

4th

Day filled with events

By HERBERT BLAKE
News Herald Staff Writer

Americans, feeling frustrated, helpless and anxious at being held hostage 17 days on an isolated air strip in Beirut, should welcome the large dose of red, white and blue the upcoming Fourth of July celebration offers.

Organizers of local Independence Day activities hope their variety of fun, food, fireworks and music celebrating the birth of the nation will be timely tonic for Burke Countians.

Independence Day festivities kick-off with a bang in Morganton at 9:30 a.m. with the annual July 4th parade through downtown.

Highlighting this year's extravaganza is the parade's first marching band in many years as Morganton's Community Band legs its way through the 1-mile parade route.

Anyone can enter themselves, a group or a float in the procession by donning red, white and blue decorations. Entrants are asked to be at the starting point — behind the new courthouse on Bouchelle Street — by 8:30 a.m.

After a quick right onto Concord Street, the parade participants will make a right onto Green, a left onto Collet, another left onto Sterling, a

right onto Union, and a right at College Street, disbanding in the Belk's parking lot.

For more information, call Parade Chairman Mickey Kincaid at 433-5440 or Mel Cohen at 437-8863.

At 10:30 a.m. the pace picks up a little as 27 drivers vie for the checkered flag in the Optimist-Rotary Soap Box Derby, which returns to Sterling Street after about a 15-year absence.

The winner of the double-elimination event will go on to drive in the National Soap Box Derby finals in Akron, Ohio in August.

The races, which feature motorless coasting cars, were held annually in Morganton up until the early 1970's.

Organizers are asking people to bring their own lawn chairs and set them up along the 850 foot track, which stretches between Wachovia Bank and Concord Street.



Refreshment stands will also be located along the course during the three to four-hour event.

Later Thursday afternoon, the scene shifts from checkered flags to checkered picnic spreads and the 80-acre front lawn of Western Piedmont Community College for the evening's slate of activities.

The Oak Hill Ruritans' refreshment stands open at 4 p.m. offering hamburgers, hot dogs, chips for early arrivals or soft drinks for those that want to bring their own picnic setup to the spacious green campus.

To hopefully alleviate past traffic problems, parking priority will be given to early arrivals, who will be parked in the grassy area to the right of the entrance road.

As that lot fills, traffic will be sent to the lots surrounding the college.

Irish Creek, a traditional bluegrass

band, opens up the musical portion of the evening at 6 p.m. with all the classic foot stompin' sounds followed by the folk music to swing range of The Music Brothers.

Local favorite, The CornRose Band, is next with a repitroire of country songs, then the Morganton Community Band takes over with a host of traditional patriotic July 4th songs.

Hungry Five, an ensemble from the Community Band's ranks, will take the show up until dark and the main event.

The evening will be capped off with a \$3,000 aerial fireworks display, which will paint over WPCC and be accompanied by booms reminiscent of America's struggle 209 years ago for independence.

John Sutton, a member of the Burke

4th of July events planned

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County Chamber of Commerce's July 4th committee, said the annual celebration at the college has gone from \$400 worth of bottle rockets to a celebration county residents can be proud to see.

WPCC will provide shuttle bus service at 5 p.m. for senior citizens from the Morganton-Burke Senior Center to the campus and a return trip immediately following the fireworks display.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling 437-1201.

July 4th festivities in the Town of Glen Alpine step off at 10:30 a.m. with the town's annual parade starting at the end of Pea Ridge Street at Norvin Clontz's house, according to Lois Dale, town clerk.

Any person or group wanting to enter themselves or a float may do so by being present when the procession lines up at 10 a.m., Ms. Dale said.

After making its way down Pea Ridge Street, the parade will take a right turn onto Linville Street, a left onto Lail Road, another left onto Cemetery Street then another right back onto Linville Street.

Through the middle of town on Linville, which later becomes into Pitts Street, the procession will take a final left turn ending up at the town's fire department.

There Bill and Una Reep's group, will pick and grin country and western songs while a panel of judges will decide which woman will be the new "Miss Turkey Tail."

The contest, which determines which woman has the best "turkey tail," bears the town's first name before it was incorporated.

Following a welcome by Mayor Robert Stamey, guests will sit down about 12:30 p.m. for a picnic lunch, including watermelon and cold drinks, at the Glen Alpine Fire Department.

Featured speaker for the event will be Glen Alpine's new doctor, Dr. Clay Richardson.

The following day, the Town of Valdese will kick-off the summer of '85 fun with music, prizes and extended shopping hours at downtown stores.

Julius Pons, president of the Valdese merchants association, said the event, which merchants hope will bring people into the downtown area, was scheduled Friday so it wouldn't conflict with other scheduled July 4th activities.

The activities will help kick-off production of the play "From This Day Forward" starting the following week and the Waldensian Festival to be held Aug. 11, Pons said.

Local band, Silver Wings, will set up on Main Street between Valdese Hardware Store and Belks and crank out music ranging from top-40 and beach to country from 8-11:30 p.m.

In addition, the merchants association will be giving away a \$300 and a \$200 cash prize along with 12-15 door prizes during the evening.

Stores will remain open until 8 or 9 p.m., he said.