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Basketball games

Haskell
V-GB Wylie Tournament
December 9-11
JV B Abilene JV Tournament
December 9 & 11
7GB, 8GB & 9B vs. Seymour
Girls There, Boys Here
Mon., Dec. 13, 5:00 p.m.
JV-GB, V-GB vs Paducah
Tues., Dec. 14, 4 p.m. at Paducah

Paint Creek Newcastle Tourney
December 9-11
Paint Creek vs. Harrold
Tues., Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.
at Paint Creek

Paint Creek JH vs. Rochester
Mon., Dec. 13, 6:00 p.m.
at Paint Creek

Calendar

Christmas concert

The Haskell 7th, 8th grade and High School bands will present a Christmas concert Sun., Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church.

Open house

Haskell Elementary School will hold open house Thurs., Dec. 16 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. School will dismiss at 2:40 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 16 and at 12:05 Fri., Dec. 17.

Enchilada dinner

The St. George Catholic Church will hold an enchilada dinner Fri., Dec. 10 beginning at 11 a.m. Dinners are \$5 a plate. Tamales will be \$6 per dozen. Take outs are available by calling 864-3171.

Noah Project

The Noah Project-North Advisory Committee will meet in the Haskell County Courthouse jury room Fri., Dec. 10 at noon. The meal is pot luck.

Rule Christmas lighting

Christmas lighting for homes and yards in Rule will be judged Dec. 16. The contest is sponsored by the Rule Chamber of Commerce.

Study Club to meet

The Progressive Study Club will meet Fri., Dec. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Haskell Civic Center before the Cooper Fiddlers concert at 7 p.m.

Toy drive

The Rule 4-H Club is holding a toy drive until Dec. 10. Collection boxes are located at Rule Post Office and at the school. Toys will be collected and distributed by the Haskell County Child Welfare Board. Cash donations are also needed. Chances on a 13" TV are available for \$1 donation and can be purchased at the Rule basketball tournament. Contact Leslie Kupatt, Martha Wolsch, Renee Dudensing or any adult 4-H leader from Rule for details.

Cooper Fiddlers

The Cooper Fiddlers will present a concert Fri., Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center. Proceeds from the concert, sponsored by the Progressive Study Club, will benefit the Friends of the Library for building a new Haskell County Library. Tickets are \$4 and may be obtained by calling Dorothy Hartsfield 864-2004.

Puttin' on the Christmas Hits

The traditional program of "Puttin' on the Christmas Hits" is scheduled Thurs., Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Rule Auditorium. The Rule High School theatre arts class will present several holiday numbers, to be joined by other students and faculty members. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students.

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Christmas drawings Saturday

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 113-NO. 49, ©DECEMBER 9, 1999

"The People's Choice"

12 PAGES-ONE SECTION-50 CENTS



FIRST DRAWING-Shoppers stood in the cold around the courthouse gazebo Saturday afternoon to listen for their names called

as winners of the Giant Jackpots being given by Haskell merchants. The second drawing is scheduled for this Saturday.

2nd giant jackpot drawing Saturday

Haskell shoppers braved the cold Sat. afternoon, Dec. 4 to attend the first drawing for the Giant Jackpots being given by local merchants.

Five names were drawn for \$100.00, three \$25.00 gift certificates and one \$25.00 in Haskell Bucks.

Thurman Stout (not present) received \$50.00. In the second drawing, Jonna Reynolds received \$50.00.

Milbert Opitz received \$100.00.

Linda Jackson (not present) received \$50.00. In the second drawing, Lester Caldwell was not present.

Pauline Dick (not present) received \$50.00. In the second drawing Gary Loudermilk was not present.

Virginia Martinez received \$100.00.

In other drawings Jerry Don Klose received \$200.00, which included six \$25.00 gift certificates and two \$25.00 Haskell Bucks.

Rickey and Denise Andress received \$300.00, which included ten \$25.00 gift certificates and two \$25.00 Haskell Bucks.

Rule Bobcats fall to Groom Tigers

In the State Six-man Semifinal game played at Floydada Fri. night, Dec. 3, the Rule Bobcats fell to the number 1 ranked Groom Tigers, 36-16. The Bobcats, who finished their stellar season with 12 wins and 2 losses, now share 1999 State Third Place honors with the Richland Springs Coyotes, who lost to the Gordon Longhorns, also on Fri.

The Bobcats defense, stingy all season long, but missing injured senior linebacker Cody Tibbets, gave up one touchdown in the first quarter and three more in the second to find themselves down 28-0 at the half. Still, Jody Harvey, who moved over to linebacker from his cornerback position, Joe Sotelo, Brian Lehrmann, Josh Smith, Grant Hisey and Justin Coker, who came in as cornerback, played respectably, despite what the score may suggest. Remember, this is high-scoring six-man. Lehrmann intercepted two passes and recovered one fumble.

Groom scored on runs of 27, 4 and 45 yards and a pass of 6 yards for their first half points, while their extremely tough and highly touted defense kept the Bobcats off the scoreboard. Several possible Bobcat scoring passes either fell just out of reach of the receivers or were knocked down by defenders. Groom intercepted no passes thrown by Josh Smith and Jody Harvey.

After the half, behind the encouragement of their raucous fans, the Bobcats found new life. Despite some incompletions and some sacks by Groom, the Bobcats managed to score the game's only touchdown of the second quarter when Lehrmann caught a pass on the Groom 1 yard line from a scrambling Harvey and squirmed his way between two tacklers into the endzone. Smith added the two-point kick to make the new score 28-8. Center Jeremy Hertel and end Mike Casey provided some of the protection for Harvey on the play. It was tough.

On the next Groom drive, Wade Ritter fumbled on the Rule 23 and Lehrmann picked the ball up and returned it 10 yards. But the 'Cats could not mount a drive. On Groom's next series of three-and-out downs, they punted to Lehrmann, who dangerously fielded the ball and surprised almost everyone by returning it 22 yards, to the Rule 27-yard line. From that starting point, the Bobcats were able to gain some yardage from the new spread formation. The key play of the drive was a second-and-25 pressure pass from Harvey to Lehrmann, who caught the ball at his 23, avoided a would-be tackler and sped into the endzone to lower the difference to 14 points. Smith's kick made it closer at 28-16, but that was as close as it got.

The Tigers later recovered a

loose ball at the Bobcats' 8-yard line and eventually ran it in for the final score of the evening, a 1-yard plunge up the middle by Ritter, making the final score 36-16, Groom.

What a great 1999 football season for the Bobcats and the town of Rule! Both coaches, Paul Page and Cody Levrets, and all the Bobcats are to be congratulated for continued on page 2



SANTA AND SLEIGH-Riding into Haskell on a motorized sleigh, Santa joined the Christmas parade Saturday to usher in the holiday season. He will be back to make his rounds on Christmas Eve.



BOBCATS END GREAT SEASON-The Rule Bobcats run the ball in their losing attempt against the Groom Tigers in the Semifinal Playoff for Six-Man state championship. Photo by Bobby Robinson

Goodfellows Donations

Hazel Weaver Bible Class, First United Methodist Church \$50.00
Mr. and Mrs. Dee Larned \$50.00
In loving memory of Truman Barbee	
by David and Louetta Davis \$20.00
American Legion Auxiliary \$50.00
Friendly Fellows Sunday School Class, Methodist Church \$25.00
In memory of Lon and Dovie Pate \$50.00
Total \$245.00

FOR NEWS ITEMS OR TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 864-2686

Ford Motor Company to give four scholarships

Russell Caraway, business manager of Bill Wilson Motor Company of Haskell, has announced that they will be awarding four \$1,000.00 scholarships to area students at graduation next spring.

One scholarship will be offered to a student from Munday, Rochester, Knox City or Aspermont Schools. One will go to a student in Seymour, Throckmorton, Albany or Paint Creek schools. One will be awarded

to a student from schools in Crowell, Rule, Stamford or Hamlin. One will go to a student from Haskell High School.

Ford Motor Company is mailing applications to the schools. Students wishing to apply should contact their school counselor or Russell Caraway at Bill Wilson Motor Co. in Haskell.

Applicants must be involved with FFA and must have their application signed at the local dealership. All applications must be completed and postmarked no later than Feb. 15, 2000.

Ford Motor Company will pick a panel of judges in Dearborn, Michigan to select the winners. No local influence will affect the judging.

Rule football

continued from page 1

a wonderful ride that started way back in hot August. Senior Cody Tibbets did not play Fri. night due to knee injury, but the following seniors played their last game as Bobcats: Jeremy Hertel, Joe Sotelo, Mike Casey, Brian Lehrmann, Grant Hisey and Jody Harvey. All seven will be sorely missed. Returning next season will be junior starters Josh Smith and

Justin Coker, along with JV juniors Tony Navarrette, Matt Arendall and Jeffrey Martin. Jason Custer, Kyle Falkner and Bobby Flores are the sophomores, while freshmen players are Trey Kittley, Brady Standefer and Carlos Flores. They will welcome several incoming freshmen next year.

Jones-Haskell

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Obituaries

Irene O. King

Funeral services for Irene O. King, 81, of Haskell were held Thurs., Dec. 2 at Trinity Baptist Church with Pastor Kenneth Blair and Pastor Jessie Morton officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery.

Mrs. King died Tues., Nov. 30 at an Abilene hospital. Born April 26, 1918 in Seymour, she worked as a nurse for 30 years. She married Harley Lee King Feb. 12, 1983 in Burkburnett. He preceded her in death Dec. 2, 1992. She was an active member of Trinity Baptist Church in

Haskell and sang in the rest home choir.

Survivors include two sisters, Frances Walker of Stamford and Velma Rock of Houston; two brothers, Williard Hammontree of Houston and Clement Hammontree of Hubbard; two grandchildren and one step-grandchild.

Pallbearers were Curtis Darden, Bill Swinney, Sam Decker, Dirk Barrington, Tony Grand, Charles Blair, Jeff Parker and Kyle Martin.

Isabell Villa

Funeral services for Isabell Villa, 72, of Haskell were held Tues., Dec. 7 at St. George Catholic Church with Father Michael Melcher, Deacon Julian Estrada and Deacon Ruban Castaneda officiating. Rosary was held Mon., Dec. 6. Burial was in Willow Cemetery.

Mrs. Villa died Sun., Dec. 5 in a Mineral Wells nursing home.

Born Nov. 19, 1927 in Benjamin, she married Marcos

Villa in 1942 and was a homemaker. She was a member of the Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Marcos, of the home; one daughter, Susie Rodriguez of Mineral Wells; three brothers, Pete Quintana, Joe Quintana and Louis Lopez, all of Fort Worth; three sisters, Molly Caran of Fort Worth, Lydia Sanchez of Abilene and Lorenza Palacios of Crowell; six grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

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Valid thru Friday, December 10

extra
15% off
any sale item

*Excludes cosmetics, fragrances, Levis, Dockers, designer collections, shoes by Dr. Marten's, Easy Spirit, Nine West, Kenneth Cole Reaction, Nike, and all permanently reduced clearance merchandise. See restrictions below.

Valid thru Friday, December 10

extra
15% off
any sale item

*Excludes cosmetics, fragrances, Levis, Dockers, designer collections, shoes by Dr. Marten's, Easy Spirit, Nine West, Kenneth Cole Reaction, Nike, and all permanently reduced clearance merchandise. See restrictions below.



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Marriage Licenses

Marriage licenses issued in October by Rhonda Moeller, Haskell Co. Clerk include:

Wesley Arlen Alsbrook and Laura Lee Haverly, both of Haskell


Terry Shawn Tabb and Deetra Darnell Tabb, both of Rule

Roy Dell Simmons and Sena Christene Phillips, both of Rule

Tomas Medrano and Victoria Herrera Medina, both of Olney

Ronald Dwayne Burke and Linda K. Strickland, both of Haskell

William Hodge and Marilyn Ornette Roberson, both of Haskell



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Green Thumb

By Gladys O'Neal

Since Christmas is approaching, white is pulling ahead as the most popular color among Americans for the holidays, followed closely by rich blues, then pinks.

Marie Antoinette found the hyacinth to be an exotic flower, filling the Versailles Palace with them.

Set out pecan trees and if you haven't planted your bulbs, do so immediately, using bone meal below the bulb. Fruit trees should have a dormant spray. Set out hardy perennials such as carnations, snapdragons and violets.

Prune all trees and late-flowering shrubs now and apply dormant spray. Feed the pansies liquid manure. For quick light shade, set out mimosa, red bud, pussy willow and weeping willow.

Climbing roses and wisteria are among the vines which should be cut back after blooming.

Don't ever break off branches since this offers an opportunity for disease or insects to damage the plants. Cut them very carefully.

In Garden Club we make arrangements. I want to tell you a little about arranging since it is close to Christmas. Condition your flowers in water at least two hours before arranging; over night conditioning is ideal.

No foliage should be left on stems that are under water, this causes the water to be foul. Water is necessary for cut flowers. This has been very brief, but it will help you in arranging your flowers.

I want to add some information that will be of help to you. Be sure your soil is damp when you add fertilizer to beds.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all, with my best wishes. I hope the year 2000 will be a great year for everyone.

Gin Report

December 5, 1999	
Haskell	
Haskell Co-op Gin	2,122
O'Brien	
O'Brien Gin	11,712
Rochester	
Rochester Co-op Gin	1,055
Rule	
Rule Co-op Gin	1,104
Sagerton	
Sagerton Gin	650
Weinert	
Griff's Gin	1,750
Weinert Gin	3,325
Total Bales	21,668



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Reception honors couple's anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Wilda D. Medford were honored with a reception in their home Nov. 20 in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary. Hosts were their children Amy (Mrs. Rob) McKnight and Eddie Medford and their families. Wilda, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Medford and the former Anita Jo Pitman, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Pitman, were married Nov. 20, 1949 in

First United Methodist Church of Haskell. Mr. Medford is a veteran of World War II, having served in the U. S. Navy. He took part in the atomic bomb tests on Bikini Atoll. The Medfords are owners of Medford Buick Pontiac GMC, Inc., as well as Medford Auto Parts. They are members of First United Methodist Church, both serving on various boards for the church.



MR. AND MRS. J. E. (ELDON) SANDERSON

Sandersons to celebrate 60th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. (Eldon) Sanderson of Brownwood will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Sat., Dec. 18 with a party given in their honor by their children and grandchildren. All friends and kinfolk are invited to join them from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Lions Club Building on

Hwy. 183 South in Early. No gifts are requested. J. Eldon and Lola Bell were married Dec. 24, 1939 in the farm house living room of Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Allen, located between Haskell and Rochester. Rev. H. N. Mize, pastor of Haskell First Assembly of God performed the ceremony.

The couple farmed in the area until 1941 when they moved to Brownwood. Eldon Sanderson worked for Civil Service Camp Bowie Fire Department. In 1942 he began a 43 year career with the Santa Fe Railroad, taking time out to serve two years in the Army Air Force doing crew duty for B-17 and B-29 bomb units.

The Sandersons raised four sons, Alvin J., Gary, Marc and Dennis. All of the boys are employed by the Santa Fe Railroad. The Sandersons have been active over 65 years in their work in Assembly of God Churches.



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Sanders family holds get-together

Children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the late Jack and Sallie Sanders, longtime residents of Weintert, met over the weekend at the First National Bank community room for their annual Thanksgiving and Christmas get-together. Of the twelve children, ten are still living. Present for the get-together hosted every year on the first weekend in December since their mother's death by their older sister, Lona Mae Phelps and her family of Haskell, were: Lona Mae Phelps, Kenneth and Elaine Campbell, Karen, Kendall and Allison Mitchell, all of Haskell; Travis and Wilma Sanders of Coleman; Andy and Marlene Sanders and two of their grandchildren A. J. Carruth and Megan Thomas of Cross Plains; Mr. and Mrs. Bill (Martha) Maupin, Loretta, Denise and Mark

Alexander of Odessa; Mr. and Mrs. B. D. (Marie) Kirkland of Ft. Worth; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cox (Sue), their daughter Brenda Sartain, Casey, Austin and Sallie Alexander Sartain of Mesquite; grandchildren Kade and Douglas Drew Cox of Naples; Mr. and Mrs. Jacky Sanders and children Rex and Jaelyn; Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Sanders and Shambry of Weatherford; Rocky and Marsha Sanders of Abilene and five visitors: Mrs. Julia Cox, Mrs. Richard Freeby, Vernay and Merle Address and Nate Webb, all of Haskell.

Jacky Sanders brought his "old" red pickup and several of the children rode in the back in the Haskell Christmas parade. Casey Sartain, Kendall Mitchell and Rex Sanders rode in the parade in Casey's yellow bug.

Haskell parade winners named

The holiday season and Santa Claus was escorted into Haskell Saturday afternoon by a cold north wind and a Christmas parade. Everyone who braved the lustrous wind to be a part of the parade deserves a prize. However, the judges could only award three winners in each category. For Best Costume, Chambray Bartley and GoKart won first place. Robbyn Tribbey and GoKart won second, and Cory and Coby Foster and GoKart won third.

The Most Original Costume winners were: first place, Caleb Hudgen's Gift Box; second place, Aubrey Bassett and Sleigh; third place, Clowns Kartha and Hap the Hobo and Scooter. West Texas Utilities Co. won first in the Commercial category. First in Clubs and Organizations was awarded to the PIPS basketball group. In the Antique Cars category, first place went to Jacky Sanders 1931 Model A Pickup. Second place went to James Dunlap's International Pickup, and in third place was Jerry Stocks 1955 Ford. The Over All Award went to the Haskell High School Band.

Around Town

Visiting with Jack and Alta Faye Harvey during Thanksgiving were Jackie and Jay Harvey of Odessa, Michael Harvey of Dallas, Paul Harvey of Lubbock, Paula Harvey of Brownwood, Bennie and Connie Harvey of Haskell. Dale, Brucille and Alan Garrett of Lefors spent over two months in Haskell fishing and working on their house. Brucille is Alta Faye Harvey's cousin.

Hospital

Admissions Doris Martin, Haskell Dismissals Delma Matthews, Ruby Roberson, Clara Hanson

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reg. price

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Musical Christmas Cards</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Asst. Designs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.99 each Value</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">99¢</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">All Year 2000 Calendars</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">20% off</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">reg. price</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">35 Light Light Set</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Multi Color Only</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">100 Light Light Set</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Multi Color or Clear</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$2.99</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">50 Light Light Set</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Multi Color Only</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.99</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Giant Gift Bows</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">18 ct.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.69</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Candy Canes</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">12 ct.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">69¢</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Lifesavers Sweet Storybook of Candy Rolls</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.99</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">150 Light Net Light Set 4'x6'</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Clear or Multi</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$9.99</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Medium Gift Bag</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">8x10 • Asst. Designs</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2 for \$1.00</p>

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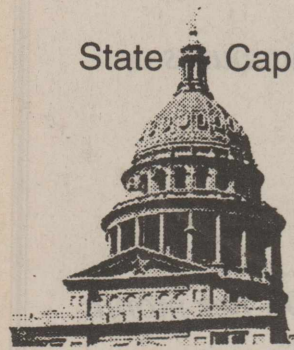
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OPINION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

AUSTIN — At least 44,000 hospitalized Americans die each year because of medical errors, according to a report released last week by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine.

But the report does not cite how many accidental deaths of patients were recorded in Texas or any other state, for that matter.

Neither the Texas Department of Health nor the Texas Board of Medical Examiners keeps track of deaths attributed to "medical errors" that could include misdiagnosis or misprescribed drugs.

Texas health officials reacted to the report, however, saying physician- and facility-licensing procedures help to ensure patient safety.

"Our system has worked well, and physicians that don't meet our requirements are disciplined," Dr. Bruce Levy, executive director of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, told *The Dallas Morning News*.

"If a medical provider represents an imminent threat to the public, we can suspend their state license, and we now do that about a dozen times a year," Levy said.

In Texas, physicians do not have to be re-examined once they are licensed, but they must take at least 24 hours of continuing medical education each year.

More than 900 Texas physicians have been disciplined in the last six years for violating state rules and requirements.

Disciplinary actions ranged from license revocations and suspensions to public reprimands and fines, Levy told *The News*.

Ninety-nine physicians have been disciplined for malpractice or other infractions in 1999, including nine who lost their licenses to practice in Texas.

Licenses of 43 doctors have been suspended and 18 doctors have had restrictions put on their licenses, Levy said.

Texas hospitals are required to report any abuse, neglect or exploitation of patients to the Department of Health, said Nance Stearman, director of the Health Facility Licensing and Compliance Division at the Texas Department of Health.

TNRCC Sends Y2K Alerts

Failure to prepare for the year 2000 computer bug will not be accepted as an excuse if violations of state environmental regulations occur.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission has

sent a series of "Y2K" alert letters to companies that must comply with state environmental regulations.

"It is important that you understand that the failure of any aspect of your operation as a result of Y2K problems that cause non-compliance with TNRCC rules will not be considered an 'act of God,'" cautioned TNRCC Executive Director Jeff Saitas in an Oct. 26 letter.

"Consequently, any such failures will be subject to normal enforcement procedures."

Since August 1998, three letters have been sent to alert the regulated community of its Y2K responsibilities.

The most recent letter, mailed Nov. 19, was sent to about 900 small chemical companies and allied products companies that have less than 50 employees.

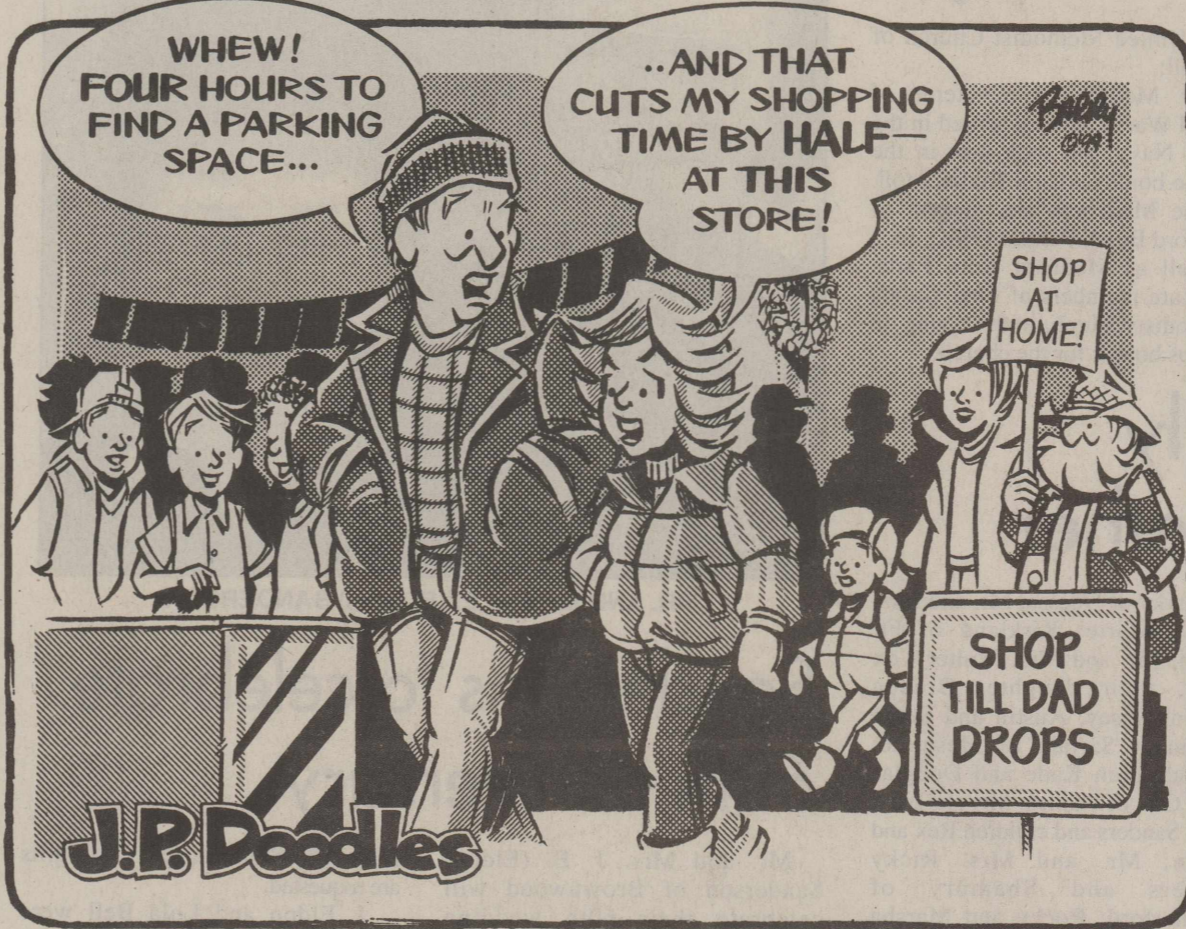
Other Highlights

■ On Nov. 30, Texas Attorney General John Cornyn became the first Texas attorney general in 23 years to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Cornyn spent four months preparing for his 20 minutes before the Court, during which he defended a Texas sex-crimes law being challenged by a convicted child molester in *Carmell vs. Texas*. A ruling is expected next spring.

■ The unclaimed property list published by the Texas Comptroller in October soon will reunite 23,142 people with \$63.6 million in forgotten cash and other valuables. Claims are being processed as quickly as possible, Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander announced last week.

■ Texas Parks and Wildlife is accepting applications until Dec. 16 for a game warden class scheduled to start in July 2000. Applications can be obtained by calling 1-800-792-1112. More than 400 people applied for 25 positions in the previous class, which graduates Jan. 17.

■ Texas was one of 12 states honored for progress toward meeting national education goals created and endorsed by President George Bush and the nation's governors in 1989-90. Texas drew special accolades for its progress on student achievement. Texas Commissioner of Education Jim Nelson accepted the award from the National Education Goals Panel at a Dec. 1 ceremony in Washington, D.C.



From The Inside Out

By Mary Kaigler

"Over in David's Royal City stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his head."

The Biblical account of the birth of Jesus is the greatest story ever told. We know it is true and we never tire of hearing it retold, again and again.

The tremendous meaning embodied in the event has evoked stories about it for nearly two thousand years.

In the songs and stories told through the years, we have always associated animals with the Bible story of the birth of God's Son in a stable in Bethlehem. Many legends have been handed down about these unknowing witnesses to this greatest event in history.

Among the legends that various writers and dreamers have imagined about the animals in the story are several sent from the Fontanini family about each piece of the nativity figures sent to the First Baptist Church in Haskell. Being a dreamer myself and having especially loved the sweet little donkey included in the scene set up at the church, I enjoyed his little story. It seems to say something that we might all need to stop and think about occasionally in our relationships with one another and the lesser creatures.

The Donkey

Two thousand years ago in the city of Bethlehem, a little donkey

was born. He looked just like other donkeys. Long brown ears, sincere chocolate eyes and a sway back. But that's where resemblances ended. You see, this donkey was born with a vision of the future that included a brotherhood of man and animals.

Because philosophy was an activity that was supposed to be reserved for man, this donkey had a difficult time of it. To his masters, it appeared that the donkey didn't want to work. But in reality, he would simply stop to ponder an unkind word or deed and to wonder why people and animals didn't treat each other with love and respect.

Most donkeys don't concern themselves with such matters, so it wasn't long before other animals were anxious to avoid him (as were a series of owners). He was puzzled. Couldn't everyone sense that his thoughts were of lofty images and new philosophies...theories of how man and animal could work together for a better world? He brayed in his very best voice, but the other animals just laughed.

By winter, the donkey came to live with the keeper of an inn located at the very heart of Bethlehem. When the other animals housed in the innkeeper's stable wouldn't socialize with him (they all thought him peculiar and let him sit by himself day after day), he spent his time in solitude.

Then, late one night, he was awakened by strangers moving into the stable. All of the animals began to buzz with excitement, but curiosity turned to alarm when the only light in the stable disappeared.

When the lantern was relit, strange sounds came from the corner. All of the donkey's stable mates moved toward the corner where a great light radiated from its center. The donkey very much wanted to see what had caused the excitement, but his heart was filled with sadness. It seemed that once again, no one wanted to share the moment with him.

Just as he started to put his head down onto the straw, the donkey heard a sound coming from the corner. The sound was music. And there were beautiful words about how all of God's creatures must love and honor one another. Perhaps he was mistaken, but it seemed that the words came from the stable's trough, now the resting place of a little baby!

All of the animals; the ox, the sheep, even the birds, came to the donkey and invited him over to the crib, where voices of angels continued to sing of peace and love among all of God's creatures. And, as if he were the guest of honor at a splendid banquet, the little donkey was escorted across the stable by his new friends, all of whom had finally come to understand their brother's vision.

Ask the AG

By John Cornyn,
Attorney General

Don't drink and drive

Q: I had heard that the state lowered the level for drunk driving offenses. Can you give me some information?

A: With all of the parties that occur during the holiday season, the number of alcohol-related traffic deaths increases dramatically.

In 1997, Texas led all other states in the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities. These deaths accounted for about half of all traffic fatalities in Texas, well above the national average of 39 percent.

About a fourth of alcohol-related deaths in Texas involved blood alcohol levels of less than .10, the previous standard for legal intoxication.

As a person's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) increases, his or her abilities are impaired. Many tests report that the vast majority of drivers exhibit impairment of critical driving tasks with a BAC of .08. This impairment can result in problems with attention, reaction time, speed control, etc., substantially increasing the risk of a crash.

During this year's legislative session, lawmakers passed a bill that changes the definition of legal intoxication to a BAC of .08 or more.

The law defines "intoxicated" as not having the normal use of physical or mental faculties as a result of alcohol, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug or a combination of these substances.

It is hoped that a lower BAC level will serve as a deterrent for those who might consider driving after drinking. In addition, the lower BAC standard will result in more drivers being eligible for Driving While Intoxicated charges.

Currently, approximately 16 states have .08 BAC laws. Several of those states saw significant decreases in the number of alcohol-related fatalities after adopting the lower BAC standards.

A first-time offense of driving while intoxicated is a Class C misdemeanor with a minimum sentence of 72 hours in jail. If the driver is found to be intoxicated AND has an open container of alcohol in the car, the minimum sentence is increased to six days.

A second-time offense is a Class A misdemeanor and carried a minimum 30-day sentence. A third Driving While Intoxicated conviction results in a third degree felony charge. Keep in mind that these sentences are only for driving while intoxicated. They do not address any additional charges that may result if an intoxicated driver injures or kills someone.

In addition to safety reasons for adopting the lower standard, Texas now qualifies for additional National Highway Safety Administration grant money which can be used for highway safety or construction projects.

Regardless of what the law classifies as legally impaired, no one should ever drive a car after drinking. No one should ever ride in a car with a driver who has been drinking or allow someone who is impaired to drive. Get the keys and call a cab or have a designated driver.

Many cities offer free cab rides for drivers who have had too much to drink, and many bars and restaurants offer free sodas for designated drivers.

Let's have a safe and happy holiday season.

From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago December 7, 1989

Haskell National Bank won first place in float competition in Haskell's Christmas parade.

Rodney Johnson, Roger Roewe and Harper Stewart of the Haskell Indians were placed on the all-district football team by 7-2A coaches.

Kim Crawford was grand champion adult exhibitor in the annual Haskell County Pecan Bake Show.

Marvin and Myrtle Phemister, Lonnie Hodgin, Steve McGuire and Bob Aycock were voting delegates representing Haskell County Farm Bureau at the 56th annual Texas Farm Bureau Convention in Fort Worth.

20 Years Ago December 6, 1979

Margaret Santerra won \$100.00 with a ticket received from Bill's Dollar Store at the first drawing of the Haskell merchants annual Christmas program. Winners of \$50.00 were Lewis F. Snelling, Mrs. Pete Frierson, Reba Cheyne and Mrs. Clois Thomas.

James McCoy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald McCoy, has been admitted to the Southwestern State University School of Pharmacy in Weatherford, Okla.

30 Years Ago December 4, 1969

Steven Grand, of Troop 31, was the recipient of the coveted Eagle

Scout Badge at the Court of Honor held in the community room of Haskell National Bank. Steven is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Grand.

The Haskell Jaycees annual Christmas Tree Sale is now underway on the northwest corner of the square, according to Pete Amaro, chairman of the project.

The Sagerton 4-H girls, under the direction of Mrs. M. Y. Benton and Mrs. Norvell Lehmann, made Christmas trees from newspapers.

Mr. and Mrs. Parks Woodson announce they plan to close-out their business, Woodson Radio & Electric, and move to their place on Lake Stamford.

40 Years Ago December 3, 1959

The annual Thanksgiving supper for the Rainbow Sewing Club members, husbands and invited guests was held last week in the dining room of the Methodist Church.

Barbara McAnelly, county home demonstration agent, will be in Dallas to attend the State Home Demonstration Agents Association meeting at the Hotel Adolphus.

Visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Beno Andress for the Thanksgiving holidays were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Shelton and family, Boyd Andress of Fort Worth, Miss Patsy Greenway of Denton and Dessie Andress of Lubbock.

50 Years Ago December 8, 1949

R. S. Sanders of Weimert is one of 32 students who has been named to the honor society Alpha Chi at Hardin-Simmons University.

Four Haskell High School students, Larry Wheeler, Nathan Tinkle, Dorothy Fouts and Nelda Vaughter, were named to play in the West Texas State Band at Texas Tech.

Five Haskell Indians are on the all-district 6-A east football team. They are Tommy Rhoads, Edward Ammons, Royce Mullins, Charles Cox and Billy Davis.

90 Years Ago December 4, 1909

W. P. Whitman and son Mark have purchased the leather and harness stocks of the firms of W. J. Evers, Alexander Mercantile Co., Cason Cox & Co., C. D. Grissom & Son and Sherrill Bros. and are opening one of the largest leather, saddle and harness shops in this section. It is located in the Whitman building on the west side of the square.

Present indications are that Haskell county's cotton crop will reach 25,000 bales at least and at present prices the lint and seed will bring \$2,000,000.

J. T. Hester of Rochester was here on business.

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The Haskell Free Press

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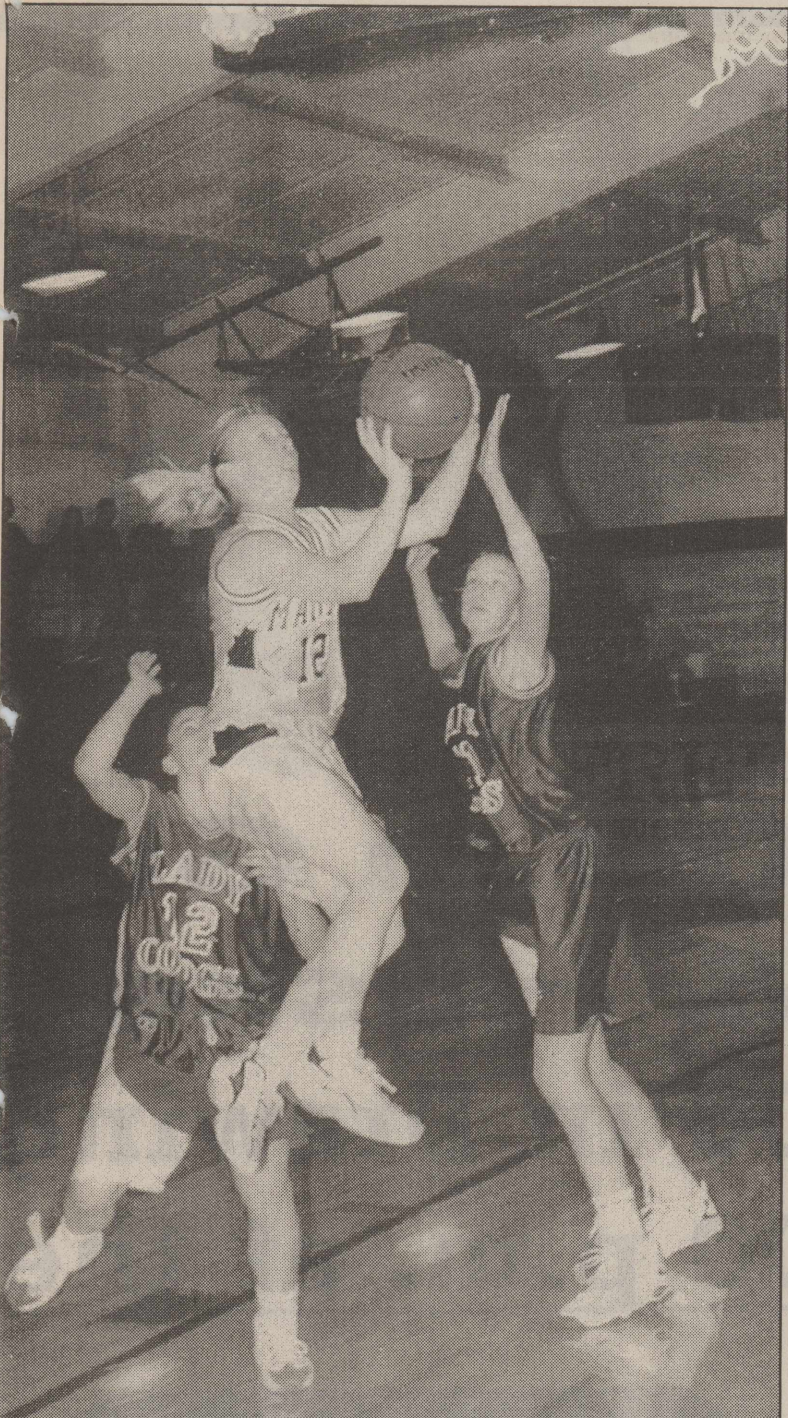
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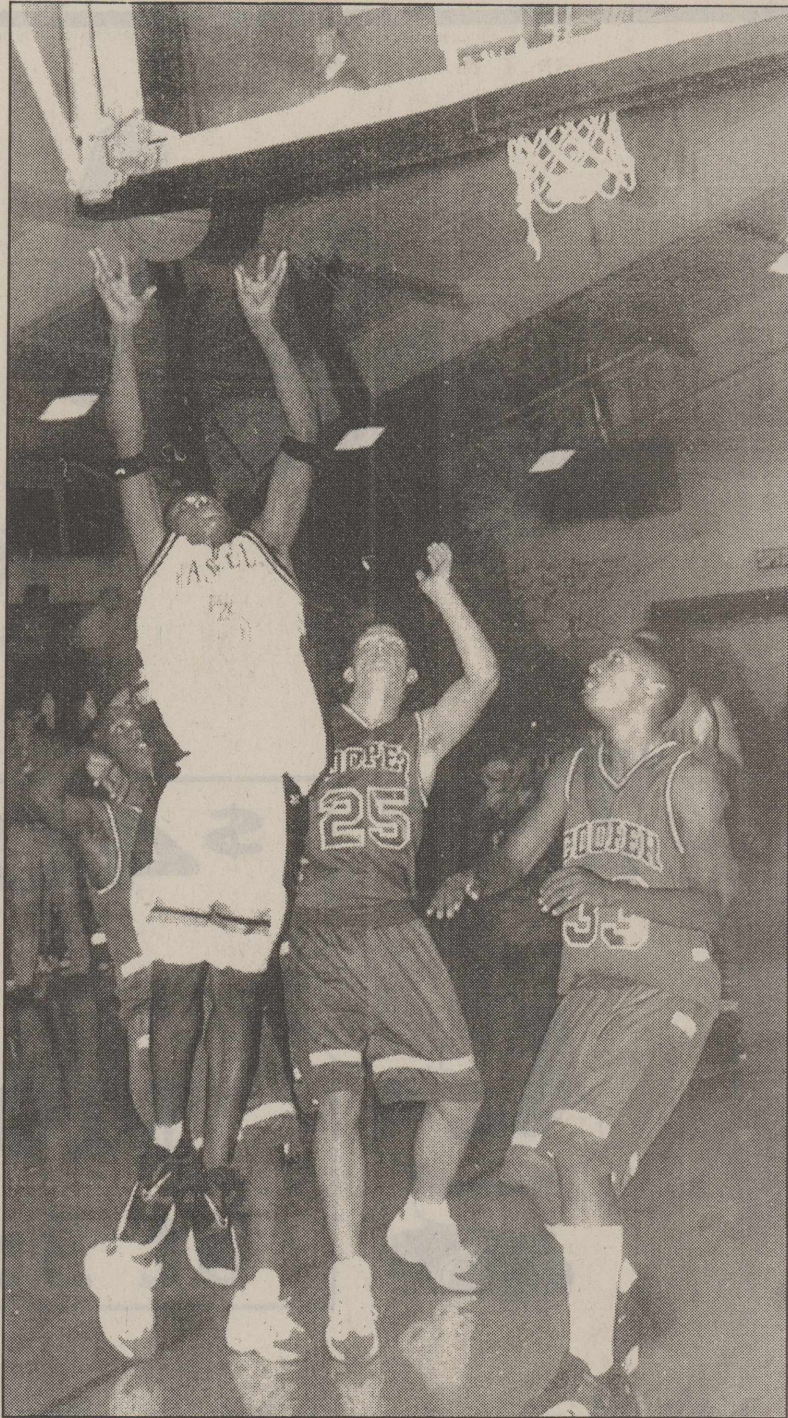
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HIGH JUMPER—Haskell's #12, Nikki Wallace, scored 14 points in the winning game against Abilene Cooper JV in the Haskell Tournament. Wallace was named to the All Tournament Team.

Photo by Bill Blankenship



JUMPSHOT—#3, Casey Riley, goes up for two of the 17 points he scored in the Indians game with Abilene Cooper JV. Riley was named to the All-Tournament Team. Photo by Bill Blankenship

Cattle Market Report

The market at the Haskell Livestock Auction was on a run of 1,150 head of cattle at its sale on Sat., Dec. 4, according to Gary Tate, reporter.

Fully steady on all classes.
Cows: fat, .28-.34; cutters, .32-.36; canners, .20-.26.
Bulls: bologna, .42-.48; feeder, .62-.69; utility, .38-.45.
Steers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.05-1.25; 300-400 lbs., 1.00-1.15; 400-500 lbs., .85-.97; 500-600 lbs., .80-.88; 600-700 lbs., .75-.84; 700-

800 lbs., .72-.76; 800-up lbs., .70-.75.
Heifers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., .90-1.05; 300-400 lbs., .85-.95; 400-500 lbs., .75-.86; 500-600 lbs., .72-.78; 600-up lbs., .55-.77.
Bred Heifers: medium frame, 425-480.
Bred Cows: young to middle aged, 515-575; aged or small, 450-525.
Cows with calves: medium frame No. 1 young and middle aged, 575-675; aged or small, 550-625.

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Haskell National Bank receives superior rating

Bauer Financial Reports, Inc., Coral Gables, Florida, the nation's leading independent bank research firm, is pleased to announce that Haskell National Bank, Haskell has earned another 5-star Superior rating, its 30th in a row, in

recognition of its superior financial strength and performance.

"As we greet the new millennium, it should be comforting to Haskell National Bank's customers and friends that

their bank has the ability to usher in the next century with confidence and strength," said Paul A. Bauer, president of the research firm.

"A 5-Star Superior rating, our highest, demonstrates Haskell National Bank's commitment to sound banking and stellar performance. Sustaining that high level of excellence over 30 consecutive reporting periods only adds to its superior reputation," he added.

Rule lighting contest set Dec. 16


The Rule Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a home and yard lighting contest. Prizes of \$50.00, \$35.00 and \$25.00 will be

given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

To enter call Rule City Hall at 997-2214 by 5:00 p.m. Dec. 16.

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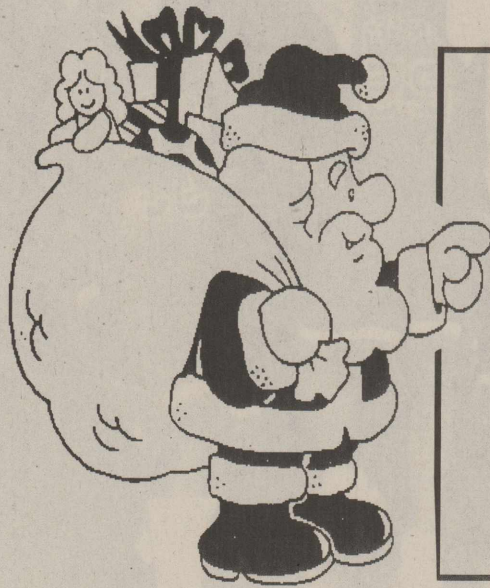
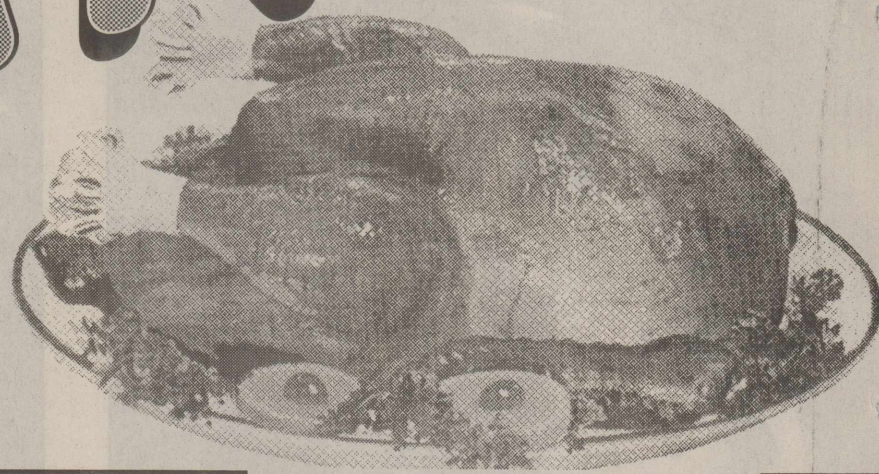
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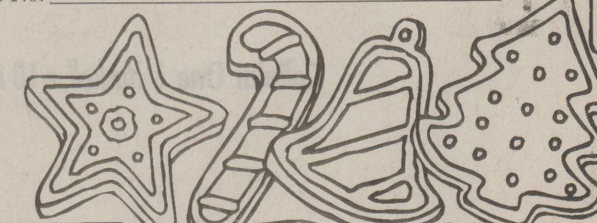
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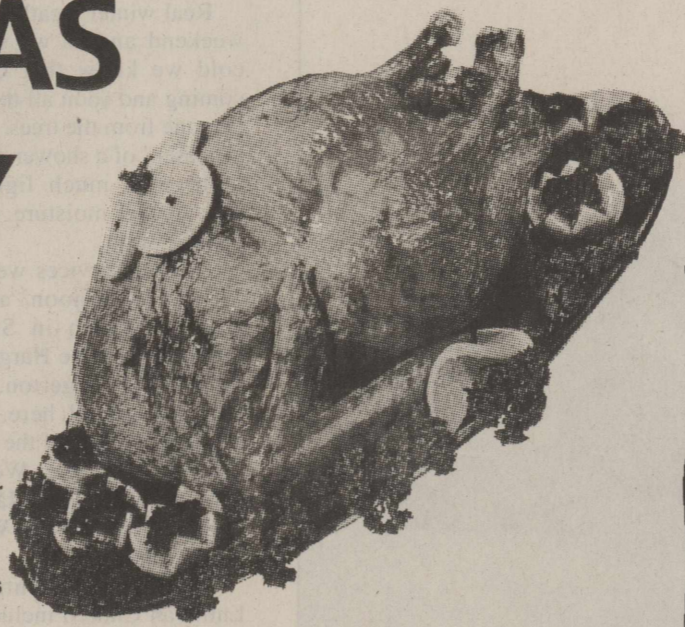
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Sagerton News

By Dorothy M. Clark

Real winter weather hit this past weekend and as we shiver in the cold we know that Christmas is coming and soon all the leaves will be gone from the trees. We received a "teaser" of a shower of rain Friday night with much lightening, but still no real moisture. It should be coming soon.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the First Baptist Church in Stamford for Earnestine Beene Hargrove, former resident of Sagerton. Earnestine attended school here, has been a lifelong resident of the area and has many friends here. We extend our sympathy to Joe Mack and his family at this time. We too miss such a dear friend.

Upcoming events at Faith Lutheran Church include the ladies Christmas tea that will be held at the home of Mrs. Joe Clark Sunday night, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. All ladies of the community are invited and encouraged to call Dorothy to indicate your presence.

The children's Christmas program will be held at the church on Wednesday night, December 15 at 6:30 with Prayer-E Strings of Haskell joining the children for the program. A sandwich and dessert supper will follow the program. Everyone in the community is invited to attend the program and get in the mood for Christmas.

Peggy Adler of Houston visited in the home of her parents, Joe and Dorothy Clark, this weekend. She came to check on the condition of her dad who is a patient in Abilene Regional Hospital undergoing tests.

Well, football season came to an end Friday as the Mighty Bobcats of Rule played their final game with Groom. The Groom team just had a little too much for our boys to handle and without one of our key players we went down fighting. The boys are to be congratulated for going farther than any other team in the history of Rule football and we are certainly proud of all of them. Now we move on to a full schedule of basketball with both boys and girls. The girls won consolation this past weekend at the Woodson tournament.

A membership meeting of the A.A.L. Branch #2947 was held at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday night with Clayton Stegemoeller conducting the business meeting that followed a hamburger supper. Other officers re-elected included Tami Baitz, secretary and Kathy Teichelman, treasurer. Members and guests present included Robert Ace and Brenda Turner and son, Clayton; Paula and Michelle

Stegemoeller: Ronnie. Kathy and Ross Teichelman; Fred. Tami and Kami Baitz; Dorothy Clark and Buddy Tredemeyer. Officers made annual reports of activities and fund

raisers held during the year. The local branch will provide sandwiches for the children's Christmas program to be held December 15.

Area basketball scores

GIRLS
Woodson Tournament
Gordon 49, Rule 46

Scoring for Rule: McDuff 20; Lisle 14; Stegemoeller 6; Stephens 3, Ramirez 2; Trussell 1.

Rule 30, Newcastle 20.
Scoring for Rule: Trussell 8; Ramirez 6; McDuff 6; Stegemoeller 4; Hisey 2; Lisle 2; Rodriguez 2.

Rule 54, Northside 45
Consolation
Lisle 18; Stegemoeller 10; Trussell 10; McDuff 9; Stephens 4, Hisey 2; Ramirez 2.

Haskell Tournament
Haskell 43, Stamford 35
no stats available

Haskell 37, Rotan 50
Scoring for Haskell: Wallace 9; Bird 5; Plemister 4, Riley 12, Lindsey 8.

Haskell 48, Cooper JV 28
Scoring for Haskell: Wallace 14; Bird 2; Plemister 2; Riley 13; Lindsey 10; Thompson 4; Rodela 2.

Tanisha Riley was named Tournament MVP. Nikki Wallace was named to the All Tournament Team

Gore Invitational
Paint Creek 54, Harrold 43
Scoring for Paint Creek: Medford 14; Isbell 26; L. Isbell 1; Hearn 9; Salinas 4.

Rochester 39, Knox City 35
Scoring for Rochester: Garcia 4; Williams 11; Reyes 2; Adkins 6; Stoddard 8; Buerkle 2; Penman 6.

Crowell 48, Paint Creek 42
Scoring for Paint Creek: Medford 8; S. Isbell 16; Hearn 12; Salinas 6.

Benjamin 56, Rochester 15
Scoring for Rochester: Williams 6; Penman 3; Adkins 2; Stoddard 4.

Paint Creek 45, Rochester 36
Girls third place
Scoring for Paint Creek: Medford 5; S. Isbell 16; L. Isbell 2; Hearn 7; Salinas 8, Hope 2; Walton 6.

Scoring for Rochester: Garcia 1; Williams 22; Penman 3; Adkins 2; Stoddard 6.

Girls Games
Munday 50, Haskell 41
Scoring for Haskell: Wallace 10; Bird 3; Plemister 5; Riley 17; Lindsey 4; Rodela 2.
JV Score: Munday 38, Haskell 21.

Jayton 34, Rule 32
Scoring for Rule: Trussell 10; Stegemoeller 9; McDuff 6; Lisle 5; Stephens 2.
JV Score: Jayton 31, Rule 29.

BOYS
Haskell Tournament
Haskell 77, Stamford 40
no stats available

Haskell 61, Rotan 50
Scoring for Haskell: Riley 16; Earles 15; Hunt 4; Guzman 2; Threet 3; Langford 3; Lindsey 9; Huff 9.

Cooper JV 69, Haskell 59
Boys championship
Scoring for Haskell: Riley 17; Earles 7; Langford 2; Lindsey 27; Cunningham 2; Huff 4.

Casey Riley and Cole Earles were named to the All-Tournament Team

Gore Invitational
Harrold 63, Paint Creek 32
Scoring for Paint Creek: E. Hobbs 7; Sagerser 2; Barnett 2; Hope 4; Biba 2; C. Hobbs 13; Hodges 2.

Rochester 71, Knox City JV 35
Scoring for Rochester: Taylor 4; Josh 2; Chance S. 3; Garcia 8; Byrd 17; Parks 3; Hearn 6; Sanchez 13; Aguilera 6; Freeby 1; Dusty 2; Rodriguez 6.

Paint Creek 60, Throckmorton 41
Scoring for Paint Creek: E. Hobbs 17; Sagerser 13; Barnett 2; Hope 2; Wilson 1; Rivera 3; Biba 2; C. Hobbs 18; Hodges 2.

Munday JV 62, Rochester 36
Scoring for Rochester: Taylor 6; Ray 9; Aguilera 18; Rodriguez 3.

Boys consolation final
Knox City JV 61, Paint Creek 37
Scoring for Paint Creek: E. Hobbs 6; Sagerser 7; Hope 2; Rivera 3; C. Hobbs 11; Hodges 8.

Boys third place
Rochester 73, Harrold 43
Scoring for Rochester: Taylor 10; Strickland 1; Gonzales 2; Byrd 15; Parks 2; Aguilera 21; Freeby 2; Ruiz 20.

Cody Byrd of Rochester was named to the boys All-Tournament Team.

Boys Games
Munday 70, Haskell 43
Scoring for Haskell: C. Riley 14; K. Hunt 4; E. Guzman 6; J. Langford 8; M. Lindsey 2; C. Hisey 2; J. Huff 7.

JV Score: Munday 49, Haskell 39.



THE LAST PICTURE SHOW—Coming down in a cloud of dust, the old Texas Theater, long a part of the history of Haskell, comes to the end of an era when it was the place to go for entertainment.



Immunizations

The Texas Dept. of Health in Stamford will hold an immunization clinic Thurs., Dec. 16 at the American Legion Hall in Haskell. Clinic times are 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 915-773-5681.

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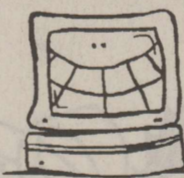
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INDIANS

Dec. 9-11 Varsity: Wylie Tournament

Dec. 9 & 11 JV: Abilene JV Tournament

Tues., Dec. 14 • 4 p.m.: JV & Varsity vs Paducah at Paducah

MAIDENS

Dec. 9-11 Varsity: Wylie Tournament

Tues., Dec. 14 • 4 p.m.: JV & Varsity vs Paducah at Paducah

Photos by KIS Photo

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NEW PASTOR—Rev. Bobby Ray Wade is the new pastor of Greater Independent Baptist Church of Haskell. The Wades are from Wichita Falls, where she is a nurse at Wichita General Hospital.

Local churches plan Christmas activities

As Haskell begins to celebrate the Christmas season several of the local churches are planning special services, programs and music.

Sun. evening, Dec. 12, the Children's Choir of First Baptist Church will present a Christmas musical program. Sun., Dec. 19, at 6:00 p.m., the Adult Choir of the church will bring a musical program.

"The Sound of Music" is the theme of the morning worship service planned at First United Methodist Church, Sun., Dec. 19. A variety of special music will include a choir and a brass ensemble. A 6:00 p.m. candle light communion service is planned for Christmas Eve.

Trinity Lutheran Church will present their children's program Dec. 19 during the 10:30 morning worship service. On Christmas Eve

the church will celebrate its annual candles and carols service at 11:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church will have a Christmas Eve candle light communion service at 6:00 p.m.

First Assembly of God Church will begin a month-long revival service Dec. 13. Also planned is a Christmas Eve service from 7:30 p.m. until midnight.

First Assembly of God plans revival

Beginning Dec. 13, at 7:00 p.m., and continuing each Mon. through Wed. through the month of December, evangelist Jim and Anita Maxwell will lead revival services at First Assembly of God Church in Haskell.

This Week's Devotional Message:

FAITH CAN PROVIDE COMFORT WHEN SORROW STRIKES



Sooner or later, sorrow must cast its dark shadow over all our lives, in many forms and in varying degrees; either directly or indirectly through someone we know. It may be occasioned by the death of a loved one or a dear friend; or possibly a major event such as a broken relationship, a career disappointment or a child in deep trouble. Whatever the source, God's love is ever present to provide comfort and a positive way out of the abyss of sadness; and once you have discovered this, you can help someone else to find it. If you acquire the habit of seeking God's guidance at the Church of your choice BEFORE sorrow strikes, you will automatically do so whenever it does.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

- HASKELL—**
- East Side Baptist Church**
David Page, pastor
Sun. 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
600 N. 1st East, Haskell
- Christian Church**
Dusty Garrison, minister
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell
- Church of God**
Eric Clark, pastor • 864-2021
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m.
East Hwy 380, Haskell
- Trinity Lutheran Church**
Gary Bruns, pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
Hwy 380 East, Haskell
- Iglesia Bautista El Calvario**
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell
- First United Methodist Church**
Shane Brue, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
201 N. Ave. F, Haskell
- First Assembly of God**
Rev. J.C. Amburn
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell
- St. George Catholic Church**
Father Michael Melcher
Sat. Mass 7:15 p.m.; Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m.
901 N. 16th, Haskell
- Church of Christ**
Brett Anderson, minister
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 10:30 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
510 N. Ave. E, Haskell
- First Presbyterian Church**
Luther S. Hollowell, II, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
306 N. Ave. E, Haskell
- Trinity Baptist Church**
Rev. Kenneth Blair
Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
401 S. Ave. D, Haskell
- Hopewell Baptist Church**
John Lewis, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
908 N. Ave. A, Haskell

- Greater Independent Baptist Church**
Bobby Ray Wade, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
301 N. 3rd St., Haskell
- New Covenant Foursquare**
Kevin and Sharon Fletcher, pastors
Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
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**
Troy Culpepper, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
301 N. Ave. E, Haskell
- Church in the Park**
Rev. Tim and Suzann Townsend
Sun. Morn. 10:30 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.
Gazebo or Pavillion
- PAINT CREEK—**
- Paint Creek Baptist Church**
Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.
Paint Creek
- WEINERT—**
- First Baptist Church**
Joel Rister, pastor
Sun. Morn. 10:00 a., 11:00 a., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Weinert
- Weinert Methodist Church**
Rev. James Patterson
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m.
Weinert
- Weinert Foursquare Church**
Rev. Joyce Goossen and Rev. Diane Crownover
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**
Ed Buerkle, pastor
Sun. 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:00 p.m.
500 Main, Rochester
- Union Chapel Baptist Church**
Rev. Clarence Walker
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Rochester

- Faith Chapel of Rochester**
Katherine Byrd, minister
Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.
Hwy 6, Rochester
- First United Methodist Church**
Dolan Brinson, pastor
Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Rochester
- SAGERTON—**
- Sagerton Methodist Church**
Tommy Wilson, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
Sagerton
- Faith Lutheran Church**
Jeff Zell, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Sagerton
- RULE—**
- First Baptist Church**
Scott Hensley, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 11:00 a., 6 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**
Shane Brue, pastor
Sun. Morn. Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.
1000 Union Ave., Rule
- New Life Baptist Mission**
Jesus Herrera
Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Elm Street/Hwy 380 E, Rule
- Sweet Home Baptist Church**
Sun. Morn. 10:00 a., 11:00 a., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Gladstone Ave., Rule
- West Bethal Baptist Church**
Rev. Robert Sweet
Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
300 Sunny Ave., Rule

Haskell School Menu

Dec. 13-17
Breakfast
 Juice or fruit and milk are served daily on the breakfast menu. Cereal offered daily.
Monday: Buttered toast/jelly
Tuesday: Breakfast burrito
Wednesday: Pancakes/syrup
Thursday: Biscuit/gravy, sausage
Friday: Cinnamon toast

Lunch
 A choice of baked potato with choice of topping or a salad bar are offered daily at the High School. Ala-carte line offered daily Secondary only. Snack bar price list posted in each class. Milk and assorted drinks are served daily at

the High School. Milk and juice are served daily at the Elementary School.
Monday: Chicken nuggets/gravy, curly fries, buttered toast, apple crisp
Tuesday: Fish strips, pinto beans, seasoned spinach, cornbread, pineapple cake
Wednesday: Turkey & dressing w/trimmings, candied yams, seasoned green beans, hot rolls, fruit salad
Thursday: Beef nachos, Spanish rice, pinto beans, diced pears, peanut butter/crackers
Friday: Ham & cheese sandwich, vegetable sticks, assorted chips, Shape-up

ECC Calendar and Menu

Monday, December 13
 Lunch-Roast beef, brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, carrot salad, pineapple pudding, bread, milk, tea or coffee

Wednesday, December 15
 11:00 a.m. Outreach Health Services blood pressure check
 Lunch-BBQ chicken, potato salad, turnip greens, apple crisp, bread, milk, tea or coffee

Friday, December 17
 11:00 a.m. Texas State Hearing Lunch-Hamburgers, pinto beans, onions, pickles, tomatoes, lettuce, banana pudding, milk, tea or coffee
 Announcements begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch.
 All over 60 are invited to come and eat. Call 864-3875 for transportation to the center or for home delivered lunches for the si or disabled.

The Haskell Free Press
 IS READ BY MORE PEOPLE IN HASKELL COUNTY THAN ANY OTHER NEWSPAPER.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO INCREASE RATES

Pursuant to Tex. Utilities Code § 104.103 (1999), TXU Lone Star Pipeline, a Division of TXU Gas Company ("Applicant") hereby gives notice of intent to change the city gate rate of TXU Lone Star Pipeline (formerly known as "Lone Star Pipeline Company") established by Order of the Railroad Commission of Texas in Gas Utilities Docket No. 8664 ("GUD 8664").

Applicant proposes a two-part transportation rate that consists of a demand charge per MMBtu based upon the contractual demand for city gate service and a volumetric charge per MMBtu based on actual delivered volumes. This transportation rate would result in a revenue increase to Applicant. Applicant also proposes to increase the storage rate applicable to city gate deliveries established in GUD 8664. The storage rate would consist of a monthly demand charge for capacity and a monthly demand charge for deliverability. The deliverability demand charge would only be charged during the months of November through March.

The proposed effective date of the change is December 20, 1999. The change is a major change, and will result in an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$20.3 million or sixteen percent (16%). The change will affect 1.3 million residential and commercial customers. The rate change will affect transportation and storage rates at the city gate for TXU Lone Star Gas-Transmission, who in turn sells the gas to TXU Lone Star Gas which serves 1.3 million residential and commercial customers in Texas under the rates established by the local regulatory authorities in municipalities and the Railroad Commission in environs areas.

A Statement of Intent to make such a change has been filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas in GUD 8976 and is available for inspection at the Commission's office at 1701 North Congress in Austin, Texas, and at the offices of Applicant at 301 South Harwood in Dallas, Texas. Copies of the Statement of Intent have also been sent to the appropriate city official of each incorporated city served by TXU Lone Star Gas. Any affected person may file in writing comments or a protest concerning the proposed change in the rates with the Docket Services Section of the Office of General Counsel, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time on or before 4:00 p.m., Thursday, December 30, 1999. Any person or agency who has a justifiable or administratively cognizable interest who desires to be designated as a party may petition for leave to intervene and request to become a party to this proceeding. The final date for intervention in this case shall be 4:00 p.m., Thursday, December 30, 1999.

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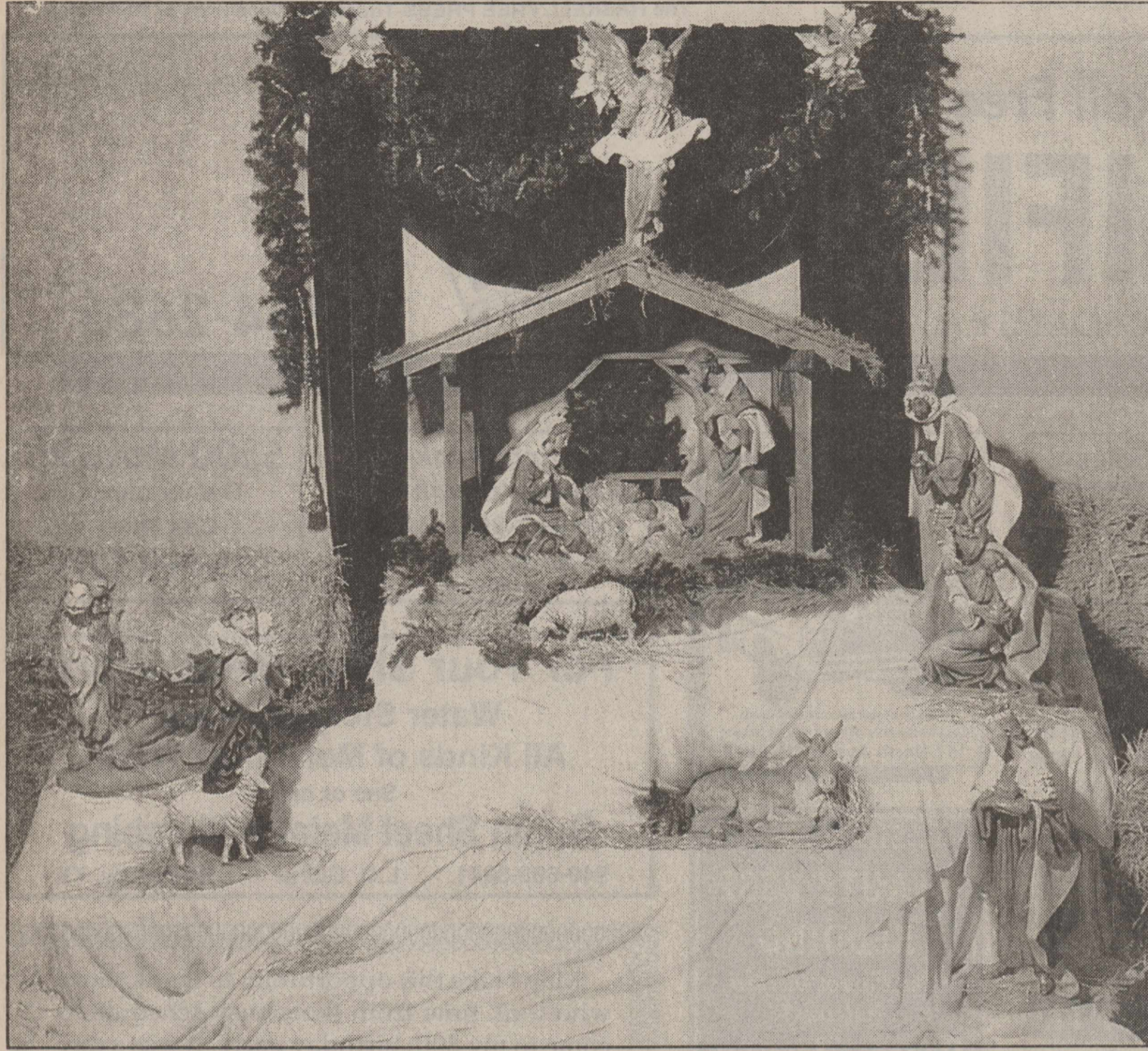
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AWAY IN A MANGER—Presenting the story of Christmas, the nativity set up in the foyer of First Baptist Church in Haskell features hand painted figures molded in Tuscany, Italy, from the work of sculptor Elio Simonetti. The scene is the result of memorials given to the Flower Committee of the church.

First Baptist Church nativity scene is more than just a work of art

by Mary Kaigler

"It is true that any beautiful thing raises the pure and just desires of men from earth to God, the fount of all," wrote the artist Michelangelo.

Alexander Pope wrote of "waking the soul by tender strokes of art."

During this Christmas season there is a nativity scene assembled in the foyer of the First Baptist Church of Haskell that is indeed just such a work of art. Depicting the most beautiful story ever told in the history of the world and set up in the humble surrounding of hay and stable, each piece of the nativity scene is an exquisite piece of art within itself.

It all began with an idea in the mind of one woman; the late Eunice Helwig.

Serving on the Flower Committee for many years, Eunice dreamed of having a beautiful nativity scene from the Fontanini Collection for her church. However, the cost was prohibitive, (\$800.00 to \$14,000.00 per piece). But for something or someone we love, the cost is never too dear. She never forgot her dream.

After her death, her husband Odell Helwig and their daughters, Susie Hommach, Beverly Powers and Kay Shaw gave the first three pieces, Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus, as a memorial to her. Two years later, after the death of their father Odell, the Helwig children added two wise men in his memory. Since that first Christmas in 1995, other pieces have been added through generous memorials given by others to the Flower Committee. Today, there are seven 27 inch tall human figures and a heralding angel, a donkey, two sheep, one large camel and a 48 X 26 inch stable included.

Each year during Christmas they are set up in display by the Flower Committee members, long-time chairman Golda Colbert, Evelyn

Cobb, Shirley Mickler and Sharon Lusk, who do a beautiful job of decorating the church for each changing season.

Bought through the World Trade Center in Dallas, the Fontanini Collection is made in Tuscany, Italy. Sculpted by Elio Simonetti for the Fontanini family, the figures are formed of polymer and

resin and are meticulously hand painted by artisans. On close examination the details of workmanship can be seen, even to the veins in Joseph's feet and the intricate fluid folds of the clothing.

As it "wakes the soul by tender strokes of art," this beautiful artistic gift assemblage at the First Baptist Church again tells the old, old story as it brings to our mind the scene of the most beautiful artistry of our Creator; the gift of His Son.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Sat., Dec. 18
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Rule High School

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GIFTS OF BOOKS—Students in the first grade classes of Marijane Cunningham and Doris May Watson recently celebrated National Children's Book Week by bringing one of their favorite story books from home and presenting them to Joan Strickland, Haskell County Librarian.

LAST CHANCE FINAL DAYS HASSEN'S - HASKELL

LAST DAY OF BUSINESS
AND CLOSING DATE IS
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Fadwa Hassen
Nabeela Hassen David and family

Haskell Nat'l Bank to build branch in Abilene

Robert A. Howard, Chairman of the Board and C.E.O. for Haskell National Bank, has announced plans for the bank to build its first branch bank at 3202 Buffalo Gap Road in Abilene.

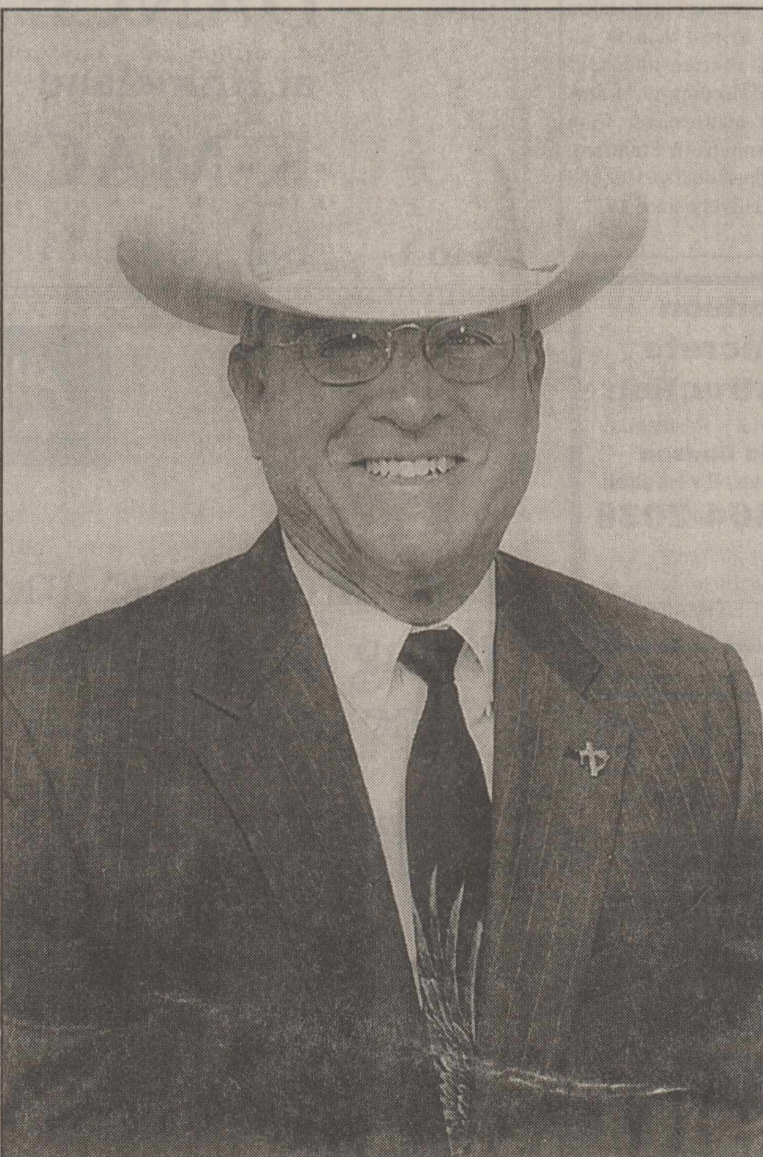
Located on the corner of Buffalo Gap Road and South 32nd Street, the bank will employ approximately eight people. The 3,400 square foot facility will provide convenient banking with its four-lane drive through and

drive-up ATM. As a full service branch, the bank will offer complete deposit and loan services including consumer, mortgage and commercial loans.

Construction of the bank is scheduled to begin in January with an expected completion date of July, 2000. Haskell National Bank is a 109 year old banking institution with \$50 million in assets.

Griffith Jumps Into Haskell County Sheriff's Race

Local Farmer and Rancher Offers Three-Point Plan for Sheriff's Department



DAN GRIFFITH

PD. POL. ADV. PD. FOR BY
MRS. EARLENE J. GRIFFITH, CAMPGN. TREAS.

Haskell—Local farmer and businessman Dan Griffith announced today he is filing for the Democrat nomination for Haskell County sheriff.

Griffith, 59, joins a field of two vying for the seat vacated by the retirement of Johnny Mills.

"Haskell County has been very good to me and my family. Serving and working as sheriff is a great opportunity to give something back," said Griffith. "I've got the energy and the interest. And farming and ranching just don't take as much time as they used to."

"The people of this area deserve excellent law enforcement protection. If elected, I pledge to work hard and get results for the people of Haskell County," said Griffith.

Griffith listed three priorities for the sheriff's department:

- Reducing the department's response time;
- Fostering cooperation between all law enforcement agencies in Haskell County; and;
- Improving the professional work-standards of the department.

So many Haskell county citizens depend on the sheriff's department for their primary law enforcement protection, said Griffith. "It's important that when a citizen calls the department for help, that we respond quickly, and that we follow up."

Griffith said he had been encour-

aged to run for the office by a number of people but especially by other law enforcement officials. "It only makes sense that if all the agencies cooperate and communicate more, law enforcement will be more efficient and effective," said Griffith.

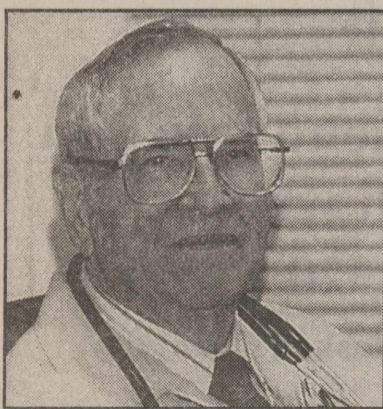
Griffith said he was committed to improving the professional work-standards of the department. He identified increased training, uniforms and dispatching consistent with law enforcement standards as the three places he would start.

Griffith is a graduate of Paint Creek High School and Texas A & M University. He was a paratrooper in the Army, and also served in the Texas National Guard.

This is not Griffith's first time to seek elected office; previously he has served on the Paint Creek school board and on the Haskell Memorial Hospital Board. Currently he is a Haskell National Bank director and a member of the board of the Natural Resources and Conservation District.

Griffith and his wife of 38 years, Earlene, are members of the First Baptist Church where Dan teaches Sunday school. Earlene is a second grade teacher at Haskell. The Griffiths have three grown children, Kimberly, Danny and Andy, and seven grandchildren.

Griffith said he planned to campaign the old-fashioned way—shoe leather and sweat.



To my
Patients/
Friends of
our West
Texas Area,

As of Jan. 1, 2000, I will be retiring from the practice of medicine. I have worked in the Haskell Clinic 52 1/2 years. Many joys have come to me from being able to help others, deliver many of your births and, often, share in your sorrows and losses.

Looking back on the years brings me a deep sense of gratefulness, respect and humility because of your trust and faithfulness to me as your Family Physician.

I love and appreciate each of you.

Dr. 'Frank' Cadenhead