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# The Haskell Free Press

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"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-50 CENTS

## Wheat information meeting scheduled

by Brandon Anderson  
Haskell Co. Extension Agent  
The Haskell County-Texas Cooperative Extension office host a Wheat Informational Meeting Tues., July 13 at the Haskell National Bank Meeting Room in Haskell from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Three CEU's will be given (one IPM and two General). There is no charge for this informational meeting and coffee and donuts will be provided.

The speakers at the meeting will be Dr. Gaylon Morgan, State Small Grains Specialist of College Station; Dr. Carl Patrick, Extension Entomologist of Amarillo; Dr. Billy Warrick, Extension Agronomist of San Angelo; and Brandon Anderson, Haskell County Ag. Agent.

Topics to be covered include: Foliar Disease Management in Wheat; Wheat Streak Mosaic and High Plains Disease; Alternatives in Winter Wheat; Wheat Curl Mite and Its Involvement with Wheat Streak Mosaic; High Plains Disease and its Vector; Other Insects to Manage in Small Grains; Wild Oat and Mustard Control; New and Upcoming Weed Problems; and Wheat Variety Discussion and Questions and Answers.

For more information, contact the Haskell County Extension Office at (940) 864-2658.

## Calendar

### Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., July 17 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 206 S. 2nd (building east of Civic Center) in Haskell.

### Summer food program

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

### Summer reading

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

### Society to meet

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

### Immunizations

The Texas Dept. of Health in Stamford will hold an immunization clinic Wed., July 14 at the Haskell National Bank Community Building in Haskell. Clinic times are from 2 to 4 p.m.

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**VOLUNTEERING ON THE FOURTH**—Paint Creek Volunteer Fireman Chris Brown serves watermelon to Randi Smith of Crowell and Skeet Hope, right, of Paint Creek, during the Fire Department's fund-raiser, held July 3 and 4 at The Anchor. In the background, Paint Creek Fire Chief James

**Arnold and his wife, Joiene, prepare funnel cakes. The group accepted donations and served funnel cakes, melons and cantaloupes to help raise money to replace the fire department's building that was lost during the March 4 tornado.**

## Area sales tax receipts are reported

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn has announced that the state received \$1.31 billion in sales tax revenue in May, up 1 percent compared to May 2003. Strayhorn sent \$324.5 million in June sales tax allocations to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 6.9 percent compared to last June. Since January, sales tax allocations to local governments are running 8.4 percent ahead of last years.

Comptroller Strayhorn sent June sales tax allocations of \$221.3 million to Texas cities, up 7.7 percent compared to June 2003. Calendar

year-to-date, city sales tax allocations are up 8.8 percent compared to the same period last year. Texas counties received sales tax payments of \$19.2 million, up 8.9 percent compared to one year ago. Calendar year-to-date, county sales tax allocations are 7.8 percent higher than last year.

Another \$8.6 million went to 85 special purpose taxing districts around the state, up 3.5 percent compared to last June. Nine local transit systems received \$75.3 million in sales tax allocations, up 4.3 percent compared to a year ago.

Haskell County had a 13.81 percent increase for June, 2004 of

\$24,696.72 in comparison to \$21,699.08 for June 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$177,041.04 reflect a 19.61 percent increase over 2003 payments to date of \$148,004.92.

The City of Haskell had a 15.94 percent increase for June, 2004 of \$23,192.75 in comparison to \$20,004.03 for June, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$163,860.79 reflect a 20.47 percent increase over 2003 payments to date of \$136,007.59.

The City of O'Brien had a 29.05 percent increase for June, 2004 of \$69.92 in comparison to \$54.18 for June, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$632.54 reflect a 26.41 percent decrease over 2003 payments to date of \$859.61.

The City of Rochester had a 28.87 percent decrease for June, 2004 of \$439.36 in comparison to \$617.72 for June, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$3,946.60 reflect a 20.32 percent increase over 2003 payments to date of \$3,279.98.

The City of Rule had a 1.36 percent decrease for June, 2004 of \$962.44 in comparison to \$975.79 for June, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$7,772.96 reflect a 10.65 percent increase over 2003 payments to date of \$7,024.45.

The City of Weinert had a 31.90 percent decrease for June, 2004 of \$32.25 in comparison to \$47.36 for June, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$828.15 reflect a 0.61 percent decrease over 2003 payments to date of \$833.29.

## USDA announces housing assistance for rural residents

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the availability of \$2 million in technical and supervisory housing assistance to provide rural residents with additional home repair and homeownership opportunities recently.

"Homeownership is the cornerstone to the economy of rural communities," said Veneman. "This funding will help over 2,000 families to improve their overall quality of life, and help build a strong economic future for their family and community."

Bryan Daniel, State Director, for USDA Rural Development in Texas, said, "Technical and Supervisory Assistance Grants offer expanded opportunities to help rural residents throughout Texas. Many rural Texans

could benefit from homebuyer counseling and loan packaging which could be provided by organizations receiving this technical and supervisory grant assistance."

Veneman recently participated in several rural homeownership events as part of the national recognition by the Bush Administration of the economic and community benefits of homeownership. Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, over 188,000 families have received assistance with homeownership and housing repair through USDA programs.

These grants support programs of homeownership counseling, home loan packaging and delinquency counseling. A projected 25 to 30 different groups will receive the continued on page 8



**YOUNG VOLUNTEER HELPERS**—A group of Haskell Elementary third graders hold up some of the items they collected for the Noah Project of Haskell as a Learn and Serve Project. Front row, seated l-r, are Levi Grand and Sidney Cassidy. Middle row, Macy Bingham, Carlos Gonzalez, Leslie Villarreal, Ashley Pendergraft, Carson Hadaway and Jared Masias. Standing back are local Noah Project representatives, Janis Brzozowski and Donna Sue Anders.

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# VA improves access to life insurance information

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that veterans will now be able to access their Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) accounts at any time of the day or night from any computer or telephone.

"Today's veterans are technologically savvy, and VA's Life Insurance program is constantly

looking for better ways to meet their needs," said Under Secretary for Benefits Daniel L. Cooper. "We will be adding new features to both our online account and interactive voice response systems on a continuing basis so veterans can manage their policies from anywhere, at any time."

Using a secure Web site, the VGLI Online Account Access system allows veterans to obtain basic information on their account through the insurance Web site at [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov).

Veterans will be able to view their current amount of coverage, premium rate, and billing method, as well as change their billing address. In the future, veterans will have access to additional online tools allowing them to change their method and frequency of payment.

Also available on VA's insurance Web site is a new life insurance calculator that allows veterans to calculate a recommended amount of life insurance based on their financial information.

The veteran enters financial information directly into the Web site including financial obligations, net additional income needed by survivors and current assets. By subtracting total assets from total financial obligations and net income needed, the calculator arrives at the amount of life insurance recommended.

Users' privacy will be protected by the latest cybersecurity measures.

Veterans can also access their account information through a new VGLI interactive voice response system that allows veterans to obtain account information through the telephone.

Veterans can call VA at 1-800-419-1473 any time, day or night, by using their telephone keypad and can hear recorded information on their accounts.

They can also request certain changes to their VGLI accounts, such as billing frequency and payment method, as well as order certain forms via mail or fax.

# Obituaries

## Anthony Temple (Tony) Burson



TONY BURSON

Funeral services for Anthony Temple (Tony) Burson, 57, of Haskell were held Tues., July 6 at First Baptist Church with Dusty

Weatherman of Brady; a daughter, Amy Burson of Lubbock; a twin brother and sister-in-law, Tim and Linda Burson of Haskell; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Wanda and John Rogers of Abilene and Sherry and Larry Upshaw of Eden; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and a special friend Peggy Lane of Lubbock.

Mr. Burson died Sun., July 4 at a local hospital.

Born Jan. 5, 1947 in Haskell, he was the son of the late Raymond and Estelle Burson. He graduated from Haskell High School in 1965, and received a Bachelor's degree from West Texas State University. He worked as a self-employed farmer. He was a member of the Haskell City Council, Kiwanis Club, The Gin Board and served on the board of the Haskell Country Club. He was most recently employed by the United States Department of Agriculture and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Haskell.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Tonya and Brendan

Weatherman of Brady; a daughter, Amy Burson of Lubbock; a twin brother and sister-in-law, Tim and Linda Burson of Haskell; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Wanda and John Rogers of Abilene and Sherry and Larry Upshaw of Eden; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and a special friend Peggy Lane of Lubbock.

Pallbearers were his nephews, Jimmy Burson and Patrick Burson; cousins, Mickey Packwood, David Burson, Randy Burson and Marco Burson. Honorary pallbearers were Vonnie Hise, Edward Feemster, Larry Kimbrough, David Drinnon, Roger Kalina and Dwayne Wood.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church, 301 N. Ave. E., Haskell, Texas 79521; Hendrick Hospice of Abilene, P. O. Box 1922, Abilene, Texas 79604; or the donor's favorite charity.

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# Children of all ages can learn benefits of saving money

Saving money is a life-long habit, and one usually picked up at first within families. Even children as young as 3 or 4 years old can be taught to put coins into a piggy bank, said Dr. Joyce Cavanagh, Texas Cooperative Extension family economics specialist.

But real lessons in saving money begin as the child's understanding grows. "It depends on how old the child is, and what he or she is able to understand about the concept of saving," she said. "At 6 or 7, it's hard to grasp much about very far into the future."

Children that young are not going to understand the importance of long-term financial goals, such as saving money for college, and parents must keep that limitation in mind when guiding their children into a savings habit, she added.

By about 8 or 9, children are old enough to understand that some

gratification is not instant, and that saving money for a specific purpose—say, the purchase of a new computer game—is a good way to reach that goal.

This is a good age for children learn about savings accounts too, Cavanagh said. "By age 12, they should have their own savings account," she said, adding that older children are better able to understand the principle behind saving money to reach a specific goal.

Children also learn by what they see. "Parents have to set an example," Cavanagh said. "The best teaching tool is having kids see (their parents) exhibit behavior they are trying to teach." For example, she said, how can a child learn to save money for something he wants to buy when his own parents are running up credit card charges?

Saving money is a life-long habit, but money must be available for children to save. And that's where that childhood institution known as the "allowance" comes in.

"There are two schools of thought when it comes to allowances," Cavanagh said.

One theory is to pay children an allowance and make them responsible for spending that money on specific things—for example, a child might be expected to purchase her own school lunches. If the child wishes to make money beyond what the allowance provides, she could do extra chores around the house, outside the everyday chores expected of her as a member of the family.

The other theory of allowance-giving is that children should be paid an allowance that is tied to their chores at home. Cavanagh sees one problem with this theory in that a child might not care if he has any money and so might choose not to do any chores.

"If the main purpose (in getting an allowance) is to help kids understand money and learn how to manage money, one way is to make sure they have some money to learn with," she said.

But, Cavanagh cautioned, when it comes to allowances, one size does not fit all. "What works for one family might not work for another family."

When setting the amount of a child's allowance, parents should keep in mind what the child will be expected to purchase with the money. When children are younger they might be responsible for purchasing school supplies such as paper, pens, and notebooks. As they get older and more financially experienced—and have bigger allowances—they might also be in charge of buying their own clothes from their allowance money.

"As they get older, their allowances increase and so does what they are expected to get with that allowance," she said. While parents can give advice with that process, they don't want to exercise too much control over it, she added.

"Some of the most powerful lessons we learn about money are when we make mistakes. Kids learn from their mistakes. Helping them see what they might do differently is a more powerful tool than punishing them for making mistakes with money."

Teaching children these lessons about financial responsibility while they are still young can help prevent them from creating financial and credit chaos for themselves when they are older. Checking accounts can be an extremely useful tool in helping older children learn money management, she said. In fact, Cavanagh suggested that high school, when many teenagers get their first jobs, is the ideal time for students to open their first checking accounts.

"Hopefully by this time, they (also) understand the importance of putting money aside (for emergencies)," she said, adding that as children become teenagers and head toward adulthood, saving money should be a fact of financial life to them.

"Ideally, you want the child to leave home (for college or work) and have the skills needed to live within his income, and not get over indebted," Cavanagh said.

"Kids who had this kind of learning experience when they were living at home are better prepared (to be financially wise) when they leave home."

# Weather's Whys

**Thermometers**  
 Q: Who invented the first thermometer?

A: Several people played a role in the development of the thermometer, says Michael Hammer of Texas A&M University. One of the first was the noted astronomer Galileo. "The first thermometers was called thermoscopes and the birthplace of them was Italy," Hammer explains. "In other parts of Europe, inventors Cornelis Drebbel and Robert Fludd were working on similar instruments. But the problem was that each inventor had his own scale based on different reference points, so there was still not a standard unit to measure temperature. Galileo's, for instance, used water to measure

temperature."  
 Q: What happened then?

A: In the early 18th century, thermometers were made using various liquids for temperature readings, and alcohol thermometers were introduced in 1709 by German physicist Daniel Fahrenheit. "In 1714, he introduced the mercury thermometer and devised a temperature scale that bears his name, and today's modern thermometers are much like the early ones Fahrenheit constructed," Hammer adds. "Today, the outside temperature is always taken in the shade in a contained area away from concrete about four feet off the ground. Temperatures taken directly in sunshine will not give an accurate reading because mercury tends to expand greatly because of solar energy and gives a reading far higher than the actual temperature. So it's a worldwide standard that temperatures are always taken in the shade."

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# Everybody's Science

by Sandy Miller Hays, Agricultural Research Service

## Savoring the Sweets of Scientific Success

Maybe I was just a strange child, but when I was still in pedal-pushers (that should really date me!), among my favorite treats were bell peppers, fresh tomatoes and any fruit I could get my hands on.

To this day, I'm still a huge fan of fruits and veggies, and if you're like me, you'll be pleased to know that the Agricultural Research Service is coming up with even more wonderful new treats for us to try.

One that particularly intrigues me is the "Galaxy" peach, or, as some call it, the "bagel peach." (The "bagel" bit refers to the peach's shape, not its flavor.) If you really know your peaches, you may be familiar with the description "peento," which is used for peaches that have a round, squat appearance; the term originates from the Chinese "Pan Tao."

"Galaxy" may be odd-looking, but skippy it is not; these peaches typically weigh one-third of a pound. It ripens in the third or fourth week of June, the same time frame as the popular peento peach "Saturn," but "Galaxy" is about 25 percent bigger and about 50 percent heavier than "Saturn."

ARS geneticist David Ramming at the agency's Postharvest Quality and Genetics Research Unit at Parlier, Calif., bred this particular peach, and has thus far provided about 33,000 buds to growers and breeders for grafting onto familiar rootstock. Ramming reports that all those budded trees have already been sold to growers, so "Galaxy" could be on its way to our grocery stores in the not-too-distant future.

For those of you who like to "grow your own," there's good news on that

front, too: "Galaxy" is well suited not only for the commercial orchard, but also for backyard gardens. It's self-pollinating, so you don't need another peach tree nearby. And while it hasn't been tested outside California, Ramming says "Galaxy" may do well in the climate of southern peach-growing states such as Georgia and California. It's definitely worth a shot; as Ramming says, "Everyone who wants to grow peento peaches should try it."

Maybe plums are more to your liking (I know I'd be hard-pressed to make a choice, though). ARS has three new plums: "Black Splendor," "Owen T," and "John W," each of which ripens in a different season, giving us something different from early summer until late fall.

The first out of the chute is "Black Splendor," a big, sweet plum with black skin and beet-red flesh. It ripens in early June, and is earlier—and bigger—than the well-known Santa Rosa plum.

Next comes "Owen T," named for Owen Tanner, a technician at the Postharvest Quality and Genetics Research Unit for 30 years (what a nice way to be remembered!). "Owen T" is the biggest of the three new plums, measuring nearly 3 inches across and weighing nearly half a pound. "Owen T" has blue-black skin and a light yellow flesh that Ramming describes as "crisp and sweet."

"John W" brings up the rear, ripening from late August through early September. It has purple skin with tan "freckles" and a smooth, fine-textured light orange flesh. This plum is named for John Weinberger, a longtime USDA tree-fruit and grape breeder (it was Weinberger who developed the wonderful Flame Seedless red grape, which you have

no doubt seen in your local grocery store).

Nor has ARS forgotten you aficionados of apricots. The new ARS apricot is called "Apache," and there are already some 8,000 newly planted "Apache" apricot trees growing in California's Central Valley—pretty impressive considering that ARS only made "Apache" available to nurseries, researchers and apricot breeders within the past two years. If all goes well, we should start seeing this new treat in our supermarkets by summer 2006.

If you come out of the long, dreary winter months longing for fresh apricots, "Apache" should hit the spot; it ripens early, about the first week of May. "Apache" apricots are about average in size, with an attractive, pinkish-orange skin and smooth, finely textured orange pulp that's easy to pull away from the pit.

Like the other new fruits described above, "Apache" comes from ARS' Postharvest Quality and Genetics Research Unit at Parlier, Calif. But it is the result of more than a decade of fruit breeding and testing by ARS geneticist Craig Ledbetter and technician Louis Vuittonet.

Unlike those self-pollinating peaches, Apache does need pollen from other apricot trees. Ledbetter and Vuittonet are now working on testing a new promising new "pollinator" variety of apricot that is a good biological match for "Apache" and also produces its own delicious fruit about two weeks after the "Apache" harvest.

One fact is certain about that Parlier lab—it's certainly easy to enjoy "the fruits of their labors!"

The Agricultural Research Service is the chief in-house scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

# Evaluating older drivers

Maintaining a driver's license is important for a person of any age, especially the older adult. Having a license and the ability to drive a car gives a sense of power and freedom that cannot be equated with any other.

Unfortunately, as we age, response times slow and dull, vision and hearing may begin to fail, and we must seriously evaluate our ability to drive a vehicle.

Here are a few questions for self-evaluation or, for those of you in the caregiver role, may be asked of the older adult in your life.

How is my vision? Of all the senses involved in driving, vision would have to be of the utmost importance. As we age, we are more likely to develop things like glaucoma or cataracts that may inhibit our ability to drive. Regular eye exams can help detect these conditions and others that may affect your ability to see well.

The aging eyes may become more susceptible to glare from the sun and oncoming headlights. Also, the ability to see while driving at night is reduced. There are new eyeglass alternatives to assist with glare reduction and night vision. As an added tip, when changing eyewear, you should give yourself plenty of time to try out the new prescription to make sure you adjust fully to it. A new or wrong prescription can seriously affect your vision.

Did I take my medication? Medications are enabling us all to live longer and better but may affect how we function in daily life. Some side effects of medications include sleepiness, dizziness, and lapses in memory; very dangerous if that person is behind the wheel of a car.

If your medications alter how you function in your home, you should assume that you would function no differently in your car. If your medications cause these and other side effects, talk to your healthcare provider about alternate medications that may not have side effects.

Is my vehicle in good health? Taking care of your car is just as important as knowing how to drive well. A car in disrepair can be very dangerous to you and to other people on the road.

Among other things to check, be sure that your tires are in good condition for regular driving but also driving in the rain or other inclement weather. You should have your windshield wipers checked to make sure they will function in bad weather. Also, cracks in windows or mirrors can obscure your vision. Be sure that any nicks or cracks are not within your line of sight.

Is my vehicle equipped? Some people experience loss of sensation or movement in their feet or legs and may not be able to properly operate

the pedals of their vehicle. Simple modifications may be made to your vehicle to allow you to drive. Hand controls are available to control the pedals as well as different devices for the steering wheel to allow for easier turning.

These devices should be installed by a trained professional and then only used after being trained about their operation by a professional.

Am I up-to-date? Driving is like riding a bicycle, right? You never forget. While that might be true, it never hurts to take a refresher course. Several organizations offer driver's education courses to help refresh the skills of driving, including the meanings of different signs and concepts like right-of-way.

Check with the Department of Public Safety office in your area for availability of a driver's education course. As an added bonus to the valuable information that is provided during a refresher course, your insurance company may offer you a reduced rate on your auto insurance after you complete the course. Check with your insurance agent about the added benefit to a driver safety course.

Should I be driving? Many times the hardest decisions are best made by yourself, rather than letting a situation get to where someone else must take action for you. If you question your abilities behind the wheel, the Texas Department of Public Safety has a program in place that will still allow driving privileges on a restricted basis. These licenses enable driving between certain hours or between certain locations. This program is entirely voluntary and may help stave off the inevitable: giving up your license entirely.

Too often the response from healthcare providers and family members is to take away the keys without looking at ways that the older driver may stay behind the wheel. There are many other things to consider when evaluating whether or not someone should drive.

For more information about driver safety and education, you should contact the Department of Public Safety office in your area.

Your County Extension Agent can also assist you with finding additional resources and information in your area.

# Eyes are windows to your body's health

Did you know that your dilated eye exam can tell your doctor much more than just how your eyes are doing?

Most people with diabetes know they need to get an eye exam every year, but many aren't sure why and how it must be done.

The "dilated" eye exam means that an eye doctor puts drops in your eyes to widen, or dilate, your pupils. This allows the doctor to use a special scope to see all the way to the retina at the back of your eye.

The retina is full of tiny blood vessels. Because high blood sugar levels can damage the vessels, it's important to check them each year. If they show damage, there are treatments available to help prevent further damage or even blindness.

But there is another reason for looking that the eye. Diabetes can damage other tiny blood vessels in the body, causing kidney problems,

nerve problems and circulation problems. But you can't look at those blood vessels as easily as you can the ones in the eyes.

By looking at those tiny blood vessels in your eyes, your doctor can tell a lot about the health of your body. If there are problems in the eyes, you may need a change in how you manage your diabetes. Your doctor may recommend different medication or even insulin, and may recommend changes to your eating and exercise habits.

So you can see, that dilated eye exam is important, even if you haven't noticed any change in your eyes or in your vision. Your eyes can be the window that lets your doctor look at the health of all your blood vessels.

Tips for Getting Your Eye Exam:  
•Remind your doctor that you haven't had your eye exam for the year.

•When your doctor refers you to an optometrist or an ophthalmologist, be sure to make and keep the appointment.

•When you make the appointment, be sure that the eye doctor knows that you have diabetes and that you need a dilated eye exam, not just a vision check.

Medicare will pay 80% of the cost for this exam.

•Have someone drive you to the appointment. Dilating your eyes will cause them to be very sensitive to light. Also, you won't be able to focus as well as usual until the dilation medication wears off.

•Be sure that the eye doctor reports the results of the test to the doctor who treats your diabetes.

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

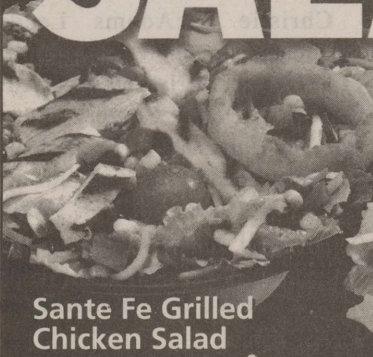
Choose from Little Caesars Cookie Dough Kits: Chocolate Mint Chip Cookie Dough, Chocolate Chunk Cookie Dough, White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Cookie Dough, Make-N-Bake Colorful Sugar Cookie Dough, Double Chocolate Cookie Dough, Peanut Butter Chocolate Chunk Cookie Dough, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie Dough or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

Place your order now and help these scouts raise funds to attend the National Scout Jamboree in the Summer of 2005!

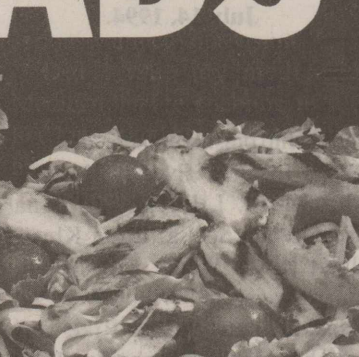
Scouts participating are: Luke Terry, Ethan Frierson, Brennam Medford, A. J. Benton, Jared Webb and Stephen Pace.

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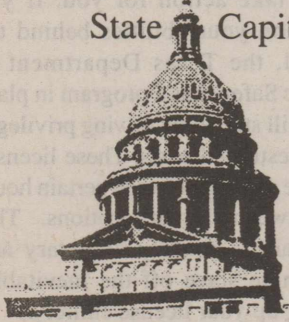
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# OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



## HIGHLIGHTS

By Mike Cox

### Political balloons fill Austin with hot air

AUSTIN—With all the trial political balloons floating in the air over Austin of late, in the figurative sense the capital city looks like Albuquerque during the national hot air balloon races.

If the 2006 gubernatorial primaries were held this week, these are the rumored contenders on the Republican ballot:

- Gov. Rick Perry
  - Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn
  - U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
  - U.S. Commerce Secretary Donald Evans
  - Former presidential spokesman Karen Hughes
- The Democratic balloon ballot:
- U.S. Congressman Jim Turner
  - Austin public relations guru Roy Spence
  - Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn (This is not a typo: There's some buzz she's thinking about returning to her party of origin. Or that she'll run as an independent. Some buzz, too, that what she really wants to be is lieutenant governor.)

### Speaking of balloons...

The Legislature's Joint Interim Committee on Nutrition and Health in Public Schools heard testimony recently that Texas kids are decidedly chubbier than their counterparts elsewhere in the nation.

A recent survey showed that Texas fourth-graders are 68 percent heavier than the national average, with eighth-graders weighing in 21 percent higher.

Unless these kids cut back on their high-calorie dishes, testimony continued, the number of overweight Texans could double by 2040 with the number of obese Texans tripling. That would cause the attendant health care costs to put on a little weight too, to \$40 billion from \$10 billion.

### Special session still in limbo...

Still no date set for a special session on educational finance. The governor said last week that until the legislative leadership comes up with a plan acceptable to all, he does not want to call lawmakers back to Austin.

A spokesman for Perry said the governor believes whatever the Legislature does probably will require a constitutional amendment vote, which means a session would have to act in time to get something on the November ballot.

That could happen as late as early October.

### Tragic anniversary remembered...

A decade ago, Texas gained one record no one wants to brag about: The deadliest single day on the state's nearly 80,000-mile highway system.

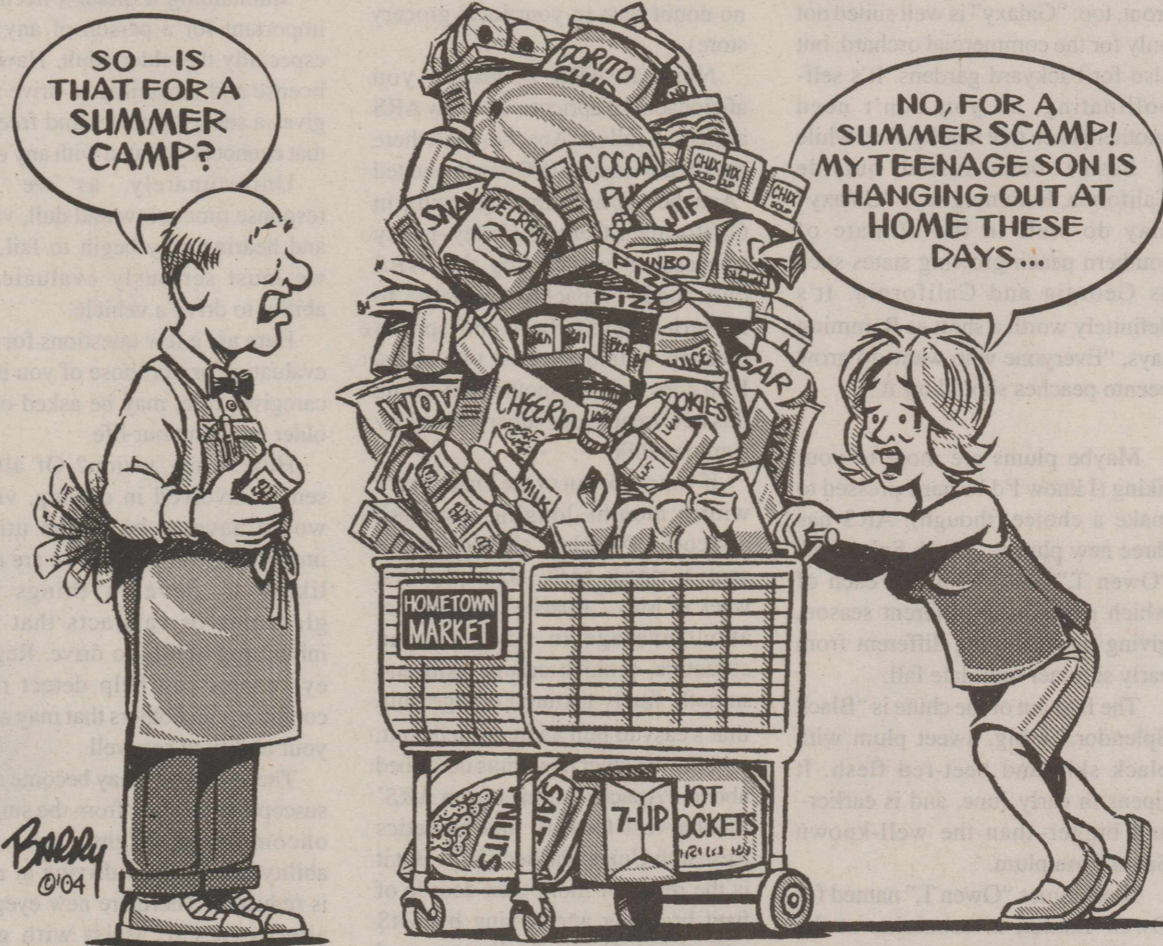
That was July 3, 1994, when 43 people died in traffic crashes in Texas in one terrible 24-hour period. Three multi-victim crashes (with 14, 11 and six deaths) added to the "routine" holiday death toll.

"We don't ever want to see another day like that," said Texas Department of Transportation Executive Director Mike Behrens. "We build our highways to be as safe as possible, but we need a little help from our drivers. Please don't drink and drive. Obey the speed limit and wear your safety belt."

### One in 2 million...

Not exactly like winning the lottery, but last Friday a visitor to the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum became the two-millionth person to walk into the downtown Austin museum since it opened in April 2001.

The visitor (because of early holiday deadlines the name was not yet available) received a welcome from museum director Lynn Denton, Austin Mayor Will Wynn and Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau head Bob Lander. In addition to several handshakes, the surprised walk-in got a confetti shower, a gift basket and a free membership to the museum.



Barry ©04

www.barrycartoons.com

## Now is a good time to check on immunizations

With the first day of school just around the corner, it's the perfect time for parents to make sure their children have been immunized, say pediatricians at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

"Keeping children and teens up to date on their vaccines keeps them healthy by preventing serious diseases not only in themselves but also in those around them who may not be protected," says Dr. Jane Siegel a pediatric infectious disease expert.

Without vaccines, the incidences of preventable childhood diseases such as polio, measles and mumps could rise. Unvaccinated kids would be susceptible to the diseases, which in severe cases could be life threatening. Parents should consult their children's doctor for a vaccine schedule.



## From The Inside Out

By Mary Kaigler

### Who is this Mystery Reader?

I was born in Jones County. I was married 36 years, am a widow, and have two children.

I attended school at Stamford and Haskell, and have an associate degree from Western Texas College in Snyder.

No one knows that I was once employed in a Christmas card factory.

My favorite TV shows are "CSI" and "Cold Case Files."

My favorite types of music are Southern Gospel and Country. My favorite songs are the hymn "He Keeps Me Singing," Garth Brooks' "Country" and "The Dance."

I like to read, play piano and do arts and crafts.

My favorite reading materials are inspirational and mysteries.

My favorite foods are steak and salad.

My favorite place in Texas is Fredericksburg. My favorite vacation spots in the world are the Big Bend area and Texas coast beaches.

My best quality is dependability. My worst quality is shyness.

I hate it when people use cell phones inappropriately and constantly.

The person from history I'd most like to talk with is Eleanor Roosevelt.

For me, the best thing about Haskell is the kind and friendly people who live here. Also, I like the fact that you can go anywhere in town in five minutes.

Watch next week for the identity

of this reader.

### Update

Last week's Mystery Reader was Dr. William Kemp, who knew at age thirteen that he wanted to be a dentist, and never gave up on the dream until he accomplished it.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Giles and Mary Kemp, he moved with them to a family farm in Haskell when he was six months old.

Frustrated at his father's strong disapproval of his leaving the farm to advance his education or become a dentist, when he finished high school he ran away from home after his understanding mother secretly took him aside and said, "Go to Austin!" With a saved-up \$75.00 in his pocket he left that day, and has never regretted his decision.

At the University of Texas, he finished two years of studies, before going into the service, training as a cadet in Bombardier School. After his stint in the Air Force, he returned to U. T. to take his pre-dental courses.

He met his future wife, Billie Jean, in Austin, on a blind date with another couple. She was a junior in high school, he was a sophomore in college. They married in 1944 and will celebrate their 60th anniversary this November. The couple has two children. Son Jim is a pediatric specialist in Amarillo, and daughter Kim is with the St. John School in Houston. They have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Dr. Kemp candidly tells of a U. T. professor who really helped him achieve his goal. Failing English, but needing to maintain a "C" average to get his degree, he was called in one day for a conference, and was told that "you might as well drop the course, because you cannot pass it." After talking with him for awhile about what he wanted to do in life, the professor asked him where he was from, and Bill said, "Haskell."

"Well, how about that!" said the professor, "My dad was a district judge in Haskell in 1923." Thinking for a few minutes, he continued, "Tell you what, if you will come to my office for tutoring for the next six weeks, we'll work together on your passing this English." Dr. Kemp says he was impressed that day by what a fortunate asset it may sometimes be to have come from Haskell.

In 1946 he was sent to study at the University of Missouri Dental School in Kansas City, and graduated in 1949.

Among the honors he has received was being called back to the University of Missouri in 1980, where he was named "Man of the Year" at the U. M. Dental School.

In 1983 he was elected president of the National Dental Examiners Association. As the new president, he and Billie Jean were honored guests at a gala party aboard the HMS Queen Mary in California, and stayed in the ship's King George Suite.

Dr. Kemp served 26 years on the State Dental Board, appointed under

Texas Governors Preston Smith, Dolph Briscoe and Mark White. He attributes Haskell native, Charles Bates "Tex" Thornton, founder and chairman of Litton Industries, for starting him in politics and getting him appointed.

This year marks 55 years the local dentist has been practicing. From 1949 until 1962, he worked as an oral surgeon at hospitals in Abilene, Lubbock, Knox City, Aspermont, Throckmorton, Stamford and Haskell, sometimes working as many as 60 hours a week. He kept his local office practice open until 2003, and now works at Haskell Memorial Hospital, the dental office in Stamford, and about eight hours a week at the Regional Jail and Detention Center. Along with that he plays golf five days a week.

"I've enjoyed it," the 82-year-old says of his career. "I've been in 'hog's heaven,' and I've had a ball," he said, adding that he doesn't plan to completely retire from it as long as his hands remain steady. Of hardy family stock, his father lived to be 86 and his mother until the age of 90.

Although he has never regretted his own early-in-life choice to leave home and the farm to become a dentist, he takes pride in the historical fact that in 2006, the farm he grew up on will have been in the family for 100 years.

"Haskell is a good place for kids to get a good background for doing fantastic things with their life," he said.

## From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

### 10 Years Ago July 14, 1994

Sons of Herman Lodge 241 in Haskell made history when 11 members were presented 50-year membership pins. Members included Frances Fischer, Evelyn Moeller, Lydia Klose, Lilly Peiser, Erna Peiser, Leona Seelig, Elton Klose, Wilbert Klose, Walter Kretschmer, Leonard Weise and Wilton Weise.

Haskell native Fred Rike was named head basketball coach at Tyler Junior College.

Betty L. Hearn, activity director at Haskell Healthcare Center, showed a 2-foot, 3-pound Armenian cucumber she grew in her garden in Rochester.

In the Little Britches Rodeo the winner of the cow chip throwing contest was Jeremy Casillas of Haskell. Mr. Cowboy was Weston Rutkowski and Miss Cowgirl was Christina Bitner.

### 20 Years Ago July 12, 1984

Erica Hollingsworth of Rochester won in the State Pageant of Our Little Miss Universal System earning her way to compete in the World Pageant.

Val Simmons of Haskell FFA won the Area II State Public Speaking contest and represented Area II at the

State FFA Convention.

Christie McAdams Leedy, granddaughter of Rev. and Mrs. C. T. Jackson of Haskell, received a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Mama Maude (Mrs. E. E.) Welsh of Haskell celebrated her 90th birthday. She was honored at an open house attended by her family and friends.

### 30 Years Ago July 11, 1974

Susan Lewis of Rule and Reeva Hamblin of Rochester attended the 12th annual High School Students Citizenship Seminar sponsored by the Haskell County Farm Bureau.

Debbie Aycock placed first in the pole bending contest and Susie Hopkins placed second at the District 3 4-H Horse Show to qualify for the state event.

Missie Stewart and Hollie McBroom were the winners in the egg and spoon contest and Dr. Colbert and Buck Everett were the horseshoe contest winners at the Haskell Country Club's July 4th celebration.

R. C. (Cliff) Cobb, Haskell native and vice president and secretary of Rolling Plains Production Credit

Association, went to Houston on temporary assignment for the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Houston.

### 40 Years Ago July 9, 1964

Bobby Black of Haskell was awarded Scouting's Bronze Palm, and Ronnie May of Rule received the Gold Palm at a Scouting Board of Review and Court of Honor session in Camp Tonkawa.

Abe Turner, Jr., cashier of the Haskell National Bank was selected to attend a two-weeks session of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Bailey Toliver, civic leader and immediate past president of the Haskell Chamber of Commerce, was honored with selection as an area director of the Texas Automobile Dealers Association.

Ordained and installed as new pastor of the Youngblood Memorial Presbyterian Church in Waco was David C. Duncan, a native of Haskell, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Belton Duncan.

### 50 Years Ago July 8, 1954

Airman Travis T. Burson, who had been stationed for the past year at

Utopia, Alaska, was home on a 30-day leave visiting his wife, the former Peggy Kennamer, and his father and brother, Theo Burson and Dan.

R. S. Sanders, graduate and former principal of Weinert High School, was appointed as postmaster at Weinert.

Mrs. Bill Flournoy was hostess to the Rainbow Sewing Club of Haskell. Ann Taylor won honors for the most sewing.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Wren and children, June and Truett of Weinert left for the Dakotas, where they operated a combine during the harvest. Their crew included B. Q. Furrh, Andy Sanders and Jetty Jetton.

### 100 Years Ago July 13, 1904

J. A. Smith, who completed a course at Draughon's Business College in Fort Worth, accepted a position as assistant in the Haskell post office.

W. O. Orr, a first class horse shoer and buggy workman from Baird arrived here and will be connected with the B. Stuart blacksmith shop.

Hollis Fields left for Howe where he accepted a position with his brothers, who are in the grain business there.

## Exercise can be a lifesaver

by Jane Rowan

### Haskell Co. Extension Agent

Exercise can not only help you lose weight and fit into those jeans, but it can save your life. It also plays a major role in reducing cancer risk.

A person's diet, tobacco use, and

use of sun protection also plays a major role in reducing cancer risk. Extension health expert Courtney Schoessow says increasing physical activity is one of the most important changes a person can make.

A regular exercise regimen can help lower the risk of breast cancer and colon cancer. The American Cancer Society recommends thirty minutes of moderate exercise at least five days a week.

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This issue mailed Wed., July 7, 2004



## From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Five Hot Scams: Don't Fall for them!

Prevention is an important part of the work my office does to protect consumers. You can help protect yourself and your family from being scammed by familiarizing yourself with some of the most common frauds and scams in circulation today.

Five scams in particular keep resurfacing in recent months. They are: phony lotteries and sweepstakes; "phishing;" counterfeit cashier's checks; easy credit scams; and bogus loans.

The lotteries and sweepstakes target senior Texans. The victim is told that he or she has won a fabulous prize. To collect the cash, the victim must send "fees" and "taxes." But there is no prize. This is theft, pure and simple. Anytime you have to pay up front to collect a prize, believe me, it is a scam.

"Phishing" is an Internet scam that uses e-mail to deceive consumers into disclosing their credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security numbers, passwords, and other sensitive information. These e-mails appear to be from reputable companies, but they are not. Don't be fooled! Legitimate companies work hard to provide security and privacy. They do NOT

contact customers to solicit "updates" on their financial and personal information. If you receive a solicitation similar to this, contact the company yourself by telephone—do not use links or mailers provided in the e-mail you received. The real company will probably want you to forward the message you received to their security department.

The counterfeit cashier's check scam involves sales of major items by individuals, often over the Internet. The seller is approached by a buyer or a person claiming to represent a buyer. The seller is told that the buyer can only send a cashier's check for an amount greater than the value of the purchase. The seller is asked to send the difference to the buyer. Later, it turns out that the cashier's check is in fact a counterfeit. To protect yourself, make sure your bank clears the check before you release the item or give a refund. Be extra careful. These counterfeits are very convincing. In some cases, the bank has been fooled and the victim is responsible for the losses.

Easy credit scams may be found online or in classified advertisements. A company claims it can guarantee a loan or credit card for a fee paid in

advance, no matter how low your credit rating. The fee may be as much as several hundred dollars. It's against the law for a lender to charge an advance fee for a loan or credit. And legitimate lenders will never guarantee that you can get a loan or credit card before you apply, especially if you have bad credit, no credit or a bankruptcy.

A number of consumers have turned to our office in confusion after receiving demands from collection agencies to pay debts that they do not recall. We always suggest the possibility that the consumer's identity has been stolen. However, in some cases no evidence can be produced that a debt even exists. Some collection agencies use intimidating letters to frighten consumers into paying off bogus debts. We caution these consumers that in addition to taking steps to protect themselves from ID theft, they should demand proof that an unfamiliar debt even exists. A legitimate debt collection agency can produce valid written proof of a debt's existence. Be wary of these types of scams or others that sound similar. If you have received a questionable solicitation, do not hesitate to report it to my office.

# Have a heart – Volunteer

"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they have the heart."—Anonymous

The American Heart Association is the largest community-based voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases. The strength and success of our mission—to reduce disability and death from heart disease and stroke—depends largely on the dedication and commitment of our volunteers.

Volunteers are the backbone of the American Heart Association; without people just like you, we wouldn't have the life-saving research, education programs and community events that benefit countless of Americans today.

If you're like most people, your time is precious and demands on your time are many, both at work and at home. So why have thousands of Americans chosen to contribute their valuable time to the American Heart Association?

Most of us, if not all have us, have been impacted by heart disease and stroke, making it a mission that becomes intensely personal. Heart disease is still the number one killer of men and women, claiming an estimated 950,000 lives each year. Stroke is the leading cause of serious long-term disability and the third leading killer of men and women.

Whether you're a survivor, or a family member of a survivor, a medical professional, or just someone who wants to give back to the community, there are a number of different volunteer opportunities at the American Heart Association—Texas Affiliate. Our work at the community level lays the foundation for everything we do.

Our fundraising efforts are key to exploring new research opportunities that could lead to medical breakthroughs. In fact, over the last 10 years, the American Heart Association has funded more than \$1 billion in cardiovascular research—a commitment second only to that of the federal government. AHA-funded research has led to such milestones as CPR science, open-heart surgery, pacemakers, heart stents, life-extending drugs and new surgical techniques to repair heart defects.

The American Heart Walk is our signature fundraising event. The Heart Walk promotes physical activity and heart-healthy living in a fun, family environment, making it easy for everyone to get involved, just by walking. In addition, local offices hold galas, auctions and other activities to raise money for research, which are typically staffed by volunteers.

Here in Texas, the American Heart Association is working hard to strengthen the statewide emergency care infrastructure through CPR training and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Volunteers teach our CPR and AED training courses to the general public, who in turn can transform themselves from bystanders to life-savers.

A number of community programs sponsored by the American Heart Association also depend on volunteer efforts to ensure their continued success. Our public education programs and campaigns are developed to increase awareness of heart disease and stroke, and how to prevent and treat these diseases.

Another way you can volunteer with the American Heart Association is through our advocacy grassroots network. More than 3,500 volunteers across Texas actively participate in our grassroots network, helping us advance policies that support the fight against heart disease and stroke. We depend on dedicated people like you to communicate our message with legislators and elected officials at the local, state and federal levels.

Every day, more than 150 Texans die from heart disease and stroke. With your help, we can make a

difference. "A volunteer is a person who believes that people can make a difference—and is willing to prove it."—Anonymous.

To learn more about volunteering with the American Heart Association, visit our website at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org).

### Keep Secondary Worm Pests Under Control in Cotton

Secondary worm pests such as loopers, armyworms and saltmarsh caterpillars can cause extensive damage to cotton plants at a key stage of production. Although infestations of these pests may be sporadic from year to year, damage from their feeding can be a late-season headache for growers.

Data from studies conducted by Dow AgroSciences and Mississippi State University during an outbreak of saltmarsh caterpillar in seedling cotton indicated that Intrepid® insecticide was highly effective in controlling this pest, as well as beet armyworms, soybean loopers and cabbage loopers.

In all studies on loopers and saltmarsh caterpillars, low rates of Intrepid were compared with other commercial standard treatments and untreated checks. Results showed that Intrepid significantly reduced looper and saltmarsh caterpillar populations and percent of defoliation within 2 to 3 days of application.

Feeding among the pests stopped almost immediately, with death following in 2 to 5 days. And, the residual effectiveness of Intrepid on treated foliage was apparent for at least 14 days.

The active ingredient in Intrepid mimics the natural insect molting hormone in targeted pests, causing a premature, lethal molt of the larvae within hours of ingestion. Intrepid, however, is selective, so it allows growers to maintain populations of beneficial insects such as ladybeetles, parasitic wasps and honeybees, which makes it ideal for use in Integrated Pest Management and resistance management programs.

The extended residual performance and broad spectrum of Intrepid for control of the secondary pest complex in cotton makes it an excellent fit for pest control programs across the Cotton Belt.

To learn more about Intrepid insecticide and other Dow AgroSciences cotton protection products, see your local ag retailer.



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Sales Representative  
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## Reducing bathroom trips

Women who use the bathroom more than normal—or more often than eight times in a 24-hour period—may want to consider cutting back on diet soda, says Dr. Mikio Nihira, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

"Caffeine, carbonation and sugar substitutes can irritate the bladder and make some women feel like they need to urinate or, worse, like they are having trouble holding it," he says.

"Our list of bladder irritants is growing," Dr. Nihira says. "For many women, reducing their intake of diet soda is very helpful."

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**TAX PLANNING**  
Written By  
**Richard E. Rodgers, CPA**



### MAKE TIME FOR TAX PLANNING NOW

Take the time to do some tax planning now instead of waiting until the end of the year when your choices may be more limited. Consider these tax-saving ideas if you want to keep more of what you make this year.

**Cut your adjusted gross income.** Your adjusted gross income (AGI) determines your eligibility for over 20 tax benefits, such as tax credits, itemized deductions, and exemptions. These benefits begin to phase out once your AGI reaches certain levels. If you suspect your 2004 AGI will be close to a particular phase-out limit, here are some steps you might take to reduce it.

- Contribute the maximum allowed to your retirement plan at work. If you are self-employed, contribute to a SIMPLE, SEP, or Keogh plan.
- Make a deductible IRA contribution for your nonworking spouse.
- Consider selling some losers in your investment portfolio to offset capital gains. Up to \$3,000 of capital losses in excess of gains can be used to offset salary and other income.
- Swap real estate in a tax-deferred exchange instead of selling it.
- Give income-producing assets (stocks, mutual funds, etc.) to a family member in a lower tax bracket than your own.

**Choose wise investments.** In some cases, tax-exempt interest could trigger tax on your social security benefits, or it could trigger the alternative minimum tax. If you're caught in this trap, consider switching to other investments, such as growth stocks that don't pay dividends.

**Keep good records.** Tax law requires you to keep records that support income and deductions claimed on your income tax return. A good recordkeeping system also helps you make tax-cutting choices throughout the year.

**Stay informed.** Congress is considering various tax proposals this year. As you do your 2004 tax planning, call us for a review of how recent tax law changes and any pending legislation could affect you.

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# Another flock of birds has avian influenza

Laboratory tests Tues., June 22, confirmed that a flock of 14 birds in Hopkins County in northeast Texas was infected with H7N3, the same strain of the avian influenza (AI) that led to the depopulation and burial of 48,000 commercial breeding chickens in the county in mid-May.

The small flock, located about four miles from the depopulated commercial operations, was immediately euthanized and incinerated. Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) veterinarians now may need to revise the AI disease surveillance plan, and additional testing of flocks in the area will be necessary to ensure disease eradication and satisfy the requirements of interstate and international trading partners.

"This turn of events is disappointing to us and the area's poultry owners, but it demonstrates why widespread, repeated flock testing is necessary during an AI outbreak. This infected non-commercial flock was one of more than 315 in a 300-square mile area that tested negative a little more than two weeks ago. Our on-site team had nearly completed the second round of testing the flocks when the National Veterinary Services

Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, reported the positive test results on the small 14-bird flock that had 10 chickens and four ducks," said Dr. Max Coats, deputy director for Animal Health Programs for the TAHC, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency.

Dr. Coats said a team comprised of TAHC and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors and two veterinarians has been stationed in Sulphur Springs since mid-May, after two commercial breeding flocks nearby tested positive for the H7N3 strain of AI on routine blood tests. The chickens, which did not exhibit signs of disease, were depopulated and buried, to prevent potential disease exposure to other birds. The AI virus was not isolated in subsequent laboratory tests. A third commercial flock in the testing area, also with breeding chickens, has tested negative for the disease.

The joint state and federal team has canvassed seven days a week, first to canvass the area and issue "hold orders" so birds would not be moved from the immediate area until all testing was completed. The team then collected swabs and blood samples from birds for laboratory sampling, explained Dr. Coats. Tests are run at

the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratories in College Station, Gonzales or Center, and samples with inconclusive or positive results are forwarded to the NVSL for confirmation testing.

"We will need to retest some of the area's flocks again, in order to assure our trading partners that all traces of this viral bird disease have been detected and eradicated," said Dr. Coats. "Additionally, we will have to change our testing area, as the testing protocol calls for disease surveillance within a 10-mile radius of an infected flock—whether it is a commercial or noncommercial operation."

"I want to express my appreciation to the area's poultry owners for their outstanding cooperation during this trying time," he said. "If our team continues to work seven days a week, and the weather continues to be favorable, we may be able to complete the disease surveillance by the end of July, provided we do not encounter additional infection."

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## TEXAS

### Our Great State

The Texas State Quarter is now available for sale in proof sets at First National Bank.

This beautiful coin marks the joining of our great state with the United States. It is available in the same type of proof sets, with a short history of the state, as all the other already issued proof sets.

In addition, available are some different items to commemorate our State, including necklaces and money clips. They are available with the standard uncirculated quarter and with a gold plated quarter.

In addition to the standard proof set, a gold plated proof set is also available. As with the standard proof set, it contains two uncirculated coins; with one minted in Philadelphia and one minted in Denver.

We also have rolls of uncirculated coins. Contact us for availability and price.

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# Groundwater facts offered by Groundwater District Alliance

by Richard Bowers, President  
Texas Alliance of  
Groundwater Districts

Suddenly, everyone's an expert on groundwater. It would seem we've come a long way since 1904, when the Texas Supreme Court declared groundwater to be "mysterious and occult."

Now, 100 years later, any water marketer worth his salt will tell you for a fact that you can pump all the groundwater you want out of an area with absolutely no serious impact on the region's future water supplies. Other experts will tell you for a fact that our groundwater resources should be controlled by a state agency with standardized rules applied uniformly across the state. A few also will insist that managing groundwater resources is the same as managing oil and gas and that if you've done one, you can do the other.

At the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), we think "facts" like these don't hold water. And the "experts" who espouse them are all wet.

The members of TAGD—73 of the

80 confirmed groundwater conservation districts in Texas—have taken a wait and see attitude to the recent debates over groundwater issues. We've listened to considerable wrangling over the amount of groundwater that may or may not be available in certain areas; we've heard heated discussion on the proper role of the state in overseeing groundwater; we've winced at inaccuracies about the roles and responsibilities of groundwater conservation districts and the efficiency of the Rule of Capture.

Now it's time for the folks who really know groundwater to have a say.

It's time for the real experts—the ones with years of experience monitoring groundwater behavior and developing workable policies for using this precious resource—to detail the real facts of managing groundwater in Texas.

Like Texas, like the aquifers we manage, and like the conditions we work under, TAGD is a diverse lot. But our experience unites us on several points—the true facts of the situation.

Fact 1: The Rule of Capture is not broken. Although the rule ostensibly allows anyone to freely pump as much groundwater as possible, there are limits. Pumping must be for beneficial use; no waste is allowed. Furthermore, groundwater conservation districts can adopt spacing requirements and production limits. By state law, districts also must develop and implement conservation and drought management plans and permit requirements. All these are important restraints that balance the Rule of Capture.

Fact 2: Groundwater management in Texas is not and cannot be one-size-fits-all. Texas boasts 9 major aquifers and 21 minor aquifers. Some are recharged easily; others very slowly or not at all. Some serve major cities; others are used mainly for agriculture. A single agency, especially one charged with a multitude of other responsibilities, lacks the capability and flexibility to respond to specific conditions and needs in a timely manner.

Fact 3: Groundwater conservation districts are rightly the state's "preferred method of managing

groundwater." The Texas Legislature appropriately wrote this phrase into law. Hands down, a locally elected and locally managed district is the best way to develop and administer well spacing requirements, groundwater production limits, drought management, and other policies that reflect the conditions of a particular section of an aquifer and the specific needs of the people who draw from it. And thanks to legislative foresight in the last few sessions, districts now oversee 89 percent of groundwater use in Texas.

Fact 4: Local groundwater conservation districts need adequate support and time to develop sound policies for managing our groundwater resources. Many districts are relatively new. Few have started out with adequate financial and technical resources to do their jobs properly, and several are threatened by lawsuits even as they try to organize and establish policies and procedures that fit the needs of their communities. The successes of older, established districts prove that the impact of the Rule of Capture can be reduced when a district

implements scientifically sound management policies.

Fact 5: Groundwater management is an important issue in Texas and dialogue is necessary to define efficient and equitable management techniques and policies. But let's make sure that dialogue is based on facts, not suppositions. And let's include in the discussion those who breathe, eat, and sleep groundwater. The Texas Alliance of Groundwater

Districts stands ready to assist with sound science and broad expertise.

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts is a nonprofit organization offering networking opportunities and mutual assistance to districts. TAGD also serves as a resource on groundwater science, management, and policy. For further information, contact TAGD at 1300 Guadalupe, Suite 201, Austin, Texas 78701; telephone: 512/473-8600.

## Chiropractic care now available to veterans

Veterans can receive chiropractic care at 26 selected Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities beginning this fall, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi recently announced. VA will hire or contract with doctors of chiropractic to provide the care. In consultation with VA primary care providers, doctors of chiropractic will offer patient evaluations and chiropractic care for neuromusculoskeletal conditions.

"Today, VA makes another significant improvement to the world-class health care we provide for eligible veterans," said Principi. "Veterans who will benefit from chiropractic services will now have

the opportunity to receive chiropractic care to restore them to good health."

Locations in Texas where chiropractic care will be provided include San Antonio, Temple and Dallas. Eligible veterans in areas distant from these locations will also be able to receive chiropractic care through VA's outpatient fee-basis program after a referral by their primary care provider, and prior authorization by the department.

VA was authorized to offer chiropractic care and services under the provisions of section 204 of Public Law 107-135, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001.

## This Week's Devotional Message:



### WHETHER YOU TRAVEL OR STAY HOME, GOD IS THERE

Like many of us, you may have a vacation looming on the horizon, and of course your budget will dictate where you will spend it. You may visit another part of the world, or just lounge around the house. In any case your vacation can be a very enjoyable and rewarding escape from the realities of everyday living. Moreover, wherever you are the Lord will be there to watch over you. Thank Him for His protection at any house of worship, and even if your travels take you beyond the orbit of civilization, there is always the Bible. Put it on your list of things to pack in your suitcase. In fact, that's a good idea no matter where you're going. To borrow the advice of a well-known TV commercial, "Don't leave home without it."

### ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>HASKELL</b></p> <p><b>East Side Baptist Church</b><br/>Danny Manross, pastor<br/>Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>600 N. 1st East, Haskell</p> <p><b>Christian Church</b><br/>Dusty Garrison, minister<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>107 N. Ave. F, Haskell</p> <p><b>New Vision Family Worship Center</b><br/>Joe and Loretta Stulir, pastors<br/>864-5438<br/>Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m.<br/>East Hwy 380, Haskell</p> <p><b>Trinity Lutheran Church</b><br/>Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30<br/>Hwy 380 East, Haskell</p> <p><b>Iglesia Bautista El Calvario</b><br/>Art Flores, Interim pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>607 S. 7th, Haskell</p> <p><b>First United Methodist Church</b><br/>Allen Brooks, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.<br/>201 N. Ave. F, Haskell</p> <p><b>First Assembly of God</b><br/>Rev. J.C. Amburn<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell</p> <p><b>St. George Catholic Church</b><br/>Father George Roney<br/>Sat. Mass 7 p.m.; Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m.<br/>901 N. 16th, Haskell</p> <p><b>Church of Christ</b><br/>Brett Anderson, minister<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 10:30 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.<br/>510 N. Ave. E, Haskell</p> <p><b>First Presbyterian Church</b><br/>Steve Beatty, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.<br/>306 N. Ave. E, Haskell</p> <p><b>Trinity Baptist Church</b><br/>Tony Grand, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.<br/>401 S. Ave. D, Haskell</p> <p><b>Hopewell Baptist Church</b><br/>Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>908 N. Ave. A, Haskell</p> | <p><b>Greater Independent Baptist Church</b><br/>Rev. Tom Collins, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.<br/>301 N. 3rd St., Haskell</p> <p><b>New Covenant Foursquare</b><br/>Bill and Renee Glass, pastors<br/>Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.<br/>200 S. Ave. F, Haskell</p> <p><b>Mission Revival Center</b><br/>Rev. William Hodge<br/>Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Tues. 6 p.m.<br/>1600 N. Ave. B, Haskell</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church</b><br/>Kevin Hall, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>301 N. Ave. E, Haskell</p> <p><b>Church in the Park</b><br/>Rev. Tim and Suzann Townsend<br/>Sun. Morn. 10:30 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>Gazebo or Pavillion</p> <p><b>Cornerstone Baptist Fellowship</b><br/>Dr. Gibbie McMillan, Interim pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>1303 N. Ave. I, Haskell</p> <p><b>WEINERT</b></p> <p><b>First Baptist Church</b><br/>J. C. Baker, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>Weinert</p> <p><b>Weinert Foursquare Church</b><br/>Rev. Robert Harrison<br/>Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>Weinert</p> <p><b>ROCHESTER</b></p> <p><b>Church of Christ</b><br/>Steve Willis, minister<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.<br/>West on Main Street, Rochester</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church</b><br/>Jackie Brem, pastor<br/>Sun. 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:00 p.m.<br/>500 Main, Rochester</p> <p><b>Union Chapel Baptist Church</b><br/>Rev. Clarence Walker<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>Rochester</p> <p><b>Faith Chapel of Rochester</b><br/>Katherine Byrd, minister<br/>Sun. Morn. 10 a.m.; 11 a.m., 7 p.m.<br/>Hwy 6, Rochester</p> | <p><b>First United Methodist Church</b><br/>Dolan Brinson, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.<br/>Rochester</p> <p><b>SAGERTON</b></p> <p><b>Sagerton Methodist Church</b><br/>Melissa Bemis, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.<br/>Sagerton</p> <p><b>Faith Lutheran Church</b><br/>Deborah Nissen, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>Sagerton</p> <p><b>RULE</b></p> <p><b>First Baptist Church</b><br/>Josh Stowe, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>1001 Union Ave., Rule</p> <p><b>Primitive Baptist Church</b><br/>Dale Turner Jr., pastor<br/>First &amp; Third Sundays 10 a.m.<br/>Corner of 8th &amp; Robins, Rule</p> <p><b>Church of Christ</b><br/>John Greeson, minister<br/>Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>811 Union, Rule</p> <p><b>First United Methodist Church</b><br/>Wendall Ferguson, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. Worship 10 a.m.<br/>1000 Union Ave., Rule</p> <p><b>Primera Iglesia Bautista</b><br/>Alfa y Omegas<br/>Manuel Marin, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.<br/>500 Elm Street, Rule</p> <p><b>Sweet Home Baptist Church</b><br/>Bill Trice, pastor<br/>Sun. Morn. 10:00 a., 11:00 a., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.<br/>Gladstone Ave., Rule</p> <p><b>West Bethal Baptist Church</b><br/>Rev. Robert Sweet<br/>Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.<br/>300 Sunny Ave., Rule</p> <p><b>PAINT CREEK</b></p> <p><b>Paint Creek Baptist Church</b><br/>Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.<br/>Paint Creek</p> <p><b>O'BRIEN</b></p> <p><b>O'Brien Baptist Church</b><br/>Milton McManus, pastor<br/>Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a., 5 p., 6 p. Wed. 6 p.m.<br/>O'Brien</p> |
|---|---|--|

## Haskell Summer Lunch Menu

- July 12-16**  
Milk is served daily.
- Monday:** Chicken fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, English peas, hot rolls, sunshine bar
- Tuesday:** Baked potatoes with cheese, garden salad, butter and sour cream, fried okra, watermelon
- Wednesday:** Popcorn shrimp with cocktail sauce, coleslaw, hushpuppies, French fries, strawberries
- Thursday:** Chicken spaghetti, green beans, salad, breadsticks, chocolate pudding
- Friday:** Cheeseburgers, lettuce/tomatoes/pickles, French fries, ice cream with toppings

## ECC Calendar and Menu

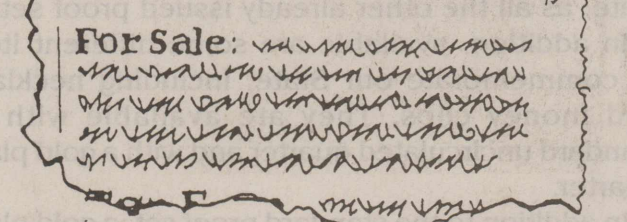
- Mon., July 12**  
11:00 a.m.: Blood pressure check  
Lunch—Beef spaghetti, vegetables, garden salad, sliced onions, garlic toast, cherry cobbler, milk, tea, or coffee
- Wed., July 14**  
Lunch—Chicken and dressing, candied yams, green beans, cranberries, yeast rolls, peach cobbler, milk, tea, or coffee
- Fri., July 16**  
Lunch—Beef stew, carrot salad, sliced onions, pickles, cornbread, brownies/pineapple slices, milk, tea, or coffee
- Announcements begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch.

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Sure, you can stand in the street in the middle of a major intersection every day for a week with an item you want to sell, put a couple of huge signs on it, and hope someone takes you up on the offer. It might just get the job done. Or you might just end up looking foolish.

## The Easy Way.



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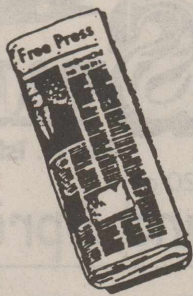
**Personality Slipper Shoppe**  
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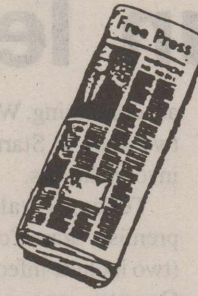
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ALL DEADLINES MONDAY 5 P.M.

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### Cars For Sale

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

### Miscellaneous

HOUSE LEVELLING and foundation repair. No payments until work is satisfactorily completed. David Lee & Co. 325-675-6369. 6tc

COMPUTER WORK. Onsite. Hardware/software. Repair or installation. Call Steve Livingood 325-773-2616. If no answer, leave message. 26-29p

### Jobs Wanted

CHILD CARE: 200 N. 3rd St. Loretta Hatfield, 864-6127. 28p

### Help Wanted

FIRST UNITED METHODIST Church, Haskell, is searching for a church secretary to work part time in the church office. Job requirements consist of a need for computer skills, bookkeeping experience, interaction with people skills and the ability to perform general secretarial duties. Apply by sending resume to FUMC, P. O. Box 525, Haskell, TX 79521 or call 864-3202 for more information. 28tfc

CHARTER Communications, Stamford Texas area, seeking install/repair technician. Experience not required. Will train. Must be hard worker, customer oriented. Excellent benefits. Apply on-line at www.charter.com. 28-39c

UNITED HOUSE CALLS is currently seeking Home Health Aides and LVNs to make fee for service in Haskell County and surrounding areas. If interested, please call 1-866-207-0896 or send resume to 142 Tannehill Dr. Abilene, Texas 79602. 27-28c

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### NOTICE

The Haskell Free Press reserves the right to edit and/or delete all news stories and locals for length and liability and to refuse to print anything deemed not newsworthy. 27-30c

Full-time with benefits. **Therapist Tech III** - Trainer positions (#486). High school graduate or GED, plus 6 months experience assisting in therapeutic activities required. Applicants may view applications, position descriptions and complete applications at Texas Workforce Centers or on-line at www.helenfarabee.org. An EOE/ADA Employer. Bilingual-English/Spanish-preferred.

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1021 N. 6TH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large living. Large garage.  
307 N. AVE. H. Large house. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Priced to sell.  
907 N. AVE. L. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Extra large storage. Water well.  
420 N. 1ST. Large office bldg., nice central location. Newly remodeled.  
1401 N. AVE. I. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Corner lot.  
1307 N. AVE. L. 3 bedroom, 2 bath on large lot. Storm cellar, water well, garden plot.

### Help Wanted

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS for all positions at Sonic Drive In, Haskell. Apply in person. 25tfc

RICE SPRINGS Care Home is making a difference. We are looking for two day shift CNAs; and LVNs. Call Shandra at 864-2652 for information. 28c

LICENSED VOCATIONAL nurse: LVN position available for motivated individual interested in working in geriatrics. Competitive pay with benefits. Please apply in person at Brazos Valley Care Home, 605 S. Ave. F, Knox City. 25tfc

MANAGER AND PART-TIME sales positions open. Come join our winning team at TNT Video, 9 Ave. E, Haskell. 26tfc

MANAGER TRAINEE positions available at local and surrounding Richeson DQs. Unlimited bonus potential with above average base pay. Looking for friendly, customer service leaders. Holiday and vacation pay. Smoke and drug free working environment. Drug test and background check required. Call District Manager Jacala Ashley, 940-585-8586. 28tfc

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FOR RENT: Furnished rooms for rent. Nightly, weekly. Call Lone Star Lodging 864-2238. 21tfc

FOR LEASE: 906 N. Ave. E. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 864-3762. 27-28c

FOR RENT: 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 505 N. Ave. B. Welcome HUD voucher. 806-983-3777 day; 806-983-5211 night. 28tfc

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Owner finance.  
Call Alex  
325-725-1449  
Se habla español. 35tfc

Secretary wanted for health care office. Typing and computer skills necessary. Home health experience a plus. Apply in person at 417 S. 1st, Haskell or call Misty McMeans at 864-5074. 27-30c

### Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE No. 4225 IN RE: ESTATE OF ELLA E. GRAMETBAUR, DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HASKELL COUNTY, TEXAS PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ELLA E. GRAMETBAUR, Deceased, were issued on June 25, 2004, Docket Number 4225, pending in the County Court of Haskell County, Texas to BISHOP PLACIDO RODRIQUEZ.

The residence of the Executor is in Lubbock, Texas, and you are hereby required to present any claim you may have to the following mailing address:

Estate of Ella E. Grametbaur, Deceased, Bishop Placido Rodriguez, c/o Madison Sowder, Attorney at Law, 1703 Ave. K, Lubbock, Texas 79401 or Shane Hadaway, Attorney at Law, P. O. Box 305, Haskell, Texas 79521.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 29th day of June, 2004.

SHANE HADAWAY Attorney at Law P. O. Box 305 Haskell, Texas 79521 Phone 940-864-2066 Fax 940-864-5616 State Bar No. 00784189 ATTORNEY FOR ESTATE OF ELLA E. GRAMETBAUR, DECEASED 28c

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**511 S. 9<sup>TH</sup>.** Large 4-2, living, dining, C/HA, screened in porch, center island kitchen.  
**607 S. 6<sup>TH</sup>.** Large brick, 3-2-3, living, den, dining, C/HA, floored attic, well, storage.  
**1171 S. HWY 277.** Large 3-3-2, one acre, C/HA, 2 fireplaces, utility, office, new roof.  
**409 S. AVE. E EAST.** 3-1-carport on two lots. Extra lots available.  
**1500 N. AVE. H.** Brick, 3-2-carport, C/HA, living, dining, den, cellar, fenced yard.

### Real Estate

FOR SALE OR TRADE: 3 bedroom, 2 bath fixer-upper in country. Small down. Owner financing. 864-2238. 14tfc

FOR SALE: 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Brick. Water well, cellar. C/HA. Price reduced. 940-864-2264. 14tfc

HOUSE FOR SALE: 3 bedrooms, 2 bath. Storage building. Water well, sprinkler system. Large lot. Completely remodeled 10 years ago. Call for appointment to view. 200 S. Ave. L. 864-8075 nights or 864-3552 days. 25tfc

Old age is like tight underwear—it creeps up on you. Our small town low overhead allows us to sell La-Z-Boy recliners for less. Nobody beats our prices. Kinney Furniture in Stamford. 28c

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**NOTICE**  
The deadline for Classified Advertising is 5 p.m. on Mondays.  
Haskell Free Press

You know you're getting old—if you're more disappointed by the things you didn't do than the things you did do. You might not feel so old if you got a good night's sleep on a Spring Air "Never Turn" mattress set. Kinney Furniture in Stamford. 28c

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•240 Acres, East of Sagerton	1 Days
•3 bedroom, 2 bath	\$37,000
1210 Hudson Road, Stamford	
•2 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath	\$17,500
1212 Hudson Road, Stamford	
•231 Acre Farm in C.R.P.	\$425 Acre
North of Rule, Texas	

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# VS now in Texas cattle

This year's outbreak of vesicular stomatitis (VS) now has been confirmed, not only in horses in Texas and New Mexico, but also in two head of cattle in Starr County, about 225 miles south of San Antonio. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency, received notification of the positive laboratory results late Tues., June 29.

"The two infected cattle are on separate quarantined premises in Starr County and are the first confirmed cases in cattle in the U.S. since the 1997 VS outbreak involving New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Utah. The 1998 outbreak involved only horses," said Dr. Max Coats, deputy director for the TAHC's Animal Health Programs.

"On one of the premises in Starr County, one cow among a handful of cattle tested positive for VS, and no other susceptible animals are on the site. On the second premise, the owner has an infected cow and horse, and there are about 30 other head of cattle and several horses that, at this point, have no clinical signs of VS and they have tested negative for the disease," he said.

As of June 30, VS infection in 2004 has been detected on a total of 15 premises in Texas and New Mexico. Disease investigations also

are continuing. With the exception of two sites in Starr County, all cases involve horses.

Texas: Uvalde County, one premise; Starr County, five premises (two include infected cattle); Dimmit County, one premise; Yoakum County, one premise; Val Verde County, one premise; and Reeves County, one premise.

New Mexico: Carlsbad area, four premises; and Belen, Valencia County, one premise.

VS, a viral infection, occurs sporadically in the southwestern U.S. and is thought to be transmitted by sand flies and black flies. This painful, but short-term disease can cause blistering and erosions in and around the mouth, and around the muzzle, teats or hooves of horses, cattle, goats, swine, deer and some other livestock. Infected animals with open sores can expose herd mates to the disease through close contact or by the sharing of feed buckets or bits. As a precaution, all infected and susceptible livestock on a premise are quarantined until at least 30 days after all infected animals have healed.

"The signs of VS mimic those of foot-and-mouth disease, a dangerous and highly contagious foreign animal disease that can strike cattle, swine, sheep, deer and other cloven-hooved animals, but not affect horses," he

said. "When livestock develop blistering or erosions, it is imperative that the animals be evaluated and laboratory tests be conducted to differentiate between the two diseases—or to determine if there is a caustic substance, toxic weed or poison that is causing the irritation. A regulatory veterinarian from the TAHC or U.S. Department of Agriculture should be notified by the owner or private veterinary practitioner, so small snippets of tissue can be collected from the sores laboratory submission."

Samples from horses are tested at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) at Ames, Iowa. As a safety measure, samples from cloven-hooved animals are shipped to Foreign Animal Disease Laboratory (FADDL) on Plum Island, New York, where they are subjected to testing for both vesicular stomatitis and foot-and-mouth disease.

To report potential signs of VS, owners and practitioners in Texas can call the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242, anytime, day or night. The TAHC urges livestock transporters to check with their intended state of destination to obtain the latest information on testing requirements, movement restrictions or other VS-related regulations.

# Housing

continued from page 1

technical and supervisory assistance grants. An estimated 2,000 low-income families will benefit from USDA loans and grants allowing them to purchase their own home or make essential home repairs.

Homebuyer training and counseling will also benefit thousands more who hope to become home owners in the near future.

The deadline to apply will be 30 days from the publication in the July 1, 2004 Federal Register. Community and faith-based and organizations are eligible to apply. For more information, please see Rural Development's website, www.rurdev.usda.gov.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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# eGov takes USDA to Web

"Expanding electronic government" is a key element in the President's Management Agenda. USDA is making program delivery more convenient and accessible for its agencies and customers with "eGov." Now, Farm Service Agency (FSA) customers with internet access can complete and submit electronic program applications and eligibility forms 24 hours a day, seven days a week from the convenience of their homes or offices.

"Better service to our customers is what eGovernment (eGov) is about," said Eddie Trevino, District Director for Texas State Farm Service Agency (FSA), and coordinator for FSA's eGov initiative in the State. Trevino said, "eGov provides a simple and less redundant method for delivering FSA programs. Eventually, FSA customers will benefit from a one-time data entry process that can be shared among all programs."

"eGov capabilities expand daily," said Trevino. According to Trevino,

individuals soon will be able to complete pre-screening profiles to determine their potential program eligibility before submitting applications online or in person. This technology will allow farmers, rural planners, conservationists, researchers, and other agricultural land management specialists to use digitally created maps and Geographical Systems Information (GIS) to view cropland, range and pastureland, wetlands, building sites, neighborhoods, and roads and highways.

USDA's eGov services include the USDA Customer Statement which combines a wide range of information on services and program activity in a single, confidential, and secured report. Personal information displayed includes a summary of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts, a year-to-date summary of FSA payments received and the status of FSA direct loan requests.

Glenn R. Brzozowski, County

Executive Director for Haskell County Farm Service Agency, said, "Many of our farmers and ranchers are using computers for business purposes. I believe our producers can see the advantages and convenience to doing business online." Brzozowski said, "Our producers are not the only ones benefiting from eGov. Our program technicians in our service center offices will be able to process applications in a more efficient manner allowing them more time for other customer service and program-related tasks."

Information about eGov access and registration is available by contacting the Haskell County FSA Office at 940-864-2617.

**The Haskell Free Press**



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## Notice of Public Hearing on Haskell County Appraisal District's Budget

The Haskell County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2005 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on July 8, 2004 at 7:30 a.m. at the Appraisal District office, 604 North First Street, Haskell, Texas.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget.	\$284,150
The total amount of increase over the current year's budget.	\$ 11,530
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget	5 (full-time equivalent)
The number of employees compensated under the current budget.	5 (full-time equivalent)

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

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