The Battalion STATE & LOCAL

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Area lakes provide holiday fun, sun

By KATHY COX Of The Battalion Staff

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Lakes in the Bryan-College Station area offer boaters a place to cool off on the Fourth of July.

Lake Somerville, about 25 miles southwest of B-CS, offers canoeing, sailing, waterskiing and windsurfing. Facilities for the 11,460-acre

lake are open seven days a week, year round.

From Bryan-College Station, Lake Somerville can be reached by taking State Highway 21 west. Signs on the highway give directions to the lake. Lake Somerville is divided

into two sections, Birch Creek and Nails Creek

Birch Creek, on Park Road 57, offers two two-lane boat ramps. Those interested in more information about Birch Creek can call (409) 535-7763.

Nails Creek has one twolane boat ramp, and is located on Farm Market Road 180. Call (409) 289-2392 for more

A pamphlet about the recreational facility said Lake Somerville's average July tempera-ture is 95 degrees, and its busiest season runs from the first weekend in March through the Fourth of July.

Gibbons Creek Reservoir, a cooling lake for Gibbons Creek Steam Electric Station, offers fishing and boating. The electric station supplies

electricity to Bryan.

A five-lane ramp lets boaters access the 2,490 acres in Grimes County, 18 miles east

of College Station. Boat launches cost \$2, and fees of \$2 a vehicle plus \$1.50 per adult are charged to the reservoir's visitors. Children under 12 are admitted free.

Gibbons Creek is stocked with largemouth bass, crappie, catfish, perch and hybrid black

ntly

bass fingerlings. To reach Gibbons Creek Reservoir from B-CS, take State Highway 30 east to Carlos and turn north on FM 244. Follow FM 244 about a quarter of a mile to a turnoff on the right marking the entrance.

More information about Gibbons Creek can be obtained by calling (409) 873-2424.

Lake Conroe, in Montgomery County, offers fishing along with waterskiing, windsurfing, sailing and canoeing.

The man-made lake, completed in 1973, covers 21,000 acres. It is 19 miles long and five miles across at its widest

point Lake Conroe is stocked with walleye, Texas and Florida bass, striped bass, catfish, hy-

brid perch and crappie. From B-CS, Lake Conroe can be reached by taking State Highway 6 south and exiting at Highway 105 east. Follow 105 east to the lake.

Public boat facilities at Lake Conroe, which charge a small fee, include Anchorage Ma-rina, Aqua Landing, Bridge-cove Marina, FM 830 Boat Ramp, Inland Discount Marina, Kaygal Recreation Area, League Line Marina, Loch Ness Marina, Pier 105 Marina, Scotts Ridge Boat Ramp and Shiloh Boat Ramp. For more information about

Lake Conroe, call (409) 588-1111

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offers the fol-

Wear a personal flotation
Wear a personal flotation
device. Even an expert swimmer is not safe without a life jacket

• Don't overload your boat. • Alcohol and open water don't mix. Drinking can dull the judgement and ability of any boater.

Tell someone on shore where you're going and when to expect you back.
Check fuel and equip-

ment before leaving shore. Make sure everything is in

good working order. • Check the weather fore-

• Carry a fire extinguisher, and air the boat thoroughly before heading out.

• Check your wake and how it affects others. Pay attention to "No Wake" areas. • Never start your engine

that everyone is clear of the prop and out of danger.
Stay, with danger.

capsizes. • Avoid swimming areas,

 Follow navagation rules for boat traffic.

until you have checked to see

Stay with the boat if it

and keep a lookout for swimmers, divers and fallen skiers.

Stores' sales soar for seasonal food

By JULIE MYERS Of The Battalion Staff

Some foods are as traditional as fireworks on the Fourth of July — barbecue, potato salad, baked beans and watermelon can be found in abundance in the Bryan-College Station area.

Larry Medearis, store manager of the Kroger on Southwest Parkway, said meat, ice, soft drinks, beer, charcoal and charcoal lighter were selling well and watermelons were selling "by the

Medearis said the Fourth of July is doubly profitable because it falls near the first of the month when most people receive their paychecks

Although beer usually sells well during the holiday, Čargo Bay convenience store owner Charles Burly said kegs weren't really popular during the holiday, but package sales were usually good.

Burly said he expected the four-gallon Coors

Hold on!

party ball to do a brisk business, since the ball can

be thrown away when empty. For those who plan to barbecue, 3-C Bar-B-Q manager and partner Mark Conlee had some barbecue tips:

• Brisket is the best cut for barbecuing.

• Cook brisket for 10 to 12 hours over low heat adding charcoal as needed.

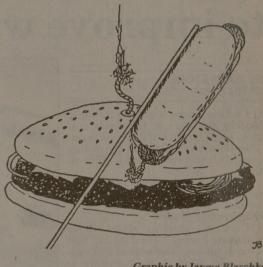
• Don't put sauce on meat until after it's off the flame unless a burnt sauce covering is desired.

• Cook ribs 3 to 5 hours over low heat.

• Sausage is a fast-cooking alternative • Add onions, bell peppers, a little beer and garlic to prepared barbecue sauce.

• Use charcoal lighter sparingly, and never use gasoline to start a fire unless a burnt covering is desired.

• Potato salad, macaroni salad and other salads containing mayonnaise should be kept refrigerated. Spoilage may occur after about two hours.



Graphic by Jayme Blaschke



ipate the jerk of the rope attached to their raft as the boat on the the Colorado River, outside of Kingsland.

Kathleen Childress and her friend Jenni Davis (left to right) antic- other end of the line readies to pull them on a watery ride down

Willie, Waylon and the boys plan another July 4 picnic

AUSTIN (AP) — For the first time since 987, Willie Nelson is planning a Fourth of uly "picnic." Organizers promise a some that tamer event than the concerts in the

"We're all older, the performers are older," organizer Tim O'Connor said. "That's the evolution of the picnic, placing it in 1990. But I hope it's not too restrained.

Singer Steve Fromholtz said, "The mel-lowness is there. Neither Willie nor I party as hard as we did 10 years ago, but I believe the music has gotten better for all of us.

O'Connor forecasts a crowd of 25,000 to 35,000 for this year's picnic, to be held in Austin's Zilker Park. Nelson lives in Austin.

The "redneck rock" style of music — country with a harder edge — that became associated with Austin, had its roots at the first Willie Nelson picnic on July 4, 1973.

Since then, the picnics have been marked by memorable music, including on-stage jams and stellar individual performances. But they also drew complaints about drinking and drug abuse, traffic jams and occasional nudity in the July sun.

The last picnic was held in 1987 at Carl's Corner, south of Dallas. Only 8,371 people showed up for a concert planned for

80,000.

Organizers say this year's should be a family affair. Music begins at noon and ends at 10 p.m. Guests include perennial favorites Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson.

A separate stage is planned for children, with jugglers, magicians, carnival rides and armadillo races.

Inspiration for the picnics came from a

three-day country and bluegrass reunion in Dripping Springs, held in 1972.

The next year, Nelson booked Kristof-ferson, Jennings, Rita Coolidge, Tom T. Hall, Doug Sahm, Sammie Smith and others for his first July 4 picnic, also held at **Dripping Springs.**

The 1986 event was combined with Farm Aid II and held at the Manor Downs horse racing track

