

# Local July 4 events begin today

THE JOURNAL STAFF

As July 4 falls in the middle of the week this year, some areas are getting a jump-start on celebrating.

Six Mile will get the festivities underway today with its Independence Day celebration. ClemsonFest is planned Tuesday in Central, coinciding with Walhalla's Independence Eve. The annual Hillbilly Days in Mountain Rest and Seneca's Fourth of July Celebration are planned on the actual holiday Wednesday, and the first-ever Celebration of Freedom is scheduled for Thursday in Westminster.

More information about each of the events is listed below.

## SIX MILE

Six Mile will hold

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SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2018

## EVENTS: Run through Thursday

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its Independence Day celebration from 5-9 p.m. today at Ponderosa Park. The celebration promises fun for the whole family, with food, games, entertainment and fireworks at dark.

### CENTRAL/CLEMSON

The 25th annual ClemsonFest will be held from 5-10 p.m. Tuesday at the Spittoon site, 1569 Eighteen Mile Road. Gates will open at 5 p.m., and the fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m.

The award-winning Carolina Coast Band will perform beginning at 6 p.m. The band will be back onstage after the fireworks to close out the night.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 161 will perform a flag-raising ceremony at 5:50 p.m. and will return at dusk for the flag lowering and the playing of taps. The first 1,000 attendees will receive a small American flag, courtesy of Troop 161 and Tri-County ACE Hardware of Clemson.

Food vendors at the fest will range from barbecue, grilled chicken and sweet potato fries to ice cream, shaved ice, kettle corn and funnel cakes.

Admission to ClemsonFest is \$5 per person or \$10 per carload.

### WALHALLA

The city of Walhalla will celebrate Independence Eve beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Walhalla Soccer Field, located at 101 E. North Broad St. Admission is free, and the event will include bouncy houses, music and more. Musical entertainment will be provided by Jack Roper and the Weathermen, as well as DJ Benny Whitten. Food concessions will be available. Attendees are urged to bring a blanket or chair and stick around for the fireworks starting at 9 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN REST

Mountain Rest's staple of celebration, Hillbilly Days, will hold its 59th festival from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday at the Mountain Rest Community Club. Located at 125 Verner Mill Road, the old-fashioned event features bluegrass music, greased pigs, arts and crafts vendors, clogging and a quilt raffle. The event happens rain or shine under the 5,000-square-foot pavilion, and guests are reminded to bring chairs to be sure there's enough seating.

### SENECA

An ongoing tradition for more than a decade, the city of Seneca will host its

Fourth of July Celebration on Wednesday.

Funk Factory 5 will open at 6 p.m. at Gignil-liat Field with a blend of Motown, Top 40 hits and beachy classics that will get the whole family dancing. There will be food vendors set up to refuel if dancing burns too many calories and cool treats to help beat the heat.

The national anthem will be presented around 7:30 p.m., with Seneca City Council members and Mayor Dan Alexander on hand before Stone Echo takes over the stage as the headlining band for the event. Fireworks at 9:30 p.m. will cap off the night.

### WESTMINSTER

On Thursday, the day after America celebrates its independence, Westminster will play host to the first-ever Celebration of Freedom at the Sons of American Legion Post 120. Located at 205 Lucky St., the celebration will last from 6-10 p.m. and include hot dogs, sack races and inflatables for the whole family.

"It's kind of an old-fashioned field day with tug-of-war, sack races, three-legged races and the like," post commander Zach Sharpe said. "It will be similar to field day at school, but for adults, too."