

'Water, whiskey' offered for lunch

By CARMEN THOMAS
Reporter

Foot stomping and hand clapping were in abundance on the College Station Community Center lawn Monday as the Country Gazette, a southern California bluegrass band, performed their version of a "water and whiskey" concert — "Water are we gonna play and whiskey are we gonna play it in?"

The four-man band performed many styles of music including Hawaiian, Spanish and Texan. An Earl Skruggs melody of songs and country-style ballads also entertained the approximately 75 listeners. A banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass guitar and Dobro guitar added to the pleasure of the concert.

Dressed in blue jeans, boots and T-shirts, Country Gazette

gave the audience a relaxed, "down-home" concert. The band's jokes and stories made the concert light-hearted and gave the audience a chance to laugh.

The College Station Community Center and the Arts Council of Brazos Valley invited the people to bring their lunches, lawn chairs and blankets. Those attending included business people on lunch break, children, parents and grandparents, Texas A&M students, tourists and passers-by.

Country Gazette was formed in 1972, and has since turned professional. The group travels around the United States performing 200 days of the year for bluegrass festivals, clubs and schools. The group hired an arranger to fit symphony music to their bluegrass music and often plays with a symphony orchestra.



Photo by FRANK IRWIN

The Country Gazette performs bluegrass music during a free concert Monday.

Dry weather hurts crops in B-CS area

By KEVIN S. INDA
Reporter

The dry weather that South Texas has been experiencing hasn't affected the Bryan-College Station water supplies, says Charles Otto, assistant water superintendent for the City of College Station.

The Bryan-College Station area receives the majority of its water from 3,000-foot-deep wells located west of town near the Bryan power plant.

"The rains come at just the right time to replenish the water sands in the wells," Otto said.

Water consumption in the Bryan-College Station area has been above normal this summer.

"The increase in the population of the area has caused the water consumption to be above normal," Otto said, "not the dry weather."

The Bryan-College Station area has been using an average of 8.5 million gallons of water a day during the dry months, with a record of 10.2 million gallons on Aug. 31.

"We probably have reached our peak water consumption rate, so water rationing shouldn't be a factor in the upcoming months," Otto said.

But while many people aren't suffering from the lack of rain, some area farmers are.

Farmers who grow cotton and sorghum have had lower yields because of the dry weather, said Dale Fritz, a Brazos County agricultural extension agent. Profits from the sale of these crops have also declined because of the added cost of irrigation.

The lack of rain also has affected cattle ranchers.

"Many farmers are culling their herds in an effort to keep their pastures from being overgrazed," Fritz said.

In addition, the dry weather has affected farmers beginning to plant winter crops, Fritz said. Wheat and oat farmers need rainfall to soften the ground before they begin planting.

Current rainfall amounts are about 5.55 inches below normal.

Janine Bryan, Texas State Climatologist graduate assistant, said the Bryan-College Station area had 18.95 inches of rain through August, but the average for the same period should be about 24.50 inches.

Alis-II: automated card catalog system saves time

Library organizes circulation holdings

By WALTER SMITH
Reporter

While trudging toward the Sterling C. Evans library, you curse the term paper that your professor assigned. However, once you get here, you'll find a time-saving device that will make your research less tedious. It's Alis-II, the library's automated card catalog system.

Implemented in the fall of 1982, Alis-II was created to keep records on the library's circulating holdings. However, the Alis-II system can perform other functions for library users as well, library systems analyst

Tim Saito said Friday.

Full bibliographical information also can be obtained from the computer, Saito said. Not only does the system show if books are checked out, it displays their due dates and indicates where items can be found.

Users presently can search for books and other items by their authors or titles on the 15 public terminals.

Eight terminals are working in the reference area, while three more are being installed. Additional terminals are in the reserve, map, microtext, and documents departments, as well

as in the corridors by the main elevators on the third, fourth, and fifth floors.

Although instructions are placed near the terminals and information is provided on the computer screen, reference help is available if needed.

"If it's going to save them (students) steps, they're most willing to use it," said Lynne Hambric, reference librarian. "The patrons are receiving it quite well because it can tell them the status of a book right away."

"There will be less dependence on the public card catalog and more on

the Alis-II system after we get all the kinks out," Saito said.

One source of confusion with the system is the existence of two different searching modes with different syntax requirements. When in the INQUIRY mode, you should search for an item by its author, title, or call number. However, when searching in the PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOG mode, you use either the author's name, the book's title, or a combination of both, Saito said.

Another drawback is that not all of the library's holdings are represented in the computer's database.

"We initially did not think we would have enough memory space," he said. "Our main concern was to get into the system those things that circulated the most."

Although the system is still in the first stage, the Alis-II hardware has been upgraded by replacing the original Data General Eclipse S/250 processor with a quicker MV/8000 model. The main problems are now within the software, he said.

The library plans to improve the Alis-II system even further. Its long-term goal is to have the entire card catalog computerized, Saito said.

Bryan school board accepts property tax rate

By DARYL DAVIDSON
Reporter

The Bryan Independent School District Board of Trustees Monday night voted unanimously to accept the current tax rate for the 1984 tax year. The only change from last year will be the allocation of the tax.

The tax, set at 69 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, is divided into a general fund used for local maintenance and a debt service fund. Last year's tax allotted 64 cents for the general fund and 5 cents for the debt service fund. The resolution adopted by the board for 1984 will allocate 61 cents for the general

fund and 8 cents for the debt service fund.

Superintendent Guy Gorden said the increase in the debt service fund was needed to pay outstanding bills caused by the construction of additions to district schools.

The board also heard a construction report on the Bryan Aquatic

Center pool complex and the classroom addition at Anson Jones School. The pool complex will be completed by Oct. 1 but completion of the classroom addition, scheduled for the middle of August, will be delayed until Nov. 1.

Board member Woody Humphries stressed that, despite the de-

lay, the committee was pleased with the work on the addition. "We're getting a good building. That's the main thing," he said.

C. B. McGown, Jr., director of personnel for the district, reported the enrollment in the district for the fifth day of class was 10,631, up 278 from last year.

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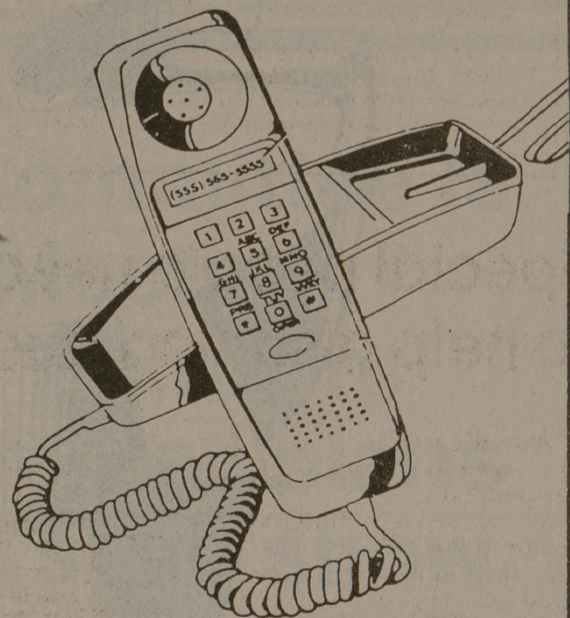
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