Pickens plans bang-up Fourth

Cities around the county to offer fireworks, food, fun over holiday weekend

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Residents and visitors in Pickens County searching for fireworks and fun won't have to look far this Fourth of July weekend.

Tens of thousands of people are expected to come out to Easley's Celebrate America festival that will be July 2-4 downtown on Main Street and in Old Market Square, said Scott Buckhiester, vice president of operations for DunBurks Premier Events.

"It's just a wonderful family festival," Buckhiester said. "It's a very fun, safe, family atmosphere."

He said festivities will start July 2 with a '50s night, including a cruise-in with classic cars and live entertainment. The Flashbacks will play from 7-10 p.m. on the Main Stage in Old Market Square.

The festival will go from 6-10 p.m. July 2, and from 2-10 p.m. July 3 and 4, with food and craft vendors, carnival rides and live entertainment. Fireworks will go off at 9:45 p.m. on the Fourth, Buckhiester said.

The festival was expanded to three days last year, he said, and drew about 40,000 people. He is hoping for 50,000 or more this year.

Admission is free, with various charges for food and rides.

In downtown Pickens, people will come out to commemorate the day at Pickens Celebrates the Fourth, said Jeff Wright, pastor of adult ministry at East Pickens Baptist Church, which puts on the event.

The July 4 festival on Main Street in Pickens will include live music, a children's area with face painting and activities, amusement rides, food vendors and fireworks, Wright said. Rides will begin at 2 p.m., and the main event will start at 5 p.m. Fireworks will be around 10 p.m.

Admission is free, but amusement rides and an inflatable area for children are $5 per person to ride all day, Wright said.

He said between 5,000 and 7,000 people came to the festival last year.

Clemsonfest is planned for July 3 at the Clemson University Outdoor Recreation and Beach, known as the old Y beach on Lake Hartwell, said Lindsey Newton, tourism director for the Clemson Area Chamber of Com-

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merce.

Newton said this year the event is presented by Oconee Medical Center in association with the Chamber and the city of Clemson.

Gates will open at 5:30 p.m., and the event will end with fireworks around 9:30 or 10 p.m.

She said they will have the band Still Cruzin' as well as inflatables for kids, face painting and food vendors with funnel cakes, Italian ice, barbecue and more.

Newton said they usually have between 4,500 and 5,000 people come to the event.

The cost is $10 per car and $5 on foot. There are different rates for buses and church vans, she said.

Newton said they don't allow any personal coolers or pets but encourage people to bring blankets and chairs.