



The Fourth of July fireworks display was a huge success at Prairie Dog State Park. A record number of vehicles entered the park for the holiday.

# Holiday at the lake

By **ERICA BRADLEY**

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The Fourth of July fireworks display was a huge success with a record number of people entering Prairie Dog State Park to view the display.

Steve Mathes, park manager, said 1,777 vehicles entered the park on Saturday.

Last year 1,639 vehicles entered.

Mr. Mathes said they estimate three people per car entered the park.

The estimate only applied to people entering the park on Saturday.

It did not include weekend campers.

Mr. Mathes said the entire park staff worked an excess of eight hours on Saturday.

There are three full time staff and six seasonal who worked with traffic control, law enforcement and park permit sales, he said.

"It's a really good program for the area. We had visitors from Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Arkansas," Mr.

Mathes said.

The DJ for the event was Marvin Matchett, KQNK station manager.

He said he has done the event for the last six years.

"It's fun. There's nothing more American than this, and there is a great fireworks display to end the night," Mr. Matchett said.

Community members also enjoyed the evening's events.

Mike Pollack brought his children in time to watch the display after barbecuing steaks at his home.

He said he brings his family most years to see the fireworks.


Rich and Dawn Risewisk, of Jamboree Foods, provided the free watermelon.

"I just like giving watermelon away," Mr. Risewisk said.

Mrs. Risewisk said they enjoy giving back to the community.

The Risewisks estimated that they gave away 40 watermelons.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley



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