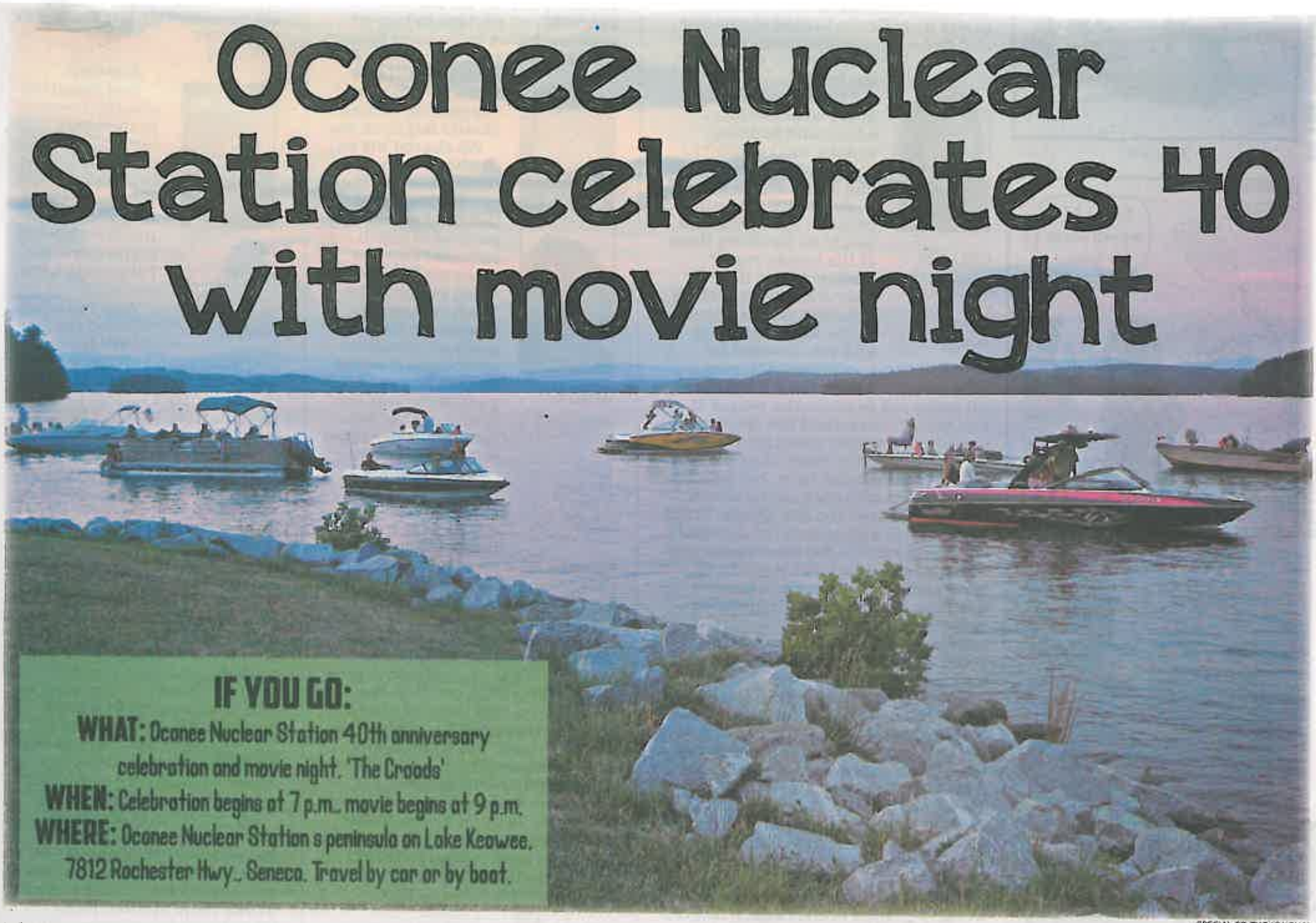
Oconee Nuclear Station celebrates 40 with movie night



IF YOU GO:

WHAT: Oconee Nuclear Station 40th anniversary celebration and movie night. 'The Croods'

WHEN: Celebration begins at 7 p.m., movie begins at 9 p.m.

WHERE: Oconee Nuclear Station's peninsula on Lake Keowee, 7812 Rochester Hwy., Seneca. Travel by car or by boat.

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

What a way to watch a movie! Boaters on Lake Keowee anchor near the peninsula at Oconee Nuclear Station to watch a movie on a big screen. Oconee Nuclear Station's World of Energy hosts its last movie night this summer tonight at 9 p.m.

BY MIKAYLA KREUZBERGER
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Oconee County was a much different place a little more than 40 years ago. The lakes that were formed in the early 1970s covered rural valley landscapes and several calm rivers, including the Keowee River. Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) began operating in 1973, providing electricity for millions of homes and businesses in the Southeast and transforming the county into the beautiful lake attraction it is today.

On Tuesday, ONS celebrated the 40-year anniversary of the day its Unit One reactor began generating commercial power on July 16, 1973.

"The community has allowed (Duke Energy) to do a lot in Oconee County," said Amanda Dow, corporate communications specialist at ONS. "The company has a large economic impact in the area. We generate tax revenue for the county and create jobs for people.

"There's a mutual partnership between us and the community, and we want to continue that for another 40 years," she said.

In honor of ONS's 40th anniversary, Dow said the World of Energy is hosting a family movie night at 9 p.m. tonight on the peninsula at ONS. "The Croods," rated PG, follows a prehistoric family as they embark on the adventure of a lifetime.

"We have several movie nights throughout the summer, but this is our last one for the season," Dow said. "The event is entirely free."

Before the show, Dow said an anniversary party begins at 7 p.m. and includes free cake and ice cream from Bruster's concession truck.

"The World of Energy will be open until 7 p.m. as well," Dow said. "Guests can follow the self-guided interactive 'Story of Energy.' Also, one of our most popular displays is the 3D topographical map of the entire area. It shows the mountains and lakes and different landmarks around us."

Dow said there is limited parking at the World of Energy, but additional parking is available across Highway 130 at the company's ball field.

"We will have transportation available for those who need assistance walking to the peninsula and to the World of Energy," she said.

The unique part about ONS movie night is that guests can also anchor their boats near the shore on Lake Keowee. Just pull up close enough to see the screen and anchor the boat securely, Dow said.

No pets or alcoholic beverages are permitted.

Dow said Oconee Nuclear Station has generated more than 500 million megawatt-hours of electricity, and is the first nuclear station in the U.S. to do so. It is the second nuclear station in the U.S. to renew its license with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to continue performing for another 20 years.

"We like to give back in any way we can," Dow said. "This movie night is something fun for everyone to enjoy. It's our way of saying 'Thank you.'"

For information about the event, to find directions or check on bad weather, call 1-800-777-1004 or visit www.duke-energy.com/worldofenergy.

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SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Family and friends gather at the peninsula at Oconee Nuclear Station for family movie night recently. Today at 9 p.m. ONS will show "The Croods" to celebrate the station's 40th anniversary. The celebration also includes free cake and ice cream, as well as prizes and activities at 7 p.m.