

Families relish Fourth of July festivities



WILLIAM WILSON LEWIS III/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Karen Wilson performs "America The Beautiful," during the July 4th Patriots Concert in Riverside's White Park on Saturday.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: Parades, music and food stretch from morning well into the night.

BY MELISSA EISELEIN
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Independence Day festivities in the Inland region gave families and friends an excuse to spend the day eating hot dogs, watching parades and listening to live music.

The fun started early in Temecula.

Spectators attending the Star Spangled Parade sat two and three rows deep to watch the entries move along Old Town Front Street.



See video of the Patriots Concert.
PE.com

Nayah Middlebrooks, 7, of Temecula, shook her pink pom-poms as she and the other members of the Temecula Twirlers and Pom group entertained the crowd with a series of cheers.

"I'm really excited and happy," Nayah said before the event. "This is my first time in a parade."

Lori and Steve Torok, and their daughter, Zoe, sat on the sidewalk near the end of the parade route.

Zoe, 2, held a small flag in each hand, and her mother snapped her picture.

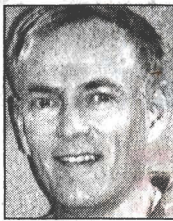
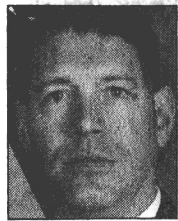
"This is her first parade ever," Lori

SEE **FOURTH/C3**

HONOREES

MILITARY PERSONEL

CIVILIANS



CHARLES ELLIOTT
Senior Airman
U.S. Air Force,
452nd Civil
Engineer Squadron
Senior Airman
Elliott serves at
March Air
Reserve Base.
The father of
four was named
California
Airman of the
Year in 2009.

RICHARD HALLER
Lieutenant
Colonel
U.S. Air Force,
904th Civil
Engineer Flight
Lieutenant
Colonel Haller's
reserve unit
completed over
90 projects
in and
around Joint
Base Balad near
Baghdad.

**STEPHEN
A. KREIDER**
1st Sergeant
U.S. Army,
304th Sustainment
Brigade
He's held every
noncommissioned
officer position
and twice been
named Non-
Commissioned
Officer of the
Year. His medals
include the
Bronze Star.

EDWIN D. NUNEZ
Captain
U.S. Marine Corps,
Delta Company,
4th Tank Battalion
Captain Nunez
supervised
more than 200
combat patrols
in Iraq, which
helped to secure
freedom of
movement for
coalition forces.

LEE D. RYSDAM
Chief Petty Officer
U.S. Navy,
Naval Surface
Warfare Center
After serving in
Operation
Desert Shield
and against drug
smugglers,
pirates and
terrorists, he
now helps to
create
tomorrow's
fleet.

JAMIL DADA
Vice President
Investment
Services for
Provident Bank
Dada is
chairman of the
March Field Air
Museum. He's
served on
numerous
committees in
the public and
private sectors.

G. W. SINGLETARY
President/owner
G.W. Singletary, Inc.
Supported
military
members and
their families as
chairman of the
Military Affairs
Committee for
the Riverside
Chambers of
Commerce.

FOURTH

CONTINUED FROM C1
Torak said.

The Toraks said they looked forward to teaching Zoe everything there is to know about Independence Day so she would understand the sacrifices people made.

"Zoe's adopted from Russia," Steve Torak said.

FAIRMOUNT PARK

After munching on hot links and other barbecue favorites, Ann Buffong, of San Bernardino, shot her boyfriend, Herbert McGwire in the face with a squirt gun.

McGwire wrenched the squirt gun from her grip, then turned it on his sister, Michele Branch, of Riverside.

The family and friends were among hundreds of people spending Independence Day afternoon at Fairmount Park in Riverside.

It was not the celebration they had expected, Branch said.

"We were here last year and they had all kinds of stuff for the children," Branch said. "They were

selling tickets for the children's rides, vendors and jumpers."

The lack of rides and other organized festivities did not keep the group from having fun. As the adults soaked each other with water guns, the children played nearby.

WHITE PARK

The celebration continued late into the evening at White Park in Riverside.

Patriots Concert, sponsored by the Riverside Philharmonic Foundation, included music, song and awards recognizing local residents for their patriotism.

UC Riverside's Pipe Band and the university's Gluck Fellows of the Arts director, Karen Wilson, were among the concert entertainment.

The Philharmonic Foundation's first July 4th Patriots Concert at White Park in downtown Riverside featured music by the Riverside Lyric Opera Symphony, the Riverside Master Chorale, The UCR Highlander bagpipers and singer Karen Wilson.

Phil and Louisa Martinez, of Rialto, were among the first to claim their spot in front of the stage. Their son, Brian,

was the featured trumpet player in the Virtuoso Showcase portion of the concert.

"Making it an annual event is a great idea," said Phil Martinez, who is retired from the Army.

"We love patriotic stuff and things that honor the vets," added Louisa Martinez. "I told Phil I'm not wearing any mascara because I'll be crying all evening."

For some the event served as an alternative to watching the fireworks at various locations around the city.

"We normally sit in front of Mt. Rubidoux and wait for the fireworks and are bored for three hours," said Vickie Brown of Riverside. "I just think it's a great idea that they're having a nice patriotic concert on the Fourth of July."

"What's great about this park is we have a good ambiance," said Teresa Peck, whose friend Glen McMulin, a Riverside resident, was visiting White Park for the first time.

Five military personnel and two civilians were honored for their contributions to the military.

Military recipients include Marine Corps Capt. Edwin D. Nunez; Air Force Senior Air-

man Charles Elliott; 1st Sgt. Stephen A. Kreider; Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Haller; and Navy Chief Petty Officer Lee D. Rysdam.

Civilians who were honored at the event include investment services vice president Jamil Dada, of Riverside, and Riverside developer G. W. Singletary.

Staff Videographer Matt Schoenmann contributed to this report.
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