

Go Indians. Go Maidens.

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 122-NO. 1, ©JANUARY 3, 2008

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

Basketball games

HASKELL
JVG-B, VG-B vs Coahoma
 Fri., Jan. 4, 4 p.m.
 at Coahoma
JVG-B, VG-B vs Stamford
 Tues., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.
 at Haskell
7th-8th Girls vs Coahoma
 Jan. 7 or Jan. 10, 5 p.m.
 at Rochester
7th-8th Boys vs Coahoma
 Jan. 7 or Jan. 10, 5 p.m.
 at Coahoma

PAINT CREEK
VG-VB vs Aspermont
 Fri., Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m.
 at Aspermont
JH G-B vs Lueders
 Mon., Jan. 7, 6 p.m.
 at Lueders
VG-VB vs Trent
 Tues., Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m.
 at Trent

RULE
JVB at Hamlin Tournament
 Jan. 3-5 at Hamlin
VG, VB vs Trent
 Fri., Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m.
 at Trent
JH G-B vs Trent
 Mon., Jan. 7, 6 p.m.
 at Trent
VG, VB vs Lueders-Avoca
 Tues., Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m.
 at Lueders-Avoca

Calendar

Livestock Show

Tentative arrival times, show schedules and the sale date for the Haskell County Livestock Show include: Arrival: Thurs., Jan. 10, by 4 p.m.: Steers, Heifers, Lambs and Swine. Show: Fri., Jan. 11, 8 a.m. Swine followed by Lambs; 2 p.m. Steers, followed by Heifers. Thurs., Jan. 10, by 5:30 p.m.: Poultry and rabbits. Show at 7 p.m. Sale: Sat., Jan. 12, 11 a.m.

Storm sirens

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

Storytime

Storytime at Haskell County Library is held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Stories, crafts and snacks are offered. Paula Rennegarbe is the storyteller.

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.

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Junior High students compete in UIL events

Haskell sixth graders and Rochester Junior High students participated in junior high level UIL competition Dec. 13 in Stamford and placed second with 799.8 points behind the Stamford team who took first place with a score of 847.5.

Students and their areas of competition included:

Art: 6th grade: Daniel Contreras, fifth place; Colton English, sixth place; Jarred Escobedo, Kyle Kimbrough and Dakota Silvas also competed. 7th grade: Maci Colley, first place; Ashley Adams, second place. Others competing were Madison Mayfield and Morgan Frierson. 8th grade: Krista McLemore, third place; Lynna Billington, fifth place; Sara Duncan, sixth place. Kymbre Kupatt and Sasha Walker also competed. Coaches were Lyndee Gasaway and Jodi Andress.

Calculator: 6th grade: Colton English, first place; J. T. Schmegner, second place; Nikki Ortiz, third place; Emily Fouts, fifth place. 7th grade: Maci Colley, first place; Cailey Foster, second place; Kalyn Wheatley, sixth place. Brett Shelton also competed. 8th grade: Garrett Brueggeman, first place; Jasmine Klose and Zach Wyrick, fifth place tie. Bonnie Fouts and Tracy Frierson are coaches.

Dictionary Skills: 6th grade: Micah Thomas, sixth place. Others competing were Emmett Benton, Nate Dever and Zachary Tatum. 7th grade: Shelby Dunnam, second place. Others competing were Caitlan Johnson, Ashley Adams and Tyrone Neskoriik. 8th grade: Ryan Baumbach, sixth place. A.J. Rodriquez and Mackenzie Thomas also competed. Coaches are Amy Sloan and Jodi Andress.

Editorial writing: 7th grade: Madison Mayfield, first place. Others competing were Phillip Coleman, Preston Morrow and Carson Hadaway. 8th grade: Sonya Rodriguez, fourth place; Sasha Walker, fifth place; Lynna Billington, sixth place. Valerie Gonzalez also competed. Jodi Andress is their coach.

Impromptu speaking: 7th grade: Cole Ray Hutchinson, second place. Others competing were Morgan Frierson, Preston Morrow and Levi Grand. 8th grade: Valerie Gonzalez, third place; Brady Leach, fourth place; Laycee Tullos, fifth place; Sasha Walker, sixth place. Cathy Bartley is the coach.

Listening: 6th grade: Seth Rock, fourth place. Other competing were Jarred Escobedo, Nate Dever and Dakota Silvas. 7th grade: Brett Shelton, first place; Levi Grand, third place. Others competing were Phillip Coleman and

Gabriel Torres. 8th grade: Ryan Baumbach, first place; Jim Young and Adrian Hernandez, tie for fifth place. Sterling Bird also competed. Coaches are Lyndee Gasaway and Cathy Bartley.

Maps, Graphs and Charts: 6th grade: Zachary Tatum, fourth place; J.T. Schmegner, fifth place. 7th grade: Carson Hadaway, second place; Kalyn Wheatley, third place. Others competing were Phillip Coleman and Caitlan Johnson. 8th grade: Competitors were Lynna Billington, A.J. Rodriquez, Ryan Baumbach and Sterling Bird. LaKay Gibbs and Betsy Coleman are their coaches.

Mathematics: 6th grade: Dakota Silvas, fourth place; Aaron Waggoner, sixth place. Daniel Contreras and Nate Dever also competed. 7th grade: Kaylyn Wheatley, fourth place. Others competing were Shelby Dunnam, Morgan Frierson and Destini Raynes. 8th grade: Garrett Brueggeman, first place; Jasmine Klose, second place; Koby Foster, fifth place. Zach Wyrick also competed. Coaches are Bonnie Fouts and Tracy Frierson.

Modern oratory: 7th grade: Competing was Phillip Coleman. 8th grade: Brady Leach, fifth place; Valerie Gonzales, sixth place. Coach is Jodi Andress.

Music memory: 6th grade: Emily Fouts, first place. Melodee Christian was the coach.

Number sense: 6th grade: Aaron Waggoner, first place; Marlee Andrada, third place; Colton English, fourth place. 7th grade: Maci Colley, first place; Madison Mayfield, second place; Carson Hadaway, fourth place. Veronica Robledo also competed. 8th grade: Garrett Brueggeman, first place; Jasmine Klose, second place; Koby Foster, fourth place. Bonnie Fouts and Tracy Frierson were their coaches.

Oral reading: 6th grade: Colton English, first place; Kaley Mathis, second place. Meg Glover and Emily Fouts also competed. 7th grade: Cailey Foster, second place; Taylor Burson, sixth place. Others competing were Maci Colley and Levi Grand. 8th grade: Lisa Hibbitts, fourth place. Other competitors were Stewart Ulrich, Kymbre Kupatt and Laycee Tullos. Caron Yates and Jodi Andress were their coaches.

Ready writing: 6th grade: Lucy Carmichael, sixth place. Nate Dever and J.T. Schmegner also competed. 7th grade: Maci Colley, first place; Ashley Adams, third place; Destini Raynes, fourth place. Veronica Robledo also competed. 8th grade: Lisa Hibbitts, third place; A.J. Rodriquez, sixth place; Laycee Tullos and Jasmine Klose also competed. Tonya Cypert and

Cathy Bartley were their coaches.

Science: Phillip Coleman, third place tie; Levi Grand, third place tie; Brett Shelton, sixth place tie. Cailey Foster also competed. 8th grade: Adrian Hernandez, third place. Jim Young, Koby Foster and Zach Wyrick also competed. Betsy Coleman was the coach.

Social Studies: 6th grade: Zierra Alexander, first place; Andrew Hearn, third place; Aaron

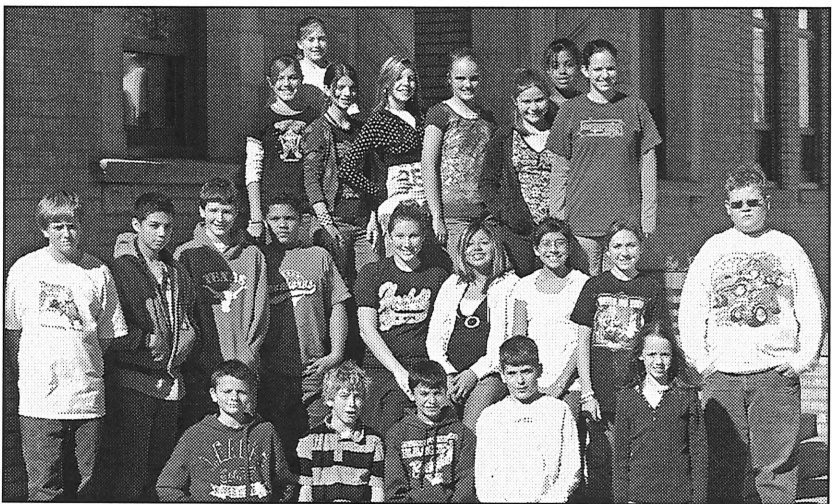
Urlich, fourth place. Nikki Ortiz also competed. 7th grade: Cailey Foster, second place; Levi Grand, fourth place tie; David Newton, sixth place. Cannon Edwards also competed. 8th grade: Kymbre Kupatt, fifth place; Stewart Ulrich, sixth place. Lynna Billington and Krista McLemore also competed. Tonya Cypert and Betsy Coleman were their coaches.

Spelling: 6th grade: Zachary Tatum, third place; Lucy

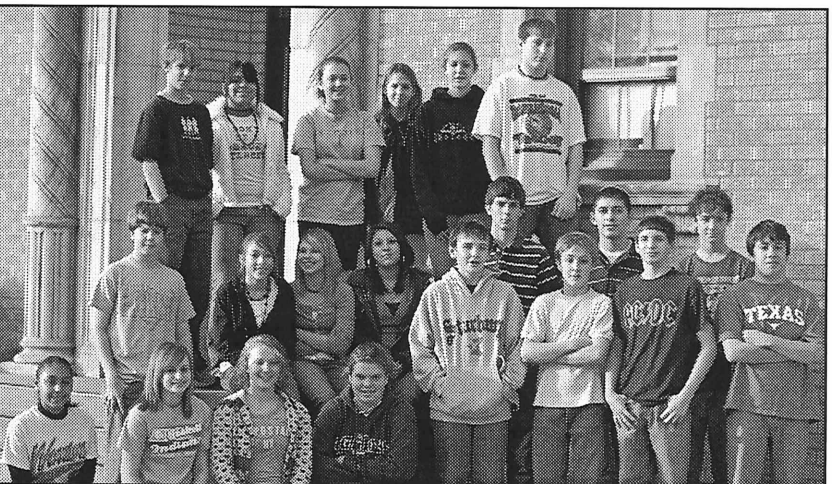
Carmichael, fourth place; Meg Glover, fifth place. Cheyanne Hill also competed. 7th grade: Carson Hadaway, first place; Maegan Gonzales, fourth place tie. Others competing were Morgan Frierson and Tyrone Neskoriik. 8th grade: Mackenzie Thomas, first place; Krista McLemore, second place; Lisa Hibbitts, third place; Adrian Hernandez, fifth place. Coaches were Sherry Adams and Cathy Bartley.



HASKELL UIL SIXTH GRADE COMPETITORS: Front row, l-r, Cheyanne Hill, Zierra Alexander, Nikki Ortiz, Kaley Mathis, Lucy Carmichael, Meg Glover and Marlee Andrada; middle row, Daniel Contreras, Seth Rock, Zachary Tatum, Nate Dever, Emily Fouts, Micah Thomas, Kyle Kimbrough and Andrew Silvas; back row, J.T. Schmegner, Colton English, Emmett Benton, Dakota Silvas, Aaron Urlich, Aaron Waggoner and Jarred Escobedo.



ROCHESTER UIL SEVENTH GRADE COMPETITORS: Front row, l-r, Phillip Coleman, Daivid Newton, Cannon Edwards, Cole Ray Hutchinson and Kalyn Wheatley; middle row, Levi Grand, Gabriel Torres, Brett Shelton, Tyrone Neskoriik, Carson Hadaway, Maegan Gonzalez, Veronica Robledo, Madison Mayfield and Preston Morrow; back row, Cailey Foster, Ashley Adams, Morgan Frierson, Shelby Dunnam, Maci Colley, Destini Raynes, Caitlan Johnson and Taylor Burson.



ROCHESTER UIL EIGHTH GRADE COMPETITORS: Front row, Lynna Billington, Lisa Hibbitts, Mackenzie Thomas, Jasmine Klose, Brady Leach, Koby Foster, Stewart Ulrich and A.J. Rodriguez; middle row: Garrett Brueggeman, Sasha Walker, Kymbre Kupatt, Sonya Rodriguez, Sterling Bird, Adrian Hernandez and Ryan Baumbach; back row, Jim Young, Valerie Gonzalez, Laycee Tullos, Krista McLemore, Sara Duncan and Cody Wyrick.

Sport-About burglary occurs on Christmas Eve

Early on Christmas Eve morning burglars broke the glass door of Sport-About on the northside of the square with a rock and made entry into the business.

Haskell City Police Officer Steve Grand reports that a barbell was removed from the front

window area to break the glass display case to gain access to several pistols. He noted that the glass display was not locked.

Several rifles were removed from the wall display of the store.

Not much else was disturbed during the break in. The incident is still under investigation.

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2008 Spring Registration
 www.vernoncollege.edu

Wichita Falls Registration
 January 9

Vernon Registration
 January 10

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 325-660-2958

TAX PLANNING

Written By
Gerald Rodgers, CPA



THE IRS HAS RULES ON BORROWING MONEY FROM YOUR CORPORATION

Borrowing from your closely held corporation may seem simple, but without proper planning it can be painfully expensive. The IRS often reviews such loans to determine if they're merely disguised cash withdrawals. For example, the IRS may treat an improperly structured loan as a dividend, which would be taxable to you and not deductible by the corporation.

The IRS generally asks the following questions when evaluating a corporation's loan to one of its shareholders:

- Does the borrowing shareholder control the corporation? The greater the degree of control, the more closely the loan will be scrutinized.
- Did the corporation require adequate collateral for the loan?
- Is the borrower financially able to repay the loan within a reasonable time period?
- Did the shareholder sign a promissory note with an appropriate interest rate, a reasonable repayment schedule, and a fixed maturity date?
- Has the borrower been making the required payments on schedule?
- If the borrower missed a payment(s), has the corporation tried to collect?

When a corporation lends money to one of its shareholders, the transaction should be structured as though it were being made to an unrelated party—a stranger. The borrower should sign a promissory note that includes payment terms and a final due date. At a minimum, interest should be charged at the IRS statutory rate in effect at the time of the loan. Requiring adequate collateral will be regarded as a favorable indicator by the IRS, although it is not mandatory. The terms of the loan should be voted on by the Board of Directors, and the details should be entered into the corporate minutes. The borrower should make payments according to the agreed-upon schedule.

Since circumstances are different for each corporation and each shareholder, you should always consult your accountant before transferring money from your company. If we can be of assistance, call us.

RODGERS & COMPANY
 Certified Public Accountant
 20 Southwest Third Street
 Hamlin, Texas • 325-576-2356

Haskell School Menu

Jan. 7-11 Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily on the breakfast menu.
Monday: Breakfast pizza
Tuesday: Sausage, biscuit
Wednesday: Cereal, donut
Thursday: Pig in a blanket
Friday: No school

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 strips, gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli and cheese, hot roll, pineapple tidbits
Tuesday: Frito pie, cheese, salsa, corn, garden salad, peaches
Wednesday: Spaghetti with beef sauce, Italian green beans, garden salad, peanut butter pie
Thursday: BBQ on a bun, curly fries, pickle spears, orange slices
Friday: No school

Paint Creek School Menu

Jan. 7-11 Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Toast or cereal
Tuesday: Biscuits, gravy
Wednesday: Pancakes
Thursday: Donuts
Friday: No school

Lunch
 Milk is served daily.
Monday: Tacos, refried beans, corn, salad, applesauce cake
Tuesday: Chicken strips, gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, peach cobbler
Wednesday: Vegetable beef soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, carrot sticks, peanut butter bars
Thursday: Ham or turkey sandwiches, lettuce, tomatoes, chips, cookies
Friday: No school

Haskell County Gin Report

Dec. 27, 2007

Haskell	O'Brien
Haskell County Gin 5,700	O'Brien Co-op Gin 17,600
Haskell Co-op Gin 7,910	
Rule	
Rule Co-op Gin 8,144	
Weinert	
Griff's Gin 3,392	
Weinert Gin 5,713	
Total bales 48,459	

New Year... Improved You!! INDIANS FOR HEALTH

Sponsored by Haskell CISD



Classes start Tues., Jan. 8

Sign up now for only \$25/month!
 Or sign up with a friend for \$20/month!
 ALL groups are meeting at the Haskell Hospital Educational Building!
 Schedule is for Jan. 8 - Feb. 4.
 (Tues. p.m. classes will not meet on Jan. 15)

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.
	6 a.m. "Burn" Jennifer		6 a.m. "Burn" Jennifer	6 a.m. "Burn" Jennifer
	4:30 p.m. "Get Fit" Cathy	4:30 p.m. "Get Fit" Cathy	4:30 p.m. "Get Fit" Cathy	
5:15 p.m. "Tone Up" Misty	5:15 p.m. "Tone Up" Misty	6 p.m. "Burn" Jennifer		

"Burn" - 20 min. aerobic activity w/20 min. strengthening
 "Get Fit" - Low Impact Aerobics & Stretching
 "Tone Up" - Toning Exercises (bring 2-5 lb. weights)



For more information, call Jennifer at 207-0505

Obituaries

L.C. Johnson Sr.



L.C. JOHNSON SR.

Funeral services for L.C. Johnson Sr., 90, of Haskell were held Sun., Dec. 30 at Greater Independent Baptist Church in Haskell. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mr. Johnson died Thurs., Dec. 27 at his residence.

Born Aug. 16, 1917 in Waco, he was the son of James E. Johnson and Maggie Washington Johnson. He served in the United States Army from 1942-45. He married Alice Lewis April 22, 1945 in Haskell. He was ordained

as a minister in 1975. He retired from ministry after 15 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Maggie Johnson; and wife, Alice Lewis Johnson.

Survivors include his children, Otis T. Johnson and Ollie D. Johnson, both of Arlington, Robert E. Johnson, L.C. Johnson Jr., and Johnnie L. Johnson, all of Haskell; sister, Maggie Hubert of Waco; 12 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

PD. NOTICE

Betty Ann Dodson



BETTY ANN DODSON

Funeral services for Betty Ann Dodson, 78, of Haskell were held Sat., Dec. 29 at First Christian Church in Haskell with Dusty Garrison and Richard Barr officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Starbuck Funeral Home of Merkel.

Mrs. Dodson died Mon., Dec. 24 in Merkel.

Born July 12, 1929 in Haskell County, she was the daughter of Theodore Willard Free and Velma Estelle Weaver Free. She married Leon L. 'Dobber' Dodson Oct.

15, 1949 in Haskell. He preceded her in death Aug. 28, 1995.

Betty graduated as valedictorian from Mattson High School in 1946. She began her lifelong love of sewing at age seven by hemming cup towels. Betty enjoyed sewing for the public for many years and then worked nine years sewing for the Herman Marcus factory. She worked over ten years in alterations at the Personality-Slipper Shoppe under previous owners and over 13 years in alterations and sales for the current owners. Betty continued sewing, doing alterations, and making crafts for people out of her home. She was a member of the First Christian Church and Ladies Missionary Society. She always had a positive attitude and was known as an encourager and example for others fighting cancer. She enjoyed visiting others weekly in the local nursing center and hospital, offering words of support. Betty loved the Lord, her family, church family and friends and was always willing to help others. She was an

extraordinary lady, friend, mother, and 'Memaw.' She will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her son, David 'Dobber' Dodson and wife, Lynn of Haskell; her daughter, Lu Ann Williams and husband, Benny of Merkel; two granddaughters, Hilee Mulligan of Dallas, and Courtney Stanley and husband, Logan of San Antonio; great grandson, Weiss Stanley of San Antonio; two sisters, Frances Lewis of Abilene, and Lula Faye Peiser and husband, Otto of Lubbock; two brothers, Bobby Free and wife, Helen of Muleshoe, and Willard Free and wife, Nell of Lamesa.

Betty and her family would like to thank Dr. Mark Reedy and his staff, Hendrick Oncology Group and Hendrick Hospice for their care and compassion shown during her battle with cancer.

Memorials may be made to Hendrick Hospice Care, P.O. Box 1922, Abilene, Texas 79604 or First Christian Church, 107 N. Ave. F, Haskell, Texas 79521.

PD. NOTICE

Nadine Middleton

Funeral services for Nadine Middleton, 90, of Haskell were held Sun., Dec. 30 at First United Methodist Church in Haskell with Tom Long officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mrs. Middleton died Fri., Dec. 28 at Community Care Home in Stamford.

Born April 25, 1917 in Lingelville, she was the daughter of J.A. McMahan and Mary Fransis McMahan. She married David Alton Middleton Oct. 6, 1934 in Lamesa. He preceded her in death Jan. 12, 1998. She was a member of Eastern Star, Sons

of Hermann Lodge and First United Methodist Church of Haskell.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four sisters and one brother.

Survivors include sons, Fred Middleton of Dallas, and David Middleton and wife, Patti of Haskell; daughter, Elaine Davis of Fort Davis; brother, Twain McMahan of Lubbock; sister, Maxine Whatley of Hemet, California; eight grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church of Haskell.

PD. NOTICE

Prevent spread of oak wilt

Texas Forest Service is encouraging Texans to be careful when collecting and purchasing firewood at this time of year. Transporting and storing diseased wood is a known means of spreading the devastating oak wilt

fungus to previously uninfected neighborhoods.

Utilizing these prevention steps is the key to safeguarding against spreading the disease through the selection and use of firewood:

- Select well-seasoned firewood. Well-seasoned wood is cut before the summer and is typically dry with loose bark and cracked ends. Avoid oak wood that appears unseasoned, that may have tight bark and cut ends which show no cracks or signs of aging. The extreme heat and drying of a full Texas summer effectively destroys the fungus in cut firewood.
- Safely store unknown sources of firewood. If the oak wood comes from an unknown source and it is not well seasoned, cover the woodpile with a clear piece of plastic. Burying the edges of the plastic will prevent the entry or exit of insects that might have been attracted to diseased wood and fungal mats.
- Destroy diseased red oaks. A knowledgeable arborist or forester should diagnose red oaks (i.e., Texas red, blackjack or shumard oak) that die rapidly (2-3 weeks) or in groups (2 or more trees over several years) for oak wilt. Trees suspected to have died recently from oak wilt should be destroyed by burning, burying or chipping. The heat of a fire destroys the

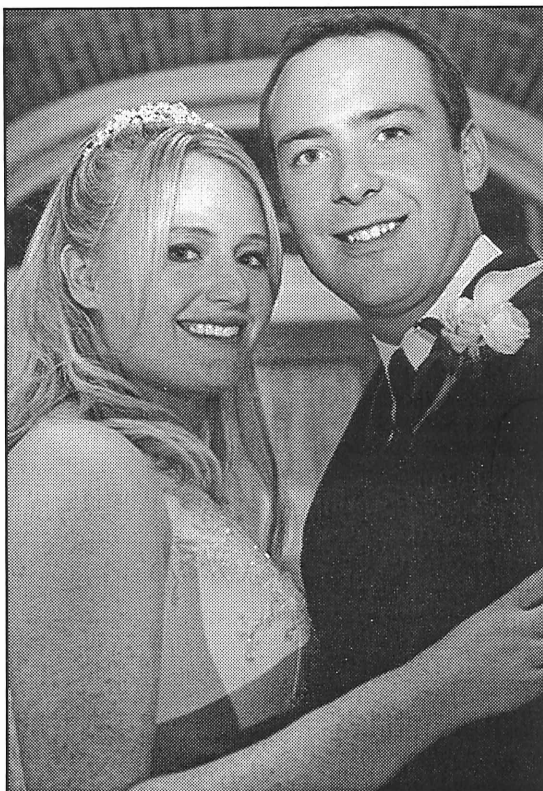
fungus and the smoke emitted poses no threat to healthy trees.

When planning to do any outdoor burning, be sure and check with local officials to see if an outdoor burning ban is in place for your county and take care not to burn on windy days with low humidity.

- Avoid wounding oaks during vulnerable seasons. The general recommendation is to avoid injuries to oaks from February through June. The best times for pruning of oaks are during the heat of summer (minimal spore production) or the cold of winter (minimal insect activity).
- Paint all oak wounds including pruning cuts. Throughout the year, immediately apply a thin coat of latex or pruning paint to all fresh wounds and other injuries that expose the inner bark or sapwood of oaks. This prevents contaminated sap beetles from infecting the wound with oak wilt spores.

Oak firewood is an important commodity to Texans, whether it is used for firing up the barbecue pit or for warming up the home on a cold winter day. By selecting well-seasoned, disease-free firewood and by following other disease prevention guidelines, homeowners are taking the correct steps to prevent a new oak wilt disease outbreak in their neighborhood.

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Fitzharris, Coody wed at Thistle Hill

Kelly Marie Fitzharris and Michael Benton Coody were united in marriage Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. at Thistle Hill in Fort Worth with Dr. Don Benton, grandfather of the groom, officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Kevin and Cindy Fitzharris of Fort Worth. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.B. Ivey of Haskell.

The groom is the son of Donna Benton, and David and Lisa Coody, all of Dallas.

Thistle Hill is a residential landmark of historic Fort Worth and one of the most impressive surviving mansions of the 'Cattle Baron' era. The entry hall features a grand staircase, which formed the backdrop for the ceremony.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride was escorted by her father. She wore an elegant gown of Godavari silk accented with pearl and crystal beading. Completing her ensemble, she wore a tiered veil of fine silk adorned with pearls.

Christopher Fitzharris, brother of the bride, escorted the mothers of the bride and groom. Calla lilies and roses in various shades of peach flanked the grand staircase.

Guests mingled throughout the main wing of Thistle Hill during the reception as harpist and violinist played.

The three-tiered bride's cake was adorned with various shades of peach porcelain sugar flowers and was flavored with French vanilla and apricot. Baby pictures of the bride and groom, featured in glass and pewter frames, completed the bride's table. A sculpted banana nut cake of 'Bevo,' the University of Texas Longhorn mascot was the centerpiece of the groom's table. Antique goblets filled with chocolate footballs flanked the cake, and a graduation portrait of the couple at the University of Texas Clock Tower finished the table.

The rehearsal dinner was hosted by the groom's parents in Fort Worth. Guests were treated to a slide show featuring scenes of the bride and groom from their infancy to adulthood.

The bride is a 2006 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Relations. She is employed by Wachovia Bank in Fort Worth.

The groom is a 2006 University of Texas at Austin graduate, having earned a Bachelor of Arts in English. He is employed by Wachovia Bank in Colleyville.

The couple makes their home in Fort Worth.

Installation of officers set for area lodges

Grand Finance Committee Member Calvin Rueter of the Order of the Sons of Hermann in Texas, assisted by Lisa Jost, a member of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Activities Committee, will install officers from five Old Glory area Hermann Sons lodges at 10 a.m. Sat., Jan. 12, at the Old Glory Hermann Sons Lodge Hall in Old Glory.

In addition to the host lodge, Old Glory Lodge No. 228, leadership teams will be installed from Abilene Lodge No. 50, Rowena Lodge No. 216, Haskell Lodge No. 241 and Roscoe Lodge No. 257.

Hermann Sons is a not-for-profit fraternal insurance society. Widely known for its volunteerism, Hermann Sons

offers its members a variety of life insurance plans, annuity and IRA products plus other services.

Two German immigrants from New York organized the first Hermann Sons Lodge (Harmonia) in San Antonio in 1861. The Grand Lodge was formed in 1890.

The more than 75,000 members belong to one of 142 local lodges across Texas and have access to a wide range of fraternal benefits, including 34 tuition-free dance schools for its junior members age 3 through 17, a camp for its junior members age 9 through 13 and a retirement home. The youth camp and the retirement home are situated on a 330-acre tract near Comfort.

Gifted students sought by Haskell CISD

Haskell CISD conducts a gifted education program for students with above average potential in academic and creative-productive thinking skills areas in grades K-12. This program is designed to challenge students to accelerate above and beyond the regular school curriculum.

Anyone wishing to nominate a student believed to be an intellectually or creatively gifted learner is encouraged to come by Haskell High School Office, Rochester Junior High Office, or Haskell Elementary Office to pick up the necessary forms.

Offices are open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students nominated will go through a screening procedure that requires special testing. At the time of nomination, parents will be requested to grant permission for this test.

Nomination period for Haskell CISD is Jan. 4-17. During this time applications may be picked up at any of the three campuses to nominate a student. Completed applications should be returned to the campus office by Jan. 17.

For any assistance, contact Debbie Miller at 940-864-2654 #306.


CLEARANCE SALE
begins Wed., Jan. 2
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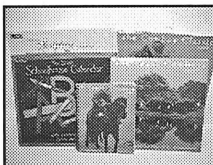
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Now available in store:
4"x6," 5"x7," 8"x10" Prints
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or Bring in a photo to scan
to make prints, reprints or enlargements.

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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

New year kicks off with 22 state laws

AUSTIN—The 80th Texas Legislature last spring passed 22 pieces of legislation enacting state laws to take effect Jan. 1.

Here is a whittled down version of what just a few of those new laws do, based on analyses published by the House Research Organization and the Senate Research Center.

***HB 271** by Rep. Veronica Gonzales, D-McAllen, amends the Property Code by requiring a home seller to disclose to a buyer whether they are aware of any previous use of the residence as a methamphetamine lab.

***HB 310** by Rep. Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas, amends the Transportation Code so that a vehicle's license plate and registration transfer with the person selling or trading in that vehicle.

***HB 481** by Rep. Jim Jackson, R-Carrollton, amends the Transportation Code to allow the seller of a used vehicle to report the sale to TxDOT through the agency's Web site within 30 days, in lieu of filing a written and signed transfer notice. The bill also increases the penalty for the buyer of a used car that did not transfer the title within the 20-business-day grace period.

***HB 538** by Rep. Bill Callegari, R-Katy, amends the Tax Code to allow a property owner to postpone their appraisal protest one time without showing cause, and increasing the postponement period from 15 to 30 days.

***HB 1751** by Rep. Ellen Cohen, D-Houston, amends the Business and Commerce Code and Government Code by imposing a fee of \$5 on a sexually oriented business providing live nude entertainment. Up to \$25 million in money generated by the fee, per fiscal biennium, goes to the state's sexual assault program fund. The amount of money received from the fee in excess of \$25 million goes to the state's general revenue fund.

***HB 3495** by Rep. John Otto, R-Dayton, amends the Tax Code regarding the notice of an open meeting at which a governing body of a taxing unit will vote on a tax increase.

The notice now must include:

- Dates on which the first and second public hearings on the proposed tax increase were held;
- Total tax revenue raised at last year's tax rate;
- Amount of total tax revenue proposed to be raised excluding tax revenue to be raised from new

property added to the tax roll;

- Amount of total tax revenue proposed to be raised including the tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll;

- The proposed tax rate; and
- The mailing address of the location where the meeting to vote on the tax rate will be held.

A complete listing of new laws taking effect on Jan. 1 can be found by using the bill search function at www.legis.state.tx.us.

Murdock named Census director

The U.S. Senate on Dec. 20 confirmed Steve H. Murdock as director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Nominated for the federal agency post by President George W. Bush, Murdock has been based at the University of Texas at San Antonio, serving as director of the Texas State Data Center.

State agency warns of scammers

The Texas Department of Insurance cautions seniors to beware of suspicious sales practices by scammers who represent themselves to be insurance agents.

Be especially cautious of unsolicited contacts in which someone tries to obtain information by asking another to complete studies or surveys or asks nursing home personnel to gather the information, the state agency said.

Agents and companies must be licensed in Texas to sell insurance. To verify a license, call toll-free, 800-252-3439.

TCEQ approves penalties

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Dec. 19 approved penalties totaling \$593,897 against 76 regulated entities for violations of environmental regulations.

Among those many violations were 13 for air quality, 14 for municipal waste discharge, 10 for public water system and seven for water quality.

Warning: think before giving drink

Alan Steen of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission reminds folks it is against the law to give alcohol to anyone under 21 (other than your child) even in your own residence, even with parent's permission.

Maximum criminal penalties for violators include up to a \$4,000 fine, up to one year in jail and an automatic suspension of a driver's license for six months upon conviction.



From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago January 1, 1998

Ellen Rieger and her first grade students of Rule school presented a Christmas program of songs and poems for the Philadelphian Club members. Present were Andrew Hertel, Steven Anderson, Zeb Petty, Lee Jones, Joshua Ramierz, Richie Rogers, Rance Sorley, Vennie Tabb, Ryan Anerson, KristiJudy, Holly Dudensing, Brittany Lammert, Kati Knauss, Kelsie Miller, Lacey Stephens and Sonya Camacho.

Haskell Hospital Auxiliary presented appreciation pins to its members for the year from June 1996 to June 1997. The following members received pins: Margie Cardwell, Oleta Cornelius, Jessie Couch, Alma Counts, Marie Culberth, Betty LeFevre, Debbie Kreger, Don Kreger, Ruby Martin, Bennie Shelton, Alma Solomon, Travis Solomon, Charles Swenson, Coleta Whitfield and Nancy Matthews. Clayton and Paula Stegemoeller, Stephanie and Michelle visited in the home of her parents, Wilton and Dixie Payne of Tahoka.

Donny, Diane and Eric Barbee of Big Spring and Jessica Row of Whiteface visited with Jack Monse's and Donny's family in Rule.

Corene Lowack had Christmas dinner for her son and family, Alden, Janice and Ricky Lowack of Old Glory, Bobby and Kim Lowack of Sagerton.

20 Years Ago January 7, 1988

Claudia Reid of Rocheter won the first Haskell Free Press football contest by picking 12 of the 17 bowl games.

Haskell School Board members amend school calendar and shorten school year by four days.

Clotilda Moeller retires from Rice Springs Care Home after 20 years of service as the food service supervisor.

The Haskell Future Homemakers of America had a Christmas party for elementary children. Gifts were exchanged and Christmas carols sung. Bo Watson, FHA beau, attended the party and he was presented with a gift. Hostesses were Sheree Marr, Jennifer Hays and JoAnn Villa.

Justin and Rance Parrott of Wichita Falls spent the holidays with their grandparents, Doris and Jerry Walker.

Haskell Indians and Maidens opened the season with victories over Hamlin Pied Pipers.

Haskell cheerleaders; Lori Alvarez, Sheree Dumas, Teresa Unger, Missy Phemister, Vicky Chavez and Joy McKeever went to Nashville, Tennessee for the National Championships and met Roy Acuff.

30 Years Ago January 5, 1978

Marcus Overton, the first 1978 baby born in Haskell County, was born Jan. 3, at Haskell Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Wallar Overton.

Lee Bahney opens a bookkeeping and tax service business in Haskell. His wife, Marilyn, is a school teacher and they have two sons, John and Aaron.

Two were indicted on theft of a motor vehicle charges. Serving on the grand jury were Lucy Denson, foreman, Glen Sammons, Janette Frierson, J.W. Wallace, Jr., Barbara Elliott, H.E. Bland, Clifford Byrd, Jerry Carver, Delbert Hayes, Paul Grinstead and Chesley Forehand.

Visiting the E.L. Hillard's home were their daughter and grandchildren, Mrs. Gary Shaw, Dawn, Karen, Laren and Marshall of Bryan.

Visiting Della Lou Cox were her children, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Cox of Odessa, daughter, Louise Temple and daughter, Nicole, of Irving and Mr. and Mrs. Othello Cox of Odessa.

40 Years Ago January 4, 1968

Dr. Allen O. Webb of Jackson, Mississippi visited in the home of Walter Rogers.

Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson and daughters, Cheryl, Vickie and Beth of Mobile, Alabama visited in the home of Ann Howard.

J.L. Mapes of Indio, California, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mapes of Ventura, California and Mr. and Mrs. Don Mapes of Brentwood, California visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. McCollum of Dallas, Mr. and Mrs. Elvyn Jordan of San Antonio and Mr. and Mrs. John Jordan of San Antonio visited in the home of Mrs. N.I. McCollum.

50 Years Ago January 2, 1958

Guests in the home of Mrs. J.L. Dilbeck were her children, Mr. and Mrs. D.M. Kingston of Palestine, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Alton Dilbeck of Amarillo and a sister-in-law, Mrs. C.F. Graham.

Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Sandefer, Jeanine, Sonya and Shirley of Killeen visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Lambert.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. McCullum and Sheila of Dallas, Mr. and Mrs. Elvyn Jordan and Johnnie of San Antonio visited in the home of N.I. McCollum.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Elmore, owners and operators of the Hammer Laundry, have announced the addition of a Maytag Coin-Operated Laundry to their business.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Mayfield of Fort Stockton visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Liles for the holidays.

Darrell Ray Flippin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Ray Flippin, is the first baby born at Haskell County Hospital in 1958.

100 Years Ago January 4, 1908

The Abbott pasture, eight miles north of Haskell, is on the market to actual settlers, in tracts from 80 acres to whatever may be desired.

W.B. Herring and Gillie Hillard and C.K. Ford and Nora Herring were duly united in marriage by Pastor J.T. Nicholson in front of the Baptist parsonage.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Grissom spent the day with Mr. and Mrs. W.V. Day east of town.

Chester Jones returned to Abilene where he is attending Simmons College.

Cotton Market Weekly

By Plains Cotton Cooperative Association

December 27, 2007

Thursday, cotton futures on the New York Board of Trade settled at their highest level since early 2004 on sustained all-around buying as expected lower U.S. cotton plantings next year stoked a rally in the market.

"Expectations that U.S. cotton plantings in 2008 will fall sharply due to market rallies that have lifted grains like corn and wheat, among others, to multi-year highs has provided robust support for cotton futures recently," an analyst said.

U.S. 2007 cotton plantings stood at 10.847 million acres. Earlier this month, private forecasts pegged the 2008 crop at 9.185 million acres, which would be the lowest planted to cotton since 1983, according to USDA data. Analysts also said the appetite to buy cotton may have been tied to end of the month, end of the quarter, or end of the year buying which should persist until Jan. 1.

USDA's export sales report did little to sway the market in either direction. The department reported net export sales of U.S. cotton totaled 134,200 bales in the week ended Dec. 20. The figure was equal to sales made the previous week, but 44 percent less than the four-week average. Major buyers were Indonesia, China, Mexico, Thailand and Colombia.

Export shipments of 172,800 bales were 15 percent more than the week earlier, but 14 percent lower than the four-week average. Primary destinations were Turkey, China, Indonesia and Thailand.

On the spot cotton scene, online trading by producers in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas totaled 65,747 bales in the holiday-shortened week ended Dec. 27 compared to 82,882 bales the previous week. Average prices received by producers ranged from 60.65 to 60.94 cents per pound versus 58.77 to 60.05 cents per pound one week earlier.

Meanwhile, crisp, cool weather prevailed across most of the Cotton Belt over the four-day Christmas holiday weekend. A mixture of light rain and snow fell on the Texas High and Rolling Plains early in the weekend, but accumulations were light. Below-average temperatures followed, with daytime highs ranging from the mid 30s to upper 40 degrees. More reasonable conditions returned later in the week and snow flurries were reported in some locations. A vast majority of the fields on the Texas Plains already have been harvested. Modules still line the fields, and most large gins expect to gin cotton into February and later.

Elsewhere in the state, open, dry conditions ruled in the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley. Abnormally warm temperatures prevailed with daytime highs in the upper 70s. Thus, soil moisture evaporation rates were increasing.

Beneficial precipitation fell in parts of the Southeast over the holiday weekend and light rain was received in the Carolinas this week as showers slowly moved across the South. According to USDA's drought monitor data, an exceptional drought continues in key cotton growing areas of Alabama and Georgia. Picking is virtually complete in Georgia, and ginning is nearing an end. Rainy weather there this week was welcome to help ease dry conditions.

Bone density scans help slow progression of osteoporosis

Women should start undergoing bone density scans in their early 40s, a UT Southwestern Medical Center orthopaedic surgeon says.

"Bone scans alert us to women who might be prone to osteoporosis and we can prescribe medications that slow the progression of the disease," says Dr. Kimberly Mezera.

Osteoporosis is a gradual weakening of bones that can lead to fragility and make women susceptible to fractures. When women are in their 50s, all should have at least one baseline scan. Patients typically lie down for a bone density scan, which is similar to having an X-ray taken.

Women who have a strong family history of osteoporosis and women who are post-menopausal

should be particularly vigilant about getting regular bone density scans so that any weakening in the bones can be diagnosed early and treated, Dr. Mezera says.

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor,
The Haskell Goodfellows would like to express sincere thanks to those who helped with our 2007 project. The donations of money, food, toys and time are appreciated. A total of 50 packages were distributed to needy families.

This year's Goodfellows project was a community effort, which was spearheaded by the

Haskell Lions Club, the Haskell County Child Welfare Board and the Haskell Fire Department. Also assisting in this endeavor was the Haskell Free Press.

Sincerely,
Donnie Rieger
Haskell Lions Club
and Linda Haynes
Haskell Co.
Child Welfare Board

The Haskell Free Press

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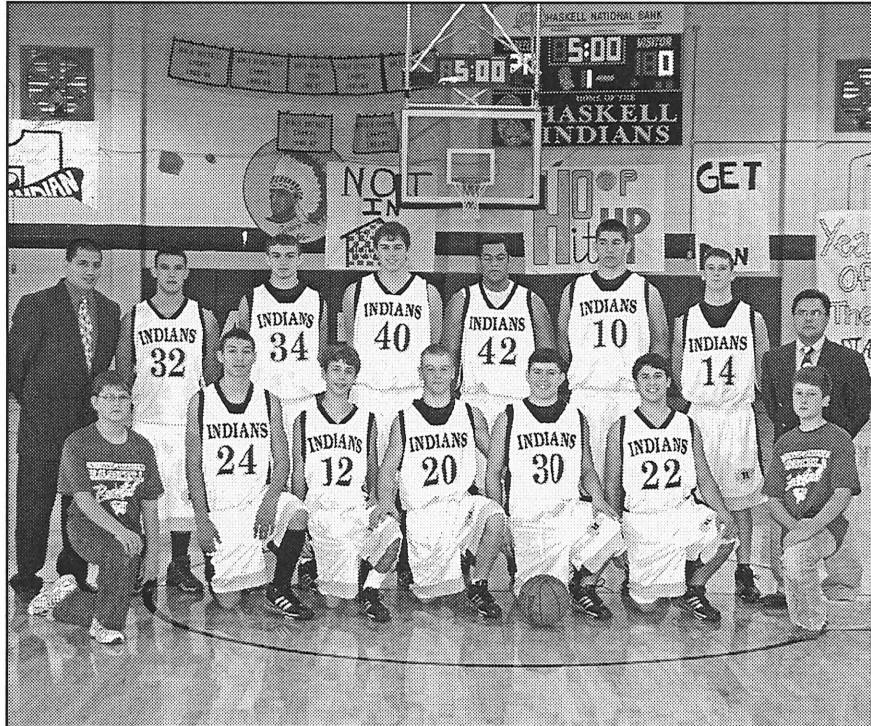


Haskell INDIANS

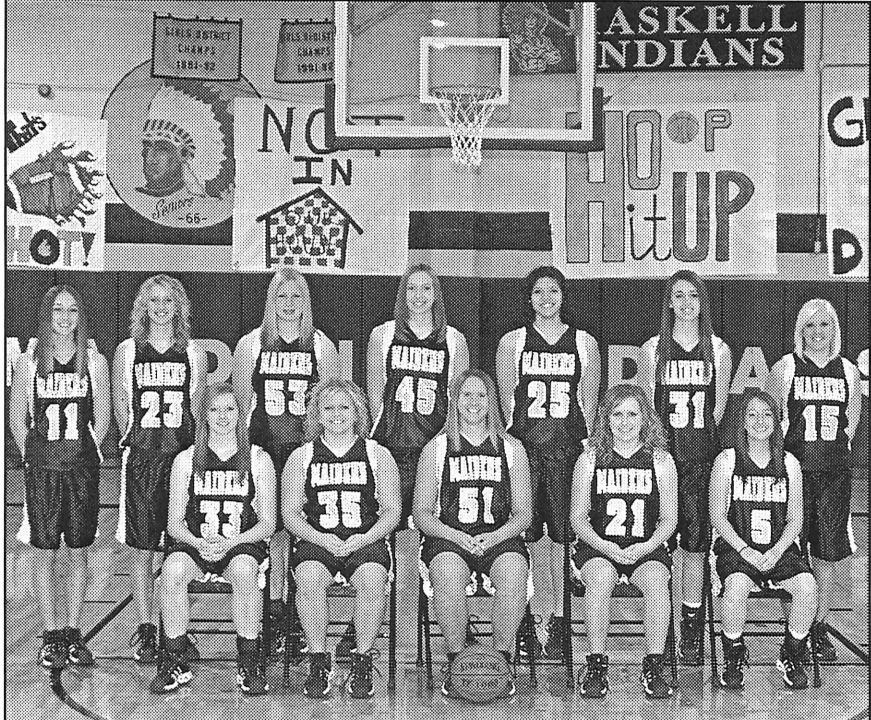


Fri., Jan. 4 • 5 p.m.
JV & Varsity Boys
vs Coahoma
at Coahoma

Tues., Jan. 8 • 5 p.m.
JV & Varsity Boys
vs Stamford
at Haskell



HASKELL INDIANS—Front row, l-r, Andrew Sammons, A.J. Alvarez, John English, Travis Adams, Greg Guzman, Austin Marshall and Luke Terry; back row, Coach Lolo Martinez, Stephen Guevara, Aaron Rodriguez, Samuel Bitner, D.J. McCulloch, Derek Agraz, Weston Rutkowski and Coach Toby Villa.
 Photo by Bill Blankenship



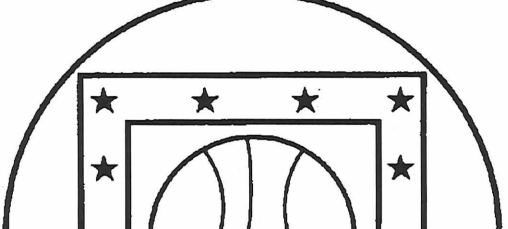
HASKELL MAIDENS—Front row, l-r, Hope Reid, Lauren Newton, Lacey Peiser, Paige Adams and Claire Isbell; back row, Aubrey Bassett, Ashton Rutkowski, Miranda Johnson, Lisa Rodgers, Molly Agraz, Hanna Wallace and Aerial Thane.
 Photo by Bill Blankenship

Haskell MAIDENS

Fri., Jan. 4 • 4 p.m.
JV & Varsity Girls
vs Coahoma
at Coahoma

Tues., Jan. 8 • 4 p.m.
JV & Varsity Girls
vs Stamford
at Haskell



Go  H H S  Go
Indians!  **Maidens!**

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Protect against diseases when enjoying outdoor activities

Cooler weather entices thousands of Texans outdoors to enjoy hunting, hiking, camping and other activities.

"But billions of critters that can carry disease-causing germs will be out there as well," said Guy Moore, a wildlife biologist with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). "Outdoor activities bring a greater risk of exposure to diseases transmitted by fleas, ticks and mosquitoes and other animals."

Animals can transmit such diseases as hantavirus, anthrax, brucellosis, tularemia and rabies.

Deer can carry anthrax, a bacterium that can cause a severe, life-threatening disease in both humans and animals. Naturally-occurring anthrax infection in people usually involves skin infections. The typical skin lesion is itchy, forming a coal-black scab several days after it appears.

Wild hogs can carry brucellosis, a bacterial disease. Brucellosis symptoms in humans are similar to the flu and may include fever, sweats, headaches, back pain and physical weakness.

The disease can cause long-lasting symptoms such as joint pain.

Fleas and some animals can transmit plague to people. This bacterial disease is common in some wild rodent and rabbit populations of West Texas. It is transmitted to people by fleas or by direct contact with infected animals such as prairie dogs, squirrels, cats, rats and mice. Symptoms may include painful, swollen lymph glands; headaches; fever; chills; and exhaustion. Untreated, plague can be fatal.

DSHS health suggestions for hunters include:

•Wear latex-type gloves when dressing game.

•Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after handling game.

•Wear eye protection when dressing game to prevent potentially infectious fluids or tissues from splashing into your eyes.

Mice can spread hantavirus infection to people, shedding the virus in droppings, urine and saliva. When these excretions dry, the virus can spread in the air on dust particles.

"You can become infected by inhaling dust that contains the virus," Moore said. "Wearing a

mask when cleaning cabins, sheds or barns can reduce the risk of coming in contact with hantavirus."

Early symptoms of hantavirus are often flu-like, including fever, fatigue, body aches, vomiting and dry cough. The disease may lead to extreme difficulty with breathing, necessitating hospitalization and respiratory support. About a third of hantavirus infections result in death.

All warm-blooded animals, including humans, are susceptible to rabies. This deadly viral disease is present in many wild animal populations in Texas, especially skunks, bats, coyotes and foxes. People usually are infected with the rabies virus through a bite by an infected animal.

"People should avoid contact with any wild animals, especially injured animals," Moore said. "If you are bitten or scratched by any animal, wild or domestic, contact your physician or local health department to discuss the need for preventive rabies treatment."

Rabies is almost always fatal once symptoms begin. The disease can be prevented if a series of shots is given before

symptoms appear.

Ticks often are found in wooded, brushy and grassy areas—and on animals. A bite from an infected tick can cause illnesses such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia.

Lyme disease infection may cause skin lesions or rash, fever, fatigue, headaches and muscle and joint aches. Untreated, Lyme disease may cause severe damage to joints, the heart and nervous system.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is characterized by fever and a measles-like rash. It can be rapidly fatal if not treated quickly.

People can get tularemia from the bite of an infected tick; handling infected animals, especially rabbits; eating or drinking contaminated food and water; and breathing in the bacteria. Tularemia symptoms may include fever, skin lesions, swollen lymph glands and general discomfort. The infection can be fatal if not treated.

If you are in an area with ticks, check your body carefully for them every few hours. Ticks are small, easy to miss and will attach to any part of the body. Mosquitoes are a biting

nuisance almost year-round in many part of Texas. Mosquitoes can carry organisms that cause illnesses such as St. Louis encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis, dengue fever and West Nile infection. Encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain with symptoms including intense headache, high fever, nausea, weakness, muscle tenderness, disorientation and coma. Infections can be fatal.

DSHS offers these suggestions to minimize your chances of contracting diseases outdoors:

•Use insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Follow package directions.

•Stay on trails. Avoid areas of

overgrown brush and tall grasses.

•Avoid camping or picnicking near rodent and prairie dog burrows.

•Wear protective clothing such as a hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants tucked into boots or socks. Wear light-colored clothes so you can easily spot ticks.

•Do not touch antlers, bones, hides or other parts of animals found dead.

"With the exception of West Nile infection, these illnesses are rare," Moore said. "But we'd like

to keep it that way. Better to be safe than sick." He added that anyone developing illness symptoms after being outdoors should seek medical attention.

Cold weather brings increased risk of home fires, CO poisonings

Winter weather brings more than colder temperatures, snowstorms and celebrations. It also brings a significantly higher number of residential fires and accidental carbon monoxide (CO) poisonings, tragedies that can be prevented if appropriate safety precautions are in place.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), home fires are most prevalent in winter months and the number of CO related injuries and deaths increase when furnaces, space heaters and other fuel burning appliances are in use.

"There are several reasons for the increase in fires and CO accidents in winter months," says Debbie Hanson, director of external affairs for a leading manufacturer of fire extinguishers, smoke and CO alarms and other home safety products. "Candles and decorations, along with increased use of kitchen appliances for cooking all contribute to the higher incidence of home fires," says Hanson. "Storm-related power outages and the improper use of supplemental or alternative heating sources play a big role in the number of CO poisonings. The consequences are often tragic and our goal is to help folks protect themselves during this critical time of year."

According to Hanson there are simple steps people can take that will greatly reduce the risk of fire-related injury and property loss, which is especially important in cold weather months.

•Install smoke alarms with both Photoelectric and Ionization sensing technologies on every level of your home and in all sleeping areas for maximum protection.

•Test smoke alarms at least once a week.

•Change the batteries in smoke alarms every six months or when the low battery signal is

heard.

•Create and practice a home escape plan at least twice a year, making sure everyone is involved from kids to grandparents.

•Keep a fire extinguisher or fire extinguishing spray in your kitchen and near other areas where a fire could occur, such as in a workshop, garage or near a fireplace.

Winter Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips

Often referred to as the silent killer because you can't see, smell or taste it, CO is the leading cause of accidental poisoning in the U.S. It is a by-product of combustion produced by cars, stoves, water heaters, fireplaces, gas grills and a number of other appliances. The following safety tips will help residents avoid CO and other dangers associated with power outages and changes in seasonal temperatures:

•Never run a generator indoors or in a poorly ventilated area, such as a garage or porch, and use the appropriate-size power cords to carry the electric load.

•Install one battery-operated CO alarm (or AC-powered alarm with battery backup) on every level of the home and one in each sleeping area.

•Ensure that CO alarms have working batteries installed.

•Never burn charcoal or other outdoor cooking appliances indoors or in the garage.

•Inspect and clean any soot and debris, such as bird nests and paper, out of the chimneys, flues and stacks.

Carbon monoxide is difficult to detect without the help of CO alarms. Outward physical symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

Tate Rainey wins at WTRC jackpot show

Tate Rainey of Haskell showed the Black OPB champion pig at the West Texas Rehabilitation Center's Jackpot Show held Dec. 8.

Rainey was also named the Junior Showman of the event.

Student in the News

Jacklyn I. Escobedo was a fall graduate of Angelo State University in San Angelo. She graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration, summa cum laude.

Clear Fork Crime Stoppers
1-800-222-TIPS

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 a 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**
Dr. Jim Hefflin, interim 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. 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. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell
- First United Methodist Church**
Rev. Tom Long, pastor
Sun. 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. 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**
Philip Sims, minister
Sun. 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**
Larry White, pastor
Sun. 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. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
908 N. Ave. A, Haskell

Greater Independent Baptist Church

Sun. 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. 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. 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. 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

Morris R. Johnson, 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. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

Weinert

Weinert Foursquare Church

Rev. Robert Harrison
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

Weinert

ROCHESTER

Church of Christ

Steve Willis, minister
Sun. 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. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.

Rochester

Faith Chapel of Rochester

Randy Hollingsworth, minister
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 6 p.m.

Hwy 6, Rochester

SAGERTON

Sagerton Methodist Church

Stephania Gilkey, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m.

Sagerton

Faith Lutheran Church

Curtis Baker, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Sagerton

RULE

First Baptist Church

Russell Stanley, pastor
Sun. 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. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.

811 Union, Rule

First United Methodist Church

Tom Long, pastor
Sun. Morn. Worship 8:30 a.m.

1000 Union Ave., Rule

Primera Iglesia Bautista

Alfa y Omegs
Manuel Marin, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.

500 Elm Street, Rule

Sweet Home Baptist Church

Larry Neal, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.;

Gladstone Ave., Rule

West Bethal Baptist Church

Rev. Clovis Dever
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.

300 Sunny Ave., Rule

PAINT CREEK

Paint Creek Baptist Church

Sun. 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

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Rolling Plains Central Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Knox, Baylor, Stonewall, Throckmorton, Haskell, Young, Scurry, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens, Palo Pinto, Mitchell, Nolan, Callahan, Eastland, Brown, Comanche, Erath, and a portions of Taylor, Borden, and Archer counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 16, 2008. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

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ALL DEADLINES MONDAY 5 P.M.

864-2686

For Sale

FOR SALE: White round dining table with leaf and four chairs. 325-660-8011. 47tfc

FOR SALE: Cragar SS mag wheels. 14"x7" for Ford car. 5 bolt. \$150 OBO. 325-660-8011. 47tfc

FOR SALE: 16 ft. and 8 ft. garage doors, sectional with all hardware. \$200 for both. 325-660-8011. 47tfc

Miscellaneous

HOUSE LEVELLING and foundation repair. No payments until work is satisfactorily completed. David Lee & Co. 325-675-6369. 1-888-486-8588. 6tfc

Help Wanted

THE NEW SONIC Drive In in Haskell is now taking applications for all positions. Apply in person. 44tfc

GIBSON CARE Center, Aspermont needs CNAs for all shifts. Call Melissa Prew, ADON at 940-989-3526. E.O.E. 9tfc

TRUCK DRIVERS NEEDED must have CDL. Apply at Strickland Bridge. 51-1c

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS needed for part-time hours in Haskell. Must be mature, dependable and have a clean criminal history. Call Community Care, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for further information. 1-800-695-5462. 52tfc

COMMUNITY CARE CENTER of Stamford now has an opening for full time L.V.N., 6 p.m.-6 a.m. Also hiring PRN L.V.N.'s for both shifts, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. and 6 p.m.-6 a.m., as well as full time CNA for 6 p.m.-6 a.m. Call Brandi Abernathy, RN, DON at 325-773-3671 for more info and new pay scale. 52-3p

For Rent

FOR RENT: Furnished rooms for rent. Nightly, weekly. Call Lone Star Lodging 864-2424. 21tfc

IN RULE: Lease purchase. 2 bedroom. \$200 down, \$275 month. 110 Adams. 325-721-1906. 51-1c

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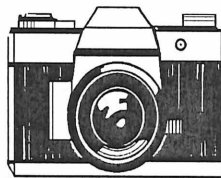
Public Notices

INVITATION FOR BIDS
The Rolling Plains Health Care System Corp. of Haskell, Texas (hereinafter called the "Owner") will receive sealed bids for a single construction contract for the New Construction of a 20-Unit Assisted Living Facility. Bids are to include site work, plumbing, electrical and mechanical, and all work specified and/or shown on the drawings until:
January 22, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Haskell City Hall, 301 South 1st Street, Haskell, Texas 79521.

Immediately thereafter all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.
Proposed forms of contract documents, including plans and specifications are on file and available for inspection at the office of Cameron Alread, Architect Inc., 209 W. 8th St., Fort Worth, Texas 76102, 817-332-6231 and other locations.
Copies of the documents may be obtained by depositing \$100.00 each with the Architect for up to three (3) sets of documents per General Contractor. Such deposits will be refunded on return of the plans, specifications and other documents in good condition within 15 days after bid opening. Plans and specifications that have been taken apart are not considered in good condition.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at Haskell City Hall.
A certified check or bank draft, payable to the Owner, U.S. Government Bonds, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and acceptable surety (the Bid Bond shall be from a Company which is on the U.S. Treasury Department List, as an approved Surety Company) in an amount equal to five (5%) percent of the bid shall be submitted with each bid.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory performance and payment bond or bonds, workers compensation and automobile liability. The bonds shall be from a Company which is on the U.S. Treasury Department List.
Bidders shall provide a completed AIA Document A305, Contractor's Qualification Statement on or before the bid date. Copies of the form are available upon request. This information will be used in conjunction with the bid for the Owner to determine best value and lowest qualified bidder.
Attention is called to the provisions for Equal Employment Opportunity as set forth in these documents. A rate not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days subsequent to the opening of bids without consent of the Owner.
Rolling Plains Health Care Corp., Haskell, Texas.
Equal Housing Opportunity 52-1c



Photos and Photo Pin Buttons
Available upon request.
Sports Athletes
Other Activities also.
Contact
Bill Blankenship
940-864-3535

NOTICE TO THE CITIZENS OF WEINERT
The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has notified the Haskell County Water District #1 water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Nitrate. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established the MCL for Nitrate at 10 mg/L, and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for Nitrate indicates a level of 20.6 mg/L.

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.

You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.
At the present time we are currently looking into ways to correct this problem. If you are pregnant or have an infant under six months including in this public water system as a customer, we have made arrangements with local grocery store in Haskell (Modern Way) so that you may get bottled water at the City of Weinert's expense.

If you have any questions or would like to know if you are currently being served as a customer of this public water system please feel free to call or contact the City Secretary Patricia Horan, c/o City of Weinert, Box 248, Weinert, Texas 76388 at 940-673-8223.
Our Public Water System ID# is 1040004. 1c

Jobs Wanted

Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, and half closed afterwards. Check out our prices on Ashley furniture. Kinney Furniture in Stamford. 1c

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Scott Langford
Owner
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Doug Sorrells
Supervisor
940-256-0536

Office
940-864-3490

Fax
940-864-3491

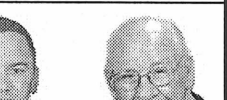


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Approximately 454 acres in Haskell County, located five miles east of Stamford, Texas. Has 235 acres in farm land and 218 acres in pasture with four tanks. Has deer, birds, turkey and hogs. Excellent hunting. Has electricity on property. Priced at \$995 per acre.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6168-11-001 for MOWING HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY in HASKELL County, etc. will be opened on January 16, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the District Office for an estimate of \$117,080.00.
Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 25760
State Office: Constr./Maint. Division, 200 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704. Phone 512-416-2540.
Dist/Div Office(s): Abilene District, District Engineer, 4250 N. Clack, Abilene, Texas 79604-0150. Phone 325-676-6800.
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Haskell County Realty
103 N. Ave. E • 940-864-2665

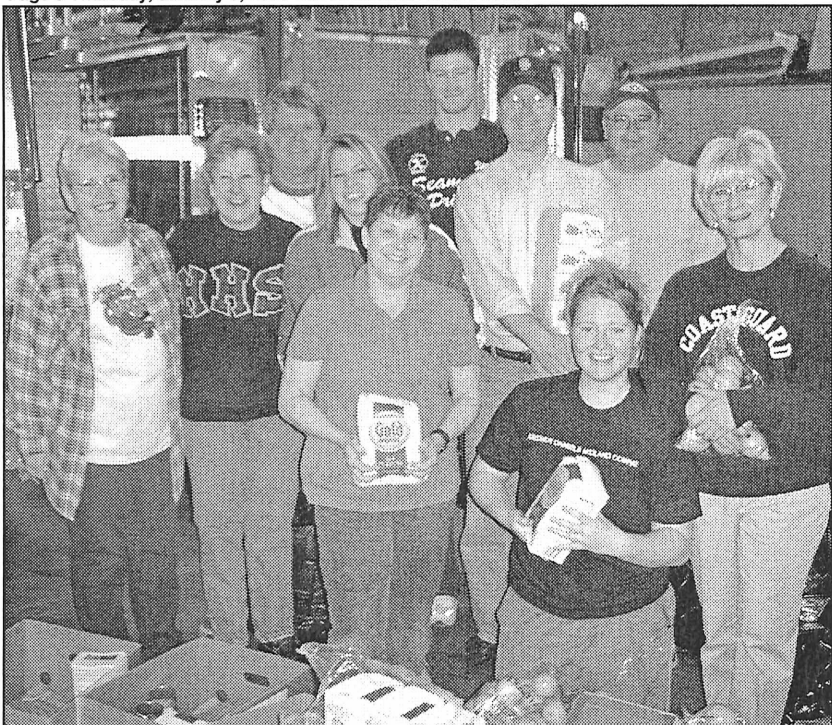
101 N. AVE. E LOOK WHAT WE FOUND: HISTORIC BUILDING. Two story, open downstairs area, office areas upstairs. Step down cement safe area. Great location, corner lot. Price reduced.

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167.4 +/- Ac. All cultivation near city limit on the northwest side of Haskell on CR 426.
100 +/- Ac. All cultivation located on the east side of the U.S. 277 North bypass in the City of Haskell.
NEW CRP CONTRACT. 141.7 +/- Ac. Located west of Haskell on U.S. 380.
NORTH HASKELL CO. 80 +/- Ac. Cultivation with 11 acres of trees, tank and goose hunting.
NORTHEAST HASKELL. 40 +/- Ac. with wheat acreage and coastal. Property has a beautiful 3/2 brick home with 9 ft. ceilings, wood floors, large den and basement.
93.65 +/- Ac. All cultivation located northwest of Haskell on CR 113.
NORTHWEST HASKELL COUNTY. 218.3 +/- Ac. cultivated sandy soil, located on CR 185. Farm is surrounded by irrigation.
SOUTHEASTERN HASKELL CO. 328.6 +/- Ac. Combination pasture, cultivation, good tank water and a premier hunting property.
STONEWALL COUNTY. 1982.25 +/- Ac. with spectacular views, valleys and tall bluffs. Has CRP income and hunting.
HASKELL AND STONEWALL COUNTIES. 2500 +/- Ac. Beautiful ranch with 3 miles of Brazos River frontage, cultivation and pasture with hunting, and 100% minerals.
NORTHWEST HASKELL CO. 91 +/- Ac. cultivated farm on FM 2279. Good yields.
SOUTHERN KNOX CO. 80 +/- Ac. cultivated farm on CR 4451.
NORTHWEST HASKELL COUNTY. 375.65 +/- Ac. cultivated and native pasture. Good hunting, electricity and water. CR 196.
211.5 +/- Ac. All cultivation located north of Haskell on CR 207. Has small waterway and tank.
100 +/- Ac. All cultivation located north of Haskell on CR 207. Has small waterway and tank.
Come by Rike Real Estate for a complete list.



SANTA'S HELPERS—Members of the Haskell Lions Club and Child Protective Services met Sun., Dec. 23 at the Haskell Fire Station to load boxes with food, clothing and toys for the Goodfellows drive. Haskell firemen delivered approximately 50 boxes Christmas Eve morning to those approved to receive a gift. Lions Club members and volunteers include, front row, L-r, Linda Haynes, Goodfellows co-chairman; Bree Burgess and Jennifer Burgess; back row, Lela Bevel, Ellen Rieger, Donnie Rieger, Goodfellows co-chairman; Jessica Rieger, Ryan Burgess, Brian Burgess and Lions Club president, John Hicks.

Haskell County FSA begins making disaster payments

Haskell County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director Glenn R. Brzozowski said that FSA has been authorized to immediately begin making disaster payments.

"These payments are for approved Crop Disaster, Livestock Compensation, and Livestock Indemnity Program applications," said Brzozowski. "Payments made in Texas represent a portion of nearly \$1 billion dollars in disaster assistance to be issued through FSA nationwide, to date."

The Livestock Compensation

Program 2005-07 (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers in designated disaster counties who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, including losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

Livestock Indemnity Program 2005-07 (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers in designated disaster counties for livestock deaths caused by natural disasters that occurred between

Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, including losses because of blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to the 2005-07 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits and may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year.

Sign-up for LIP and LCP began on Sept. 10, 2007 and sign-up for CDP began on Oct. 15, 2007; no sign-up deadlines for these disaster assistance programs have been set.

For more information about disaster payments, contact the Haskell County FSA at 940-864-2617 or visit the national FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

First Ag Credit makes distribution

The First Ag Credit, FCS board of directors recently declared an estimated \$12.6 million in cash patronage payments for the 2007 calendar year. The patronage distribution will reduce most members' cost of borrowing by approximately 85 basis points, or nearly 1 percent.

Over 6,700 stockholders can expect their checks in early 2008, and with this year's declaration, First Ag Credit has returned nearly \$70 million in cash patronage and stock retirements since 2001. Keith Vandivere, chairman of the board from Lubbock, said, "The payment is

a result of the financial strength of the association as well as our dedication to our members and their success, and is a nearly \$4.4 million increase over last year."

Terry Dane, chief executive officer, said, "We are pleased that once again we are able to return a substantial cash patronage distribution to our stockholders. With the continued support of our agricultural producers, First Ag Credit had another outstanding year."

First Ag Credit, FCS, with over \$1.7 billion in total assets, serves 113 counties in Texas with 38 offices conveniently located throughout its territory.

December sales tax reported

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs has said the state collected \$1.8 billion in sales tax in November, up 9.5 percent compared to November 2006. The Comptroller sent local governments \$447.3 million in December sales tax allocations, up 10.8 percent compared to last December.

"State sales tax collections through the first three months of fiscal 2008 are up 6.6 percent compared to the same period last year," Combs said. "Growth is substantially slower than the vigorous 12 percent and 10.9 percent seen in fiscal 2006 and 2007, respectively. As the pace of the U.S. and Texas economies continues to cool, we expect the growth in Texas sales tax collections will continue to moderate."

Combs sent Texas cities December sales tax allocations of \$300 million, up 9.9 percent compared to December 2006. City sales tax allocations during calendar year 2007 totaled \$3.8 billion, up 6.9 percent compared to 2006. Counties' December sales tax allocations were \$27.5 million, up 11.1 percent compared to December 2006. Counties received \$338.9 million in sales tax during calendar year 2007, up 8.4 percent compared to last year.

Ten local transit systems received December sales tax allocations of \$104.4 million, an 11.9 percent increase over December 2006. Sales tax allocations to transit systems in 2007 totaled \$1.2 billion, up 5.4 percent compared to the 2006 total. December sales tax allocations of \$15.2 million went to 124 special purpose taxing districts, an increase of 21.3 percent compared to last December. Special purpose districts received \$180.6 million during 2007, up 17.9 percent compared to 2006.

"The final sales tax allocation of 2007 brings total local sales tax allocations for the calendar year to \$5.6 billion, surpassing last year's local sales tax revenue by 6.9 percent, despite a slowing economy," Combs said.

The next local sales tax allocation will be made on Fri., Jan. 11.

Haskell County had a 9.17 percent increase for December 2007 of \$29,782.61 in comparison to \$27,280.84 for December 2006. 2007 payments to date of \$403,270.65 reflect a 1.97 percent increase over 2006

payments to date of \$395,473.16.

The City of Haskell had a 8.43 percent increase for December 2007 of \$27,443.17 in comparison to \$25,307.71 for December 2006. 2007 payments to date of \$359,489.28 reflect a .91 percent decrease over 2006 payments to date of \$362,812.87.

The City of O'Brien had a 35.49 percent decrease for December 2007 of \$54.58 in comparison to \$84.61 for December 2006. 2007 payments to date of \$1,206.77 reflect a 32.45 percent increase over 2006 payments to date of \$911.11.

The City of Rochester had a 23.32 percent increase for December 2007 of \$450.15 in comparison to \$365.01 for

December 2006. 2007 payments to date of \$6,399.14 reflect a 12.99 percent decrease over 2006 payments to date of \$7,354.79.

The City of Rule had a 15.95 percent increase for December 2007 of \$1,562.21 in comparison to \$1,347.24 for December 2006. 2007 payments to date of \$20,464.66 reflect a .75 percent decrease over 2006 payments to date of \$20,620.90.

The City of Weinert had a 54.59 percent increase for December 2007 of \$272.50 in comparison to \$176.27 for December 2006. 2007 payments to date of \$15,710.80 reflect a 316.34 percent increase over 2006 payments to date of \$3,773.49.

Winter wildfire risks increase

One unsafe act could turn this winter into a time of sorrow and personal tragedy, so the Texas Forest Service urges increased attention to outdoor fire safety.

Hard frosts, cooler weather and the upcoming holiday season increase the possibility of wildfires, according to the Texas Forest Service.

"With the freezes we have now experienced across most of the state, grasses and weeds that haven't already gone dormant will now do so," said Justice Jones, East Texas fire prevention coordinator with the Texas Forest Service. "This vegetation, along with fallen leaves, increases the amount of fuel available to wildfires. Consequently, the stage is set for possible wildfires should anyone get careless while burning leaves or other debris or using fireworks unsafely around frost-cured vegetation whenever dry conditions prevail."

Jones suggested the following outdoor fire safety precautions to help prevent outdoor fire tragedies from occurring.

OUTDOOR FIRE SAFETY

•Check for and obey any burn bans and fireworks use restrictions. Violations of burn bans or fireworks restrictions not only increase the likelihood of wildfires, they also could cost violators up to \$500 in fines.

•When and where outdoor burning is allowed, create a

firebreak down to bare dirt around any outdoor fire before lighting, and stay with your fire until it is cool to the touch.

•Use a metal grid or grill over burn barrels when burning household trash, including discarded Christmas wrapping paper. Even light winds can carry burning bits of paper or cardboard long distances, where they could drop into flammable vegetation.

•Keep tools and water nearby just in case a wildfire starts. It only takes a small spark or burning ember to ignite dry, fine-textured fuels like grasses.

•Read and follow label instructions on how to properly discharge fireworks.

•Only use fireworks with close adult supervision.

•Use fireworks only in areas clear of dead, dry grass and weeds; and avoid using fireworks around buildings. Stay far enough away from buildings so that wind won't carry hot fireworks onto roofs where leaves or other flammable debris may have accumulated.

The East Texas prevention leader also recommended taking used natural Christmas trees to a recycling center. Used natural trees can be ground up for mulch or used to stabilize sand dunes, build structure for fish in a lake or pond, or provide shelter for birds and other wildlife, he said.



Misty Gibson
RN, BSN

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Home Safety & Fall Prevention Tips

Environmental Safety

- Steps should be highly visible, have good lighting, nonskid treads and handrails.
- A strong banister running along all indoor and outdoor steps is essential.
- Clearly mark and light the top and bottom steps.
- Use bright lighting in the living space.
- Remove all floor clutter in the walkways.
- Remove slippery floor coverings such as polished linoleum, small mats and area or throw rugs.
- Use nonskid floor wax, wall-to-wall carpeting or rubber-backed rugs. Tack down the corners of area rugs.
- Install nonskid mats and handrails in the bathtub and near the toilet and bed.
- A bedside lamp or low-wattage night-light should be available in the bedroom.
- Secure electrical cords along the walls or baseboards.
- Store frequently used dishes, clothes and other items within easy reach; climbing on a stool or chair should be avoided.
- Set the temperature on the hot water heater to no hotter than 130° F or have a mixing valve installed on the bathtub faucet to prevent burns.

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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