

Happy New Year

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 120—NO. 52, ©DECEMBER 28, 2006

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES—ONE SECTION—75 CENTS

Basketball games

HASKELL
VG-VB in Eula Tournament
Dec. 28-30
at Eula
JV-V G-B vs Colorado City
Tues., Jan. 2, 4 p.m.
at Haskell

RULE
VG-VB in Jayton Tourney
Dec. 28-30
at Jayton
JVB-VB vs Crowell
Tues., Jan. 2
at Crowell

Calendar

Early deadline

Deadline for news and advertising for the Jan. 4 issue is Thurs., Dec. 28 at 5 p.m.

Burn ban issued

A burn ban is in effect for Haskell County. The use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person is prohibited. Combustible materials specifically include, but are not limited to, fireworks, camp fires, welding and any other pyrotechnic material, which in the manner or means of its use could result in a wildfire. The ban will continue until conditions warrant otherwise, stated Haskell County Judge David C. Davis. A person who knowingly or intentionally violates this order commits a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

Cookbook

The Haskell County Christmas Cookbook is available at local merchants or at the office of Judge David Davis at the courthouse. Proceeds of the sale benefits the Committee to Help Haskell County.

Events calendar

The Haskell Chamber of Commerce is compiling a Community Events Calendar for 2007. To include your school, church, club or government dates, call Ruby Turner at 256-1734.

Art Association

The Brazos West Art Association will meet Mon., Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Haskell National Bank Community Room. Patty Rae Welborn of Abilene will give a demonstration using acrylics. Guests are welcome.

Medical fund

A medical fund for 5 year old Sierra Marie Vaughn has been established. Vaughn and her family are scheduled to travel to Dayton, Ohio for a study and medical treatments Feb. 5 through March 30. Funds are also needed to help the family with their many expenses while there. To make a donation, contact Keary or Jessica at 940-657-5530 or mail donations to P.O. Box 662, Knox City, Texas 79529.

Storm sirens

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

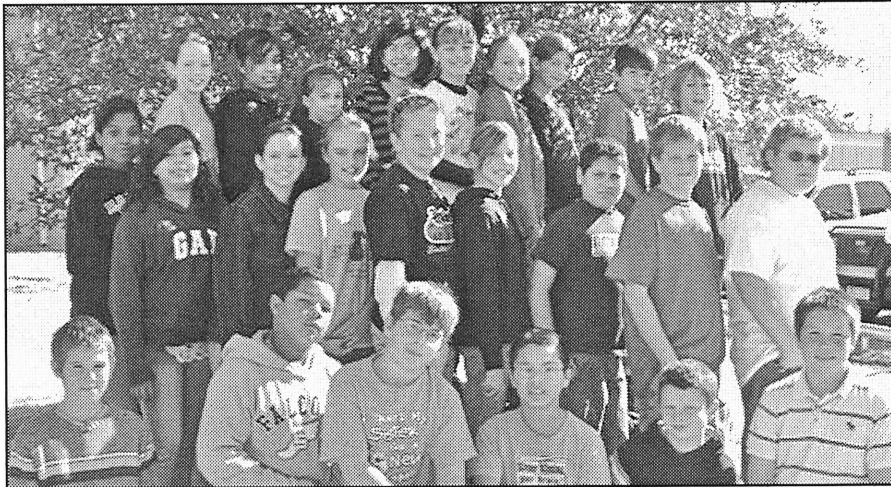
Scout registration

Registration for those wishing to join Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts may be done at any time by calling Kay Smith at 864-3344 or Patrick Pace at 997-2216.

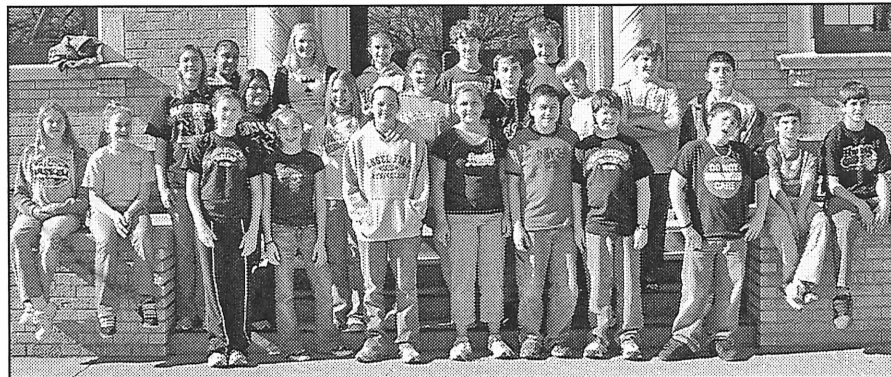
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Haskell wins middle school UIL event



6TH GRADE UIL PARTICIPANTS—Front row, l-r, River McTasney, Tyrone Neskorick, Cole Ray Hutchinson, Gabriel Torres, Phillip Coleman and Drake Everett; middle row, Caitlan Johnson, Maegan Gonzales, Taylor Burson, Maci Colley, Carson Hadaway, Shelby Dunnam, Adrian Alexander, Levi Grand and Preston Morrow; back row, Kalyn Wheatley, Leslie Villarreal, Ashley Adams, Veronica Robledo, Cailey Foster, Madison Mayfield, Morgan Frierson, Noe Contreras and David Newton.



7TH GRADE UIL PARTICIPANTS— Front row, l-r, Krista McLemore, Lisa Hibbitts, Laycee Tullos, Sasha Walker, Felysha Walker, Sarah Aguilar, AJ Rodriguez, Garrett Brueggeman, Colton Kimmel, Stewart Ulrich and Sterling Bird; middle row, Sara Duncan, Valerie Gonzales, Kymbre Kupatt, Jasmine Klose, Clint Howard, Jim Young, Brady Leach and Adrian Hernandez; back row, Lynna Billington, Mackenzie Thomas, Claire Carmichael, Ryan Baumbach and Zachary Wyrick.



8TH GRADE UIL PARTICIPANTS—Front row, l-r, Codi Foster, Pamela Walker, Harley James, Dustin Rainey, Christian Myers, Meagan Kimbrough, Juanita Ortega, Amber Allen, Rosa Fernandez, Dawn Skinner, Clarissa Walker, Bailey Fillmon and Ross Wittenborn; middle row, Denise Hibbitts, Angelica Gonzales, Leslie Crosson, Jessica Rodriguez, Kelsie Adams, Jasmine Nail and Markus Martinez; back row, Rosa Nieto, Ashlee Short, Cheslee Hearn, Sara Weise, Marissa McGhee, Candice Hill, Nathan Meredith and David Gonzales.

Mail pickup to change Jan. 1

Beginning Jan. 1, the Haskell Postal Service mail collection boxes will have new pickup schedules. Collection times of each blue collection box will be the stated times on the label of each box.

New schedules include:
•Pickup of the square collection box will be at 2 p.m., Monday

through Friday.
•Collection of the outside box located at the Post Office will be at 4:30, Monday through Friday, and at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.
•Pickup times of the lobby drop inside the post office will be at 4:30 Monday through Friday, and at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

One other change to be made in the near future is moving the blue collection box on the square to the Post Office. That box will be collected at 4:30 p.m.

This is a Postal Service change to improve management of the collection system. The collection boxes will be collected by local postal employees.

The Postal Service is committed to providing excellent, efficient service for all our customers. Post Office hours will remain the same, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For mailing supplies and other inquires, customers may also visit the Postal Service's website at www.usps.com or call 1-800-ASK-USPS. The local Post Office phone number is 940-864-2811.

Supt. finalist named

James Gilcrease of Marble Falls was named the lone finalist in the superintendent search by Haskell CISD at their board meeting Wed., Dec. 20. Gilcrease was selected from a list of 30 candidates.

High school principal at Marble Falls, Gilcrease has served as high school principal at Whitesboro and Sherman. He has also served as an assistant principal, middle school

and high school teacher. A graduate of the University of North Texas, he holds a Master of Education degree from Tarleton University in Stephenville. He earned a Doctorate of Education from Texas A&M in Commerce.

He and his wife, Dani, are the parents of a 7 year old son, Ross. A contract can be offered to Gilcrease by the board on Jan. 11.

This year's Middle School UIL Academic contest was held Thurs., Dec. 7 at Hawley Middle School. Haskell Elementary 6th graders and Rochester Junior High 7th and 8th graders joined forces to win the District 5-AA East Zone. Anson, Haskell, Hawley and Stamford school districts competed in the meet.

Art: 6th Grade, Madison Mayfield 1st, Maci Colley 3rd, Ashley Adams 4th, Morgan Frierson; 7th Grade, Sasha Walker 3rd, Claire Carmichael 5th, Kymbre Kupatt, Valerie Gonzales; 8th Grade, Meagan Kimbrough 1st, Dawn Skinner 4th, Ashlee Short 5th, Candice Hill.

Calculator Applications: 6th Grade, Maci Colley 1st, Cailey Foster 2nd, Kalyn Wheatley 3rd; 7th Grade, Garrett Brueggeman 1st, Lynna Billington 3rd, Jasmine Klose 6th, Zachary Wyrick; 8th Grade, Codi Foster 1st, Jessica Rodriguez 3rd, Dustin Rainey.

Dictionary Skills: 6th Grade, Noe Contreras 5th, Morgan Frierson, Leslie Villarreal, Cole Ray Hutchinson; 7th Grade, A.J. Rodriguez 2nd, Ryan Baumbach, Adrain Hernandez, Jim Young; 8th Grade, Rosa Nieto 4th, Ashlee Short 6th, Clarissa Walker, Bailey Fillmon.

Editorial Writing: 7th Grade, Sasha Walker 1st, Valerie Gonzales 3rd, Claire Carmichael 6th; 8th Grade, Candice Hill, Angelica Gonzales, Dennise Hibbitts.

Impromptu Speaking: 7th Grade, Stewart Ulrich 3rd, Valerie Gonzales 5th, Colton Kimmel, Sasha Walker; 8th Grade, Christian Myers 3rd, Sara Weise 6th, Cheslee Hearn, Jasmine Nail.

Listening Skills: 6th Grade, Levi Grand 1st, Philip Coleman, Gabriel Torres; 7th Grade, Ryan Baumbach 3rd, Sterling Bird 4th, Valerie Gonzales, A.J. Rodriguez; 8th Grade, Markus Martinez 2nd, Leslie Crosson 6th, David Gonzales, Ricky Molina.

Maps, Graphs & Charts: 6th Grade, Cailey Foster 1st, Kalyn Wheatley, Caitlyn Johnson, Adrian Alexander; 7th Grade, Adrian Hernandez 5th, Clint Howard 6th, Zachary Wyrick, Brady Leach; 8th Grade, Angelica Gonzales 3rd, Ross

Wittenborn 4th, Marissa McGhee, Harley James.

Mathematics: 6th Grade, Kalyn Wheatley 2nd, Tyrone Neskorick, Preston Morrow, Veronica Robledo; 7th Grade, Garrett Brueggeman 1st, Jasmine Klose 2nd, Lynna Billington, Claire Carmichael; 8th Grade, Rosa Fernandez 4th, Denise Hibbitts, Candice Hill, Juanita Ortega.

Modern Oratory: 7th Grade, Claire Carmichael 1st, Valerie Gonzales 5th, Lisa Hibbitts; 8th Grade, Kelsie Adams 5th.

Music Memory: 6th Grade, Cailey Foster 1st, David Newton 2nd.

Number Sense: 6th Grade, Maci Colley 1st, Madison Mayfield 3rd, Carson Hadaway 6th; 7th Grade, Garrett Brueggeman 1st, Jamine Klose 2nd, Kymbre Kupatt, Claire Carmichael; 8th Grade, Codi Foster 1st, Jessica Rodriguez 4th, Nathan Meredith 6th, Bailey Fillmon.

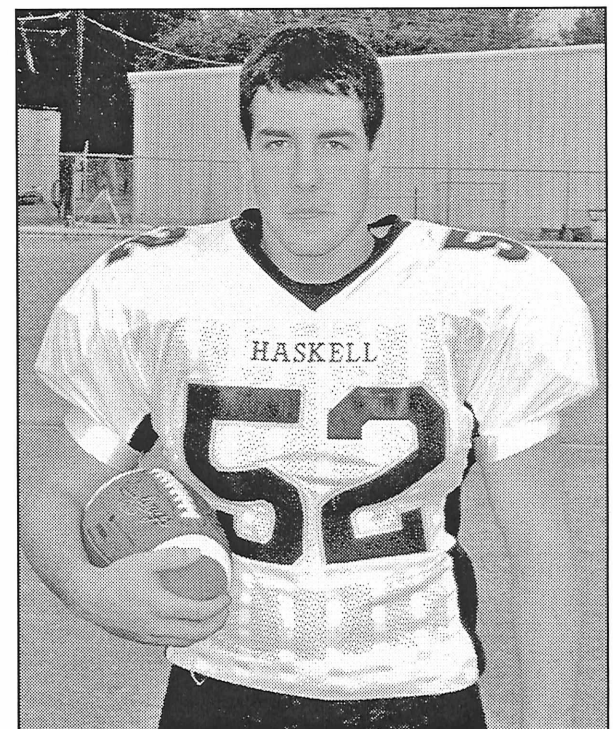
Oral Reading: 6th Grade, David Newton 3rd, Carson Hadaway 5th, Taylor Burson, Noe Contreras; 7th Grade, Laycee Tullos 4th, Kymbre Kupatt 6th, Krista McLemore; 8th Grade, Codi Foster 4th, Pamela Walker 6th, Clarissa Walker, Rosa Nieto.

Ready Writing: 6th Grade, Maci Colley, Ashley Adams; 7th Grade, Sara Duncan 6th, Laycee Tullos, Mackenzie Thomas; 8th Grade, Pamela Walker 2nd, Codi Foster 4th, Amber Allen.

Science: 7th Grade, Jim Young, Sarah Aguilar, Adrian Hernandez; 8th Grade, Nathan Meredith 3rd, Jessica Rodriguez 4th, Harley James, Codi Foster.

Social Studies: 6th Grade, Drake Everett, Adrian Alexander, Maegan Gonzales, Caitlyn Johnson; 7th Grade, Stewart Ulrich 3rd, Brady Leach, Zachary Wyrick; 8th Grade, Angelica Gonzales 1st, Marissa McGhee, Meagan Kimbrough.

Spelling: 6th Grade, Carson Hadaway 2nd, Shelby Dunnam 4th, Morgan Frierson, River McTasney; 7th Grade, Mackenzie Thomas 2nd, Krista McLemore 3rd, Felysha Walker 5th, Adrian Hernandez; 8th Grade, Angelica Gonzales 1st, Marissa McGhee 2nd, Rosa Fernandez 3rd, Jasmine Klose.




ALL-STATE—Haskell Indian Josh Kimmel was named to the Associated Press Class 2A all-state team as an offensive lineman. Kimmel had 58 takedowns and graded at 91 percent as right guard for Haskell. The 5'-11" 190 lbs. senior also started at the defensive tackle position.

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Fireworks display set Dec. 31

Weather permitting, the eighth annual W.E. Hollingsworth Memorial Fireworks display, sponsored by the Haskell County Historical Commission, will be held Sun., Dec. 31. The event will begin at 9:00 p.m. at the request of many who are sleepy by midnight.

Jim Hollingsworth, his son-in-law Scott Burgess and Jim's grandchildren will set off another large load of fireworks on the Hollingsworth farm between Rule and Rochester, located five miles west of Hwy. 6 at the intersection of FM 2407 and County Road 146. The fireworks will be on the west side of County Road 146 on thirty acres of land especially prepared for the event due to dry weather conditions. Parking along FM 2407 for a mile east of County Road 146 will again provide a prime view of the fireworks display.

About this time in 1999, a local article was published about Jim and his grandfather William Edward Hollingsworth's discussion in 1944 about the change of the century. A five year old boy was heartbroken that his beloved granddad would not be with him to witness the new century on New Year's Eve. Jim vowed to celebrate in honor of his grandfather nevertheless.

News wires picked up the story for Abilene, Wichita Falls, Amarillo and Lubbock newspapers. That article triggered an overwhelming response among area grandparents. The older generation brought their grandchildren to witness the fireworks party Jim threw in honor of his grandfather's memory a half century after their talk. The roads were lined triple deep for miles around. Jim feels the presence of his granddad every New Year's Eve during the fireworks display.

It is estimated that the small but close-knit Jud Community, population about 25, swells to hundreds of people on New Year's Eve.

Hollingsworth invites everyone out to view the display.



ALVIN E. STIEWERT

Funeral services for Alvin E. Stiewert, 86, of Lubbock were held Fri., Dec. 22 at Faith Temple with Rev. Rick Oliphant officiating.

Obituaries

Alvin E. Stiewert

Graveside services with military honors will be held at Willow Cemetery in Haskell. Services were under the direction of Sanders Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Mr. Stiewert went to be with the Lord Tues., Dec. 19.

Born June 20, 1920 in Haskell County, he was the son of Albert and Lena Klose Stiewert. He served in the United States Army during World War II. He married Ruby Howard June 29, 1946 in Haskell. She preceded him in death Oct. 22, 1948. They moved to Lubbock in 1955. He worked for Lubbock Glass and Mirror until he retired in 1985. He married Olive Ragan April 20, 1985. She preceded him in death Nov. 24, 2006.

Survivors include two brothers,

Marvin Stiewert of Haskell and Leroy Stiewert of Jayton; three daughters, Belinda Browning, Dianna Stiewert and Darlene Coffin, all of Lubbock; seven grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; one stepson, Steve Elliott; one stepdaughter, Evalena Kendrick of Spur; six step grandchildren; and nine step great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were his grandsons, Brandon Rogers, Jacob Browning and David Rogers, Jr., all of Lubbock; Jeff Hough, husband of his granddaughter Tiffany, of Lubbock; and Mark Pollinger, husband of his granddaughter, Brianna of Houston; and his son-in-law, Maynard Coffin.

PD. NOTICE

Fire department gives reports, awards during annual party

Haskell Volunteer Fire Department members, wives, retired firemen and guests gathered at the Haskell National Bank Community Room Mon., Dec. 18 for the final fire meeting of the year.

The new thermal imaging camera was available for those attending to inspect.

Fire reports included 124 runs of which 56 were grass or wildfires, 24 were structure or structure related fires, 15 were cotton fires, 15 were motor vehicle fires and 14 were classified as others which included helping EMS or other officials as needed.

Wildfire costs for the year were estimated at over \$14,000. Expenses to fight structure fires were estimated at over \$2,000. Other fires and assistance calls cost the department over \$2,300 with some expenses still to be tabulated.

City manager, Brandon Anderson recognized the department's spirit of volunteerism and willingness to help others

whenever needed. He stated that when visiting other towns, area folks recognize that Haskell has an outstanding fire department with outstanding equipment and personnel.

Representing a total of 145 years of volunteer service, seven members

received service awards presented by Anderson. Recognized were Jesse Billington, 10 years of service; Claude Payne and Tony Haynes, 15 years of service; Donald Cunningham, Bill Steele and Randy Shaw, 25 years of service; and Kenny Watson, 30 years of service.

Weather Whys

El Ninos

Q: What exactly is El Nino and how does it affect weather in the United States?

A: El Nino is a disruption of the ocean-atmosphere system in the tropical Pacific that affects weather not only in the U.S., but all over the world, says Dr. Gerald North of Texas A&M's Department of Atmospheric Sciences. Warm waters in the central Pacific—very often they develop off the coast of Peru—travel east toward Latin America and eventually the U.S.

"Each year in late December, a southward current warms the water in this area," says North. "The Peruvians started calling these warm currents El Nino, or boychild for the infant Jesus, because the occurrence of El Nino usually happens around Christmas. Every few years, the ocean warming is greater than usual and this leads to higher rainfall than usual in some

areas and drought in others, depending on the trade winds and other factors.

Q: What else do we know about El Ninos?

A: "We've learned it can also lead to reduced fishing and a loss of marine life in certain areas," North adds.

"Until about 1957, El Nino was thought to affect only the west coast of South America, but today we know that it's part of a global chain of ocean and atmospheric events. The results of El Nino can be fascinating, but sometimes costly and deadly. For example, in 1976-77 an El Nino produced a record drought in California, but years later an El Nino in 1982-83 produced a series of rain storms that cost \$200 million in California alone. We know that we need a better understanding of El Nino so we can forecast future weather events and their likely results."

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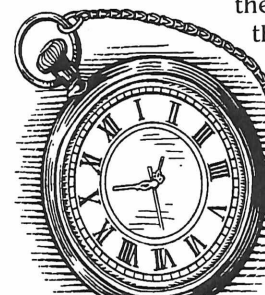
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Goodfellows Donations

Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative employees	\$30
Windstream	\$150
Total this week	\$180
Previous total	\$1,575
Total to date	\$1,755

Time To Get A Move On!

The clock is ticking down on the old calendar. Now is the time to gear up for a great celebration and look ahead to success and happiness in 2007!



Many thanks for giving us so much to celebrate this past year. We've enjoyed every minute of serving you and look forward to your continued support.

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 (254) 559-3664

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Equipment & promotional offers at these locations may vary.

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 (325) 692-5195

Trio Wireless
 4565 S. 1st St.
 (325) 692-5776

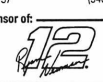
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 Lone Wolf Cellular
 1040 Hickory
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Carbon monoxide is deadly visitor

Like a monster in a horror film, this silent and invisible killer can strike down whole families while they sleep.

But unlike movie killers, this one is all too real. And it doesn't wait for darkness. Carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas, kills nearly 300 people in the United States every year, according to statistics from the American Lung Association.

Janie Harris, Texas Cooperative Extension housing and environment specialist, said carbon monoxide is the most dangerous form of indoor pollution because it can kill—and kill quickly.

Carbon monoxide is produced when gas-, coal- or wood-burning appliances aren't working efficiently and/or aren't exhausted properly, Harris said, which means exposure to the gas is particularly dangerous during the colder months when home heaters are turned on and fireplaces are fired up. Electric appliances, which don't burn fuel, do not produce carbon monoxide, Harris said.

Sources of carbon monoxide in the home include fuel-burning appliances such as boilers, furnaces, water heaters, ovens, stoves and dryers, wood-burning fireplaces and stoves; space heaters fueled by gas or kerosene; gas or charcoal grills; small gasoline or propane engines such as lawn mowers or electric generators; large gasoline-powered engines including automobiles, recreational vehicles and boats; tobacco smoke; and house fires, as well as chimneys and flues that have become blocked.

But Harris said the two main sources of carbon monoxide inside the home are the gas furnace heat exchanger and gas hot water heater. And that's why, she said, annual professional checkups for a home heating system are so important. "Your central heating system could have a cracked heat exchanger, so you need a professional to come out and service the system every year."

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning mimic the flu, but without the fever, including headache, fatigue, dizziness, nausea and

Fireplaces

Weather outside frightful? Many homes today are equipped with gas log fireplaces. Gas logs are designed for safe, easy service.

Other homes may have wood burning fireplaces that use a gas starter that must be turned off once the fire has started. Be sure to keep the lighter key away from the valve when not in use. A starter's flames should ignite gently and silently, and you should not smell gas.

Always remember, if you smell gas, immediately leave the house and then call the gas company.

shortness of breath.

This can lead both sufferers and their doctors "to believe they have some kind of germ-caused illness, rather than carbon monoxide poisoning," Harris said.

Headaches or dizziness that seem to improve away from home for an extended period could also indicate carbon monoxide poisoning, Harris said.

The CPSC advises anyone who thinks he or she is experiencing carbon monoxide poisoning to immediately get into fresh air. Open doors and windows to ventilate the house; turn off any fuel-burning appliances and get outside. Go to a neighbor's house and call 911 or the fire department to report the problem and symptoms. See a physician for a qualified diagnosis; be sure to tell the doctor that carbon monoxide poisoning is suspected. And have the fuel-burning appliances checked by a professional before turning them back on.

To help prevent exposure to carbon monoxide in the first place, Harris advised:

- Have furnaces professionally serviced every year. This checkup should include making sure the burner and vent systems are working properly and the heat exchanger has no cracks.

- Inspect the area around the furnace to make sure enough air flow is getting to the burner to bring in fresh air. Furnaces should not be in tightly sealed spaces.

- Inspect the water heater and the furnace flue for internal obstructions or leaks around joints.

- Test a gas water heater while the burner is on by holding a lighted match under the draft hood. If the match flickers downward or goes out, the exhaust may have a backflow, which means the exhaust is coming into the house instead of outside. The match flame should burn upward toward the flue.

- Make sure dampers on fireplaces and wood stoves are open so all combustion gases—including carbon monoxide—flow outside anytime they are in operation.

- Never use a gas oven or stove for heat. "When it starts getting cold, people may turn on the oven and open the (oven) door" to help heat the house, Harris said. This can release carbon monoxide and other harmful combustion gases, such as sulphur dioxide, into the house.

- Don't leave a car, lawn mower or any other gas-powered equipment running inside a closed building, especially an attached garage. Carbon monoxide from the engine could drift back inside the house. In fact, Harris said, leaving a car in an attached garage with the motor running is dangerous—even if the garage door is open.

- Don't ever set up a charcoal-burning barbecue grill inside a garage either, especially an attached garage. This could allow carbon monoxide to drift into the house.

- When installing or maintaining combustion equipment in the home, such as heaters, water heaters, fireplaces or gas ovens and stoves—follow directions and safety precautions carefully.

- Use carbon monoxide alarms on every floor and near sleeping areas. Sleeping people are more vulnerable to carbon monoxide because the concentration level may become deadly while they are sleeping. Choose carbon monoxide alarms that carry the CPSC and Underwriters laboratories' seals of approval. These devices are for sale at hardware stores, discount stores—nearly any place where smoke detectors can be found, Harris said.

Insulation

Most homes wear a blanket. Batt or blanket insulation is made of fiberglass covered with paper. Insulation increases a home's energy efficiency by slowing heat penetration through exterior surfaces.

The paper covering insulation is flammable, so it should never be exposed to heat sources. In the attic, most homes have loose fiberglass insulation (called blown insulation). Make sure you don't remove anything that leaves insulation exposed long term.

New home, remodeling construction comes with guarantees

If you are building a new home or having work done on an interior remodeling job that either costs \$20,000 or more or that—regardless of cost—changes the square footage of the home's living space, state law requires your builder or remodeler to stand behind their work. Whether furnished in writing or not, the state demands that every builder or remodeler provide Texas homeowners a set of minimum warranties.

The required set of minimum warranties includes:

- a one-year workmanship and materials warranty;
- a two-year mechanical and delivery system warranty;
- a ten-year structural warranty; and
- a ten-year warranty of habitability.

Each warranty has a prescribed series of performance standards.

4-H'ers compete at food show

by Jane Rowan
CEA/FCS, Haskell County
200 4-H youth representing the 24 counties of the Rolling Plains Extension District exhibited their nutritional knowledge and cooking skills at the District 4-H Food Show in Vernon Sat., Dec. 9. The four first place senior winners will advance to the State competition in June 2007. Intermediate and Junior Division winners do not compete beyond the District level.

Twelve Haskell County 4-H'ers represented Haskell County in the competition. Participating in the event were:

Juniors: Main Dish: Emily Fouts, Rule, 2nd place; Fruits & Vegetables - Sarah Campbell, Rule

Breads & Cereals: Crissy Bassett, Haskell; Nutritious Snacks: Meghan Glover, Rochester, 1st place; Desserts, Emmalee McCormick, Haskell, 2nd place.

Emily Fouts received first place in the Beef Award for the Junior Main Dish division.

Intermediates: Main Dish, Allison Petty, Rule; Breads & Cereals: Stewart Ulrich, Rochester, 3rd place; Nutritious Snacks: Tillie McGuire, Haskell; Desserts, Jenny Dudensing, Sagerton, 3rd place.

Seniors: Main Dish: Candace Brister, Haskell, 2nd place; Fruits & Vegetables: Brooke Bullinger, Haskell, 3rd place; Nutritious Snacks & Desserts, Kate Rowan, O'Brien.

Each contestant had earned first place honors in their county to advance to the day-long competition at the District Show. The dishes

were judged by panels of professional home economists and 4-H leaders. Serving as judges from Haskell County were Kris Fouts, Julie Petty and Debbie Brister. Contestants were interviewed on nutritional value, preparation method and cost of preparation of their respective recipes.

4-H members also had the opportunity to develop Foods and Nutrition exhibits. Participating in this phase of the competition and receiving certificates for their efforts from Haskell County were Jenny Dudensing, Molly Dudensing and Brooke Bullinger.

The 4-H Food Show is one aspect of the year-round foods and nutrition project in 4-H. The project helps youth learn the relationship between science, foods and nutrition and food preparation, as well as food buying, managing time, use of energy and food storage and safety.

If you would like more information about how to join 4-H and/or how to become involved in a 4-H foods and nutrition project

contact the Texas Cooperative Extension-Haskell County Office located at 101 S. Ave. D in Haskell or by call 940-864-2546.

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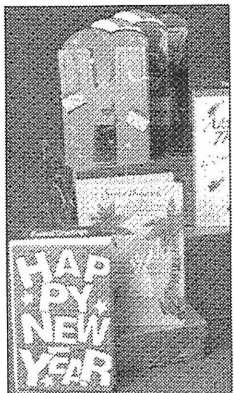
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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Governor grants Christmas season pardons

AUSTIN—Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 20 pardoned Billy Wayne Miller of Dallas after DNA testing proved his innocence and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles recommended his case for clemency.

Miller, who was released from the prison system seven months ago after having served 22 years, was convicted of aggravated sexual assault in Dallas County in 1984 and received a life sentence. Post-conviction DNA testing showed that Miller was innocent. The district attorney, district judge, sheriff and police chief all supported the pardon.

Perry also pardoned 14 other current or former Texas prison inmates—11 from Dallas County, counting Miller—following recommendations by the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Most were in their teens or early 20s more than a decade ago when convicted of minor offenses.

AG files suit against polluters

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on Dec. 20 sued four Houston-area chemical plants owned by Lyondell Chemical Co. and subsidiaries.

Court papers filed in Travis County say the plants repeatedly failed to prevent harmful air emissions and are in violation of Texas environmental laws.

Negotiations to settle with the four chemical plants reached an impasse earlier this year. In its lawsuit, the state is seeking civil penalties ranging from \$50 to \$25,000 per day, per violation.

Abbott's office said the lawsuit is the first in Texas arising out of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's initiative to cut air pollution at chemical plants across the nation.

Future comptroller hires deputy

Newly elected State Comptroller Susan Combs, who will be the state's chief accountant, named Martin A. Hubert deputy comptroller.

In joining the Combs administration, Hubert, 43, follows Billy Hamilton, who resigned recently after serving as deputy

under departing Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn.

Hubert is currently serving as a member of the the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Combs and Hubert will be sworn into office on Jan. 1.

Gaming group to make proposal

The lobbying group Texas Gaming Association announced a plan to use casino revenue to pay college tuition for high school graduates.

Details of the plan have not been finalized by the group, but a tuition-paying plan would be tied to the Legislature's acceptance of the group's proposal enabling the construction of casinos.

The idea is to embed casinos in 12 "casino destination resorts," three of which would be located on Indian reservations within the state.

For the plan to come to fruition, the Texas Legislature would have to pass legislation requiring an amendment to the state constitution, and Texas voters would make the final decision at the ballot box.

Officials' training deadline to hit

Each elected or appointed public official who is a member of a governmental body must have completed a course of training in the Texas Open Meetings Act and the Texas Public Information Act before Jan. 1.

Passed in 2005, the law also requires public information coordinators to take the training.

Anyone who wishes to do so may view the training videos online via the Web site www.oag.state.tx.us.

Restroom opening effort begins

A 10-year-old Austin girl has begun an effort to convince lawmakers to consider legislation requiring businesses to make restrooms available to the public.

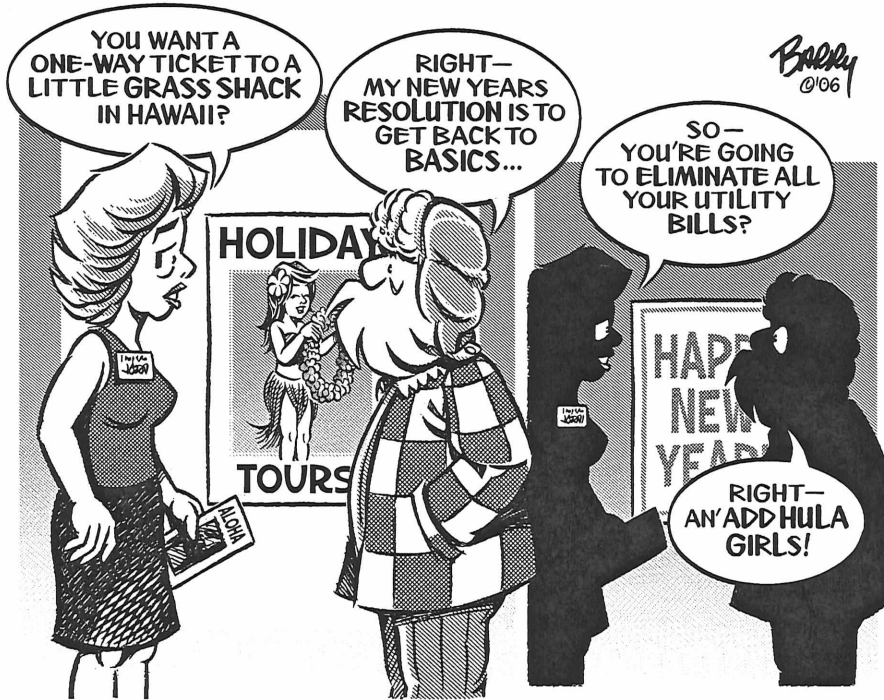
She wants businesses to be more accommodating to people who suffer from digestive ailments and other conditions.

New cigarette tax to take effect

The state sales tax on cigarettes will increase a dollar on Jan. 1 to \$1.41 for a 20-pack.

Inaugural scheduled for top execs

The second inauguration of Gov. Rick Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst will be on Jan. 16.



From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago December 26, 1996

Casey Burgess was named MVP of the Double Mountain Tournament held in Aspermont. Haskell defeated Aspermont 90-62 to win the tournament.

Anna Rieger of Haskell took first place in the Bread and Cereal Division of the District 4-H food show.

Haskell FFA radio team members won the state contest held in Huntsville. Team members are Vanessa Miller, Nicky McCulloch and Kaki Stapleton.

20 Years Ago December 25, 1986

Kevin Patton of Haskell took first place honors at Gymnastics Sport Center in Abilene by completing all skills on level 1 for trampoline, tumbling, balance beam and bars. He received four blue ribbons and a trophy.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Toney visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Toney. Bruce is helping his dad farm.

Lisa Wheatley of Haskell, has been elected president of the Southwestern Oklahoma Sate Pharmaceutical Association at the Weatherford campus.

30 Years Ago December 23, 1976

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Curry of Chillicothe visited in the home of Mrs. Ed Cloud.

Cub Scouts of Troop 144 Den II handed out Bobcat badges to Kevin Mathis, Joe Ray Torres, Billy Wayne Friske and Shannon Martin.

Receiving a Wolf badge was David Newman.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Collins were in Brownfield visiting her sister, Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Dugger and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Collins and family.

Nancy Howard visited her son, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Wilson in Rochester.

40 Years Ago December 22, 1966

Haskell High School 1966-67 twirlers are Paula Terrell, head twirler; Peggy Thigpen, Belinda McKelvain, Donna Gordon and Suzie Montgomery.

Mrs. K.H. Thornton is spending the Christmas holidays in Indianapolis, Indiana, with Mr. and Mrs. K.J. Thornton and grandson, Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Cox, Jr. and family will leave for Normal, Illinois to visit with Mrs. Coxes' mother, Mrs. Robert Copenhagen.

Visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morrell Dick was Mrs. Dick's niece, Rosemary Sherry who is a junior in the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie May of Canyon will spend the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.G. May and Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Pinkard.

50 Years Ago December 27, 1956

All chairs in the district courtroom have been repaired and re-varnished, along with chairs in the jury box, witness stand and the section for court officials. All

woodwork in the courtroom also received a new coat of stain and varnish, including the judge's stand and other furniture. The refinishing and repair work was contracted by R.E. Thornberry, local carpenter and painter.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Lusk and son, Bobby, spent the weekend in Bridgeport visiting in the home of Mrs. Lusk's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Green.

Jerry Larned, 1955 graduate of Haskell High School, is a member of the first string basketball team at John Tarleton State College.

100 Years Ago December 22, 1906

The Haskell Concert Band announced that they will give an open air concert on the courthouse square on Christmas Day.

A good many of the people who have purchased land in Haskell County during the past summer and fall are now moving in from Central and Eastern Texas and taking charge of their new possession. From the number who have already come and who we understand are yet to come, it is evident that there will be a very large increase in the farm acreage in the county this year.

Will Gilbreath from Sulphur Springs has moved and settled near Weintert. He is related to our fellow citizen, I.N. Furrh.

J.E. Hubbard of the Cliff community was in town to meet his brother, J.R. Hubbard and family who were moving to this county from Denton.

From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Understanding Mail-In Rebates

Thrifty consumers know the benefits of clipping coupons and redeeming instant cash rebates at the checkout counter. Manufacturers and retailers often draw in shoppers by offering these immediate discounts at the time of purchase.

But many rebates are of the mail-in variety, which can cause some confusion. The consumer is required to pay the full price of the item at the time of purchase, and then send proper documentation to the manufacturer or retailer in order to receive a full or partial reimbursement by mail.

Typically, consumers must

provide copies of the rebate slip, the sales receipt, the service agreement or invoice, the UPC code, and the customer's name, address and telephone number. The paperwork usually has to be postmarked no later than 30 days from the date of purchase. Consumers generally receive their rebates up to 12 weeks later. The rebate check itself may have an expiration date and need to be cashed by a specific date.

Our office encourages consumers who are trying to claim mail-in rebates to keep good records of the purchase. Follow the instructions on the rebate form carefully and submit all required documentation timely when filing for a rebate. Keep a copy of what you send the manufacturer or retailer so that you have a record of the transaction in case problems arise.

The Federal Trade Commission advises that, by law, companies are required to send rebates within the time frame promised, or if no time is specified, within a "reasonable" time frame. "Reasonable" often is interpreted as within 30 days.

If you don't receive your rebate check as promised or within a reasonable time frame, contact the company first. Look for an address to write to or a phone number to call.

Most manufacturers and retailers will make a good faith effort to try and resolve disputes with their customers. Many times, a lack of notice to a customer that a rebate check will be late is the result of poor customer service, rather than a violation of the law.

If you're dissatisfied with the way the matter is handled, however, or the rebate check never arrives or is late, you may file a complaint with my office online at www.oag.state.tx.us or by phone at 800-252-8011. You may also file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission.

Consumers often ask about missing out on a rebate check. Patience is the key to mail-in rebates. Read the fine print of the rebate agreement and familiarize yourself with the expiration dates of the offer so that you can claim the promised discount.

Correction

Ross Wittenborn, who killed an 11 point buck Nov. 24, is the 13-year-old son of James and Melyn Wittenborn. Information in the Dec. 21 issue of the Haskell Free Press was incorrect.

Tips to make your home more energy efficient

Do you leave a window open during the winter? You may not think so, but if you add up all the gaps and cracks in your home, they can equal a hole the size of an open window! Needless to say, all those air leaks create uncomfortable drafts and make your heating system work harder than it has to. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that U.S. homeowners may be paying up to 10% more on their yearly energy bills due to air leaks and insufficient levels of insulation.

Could this be happening in your home? It is a very common problem that is hard to recognize if you're not aware of symptoms. Cold walls and floors, drafts, and even big icicles hanging off your roof in the winter are signs that your home is not working right. But there is good news: the Energy Star program (sponsored by EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy) has advice for you this winter that can increase comfort and reduce those winter energy bills. By sealing the air leaks and adding insulation to your home, you not only make your home more cozy, but also save money and help our environment.

•Locate the Leaks. Start by locating the holes, gaps and cracks that allow air to sneak in and out of your house. Typically, you can feel the small holes and gaps around windows and doors, but the biggest holes are almost always hidden in the attic and the basement. In the attic, look for dirty insulation patches where dusty air has leaked out around pipes, wires, vents, or open spaces leading down into walls. Inspect around the chimney or furnace flue and around attic hatches or doors.

•Seal the Gaps. Once you find the leaks, use caulk, expanding spray foam, or foam board to cover the common holes. Caulk is best for small gaps around windows and doors, and the other materials allow you to cover or seal larger spaces. Use metal flashing and high-temperature caulk around chimneys and flues that can get hot. Weather strip attic hatches or doors. These affordable and easy-to-apply products are readily available in home improvement stores.

•Add Insulation. After all major leaks are sealed in the attic, you can add insulation. Even if you already have some, it is often cost effective to add more. Sealing air leaks and adding insulation work together to maximize your comfort and energy savings, so you'll want to do both. Sealing holes is like putting a "windbreaker" on your house, and adding insulation is like a "sweater." On a cold and windy day they work together to keep you warm.

•Look for the Energy Star. If new windows are in your future, be sure to choose Energy Star qualified models to save even more energy and money. They will add an extra defense against extreme weather, and can also make your home quieter.

EPA has a "Do-It-Yourself Guide to Energy Star Home Sealing" at www.energystar.gov/homesealing. The guide includes step-by-step instructions for sealing and insulating yourself, with color photos and diagrams to guide you through the process, and tips on how to make your job easier. If you decide to hire a contractor to do this work, be sure to find one who will seal those attic air leaks before installing the insulation. Making these improvements will help you make it through the winter with more money in your wallet while helping the environment.

BURN BAN IN EFFECT

The Haskell Free Press

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This issue mailed Wed., Dec. 27, 2006



Happy New Year!

Haskell Indians



HASKELL INDIANS: L-r: Coach Lolo Martinez, Travis Adams, Gregg Guzman, Raul Villarreal, Weston Rutkowski, Vicente Castillo, D.J. McCulloch, Samuel Bitner, Derek Agraz, A.J. Alvarez, James Haggard, John English and Coach Toby Villa. Front, Luke Terry, Jared Webb. Photo by Bill Blankenship

Dec. 28 – Dec. 30

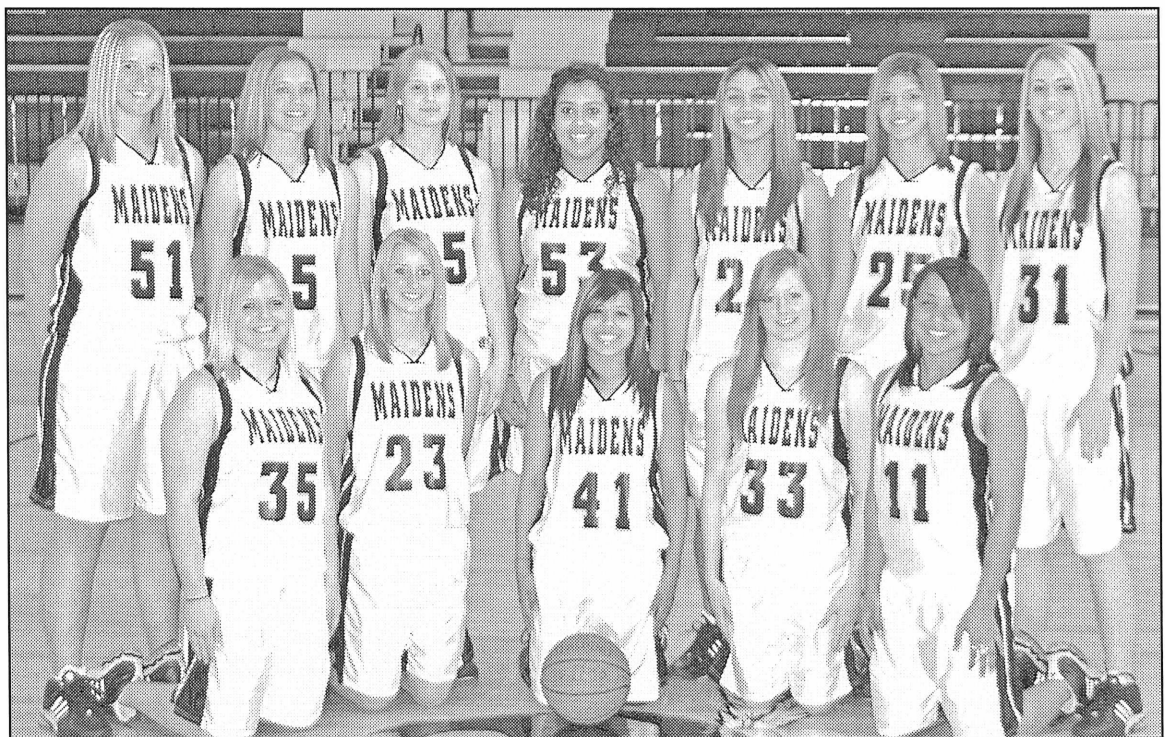
Varsity Boys in Eula Holiday Tournament

Tues., Jan. 2 • 5 p.m.

JV & Varsity Boys vs Colorado City at Haskell



Haskell Maidens



HASKELL MAIDENS: Front, l-r, Lauren Newton, Ashton Rutkowski, Haley Chavez, Hope Reid, Jasmine Thomas; back, Lacey Peiser, Chambray Bartley, Kimberly Medford, Sarah Garcia, Samantha Rodriguez, Molly Agraz, Hanna Wallace. Photo by Bill Blankenship

Dec. 28 – Dec. 30

Varsity Girls in Eula Holiday Tournament

Tues., Jan. 2 • 5 p.m.

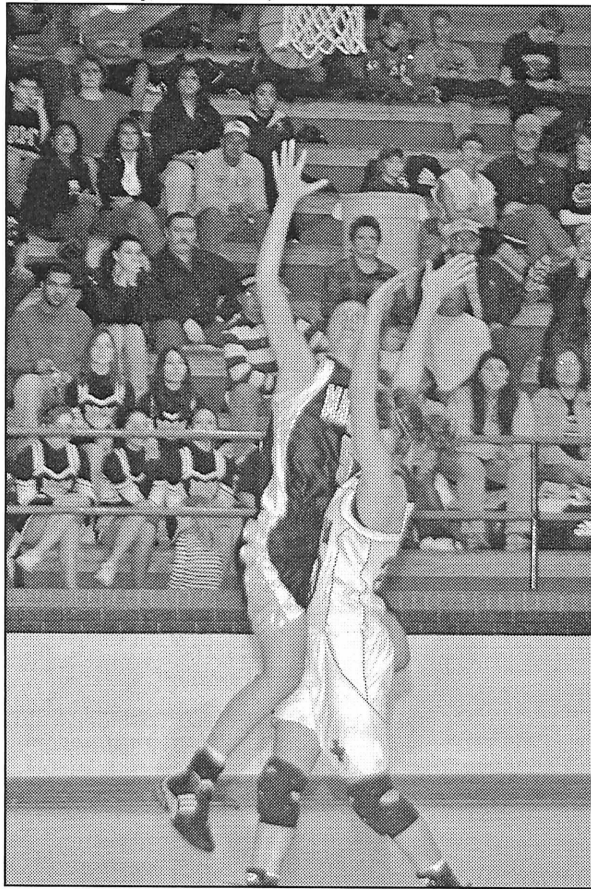
JV & Varsity Girls vs Colorado City at Haskell

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MAIDENS WIN—Chambray Bartley #23 makes a layup in the game against Anson Dec. 19. Bartley added 16 points to the Maidens 54-26 win.
Photo by Bill Blankenship



INDIAN VICTORY—Travis Adams #20 jumps to shoot a basket in the Dec. 19 game against Anson. The Indians took the win, 46-34.
Photo by Bill Blankenship

Area basketball scores

Girls	Hamlin 62, Rule 40
Hamlin 29, Rule 28	Scoring for Rule: Spitzer 14, Ricon 8, Wolf 7, Simpson 6, Hall 3, Bishop 2.
Scoring for Rule: Ke. Scheets 10, Ky. Scheets 8, Brannon 8, Trussell 2.	JV score: Hamlin 41, Rule 16
***	***
Knox City 72, Paint Creek 17	Rule 69, Jayton 61
Scoring for Paint Creek: Walker 5, Powell 4, Stephens 4, Barr 4.	Scoring for Rule: Spencer 27, Rincon 15, Simpson 11, Hall 6, Clark 6, Wolfe 2, Vasquez 2.
***	***
Haskell 54, Anson 26	Rule JV defeated Jayton JV
Scoring for Haskell: Chambray Bartley 16, Samantha Rodriguez 12, Lacey Peiser 10.	***
Boys	Knox City 71, Paint Creek 23
	Scoring for Paint Creek: T. Exum 15, J. Exum 4, Whitfield 4.

Rule Bobcats named to All-State teams

Mike Reed, Rule Bobcats coach, was named the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association Division I All-State Coach of the Year.

J.T. Spitzer, junior; Center, Ty Clark, senior; and Utility Back, C.J. Saucedo, junior.

Rule team members named to the state list include:

First Defense Team: Noseguard, Julian Menchaca, senior; and S., Kade Kittley.

Second Team Defense: Linebacker, Stephen Pace, junior.

Paint Creek School Menu

Jan. 3-5 Breakfast	Monday: No school
Juice and milk are served daily.	Tuesday: No school
Monday: No school	Wednesday: Chicken strips, gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, rolls, chocolate cake
Tuesday: No school	
Wednesday: Toast or cereal	Thursday: Spaghetti, green beans, salad, garlic bread, fruit
Thursday: Biscuits, gravy	Friday: Hot dogs, tater tots, pork-n-beans, carrot sticks, jello
Friday: Donuts	
Lunch	
Milk is served daily.	

ECC Calendar and Menu

Mon., Jan. 1	Fri., Jan. 5
Lunch-closed	Lunch—King Ranch chicken, English peas, glazed carrots, sliced onions, garlic toast, chocolate cake, milk, tea, or coffee
Wed., Jan. 3	Announcements begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch.
Lunch—Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, green beans, yeast rolls, peach cobbler, milk, tea, or coffee	

Students in the News

Maria D. Aguinage received Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees, and Dustin T. Yates received a Master of Science degree during fall graduation ceremonies held at Angelo State University Dec. 16.

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This Week's Devotional Message:



LET THE NEW YEAR INTRODUCE A WHOLE NEW WAY OF LIVING

It's only another night, followed by a day the same length as all the others. However, December 31st is an arbitrary dividing line between one year and the next, a part of the necessity for keeping track of time along with the days, weeks and months. We have further drawn attention to it with elaborate revelry, culminating at the stroke of midnight; and for some of us, followed the next day by a state of remorse and a determination to mend our

ways. We begin every new year in this manner, with a list of sweeping reforms designed to correct all our faults at once; a task usually beyond human compliance. However, if we would just be sensible about both our actions and our expectations, none of this would be necessary. In fact, a regular trip to our house of worship can be far more effective than all those futile efforts at atonement. Try it and see for yourself.

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
Richard Barr, minister
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m.; Thurs. 7 p.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell

Church of God
Bruce Ray, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m.
714 North First East, 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.m., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell

First United Methodist Church
Rev. Daniel Echols, 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.m., 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
Jim Yates, minister
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
510 N. Ave. E, Haskell

First Presbyterian Church
Kelly Pigott, interim 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
Rev. Tom Collins, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
908 N. Ave. A, Haskell

Greater Independent Baptist Church
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
Greg Gasaway, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m.
301 N. Ave. E, Haskell

Church in the Wind
C.C. Curran, pastor
Sun. fellowship 5 p.m. Church 5:30 p.m.
Tues. Bible Class 7:30 p.m.
203 S. 1st East, Haskell

Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church
Dr. Larry Nail, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
1600 N. First St., Haskell

—WEINERT—

First Baptist Church
Dan Bullock, 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, pastor
Sun. 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:00 p.m.
500 Main, Rochester

Union Chapel Baptist Church
Clovis Dever
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
Rev. Daniel Echols, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Rochester

—SAGERTON—

Sagerton Methodist Church
Terry O'Rear, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 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
Terry O'Rear, pastor
Sun. Morn. Worship 8:30 a.m.
1000 Union Ave., Rule

Primera Iglesia Bautista
Alfa y Omegas
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
Larry Neal, pastor
Sun. Morn. 11 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 5 p.m.
Gladstone Ave., Rule

West Bethal Baptist Church
Rev. Clovis Dever
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

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MUNDAY NURSING Center is now taking applications for CNAs, LVNs, and dietary help. Apply in person. 421 W. F St. 481fc

HELP WANTED: Waitresses. Apply in person. Red Rooster Restaurant, 1006 S. Ave. E, Haskell. 51-2c

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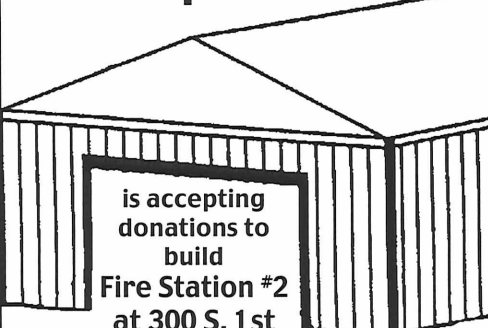


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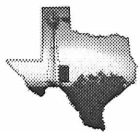
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