

Strike up the band at Oconee Medical

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SENECA — They are getting ready to party at Oconee Medical Center (OMC).

Plans for a three-day festival to celebrate completion of OMC's new patient tower were outlined to board members this week.

On May 7, employees will be treated to barbecue under the big top in the front parking lot of the new tower. They will also be offered tours of the facility in which they will begin working after patients are moved there in June.

On May 8, major donors and elected officials will attend an invitation-only reception in the connector between the old hospital and the new tower, followed by dinner and entertainment under the tent. Tours will also be offered beginning at 5 p.m.

And, on May 9, the public is invited to the Main Event, a family festival, that will kick off with a parade, including every school marching band in the area and then continue



Jessica Nelms/Staff

Earth movers and other machinery are used Tuesday morning at the hospital in preparation for the three-day festival that will take place May 7-9 at Oconee Medical Center.

with rides, games and children's activities on the lawn in front of the new tower. Tours will be offered throughout the day and, at 12:30 p.m., there will be a ceremony at which a new plaque will be erected in honor of the county's veterans. Stage music and concessions,

provided by area civic groups, will be available throughout the day.

OMC officials said access to the OMC grounds will be limited to Memorial Drive off of Highway 28 and through the access road adjacent to Lila Doyle Nursing Care. Hospital

Drive will be closed for the day for safety reasons.

Limited parking will be available on-site. Arrangements have also been made to park cars at Bi-Lo and Lowe's with CAT providing free shuttle transportation. With the exception of concessions being sold as non-profit fund-raisers, all activities between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. are free.

Vice President of Operations Hunter Kome told board members this week that touch-up painting and cleaning are underway in the tower. Landscaping is being completed and signage is due to begin going up this week.

"We will be 99 percent complete for the tours," Kome said, noting that the tower will not be fully furnished, however, a decision made to move much of the furniture in while final inspections are underway in May.

Vice President of Nursing Services Pat Smith reported that non-clinical areas of the hospital will move into the new tower on June 15. Patients will be moved June 20.