### Have a happy and safe July 4th

# Haskell Free Press

VOL. 118-NO. 27, ©JULY 1, 2004

"The People's Choice'

**8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-50 CENTS** 

### Calendar

### Early deadline

Deadline for news and advertising for the July 8 edition will be Thurs., July 1 at 5 p.m. The Haskell Free Press office will be closed Mon., July 5 in observance of Independence Day.

#### Summer reading

The summer reading program schedule at the Haskell Co. Library will be as follows: 5-8 year olds, Tuesdays July 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.: 9-12 year olds, Wednesdays July 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; 2-4 year olds, Thursdays July 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

#### Lankford reunion

The family of Roe and Edith Lankford will hold a reunion over the Fourth of July weekend at the Haskell Civic Center. Friends of the family are invited to come and visit on Saturday morning.

#### Society to meet

The Haskell County Historical & Genealogical Society will meet Mon., July 12 in Haskell City Hall at 7 p.m.

#### Learning center

Registration for the new 21st Century Books and Beyond Learning Center will be Thurs., July 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Students going into grades 7-12 will register in the high school lobby outside the principal's office. A parent or legal guardian must accompany each student for registration. For more information call Dusty Garison at 864-8535 ext. 226.

### Summer food program

Haskell CISD will sponsor the Summer Food Service program. Meals will be served at Haskell Elementary School Cafeteria located at 306 S. Ave. G from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mon. through Fri. until July 30. Those ages 1 through 18 years of age will eat for free. Adults may eat for \$2.50. All are welcome.

### Storm sirens

The City of Haskell will test the storm sirens at noon on Fridays, weather permitting.

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### Gertrude Hopkins honored by local church By Mary Kaigler

Every Sunday is "The Lord's Day" when the group meets to worship God and give thanks and honor to the Son in whose name they meet as brothers and sisters.

Last Sunday, specially set aside as "Gertrude Hopkins Day," members of the First United Methodist Church of Haskell also met to honor and thank one of their number who has retired after serving many years as church secretary.

Not only receiving a bronze, inscribed plaque in recognition and appreciation of her dedicated work and devotion to the church, the longtime member was also the honoree at a church-wide Mexican buffet lunch, which is among her favorite foods.

Gertrude Hopkins has been a member of the local Methodist Church since 1968, the year she and husband, Howard Hopkins and their children moved here from Post.

Born in Post as number 10 of 12 children in a farm family, she attended a country school, Graham Chapel, and graduated from Post High School in 1940. After attending Texas Tech one year on a scholarship and then attending Draughon's Business College, she worked as Post's city secretary.

In 1955 she married Howard Hopkins, who worked for the John Deere Company in Post. He adopted her daughter, Linda.

During ten years in Lovington, New Mexico, the couple had three other children, Susan, James and Carl. After three years back in Post, working with the John Deere Company, Howard moved the family to Haskell and began to work for Pat Hale's John Deere Company.

Through the years, the entire family, including local grandchildren, Morgan and Mitchell Cox, has been involved in western riding events such as roping, barrel racing, the children's 4-H, Haskell Horse Club, Stamford Jr. Sheriff's Posse, Play Days, and the Haskell Roping Club, which Howard was instrumental in getting started, and remained closely involved with until his recent death. In his honor, the arena has now been named the Howard Hopkins Memorial Arena.

Always a Methodist, Gertrude raised her children in the local church, and has been a part of church activities for 36 years. A member of the Ruth Circle and Menefee Sunday School Class for many years, she has also helped with Bible School and been involved as part of many church projects and events. H. O. Abbott was the preacher when she came to Haskell, and she says the church has "gone through a lot of preacher's since then, all of them different, but



First United Methodist Church Pastor, Allen Brooks, Sunday, in

all of them believing in the Bible and trying to do their best."

She began the work of church secretary after retiring from years of working at the Haskell Livestock Auction and retiring from ten years of working for John Sam Rike at Production Credit Association in Stamford.

Gertrude's soft and gracious manner of speaking and responding to others was especially well adapted to working in the church office, and that quality, along with her secretarial skills, was greatly appreciated by members of the church, who depended upon her for many things, which she always did in a willing, caring manner. Knowing the membership and those in the community was an asset in doing her

job. "I've enjoyed working for the church." she said. "Everyone was good to help me."

Persevering and surviving a personal battle with cancer three years ago, and looking after Howard with great patience and love during days of physical struggle with his health, she remained full of hope and faith, an example and inspiration for all who know her.

She was honored on retirement during "Gertrude Hopkins Day."

In retirement Gertrude says she is looking forward to having time to work on her family pictures and finally getting them into albums. Having seven active grandchildren and four great-grandchildren of whom she is proud, she expects the project to take some time. She is also looking forward to working in the yard and doing some things around

In his presentation remarks to her

on Sunday, John Sam Rike said that if 82 year-old Gertrude Hopkins ever decides to come out of retirement to go to work again, he hopes he has the honor to be the one to present her with her next retirement plaque of appreciation.

"The world would be a better place to be if everyone had the work ethic, attitude of faith and character exemplified by Gertrude Hopkins,"

### Survivors of Vets face

The Department of Veterans surviving spouses of military Affairs (VA) wants to ensure that surviving spouses of deceased veterans are aware of an approaching deadline that may affect entitlement to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits.

Last year, President Bush signed Public Law 108-183, the "Veterans Benefits Act of 2003," which restores entitlement to DIC and related home loan and education benefits for surviving spouses who remarry on or after their 57th birthdays.

VA officials are concerned that surviving spouses may not be aware of this change in law, or may overlook this benefit if their subsequent marriages have not

Generally, VA pays DIC to the benefits.

servicemembers who die while on active duty, and to surviving spouses of veterans whose death resulted from service-related causes.

The basic monthly rate is \$967 and is increased if the surviving spouse has dependents, is housebound, or meets criteria common to those who need a home aide. There are additional payments for dependent children. Parents who were dependent upon the servicemember's income also may qualify for DIC.

Under previous law, surviving spouses who remarried were not eligible for DIC unless their marriages ended. At that time they could apply for reinstatement of

Under the new law, surviving spouses who remarried after age 57 and before Dec. 16, 2003, have a limited time to apply for restoration

They have one year from the date the new law was enacted (Dec. 16, 2003) to apply for restoration of benefits. If VA receives the application later than Dec. 15, 2004, restoration of DIC must be denied.

The one-year application period does not apply to other surviving spouses whose remarriage on or after attaining age 57 followed enactment of the law.

For more information on restoration of DIC, call VA's toll free number at 1-800-827-1000 or visit the nearest VA regional office.



HORSE SHOW WINNER-Ashton Rutkowski, daughter of John and Glenda Gayle Rutkowski and granddaughter of Jack and Joy Chapman, all of Haskell, won the All-Around Buckle for Timed Events at the District 4-H Horse Show in Vernon, Sat., June 19. The win qualified her for State events in Abilene in July. Pictured with her is Haskell County Extension Agent, Brandon Anderson.



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### Fall garden planting dates listed

by Brandon Anderson Haskell Co. Extension Agent

Use this guide to determine the optimum planting dates for a fall garden in this area.

The dates listed are suggested dates on which each crop can be safety planted. Since these dates are based on the first average freeze in the fall, it is possible to plant after these dates and still be successful if the first actual freeze this year happens to be later than the average

Snap Bush beans, Aug. 1; Lima Bush beans, July 25; beets, Sept. 1; broccoli, Aug. 1; brussels sprouts, Aug. 1; cabbage, Aug. 1; carrots, Aug. 15; cauliflower, July 1; and Swiss chard, Aug. 15.

Collards, Aug. 15; sweet corn, Aug. 10; cucumber, Aug. 1; eggplant, June 15; Kohlrabi, Sept. 1; leaf lettuce, Sept. 15; mustard, Oct. 1; onion (seed), not recommended; and Southern peas, July 1.

Pepper, June 15; potato, Aug. 1; pumpkin, July 1; radish, Oct. 1; spinach, Sept. 1; summer squash, Aug. 15; winter squash, July 1; tomato, June 15; and turnip, Oct. 15.

### Rochester receives grant

The City of Rochester has been awarded one of 15 Community Development grants recently awarded by the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), to rural communities for infrastructure and public facility improvements.

Of the \$3 million in grants distributed, Rochester will receive

The awards are being made to applicants who scored high enough to be recommended for partial or full funding from the remaining ("marginal") funds in the agency's federally funded 2004 Texas Community Development Program's (TCPD) Community Development Fund Regional Allocation, from which the agency awarded rural Texas localities 170 grants totaling \$46,519, 278 in May 2004.

### Cattle Market Report

The market at the Haskell Livestock Auction was on a run of 374 head of cattle at its sale on Mon., June 28, according to Gary Tate, reporter. 43 sellers and 33 buyers

Packers \$1 to \$4 lower. Feeders \$2 to \$7 lower. Stockers \$3 to \$8

Cows: fat, .42-.47; cutters, .45-.53; canners, .28-.38.

Bulls: bologna, .60-.67; feeders,

.84-.96; utility, .55-.64. Steers: medium and large frame

No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.28-1.65; 300-400 lbs., 1.18-1.35; 400-500 lbs., 1.12-1.25; 500-600 lbs., 1.10-1.19; 600-700 lbs., 1.00-1.15; 700-800 lbs., .95-1.14; 800-up lbs., .80-1.00.

Heifers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.15-1.40; 300-400 lbs., 1.10-1.24; 400-500 lbs., .98-1.17; 500-600 lbs., .95-1.12; 600-up lbs., .80-1.10.

Bred heifers medium frame, 675-825.

Bred Cows: young to middle aged, 825-975; aged or small, 550-

Cows with calves: medium frame No. 1 young and middle aged, 925-1250; aged or small, 750-900.

### **Obituaries**

### **Austin Wallace Coker**

was the youngest son of Jerry and

Vickie Coker. His family lived in

Vernon until he was seven. He

attended pre-K and kindergarten at

St. Paul Lutheran and played soccer,

basketball and baseball. His family

moved to Haskell in 1994. He was a

member of First Baptist Church and

just completed his junior year at

Haskell High School. He participated

in Texas Boys State, was a member

of Student Council, Fellowship of

Christian Students, the First Baptist

youth group and lettered in varsity

baseball and ran cross country. As a

second baseman, he was named to the

second team all-district. His summer

league played in the state tournament.

As a freshman, his FFA Junior Farm

An avid outsdoorman, he loved

water sports, agronomy and

Skills team won state.

An A-honor roll student, he had

was baptized June 30, 1996.



Funeral services for Austin Wallace Coker, 17, beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend, of Haskell were held Wed., June 30 at First Baptist Church in Haskell with Brother Kevin Hall officiating and Jason Byrd, youth

Memorial Hospital after being injured in a water skiing accident. Born in Abilene Oct. 4, 1986, he

director, assisting. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home. Coker died Sun., June 27 at Llano

landscaping. He and his brother operated Coker Lawn Service. He was a hard worker and known for his thrifty ways. With his quick wit, quiet

personality and infectious smile, he was a favorite with family and friends. Generous with his time, he was always ready to take his #1 fan, driving cousins to the movies. He never passed up a chance to eat his Ma-maw's macaroni and cheese or eat spaghetti and meatballs at Olive Garden. Often called Cat by his friends, Austin will be remembered for his love of family, extended family, baseball and his dog, Tyson.

Survivors include his parents; one brother, Zack; one sister, Macey, maternal grandparents, J. W. Wallace and the late Sandra Wallace; paternal grandparents, Jack and Charlotte Coker of Rule; paternal great grandparents, Gaines and Bonnie Shults of Mosca, Colorado; maternal great grandparents W. D. and Ruth Larned, Alice Larned, and Julie Wallace, all of Haskell; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and two best buddies, Brad Blanks and Ronald Chapman.

Lit

Pallbearers were Brad Blanks, Ronald Chapman, Jon Dulaney, Brandon McClatchey, Aaron New and Cameron Short. Honorary pallbearers were the baseball team and the Class of 2005.

Memorials may be made to the Austin Wallace Coker, Class of 2005 Memorial Scholarship, Haskell CISD, P.O. Box 937, Haskell, Texas 79521.

#### Macey, for a Coke or his young, non-Frank James Jordan, Jr.

Funeral services for Frank James Jordan, Jr., 46, of Haskell were held Wed., June 30 at Greater Independent Baptist Church in Haskell with Rev. Tom Collins officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery in Haskell under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral. Home. Mr. Jordan died Fri., June 25 at his residence.

Born May 26, 1958 in Haskell, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank James Jordan, Sr. He married Dona Atkins Oct. 4, 1997.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Paul

Survivors include his wife, Dona Jordan of Haskell;

#### of Abilene and David Tidwell of La Porte. PD. NOTICE Byron 'Barney' Ishmeal Ootton

Graveside services for Byron 'Barney' Ishmeal Ootton, 85, of Rotan were held Wed., June 30 in Belvieu Cemetery with Brother Eric Ewrin officiating. Services were under the direction of Weathersbee-Ray Funeral Home.

Mr. Ootton died Sat., June 26 in Big Spring.

Born Feb. 8, 1919 in Bald Hill, Okla., he was the son of Oscar and Genveal (Carter) Ootton. He was a cook in the Army during World War II. He drove a wrecker in Haskell for twenty-five years and had lived in Rotan since 1989. He loved everything to do outdoors including visiting his 'Ponderosa' and rummaging for 'junk.'

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Jimmy Ootton.

mother, Mae Lou Yeldell of Haskell; daughters, Angela

Jordan of Stamford, Tiphney Jordan of Lewisville,

Kyomora Jordan of DeSoto, Lakreshia Atkins of Topeka,

Kansas and Chene Atkins of Coppell; son, Kelvin Atkins

of Sweetwater; sisters, Birdie Goudeau of Haskell and

Connie Ruth Jordan of Lubbock; sister and brother-in-

law, Edith and Ronny Williams of Arlington; brother,

Frankie Darnell Jordan of Washington; eight

grandchildren; a nephew, several nieces and a host of

cousins and friends including best friends, Craig Foster

of Haskell, Johnny Larned of New Braunfels, Lee Andress

Survivors include his 'wiener dog' Judy' two sons and two daughters-in-law, Trois and Mary Ootton of Oklahoma and Junior and Jeanette Ootton of Graham; three daughters and on son-in-law, Denise and Tim Reed of Sweetwater, Bonnie McGinnis of Carnes City and Kelley Payne of Oklahoma; 11 grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one great grandchild on the way.

### **Edwin Lawrence Fly**

Funeral services for Edwin Lawrence Fly, 78, of He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Knox Methodist Church in Rochester with Rev. Dolan Brinson officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery in Haskell under the direction of Mansell-Smith Funeral Home.

Mr. Fly died Mon., June 21 at Haskell Memorial

Born Oct. 1, 1925 in Cooper, he was the son of Winston Eural and Florence Elizabeth Tillman Fly. He married Frieda Pearl Lackey Oct. 11, 1968 in Haskell. He was a farmer and had lived in the area since 1960. He attended First United Methodist Church since he was a little boy.

Rochester were held Wed., June 23 at First United City Country Club. He proudly served during World II in

Survivors include his wife, Frieda Pearl Fly of Rochester; son, Johnny Adkins of Abilene; grandson, John Adkins of Abilene; granddaughter, Christy Burke of The Colony; great grandchild, Austin Adkins of Abilene; sister, Dernita Belle White of Eufaula, Oklahoma; and several nieces and great nieces and great nephews.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church or the donor's favorite charity.

### Sena Mae Murray

Funeral services for Sena Mae Murray, 85, of Rule were held Tues., June 15 at First United Methodist Church in Rule with Rev. Wendell Ferguson officiating. Burial was in Rule Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Robison Funeral Home.

Mrs. Murray died Sat., June 12 at Haskell Memorial Hospital.

Born Feb. 13, 1919 in Virgo Park, she was the daughter of G. E. and Essie Mae Davis. She married Rex Murray Dec. 21, 1935. He preceded her in death June 24, 1995. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Rule, WSCS and Home Demonstration.

She was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Tom

Survivors include her daughter, Myrtle Kutch of Rule; daughter and son-in-law, Edith and Ronald Hilliard; son and daughter-in-law, Ed and Charlene Murray of Rule; eight grandchildren: Christine Smith of Jayton, Allen Kutch and wife, Sherry of Belleville, Kathleen Emfinger and husband, Keith of Lamesa, Jarred Hilliard of Houston, Jason Hilliard and wife, Heidi of Fort Worth, Michael Murray and wife, Michelle of Rule, Jeffrey Murray and wife, Nora of Arlington and Jennifer Murray of Rule; and eight great grandchildren.

### O'Leta Mae Isreal Williams

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Funeral services for O'Leta Mae Israel Williams, 94, of Haskell were held Thurs., June 3 at Trinity Baptist Church in Haskell with Rev. Tony Grand officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home.

Mrs. Williams died Sun., May 30 at a local nursing

Born April 19, 1910 in Altus, Oklahoma, she was the daughter of George Franklin and Mary Matillda Fry Israel. She married O. T. Williams May 30, 1930 in Haskell. He preceded her in death Jan. 21, 1968. She was a homemaker and a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband; two sons, Rex Williams and Jerry Max Williams; brother, Charles Israel; sister, Alice Speck; one grandson; and one great

Survivors include her children, Jim Bob Williams of Azle, Peggy Selman of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Betty Raynes of Weinert, Sammie Howeth of Breckenridge, Patsy Brooks of Abilene and Shirley Curd of Graham; brother, Louis Israel of Tacoma, Washington; 22 grandchildren, 44 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.

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Hours: M.-Th. 8:30 to 5; Fri. 8:30 to 1



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Classes begin July 8

See the schedule at www.vernoncollege.edu

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A birthday party with many family members and friends attending, was given in her honor at the home of Dorthea Monroe by her daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Earl Smith, and her youngest daughter, Nancy Brite Smith.

Visiting from Rockport were her daughter and son-in-law, Gracie and Paul Nelson, her grandson and wife, Greg and Pat Nelson, and her greatgrandson, Josh Nelson. Also in attendance were her granddaughter and husband, Mona and Richard Rejino and their children, Maggie and Adam of Dallas. Other grandchildren who were present were Morgan Zerelle Ambrose of Atlanta and French Smith of Austin. Also there was her youngest sister, Dorothy Robinson.

Other relatives attending included Don Oates; Susie Oates Wheaton; Glenda Webb; Jim Robinson; Roy and Jewel Pittman; Troy and Gene Culpepper with great-grandchildren Kolton and Kourtney Jeter; Charles and Leatrice Swinson; Leta Norman; Pauline Norman; Mike, Sandy and Emily Norman; Stacy, Emma and Lane Bannen; Shirley Coston and Laura Coston Baughmanian sang and

Friends in attendance included Dorthea Rueffer Monroe, Ruth and Dee Larned and Joanie Frazier.

Haskell for the past 99 years. She now lives at the Haskell Healthcare

### Students in the News

Haskell Summer Lunch Menu

**ECC Calendar and Menu** 

Three Haskell students at Texas Tech University qualified for the Spring 2004 Dean's Honor List.

Dan Fouts, son of John and Bonnie Fouts, is a junior student majoring in Animal Science.

Bergen Peiser, daughter of Charlotte and Robbie Peiser, is a sophomore student, majoring in Early Childhood.

Katie Thompson, daughter of Wanda and Kenny Thompson, is junior student, majoring in Mass Communications.

Making the President's List was Leslie Grand, daughter of Steve and Pat Grand. She is a sophomore student, majoring in Arts & Science.

To be on the President's List or the Dean's List, a student must have taken 12 quality hours during the

**July 5-9** 

Monday: Pizza, corn, cheese stick,

Tuesday: Popcorn chicken/gravy,

mashed potatoes, fried okra, hot rolls,

Mon., July 5

Wed., July 7

Around

Town

Recent visitors with Hyrum and

Charlotte Foreman of Odessa

Jeanie Richards were Mickey and

spent the weekend in Haskell. She

stayed with her sister and brother-in-

law, Hyrum and Jeanie Richards and

visited with her son and family, Flint,

Lisa and Austin Nanny and with her

weekend with parents, Hyrum and

John Richards of Dallas spent the

mother, Lois Redwine.

Merta Rathbone of Eldorado.

By Joyce Hawkins

Milk is served daily.

Closed

Gospel singing

semester and maintained either a 4.0 or a 3.59 grade point average, respectively.

Meg McManamon, daughter of Betsy McManamon, was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Multidisciplinary Studies during Tech University's commencement ceremonies May 15.

Two Haskell students named to the Dean's Honor Roll at Abilene Christian University for the spring 2004 semester were Tammi Hawkins and Cara Thomasson.

To make the Dean's Honor Roll, a student must complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a 3.45 or higher grade point average.

Both Hawkins and Thomasson are working toward a Bachelor of Applied Studies degree.

Wednesday: Corndogs, macaroni

and cheese, pickle spear, pork and

Thursday: Tacos, pinto beans, salad/

Friday: BBQ buns, assorted chips,

Lunch-Steak fritters, cream

gravy, mashed potatoes, garden

salad, pinto beans, buttermilk

biscuits, peach cobbler, milk, tea, or

Fri., July 9

Lunch-Sausage and kraut, potato

Announcements begin at 11:45

salad, green beans, garlic bread,

cookies and pudding, milk, tea, or

beans, ice cream with toppings

baby carrots, strawberries

sour cream, jello

### Students named to honor rol

Area high school students recently named to the 2003-4 National Honor Roll were: Paint Creek High School students, Jessica Messenger and Carolyn Nicole Marshall; Rule High School student, Abby Dudensing; and Rochester High School student, Gilbert Saucedo.

"Young people like these inductees, who work hard to attain academic success, deserve to be congratulated," said Lynn Romero, publisher of the National Honor Roll.

"We're proud to include them in the National Honor Roll."

## Old Glory Days set

The Stars and Stripes will wave on in all its glory on the eve of Independence Day in Old Glory.

Planned during events beginning with noon traditional parade of flags from every state followed by the Old Glory Belle Contest, an auction, bingo, kite flying, a motorcycle rally including bike games, horsehoes, fireworks, Western music by the Sidekicks and a dance.

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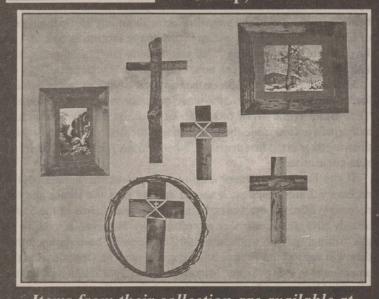
### **Artiste Curtis Bittner**



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### **HIGHLIGHTS**

By Mike Cox

ORCA spouts money to rural Texas communities

AUSTIN-ORCA is not a whale, but it's been spouting a lot of money lately to Texas' smaller cities and counties to help them with infrastructure and public facility improvement.

The money comes from the Office of Rural Community Affairs. It goes to applicants, according to ORCA, based on a needs-based scoring system.

In May, the agency awarded \$46.5 million in federal funds through the Texas Community Development Program. Last week, the agency awarded more than \$3 million to 15 rural cities or counties from the unallocated remnants of the community development fund administered by the agency.

"These are important dollars for small communities in Texas," said ORCA's executive director Robert J. Tessen, "and we awarding every available penny from this fund in support of local projects across the state."

Recipients and grant amounts include: Bay City, \$104,449; Combes, \$211,107; Crockett County, \$154,111; Edna, \$105,182; Fort Stockton, \$350,000; Grimes County, \$250,000; Pinehurst, \$187,325; Polk County, \$186,553; Ralls, \$148,344; Robstown, \$382,833; Rochester, \$82,186; Roxton, \$210,830; Trenton, \$217,440; Wellington, \$166,029; and Wortham, \$244,497.

ORCA, an agency intended to help rural communities in health care, housing and infrastructure, is a creation of the 77th Legislature.

Latest school finance buzz...
In a word, August.

Spy vs. Spy...

Seen that black and white television commercial featuring two weird-looking guys with pointy noses and pointy hats, one black, one white? Clearly intended for Baby Boomers, the soft drink spot is a take off on "Spy vs. Spy,"

To Subscribe, Call 940-864-2686 a popular feature in Mad Magazine back in the Cold War days of the 1960s.

The old comic strip also is becoming increasingly symbolic of the ongoing Gov. Rick Perry-Comptroller Carole Keeton Srayhorn political feud.

In the latest episode, Strayhorn gave a speech last week accusing Perry of a "witch hunt" by orchestrating a State Auditor's Office examination of her office.

Perry's office countered that the governor does not have any stick over the auditor's activities. "The state auditor's office is overseen by a six-member committee of the Legislature, not the governor," one of his spokesmen said.

Ogden weighs in on state pay increase...

Senate Finance Committee chairman Sen. Steve Ogden (R-Bryan) has told the Texas Public Employees Association that he favors a cost-of-living pay raise for the 200,000-plus state employees.

TPEA, which has an aggressive public relations campaign on to add members, is also vigorously pushing for a 4.5 percent pay raise for state workers for each year of the next biennium.

If the Legislature goes along with that in its regular session next year, it would be the first pay hike for state workers since 2001 and only the fourth since 1993.

ERS gets new director...

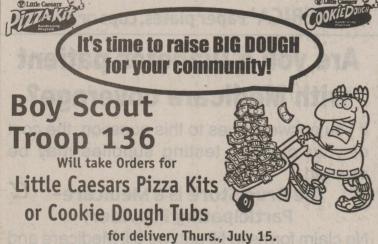
Ann Schwartz Fuelberg has been named the new executive director of the Employees Retirement System.

Fuelberg, a former deputy comptroller, was the first director of the Department of Information Resources when the Legislature created it in 1989. She left state service in 1993.

With a business degree from the University of Texas and a law degree from Texas Tech, she will oversee operations of the state's retirement and benefits program and manage a trust fund of more than \$20 billion.

### Correction

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hilliard of Minnesota recently spent several days with his mom, Bernice Hilliard. Incorrect information appeared in the Around Town column in the June 24 edition of the Haskell Free Press.



for delivery Thurs., July 15.
Orders must be received by July 9.

Choose from Personal Pepperoni Pizza Kit, Personal Cheese Pizza Kit, Pepperoni Pizza Kit, Deep Dish Pizza Kit, Cheese Pizza Kit, Thin Crust Pizza Kit, Mexican Style Taco Thin Crust Pizza Kit, Italian Sausage Pizza Kit, Italian Cheese Bread Kit, Crazy Bread Kit, Cinnamon Crazy Bread Kit, Gourmet Spice Kit, Pizza Server Paddle, or Pizza Cutter. Each kit contains all the ingredients to make three pizzas or three bread products.

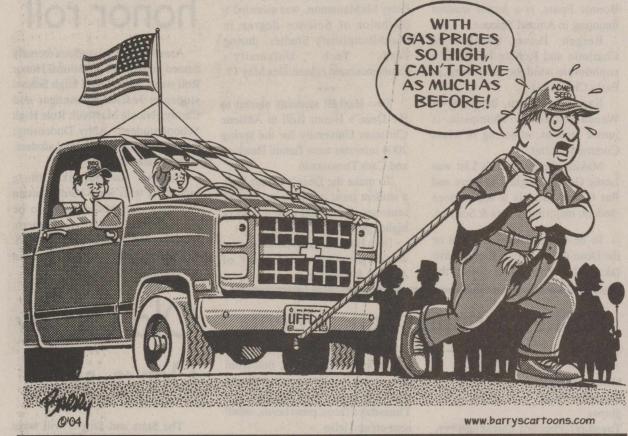
Choose from Little Caesars Cookie Dough Kits: Chocolate Mint Chip Cookie Dough, Chocolate Chunk Cookie Dough, White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Cookie Dough, Make-N-Bake Colorful Sugar Cookie Dough, Double Chocolate Cookie Dough, Peanut Butter Chocolate Chuck Cookie Dough, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie Dough or Peanut Butter Cookie Dough.

Place your order now and help these scouts raise funds to

attend the National Scout Jamboree in the Summer of 2005!
Scouts participating are: Luke Terry, Ethan Frierson,
Brennam Medford, A. J. Benton, Jared Webb and Stephen Pace.

Call Kay Smith at 864-3344 or Emily Medford at 864-3552 to order.

## HAPPY 4TH OF JULY...





### From The Inside Out

By Mary Kaigler

Who is this Mystery Reader?
I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
I married in 1944 and have two children.

I attended Haskell High School and the University of Texas.

No one knows how much, as a teenager living on a farm, I did *not* want to be a farmer! I always knew we must do our own thing; which for me was not staying on the farm.

My favorite TV show/program is anything with John Wayne in it.

My favorite type of music is from

the 1940s.

My favorite song is "An Evening

For a pastime, I like to play golf.

My favorite reading material or subject is Western novels about the

My favorite meal is navy beans

with cornbread.

My favorite place in Texas is the Austin area. My favorite vacation spot in the world is Ruidoso, New Mexico.

My best quality is day dreaming. My worst quality is poor golf.

I hate it when people belittle other people.

The person from history I'd most like to talk with is Charles "Tex" Thornton.

For me, the best thing about Haskell is that it is a wonderful place in which to raise children to successfully face their lives later.

Watch next week for the identity of this Mystery Reader.

Update

Last Week's Mystery Reader was

David Middleton, longtime Haskell resident, teacher and coach, whose

parents, Alton and Nadine Middleton moved their family here from the Laredo, Edenburg area in 1943.

In Haskell, they established Hub Dry Goods in the building on the north side of the square, now housing Sport About. In the mid-40's they also established a Hub Dry Goods in Munday. The family were Methodists; Nadine sang in the choir and they were involved in church activities.

In Haskell High School, David was interested in sports, and excelled in track events, advancing to District and Regional competitions. One of his mentors was teacher and coach, Ray Overton, to whom he attributes having a positive influence on his development. A dedicated Christian man, Overton was also his Sunday School teacher. "I got to be around him seven days a week," David says in great appreciation, even yet.

As a young entrepreneur while in school from 1947 to 1954, he opened and ran a popcorn business in front of Hub Dry Goods. Opening in the afternoon and every Saturday, he stayed open until the usual store closing hour of 10:00 p.m.

After college, David began his career in 1959 at Haskell ISD, coaching basketball, track and football, and teaching American History until 1966.

From Haskell he went to Abilene High School to teach and coach until 1969, when he went to Brazos Wood School in Lake Jackson, staying until 1979 as head basketball coach and assistant football coach.

That was followed by 11 years coaching at Klein Forest CISD in Harris County, before retiring from

coaching in May of 1990 and moving back to Haskell.

In August, 1990, he began eight years of working for KVRP as sports broadcaster and in advertising sales. During the last five years of that time he served as manager of the Haskell Chamber of Commerce.

In 1998, he came back into fulltime coaching and teaching at Haskell CISD. This fall he will be starting his 38th year of coaching and teaching. Saying that he always considered being a coach, he has no plans beyond coaching as long as he feels good and can do the job.

"A coach wins because of great kids," he says of his 37 year record, which has averaged 20 wins a year. He added that the highlight of his career was being elected in 1979 by the State Coaches Association to be the South Team All Basketball coach at coaches school.

David and Patti Middleton have five children and nine grandchildren, with another grandchild on the way. Michael and Cathy graduated from Brazos Wood High School and Alicia from Klein Forest. Their sons Patrick and Stephen both graduated from Haskell High School.

Raised in the local First United Methodist Church, David serves on the Administration Council and as a lay leader.

Being a student of American

history, David said he would especially like to sit down and talk with Gen. Douglas McArthur. "I'm a big fan; I find him intelligent, a good strategist and a great speaker with phenomenal use of the English language. His retirement speech at West Point spoke so well of the man. I would like to listen to him explain his side of how he was instrumental in getting the Japanese reorganized and back on their feet, allowing them some self pride and recognition of their sense of work ethic."

### From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

> 10 Years Ago July 7, 1994

Melissa Phemister of Haskell was among three McMurry University seniors who received special honors at a senior recognition dinner. She was presented the Ginny Carlson Memorial award.

Nine and ten-year-old Little League all-stars were Chris Acosta, Brandon McGuire, Ernest Palacios, Cliff McGuire, Tim Roberson, Kyle Michaels, Eddie Loyd, Alfred Ozuna, Justin Tidrow, Nathan Long, Taylor Melton, Eddie Guzman and Josh Webb.

> 20 Years Ago July 5, 1984

Presbyterians in Haskell, Rule and Throckmorton are sharing a unique honor as the first churches in West Texas to have co-pastors in the husband and wife team of Jimmy and Katie Hooper.

Members of the Haskell Little League All-Stars include Roger Roewe, Missy Davis, Baldemar Perez, Michael Lane, David Foreman, Rusty Stocks, Barry Tate, Bernie Gonzales, Jo Ray Comacho, Chad Gibson, Rodney Johnson, Johnny Billington, James Espinoza, Jay Scott Miller, Davis Chapman and Rene Garcia.

30 Years Ago July 4, 1974

Gene Long was named as Assistant District Administrator for District 6 Little League.

Susan Lewis of Rule and Kyle Wilfong of Haskell represented Haskell County at the Texas 4-H Congress in Dallas.

40 Years Ago July 2, 1964

J. Lloyd Kennedy, a native of Haskell, graduated with honors in obtaining his law degree at the South Texas School of Law in Houston.

David Frierson of Haskell took high gun honors at a shoot on the Wichita Falls Gun Club layout. Frierson won the handicap event and the Class C doubles competition.

50 Years Ago July 1, 1954

Haskell's first Quarter Horse and Palomino Show was rated one of the outstanding shows of the year by Palomino and Quarter Horse owners exhibiting in the three day show. Reserve champion of the Quarter Horse division was Fort Sumner, a mare owned by Buddy McMeans of Rule.

First game of the season in the Pony Baseball League was played at Fair Park Field. Haskell defeated Weinert 18-0 before a sizable crowd of fans. On the mound for the Haskell Ponies were Rob Starr and John Sammy Rike, with Jerry Don Cavitt receiving.

100 Years Ago July 6, 1904

W. P. Phillips, the ample merchant enlarged his store to take care of his growing trade.

D. H. Vincent headed the procession the other day with a cotton boll as large as a guinea egg, which he brought to town and exhibited.

### Haskell Free Press

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T2 MEMBER 2004
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

This issue mailed Wed., June 30, 2004

them together in the first marriage. What God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

If the Federal Marriage Amendment passes the Senate by the necessary 2/3rds majority, it should quickly pass the House and the necessary 2/3rds of the States, because more than 2/3rds of the States already have similar marriage protection laws. However, at the time of this writing, only 25 of the necessary 66 Senators have declared that they will support the Federal Marriage Amendment. Opposition to the amendment is led by Senate Minority Leader, Tom Daschale who has

Even though it has been supported by the White House and a

resolution supporting the Federal Marriage Amendment has already

passed in the House, it looked for a while as if the Federal Marriage

Amendment would be allowed to die in committee in the Senate. But

with increasing pressure from American citizens, it now appears the

Senate will vote on a constitutional amendment defining marriage as being "between a man and a woman" on or about July 15. So thousands

of Churches will be participating in "Marriage Protection Sunday" on

July 11th, to be followed by "Call your Senator Day" on Monday, July

leaders have called this vote the most important in our nation's history.

"The Bible is the Word of our Creator. . . its history is true and

authoritative. God made the first man and the first woman and joined

Dr. James Dodson of Focus on the Family, and other national Christian

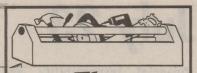
12th. For Christians it "speak now, or forever hold your peace."

Texas Senators Kay Bailey Hutchinson and John Cornyn have promised to vote for the FMA. Congressmen Charles Stenholm and Randy Neugebauer both supported the resolution for FMA in the House. It is important that Texans thank their representatives for taking a stand in favor of the Federal Marriage Amendment. The U. S. Senate switch board is 202-224-2934; and the U. S. House is 202-225-3121. Please make your call on "Call your Senator Day" on Monday, July 12th.

promised homosexual activists the amendment will not pass.

Brian Burgess P. O. Box 277 Haskell, Texas 79521

Haskell, Texas 79521 (Pd. Pol. Adv. Pd. for by Brian Burgess, P. O. Box 277, Haskell, Texas 79521)



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864-2624 Haskell, Texas



Association of Haskell
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MOSPANDAKS DAY

JULY 4th

The Declaration of Independence gave birth to the United States and proclaimed us an independent nation. The Constitution established a system of free and popular government. Together, these documents reaffirm our commitment to democracy and government by the people. Take time to reflect on the freedoms



we enjoy this Fourth of July.

This July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday,
please be extra careful
with fireworks . . . and
Please Don't Drink and Drive.
We want you to have a
safe holiday this year.



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# Grassland Reserve Program application deadline is July 23

Landowners have less than a month to file applications for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). July 23, 2004, is the deadline to submit GRP

offers and have them considered for 2004 fiscal year funding. In Texas, more than \$7-million is available to qualifying applicants.

"The voluntary Grassland Reserve Program helps preserve and

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conserve our nation's grasslands by providing financial and technical assistance to the landowners," CED Glenn R Brzozowski, County Executive Director for the Haskell County FSA Office.

Grasslands eligible for enrollment in this program may be native grassland, improved rangeland or improved pastureland. Other acreage which may qualify for enrollment includes land containing forbs or shrubs, or land located in an area historically dominated by grassland. Offers for participation in GRP must

include 40 or more contiguous acres.

The Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS) will
evaluate each offer and rate the
eligibility of the land according to

## Blood drive to be held

A community blood will be held Tues., July 6 at the Haskell National Bank. The Meek Blood Center Bloodmobile will be parked at the bank from 1 to 6 p.m.

Donors who gave blood on May 11 will be eligible to donate again on July 6

Meek Blood Center supplies blood to Haskell Memorial Hospital and sixteen other area hospital and medical facilities. specific criteria, including current vegetative cover, susceptibility to urban sprawl, and the potential for conversion to cropland. Landowners whose applications are selected for enrollment in GRP will receive assistance to support grazing operations, to increase and maintain plant and animal biodiversity, and to protect grass and range lands under the greatest threat of conversion.

Payments on approved applications will be administered through local FSA Offices.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to preserving the family farm by offering loans to beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged applicants for farm ownership, improvements and operating expenses.

"We are there for our producers when other lending institutions cannot provide them assistance," said Fred Greenway, Farm Loan Specialist for Texas State FSA. Greenway went on to say, "Our goal is to keep them in business and help them work through their financial difficulties until they are financially viable. We help our young farmers and ranchers who have no equity or limited resources to get started in agriculture,"

In order to qualify for a loan, an applicant must be a US citizen or legal resident alien, unable to obtain credit from conventional lending institutions, and demonstrate

financial responsibility and management.

FSA offers two types of loan programs, guaranteed and direct. Under the guaranteed loan program, FSA guarantees lenders a portion of the loan for eligible applicants who operate family-size farms. Your loan must meet certain qualifying criteria for guaranteed eligibility and FSA will monitor your loan servicing," said Brzozoswki. "We help our borrowers who may have suffered an economic disaster, to work through their financial crisis and eventually graduate from a FSA guaranteed loan to achieving conventional credit on their own," said Brzozowski. Farmers or ranchers interested in guaranteed loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who then arranges for the guarantee.

For producers who are unable to qualify for guaranteed loans, FSA offers direct loans which are made and serviced by FSA officials. Funding for direct loans is limited and eligible applicants may have to wait until funding becomes available. "To qualify for a direct loan you must have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral. We will help analyze your situation and provide technical assistance," said Brzozoswki.

For more information regarding Farm Loan GRP and other Commodity FSA programs, contact the FSA office at 940-864-2617.

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affect your coverage. For costs and complete details of the

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for the long term

### This Week's Devotional Message:



### FAITH TELLS US TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE OF FREEDOM

We're living in a land that's free,
Because throughout our history
Our founding father's legacy
Established the machinery
By which our nation came to be
As system of democracy,
Where we're allowed to disagree
With governmental policy,

And thus our ingenuity
And enterprise provide the key
To progress and prosperity;
A model for the world to see.
Our house of worship makes this plea:
To pray for all humanity,
While we preserve eternally
Our precious land of liberty.

First United Methodist Church

Dolan Brinson, pastor

Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Rochester

-SAGERTON-

Sagerton Methodist Church

#### ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

East Side Baptist Church
Danny Manross, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
600 N. 1st East, Haskell
Christian Church
Dusty Garison, minister
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell
New Vision Family Worship Center
Joe and Loretta Stulir, pastors
864-5438
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m.
East Hwy 380, Haskell

Trinity Lutheran Church
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
Hwy 380 East, Haskell
Iglesia Bautista El Calvario
Art Flores, Interim pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell
First United Methodist Church
Allen Brooks, pastor

Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m. 201 N. Ave. F, Haskell First Assembly of God Rev. J.C. Amburn Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m. 1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell St. George Catholic Church

Father George Roney
Sat. Mass 7 p.m.; Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m.
901 N. 16th, Haskell
Church of Christ
Brett Anderson, minister
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 10:30 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.

510 N. Ave. E, Haskell
First Presbyterian Church
Steve Beatty, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
306 N. Ave. E, Haskell
Trinity Baptist Church
Tony Gran, 6;30 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.

Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p. 401 S. Ave. D, Haskell Hopewell Baptist Church Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m. 908 N. Ave. A, Haskell Greater Independent Baptist Church
Rev. Tom Collins, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.
301 N. 3rd St., Haskell
New Covenant Foursquare
Bill and Renee Glass, pastors
Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.
200 S. Ave. F, Haskell

Mission Revival Center
Rev. William Hodge
Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Tues. 6 p.m.
1600 N. Ave. B, Haskell
First Baptist Church

Kevin Hall, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
301 N. Ave. E, Haskell
Church in the Park
Rev. Tim and Suzann Townsend

Sun. Morn. 10:30 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m. Gazebo or Pavillion Cornerstone Baptist Fellowship Dr. Gibbie McMillan, Interim pastor Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.Wed. 7 p.m. 1303 N. Ave. I, Haskell

•—WEINERT—•
First Baptist Church
J. C. Baker, pastor
Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
Weinert

Weinert Foursquare Church
Rev. Robert Harrison
Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.
Weinert

Church of Christ
Steve Wilis, minister
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
West on Main Street, Rochester
First Baptist Church
Jackie Brem, pastor
Sun. 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:00 p.m.
500 Main, Rochester
Union Chapel Baptist Church

Rev. Clarence Walker
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Rochester
Faith Chapel of Rochester

Faith Chapel of Rochester
Katherine Byrd, minister
Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.
Hwy 6, Rochester

Melissa Bemis, pastor Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m. Sagerton Faith Lutheran Church Deborah Nissen, pastor Sun. Morn. 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m. -RULE-First Baptist Church Josh Stowe, pastor Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m. 1001 Union Ave., Rule **Primitive Baptist Church** Dale Turner Jr., pastor First & Third Sundays 10 a.m. Corner of 8th & Robins, Rule Church of Christ John Greeson, minister Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m. 811 Union, Rule First United Methodist Church Wendall Fergerson, pastor Sun. Morn. Worship 10 a.m. 1000 Union Ave., Rule Primera Iglesia Bautista Alfa y Omegs Manuel Marin, pastor Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m. 500 Elm Street, Rule Sweet Home Baptist Church Bill Trice, pastor Sun. Morn. 10:00 a., 11:00 a., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m. Gladstone Ave., Rule West Bethal Baptist Church Rev. Robert Sweet Sun. Morn. 10 a.., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m. 300 Sunny Ave., Rule -PAINT CREEK-Paint Creek Baptist Church Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m. Paint Creek -O'BRIEN-

Personality Slipper Shoppe

O'Brien Baptist Church

Milton McManus, pastor

Sun. 9:45 a.., 11 a., 5 p., 6 p, Wed. 6 p.m. O'Brien

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Dear Misty,
My doctor told me I may have suffered a TIA last week. Can you explain to me what this is?

TIA stands for transient ischemic attack. This is a brief episode of neurological deficit that passes without apparent residual effects. Symptoms can be a temporary loss of vision in one eye, a sudden inability to speak, ringing in the ears, vertigo, blurred vision, difficulty swallowing, numbness of weakness. It is thought that TIAs are caused by a small piece of atherosclerotic plaque breaking loose and temporarily interrupting the oxygen supply to the brain. A TIA is considered a warning signal and is usually a sign of advanced atherosclerotic disease. This is simply deposits of plaque consisting of cholesterol and fats on the walls of arteries. A person with TIA symptoms should seek medical care promptly. Long term pharmaceutical treatment for TIAs consists of medications that prevent platelet aggregation such as aspirin or persantine as well as anticoagulant medications such as Coumadin.

What questions regarding home care do you have for the nurse? Send your questions to Haskell Home Health Agency, 417 S. First, Haskell, TX 79521 or call 940-864-5074 or 1-877-864-5074.

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH-AT HOME is brought to you by Haskell Home Health Agency providing home care services in Haskell, Knox, Stonewall, Throckmorton and Jones Counties





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TO GIVE AWAY: Five adorable kittens looking for a good home. Litter-box trained. One black, one white, one black and white, two with Siamese markings. 864-3431.

FOR SALE: 1981 mobile home 14x80. CH/A and water heater. Used 2 years. \$5,000 firm. 202 N. 3rd St., Haskell. Recliner \$25. 940-864-6127.

### Cars For Sale

FOR SALE: 2001 Dodge 5-speed pickup. 940-989-3174. 25-28c

### **Garage Sales**

GARAGE SALE: Sat. Lots of infant/toddler boys' clothes, bunk beds, blinds, grill, ladies clothes. 1007 S. 3rd, Haskell.

FAMILY YARD SALE: Fri. and Sat., July 2 and 3. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Large amount of fabric at 25¢ per yard; doll and craft items; Sunbeam BBQ grill with side burner; custom 2 wheel all steel trailer (needs tires); boat trailer frame; Sears refrigerated air conditioner; 500 gallon butane tank; books, clothes and misc. items. Past Stamford Marina to end of paved road. 8th house on gravel road.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE sale: 401 N. Ave. B. Sat., 8 to 2.

#### Miscellaneous

HOUSE LEVELLING and foundation repair. No payments until work is satisfactorily completed. David Lee & Co. 325-675-6369.

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### The Haskell **Free Press**



The family of Edwin Fly would like to express their deepest gratitude to the many people who helped during the illness of Edwin. Without wonderful friends like each of you, our lives would have been more difficult. God has been good to us by providing each of you, who helped to make our passage through this difficult time, an easier one. For those of you who provided food for our family, telephone calls, prayers, cards, flowers and assisted with the many details, we appreciate you and your loving kindness to us. Words can never express what you have meant to us during this time. We also would like to express our gratitude to Dr. McSmith and the nurses at the hospital who were such a comfort to us and who tenderly cared for him. Our sincerest thank you to Rev. Dolan Brinson who stayed with us during the long hours of Edwin's illness.

Again, our deepest gratitude to each of you. Frieda Fly Johnny and Leonna Adkins and families

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I want to thank Commissioner Tiffen Mayfield and his crew for removing my neighbor's uprooted tree from my carport. I appreciate the speed with which you got it done. Lilly Peiser

Thank you with deepest gratitude for each act of kindness directed our way after the loss of our mother. We would also like to express our appreciation to all the staff at Haskell Healthcare Center for the wonderful and loving care given to Mother over the years.

The Willie Andress family 

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### USDA to help with renewable energy ventures

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman recently announced the availability of \$13.2 million in grants that will support the development of value-added agriculture business ventures and support President Bush's energy plan to develop alternative sources of renewable

Bryan Daniel State Director for USDA Rural Development in Texas

said, "The Value-Added Producer Grant Program offers Texas producers and businesses with opportunities to obtain capital to develop value-added products that can benefit all Texans."

"Since 2001, the Bush Administration has committed over \$100 million to support the development and enhancement of value-added agricultural investments," said Veneman. "These funds will help create new job opportunities in rural communities."

Veneman said priority consideration will be given to those grant applications that have at least 51 percent of project costs dedicated to planning activities for a bioenergy project. To date, the Bush Administration has funded \$15 million in value-added development centers and over \$85 million in value-added grants, including nearly 70 energy projects. The renewable energy projects involve bio-diesel, ethanol or wind energy production or the use of bio-mass to generate energy. As a result of these projects, 669 jobs were created. Additionally, the ethanol plants have added or will add 679 million gallons per year of capacity and the bio-diesel plants have added or will add 41 million gallons per year of capacity.

The Value-Added Producer Grant program was authorized by the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-224) and the 2002 Farm Bill (P.L. 107-171). Grants are available to independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures interested in a competitively-awarded grant to fund one of the following two activities: (1) planning activities needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an

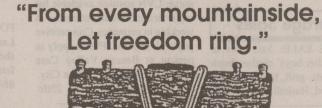
agricultural product (e.g. conduct a feasibility study, develop a business plan, develop a marketing plan); or (2) acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture that will allow producers to better compete in domestic and international markets.

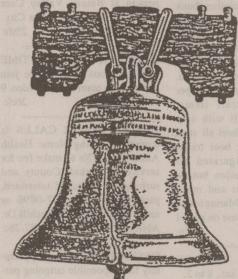
Awards will be made on a competitive basis. Applications must be received no later than July 30, 2004. Detailed information about application and program requirements will be included in the June 15, 2004 publication of the Federal Register.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office.

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# CRP haying and grazing approved

Cutting hay and grazing livestock on land enrolled in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program, in the absence of a weather-related emergency, is now an option for Texas producers.

Glenn R Brzozowski, County Executive Director for the Haskell County Farm Service Agency, announced that managed having and grazing is allowed on CRP lands. Haying is approved in Texas July 2 through September 29 and grazing is approved beginning July 2 and ending October 29, 2004. The starting date for both having and grazing is tied to the end of the primary nesting and brood rearing season in the state. Prior to the 2002 Farm Bill, commercial use of CRP land was generally prohibited except for weather-related emergencies such as droughts.

To take advantage of the haying and grazing options, producers must modify existing conservation plans for the CRP acreage to included managed haying and grazing practices. The plans must be developed in conjunction with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or one of its technical service providers.

Producers must also agree to certain terms and conditions, including signing an agreement to reestablish, at the producer's own cost, any cover destroyed or damaged as

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a result of haying or grazing and to remove all hay within 10 days of being notified that the managed haying and grazing season has

Brzozowski emphasized that for acreage that is hayed or grazed, annual rental payments producers receive for enrolling land into CRP

will be reduced by 25 percent. Under this enhanced CRP provision, producers can cut hay or graze livestock on a given acre no more than once every three years after the vegetative cover is fully established. An area haved or grazed this year, for example, may not be hayed or grazed again until 2007. CRP participants can choose to hay or graze their entire CRP acreage in the first year, or only a portion of their CRP acreage each year. Producers may not harvest hay and graze livestock on the same land in the same year.

"The managed haying and grazing option provides producers latitude when making land management decisions regarding their operations. The periodic disturbance of vegetative cover under managed haying and grazing will increase the diversity and quality of the cover and improve wildlife benefits," said Brzozowski.

For additional eligibility criteria and information regarding CRP Managed Haying and Grazing, contact the Haskell County FSA office at 940/864-2617.

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