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Happy New Year

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 118--NO. 53, ©DECEMBER 30, 2004

"The People's Choice"

10 PAGES--ONE SECTION--50 CENTS

Rule Chamber lists Christmas contest winners

Winners announced in the Rule Chamber of Commerce Christmas lighting contests included the following:

Home and Yard: 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jones; 2nd, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Lane; 3rd, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Coker.

Childrens Christmas Poster Contest: Early Childhood--1st, Thomas Raney; 2nd, Paul Sandoval; 3rd, Jessica Cruz. Kindergarten--1st, Hunter Threet. First Grade--1st, Sarah Campbell; 2nd, Taylor Hunt; 3rd, tie, Haley Macias and Faith Raynes. Second Grade--1st, Taylor Flanary; 2nd, Christina Herrera; 3rd, Ryan Pace. Third Grade--1st, Michael Perez. Fourth Grade--1st, Courtney Easterling; 2nd, Darryl Williams; 3rd, tie, Clay Morrow and Destini Raynes. Fifth Grade--1st, Lizzie Benevides; 2nd, tie, Patrick Starr and Elizabeth Camacho; 3rd, Maria Lozano.

Basketball games

HASKELL
JV-V B-G vs Quanah
Tues., Jan. 4, 4 p.m.
at Haskell

Calendar

Turner shower

All friends of Abe and Ruby Turner are invited to a shower Sat., Jan. 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Activity Center. Items needed include towels, sheets, blankets, kitchen items and small appliances. A money tree will also be available. The Turners suffered a house fire Dec. 20.

Operation Teddy bear

Toy Teddy bears are being gathered as a token of goodwill from our troops in Iraq to the people of Iraq to help aide in the troop's safety when entering unfamiliar areas. A collection box is located at the Haskell County Courthouse for those interested in making a donation. The bears will be delivered to Abilene Jan. 14 to be forwarded to the troops in Iraq. For information call W. L. or Karen Wolf at 940-864-2777; Tommie D. Isbell, 864-3042; or Judge David Davis 864-2851.

Society to meet

The Haskell County Historical & Genealogical Society will meet Mon., Jan. 3 in Haskell City Hall at 7 p.m.

Cookbook for sale

The Rochester Senior class is selling an abridged edition reprint of 'Cooking in Rochester for 75 years' cookbook. The cookbook is available for \$25 and proceeds benefit the 2005 Senior Class of Rochester High School. To purchase a copy, contact any Rochester senior, Darrell Vinson at Rochester High School, Jane Short or Linda Short.

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BAND ROYALTY—Recently chosen as Haskell High School Band Hero and Band Sweetheart were band members, Jimmy Fuentes, Jr., son of Idalia and Jimmy Fuentes, Sr., and Sydney Roberson, daughter of Ken and Patti Roberson.

Photo by Bobbie Johnson

Fireworks display set Dec. 31

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

As in previous years, Jim Hollingsworth and assistants will set off another large load of fireworks on the Hollingsworth farm between Rule and Rochester, located five miles west of Hwy. 6, at the intersection of FM 2407 and County Road 146. The fireworks will be on the west side of County Road 146 on thirty acres of land prepared for the event. Parking along FM 2407 for a mile east of County Road 146 will again provide a prime view of the fireworks display.

Hollingsworth began the annual event in memory of his grandfather, William Edward Hollingsworth, with whom he had a discussion in 1944 about the change of the century. The five-year-old boy was heartbroken to think that his beloved granddad would not be with him to witness the new century on New Year's Eve, 1999.

Vowing to celebrate in honor of his grandfather nevertheless, he planned the display that has now become an annual New Year's Eve event in Haskell County.

The local story, first published in 1999, was picked up by newspapers in Abilene, Amarillo, Wichita Falls and Lubbock, and for numbers of area people, coming and bringing their own children and grandchildren, the event has become a ritual. For Jim Hollingsworth, the event evokes the presence of his granddad every News Year's Eve during the fireworks display. He invites everyone to come out on Dec. 31, to view the celebration ushering in the year 2005.

December sales tax receipts reported

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn has said the state collected \$1.4 billion in sales tax in November, up 6.6 percent compared to November 2003. The Comptroller sent \$321.6 million in December sales tax payments to local governments, up 4.9 percent compared to December 2003.

The final sales tax allocation of 2004 brings total local sales tax revenue for the year to \$4.2 billion, up 7.7 percent compared to calendar year 2003.

Texas cities' December sales tax allocations were \$218.2 million, up 4.5 percent compared to December 2003. City sales tax allocations during calendar year 2004 totaled \$2.8 billion, up 7.5 percent compared to calendar year 2003. Counties' December sales tax allocations were \$18.6 million, up 5.1 percent compared to December 2003. Counties received \$246.8 million in calendar year 2004, up 8.1 percent compared to the previous year.

Haskell County had a 13.16 percent decrease for December, 2004 of \$24,489.08 in comparison to \$28,201.56 for December, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$356,539.26 reflect a 9.10 percent increase over 2003 payments to date of \$326,798.44.

The City of Haskell had a 15.36

percent decrease for December, 2004 of \$22,645.24 in comparison to \$26,755.06 for December, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$329,011.62 reflect a 9.24 percent increase over 2,003 payments to date of \$301,167.75.

The City of O'Brien had a 16.86 percent increase for December, 2004 of \$22.24 in comparison to \$19.03 for December, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$843.18 reflect a 27.83 percent decrease over 2003 payments to date of \$1,168.44.

The City of Rochester had a 63.83 percent increase for December, 2004 of \$763.87 in comparison to \$466.23 for December, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$8,469.22 reflect a 20.24 percent increase over 2003 payments to date of \$7,043.50.

The City of Rule had a 9.39 percent increase for December, 2004 of \$1,012.94 in comparison to \$925.96 for December, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$16,838.36 reflect a 4.96 percent increase over 2003 payments to date of \$16,042.44.

The City of Weinert had a 26.95 percent increase for December, 2004 of \$44.79 in comparison to \$35.28 for December, 2003. 2004 payments to date of \$1,376.88 reflect a 0.04 percent increase over 2003 payments to date of \$1,376.31.



BIG SNOWMAN ENJOYS THE WEATHER—Heavy snowfall in the city during the Christmas holidays brought out a frosty seven-foot tall visitor to the Pena residence at 210 S. Ave. N. Photo by Bill Blankenship

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Everybody's Science

by Sandy Miller Hays
Agricultural Research Service
About Those Egg-spiration Dates
 These days, absolutely every product seems to come with an expiration date—not just milk or meat, but even beer!

With all this extra information, it can be confusing for us consumers. Does "sell by" mean you have to toss the food after that date? Does "best if consumed by" mean it would

actually be bad for you to eat the product after that date—or just that maybe the product would no longer be at the peak of its quality?

Now a couple of scientists with the Agricultural Research Service have cracked part of the puzzle, at least where eggs are concerned.

These scientists, based in Athens, Ga., tested how eggs taste and how well they "work" during 10 weeks of storage, which is far beyond the

current 30-day standard for keeping eggs on the store shelf. The good news: While proper refrigeration and handling of the eggs is a must, the scientists didn't see a big drop in the eggs' quality during the entire 10 weeks!

One thing the scientists looked for was a family of bacteria called Enterobacteriaceae. That family name may not be familiar to you, but some of the "relatives" probably ring a bell: Salmonella, Escherichia (as in Escherichia coli), Enterobacter, Klebsiella, and Yersinia.

All of these bacterial "bad guys" can contaminate eggshells, and if the eggs aren't handled or processed properly, the bacteria can still be sitting on the eggshells when you the consumer bring those eggs home. Eggs are actually sterile when they're formed inside the hen, but they can become contaminated as they come out of the hen's body, or from touching any contaminated surface. Fortunately for us consumers, the cleansing procedures that commercial eggs go through generally take care of those unfriendly bacteria. (For the record, the eggs are washed with water between 90 and 120 degrees F, rinsed with hot water and chlorine, then placed in cold storage and shipped.)

In the 10 weeks of tests by the ARS scientists, repeated testing of eggs after washing and packaging showed no contamination by the bacteria until the fifth week after processing. And of course, fewer bacteria on the eggshell means fewer bacteria can jump inside once you crack that egg.

Mother Nature's given us a little assist on food safety when it comes to eggs; the eggshell and that filmy membrane just beneath the shell provide a natural barrier to limit the ability of organisms to get into the egg. Also, while the shell itself has as many as 17,000 tiny holes (called pores) that let moisture and carbon dioxide move in and out of the egg, the egg also has a natural protective coating called the cuticle that helps keep the egg fresh and fends off microbial contamination. But when the egg is commercially processed for marketing, this coating is damaged or removed, so typically a thin layer of oil is applied to the eggshell to help protect the internal quality.

Eggs are obviously an important part of many products, from baked goods to mayonnaise. But it stands to reason that an "old" egg might lose some of its chemical capacity to do everything we might want an egg to do—for example, fluff up an angel food cake. The question is, does that happen by the "sell by" date?

The ARS scientists say "no." They actually made angel food cakes with eggs that had been stored up to 10 weeks, and they reported full fluffiness. And if you're cooking eggs, the heat from the cooking will kill any bacteria that might have gotten a toehold in the egg during that 10-week period.

So what are we to make of that "sell-by" date? The bottom line is, you can keep and use those eggs for quite a while longer—no need to toss out perfectly good eggs or even rush to use them up within a few days of the "sell-by" date. And based on what the ARS scientists saw, it looks as though the current federal guidelines for producing and processing eggs have a beneficial effect on helping combat microbial contamination, even during long-term storage—so enjoy!



GETTING THE BUZZ ON BEES—Haskell fifth graders, I-r, Kolby Foster, Jasmine Klose and Sara Duncan, teach kindergarten students the good and bad things about honeybees. The activity was part of a Learn & Serve Grant entitled "What Bugs You."

Thanks!

The fat, black cat has been FOUND! Thanks from Marc Robison and everyone at the funeral home!



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Obituaries

Don Carlton Whitfield



DON WHITFIELD

Funeral services for Don Carlton Whitfield, 70 of Haskell were held Tues., Dec. 28 at East Side Baptist Church in Haskell with Rev. Danny Manross officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home.

Funeral services for Walter Kierepka, 82, of Haskell were held Fri., Dec. 24 at St. George's Catholic Church in Haskell with Father George Roney officiating. A private family burial was held at Sweet Dreams Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home.

Mr. Kierepka died Wed., Dec. at a local hospital. Born Nov. 6, 1922 in Dunkirk, N.Y., he was the son of Walter Michael and Catarina Kierepka. He was a veteran of World War II, U. S. Army Air Corp and worked for over 25 years for the United States Postal Service. He married Lou Etta Stanford May 4, 1945 in Seymour. They had three children, Carol Jo, Michael and Danny. She preceded him in death April 7, 1973. He married Mary Bartley in Albany July 1, 1974. He was a member of St. George's Catholic Church in Haskell.

Walter Kierepka

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Anthony and Stanley Kierepka; and a step daughter, Karen Howeth.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Kierepka of Haskell; his children and step children and their spouses, Carol Jo and Robert Jones of Abilene, Michael Kierepka of Aspermont, Danny Kierepka of Haskell, Sandy and David McGhee of Galveston, Kathie Whitener of Charleston, Tenn., David Bartley of Haskell and Eddie Howeth of Haskell; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; one sister, Josephine Balsay of New York; and one brother, Johnny Kierepka; and sister-in-law, Margot Kierepka of Titusville, Florida.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or the donor's favorite charity. PD. NOTICE

IRS issues new sales tax table

The Internal Revenue Service has made available on its Web site Publication 600, Optional State Sales Tax Tables, which taxpayers may use for their 2004 returns. The IRS also will send Pub. 600 to all taxpayers who get a Form 1040 tax package.

The tax law authorizing this optional deduction for state and local sales tax instead of state and local income tax was enacted too late in the year to include the tables in the tax instruction books.

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 authorized the sales tax deduction as an option for those who itemize deductions, letting them choose between deductions for state and local income or sales taxes. Taxpayers will indicate by a checkbox on line 5 of Schedule A which type of tax they're claiming. The law provides this choice for Tax Years 2004 and 2005 only.

"Taxpayers should check these tables to see if they're entitled to a

larger sales tax deduction than a state income tax deduction," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson.

The tables give taxpayers a sales tax deduction amount as an alternative to saving their receipts throughout the year and tabulating the amount actually paid. Taxpayers use their income level and number of exemptions to find the sales tax amount for their state. The table instructions explain how to add an amount for local sales taxes if appropriate.

Taxpayers also may add to the table amount any sales taxes paid on:

- A motor vehicle, but only up to the amount of tax paid at the general sales tax rate; and
- An aircraft, boat, home (including mobile or prefabricated), or home building materials, if the tax rate is the same as the general sales tax rate.

While this deduction will mainly benefit taxpayers with a state or local sales tax but no income tax—in Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming—it may give a large deduction to any taxpayer who paid more in sales taxes than income taxes. For example, a person may have bought a new car, boosting the sales tax total, or claimed tax credits, lowering the state income tax paid.

Taxpayers may download Pub. 600 from www.irs.gov. A printed version will be available for mailing in a few weeks by calling (toll-free) 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).



LORI McDERMETT - JOHN WHEAT

McDermett, Wheat to wed February 12

John McDermett of Fort Worth and Betty McDermett of Haskell have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Lori Marie McDermett to

John Wheat of Haskell. Following a wedding planned for Feb. 12, at the First Presbyterian Church in Haskell, the couple plans to make their home in Haskell.

Around Town

By Joyce Hawkins

Joyce Hawkins spent the week visiting her daughter, Darlene and Julie and family in Graham.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Chapman had their children home for Christmas: Mr. and Mrs. Terry Chapman and family of Norman, Okla., Keith Chapman of Georgetown, Ronnie and Linda Chapman and Mr. and Mrs. John Rutkowski, all of Haskell; and their granddaughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Tatum of Haskell. On Christmas evening they opened gifts. Sunday evening they enjoyed a Christmas dinner.

Margaret Tatum had Christmas lunch for her son, Christopher Tatum and family, daughter Creora Tatum and mother, Joyce Hawkins. They opened gifts and played games.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blair had Christmas dinner for their family. Attending were Tammy Flanary and

daughter, Ashley of Rudy, Arkansas; Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Pannell, Lauren and Britney of Throckmorton; Mr. and Mrs. David Muehle and Bobby Muehle, Chance and Gabriel, all of Rochester; Gary and Vickie Hawkins of Haskell; and Cody Blair of Woodson.

Evelyn Wright had all her children home for Christmas dinner. 25 attended from Abilene, Nugent, Wichita Falls and Abilene.

Judy and Chuck Hicks of Abilene and Lynn Gray of Grapeland took Faye Gray to the home of Woody and Georgia Turnbow for Christmas dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Ballard had their children home for Christmas on Dec. 18. On Christmas day they visited with Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lusk in Abilene.



MR. AND MRS. ELBERT JOHNSON

Johnsons celebrate 50th anniversary in New Orleans

Franciene and Elbert Johnson of Haskell, were married the day before Thanksgiving, Nov. 24, 1954.

This year, thinking about how inconvenient it would be to plan a 50th wedding celebration during the Thanksgiving holiday, they decided to return to New Orleans, where they went on their honeymoon and also on their 25th wedding anniversary. The impromptu celebration turned out to be a real event.

Already planning to go to the Baptist convention in San Antonio, they went from there on Nov. 7, visiting family and friends in Houston, going on through New Iberia to the Tabasco factory on Avery Island, and then to the hotel on St. Charles Street in the Garden District.

Taking a walking tour of the Garden District, they ate at the Commander's Palace, where they were given a menu signed by the chef, who also wrote "Happy Anniversary" with chocolate on the edge of their dessert plate. On other days they dined at Brennans, where the waiters sang "Happy Anniversary to You," and at a lunch buffet at the

Court of Two Sisters, where a trio played "Always."

When they arrived at K-Paul's restaurant, they were given the prime table by a window decorated with "Happy Anniversary" confetti, and were served complimentary fried oyster hors d'oeuvres. After a complimentary dessert, they were given a goody bag filled with the chef's sauces and spices and a signed cookbook. Then to top it all off, just as they were leaving, a parade went by.

After they had arrived back in Haskell, on Nov. 24, their son, Jerrell, called telling them he was on his way home and not to fix any supper. Coming by, he picked them up and took them to the church, where he had arranged a surprise party for them with some of their friends who thought they should have a special celebration on the day of their anniversary.

It turned out, that after thinking they would do nothing special on their 50th anniversary, they ended up celebrating all month.

Happy New Year

We want to take this opportunity to thank all our good friends both old and new. We feel proud and privileged to serve a community as fine as this one and look forward to your continued support.

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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Mike Cox

Insurance bill repeats hold on homeowners policies

AUSTIN—The Legislature this session will be trying to put more bite into Senate Bill 14, the measure passed last session giving the Texas Department of Insurance power of prior approval of homeowner insurance rates.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said at a press conference last week that 28 of 29 insurance companies doing business in Texas had reduced rates since passage of Sen. Mike Jackson's (R-La Porte) SB 14. The one holdout, the lieutenant governor said, had been State Farm Insurance. "I am calling again on State Farm to stop playing Scrooge and give back your ill-gotten gains to policyholders in the form of an immediate 12 percent rate reduction," Dewhurst said.

State Farm responded that a state district court had found a portion of SB 14 unconstitutional and that the company's rates have been unchanged for nearly two years.

The new measure, filed Dec. 21 also as SB 14, would amend the Insurance Code to add stiffer penalties for companies charging rates determined to be excessive or using delay tactics to forestall reducing rates. The measure also would require refunds of excessive rates to be paid with interest amounting to the prime rate plus 6 percent.

If Santa brought a new shotgun or rifle...

Much of South Texas may have been blanketed with a once-in-a-century Christmas Eve snowfall, but for hunters, many species are either briefly back or still in season.

On the day after Christmas, the little-known and little-remembered winter dove season began in the central and south zones. It continues only until Monday in the central

zone, but hangs on until Jan. 16 in the south zone.

Quail season continues in all counties until Feb. 27, and opportunities still exist for certain varieties of duck, geese and white tail deer.

To assess the possibilities, check the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.

Texas Historical Commission plans WWII project...

Some 320,000 living Texans served in the U.S. military during World War II, but scores of them are dying every day.

In an effort to capture some of their stories before they are gone, the Texas Historical Commission has launched an \$800,000 effort to collect oral histories of WWII veterans, conduct a survey of Texas WWII military sites and place a series of WWII-related historical markers, and otherwise commemorate the approaching 60th anniversary of the end of the war.

For more information, check the agency's Web site at www.thc.state.tx.us

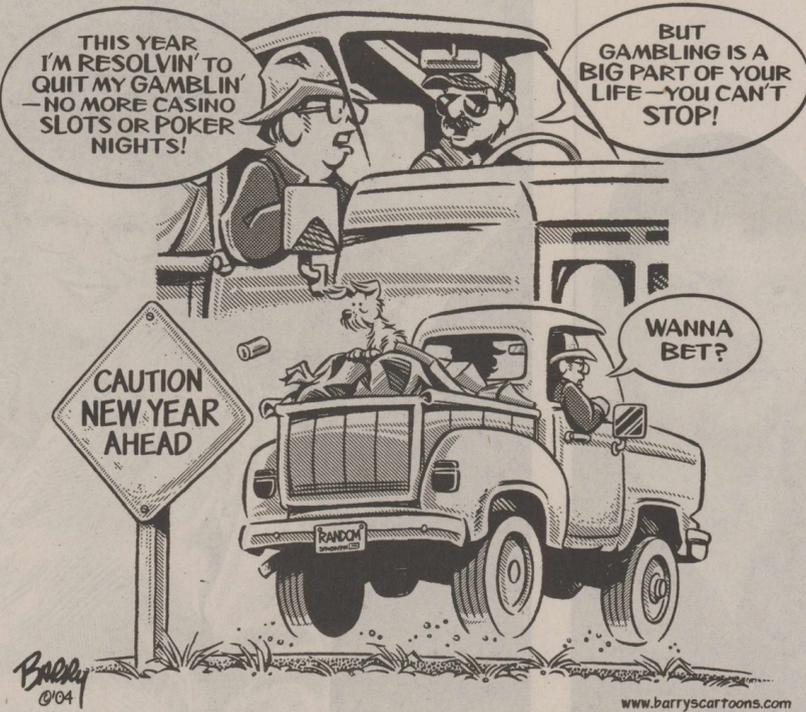
Something for the kids...

The Texas General Land Office is looking for entries from schoolchildren for the annual "Treasures of the Texas Coast" children's art contest.

Open to kids from kindergarten to the sixth grade, the contest seeks an original piece of art (nothing computer-generated allowed) showing why the Texas coast is special.

Deadline for contest entries is Feb. 7.

Parental release forms, information on how to enter the contest and the range of prizes can be found on the GLO's Adopt-A-Beach Program Web site, www.texasadoptabeach.org.



www.barrycartoons.com

From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago December 29, 1994

Rusty Howard, age 10, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Howard, Jr. of Haskell killed a wild boar with a 243 rifle Dec. 20 east of Haskell and Dec. 18 he killed an 8 point buck.

Doyle and Roberta High were co-authors of a book called "The Redneck and the High Maintenance Woman." The book highlights the joys and frustrations of their life together.

Taylor Letterman announced the birth of his baby brother, Cody Dylan. Grandparents are Shiela and Jerry Benson of Munday and Opal Letterman of Haskell.

20 Years Ago December 27, 1984

"Overwhelming" was the term used by the Goodfellows in response to the outpouring of money, food, toys and clothing which were received this Christmas by the Lions Club in Haskell. The monetary figure which the Goodfellows received in total was \$1,847, which rivals any year prior to this.

Geraldine Hise of Haskell attended a 20-hour Texas Justice of the Peace Training Center seminar in Arlington.

Chester Hodgen, who has worked with the Lone Star Gas company for the past 35 years, was honored at a surprise retirement party which was held in conjunction with Lone Star

Gas District Christmas party held at the Haskell National Bank Building.

Mike Bailey, who is married to the former Linda LeFevre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert LeFevre of Sagerton, was honored as "Coach of the Year" in the Dallas Metro area.

30 Years Ago December 26, 1974

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bishop, formerly of Haskell, were honored on their 70th wedding anniversary with a reception at the Massie Activity Center in Floydada.

Piano students of Pam Gibson performed in a Christmas Mini-Recital party in the Gibson home. Pam's sister, Pat Harris, dressed as her "brother," Patrick, performed for the students in an amusing manner. She also sang. Many of the students did not realize that Patrick was a girl until after the performance.

Members and guests of the Haskell Rotary Club met at the City Cafe. Program chairman Sam Rosser presented one of the most colorful and entertaining programs of the year, conducted by Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cadenhead. The Cadenhead's were privileged to participate in a weeks' vacation trip down the Colorado River of the Grand Canyon of Northern Arizona.

The Rule Bobcats were host to Paint Creek and won both games. The boys won 62-43. High point man was Steve Anders with 29 and Bobby Don

Smith was next with 15. In the girls' game, 66-34, Carol Dudensing hit for 23, Norva Lehmann for 13, Terri Flores for 12 and Wynette Williams for 10.

40 Years Ago December 31, 1964

First place winners in the Christmas decorations contest for Rule, sponsored by the Rule Chamber of Commerce, were Mr. and Mrs. Dud Glover in the home division and Martin's Department Store in the business division.

Second Lieutenant Gus E. Myers, husband of Haskell native Kathryn (Alsabrook) Myers, was awarded U. S. Air Force Silver pilot wings upon graduation from flying training school at Webb AFB.

Mrs. Noland Kelly, a former well-known teacher in this area, was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Classroom Teachers Association of Marfa.

Nancy Bernard, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Bernard of Haskell, was named one of the Ten Most Beautiful Girls at the University of Texas.

Carol Ginn was honored as Football Sweetheart and Pat Moore was named Football Hero of Rule High School.

50 Years Ago December 30, 1954

A. C. Pierson, president of the Haskell National Bank, was featured in a story in the current issue of The Roundup, monthly magazine published by General Telephone Company of the Southwest, as one of the directors of the company.

Two members of the Haskell Indians football team, Tackle Wendell Jones and Center Don Dendy, were named on All-Area and All-State Class 1-A football teams.

Second Lt. Rex. J. Power of Haskell arrived in the European Command for overseas duty and was assigned to Headquarters, 2nd Weather Wing.

Glenda Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reece Clark of Sagerton, entertained a group of friends from Rule High School in her home Sunday night with a slumber party.

100 Years Ago December 31, 1904

Lewis Howard has sold his place of 105 acres southeast of town to M. R. Howard for a consideration of \$250.

The Rebecca Lodge held its annual election, when the following officers were elected: Jestany Ellis, N.G.; Docia Winn, V.G.; Mrs. H. R. Jones, secretary; Bertha Irby, treasurer; and Mrs. J. W. Meadors, representative of the Grand Lodge.

Barnett O'Bryan, who is attending Hills Business College at Waco, came home the first of the week to spend Christmas with homefolks.

Dr. J. G. Simmons bought through S. W. Scott, 60 acres of the James Scott league near town at \$12.50 per acre. Robert Hollis bought the east half of Block 16 of the same survey at \$10 per acre.

From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America. The Federal Trade Commission reports that in 2003, more than 20,000 Texans fell prey to identity theft. The results can be devastating, as victims spend large amounts of time and money trying to clear their names.

Identity theft is the theft or misuse of personal or financial information in order to gain something of value or to facilitate other criminal activity. There are numerous types of identity crime, including identity theft, credit card fraud ("skimming"), bank fraud, check fraud and passport/visa fraud. Identity crime can involve multiple victims and often involves a large dollar loss; it may be used by organized criminal groups, and in those instances may be associated with other crimes, such as drug trafficking, mail fraud, terrorism and financial fraud.

Identity theft can begin with what may seem like an unrelated crime, such as a simple theft of a wallet or purse. Victims may not realize their identity has been stolen until they are denied credit, sent a bill for purchases they did not make, or turned down for a job. We have even received reports of victims being arrested for crimes committed by thieves using their identities.

On Sept. 1, 2003, a state law went into effect that sets the venue for reporting identity crime as the city or county where the victim resides. The new law states that regardless of where the fraudulent transaction originates, it is appropriate for the victim to make a police report wherever he or she resides.

If you are a victim of identity theft, it is imperative that you obtain a police report as soon as possible. Many banks and credit agencies require such a report before they will acknowledge that a theft has occurred.

You should then contact the three primary credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax and Trans Union) to have a security alert or freeze placed on your report. Request a copy of your credit report and review it for unauthorized account activity. Report unauthorized charges and accounts to the appropriate credit issuers.

If your wallet or purse is stolen, immediately cancel your credit and debit cards and get replacements. Put a "stop payment" on all lost or stolen checks.

Victims should contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which advocates on behalf of identity theft victims. You can also obtain more information on identity theft by contacting our office.

Check your bank and credit card statements carefully each month. Early detection is extremely important. Discovering identity theft within one month drastically reduces the chances of monetary loss and damage to your credit. When identity theft goes undetected for six months or more, losses often amount to thousands of dollars.

We urge consumers to be very cautious about giving out their personal financial information. Our office has received numerous complaints of scam e-mails ranging from lottery hoaxes and advanced fee fraud to bogus e-mails from legitimate businesses requesting personal information. No matter what a caller or e-mailer tells you, do not give out your Social Security number, driver's license number or other personal information over the phone or by e-mail.

Volunteers needed to assist crime victims

A growing number of victims of violent crimes are seeking help in Abilene and the surrounding area. The Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center (RCVCC) needs additional volunteers to provide victim assistant and crisis intervention. Volunteers complete an application/interview process before being accepted into the paraprofessional training program.

Applications are also available to volunteers interested in teaching the W.H.O. ("We Help Ourselves") anti-

victimization program in schools.

RCVCC volunteers and staff members have provided services to nearly 700 victims of violent crime in the Abilene area this year. They have presented the WHO program to more than 7000 students in area school districts.

Help is needed to allow RCVCC to continue to meet the increasing number of requests for services. Applications are available by calling RCVCC at 325-677-7895, or by emailing diane@regionalcrime.org.

Tips to care for your trees during the winter

Winter brings frigid temperatures, icy winds, and plenty of snow. Just as people battle Mother Nature at this time of the year, so do trees, with one major exception: trees can't avoid exposure to the elements.

"While your trees seem to be in a state of hibernation in the winter, exposure to the tough conditions can cause them major stress," said Jim Skiera, Executive Director of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). "Minimize that stress by helping your trees through the cold months, a little at a time. If you take care of your trees in the winter, you'll be rewarded in the spring."

1. Put composted organic mulch under your tree in the fall or early winter to help retain water and

reduce temperature extremes. A thin layer of mulch will act like a blanket and give the tree's roots a little extra winter protection.

2. Give your trees a drink. Winter droughts require watering as much as summer droughts. If temperatures permit, an occasional watering during the winter on young trees can be a lifesaver. But be sure to water only when soil and trees are cool but not frozen.

3. Prune your trees. Winter is actually one of the best times to prune because it is easier to see the structure of trees without their leaves. But limit pruning to deadwood and poorly placed branches in order to save as many living branches as possible.

4. Prevent mechanical injuries. Branch breakage or splitting can be caused by ice and snow accumulation, or chewing and rubbing by animals. Prevent problems from occurring on young trees by wrapping the base of trees in a hard, plastic guard or a metal hardware cloth. Wrapping trees with burlap or plastic cloth also can prevent temperature damage. Just remember to remove the wraps and guards in the spring to prevent damage when the tree begins to grow.

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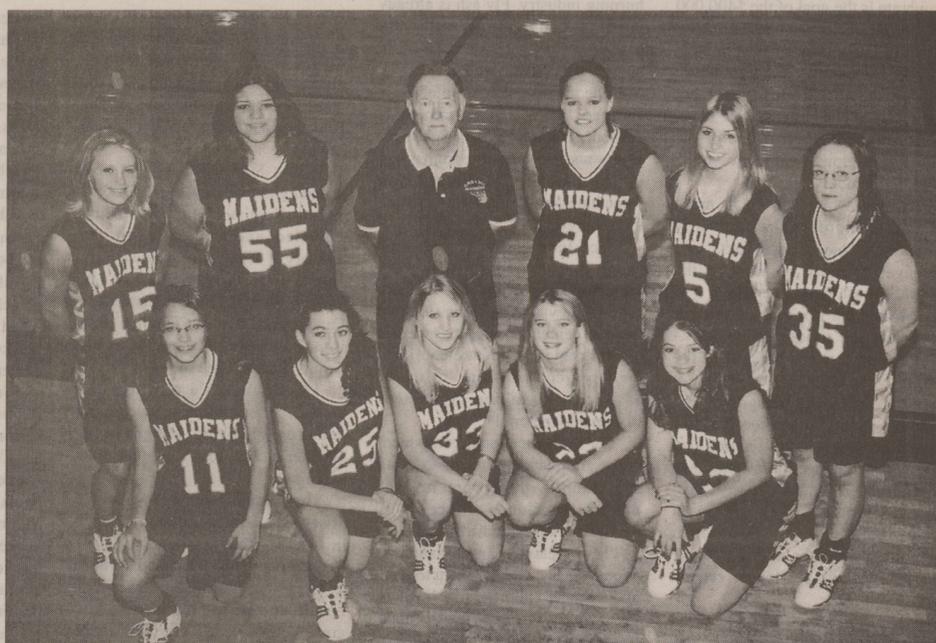
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This issue mailed Wed., Dec. 29, 2004

Haskell INDIANS

Tues., Jan. 4 • 4 p.m.
JV & Varsity Boys
vs Quannah
at Haskell



HASKELL MAIDENS: Front, l-r: Chambray Bartley, Mollie McKnight, Robbyn Tribbey, Kerri Newton and Lindsay Pannell. Back: Whitney Wallace, Morgan Acosta, Coach David Middleton, Monica Buerger, Calina Kendall and Brianna Wheatley.

Photo by Bobbie Johnson



HASKELL INDIANS: Front, l-r: Ryan Davis, Kevin Kilgore, Ryan Ashley, Jakaan Hodge, Ramon Cueller and Kory Foster. Back: Coach Lolo Martinez, L.J. McCulloch, Kendall Mitchell, Nate Webb, Augustine Lara, D.J. McCulloch, Miquel Chavez, Gary Frierson and Coach Toby Villa.

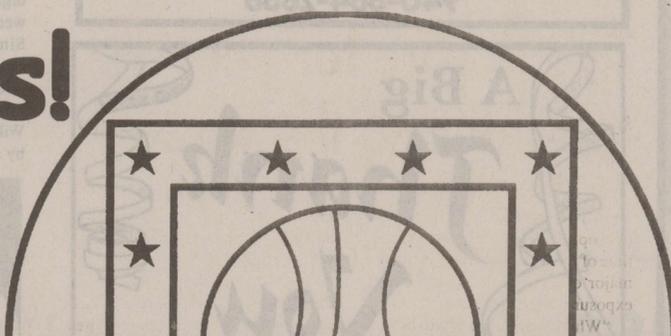
Photo by Bobbie Johnson

Haskell MAIDENS

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

Go
Maidens!

Go
Indians!



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Environmentally friendly concrete

Environmentally friendly concrete is the goal of the \$400,000 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award granted Dr. Maria Juenger, civil engineering assistant professor at The University of Texas at Austin. The grant is one of the most prestigious awarded to young faculty members.

"Anything we can do to make concrete more environmentally friendly will have a big impact," says Juenger, "simply because it's the world's most used material."

More than six billion tons of concrete are produced annually—about one ton per person on the planet. Concrete is made from cement, water, sand and gravel. The cement is made by heating raw materials such as limestone and clay to very high temperatures until they chemically react. This process uses massive amounts of energy (about five percent of the world's use per year) and releases about a ton of carbon dioxide per ton of cement made.

Juenger proposes to make cement out of waste materials instead of new materials to reduce the carbon dioxide emitted and energy used for production. One such waste material

is fly ash, a byproduct of the coal-burning industry. Fly ash is already used in concrete as a cement substitute and has a composition similar to cement.

"The idea is pretty simple," says Juenger. "We're making something new out of trash. We're trying to save energy and prevent waste from piling up in landfills while making something people want and are going to use anyway."

Once Juenger and her research group have found suitable raw-material substitutes for making cement, they have to make sure that the new cements perform as well as regular cement. They are confident their project will lead to major advances in making concrete a sustainable material.

For the educational component of the grant, Juenger plans to bring sustainable development and materials science concepts to elementary and middle schools.

"It's a great way to teach students about science, and for them to learn about cause and effect," she says. "We can teach them how to make their own concrete, how what they add will affect its properties and how the materials they see and use every day affect the earth."

Honor through a window of memories

By Mary Kaigler

With the clear, early morning light casting rays of rich color through glass designed in symbolism of the hand of God and the keys of the Kingdom, a grandson spoke of a man of faith.

It was Sun., Oct. 17. A new stained glass window at the Haskell Trinity Baptist Church was being unveiled and dedicated to the memory of Chester and Nellie Bryant Jones, who moved in 1910 to Haskell, where Chester organized the Fundamental Baptist Church in 1939 in the building which now houses the Trinity Baptist Church.

The window is a gift from the couples' grandchildren, fourteen of whom are still living. His grandson, Chester Jones, told the story that morning.

Their grandfather, known as C. Jones, was born in Johnson County in 1878, the grandson of a Confederate soldier who died in 1863 as a prisoner during the Civil War. At the end of the Civil War, his grandmother loaded her five small children onto an ox-driven wagon and joined a caravan headed for Texas, where she settled in Johnson County. Her son, W. A. Jones, was Chester Jones' father, who moved the family to Throckmorton County in 1890. As a youth, C. Jones worked with his father in farming the land and breaking young oxen to the yoke.

Nellie Bryant was born in 1883 in Collin County, Texas, and later moved with her parents to Throckmorton County where she met Chester Jones.

They were married in 1901, and were parents of four children, Alice, Vennie, Jesse and Lillian.

C. Jones was licensed to preach in 1904 by the California Baptist Church in Young County, and was ordained to preach in 1905, by the Profit Baptist Church. His first

pastorate was the Bush Knob Church in Throckmorton County, and he served as a missionary of the Macedonia Association in Young and Throckmorton Counties for four years. For several years he was basically a circuit rider, traveling by horseback and horse and buggy from community to community, preaching, delivering 'exhortations,' making religious visits, selling Bibles and books on religion. His monthly log of miles traveled and sermons preached, including the month of April, 1910, when he moved to Haskell and served as pastor until his descendants.

Jones pastored at the Roberts Baptist Church for 12 years, later pastoring at the Rochester, O'Brien and Cottonwood Baptist Churches in Haskell County; Gillespie Church in Knox County; Dry Lake, Soldier Mound and Espulah Churches in Dickens County; and Curry Chapel, Rockdale and Pinkerton Churches in Haskell County. He later organized the Fundamental Baptist Church in Haskell and served as pastor until his retirement in 1957.

In Oct., 1923, C. Jones and his eighteen year old son, Jesse, founded a partnership venture named Jones & Son. They purchased a building and business from J. W. Johnson. On their first day of ownership, the building burned to the ground, leaving them with no building and no money to rebuild. They did not even own the land.

However, three early-day Haskell business men came to their rescue. F. G. Alexander offered to sell them the land for \$300.00, no money down, at ten dollars per month until they had it paid for. John Couch, manager of the Spencer Lumber Co., sold them the lumber to rebuild, also at the rate of ten dollars per month. Burl Cox provided space in the back of his store, and a complete hand tool



NEW WINDOW UNVEILED—Given in memory of Rev. C. Jones and Nellie Jones, a stained glass window at Trinity Baptist Church was dedicated Sun., Oct. 17, by Jones family members.

tin shop for use until rebuilding was complete. From that modest beginning, Jones & Son developed three distinct businesses; sheet metal works, blacksmith shop and filling station.

C. Jones was a no-nonsense, highly principled individual who practiced what he preached, and preached fundamentalism he deeply believed. He rarely laughed, and had essentially no social life outside the church. His work day began just before dawn and ended at dusk, when he drove his old pickup home, and began undressing for bed on his way into the house. He died of prostate cancer at his home, Mar. 16, 1965, at the age of 86.

Nellie Jones is remembered as a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, whose life was centered around her home and family. She died of pneumonia at her home, and her funeral was held, Oct. 17, 1959, exactly 45 years before the day of the dedication of the window.

Initial services for the Fundamental Baptist Church, organized by Rev. C. Jones in 1939, were held across the street in the Simpson building, which is still standing. The building later housed a laundry, among other uses. The property later occupied by Bill Wilson Motor Co., was then occupied by a large building called the 'mule

barn.' The Haskell Inn, formerly Fieldan Inn, was then named Kennedy Courts.

The groundbreaking for the present building in 1940, was recorded in a photograph which hangs in the office of the present pastor, Tony Grand. The building was completed and the cornerstone put in place in 1941. Rev. C. Jones continued as pastor until his retirement in 1957. Through the years, he also owned and maintained the building. Proud of the building and of the church it housed, he insisted throughout his life that, if the building should ever cease to house a church, he wanted the building "bulldozed to the ground."

A number of the Jones family members were present in June 1999, when the family transferred the deed of the property to the trustees of the church.

In his dedication remarks, grandson Chester Jones, who was named for his grandfather, said, "We're so very pleased with the care being given to this place that has such special meaning to us. The addition of classrooms on the north side of the building, the Fellowship Hall, the updating of the interior, all reflect the vitality of the church and underscore the notion that this is not just another building, but a very special place—a House of God."

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The Haskell Free Press

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VETERANS' BREAKFAST—Veteran Leon Jones enjoys being served by his granddaughter, Ashlee Short, at the recent Veteran's Day ceremony, held at Haskell Elementary. Also being served are Veterans Joe Kimbrough, left, and H. L. Guess, right.



HONORING THE VETERANS—Veteran Tommy Isbell raises the flag during the Nov. 11 Veteran's Day ceremony and breakfast at Haskell Elementary. Students also enjoyed patriotic songs played by the Haskell Indian Band. Veterans were served breakfast by the 6th graders in conjunction with a Learn and Serve Grant.

This Week's Devotional Message:



LET THE NEW YEAR INTRODUCE A WHOLE NEW WAY OF LIVING

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

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

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

HASKELL
East Side Baptist Church
 Danny Manross, pastor
 Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 600 N. 1st East, Haskell
Christian Church
 Dusty Garison, minister
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 107 N. Ave. F, Haskell
New Vision Family Worship Center
 Joe and Loretta Stulir, pastors
 864-3465
 Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m.
 East Hwy 380, Haskell
Trinity Lutheran Church
 Ron Rinnegar, pastor
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
 Hwy 380 East, Haskell
Iglesia Bautista El Calvario
 Art Flores, Interim pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 607 S. 7th, Haskell
First United Methodist Church
 Allen Brooks, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
 201 N. Ave. F, Haskell
First Assembly of God
 Rev. J.C. Amburn
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell
St. George Catholic Church
 Father George Roney
 Sat. Mass 7 p.m.; Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m.
 901 N. 16th, Haskell
Church of Christ
 Brett Anderson, minister
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 10:30 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
 510 N. Ave. E, Haskell
First Presbyterian Church
 Steve Beatty, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
 306 N. Ave. E, Haskell
Trinity Baptist Church
 Tony Grand, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.
 114 S. Ave. D, Haskell
Hopewell Baptist Church
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 908 N. Ave. A, Haskell

Greater Independent Baptist Church
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.
 301 N. 3rd St., Haskell
New Covenant Foursquare
 Bill and Renee Glass, pastors
 Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.
 200 S. Ave. F, Haskell
Mission Revival Center
 Rev. William Hodge
 Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Tues. 6 p.m.
 1600 N. Ave. B, Haskell
First Baptist Church
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 301 N. Ave. E, Haskell
Church in the Park
 Rev. Tim and Suzann Townsend
 Sun. Morn. 10:30 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.
 Gazebo or Pavillion
Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church
 Dr. Gibbie McMillan, Interim pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. Wed. 6 p.m.
 1303 N. Ave. I, Haskell
WEINERT
First Baptist Church
 J. C. Baker, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
 Weinert
Weinert Foursquare Church
 Rev. Robert Harrison
 Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.
 Weinert

First United Methodist Church
 Dolan Brinson, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
 Rochester
SAGERTON
Sagerton Methodist Church
 Philip Houston, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
 Sagerton
Faith Lutheran Church
 Deborah Nissen, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 Sagerton
RULE
First Baptist Church
 Josh Stowe, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 1001 Union Ave., Rule
Primitive Baptist Church
 Dale Turner Jr., pastor
 First & Third Sundays 10 a.m.
 Corner of 8th & Robins, Rule
Church of Christ
 John Greeson, minister
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 811 Union, Rule
First United Methodist Church
 Wendall Ferguson, pastor
 Sun. Morn. Worship 8:30 a.m.
 1000 Union Ave., Rule
Primeria Iglesia Bautista
 Alfa y Omegs
 Manuel Marin, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
 500 Elm Street, Rule
Sweet Home Baptist Church
 Bill Trice, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10:00 a., 11:00 a., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 Gladstone Ave., Rule
West Bethal Baptist Church
 Rev. Robert Sweet
 Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
 300 Sunny Ave., Rule
PAINT CREEK
Paint Creek Baptist Church
 Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.
 Paint Creek
O'BRIEN
O'Brien Baptist Church
 Jim Reid, pastor
 Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a., 5 p., 6 p, Wed. 6 p.m.
 O'Brien

Haskell School Menu

Jan. 3-7 Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily on the breakfast menu.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Breakfast pizza
Wednesday: Cereal, pop tart
Thursday: Sausage, biscuit
Friday: Pig in a blanket
Lunch
 Milk and iced tea are served daily at the Secondary campus. Milk is served daily at the Elementary School. Secondary campus: Choice

of entree or baked potato with cheese and ham.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Steakfingers with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, hot roll, pineapple tidbits
Wednesday: Beef and vegetable stew, grilled cheese sandwich, fried okra, sliced peaches
Thursday: Chicken fajitas, cheese, green peppers, onions, garden salad, pinto beans, chocolate brownies
Friday: Barbeque on a bun, onion slices, pickles, french fries, ice cream

Paint Creek School Menu

Jan. 3-7 Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Cereal or toast
Tuesday: Biscuits and gravy
Wednesday: Pancakes
Thursday: French toast
Friday: Breakfast burritos
Lunch
 Milk and tea are served daily.
Monday: Burritos, refried beans, salad, rice crispy bars

Tuesday: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, salad, garlic bread, fruit cups
Wednesday: Ham, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, apple crisp
Thursday: Chicken fajitas, sauted onions and peppers, corn on cob, chocolate cake
Friday: BBQ sandwiches, potato wedges, baked beans, salad, peanut butter bars

Area Basketball scores

Girls	Boys
Eula Holiday Classic Haskell 54, Clyde 37 Scoring for Haskell: Kendall 19, Buerger 14, McKnight 9, Pannell 6, Wallace 4, Bartley 1, Tribbey 1.	Eula Holiday Classic Haskell 43, Kermit 35 Scoring for Haskell: Hodge 12, Mitchell 10.
Jayton Tournament Roby 35, Rule 34 Scoring for Rule: Smith 10, Scheets 9, Brown 6, Lehrmann 5, Lisle 4.	Jayton Tournament Roby 55, Rule 34 Scoring for Rule: Saucedo 13, Carreon 8, Brown 6, Kittley 5, Dudensing 2.

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS
Notice of Scheduled Entry into Fields, Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code Ann., Section 74.117(2004). Cotton producers in the Rolling Plains Central Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Knox, Baylor, Stonewall, Haskell, Throckmorton, Young, Scurry, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens, Palo Pinto, Mitchell, Nolan, Callahan, Eastland, Brown, Comanche, Erath, and a portions of Taylor, Borden, and Archer counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 3, 2005. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212. 52-53c

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6125-43-001 for "ON DEMAND" STREET SWEEPING in SHACKELFORD County, etc. will be opened on January 13, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the District Office for an estimate of \$83,526.00.
Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 15217
State Office: Constr./Maint. Division, 200 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704. Phone 512-416-2540.
Dist/Div Office(s): Abilene District, District Engineer, 4250 N. Clack, Abilene, Texas 79604-0150. Phone 325-676-6800.
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. 52-53c

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1506 N. AVE. E. Large 3-2, large open living, kitchen, large bath with tub and shower, CH/A, 1.5 ac., out buildings.
1801 N. AVE. G. Very large home, immaculate condition, C/HA, large master suite, well and sprinkler, lifetime roof.

Come by Rike Real Estate for a complete list.

We would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to everyone for all their kindness, thoughts, prayers, cards and food brought to our home during Elmer's sickness. We appreciate it all!
Elmer and Linda Adams

The family of Doyle Strickland wishes to thank everyone for their words of comfort, cards, flowers and food sent during our time of sorrow. A special thanks to Dr. Melnyk, Texas Cancer Center, Hendrick Hospice Care and nurses on the 7th floor Cancer Treatment Section, Hendrick Medical Center.

The family of Burl Medford would like to express our appreciation for all of the cards, food, flowers, prayers and kindness shown during our time of sorrow. Your support and concern for us has made a very difficult time much easier to bear. May God bless you.
Dolores Medford
Becky and Troyce Renfro, Tyler and Whitney Keith and Launa Medford
Rodney and Ember Medford and Cutter Ashley and Eric Hearn and Logan

We would like to thank our many friends and relatives for their love during the sickness and loss of our dear husband and father. A special thanks to Dr. Hart and the nursing staff at Stamford Memorial Hospital. Thanks to Tankersley Funeral Home for the beautiful service. Also thanks to Jerry Larned and Carolyn Herring for doing what Jack wanted done. May God bless all of you.
Alta Faye Harvey and family
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ANDERSON HONORED—Brandon Anderson, left, Haskell County Extension Agent for the last five years, stands with the painting by western artist, Tom Ryan, given to him by Haskell County 4-H'ers in appreciation of his contributions made to them and to Haskell County. Anderson was honored at a farewell reception at the Extension office, Wed., Dec. 22. Standing with him are I-r, former Haskell County Agent, Lou Gilly, secretary, Tammy Parham, and current County Agent, Jane Rowan.

Texas to expand flu shots; Local clinic reports vaccine now available

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) officials said recently they will support the recommended expansion of flu shot priority target groups announced by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The recommendation—which will not be effective until Jan. 3—adds people 50 and older, out-of-home caregivers for the high-risk, and household contacts of those at high risk of severe complications should they get the flu.

“The delayed implementation will give those in the current priority categories who haven’t been vaccinated a few more days to find a flu shot,” said Texas Commissioner of State Health Services Eduardo Sanchez. “The supply is still limited and may vary from city to city, but the vaccine has become more readily available in recent weeks. We urge those who have tried and failed to try

again.”

The Hospital Clinic in Haskell reported Tues., Dec. 28 that a batch of vaccine had just been received. Patients need to call for details.

Sanchez emphasized that the recommendation allows local public health officials to continue to follow the more-restrictive recommendation if they believe the vaccine supply in their specific areas is not sufficient to cover the demand from members of the current high-risk groups.

The current priority groups are children 6 months through 23 months of age, adults 65 and older, anyone with underlying chronic medical conditions, women who will be pregnant during flu season, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, children 6 months through 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy, medical care workers providing direct patient care and caregivers and household contacts of

children under 6 months old.

DSHS is asking its regional offices and local public health departments to continue to serve as information clearinghouses to match up doctors and other providers who have the vaccine with those who need it. Doctors and other providers who have or need the vaccine should contact one of those offices.

People wanting to get a flu shot should—in order—contact their doctor, call the 2-1-1 information service and call their local public health department or nearest DSHS regional office.

Officials say it is not too late to get a flu shot. Flu season officially runs from October through May. In Texas, the heavy part of flu season typically occurs in late December, January and February.

It takes about two weeks after getting the flu shot for the vaccine to offer maximum protection.

Weather Whys

Topic: Frost

Q: What causes frost to form?

A: Frost forms when the temperature at the ground reaches freezing, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. “Very often on calm, clear nights, the temperature near the ground can be three or four degrees cooler than temperatures several feet above the ground,” McRoberts explains. “The thermometer might read 36 degrees on top of a fence or near a roof, but at the ground, it might read 32 degrees. This is because the ground loses heat quickly. So water vapor in the air, because it is so cool, condenses as supercooled dew and then turns to frost and maybe ice. Frost tends to form on glass, such as car windshields or windows, metal or rock surfaces first because these tend to lose more heat quicker. So usually, a car windshield will frost over before vegetation does.”

Q: Does frost form quicker in some areas than others?

A: Yes, Roberts says. “Cold air is dense and it tends to sink,” he explains. “On a calm night, cold air will tend to sink into low spots. That’s why valleys can be much cooler than the surrounding area because the cold air from the hills sinks into the lower areas. So when the cold air starts sinking, frost will form quicker in the low spots than the high ones. It’s not uncommon for some valleys to be cooler by 10 degrees or more, thus more frost tends to form in these low areas. Also, some soil types, such as sand, retain less heat than others, and frost tends to form quicker on these.”

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