

Egg hunt set for Saturday

By DEBRA CRISP
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Thousands of children will descend on Western Piedmont Community College Saturday for the annual Easter egg hunt, but the treasures they will find will be courtesy of a different organization this year.

In addition, the Easter Bunny will make a special appearance at Main Street Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Downtown Development Association is sponsoring the Easter egg hunt this year for the first time.

"For many many years the Colonel's Pantry and Cooper Broadcasting co-sponsored it," said Bryan Black, president of the Downtown Development Association. "The position at Fulenwider Enterprises (which owns Colonel's Pantry) is not there anymore, and no one wanted to do it. We decided the downtown merchants need to support our community.

"And we felt the egg hunt would be something that would be greatly appreciated. And judging from the calls it is," he added.

David Crouch, director of human relations and public relations for Fulenwider, said a change in management is the reason the company is not sponsoring the event.

"We had a change in management," he said. "The person in charge now has other priorities. He is concentrating on running the business. We're still doing the Easter Bunny."

The egg hunt will feature more than 20,000 candy eggs for the children to find. In addition, downtown merchants are providing 300 prizes that will be given through special eggs.

"The prizes range from coloring books to bikes," Black said. "And we'll also have frisbees and stuffed animals. And we'll be giving away paper bunny ears to the first 1,000 children who want them. I think we have some very nice prizes."

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In addition, there will be something for mom and dad from the merchants. Parents will be directed to parking lots on the campus to park their cars, Black said.

"We're going to be giving out information sheets explaining the event," the president said. "And there will be coupons on the back of

the sheet for special discounts at our downtown stores. A lot of our merchants are going to have sales this weekend."

The hunt itself will be divided into three age groups so youngsters will have an equal chance at the goodies.

"We'll have three areas for the hunt near the tennis court area," he said. "One area will be for ages 1 to 3, the second for ages 3 to 6 and the

third for ages 7 to 10. The cut-off had 12 but we feel that 10 is right. When you get to a certain age it will be more about finding the most eggs than having fun."

After the egg hunt, the Easter Bunny will make an appearance at the Main Street Park.

"The Easter Bunny will be giving eggs filled with candy," Black said. "And some of the eggs will have

certificates for free Easter baskets from different merchants.

In addition, children may have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny for \$5.

Black said he hopes Burke County residents will come out and enjoy the festivities.

"I hope everyone will come out and enjoy the Easter egg hunt, and then come downtown," he said.