



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources will offer courtesy boat inspections this weekend at multiple sites in the area this weekend.

appropriate clothing for the trails or environment you're going to be in."

More people will be out on the lake with their boats this weekend, Krein said.

"Everyone gets their boat out and we have a tendency to have different boating issues on Memorial Day weekend," he said. "The sheriff's office, (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) and Oconee County Emergency Services are going to be on all the different lakes at different times and trying to make sure that we are prepared for any responses needed."

'100 DEADLIEST DAYS'
Lt. Tommy Crompton

pay attention because of the time of year," he added. "We will see more boats on the water, you will see more people traveling from this celebration to that celebration possibly. There will be more vehicle travel and more boat travel, probably, if it's like it has been in the past."

Crompton added local agencies are always prepared to help each other as the need arises.

"We're pretty much a phone call away from having multiple units from different agencies being able to assist," he said. "I don't want to say a holiday creates this, because we do that all the time. We're always looking out for one another and trying to help each other as much as possible."

of the Oconee County Sheriff's Office's special operations division said his team is prepared for all possibilities.

"We'll have deputies on the roadway, and we'll also have deputies on the water," he said. "The main focus is safety. We want to make sure that everybody can go out and have a good time and not have to worry about something tragic happening."

He added checkpoints are a possibility this weekend. "They need to be mindful of checkpoints being conducted by all agencies," Crompton said. "This is a holiday, and it kind of opens up the 100 deadliest days of summer (between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends). "We definitely have to

'INATTENTIVE' DRIVING AND DRINKING

Capt. Jeff Underwood, who oversees the sheriff's office's road patrol, said "inattentive" driving and motorists who have been drinking before getting behind the wheel are the most concerning issues on the road.

"It's a celebratory time, so everybody's getting together with family and friends, and including alcohol a lot of times in their festivities," Underwood said. "Our primary concern is people not having drivers to get them where they need to go that are sober and choosing not to stay where they're at after attending those barbecues or whatever they're doing."

"Traffic is heavier than the normal weekend

Local officials focus on safety for holiday weekend

BY NORM CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — While many are looking forward to Memorial Day weekend as a time to get out on the lakes or trails or enjoy a cookout with friends and family, Oconee County officials are focused on making it a safe weekend.

"The big thing is we just want people to pay attention and to be safe," Oconee Emergency Services director Scott Krein

said. "If they're on the water, remember that alcohol and boating don't always mix real well. Make sure you have all your safety equipment."

"It's supposed to be a warm, nice weekend," he added. "Enjoy it, but with anything, in moderation, and make sure that you put on sunscreen during the sunny times and protect yourself. Don't forget to drink water and wear

SEE SAFETY, PAGE A5

DNR INSPECTIONS

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is offering courtesy boat inspections this weekend and won't issue tickets to those not in compliance with requirements.

On Sunday from 10 a.m.-noon, DNR officials will be at Riverfork Boat Ramp on Lake Hartwell in Anderson. Inspections will also be available Mon-

day from 10 a.m.-noon at Twelve Mile Landing on Lake Hartwell in Pickens County.

"SCDNR officers will perform quick, but thorough, inspections for required safety equipment and proper boat and motor registration," a news release from the agency said. "Those who are not in compliance with safety

regulations or registration requirements will not be ticketed during the complimentary inspections. Instead, they will be given an opportunity to correct the problem before they launch their boat. SCDNR officers will also be available to answer questions and give boaters tips on how to stay safe on the water."

because of those events," he added. "So, obviously, just inattentive driving these days is a daily concern. But when you've got heavier traffic and then possibility of alcohol involved, just really watching for everybody paying attention to what they're doing, not getting impatient."