

PRESS RELEASE
CENTRE DAILY TIMES
August, 2003

State College -- Rain, it seems, couldn't dampen the excitement for Centre County's annual celebration of Kids Day.

About 400 people showed up to State College's Central Parklet on Sunday, according to Claudia Hutchinson, with Care Partnership: Centre Region Communities That Care, which hosted the event.

The numbers, she said, are a tremendous improvement over last year's celebration.

"There were a lot of grandparents here this year," she said. "I had some of them come up to me and say that the parents had gone out of town and they had the grandkids, so they were happy to have something to do with them."

"Something to do" meant trying their hands at rock climbing on the event's climbing wall, taking a jump in the moon-bounce, watching magicians, or taking part in events at numerous stations set up around the green.

While the early afternoon was reserved for events geared toward the younger set, the evening held entertainment aimed at their older siblings.

Five local bands performed on the Central Parklet stage. The bands, too, were a family affair as many parents and siblings of band members trotted out lawn chairs and settled in for the show.

Ty Emel, of Pleasant Gap, came to watch his son, Ty Jr., play lead guitar in the band Drop Dead Fred.

"It's OK for today's music," he said of his son's band. "It's good."

Jeremiah Diaz, the group's rhythm and bass guitarist, said he was surprised their punk-style band could play Kids Day. He didn't know what to expect, he said. He just hoped people would hear the music.

Lisa Skipper, whose son Jordan, is the group's drummer, said she is glad the boys have a public venue. "I think it's really nice they got a chance to play," she said. "Venues fall through and the shows are usually at our house."

The first band, Morbid Sacrifice, took the stage just after 5 p.m., and it wasn't long before the small crowd of teenagers started moshing around the lawn in front of them. Jacob Skipper, Jordan's 12-year-old brother, watched the action from his skateboard. When asked what he thought of the fact that his brother's band was going to play, he shrugged, "I think it's cool."

--Lara Brenckle, Centre Daily Times



Contact:
Claudia Hutchinson
cah255@psu.edu
814-861-7424