

HelpLine
 Week Days: 4 PM to 8 AM 845-2700
 Weekends: 24 hours a day

☉ I'm upset! We just broke up and I need to talk to someone. ☉
 I think I hate my major. ☉ I'm worried about my grades. ☉ How
 can I see someone at the counseling service? ☉ Mom just called &
 I'm worried about home. ☉ I'm so lonely. Can we talk a while? ☉

The HelpLine is a program of the Student Counseling Service,
 a department in the Division of Student Affairs.

New Kid in Town

Music publishing company 'Hopes' to make stars

By BRANDI BALLARD
 Staff writer

It takes more than just a guitar and a singer for a band to cut a record. It takes effort, disappointment and most importantly, it takes a publishing company.

Hopes Creek Music, Brazos Valley's own music publishing company, hopes to help local talent land big breaks with record labels. Hopes Creek Music is the only one of its kind within 100 miles.

"Hopes Creek Music is the first all-out, fully aggressive publishing company that Brazos Valley has seen," said Ron Piwko, president of Hopes Creek Music.

them. A really good blues band just will not get any air time.

"They (the band) need to bring me a pre-taped demo of good quality," Bennett said. "Then, if I like it, I will send them to a recording studio to record the best four or five songs they have."

Bennett then sends that record to different recording labels around the United States. But first, he has to solicit the biography of the band. Submission, which consists of a demo, a black and white glossy photo, and a brief biography. Bennett must call the record company before the submission arrives and let them know who he is and what he is sending.

"If the label likes what they hear, they will call you back and ask if you have anything more that the group has done," Bennett said. "If they call you back, that is a really good sign."

Bennett says the company now has two bands

being published, Texas Woodies and Rudder. He soon hopes to get a contract with group Haywood.

It is a publisher's job to get a band a deal. A booking agent's job is to get the live shows.

Hopes Creek Music is strictly a publishing company.

"The main objective for a publishing company is to get their client signed," Bennett said. The process can take from two months to years. Of course, there is always the possibility a band to form their own independent record label.

Bennett said a band may want to avoiding their own label because the industry may refer to them as a "vanity" CD on a "vanity" label. Bennett and Piwko saw a need in College Station and are trying their best to fill it.

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The company got started when Piwko and Willie Bennett got together. The two met when Bennett helped Piwko's band The Texas Woodies get signed to a record label. Together they formed Hopes Creek Music and now plan on expanding the business to take in other local talent.

Bennett has been in the music business for 25 years. Bennett has connections within the Texas industry and Piwko met people in the music industry during his stint as a staff writer in Nashville.

"I have friends in the music business here, and they just do not know how to get a record cut and deal," Piwko said.

The company has been in business since Feb. 7, 1996, but the word about them is just now starting to get around.

"We really got active this past July," Bennett said.

The name, Hopes Creek, comes from the street Piwko lived on next door to Lyle Lovett.

Bennett said there is a tremendous amount of talent in the College Station area.

"I feel that College Station is the epicenter of the music industry," Piwko said.

But Hopes Creek Music will not help just any band sign to a record label. The band must first sell themselves to the company. Bennett said publishing companies look for originality in bands.

"They must have songs that set them apart," he said. "And they have got to be radio friendly."

Bennett said that if a band cannot be played on the radio, then there is no point in signing



Willie Bennett, owner, and Ron Piwko, president of Hopes Creek Music, a music publishing company.

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WEEKEND PREVIEW

Thursday, November 20

Clay Blaker, a country musician, will be performing with Brian Duckworth, a country musician, at 9:30 p.m. at Shadow Canyon.

Breedlove, a rock band from Austin, will be playing with The Texas Woodies, a band from Bryan-College Station, at 9 p.m. at The Dixie Theatre.



Reckless Panhandlers, a classic rock band from Bryan-College Station, will be playing at 9 p.m. at Fitzwillly's.

Ruthie Foster, a folk and blues musician from Bryan-College Station, will be hosting her CD release party at 5 p.m. at Marooned Records.

The Theater Arts Department presents Bertolt Brecht's "The Good Woman of Setzuan" at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum.

Vanilla Ice, a rap artist from Miami, will be performing with Rob Base at Texas Hall of Fame at 9:30 p.m.

Friday, November 21

Bobby Hall and The Ice Cold Blues Band, a R&B band from Bryan-College Station, will be playing at 9 p.m. at Fitzwillly's.

Linus, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, will be performing with Squint, a band from Bryan-College Station at 9 p.m. at The Cow Hop.

Gary P. Nunn, a country musician from Bryan-Col-

lege Station, will be performing at 9 p.m. at The 3rd Floor Cantina.

The Theater Arts Department presents Bertolt Brecht's "The Good Woman of Setzuan" at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum.

Saturday, November 22

Ugly Americans will be performing with Saucy at 9 p.m. at The Dixie Theatre. Hamilton Loomis and the Prime Time Players will be performing at 9 p.m. at The 3rd Floor Cantina.

MSC Film Society will be showing Contact at 9:30 p.m. in Rudder Theatre.

Ronnie Po, an original rock musician from Houston, will be playing at 9 p.m. at Fitzwillly's.

The Theater Arts Department presents Bertolt Brecht's "The Good Woman of Setzuan" at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum.

FREUDIAN slip
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Saturday, Nov. 22 - Emotions

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