

FOCUS

Entertainment supplement
to The Battalion

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Local festivities honor 4th of July

By Bernie Fette

Battalion Staff

Independence Day will be observed in the area with events including barbecues, concerts, dances and fireworks displays to celebrate the nation's 205th birthday.

The College Station Lions Club will sponsor a celebration at Bee Creek Park in College Station beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday, featuring games and swimming. At 8:00, the Community Singers and the Carter Creek Bluegrass Band will hold a concert in the park.

At 5:00 the Lions will sponsor games and beginning at dark, they will present a fireworks display at the A&M Consolidated football stadium. Some 10,000 people are expected for the event.

Fireworks will be provided by the City of College Station.

Concession stands will open at 5:30 p.m. and cold drinks, popcorn, snow cones and hot dogs will be available.

Featured games will include sack races, three-legged races and a tug-of-war. The College Station Fire Depart-

ment will be on hand with fire hoses to cool off participants in the games.

Celebration Chairman Jim Ross said the crowd may be larger if area residents choose to save gas and celebrate the 4th at home.

"An entire evening of activities is planned for the whole family," Ross said. "Families can come play, eat, be entertained by music and watch the area's only fireworks display. It's a great way to relive the traditional July 4th holiday spirit."

"The local Lions Club has been working hard to make this the best July 4th celebration yet," Ross said. "And since the club has been sponsoring this event for more than a decade, that is saying quite a lot."

A parade formerly scheduled for the weekend has been cancelled, according to Mary Brennan of the Information and Hospitality Center of the Brazos Valley.

The Texas Hall of Fame and The Cowboy in Bryan will sponsor a chili cook-off along with contests and a dance Sunday, July 5. Gates open at noon and the \$5

admission charge includes free beer for the day.

The afternoon activities for the event include a drinking contest, wet T-shirt contest, and a beauty contest. Dancing under the stars begins at 6 p.m. with music by the Tommy Connors Band on the 2,400-foot outdoor dance floor.

No celebrations have been scheduled by the city of Bryan for the weekend.

In Hearne, a barbecue cook-off sponsored by the Hearne Jaycees will be held Friday night at the Firemen's Hall on Farm Road 485. Judging for the event will begin at 4:00 Saturday. Entry fee for the cook-off is \$20 for one entry and \$25 for two.

An Arts and Crafts fair with a flea market will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, also at the Firemen's Hall. A fireworks display will begin at dark.

After the fireworks display, there will be a dance at the Firemen's Hall with live music by the Lone Star Drifters from Austin.

On the Texas A&M campus, the Intramural Recreational Sports Department

and The MSC Council and Directorate will sponsor a picnic at the Wofford Cain Pool. Live music and games will be featured from noon until 8 p.m. along with 25¢ hot dogs and free Pepsi.

Pat Fierro, assistant intramural director, said games will be sponsored for children in several age groups and there will be co-rec innertube water polo for adults.

From 2 to 4:30 p.m., music will be provided by Don Barbier, a Texas A&M student and from 6 to 8 p.m., Ken Ferdeen and Jim Burgess of the MSC Basment Committee will perform.

The Texas A&M diving team will present an exhibition at 4 p.m.

A&M students with ID cards and pool passes will be admitted to the picnic free. Admission for guests will be \$1 and for children under 12, 50¢.

Those planning their own July 4th celebration should remember that city ordinances in both Bryan and College Station prohibit the possession and use of fireworks within the city limits.

Fireworks, alcohol, cars don't mix

Weekend fun is dangerous

Two elements of the 4th of July weekend which can't be ignored are beer and fireworks. For many people, that's what the 4th is all about. (Actually, it's a celebration of this country's independence, but not many people realize that.)

Unfortunately, both of these things happen to be safety hazards. And who wants to ruin a good weekend with unpleasant details like that?

Since fireworks are illegal within the city limits, let's assume that you are prepared to set them off outside the city limits and proceed from there.

The Texas Society to Prevent Blindness reminds everyone that fireworks are not toys.

R.E. Margo, M.D., state medical chairman of the society, said, "Fireworks are dangerous projectiles that injure thousands of Americans each year." Last year, 9,400 people were treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries, 1,700 of which were eye injuries. This doesn't include people treated in doctors' offices or those admitted to the hospital.

"The sale of fireworks is illegal in many Texas cities," Margo said, "but efforts to extend the law statewide have been stalled.

The 1981 Legislature passed a bill which limits the amount of explosives allowed in fireworks, but does not restrict their sale.

So, fireworks are still available in Texas. And contrary to any sales pitches you hear, there are no "safe" firecrackers.

All the warnings and laws in the world will not stop a fireworks addict from going on twice-a-year binges (New Year's and the Fourth), so here are

some safety tips from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service:

— The sparkler, considered the safest firework, burns at a high temperature which can easily ignite clothing. Be careful when handling them, and keep a bucket of water handy for emergencies and to douse any fireworks that don't go off.

— Light fireworks outdoors in an open area away from houses and flammable materials.

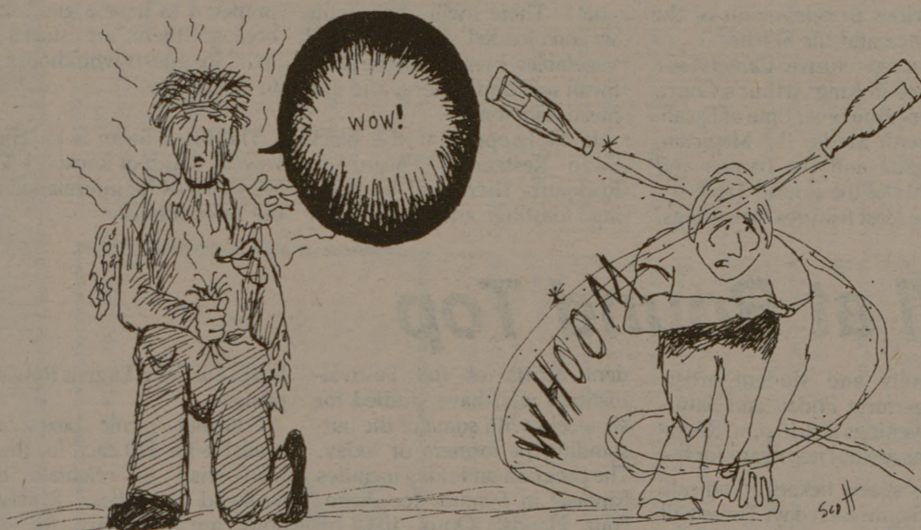
— Before using fireworks, read and follow all warning instructions printed on the label.

— Don't handle or try to re-light malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them in water and throw them away.

— Be sure people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

— Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.

— Store fireworks in a dry,



cool place. Check the label for special storage instructions.

If you feel drawn by the allure of the sparkly displays, attend a licensed public show. They're a lot safer, and more spectacular than anything you can buy at a just-out-of-the-city-limits stand.

And if something goes wrong, there's somebody else to blame.

Now, to the other area of 4th of July safety: highway safety.

Bob Draper, manager of driver improvement programs for the Texas Safety Association, said that 52 people died in traffic accidents last year over the 4th of July.

Draper offers a basic rule for weekend driving: don't mix alcohol and driving. This bit of advice probably won't change your mind if drinking and driving are in your weekend plans, but here are a few more tips.

Check your car — tires, belt, hoses, oil — before leaving on a long trip. Stop once each hour to rest and keep yourself alert.

Observe the basic safety rules, like buckling up for safety and driving the speed limit. (55 miles per hour, in case you've forgotten.)

Watch out for the other guy, just in case he's not watching out for you.