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Softball games

Maidens vs. Quannah
Tues., May 3, 4:30 p.m.
at Haskell
Bi-District Game

Calendar

Pre-K, Head Start

Haskell Elementary
Prekindergarten and Head Start
will register Thurs., April 28 from
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Streets to close

Effectively immediately, the
following streets will be
permanently closed to allow for
establishment of the highway
bypass through Haskell: North
Second, North Third, North
Fourth, North Fifth, North Sixth,
North Seventh and North Eighth
all from Avenue A to Avenue A
East.

Hamburger dinner

A hamburger dinner will be
held Sun., May 1 from 11:30 a.m.
to 1:30 p.m. at the Trinity
Lutheran Church, East Highway
380 in Haskell. The meal will
consist of a hamburger, french
fries, dessert and drink. Cost is \$5
per meal. Takeouts will be
available. Proceeds will benefit
the Trinity Lutheran Youth Group
for camp.

Worship weekend

The Hopewell Baptist Church,
Haskell will host a 'Weekend in
the Word' beginning Fri., April
29 at 7 p.m. with Patricia Young,
missionary, speaking. Sat., April
30 beginning at 9:30 a.m. and
continuing through the day, Rev.
Dr. Tom Collins, pastor, will be
instructing in the subjects of
Methods of Evangelism in the
Modern Church and Discover The
Divine Objectives for the Church.

Spaghetti lunch

The Haskell First Baptist
Church will hold a fund-raising
spaghetti lunch Sun., May 1 from
12 noon until 1:30 p.m. at the
church. The meal will be prepared
by the Student Ministry. Funds
will be used for camp and other
student activities.

Queen's contest

Entry deadline for the Wild
Horse Prairie Days Queen's
contest has been extended until
Thurs., April 28 at 6 p.m. A
meeting will be held at that time
at the Haskell Chamber of
Commerce office. Sponsor names
and entry fees of \$25 will be due
at that time. The pageant will be
held Sat., May 21. Categories are
Little Miss (ages K-5th grades);
Junior Miss (6th-8th grades); and
Queen (9th-12 grades).
Participants must be a resident of
Haskell County or affiliated with
a ranch rodeo team entry. Entry
forms are available at county
schools, Personality-Slipper
Shoppe and Dulaney Abstract.

PC Sr. auction

Paint Creek Seniors will hold
an auction Sat., April 30
beginning at 7 p.m. in the school
cafeteria. Proceeds benefit the
senior trip.

Choirs to sing

The choirs of the First Baptist
Church will sing Sun., May 1 at 6
p.m. featuring the fifth and sixth
graders in 'The Good News
Cruise.'

Hamburger lunch

The Calvary Baptist Church,
600 S. 7th St., in Haskell will give
away clothing Sat., April 30
beginning at 8 a.m. Hamburgers
will also be sold.

PC Kindergarten-Pre-K

The Paint Creek School will
register Pre-K and Kindergarten
classes for the 2005-06 school
year Tues., May 3 from 2 to 3
p.m. in the school cafeteria. Call
864-2471 for more information.

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Early voting underway

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 119-NO. 17, ©APRIL 28, 2005

"The People's Choice"

16 PAGES-TWO SECTIONS-50 CENTS

Antique tractor pull to be held Saturday

A Tractor Pull, sponsored by the
Haskell Volunteer Fire Department
and the Texas Antique Tractor
Pullers Association (TATPA), will be

held in Haskell Sat., April 30.

The TATPA sanctioned event will
take place at the Haskell County
Roping Arena, beginning at about

10:00 a.m., and will feature antique
tractors, vintage 1960 and older,
along with farm stock tractors not
weighing over 12,600 pounds. Many

of the tractors will be from the '20s
and '30s. Trophy's will be awarded
to the winners.

Not limited to TATPA members

everyone is welcome to enter.
Entry fee for each tractor is \$15.00
for each pull, with a tractor pulling
only once in each weight class.
General in nature, the pulling rules
will apply to all pullers, tractors and
operations at the sanctioned event.

Local members of the Texas
Antique Tractor Pullers Association,
Adam Coleman and Martin Dale
Coleman, who are coordinating the
event in Haskell along with the
Haskell Volunteer Fire Department,
each have tractors that they enter in
pulls across the Texas Country
Pullers Association area, which goes
almost to Houston, and brings entries
from as far east as Corisicanna. They
report an average of 40 to 50 tractors
enter at each pull they attend, and that
interest in the events is growing.

The Antique Tractor Pullers
Association will bring with them the
scales, sleds and a sizable crew of
people to run the event. The sleds
used in the pulling event will be
geared to accomodate the weight
required in each individual class.

Maintenance of the track and
arranging for food and housing
accommodations for those attending
will be done by the local sponsors.
The Coleman's expressed their
thanks to the county and city for help
with a packer in getting the track
ready.

There will be no charge for
spectators at Tractor Pull. During the
day, members of the Haskell
Volunteer Fire Department will be
cooking and serving burgers and
chopped brisket sandwiches.



VINTAGE TRACTOR STILL PULLS WEIGHT—Adam Coleman of Haskell County, sits on the John Deere tractor he enters in antique tractor pulls around the country, including the tractor

pull for antique tractors 1960 and older, coming to the Haskell County Roping Arena, April 30, sponsored by the Volunteer Fire Dept., and presented by Texas Antique Tractor Pullers Association.

Maidens win district

The Maiden softball team has
continued Haskell's winning ways
this year by being crowned District
Champions last Saturday.

After winning the zone
championship, the Maidens defeated
Ralls, Hamlin and New Deal to take
the title, using offense and a variety
of pitching to win their first ever
outright district title.

The Maidens racked-up a total of
50 runs in the tournament while
holding their opponents to 13 runs.
Their offense compiled 62 hits over
the three game tournament. Leading
hitters for the Maidens were Angela
Pena and Calina Kendall, both hitting
750 average, followed closely by
Chambray Bartley, Natalie Lopez

and Alexa Roberts, all hitting over
600. Erin Hise added a home run in
the final game to cap off a 13-4 win
over New Deal in the championship
game.

Three different pitchers each
recorded a win for the Maidens in the
tournament. Freshman Paige
Wheatley pitched a complete game
and picked up the 19-2 win over
Ralls. In the second game, Kendall
got the win defeating Hamlin 18-7.
In the championship game, Kellye
Tidrow pitched the win, defeating
New Deal 13-4.

The Maidens now prepare for a bi-
district game, Tues., May 3, at 4:30
p.m. against Quannah. The game will
be played in Haskell.

Early voting underway

Early voting in the May 7 Haskell
County municipal and school
elections began Wed., April 20, with
only the Haskell CISD Board and
Rule City Council elections still on
the voting docket.

Filing for place open on the
Haskell CISD Board single member
District 3, is incumbent Mynea Short.
Filing for single member District 2,
are Brandon Anderson and
incumbent, Donnie Rieger. Early
voting may be done at the Haskell
School Administration Office, from
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday
through Friday until May 3.

Early voting for three places open
on the Rule City Council may be
made at the Rule City Hall during
regular business hours through May
3. Filing for the three places open
on the Council are Cathey Casey, Bill
Bowles and Jackie Whorton,
incumbents, and Robert Saffel,
Marsha Vasquez and Bailey Anne
Foster.

Elections cancelled due to no
candidates filing in opposition to
incumbents were: Haskell City
Council, Rule ISD Board, Paint
Creek ISD Board, Rochester City
Council and Weinert City Council.

One act play goes to state

Haskell High School and
Channing High School had the top
two one-act plays at the Region 1-A
UIL one-act play competition at
South Plains College, Thurs., April
21. The two plays will advance to
the state UIL academic meet May 5-
7 at the University of Texas in Austin.

Haskell's play selection was
"Over the River and Through the
Woods," directed by Melissa Tatum.

Ryan Davis and Jimmy Fuentes
of Haskell were named All-Star Cast
members. Jaclyn Drinnon received
an Honorable Mention award.

Other Haskell cast members were
Lindsay Pannell, Caleb Hudgens,
Teddy Sue Harris and Kristen
Martinez. The stage crew consisted
of Mike Payne, Andrew Silvas,
Ashley Foster and Jared Webb.



MAIDENS WINNING THE DISTRICT—The Haskell Maidens Softball team taking first place in the District are, back row, l-r, Coach John Foster, Paige Wheatley, Alexa Roberts, Angela Pena, Erin Hise, Brianna Wheatley and Coach Betsy Coleman. Middle row, Kayla Tidrow, Kimberly Medford, Eden Thomas, Kellye Tidrow and Jerrica Escobedo. Front row, Chambray Bartley, Calina Kendall, holding Hannah Foster, bat girl, Roxanne Chavez, Natalie Lopez, Cailey Foster, bat girl, and Shannon Bird.

Photo by Bill Blankenship



INDIANS' DISTRICT WINNING TEAM—Haskell's baseball team clinching the District with an 8-5 win over Rochester and a 20-0 win over Quannah were: back row, l-r, Coach Mark Adams, Cameron Short, Nate Webb, Jon Dulaney, Brad Blanks, Josh Dunfee, Kendall Mitchell and Coach Kent Colley. Front row, Brandon McClatchey, Jeffrey Silba, Josh Tidrow, Ronald Chapman, Aaron New and Vincente Solano.

Photo by Bill Blankenship

FOR NEWS ITEMS OR TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 864-2686



PTK INITIATE—Jonathan Hisey of Rule was among 102 students at South Plains College in Levelland recently inducted into SPC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, honor society for students in two-year colleges.

Hilliard named Conservationist

Ronald L. Hilliard has been named the West Virginia State Conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Ser-



RONALD L. HILLIARD

vice, effective May 1.

Hilliard comes to West Virginia with a wealth of knowledge and experience. His 29 years of service began as a Range Conservationist in Bastrop and Lockhart counties of central Texas. He served 17 years as a District Conservationist in Odessa before becoming the Program Manager for the San Angelo Zone Office.

Moving to South Carolina in 2001, Hilliard was the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations and then in 2002 assumed the duties as Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. Next, he held the position of East Region Operations Management Coordinator headquartered in Beltsville, Maryland. Currently the Wisconsin Deputy State Conservationist, he most recently completed a detail as the Acting Director to the Pacific Basin Area stationed on the Island of Guam.

Hilliard is the son of Bernice Hilliard and the late Elmer L. Hilliard of Haskell. A 1966 graduate of Haskell High School, he graduated from Texas Tech University with BS and MEd in 1970 and 1974, respectively. He is married to Edith Murray Hilliard originally of Rule and has two sons, Jarred Hilliard of Houston, and Jason Hilliard and wife Heidi of Fort Worth and two granddaughters, Ainsley and Olivia, both of Fort Worth.



ON COTTON TOUR—Texas cotton producers participating in a Cotton Board/Cotton Incorporated Producer Tour, were l-r, Billy Frank Belew, Bruce Gillis, Dianne and Willis Hughes, Allen Lemon, Dennis and Janet Minzenmayer, Sue Nolte, Judy and Richard Osborne, Heather Pownall, Bill and Grace Thomas, Tracy Weber and Monica Wilkinson.

Cotton producers visit N.C. research center

Bill and Grace Thomas of Haskell joined other cotton producers from Texas on a recent visit to Cotton Incorporated's World Headquarters and Research Center in Cary, N.C.

As guests on the Cotton Board/Cotton Incorporated Producer Tour, sponsored by Syngenta, Bayer Crop Science, Monsanto and Delta and Pine Land, the participants had the opportunity to tour Cotton Incorporated's world-class facility

and visit with key staff to see how checkoff dollars are increasing the profitability of and demand for cotton through targeted research and promotion efforts.

Participants spent the first day learning more about Cotton Incorporated and the ongoing research and promotional activities through presentations given by senior staff as well as participating in a comprehensive tour of the research

facility. The group spent the second day touring Cone Mills in Greensboro, N.C. to see the process of how cotton is transformed from bales into denim fabric.

The Cotton Research and Promotion Program is administered by the Cotton Board and conducted by Cotton Incorporated for U.S. cotton growers and importers of cotton and cotton products.

Rule athletes compete at district

Rule student athletes placing in the District 11-A and 12-A track meet events were:

Boys

Team standings: 3. Rule, 83.
High jump: 1. Carrion, 6-4
Shot put: 1. Dudensing, 49-11.25

Long jump: 7. Saucedo, 19-1.75
Discus: 2. Dudensing, 127-1
400 meter relay: 8. Rule, 46.94
800: 3. Brown, 2:08.48
110 meter hurdles: 6. Pace, 16.08
800 meter relay: 2. Rule, 1:31.87
400 meter dash: 1. Kitley, 50.66

1600 meter run: 5. Brown, 5:11.42
1600 meter relay: 1. Rule, 3:29.27

Girls

Team standings: 17. Rule 6.
Discus: 3. Brannan, 90
800 meter relay: 8. Rule 2:01.93

Obituaries

Arthur Blaine 'Mac' McDonald

Funeral services for Arthur Blaine 'Mac' McDonald, 85, lifelong resident of Haskell, were held Thurs., April 21 at First United Methodist Church in Haskell with Rev. Allen Brooks officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery in Haskell under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mr. McDonald died Mon., April 18 in a Haskell hospital.

Born April 29, 1919 in Haskell, he was the son of E.B. and Margaret Emma Green McDonald. He married Frances Denison Dec. 21, 1940. He was a retired carpenter and cowboy. He as worked for a cowboy for Bill Denison

and Jimmy Hannsz. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Haskell, VFW in Stamford, IOOF Lodge, and a lifelong member of the Texas Cowboy Reunion Old Timers Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Leonard McDonald and W.O. McDonald.

Survivors include his wife, Frances of Haskell; one son, Arthur McDonald Jr. of Keller; one daughter, Linda Westbury of Lubbock; one sister, Laverne Mills of Midland; four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. PD. NOTICE

Iva Lee Robertson Gipson

Funeral services for Iva Lee Robertson Gipson, 86, of Haskell were held Sat., April 23 at First Baptist Church in Haskell with John Greeson and Brian Burgess officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery in Haskell under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mrs. Gipson died Thurs., April 21 in Rochester.

Born March 14, 1919 in Afton, she married J.B. Gipson Feb. 23, 1936 in Paducah. They established their home in Rule, and moved to Haskell around 1940. She was devoted to the Lord and spent much time studying His word. She taught Sunday School at First Baptist Church in Haskell, served as a G.A. leader, served in Vacation Bible School, and chaired the funeral food committee. She served the community of Haskell as a member of the City Council, the Civic Center Board, working and teaching art at the Experienced Citizens Center. She was a long standing member of the Eastern Star, at one time

serving as Deputy Grand Matron of Texas. In previous years, she was a member of the Brazos West Art Association, Garden Club and Progressive Study Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband and one daughter, Norma Jean Childress. Survivors include two children, Mary Frances and husband, Joe Binns of Austin and J.B. Gipson, Jr. of Haskell; a sister-in-law, Gloria Robertson of San Angelo; four grandchildren, Craig and Terri Childress of Lake Oswego, Oregon, Chris Childress, Shannon and Rob Kitley of Rule and Stephen and Michell Lusk of Lubbock; and eight great grandchildren, Courtney, Joy and Conor Childress, Trey, Samantha and Will Kitley, Riley Rayann and Zeke Lusk.

Memorials may be made to Haskell County Library, 412 North First Street, Haskell, Texas 79521. PD. NOTICE

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Why choose home care?:

1. It is delivered at home. When we are not feeling well, most of us ask to go home. When we are feeling well, we enjoy the sanctity of our residences and the joy of being with our loved ones.
2. Home care keeps families together. There is no more important social value. It is particularly important in times of illness.
3. Home care prevents or postpones institutionalization. None of us wants to be in a hospital or nursing home unless this is the only place we can obtain the care we need.
4. Home care promotes healing. There is scientific evidence that many patients heal faster at home.
5. Home care is safe.
6. Home care allows a minimum amount of freedom for the individual. A hospital, of necessity, is a regimented regulated environment. The same is true of a nursing home. Upon admission to either, an individual surrenders a significant portion of his or her rights in the name of the common good. Such sacrifices are not required at home.
7. Home care is the most efficient form of health care. By bringing health services home, the patient does not generate board and room expenses. The patient and/or his or her family supply the food and tend to the individual's other needs. Technology has now developed to the point where almost any service that is available in a hospital can be offered at home.
8. Home care is personalized care. Home care is tailored to the needs of each individual. It is delivered on a one-to-one basis.
9. Home care is less expensive than other forms of care.
10. Home care is the preferred form of care. According to a recent study conducted by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. the American public preferred long-term care based on home care over nursing home care by an overwhelming 79% to 14% margin.

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.

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BEST OF SHOW—Tyresse Thomas, grandson of Lola Billington of Haskell and son of Tyrone and Marsha Thomas of Fort Worth, won First Place and Best of Show Lowrider Bike at the Spring Bash 2005 in Lawton, Oklahoma.

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U.S. Representative Mac Thornberry



Anson

Friday, April 29
The Extension Homemakers Building
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5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

For more information, please call 940-692-1700

Paid for by official funds authorized by the House of Representatives.



DAIRY CATTLE WINNERS—Rule FFA students placing among the top 20 high individuals in the Invitational Dairy Cattle contest held at Tarleton State University were, 1-r Jacob Manske, 11th high individual and Kourtney Kupatt, 3rd high individual.



FFA INVITATIONAL—Ashley Foster, FFA student from Haskell High School was the 20th high individual in the Range and Pasture contest held recently at Tarleton State University. With her is State FFA vice president, Kyle Clark Gilliam.

Study Club hears of early trials

Eighteen members of the Haskell Progressive Study Club met Thurs., April 14 at the Haskell National Bank Community Room for a program on public affairs.

Club president, Julia Harrell, opened the meeting, welcoming members and guest, Ruth Fowler of

Munday. Franciene Johnson introduced guest speaker, Bill Neal, District Attorney 50th District, of Seymour, who spoke on "Early Day Trials of Texas." Relating anecdotes from the files of history, Neal entertained the group with excerpts from his book,

"How They Got Away With Murder on The South Plains," which is soon to be published by the Texas Tech University Press.

During a business session, a report was given on the TFWC Mesquite District Spring Convention which was hosted by the club in Haskell, Sat., Mar. 26.

Refreshments were served by hostesses Oleta Cornelius, Evelyn Cobb, Betty Berry and Doris Reeves.

Beta Chi meets

The monthly meeting of Beta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society was held at the First Baptist Church in Haskell, April 13.

During a special service remembering the late Glenda Drinnon, Beta Chi members spoke of their fond memories of her. A white rose was presented in her memory to

members of her family. Family members attending were Cleatus Drinnon, Sharla Carver and her daughter, Candace, and Mr. and Mrs. Brian Toliver.

The Noah Project was the subject of the program presented by Janis Brzozowski. Chapter members donated travel size shampoo, soap and lotion to be used by the Noah Project of Haskell.

A monthly business meeting was held, followed by refreshments.

The next meeting of the Chapter will be held at 2:30 p.m. May 1 at the Rainbow Room of the Child Protective Services Building in Knox City.

TEEA rally held

The TEEA District 3 Tri-County Rally day was held April 21 at the Perry Patton Community Center in Munday, with members from Haskell, Knox and Baylor counties attending.

Mark Bingham, P.A. of Munday presented the morning program on "Women's Health."

A pot luck lunch was served. Entertainment was provided by Brenda and Travis Floyd of Knox City.

The afternoon program, the "Antique Roadshow" was presented by Pat Smith of Munday. Various antiques were brought for appraisal by Smith, who gave many interesting facts about antiques.

Haskell members attending were Flossie Bates, Joetta Burnett, Lena Tidwell, Pat Jenkins, Jerri Burke, Alice Yates, Geraldine Baker, Cynthia Manross, Mary Jennings and Sue McGee.

SAUNA SWEAT OUT

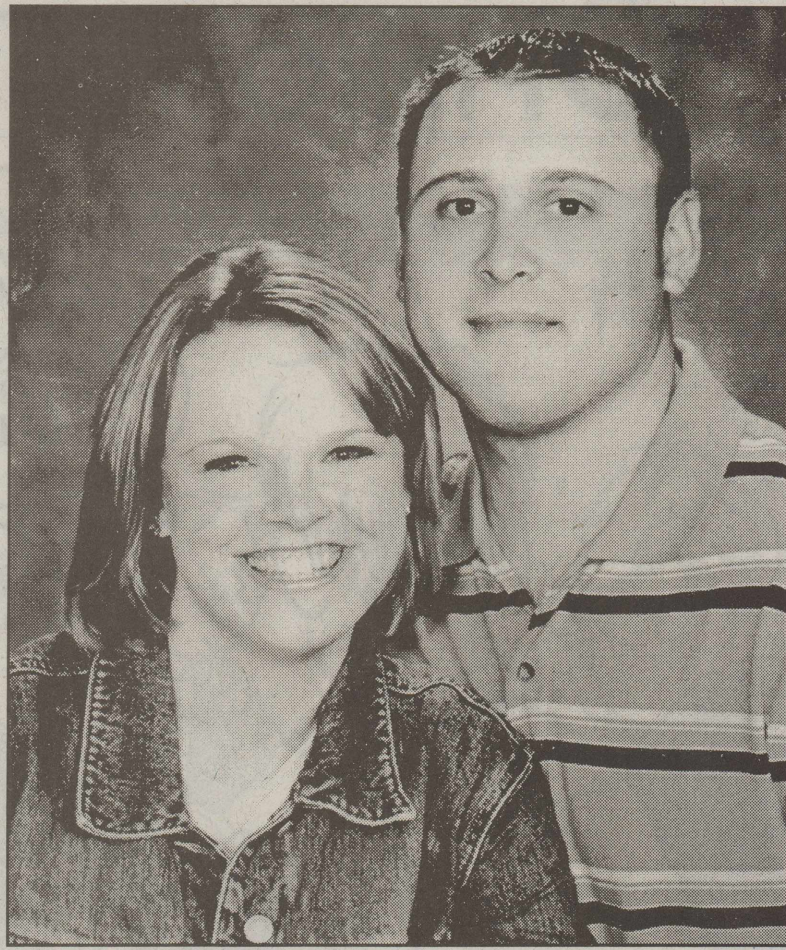
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JORDAN LEMING - WILL TRAMMELL

Leming, Trammell play July wedding

Eric and Jana Leming of Hurst have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Jordan Berry Leming, to William Anderson Trammell of Haskell, son of Bill Trammell of Stephenville and JoNell and Jimmy

Roberts of Haskell. An evening wedding is planned for Sat., July 23, at First United Methodist Church of Hurst, with a reception following at Cross Timbers Winery in Grapevine.

Beamon, Lundy to wed May 21

Kitty Beamon, and Chad Lundy, both of Ripley, Oklahoma, have announced their engagement and approaching marriage.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Joe and Dean Williams of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The prospective bridegroom is the son of Suzy McElmurry of Monett, Missouri, and the grandson of Lois Redwine of Haskell.

The couple plans an afternoon wedding, May 21, at their Pecan

Creek Ranch home, with her son Michael and his son Canyon serving as attendants. A reception will be held following the ceremony.

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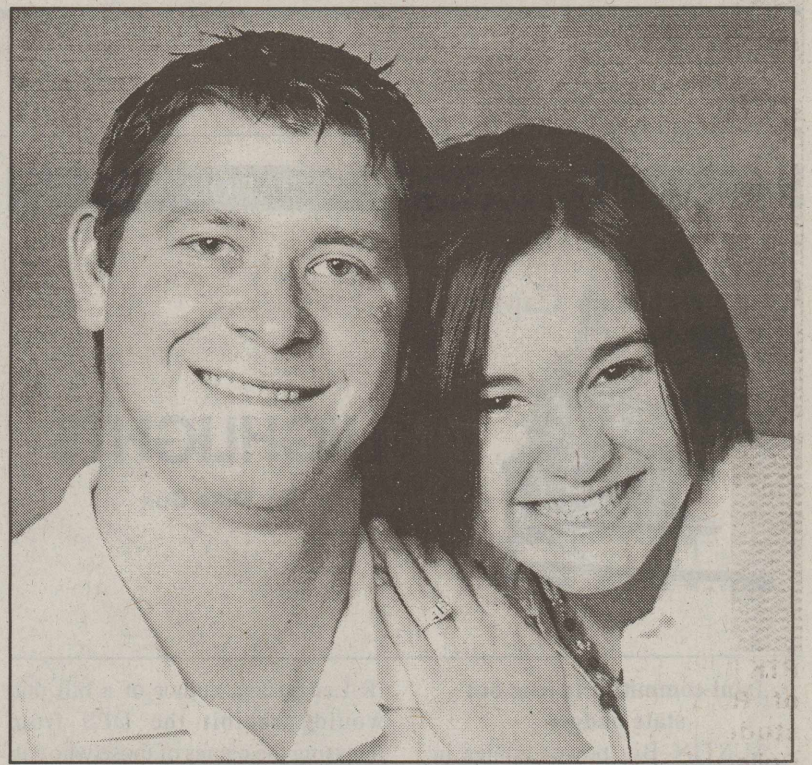
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JASON EDWARD BRILES - JENNIFER LOU CHESTNUT

Chestnut, Briles to wed

Larry and Amanda Chestnut of Graham have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Jennifer Lou Chestnut, to Jason Edward Briles, son of Edward and Teresa Briles of Haskell.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Graham High School and West Texas A&M University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in

history. The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Haskell High School and Texas Tech University, where he received a bachelors degree in exercise and sports science. The couple is employed by River Road Independent School District. A wedding is planned for Sat., June 25 at Cozumel, Mexico.

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Graduation

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Bridal Registry

Jennifer Andress Jennifer Chestnut
bride-elect of Casey Wetsel bride-elect of Jason Briles

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COOK FAMILY GATHERING—56 descendant of the late R. C. 'Charlie' and Ruby Cook, attended a family gathering held April 23 at the Haskell National Bank Community Room. The five siblings and their spouses attending were, l-r, Ray and Peggy Cook of Abilene, Harrell and Mary Jane Cook of Mount Clemens, Michigan, Derrell and Amy Cook Sorrells of Rule, A. M. and Wanda Cook Stocks of Haskell, and Danny and Juanita Cook Anderson of Sundown.



SHARING EASTER—Haskell Headstart students enjoyed a fun day of sharing Easter with residents of Haskell Healthcare. The group made cookies, Rice Krispie treats and colored eggs to fill Easter baskets for all the residents, and then took their goodies to the nursing home where they got lots of hugs for all their hard work. They had Easter egg hunts on the nursing home's front lawn, and received lots of cheers from everyone. This project was done in coordination with a Learn & Serve Grant.

Avoid tree and utility conflict with planning

Look up, look down. Follow this advice given by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) before deciding what type of tree to plant and where the tree will be planted. Proper tree and site selection will provide trouble-free beauty and pleasure for years to come.

One of the most important things to consider is the location of utility lines.

"Trees that are small now can create significant problems in the future as they grow into maturity and into power lines," says Derek Vannice, Executive Director, Utility

Arborist Association (UAA). The location of utility lines should have a direct impact on tree and site selection. Both overhead lines and underground lines need to be considered.

Look up-Overhead Lines
Overhead lines for utilities such as electric, telephone, or cable television are the easiest to see but are the most taken for granted. These lines may appear harmless, but can be extremely dangerous. Children or adults climbing in trees that are too tall and growing in to the utility lines can be severely injured or possibly

killed if they accidentally come in contact with the wires.

If tall growing trees are planted under utility lines, then they require pruning to maintain clearance because lines making contact with the wires can result in service interruptions. Utility pruning can result in the tree having an unnatural appearance. According to Vannice, "Planting a tall growing tree under a power line will not allow the tree to realize its proper size and form." Proper selection and placement of trees around overhead utilities can help eliminate power outages, which

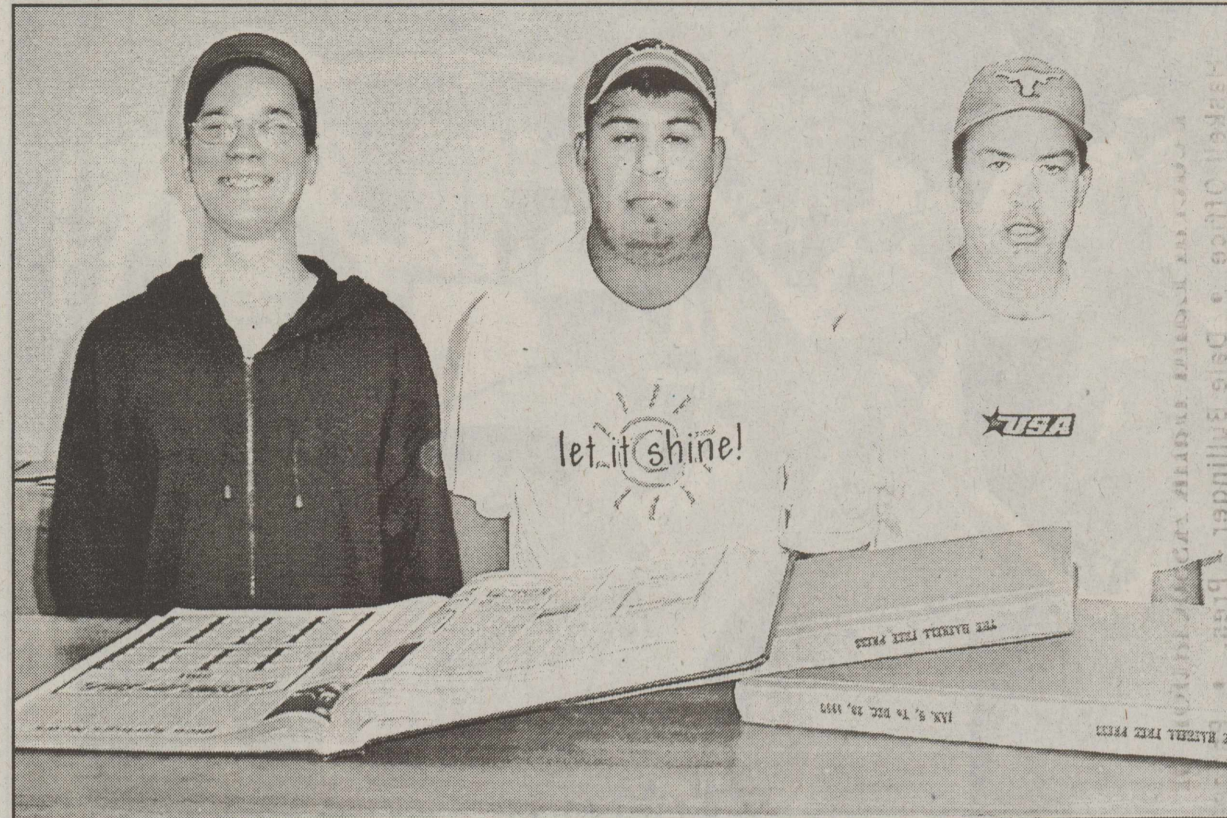
reduces expenses for utilities and rate payers. Correct selection will also eliminate potential public safety hazards, and improve the appearance of landscapes.

Look down-Underground Lines
Potential problems that are much harder to recognize are those involving underground utilities such as water, sewer, and natural gas. Trees are much more than just what you can see. The root area of a tree is usually larger than the branch spread above ground. Tree roots and underground lines usually coexist without problems.

However, if a tree is planted near one of these utility lines that needs to be dug up for repairs, the result could be damage to the root system of the tree.

The most important thing to remember is to determine the location of utility lines before planting. Often these lines are closer to the surface than we think, so verify the location of the lines with the utility company before digging the hole. Accidentally digging into a line can cause serious personal injury as well as costly interruption of utility service.

Right Tree-Right Place
Planning before planting can help ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place. Proper tree selection and placement enhances your property value, prevents costly and sometimes unsightly maintenance trimming, and lowers the risk of damage to your home and property.



VISITING THE NEWSPAPER—Three young Haskell men, l-r, Chris Hollingsworth, Carlos Sanchez and Kevin Reed enjoyed comparing issues of the Haskell Free Press from 2005, 1980, 1965 and 1950 during a tour of the newspaper last week. Football stories and pictures were of interest to them. They also learned from an 1886 issue that a trip to Albany on a stagecoach would begin in Haskell at 7 a.m. Arrival time in Albany, without trouble of course, would be at 6 p.m.

Phillips wins top spirit award

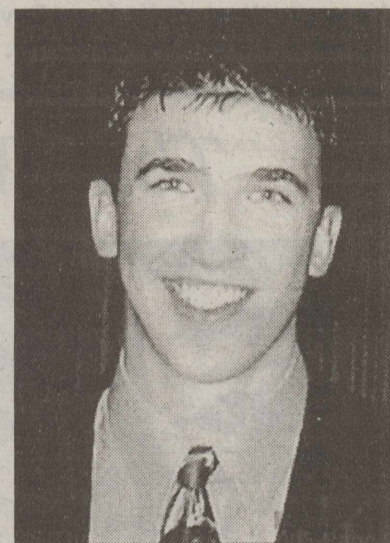
Robert Kyle Phillips, student at Texas A&M, and grandson of Haskell resident, Helen Elliott, received the Buck Weirus Spirit Award at the All-University Awards ceremony held during Texas A&M University's Parents Weekend, April 8-10, at College Station.

The sophomore bio-medical science major is the son of John and JoHelen (Elliott) Phillips of Kempner.

The Buck Weirus Spirit Award honors students who demonstrate high involvement, create positive experiences throughout the Aggie community, impact student life at A&M and enhance the Aggie spirit. It recognizes students who make contributions to the university by

participation in student organizations, Aggie traditions and university events.

The award is named for Richard "Buck" Weirus, class of '42, who served as executive director of the Association of Former Students from 1964 to 1980, helping it to become the premier alumni organization in the world. Until his death in 1997, he personally awarded each one of the awards.



ROBERT PHILLIPS

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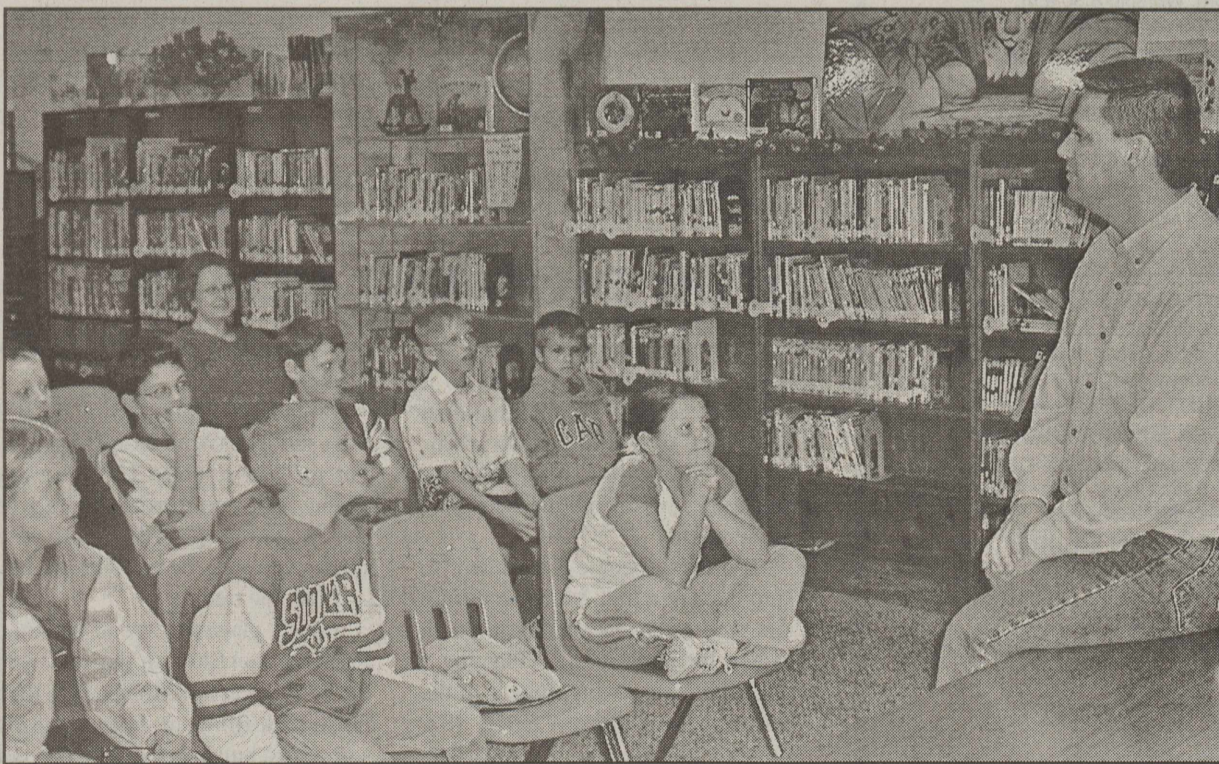
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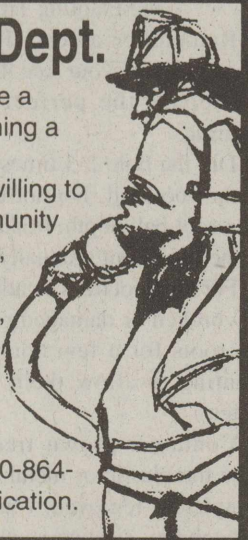
HANDLING BULLIES—Rod Pruitt, consultant for Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities at Region 14, talks to Paint Creek students during a program on "Bullying," Fri., April 1.

Haskell Volunteer Fire Dept.

is seeking volunteers who are willing to make a commitment to community service by becoming a volunteer fireman.

The department is in need of volunteers willing to be active in meeting the needs of this community in many ways including serving as a fireman, helping with weather watches, working on equipment, helping with various fund-raisers, earning firefighting certification and others.

If you would like to pursue an opportunity to serve your community, call Bill Steele 940-864-2208; Sam Watson 940-864-2355; Randy Shaw 940-864-2023; Jerry Stocks 940-864-3455 or ask any Haskell fireman for an application.



Carla's Sweet Shop

Lunch Menus for May 3-6. Serving 11-2.
All meals include dessert and drink.

~Tuesday~ Chef Salad or Chicken or Tuna Sandwich, Chips	~Wednesday~ Beef Enchiladas, Beans, Rice, Salad
~Thursday~ Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Blackeyed Peas	~Friday~ Beef Tips, Gravy, Rice, Salad

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D, Q, Dp, Lion, Tpr-cooked weight



YOUNG ROPERS—Rochester elementary students learning roping techniques at the Hardin-Simmons University Western Heritage Days were: l-r, J. T. Schmegner, Michael Woods, Colton Rogers, Kiefer Gonzales, Ruben Torres roping, and Rochester teacher Karen Smart.



BAYLOR HONORS STUDENT—Kourtney Amelia Beauchamp, daughter of Kim and Robert Cheek of Abilene and granddaughter of Dan and Earlene Griffith of Haskell, was honored at the 13th Annual Academic Convocation, Wed., April 6 at Truett Seminary Chapel as an Outstanding Student in the Communication Studies Department. She is a senior Communication Studies major in the Baylor College of Arts and Sciences.



ANA BENAVIDES



ANDREW SILVAS

Students visit Rotary Club

Ana Benavides is the daughter of Rey and Elida Benavides of Haskell.

She attends the Catholic Church. Her school activities include the marching band and FFA judging contests.

Special awards for her include Division 1 in Band Solo and taking 3rd place in Area Poultry Judging, her freshman year.

Her favorite hobby is drawing.

After finishing high school, she plans to attend Midwestern State University, get a PhD in science and move to Wichita Falls.

Andrew Silvas is the son of Margie Silvas of Haskell.

In school he is active in the One-

act Play competition.

Special awards and recognitions he has received include Most Dependable, Citizenship Award, Highest Ranking average in math models, Desktop Publishing, Family Development, and commendation from Area One-act Play competition at Lubbock Christian University.

Among his favorite things to do are hanging out with friends and listening to music.

After finishing High School, he plans to attend South Plains Junior College, get a degree in video production technology and then transfer to another university, choosing another major.

This Week's Devotional Message:



A NEWSPAPER IS A CONSTANT REMINDER OF OUR FREEDOM

The significance of your newspaper is far greater than the fact that it is a source of news, opinions, entertainment, good advice and a wealth of information and public services to answer your every need. It is a regular and tangible reminder of the many freedoms which we enjoy in this country. The news is reported honestly, with no

attempt made to suppress or distort it. One of the many features provided is a directory of the local places of worship, including the schedule of services offered. Whether you already belong to a faith or are seeking one, this will help to simplify the choice; itself a vital freedom of this great land in which your newspaper is privileged to serve.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

- HASKELL**
- 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 Garrison, 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
864-3465
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m.
East Hwy 380, Haskell
 - Trinity Lutheran Church**
Ron Rennegarbe, pastor
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 Grand, pastor.
Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.
114 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. T. L. Griffin
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**
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 Fellowship Baptist Church**
Dr. Larry Nail, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m., 6 p.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
- ROCHESTER**
- Church of Christ**
Steve Willis, minister
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
West on Main Street, Rochester
- First Baptist Church**
Fred Garvin, interim pastor
Sun. 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:00 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.**
Katherine Byrd, minister
Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m.; 7 p.m.
Hwy 6, Rochester

- First United Methodist Church**
Dolan Brinson, pastor
Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Rochester
- SAGERTON**
- Sagerton Methodist Church**
Philip Houston, 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.
Sagerton
- 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 Ferguson, pastor
Sun. Morn. Worship 8:30 a.m.
1000 Union Ave., Rule
- Primera Iglesia Bautista**
Alfa y Omega
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**
- O'Brien Baptist Church**
Jim Reid, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a., 5 p., 6 p, Wed. 6 p.m.
O'Brien

Haskell School Menu

May 2-6
Breakfast
Juice and milk are served daily on the breakfast menu.
Monday: Breakfast bagel
Tuesday: Bean and cheese burritos
Wednesday: Cereal, animal crackers
Thursday: Pig in a blanket
Friday: Smucker's Uncrustable PB&J

Lunch
Milk and iced tea are served daily at the Secondary campus. Milk is served daily at the Elementary School. Secondary campus: Choice

of entree or baked potato with cheese and ham.
Monday: Chicken nuggets, gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, hot rolls, shortbread cookies
Tuesday: Chili cheese hot dogs, tater tots, pickle spears, fruit
Wednesday: Chicken spaghetti, green beans, garden salad, fried okra, bread stick, cherry jello
Thursday: Meat and bean burrito, beef taquitos, Spanish rice, garden salad, pineapple tidbits
Friday: Steak on a bun, lettuce, tomato, pickles, chips, ice cream cups

Paint Creek School Menu

May 2-6
Breakfast
Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Toast or cereal
Tuesday: Pancakes
Wednesday: Biscuits and gravy
Thursday: Toast or cereal
Friday: No school

Lunch
Milk and tea are served daily.

Monday: Spaghetti, green beans, salad, garlic bread, fruit cups
Tuesday: Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, peas, rolls, apple crisp
Wednesday: Macaroni and cheese, broccoli, salad, rolls, chocolate cake
Thursday: Burritos, refried beans, salad, jello
Friday: No school

ECC Calendar and Menu

Mon., May 2
11:00 a.m. Blood pressure check
Lunch—Meatloaf, creamy potatoes, asparagus, green beans, cornbread, peach cobbler, milk, tea, or coffee

Wed., May 4
Gospel singing
Lunch—Chicken spaghetti, garden salad, sliced onions, English peas.

yeast rolls, banana pudding, milk, tea, or coffee
Fri., April 6
Lunch—Meatballs and gravy, cream potatoes, buttered corn, green beans, garlic toast, jello and cookies, milk, tea, or coffee
Announcements begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch.

Tree planting advice

If you are planning to plant a tree make sure you know how to do it correctly, advises the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). How a tree is planted, and initially maintained, makes all the difference in the world.

Too many people are content to simply plant a tree, but don't ensure that the tree has the chance to go on to live for many years. "Planting a tree is making an investment in the future," says Sharon Lilly, ISA Educational Director. "You must care for and nurture your young tree so that it will pay dividends for years to come."

Tree Planting Tips
Remember a few simple tips when planting your tree this spring:
Prepare the perfect hole for planting.
Dig the hole 2-3 times the width of the root ball. Do not dig deeper than root ball depth. Make the sides of the hole slant gradually outward.
For bareroot trees, neatly cut away any broken or damaged roots. Soak the roots for a few hours prior to planting to allow them to absorb water.

Container-grown trees should have the plastic or metal containers completely removed. Carefully cut through any circling roots. Remove

the top half of pressed peat/paper containers.

Balled and Burlapped ("B&B") trees should have all of the ropes cut. Pull the burlap at least 1/3 of the way down; slit remaining burlap to encourage root growth. If in a wire basket, cut away the top of the basket.

Plant the tree.
Gently place the tree in the hole. Partially backfill with the soil from the hole, water to settle the soil, then finish back-filling the hole. Tamp the soil gently, but do not step on the root ball.

A few pointers:
While you may have finished planting, remember these final touches:
Remove tags and labels.
Do not stake unless the tree has a large crown, or if the planting is situated on a site where wind or people may push the tree over. Stake for a maximum of one year.
Prune only the damaged branches.
Soak the soil well, making sure no air pockets form between roots. Wait until next year to fertilize.
Spread 2"-3" of mulch over the planting area, but do not place it up against the trunk.
Be sure the root ball has plenty of water throughout the year.

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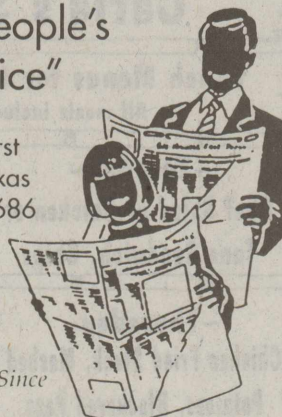
Attend Church This Sunday

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'FOUR AND MORE'—Members of the popular musical group that will be entertaining at Rice Springs Care Home, May 7, were joined by well-known local fiddler, Bonnie Workman, seated on the right, when they played at the home in December. Pictured at that musical are regular group members, l-r, Jay Hayhurst of Dudley, on bass, Si Tucker of Clyde, on rhythm guitar, Clent Kniffen of Clyde, on pedal steel and mandolin, Al Anderson of Cisco on fiddle. Sitting is vocalist, Margie Schumacher of Abilene.

Group to entertain at Rice Springs Care Home

Playing as a Mother's Day treat and enjoyment for residents at Rice Springs Care Home, Sat., May 7 will be the "Four and More" country and western band.

Playing the 'oldies' will be Al Anderson of Cisco on fiddle, Si

Tucker of Clyde, on rhythm guitar, Jay Hayhurst of Dudley, on bass, Clent Kniffen of Clyde, on pedal steel and mandolin, and Margie Schumacher of Abilene, vocalist.

When the group performed here

in December, they were joined by local musician and well-known fiddler, Bonnie Workman.

The public is welcome to attend the concert at Rice Springs Care Home from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Pre-K, Head Start to register

Haskell Elementary School will have registration for Prekindergarten and Head Start classes for the 2005-2006 school year on Thurs., April 28. Registration will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the elementary school.

Currently to attend Prekindergarten, a child must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2005, qualify for free or reduced lunches and/or be of limited English-speaking ability.

However, we are hoping to offer Prekindergarten for all four year olds. If you are interested in this program

for your child, please be sure to register Thurs., April 28.

Parents should bring their drivers license and their child's birth certificate, immunization record and social security card to registration. It is not necessary for your child to attend registration. Call (940) 864-2654 ext. 4 for additional information concerning Prekindergarten.

Head Start is a child-development program for children age three or four years old on or before Sept. 1, 2005 and who meet the federal Head Start income guidelines. Head Start offers a comprehensive program to meet the

emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs of its students and their families.

To apply, parents will need to bring the following to registration: child's birth certificate, social security card, immunization record, child's documentation of Disability (if applicable), income verification (check stub, tax form, etc.), and proof of any public assistance (WIC, Medicaid, etc.).

Questions concerning the eligibility of a child should be directed to the Haskell Head Start offices at (940) 864-2654, ext. #344.

Thornberry to hold meeting in Anson Fri., April 29

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry (TX-13) will be in Anson Fri., April 29 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Extension Homemakers Building, 801 23rd St. to visit local constituents and hear their concerns about the challenges

facing us as a nation. "Congress has passed some important legislation recently and I want to have a conversation about the agenda we have been tackling," said Thornberry. "I am sure that energy

prices and Social Security will be some of the primary topics my constituents will want to discuss with me. But we can also talk about national security, the budget, and anything else they are interested in."

Haskell students compete at UIL

Haskell High School students announced as winners at the Region 1-A UIL academic meet April 22 at South Plains College in Levelland were Caleb Hudgens, second place in Persuasive Speaking; Jimmy

Fuentes, 6th, alternate in Informative Speaking; Haskell Social Studies Team, 4th, alternate.

The top three winners in each academic event will advance to the

state UIL academic meet May 5-7 at the University of Texas at Austin. Fourth, 5th and 6th place winners will serve as alternates. Top academic teams will advance to state.

Calendar

Medical account

A medical account to benefit Malinda Brueggeman, daughter of Lynn and Nancy Brueggeman of Haskell, has been established at the First National Bank in Haskell.

Garage sale

The community-wide garage sale, sponsored by the Haskell Chamber of Commerce, will be held Sat., May 7. Entry fee is \$5. Maps will be provided at 8 a.m. at the gazebo on the square.

Homecoming 2005

The next Haskell-Mattson-Weinert Homecoming will be held Oct. 7-8.

Lakeside cookoff

A lakeside barbecue cookoff is set Fri. and Sat., May 6 and 7 at The Anchor, on the Haskell side of Stamford Lake. A fajita cookoff is scheduled for Friday night. Entries are \$20. Saturday's cookoff begins at 8 a.m. with a head cook's meeting for the barbecue cookoff. Campsites are available. Proceeds benefit park improvements. Call Jackie or Rita Warner 325-576-2856 after 7 p.m. of The Anchor 940-864-3779 for information.

Storm sirens

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

Antique tractor pull

An antique tractor pull sponsored by the Haskell Fire Department and presented by the Texas Antique Tractor Pullers Assn. will be held Sat., April 30 at the Haskell County Arena. For information or to enter, call Adam Coleman 325-773-2538 or Martin Dale Coleman 325-773-2861.

Society to meet

The Haskell County Historical & Genealogical Society will meet Mon., May 2 in Haskell City Hall at 7 p.m.

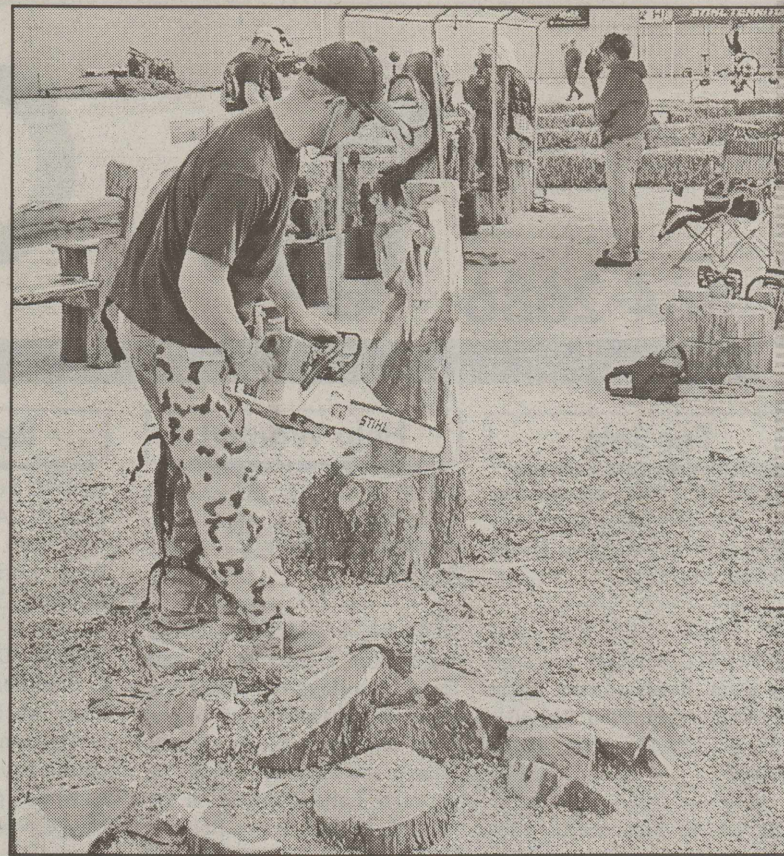
Fish fry

A catfish fry will be held Sun., May 22 beginning at 12 noon at the Fellowship Hall of East Side Baptist Church. The meal will include fried catfish or chicken strips. Donations will be accepted. Proceeds will benefit a mission trip planning in July to Chelcia, Vermont.

PC homecoming

Paint Creek will hold their homecoming this fall. To update your mailing/email address, contact Max Calk, 3200 Golden Oaks Circle, Granbury, Texas 76049 or maxcalk@earthlink.net.

Shop
Haskell
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TREE TRUNK ARTISTRY—Cameron Dockery of "Bearly Making It" works with a chainsaw to sculpt a bear during Richardson's Antique Tractor Show and Customer Appreciation Day events, held Sat., April 23.

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NOW AVAILABLE AT
Steven's Cycle Search
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Tower Drive-In Theatre
Hwy 6 North, Rule - (940) 997-0137
NOW PLAYING
Amityville Horror - R
Show starts at 8:45! Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Adults \$4; Ages 6-12, \$2; 5 and Under Free

Happy Hour
April 1-30
from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
\$1.00 off
All Meal Baskets

1/4 lb. Burger Basket with french fries or tator tots and 24 oz fountain drink only

1/2 lb. Burger Basket with french fries or tator tots and 24 oz fountain drink only

Steak Finger Basket with french fries, Texas Toast, gravy and 24 oz fountain drink only

Chicken Strip Basket with french fries, Texas Toast, gravy and 24 oz fountain drink only

Sprite, Sprite Zero, Sprite 20 oz. Reg. \$1.19
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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

ATTENTION FARMERS

The time of year to make your marketing decisions is here!
April is the month to sign in or out of your current marketing pool.

We have three pools available for you in 2005: Autauga, Beltwide and Allenberg. Based on 50 cent loan, these are the current payments so far this year:

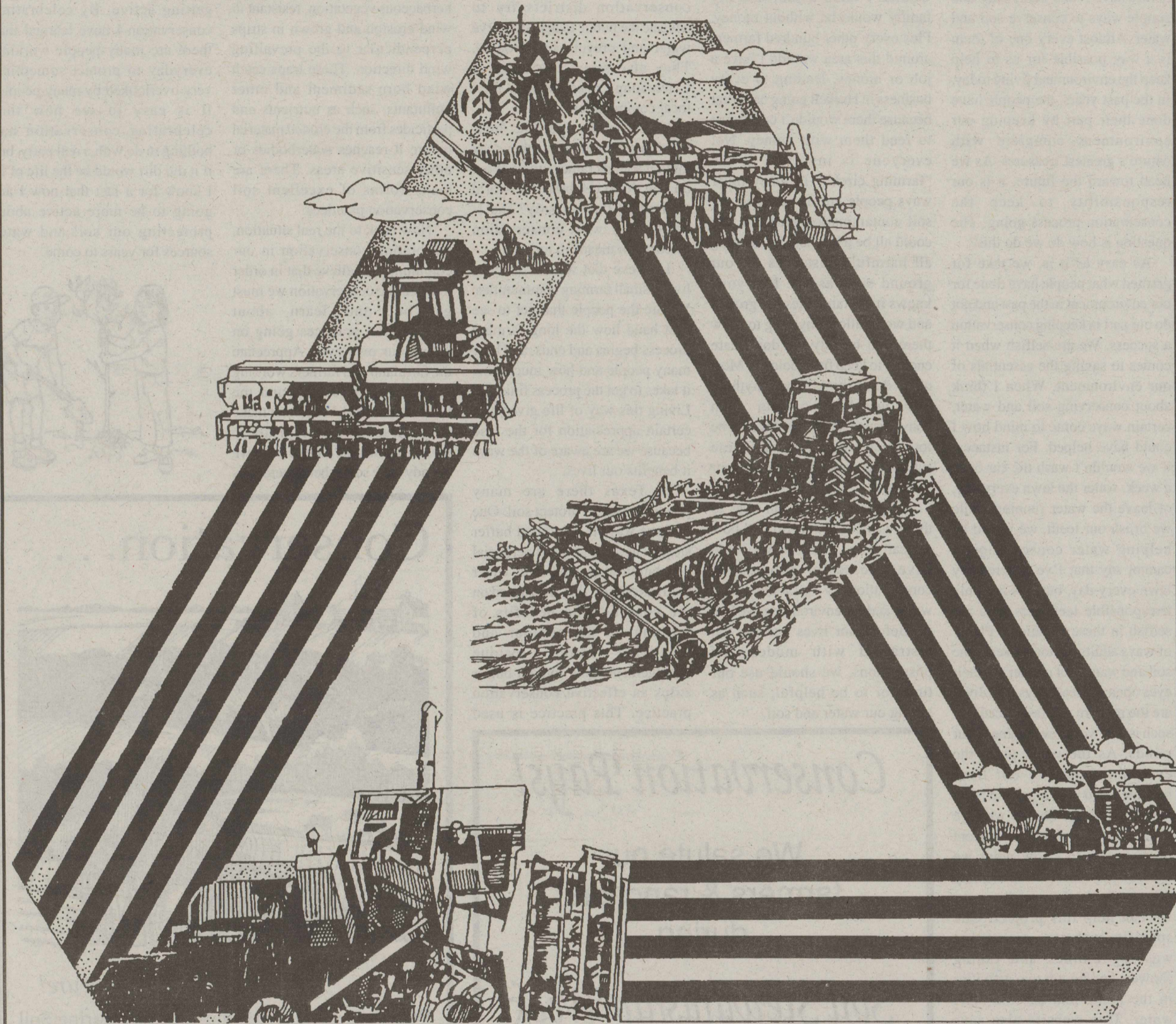
	Autauga	Beltwide	Alenberg
Loan	50.00	50.00	50.00
Progress Payment	6.00	2.50	0
Fixed Payment	0	0	3.00
Total to Date per Bale per lb	56.00	52.50	53.00
Gross to Date per 500 lb Bale	280.00	262.50	265.00
Less: Member dues	2.10	5.00	0
Less: Whse charges	19.40	9.65	9.65
Net Payment to date per bale	258.50	247.85	255.35

Don't be tied to one gin and have to wait to get your cotton ginned.
—It will cost you money—

Our average ginning charge per bale this year was \$12.63.
Come by Haskell County Gin and keep your bales and business in Haskell.
— We will tarp and haul modules for FREE! —
We still gin trailers

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Soil Stewardship Week April 24TH – May 1ST



We're a nation blessed with natural resources...soil and water resources that make us one of the richest agricultural countries in the world. And we want to keep it that way. Support soil and water conservation efforts through your local soil and water conservation district. The Haskell Soil and Water Conservation District gratefully acknowledges the advertisers in this special section for making its publication possible and the 1000 cooperating farmers and ranchers in Haskell County for their conservation agreements.

The Haskell Free Press

with Haskell Soil & Water Conservation District

April, 2005

8 PAGES

Local conservation district joins national 'Celebrate Conservation' Apr. 24-May 1

For fifty years, a national network of conservation districts has helped Americans learn to conserve natural resources. This year, join Haskell Soil & Water Conservation District and America's conservation districts as they "Celebrate Conservation" during Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Stewardship Week takes place from April 24 to May 1, 2005, with the theme "Celebrate Conservation."

Conservation practices in the United States have helped us achieve an historic standard of living. We enjoy a wide variety of

fresh, healthy food. Drinking water supplies are clean and mainly free from disease. Lakes, rivers and streams are much cleaner than 30 years ago. Air quality has greatly improved in the last fifty years.

F. A. Ulmer acts as Chairman for Haskell SWCD. "Conservation of natural resources has helped create an amazing way of life for Americans. That is why we want to celebrate conservation during Stewardship Week."

This year, NACD and Haskell SWCD celebrate 50 years of Stewardship Week. A national network of conservation districts

was established in the 1930s to promote natural resource conservation on a local level.

Each year the Haskell SWCD supplies information to the local churches and schools on Soil Stewardship Week. They promote conservation in our young leaders through a Conservation Poster Contest each year. They also

promote conservation through our high school leaders with a scholarship essay contest on each year's theme.

"We still face many challenges today," says Ulmer. "But the lessons of the past show us that people working together can solve almost any problem. Stewardship Week helps remind us that we can all help with conservation."

Every person can help conserve natural resources in their daily life. Start by learning about air, water, soil, plant and wildlife resources around you. Conserve energy, recycle, don't litter or dump household chemicals. The official Stewardship Week website, www.stewardshipweek.com, provides many more basic conservation tips.

Trotter has winning poster; to be honored May 3

Tarah Trotter of Paint Creek Elementary School will be honored for her outstanding contributions to the Texas soil and water conservation program at a Conservation Awards Banquet for Area V May 3 at 7 p.m. in Stephenville.

Area V consists of 51 counties in North Central Texas.

Categories in which awards will be presented include Outstanding Conservation District; Resident Conservation Rancher; Resident Conservation Farmer; Absentee Rancher; Water Quality Management Plan; Business/Professional Individual; Conservation Teacher; Wildlife Conservationist; Conservation Homemaker and Conservation District Employee. Awards will also be presented to area youth winners of the poster and essay contests.

The purpose of the Conservation Awards Program is to recognize and honor Soil and Water conservation Districts (SWCD's) and individuals who have dedicated their time, efforts and talents to making wise use of renewable natural resources.

Sponsors of the Area Conservation Awards Program are the Texas State Soil and Water

Conservation Board, the Water Conservation Districts, and Association of Texas Soil and the 217 SWCDs in Texas.



POSTER CONTEST WINNER—Tarah Trotter of Paint Creek Elementary School will be honored for her outstanding contribution to the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Program at an Area V Awards Banquet, May 3 in Stephenville.

Governor Perry proclaims April 24-May 1 Soil and Water Stewardship Week

The Lone Star State is a land of incomparable greatness with a wealth of natural resources—resources that have been at the foundation of our state's history of economic success.

As populations grow, demand increases, highlighting the importance of sound stewardship of these vital assets. Our action today is essential to ensuring continued excellence in the future.

Each April, The Association of Texas Soil and Water conservation District launches "Soil and Water Stewardship Week" to highlight the importance of conservation efforts across our great state.

As we look toward the future, citizens across the Lone Star State must remain mindful that the Texas of tomorrow is being defined by the actions we take today. Together, we can continue to lay a solid foundation for the generations to come, recognizing always the important roles that we must all play in being excellent stewards of the land.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 24-May 1, 2005,

SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK

in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 9th day of March, 2005.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

Proclamation

The well being of our people depends on the production of ample supplies of food, fiber and other products of soil.

The quality and quantity of these products depend upon the conservation, wise use and proper management of soil and water resources.

It is the concern and responsibility of every person to see that soil resources be conserved and managed properly and water quality and quantity be maintained to assure the welfare of all citizens.

Soil and water conservation districts provide a practical and democratic organization through which landowners are taking the initiative to properly use and protect these resources.

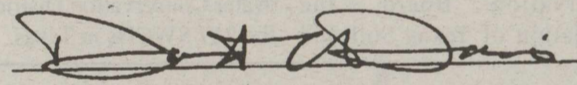
Soil and water conservation districts are sponsoring Soil and Water Stewardship Week as a commitment to protecting our renewable resources.

Therefore, I David C. Davis, County Judge of Haskell County, in full appreciation of the value of soil, water and wildlife resources and desiring to honor those who protect those resources, do hereby proclaim April 24 through May 1, 2005 as

SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK

in Haskell County, Texas.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 5th day of April, 2005.



County Judge of Haskell County

Essays compete for scholarships

Each year the Haskell SWCD holds a Scholarship Essay Contest. The district offers two

\$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. Included in this supplement

are some of those essays. These essays do not reflect the results of the judging.

A World of Hope

A World of Hope
by Monica Buerger

Our soil and water provides the basic needs of daily life—the sustenance of our bodies, the natural beauty that uplifts our spirits, and the stability of the places where we live. In the face of uncertainty, those basic resources provide a foundation for our security and fortify our strength to prevail against those who would harm us. According to StewardshipWeek.com, people have a responsibility to be good stewards of the earth and all its resources, to seek ways to satisfy people's wants and needs today, while protecting the natural resource base that will provide future generations with the means and options to meet their own

wants and needs.

Soil and water conservation starts right in our own homes by how we save water and how we treat the earth. Rt. Rec. Msgr. L.G. Ligutti states that, "Ownership of land does not give an absolute right to use or abuse, nor is it devoid of social responsibilities, implying that such land and tenure and use as to enable the possessor to develop his personality, maintain a decent stand of living for his family and fulfill social obligations." (Celebrate 1) On the other hand soil and water conservationists experiment with the soil and water to discover, develop, implement, and constantly improve ways to use land that sustains its productive capacity and enhances the

environment at the same time. The fate of Earth's land and waters will be determined by how people use them to meet their daily needs. If we can satisfy today's needs without reducing the opportunity for coming generations to meet their needs, we will meet the test of sustainability.

Most of us do not live on the land or work with it daily. But we can look for opportunities to involve ourselves in an effort to save the soil somewhere in our community. That gives us two opportunities—to help the environment that surrounds us and to help strengthen ourselves. When we are personally involved, we become more aware of the physical and spiritual ties between ourselves and the environment. As we touch the land in a healing way, those ties are brought together.

But in the final analysis, it means that each of us can take some kind of active role in soil and water stewardship. That role will take many forms, but it must have the effect of building, restoring, and improving the world that we walk on everyday. To the extent that each living person becomes net contributor rather than a net consumer, a builder instead of a destroyer, the entire world is a world of hope.

CELEBRATE
CONSERVATION
2005
Soil & Water Stewardship Week
April 24 – May 1

Traditions of a Lifetime and Beyond

Tradition of a Lifetime
and Beyond
by Eden Thomas

If one thought about what the generation before did to conserve the soil and water, wouldn't he wonder if he had done anything to help keep it going? The people before have found many easy and simple ways to conserve soil and water. Almost every one of them is a way possible for us to help keep the environment living today. In the past years, the people have done their part by keeping our environment complete with nature's greatest treasures. As we head toward the future, it is our responsibility to keep the conservation process going. The question is how do we do this?

As easy as it is, we take for granted what people have done for our environment in the past and not do our part in keeping conservation a success. We are selfish when it comes to saving the essentials of our environment. When I think about conserving soil and water, certain ways come to mind how I could have helped. For instance, if we wouldn't wash the car once a week, water the lawn every day, or leave the water running while we brush our teeth, we would be helping water conservation. I cannot say that I've watered my lawn every day, but it is not only irresponsible teenagers who are selfish in these situations. Plenty of ways adults do not conserve the soil and water, but neither are their eyes open to these ways. Our lives are too modern and fast-paced that such issues would ever come to our minds. As the years pass, the everyday events of our lives become filled with more and more new technology. That is why we should put the problems in front of our eyes to know what we should do to conserve water. Many sources on the Internet list ways we can help this project. One specific website states that washing clothes and taking showers are the top two activities in the home that use the most water. This website also says toilets have the highest possibility of having a leak. To fix these problems, we should fix any hidden leaks and take fewer or shorter showers. In the past, people have made a huge impression on how important is their responsibility keeping. We should not only celebrate what they've done and how well they've done it but keep the same tradition going.

Soil is also a big part of our everyday lives. Without it I don't

think we would be here today. Considering my family and I come from a long line of farmers, I understand how important soil, water and our environment are. My family's job is to keep our soil conserved. If we let our environment ruin, my dad wouldn't have a job, and my family would be without money. Plus every other hundred farmers around this area wouldn't have a job or money, leading to every business in Haskell going bankrupt because there wouldn't be anyone to feed them with money. Not everyone is involved in the "farming circle." In many other ways people are involved in our soil contamination problem. We could all be a big help by keeping all harmful substances off our ground such as oil. Everyone knows it contaminates the ground and won't allow anything to grow there, but usually we don't care enough to keep from doing it. Most of us don't think about anything but ourselves or our own convenience. We think it would be too much trouble to take these substances somewhere besides our backyard.

If we would open our eyes to these ways of the world and how we can help, I believe we could have successful process of conservation, as we save our soil, water, and the environment we live in. Before our lives become too distracted with modernized possessions, we should use our time for to be helpful, such as saving our water and soil.

Dirt: The Life of the Party

Dirt: The Life of the Party
by Sydney Roberson

Conservation is the protection, preservation, management, or restoration of wildlife and of natural resources such as forests, soil and water. During Soil and Water Stewardship Week, area conservation districts try to educate the public to help conserve water and prevent soil erosion. They also stress the topic of Celebrating Conservation in their local communities.

When many people hear Celebrate Conservation, they may think it sounds rather funny. What do you do to celebrate the world around you, throw a party? That is not exactly what conservation celebration means to me.

I believe that we are lucky to live in small farming communities. We are the people that get to see first hand how the long farming process begins and ends, and how many people and how much time it takes to get the process finished. Living this way of life gives us a certain appreciation for the land because we are aware of the ways it benefits our lives.

In Texas there are many practices used to protect soil. One of these ways is contoured buffer strips. These are strips of perennial vegetation alternated with wider cultivated strips that are farmed on the contour. The benefits of farming on the contour and practicing crop residue management make contour buffer strips an effective conservation practice. This practice is used

where flat land and water erosion are problems. Contour buffer strips are an excellent filter for run off and will improve surface water quality. Another aspect of Texas life we all know about is the Texas weather and winds. Cross wind trap strips are an area of herbaceous vegetation, resistant to wind erosion and grown in strips perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction. These traps catch wind born sediment and other pollutants, such as nutrients and pesticides from the eroded material before it reaches waterbodies or other sensitive areas. There are many forms of excellent soil conservation practices.

Now back to the real situation, celebrating conservation in our community. I believe that in order to celebrate conservation we must get out and learn about conservation practices going on before our own eyes. Appreciate the farmland and farmers working to protect our futures, and the future of our land. We cannot make new soil, so we must learn how to replenish and take care of what we already have so further generations

can better themselves, also.

What many people my age and older do not understand is that we do not have to farm in order to appreciate the soil around us. When everyone just asks questions and tries to get involved in the on going effort to protect soil, that is getting active. By celebrating conservation I have learned that there are many people working everyday to protect something very overlooked by many people. It is easy to see now that celebrating conservation has nothing to do with a real party, but if it did dirt would be the life of it. I know for a fact that now I am going to be more active about protecting our soil and water sources for years to come.



Conservation...



...the key to the future!


We salute all farmers and ranchers during Soil Stewardship Week April 24-May 1. Their love and protection of the land and respect of living things will preserve these resources for future generations.

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Soil Stewardship Week

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We salute our farmers & ranchers during

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April 24 - May 1

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Celebrating for Future Generations Replenishing Our Resources

Celebrating for Future Generations
by Charlie Smith

For generations, people have lived off the land and used the land to live. Today, we celebrate the conservation efforts of those on our past, as we are still able to use the land for many effects such as our daily food supply. We have come a long way from the past, and the future will benefit significantly from our conservation efforts today.

Many of our conservation

practices of today have come from mistakes made in the past. During The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl era, the American people realized how important it was for them to take care of the land. They knew that there was an end to all good possessions, and in order to keep that end from coming soon, they had to take care of land. The people learned to rotate crops, put in terraces and work the land in different ways.

Another occasion America went through was during the World

War II when rations were put in place. These using restrictions were used because there was too much demand and not enough supply. There was the war effort to provide for and people on the home front made do without.

In today's time, we often forget the connection between the land and our products. People have become less concerned with conserving our land for future generations. With more and more of today's population living in cities, there are less being directly connected to farmland. Most people see their food as only coming from the supermarket down the street and do not take the time to think about where the food was grown or where it was before they bought it.

We can celebrate today because people in our past have put out the effort and had ideas to keep effects good for the future generations. Thousands of individuals across our grand nation gave their time and heart to tending to their land so the people of today would have great products just as in our time. Through the science and technology advances of today, it takes less effort to maintain not only healthy soil and land but also healthy wildlife and livestock.

Modern technology does not guarantee conservation of elements of the earth, but through efforts people make today, and efforts made by past generations, we are conserving those elements for generations of the future.

Replenishing Our Resources
by Brad Blanks

As the twenty first century begins to take root, the ground upon which future technology will be built likewise searches for a stronghold. Defenseless against the massive machines dispensed by manufacturers for urban foundation laying, this living soil depends upon those who have learned the agricultural trade. Although some corporate economists claim to have knowledge of the land, the true agriculturalists have been trained by parents and grandparents. Due to their knowledge of previous practices, these present-day cultivators are able to efficiently combine past and present farming methods to produce the best crop. Not only does this crop effectively benefit the consumer but also satisfies the demands required by the soil for a successful future harvest.

Being raised in a farming family, I have firsthand experience of witnessing several generations of practice. As a young child, my granddad was extremely cautious and conservative with his money. Although unable to understand the magnitude of the era in which he was raised, I've grown to realize the enormity of the Great Depression and the effective left on those who survived. After observing the practices of my dad, a slightly variation of farming is

evident. Although money remains a factor, our operation is built on more modern equipment because the returns have proven to be greater. Not only are the profits increased, but the newer technology is also more attentive to the soil's well being. Air seeders have provided an efficient and effective method of placing fertilizers in the soil to boost the quality and yield of crops. Computers have been placed in farm equipment to aid the operator while processing multiple tasks. Monitors have the ability to show the amount of wheat seed being sowed or harvested per acre. Furthermore, Global Positioning Satellite processors are able to show the location of the most abundant crop therefore allowing the operator to control where fertilizer would be most effective. Although technology has allowed agriculturalists to efficiently care for the soil, much land is being lost due to the continued urbanization of the United States. Valuable farmland is overtaken by large companies to build houses and workplaces. Additionally, large water reserves that were once critical for irrigation of local land are lost. Little can be done to fight these new projects except for the continued education of soil and water conservation.

Despite the seemingly immense challenge, contractors must be convinced to reconsider their soil and water destruction. Although immediate consequences may not occur, vast land loss due to urbanization has the potential to cause drastic effects in the future. Importing food due to modest U.S. harvests will leave our nation vulnerable to increased international prices. Furthermore, the price gouging will drive companies to more aggressively seek resources locally. Unfortunately, drilling rigs along with other heavy machinery may be transferred to sites near urban and metropolitan areas to satisfy the rising demand for less expensive resources. However, many in the United States have become more aware of agricultural issues due to recent fears coaxed by international conflicts involving petroleum (Sampson 7).

These worries combined with the persistent efforts of those dedicated to conserving our natural resources, agricultural awareness may, possibly, slow and even halt the potentially devastating future complications created by over-urbanization (Sampson 8).



Insuring Tomorrow through Conservation Today . . .

Farmers and ranchers know that tomorrow's food and fiber supplies depend on conservation and wise and proper management of soil and water resources today. We salute their conservation and management efforts to insure precious resources with careful conservation.

Soil Stewardship Week
April 24 ~ May 1



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Soil Stewardship Week

April 24 - May 1

Congratulations to our farmers and ranchers on their efforts in working with our governmental agencies to conserve our land and resources.



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Spring - A Season to Celebrate New Beginnings

Spring-A Season to Celebrate New Beginnings
by Nick Crosson

Now that spring has arrived, the time has come for us to celebrate new beginnings, and give thanks to the innovators of the latest concepts of water conservation. One group of pioneers that need a giant hand clap of praise are the inventors of Xeriscape a landscaping technique.

As the days get warmer, many of our thoughts turn to the work that must be done to produce lush, green lawns, colorful flowers, and majestic trees. One of the first steps to achieving a beautiful lawn is having an adequate supply of water to efficiently irrigate our landscapes.

Because of the recent drought that plagued many counties in Texas, including Haskell, conserving water has become an issue of vital concern. Lawn watering to some people might seem to be an unnecessary luxury when water supplies are shrinking due to lack of rain. According to the Texas Water Foundation, "Drought is a normal condition in Texas. The great drought of the 1950's may have been just a taste of what's to come." Since we can expect droughts in Texas, we must look to new ways of maintaining the green, luscious landscapes that we have grown accustomed to while also conserving our fragile water supply.

In 1978, a new concept of

landscaping was introduced as an alternative way of achieving quality landscaping while conserving water and protecting the environment. Xeriscape uses seven simple principles that can save water. The fundamentals of Xeriscape are as follows: a plan and design for the landscape, soil analysis, practical areas for grass, appropriate plant selections such as those that are native to the area, efficient irrigation, use of mulches and proper maintenance, which may include mowing the grass at the proper height and using fertilizers in the appropriate amounts. In the website Xeriscape. Org, the publication titled "Xeriscape Colorado" states that "for the most of the country over 50% of residential water used is applied to landscapes and lawns. Xeriscape can reduce landscape water use by 70% or more." By using these seven principles, our most precious natural resource, water, can be preserved.

Xeriscape landscaping is not a cure-all for conserving our country's water supply, but it is a start in the right direction. Since spring is a season to celebrate new beginnings, maybe the time is now for us to utilize some of the latest methods given to us by the pioneers of water conservation. People who use water in nonessential ways bear a much greater responsibility in the stewardship of water conservation.

We Salute Our Farmers and Ranchers

Soil Stewardship Week
April 24 ~ May 1

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District poster winners announced

Winning the district poster contest were 1. Tarah Trotter, Paint Creek, third grade; 2. Nathan Colley, Paint Creek, sixth grade; 3. Nathan Edwards, Paint Creek, sixth grade.

Paint Creek

First grade: 1. Jordan Davis 2. Sara Edwards; 3. Dylan Webb.

Second grade: 1. Brandon Luevano; 2. Dalton Einhaus; 3. Tyler Hall.

Third grade: 1. Tarah Trotter; 2. Samantha Barnett; 3. Shawn Myers.

Fourth grade: 1. Joshua Horton; 2. Ashley Williams; 3. Cheyenne Buerger.

Fifth grade: 1. Caleb McCord; 2. Katrina Buerger; 3. Dalton

Barnett.

Sixth grade: 1. Victoria Reid; 2. Nathan Colley; 3. Nathan Edwards.

Rochester

First grade: 1. Celina Martinez; 2. Sabrina Shadden; 3. Caitlyn Nicholson.

Second grade: 1. Ruben Torres; 2. Joanna Trevino; 3. Colton Rogers.

Third grade: 1. J.T. Schmegner; 2. Michael Woods.

Fourth grade: 1. Keifer Gonzales; 2. Cassidy Rios; 3. Steven Schmegner.

Haskell

Mrs. White's Pre-K: Overall winner and first place, Tyler Johnson.

Mrs. Adam's fourth grade: 1. Madison Mayfield; 2. Cannon Edwards; 3. Taylor Burson.

Mrs. Everett's fourth grade: 1. Allison Rodriguez; 2. Ashley Adams; 3. Veronica Robledo.

Mrs. Robert's fourth grade: 1. Drake Everett; 2. Carson Hadaway; 3. Morgan Frierson.

Overall fourth grade: 1. Drake Everett; 2. Carson Hadaway; 3. Madison Mayfield.

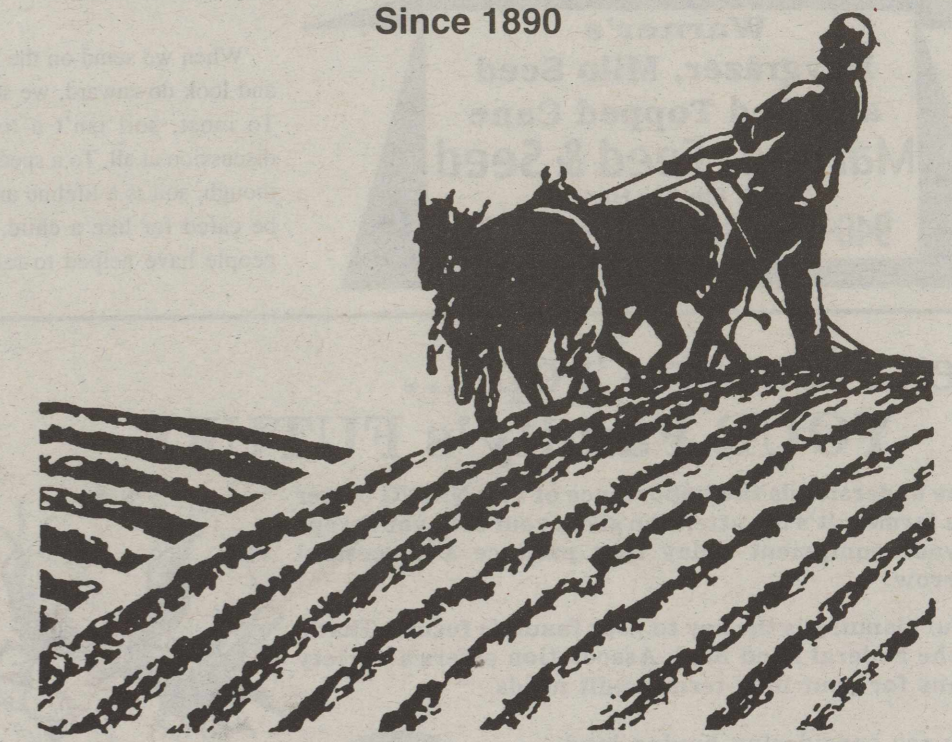
Mrs. Fouts' fifth grade: 1. Garrett Brueggeman; 2. Felysha Walker; 3. Bertha Carranza.

Mrs. Johnson's fifth grade: 1. Sara Duncan; 2. Claire Carmichael; 3. Krista McLemore.

Overall fifth grade: 1. Sara Duncan; 2. Claire Carmichael; 3. Garrett Brueggeman.

Soil Stewardship Week
April 24TH - May 1ST
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Celebrate Conservation

Celebrate Conservation
by Eric Elkin

Conservation of natural resources is a very helpful and a very good idea. Conservation is a necessity when it comes to maintaining a healthy and happy environment. There are many ways to conserve our natural resources for instances, alternation of vegetation, keeping use of water to a minimum and not take advantage of it, and keeping a clean environment.

People who grow plants play an important role in maintaining soil. Farmers for instance, grow crops of vegetation annually. Alternating their crops helps keep the soil healthy and plentiful. If one plants the same thing every time, the soil loses its natural nutrients and fertilizers.

Many people like to keep their grass pretty, healthy and green which is fine, but this requires

water and as we use water it becomes more and more scarce. Water makes up about two thirds of the earth and if we use all of it up, what happens? Water should be rationed to an extent but, it also needs to be more appreciated.

Recycling has a major effect on our natural resources. If everyone just through every thing away, we would run out of many valuable items. Pollution also hurts the environment because, when it gets in our water sources it basically ruins the water and when it gets into the soil it breaks down the nutrients in it makes it almost impossible to grow anything where this has occurred.

Conservation has kept the world together and has prevented the world from many complicated problems. I appreciate the dedication of those who work to make the world a healthier, safer and happier environment.

A World of Celebration

A World of Celebration
by Alejandro Vasquez

We live in a world abound with greatness, greatness not only in technological or mechanical ways but also agricultural ways. As we move through the computer age, most fail to see the agricultural advances that are going on, and, as such, do not have a good understanding about how to care for our world. We enjoy our world in many ways every day, and few understand the work that goes into keeping the planet in working order. Our world's time is now, and as we reap the benefits of our work, we must stop and celebrate the practices that keep the world, and us, running strong.

Coming from a small agricultural town, the well-being of the earth around me has always been a part of my life. Without the earth's soil and water supplies, the people in our country, and every country, would simply not be here. After I realized this, I also realized that knowing that the soil and water is important isn't enough. We must all do our best to take care of the planet and conserve what resources we have.

When we stand on the ground and look downward, we see soil. To most, soil isn't a topic of discussion at all. To a special few though, soil is a lifeline and is to be cared for like a child. These people have helped to raise our

crops and our awareness of the elements needed to sustain life. According to the Stewardship Week homepage, of the 293 million people in America, eighty percent live in suburban areas, and only a small fraction are directly involved in farming.

In the 1920s, soil conservation was brought to the public's attention, and, because of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, the government established the Soil Conservation Service, now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service. During the spring and the summer, the dust storms were doing damage that was nearly irreparable by taking the land's precious topsoil away, and farmers plowing created pathways for rain to become damaging runoff that stripped the land away unmercifully. Seeing this, the government went into action creating conservation "districts" in every state and supplying them with the necessary information so that they, in turn, could supply this information to the everyday farmer. The average farmer is not educated on crop rotation and other soil conservation techniques that were unheard of fifty years ago, giving him the ability to care for his land like never before. In The Living Soil, Neil Sampson states that between 1982 and 1997, the proportion of America's cultivated cropland that was protected against

excessive soil erosion from water runoff increased from seventy three percent to eighty one percent, while the proportion protected against wind erosion rose from seventy eight percent to eighty six percent. Over the last seventy years, these programs have given way to farming practices that help take care, not advantage, of the land around us.

Water conservation has become an important issue to most people as well. Farmers now have irrigation systems that distribute the water evenly over their fields with only a small amount wasted, and most cities have watering schedules that are strictly enforced. Only one percent of the earth's water is usable for irrigation, and as such, we cannot afford to waste any. If we run out of water, we will not be able to manufacture more. The earth will only be as good to us as we are to mother nature.

We should celebrate the people trying to keep the world running. I hope that we continue to improve in our conservation techniques, and in doing so, help to nurture our planet for as long as possible. We should celebrate the future as we look upon our past and see how far we have come. We have made substantial progress in the way of conservation over the last fifty years, and I look forward to another fifty years of enjoying the earth's beauty.

R.S.V.P.

R.S.V.P.
by Alexis Reed

Welcome to the party! This is the only place to find the trees' shaking to a nice beat and a fish talking to a mushroom because he heard he was a fungi. This fiesta is in honor of life, the life made possible by the soil and water. People would have to be crazy to try to worm their way out of this celebration because it requires an R.S.V.P. unlike any other.

"Today many species have survived and most have seen significant population rebounds," says Neil Sampson on the NACD website. One way to look at the amazing benefits of conservation is from the lives it can save point of view. Conservation has provided life to many that would not be here otherwise. In reality trees can't cut a little rug and fish haven't been known to talk, but just hearing Mr. Sampson say those powerful words gives every being chills of gratitude and definitely gives us a reason to celebrate. The lives that depend on soil and water however are not just creatures because we too need the benefits of the soil and water. "Our soil and water provides the basic needs of daily life—the substance of our bodies, the natural beauty that uplifts our spirits, and the stability of the places where we live." (Sampson) People depend on soil and water more than anything in the world because these simple resources are what keep us alive. I really love my car and cell phone but they do nothing

to keep me alive however, without the good ole soil and some nice H₂O I am nothing I can't exist that is something worth our time.

Our efforts in conserving the soil have reached new heights, and we are constantly learning new ways that we can improve the world in which we live. One new method that I am familiar with is the use of biodiesel in our diesel engines. "Biodiesel is better for the environment because it is made from renewable resources and has lower emissions compared to petroleum diesel. It is less toxic than table salt and biodegrades as fast as sugar." (Biodiesel.org) Although it seems like a small step, the use of biodiesel works in a positive way to towards conservation. By taking notice of our resources and trying to preserve them, we are insuring the lives of many creatures including ourselves and creating a reason to celebrate.

However, there is a mandatory R.S.V.P. from us and our future generations, promising our attendance in the conservation efforts for years to come. By saying we will be there when our resources are feeling ill we are permanently extending our invitation to the most widely celebrated party of the world. Conservation is a celebration of life that can't continue its party unless we are there to help it grow, and by declaring our commitment to the preserving efforts of our environment we will celebrate for years to come.

Conserving Farmers

Conserving Farmers
by Ross Short

What better place to celebrate conservation than on the sandy Rolling Plains of West Texas? For years area farmers have been making innovations in order to tame the wild topsoil and increase water efficiency as well as many other tough conservation obstacles. The stewards of this great land have bred a number of ideas which include advancements in irrigation, topsoil protection, and fuel efficiency.

The hot summer sun can be hard on a farmer's crop, and we all know that rain in West Texas is a precious commodity. For these reasons, farmers sometimes must turn to irrigations in order to sustain their produce. In earlier times, farmers depended on low-efficiency irrigation systems for water. These various systems often leaked and lost great amounts of water to evaporation. Irrigation proved to be a big strain on our underground water supply. However, as the years have

progressed, we have found new ways to conserve our groundwater. Innovations such as newly developed drip systems and water efficient center pivots have become popular among area farmers as means of conserving water and cutting cost.

West Texas is also famous for its large quantities of sand and frequent dust storms. The howling winds that sweep across this land are some of the most fierce that nature has to offer. A single sandstorm can destroy many acres of crop land. To prevent topsoil erosion, many farmers have turned to using cover crops to protect their produce and reduce soil erosion.

Choices of cover crops include wheat, rye, or oats. As you can clearly see, cover crops serve a dual purpose. The protect a farmer's cash crop, and help hold our greatly needed topsoil together.

In order to plant these crops, a farmer needs a tractor if he or she wishes to get through the field. In early times, all a farmer needed

was a good, stout mule and a plow, but the times have changed drastically. Farms that used to feed over one hundred families are now owned by a single proprietor, thus requiring the use of a tractor. Early tractors were large, bulky, and inefficient when it came to using fuel. However, through various technological advancements in mechanical engineering and proficient diesel engines, we have made tractors that are more economical and efficient in fuel use. These machines have made farming easier and have contributed to the conservation of our natural resources.

As you can see, the farmers of this area have taken great strides to conserve our natural resources and provide new ideas for preserving our soil and water. From advancements in irrigation, to cover crops, to forcing the development of more fuel efficient tractors, the farmer has made the Rolling Plains a better place to live. Let's celebrate!

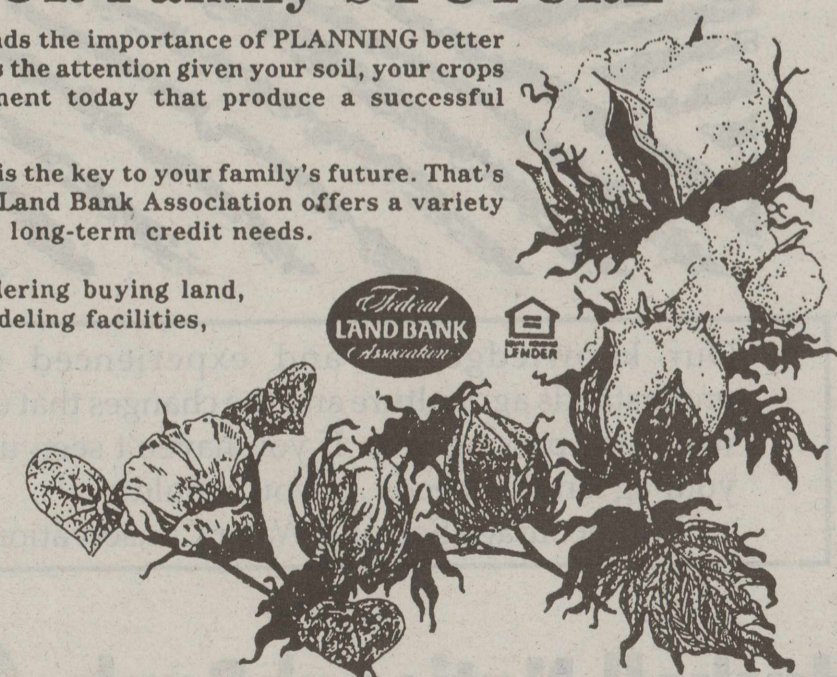
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