

WPCC plans blues, jazz festival

Western Piedmont Community College will hold its second Annual Anniversary Blues & Jazz Festival May 19, said Grady Pitts, dean of Development.

The festival is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. on the college lawn.

"We'd like to invite the community to plan now to bring blankets and picnics and join us for an afternoon and evening of music and entertainment," said Pitts. "This free annual event is our way of saying 'Thanks' to the people of Burke County for their support of our college and all its programs.

"Last year's concert, which was held in honor of WPCC's 25th Anniversary, was such a success that we

wanted to bring some of the same artists back for a repeat performance," he said.

Headlining the show again this year will be Morganton native Etta Baker, nationally known for her "Piedmont Blues" style.

Also featured will be South Carolina blues artist Drink Small, "The Blues Doctor."

Other musicians will include Rand Whitley and the Fidgety Feet Dixieland Jazz Band, and blues performer Walter Liniger of Mississippi, all of whom appeared at last years' concert.

In addition, jazz pianist Allen Youngblood will perform.

Youngblood is already well known

to local audiences through appearances at the Old Rock School, the City of Morganton Municipal Auditorium and WPCC.

For more information about Western Piedmont's Anniversary Blues & Jazz Festival, contact Grady Pitts at 438-6013.