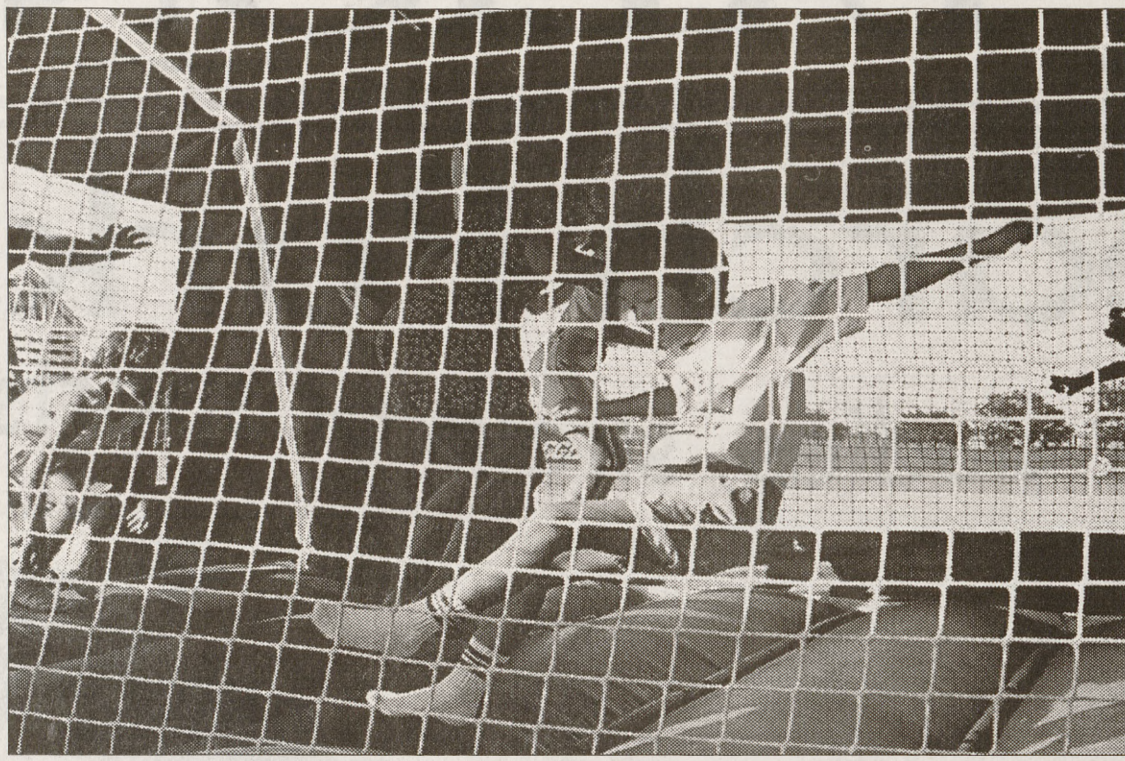


FUN FOURTH FESTIVITIES



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Above: Kids ages 6 and up bounce around in the Joy Jump, a hyperactive suppressant chamber, at Olsen Field Tuesday evening during the Independence Day celebration. Children younger than 6 had their own chamber. The youngsters also could participate in games like sack races, an egg toss and a ring throw. Live music was on hand to entertain the crowd of several hundred people.

Right: Chilton Smith, age 2 1/2 from College Station, tosses a ball into a hoop at the celebration. If the ball landed in the ring, contestants won a coupon for a free slice of watermelon.



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Texans celebrate

Holiday events include parades, Nelson picnic

UNDATED (AP) — Summer heat and a dousing of rain couldn't stop the state's largest Independence Day celebration in Houston Tuesday.

"I absolutely love the U.S.A.!" exclaimed Chris Sweet, bedecked in a patriotic ensemble of an Old Glory T-shirt and an Uncle Sam-style hat. "The Fourth of July is my favorite time of the year because of good ol' American patriotism, rah, rah and all that. It beats any other holiday."

Sweet, along with husband Ray and grandson Dusty Bilski, was among an estimated 200,000 revelers in Buffalo Bayou Park for the annual Freedom Fest, which takes place in the shadows of the downtown skyline.

"We wanted to hear the band and see what goes on," said Janice Dunna-

gan, who moved here from Illinois last August and had looked forward to a Houston-style Independence Day.

"I always like going to see fireworks on the Fourth."

The start time of the event, which featured classic rock bands Stepwolf and Foghat and the requisite fireworks spectacular, was pushed back to 4 p.m. this year by organizers to beat the heat.

The strategy worked as showers cooled things off a bit during the middle of the day.

Meanwhile, it isn't the Fourth in Pecos without a rodeo. The 113th annual West of the Pecos Rodeo featured 130 bull riders and lots of hard-scrabble action under a hot West Texas sun.

"I've been from New York to L.A., but I can't imagine being anywhere else on the Fourth," said Rick Preslar. "This is the time of year to party and have a good time."

Elsewhere in Texas, Willie Nelson took the stage in Luckenbach as Texans celebrated Independence Day in Lone Star style Tuesday.

Nelson sang his classic "On the Road Again" before a crowd gathered in the central Texas town of Luckenbach, pop. 3. The 25-act show marked the first time Nelson has held his more-or-less

annual picnic at the hamlet.

"It was a natural," Nelson said here before because Luckenbach is the Fourth of July picnic area with like cake and ice cream. They're going good together."

Kevin Kline, manager of the Em station in downtown Luckenbach, said the event was some cause for worry. "It's a little town and some of the residents were concerned (about the crowds), but I think they're doing good job patrolling it," he said.

"There's a lot of people going through. Yesterday and today have been our two busiest days of the year," Kline said. He had to work during the concert, but said he'd get off to see the fireworks display Tuesday night.



Nelson

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Is the playground divided for different age groups?
Are the classrooms arranged for active involvement and hands-on learning?

II. TEACHER TRAINING AND INVOLVEMENT
* Does the staff have a positive attitude towards you and your child?
Are the children spoken to gently and with respect?
Is the staff enthusiastic about children's learning?

III. PARENT INVOLVEMENT
* Is there some form of planned daily communication between teachers and parents?
Does the center provide support to families through parent education and information about the center's activities?

COMPUTERS

Continued from Page 1

numbers vary each semester. The center was opened for the students on a part-time basis in Fall 1994.

"The reason we felt the need to establish the center was that computers are playing more of a part in classroom experience," Harris said. "There's more of an expectation from professors to get work typed. We also felt that students should be as independent as possible. This technology really aided in their need for independence."

Robert Linnstaedter, a senior environmental design major and a wheelchair user, said other computer labs across campus, such as the ones at Langford Architecture Center and the West Campus Library, already have accommodations for handicapped students.

"I haven't had a problem using other computer centers on campus," Linnstaedter said, "but I can see how the new center will be greatly beneficial to students with hearing or visual impairments."

Harris said as the need for this service grows, so will the center. New furniture such as tables and chairs that can be lifted hydraulically will be ordered.

"This is a start, and we really hope the center will take and get a lot of different equipment," she said.

COMPUTERS

Continued from Page 1

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Threaten receive psy

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