SC 29672, or to the American Diabetes Association.



Swaney

May 7.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at Hepsibah Baptist Church.

Condolences may be expressed online by visiting www.sandiferfuneralhome.com.

Sandifer Funeral Home is assisting the family.

MOVIES: Second playing in mid-June

FROM PAGE B1

movie night," Kreuzberger said. "You can come by boat or set up a lawn chair or blanket, and it starts at 6: 30 p.m. If it rains, it'll be at the school,but otherwise the band will be set up on the new helicopter pad with the Lake Keowee mountain view in the background."

DHS band director Nathan Whitworth, who is in his fifth year at Daniel, is excited for another challenge for his students.

"Being in a new venue for the students always poses new challenges, mostly because you never quite know what to expect," he said. "I'm not too worried, though. I know our students will handle whatever comes their way with professionalism."

In the last five years, the band has performed in New York City and aboard a Royal Caribbean cruise, so performing outside and near water isn't too far off its resume.

"We have an exciting show lined up," Whitworth said. "The DHS symphonic band, jazz band and percussion ensemble will all be playing that evening. Our program will feature great composers and artists like John Williams, Stevie Wonder and Bela Fleck.

"There's definitely going to be something for everyone, and I bet those who has never heard our band program before will be pleasantly surprised."

Kreuzberger said extending an invitation to the band, which was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Performance Award from the S.C. Band Directors Association, to perform at the lake point was a no-brainer once the idea popped up.

Whitworth wasn't too surprised word spread so quickly about the award-winning band.

"We have several band parents who work for Duke Energy, and I think word got around of the great kids we have here at DHS," he said. "We are very grateful to Duke Energy and B.J. Gatten for the opportunity to come out and perform.

"We don't often have such a wonderful venue to showcase the incredible student musicians we have right here at Daniel High School."

Those interested in learning more about the band can visit danielbands.org.

Other summer events will be returning to WOE, such as Super Tuesdays and Wednesdays at WOE, which debuted last year.

"Wednesdays at WOE starts June 10, and we'll have it every Wednesday through June 29," Kreuzberger said. "It starts at 10 a.m. and is a one-hour program for children 10 and under. So far we have a magician, someone called 'The Nutty Scientist,' and we'll be making and shooting bottle rockets and a few other things that we're trying to firm up. We'll post a full schedule online as soon as it comes out."

To keep up with other summer events at the World of Energy, like its second movie night in June, visit duke-energy.com/visitor-centers/world-of-energy.asp.

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Nathan Whitworth
DHS band director

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