Seneca, Clemson Christmas parades kick off season

BY GREG OLIVER AND NORMAN CANNADA
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Clemson and Seneca have both selected military veterans to lead their Christmas parades.


Rodriguez


Green

U.S. Army Veteran Daniel Rodriguez, who joined the Clemson Tigers football squad this season, will serve as grand marshal for the 19th annual City of Clemson Christmas Parade on Tuesday – a night after Seneca's annual parade brings the holiday season to life.


Jones

In Seneca, James "Jimmy" Green Jr., a veteran of the Army during World War II, and Harry C. Jones, who served in the Navy during the Korean War, will lead the Monday night parade.

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CHRISTMAS PARADES

Walhalla Christmas parade: today at 5 p.m. on Main Street.
Central Christmas parade: today at 1:30 p.m. on Main Street.
Six Mile Christmas parade: today at 10:30 a.m. on Main Street.
Townville "Home for Christmas" parade: today at 1 p.m. Float lineup begins in field across from Townville Elementary School.
Salem "A Christmas Wish" parade: Sunday at 4 p.m. on Main Street.
Seneca Christmas parade: Monday at 6 p.m. on West North 1st Street.
Clemson Christmas parade: Tuesday at 6 p.m. on College Avenue (pre-parade festivities start at 5 p.m.).
Westminster Christmas parade: Thursday at 6:30 p.m. on Main Street.
Keowee Light Christmas Boat parade: Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. Parade can be seen from Hidden Cove, Lake Keowee Marina and South Cove.
Pendleton Christmas parade: Dec. 9 at 3 p.m., starts at the corner of Queen and Greenville streets, and extends to Exchange Street and Main Street.
West Union "Cruise into Christmas" parade: Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. on Main Street.

PARADES: Seneca's starts at 6 p.m. Monday

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Rodriguez is a decorated war hero, serving a year-and-a-half in Iraq followed by a yearlong tour in Afghanistan. During his time in Afghanistan, Rodriguez fought in the Battle of Kamdesh in 2009 and was one of 22 American soldiers wounded in that battle. He was awarded a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal for valor.

More than 50 entries will take part in this year's Clemson parade, which begins at 6 p.m.

The Seneca parade is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Monday at the corner of South Oak and East South 4th streets. It will travel downtown on North 1st streets to Walnut Street, then Main Street, and end on Ram Cat Alley.

Just before the parade, at 5:30 p.m., Mayor Dan Alexander and the City Council will be on hand for the official lighting of Norton Thompson Park.

Green and Jones will be riding in the Lunney Museum horse-drawn carriage with museum curator John Martin. The theme for the parade is "A Heroic Christmas – Honoring Oconee County's Heroes."

The Clemson parade route will begin at the intersection of S.C. 93 and College Avenue, continuing through downtown on College Avenue before ending at Keowee Trail. Street closures begin at 4:30 p.m. and will include S.C. 93 to College Avenue, College Avenue to Keowee Trail and Keowee Trail to U.S. 123. Streets will reopen at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Pre-parade festivities will begin at 5 p.m. in front of the former Planning and Codes Office, located at 365 College Ave. Caroling performed by Terry Wetton and the lighting of the Christmas tree by Clemson Mayor J.C. Cook at 5:55 p.m. will highlight those festivities.

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