

July 4th is a fantastic time for fun in the sun

By CATHY RIELY

Co-editor

YOU CAN JOIN 100,000 PEOPLE broiling at the beach, 10,000 cooling off in the spray of a fire hose or 1,000 vying for the darkest tan. This year's Fourth of July events vary in activities and location as well as cost.

People-watchers should have plenty to ogle in Galveston. A chamber of commerce employee says she expects 100,000 people to show up for the July 4th fireworks at Stewart Beach. The fireworks start at 9 p.m.

Many other activities will be available in addition to the fireworks. The Railroad Museum, Auto Museum and historical homes will be open. "Hello Dolly" will be playing at the outdoor amphitheater.

In addition to the usual attractions, people can ride "The Colonel," a new \$3 million paddleboat that begins operation July 1. "The Colonel" leaves for bay cruises from Pier 22.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BATTLE highway traffic, the College Station Noon Lions Club is sponsoring Fourth of July activities on the Texas A&M campus. More than 10,000 spectators are expected to crowd into Olsen Field stadium for the Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks Show.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. cold drinks, popcorn, ice cream and hot dogs will be sold at concession stands. Games for all ages begin at 6 p.m.

The family fun includes such favorites as the sack race, three-legged race, egg toss and tug-of-war. Winners can cool off with their prize — watermelon slices. And if they're really hot, the College Station Fire Department is standing by to hose heated participants.

"Last year that cool run through the fire department's spray was one of the most popular events," Co-chairman George Teetes says. "It's likely to be the same this year."

At 8 p.m. the Bengal Belles will entertain the crowd. The National Sojourners will present a flag ceremony "that will ensure a spirit of pride and patriotism" at 8:30 p.m. Patriotic music will accompany the 9 p.m. fireworks display.

AS FAR AS DAYTIME ACTIVITIES go — A&M's Intramural Department is sponsoring their annual Picnic at the Pool. Admission is free to those with a Wofford Cain Pool pass and only \$1 for others.

That \$1 will get you free hamburgers, ice cream and soft drinks as well



Photo by Dean Saito

Take to the lakes for Fourth of July festivities. Fishing, boating and swimming can add to the fun.

as '50s and '60s music by "Sneaky Pete and His Neon Madmen." McDonald's donated 600 hamburgers which will be grilled by the pool. About 1000 people are expected, so show up early to get that burger.

Food will be served starting at noon and the band will play from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Those wishing to do more than lounge in the sun can enter a worst sunburn contest or play innertube water basketball.

Primarily a young adult crowd is expected, so no children's games will be played this year, organizer Paula Opal says. The pool will open at noon and close at 5:30 p.m.

FOR FAMILIES LOOKING FOR fun — Bryan Parks and Recreation and Manor East merchants are sponsoring a Fourth of July party at the Bryan Aquatic Center, located at 3100 Oak Ridge Drive behind Bryan High School. This party will include games for both adults and children.

A treasure hunt, lifesaver pass, seashell game, pie-eating contest, greased watermelon contest, sunken canoe races, innertube races, tug-o-war, continuous water volleyball and door prizes are planned.

"I Tex and the Frontier Dub Boys" will play reggae music starting at 4 p.m. The day's events last from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$1.25 per person.

IT'S A LITTLE EARLIER THAN the Fourth, but Post Oak Mall and First Bank and Trust will be sponsoring a fireworks display at the mall Saturday, June 29.

"It's the biggest one we've ever had," organizer Cindy Brannen says. The fireworks will start at 9 p.m. at the parking lot near the Sears Service Center.

In addition to the fireworks display, Tops the Magic Panda Bear will stroll the mall from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The stores will stay open until 11 p.m. and hold special sales after the fireworks. About 75,000 people are expected throughout the day.

SWIMMING, SAILING, WATER-skiing and fishing fanatics can drive out to Lake Somerville, about a 30-minute drive west out Highway 21.

About 75,000 people are expected to show up at the lake. Swimming is allowed unless prohibited by signs and fishing is controlled by the usual state laws.

However, Assistant Manager Bob Eaves says fishing is questionable because they've had a few shads (a

see Fourth p.2