

Fourth of July festivities abound

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Not behind the barbecue grilling this coming weekend? Would you rather just be out celebrating the birth of our this fine, fine nation we call home instead?

Then Fourth of July activities countywide — from breakfasts to parades and fireworks — will give you plenty to do Saturday. Best of all, most of these events are completely free, just like how we were born. Thanks, America!!

SANTA BARBARA AREA

The Montecito Firefighter Breakfast will get the day started right with pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, coffee, and milk served by local firefighters off San Ysidro Road. The \$8 meal

helps support the Montecito Firefighter's Benevolent Fund. 7:30-10:30 a.m., Montecito Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road.

The holiday is also a chance to think about the poor and unfortunate among us, and the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission will host a barbecue and carnival to raise funds for this service. The barbecue is expected to feed 300 homeless men, women and children. Live music and fun and games for the whole family will be included. 1-3:30 p.m. 535 E. Yanonali St.

The Spirit of '76 parade starts at 1 p.m. and heads down State Street from Micheltorena to Cota. More than 175 agencies take part, from area armed forces squadrons to marching bands, local dignitaries and people decked out in revolutionary garb. Please check <http://spiritof76sb.org/>

for more info.

The West Coast Symphony will play a free concert with a patriotic theme at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Garden starting at 5 p.m. For more info cieloperformingarts.org.

Finally, West Beach will be the place to be at 9 p.m. when the annual fireworks show goes off in explosive fashion. The free event starts at 3 p.m. Food stalls and live music will be located on Cabrillo Boulevard. On the eastern side of the wharf, one can find the Santa Barbara Arts and Crafts show, moved up one day of its usual Sunday schedule, 10 a.m. to dusk.

GOLETA

Girsh Park hosts the city's fireworks fest, starting at 4 p.m. Music

groups include Tequila Mockingbird and Area 51, while watermelon and pie-eating contests and a hula-hoop contest also will be held. Fireworks start at 9 p.m. Free. <http://goletafireworks.org/>

SANTA MARIA

The Santa Maria Fairpark hosts the city's fireworks show and opens at 3 p.m. Performances by classic rock band Unfinished Business start at 5:30 p.m. Plenty of food and drink will be available. Fireworks start at 9 p.m. The entire event is free. 937 S. Thornburg St., Santa Maria. <http://www.santamariafairpark.com>

LOMPOC

The city of Lompoc hosts this evening of fun and fireworks at Lompoc



NEWS-PRESS FILE

Uncle Sam sits atop a Corvette in the 2013 Fourth of July parade.

High School Huyck Stadium, 515 W. College Ave., Lompoc.

Tickets are on sale at the Anderson Recreation Center during regular business hours. Pre-sale tickets cost \$2 for children 12 and younger and \$4 for 13 and older. Ticket prices

will increase by \$3 each on Saturday.

For information, contact Lompoc Parks & Recreation at 875-8100.

email: news@newspress.com

(Look at that beard!)