

World of Energy celebrates 50 years

BY CAITLIN HERRINGTON
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Toddlers and retirees alike turned out Thursday night at the World of Energy, battling the heat to help celebrate 50 years of energy education in the Upstate.

Trivia and bingo kicked off the afternoon at 2 p.m., and live music from Those Guys had people up and dancing to beach tunes starting at 5 p.m. World of Energy spokeswoman Mikayla Kreuzberger said the center saw more than 100 visitors for the event.

"We had a really good turnout for trivia and bingo — probably about 100 people — of all ages from Duke Energy retirees to 5-year-olds," Kreuzberger said. "We're grateful to have the community show up and support us and help celebrate our anniversary."

While many lined their chairs in the shade to enjoy the live music, others ventured inside the World of Energy to take advantage of the air condi-

tioning and participate in the community art bulb project.

Designed by local artists Martha Driscoll and Debbie Rote, the paint-by-numbers project saw a variety of participants during the evening.

"The paint by numbers was the idea we had for getting the public involved," Driscoll said. "We go from the cloud and the sky into the mountains and lake with a foreground."

One of the community painters, Joyce Latour, said she enjoyed the calm atmosphere around the lightbulb while her grandkids and daughter-in-law enjoyed the live music. She painted a few mountains, being careful to make sure the coverage was even as she stayed within the lines.

"I thought it was kind of neat to be part of a bulb," Latour said. "They said this one's going on the left side out there as you come

in. All of them are just beautiful, especially the one they did of the lake and river."

A nod to Driscoll and Rote's handiwork, another large lightbulb graces the entryway to the World of Energy. The pair said they spent nearly eight hours a day for two weeks painting the scenes of Lake Keowee.

"I started doodling on paper, and the concept was to think about Lake Keowee and the benefits of being on the lake and all the activities you can do," Driscoll said. "Then we started listing them all out."

The list quickly grew longer than the bulb and hard decisions had to be made.

"There's so many activities that we couldn't do everything, so we just tried to do as many as we could get on there," Rote said.

Driscoll and Rote were recognized Thursday night for their contribution to the art installation, which uses recycled bulbs from the "Lighten



PHOTOS BY SAVANNAH BLAKE | THE JOURNAL
Kim Brocklesby smiles at Kim Sentieri as they dance together outside the World of Energy at Oconee Nuclear Station on Thursday.

Up Spartanburg!" community art project. Three bulbs from that project are on display and two were repurposed specifically for the World of Energy.

While the community art bulb wasn't quite finished when the party wrapped up at 7 p.m., Kreuzberger said the final touches will be applied Monday at a private event for former World of Energy employees.

Formerly the Keowee-Toxaway Visitors Center, the World of Energy opened on July 1, 1969, and had more than 250,000 visitors in its first year stop by for interactive exhibits and watch the construction of the Oconee Nuclear Station. It has seen more than 3 million visitors since, and is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. with occasional weekend events.



Sharon Bungarner, left, dances with Chirley Cooper to the tunes of Those Guys during the World of Energy's 50th anniversary party on Thursday afternoon.