

Calendar

Bible festival set July 31-Aug. 2 at Cornerstone

Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church, 1600 N. 1st in Haskell, will host a family Bible festival July 31-Aug. 2 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. each evening. All ages are invited, but children under 4 must bring an adult. To pre-register attend a swim party and picnic, Sun., July 27 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the city pool. For more information, call 864-5557.

VBS set at East Side Baptist Aug. 3-7

East Side Baptist Church will host Vacation Bible School Aug. 3-7 from 6 to 8:15 p.m. each evening. Registration begins at 5:45 p.m. Children age 4 through those entering the sixth grade are invited to attend. The theme is "God's Big Backyard." For a ride, call the church office in advance at 864-2738.

Revival set at Paint Creek July 25-27

Paint Creek Baptist Church will host revival July 25-27. Evangelist is David Cason, a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is senior pastor at Broadview Baptist Church in Abilene. Bobby O'Neal, a graduate of O'Brien High School, is music director for First Baptist Church in Rochester. Services will be held Friday and Saturday night at 7 p.m. and Sunday morning at 11 a.m.

Blood drive to be held July 29

The Meek Blood Center Bloodmobile will hold a blood drive Tues., July 29 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. The bloodmobile will be parked at the Haskell National Bank. Call 325-670-2798 for more information.

Girl Scouts conduct Food drive

Haskell and Rule Girl Scouts are conducting a food drive through August 10. Donation boxes are located at local churches and businesses. The drive will benefit the Haskell Food Bank. For more information, call 940-200-1413.

Storm sirens

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

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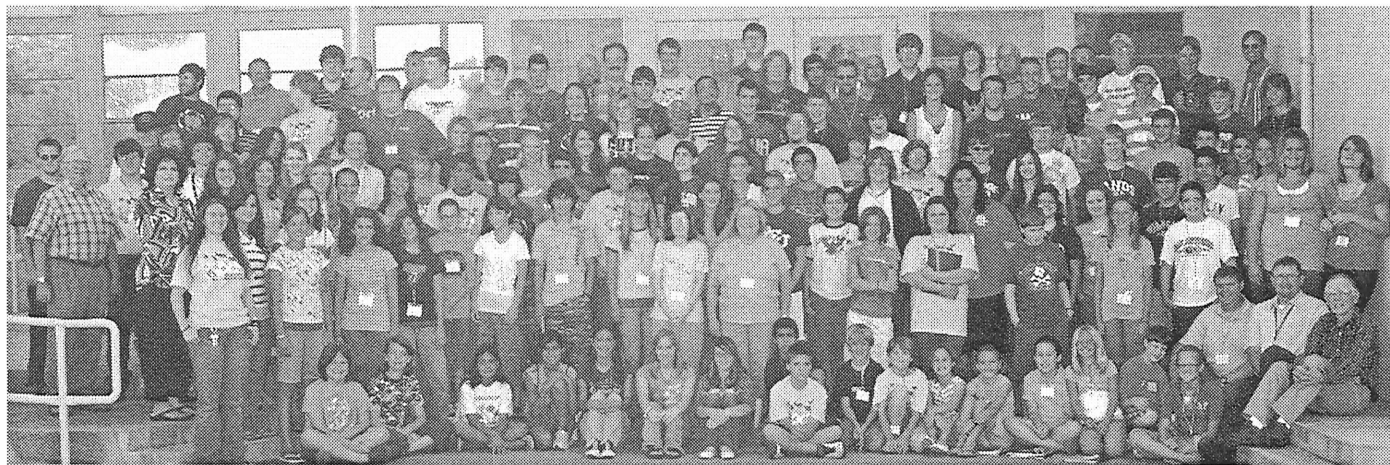
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VOL. 122-NO. 30, ©JULY 24, 2008

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS



SINGING SCHOOL—The annual Haskell Singing School was attended by one hundred twenty-nine students from across Texas, Arkansas, Georgia, New Mexico, North Carolina and Oklahoma. The school, hosted by the Haskell Church of Christ was held July 6-11 at the church. A special closing ceremony was held Friday night for family and friends. Students learned intense training in music, singing, song writing and song leading.

Local singing school draws 129 students

The 43rd annual Haskell Singing School was held at the Haskell Church of Christ the week of July 6-11. Students came from Arkansas, Georgia, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Texas.

Directing the school again this year was Tom Chapin. Instructors included Eugene Chapin, Thomas Chapin, Bob Connel, John Connel, Bill Lyon and Randy Daw.

Based on the New Testament admonition to "sing and make melody in your hearts," the school is built on the hope and expectation of offering training that will help

students of all ages to better worship God by learning to sing with feeling from the heart, improve their individual skills and be able to go back to their home congregation and help with the singing.

The school is for any student over the age of ten, as well as all adults, who want to sing, learn song leading or just learn more about a cappella singing.

Students began arriving on Sunday evening and were met by their host family, who provided lodging, breakfast, and supper for the week. Some visiting families

who wished to stay together made reservations in the local RV park and camping area or at the local motels.

The morning schedule began at 8:45 with students assembling for a devotional and the famous "joke time."

Following the opening, warm-up exercises for the voice were conducted. Students then broke into various groups, based on their musical background. These groups moved into different classrooms throughout the building. Class subjects included rudiments of music, song leading, sight reading,

song writing, hymn appreciation, music theory, voice and harmony.

After a catered lunch, which was served in the church's activity building gym, classes resumed and continued until 3:30 p.m. Students were dismissed to their host families for afternoon recreation time and supper.

Evening activities included rehearsals, devotionals, and preparations for the closing program. An area wide youth service was held Tuesday evening led by guest speaker, Wes Horn, of Stamford.

A special closing program

featuring the students was presented on Friday evening for family and friends. Sponsored by the local Church of Christ since 1965, the program is under the oversight of the church elders. The school has continued to focus on preparing students to enrich themselves and make their worship more meaningful through singing, all taught and performed a cappella.

Philip Sims is the minister at the Haskell Church of Christ. Charlotte Peiser is the secretary and the school's registrar. The 2009 Singing School has been set for July 5-10.

Traffic stop yields bundles of compressed marijuana

On the night of Fri., July 11, Texas Highway Patrol Trooper James Groves conducted a traffic stop on U.S. 277 just north of the U.S. 380 overpass near Haskell. During the stop two El Paso men were arrested for suspicion of possession with intent to distribute more than 500 pounds of marijuana.

Fernando Medellen Gonzalez and Brian Patrick Foley were traveling north through Haskell County in a Dodge pickup when Trooper Groves stopped them for a defective license plate light. During the stop Trooper Groves was able to establish reasonable suspicion that some possible criminal activity could be taking place. Trooper Groves along with Haskell County Chief Deputy Winston Stephens conducted a roadside search of the pickup after receiving voluntary consent from the occupants to do so.

During the search, both officers discovered that the auxiliary fuel tank in the bed of

the trunk had been altered from its original design. They then drilled a hole through the bottom of the toolbox, which was built into the top of the fuel tank, and discovered what appeared to be marijuana in the drill bit after withdrawing it.

The fuel tank was later removed and cut open to reveal five large metal boxes hidden within. After the boxes were opened it was revealed that each one contained a large quantity of compressed marijuana. Each compressed bundle weighed approximately 110 pounds for an approximate total of 550 pounds.

Both Gonzalez and Foley were arrested then booked into the Rolling Plains Regional Jail. After interviews with State and Federal investigators, the suspects admitted that they were transporting the drugs to Kansas City, Missouri. If convicted Gonzalez and Foley could face up to 40 years in a federal penitentiary.



DRUGS DISCOVERED—Texas Highway Patrol Trooper James Groves shows five bundles of compressed marijuana seized during a traffic stop on July 11 near Haskell. The stop netted approximately 550 pounds of the substance found inside an altered auxiliary fuel tank of the vehicle.

Haskell juries convict two for drug offenses

On July 8, a jury trial was held in the 39th Judicial District Court in the case State of Texas vs. Jesus Alcazar. On Oct. 13, 2007 Haskell County Deputy Winston Stephens initiated a stop for a traffic violation on a north bound tractor trailer on Highway 277 North of Haskell.

Deputy Stephens developed suspicion that something illegal was afoot and obtained consent to search the truck and trailer driven by Alcazar. Deputy Stephens recovered 147 pounds of marijuana hidden in the sleeper compartment and speaker system of the truck.

Alcazar was charged with the criminal offense. Haskell County District Attorney Mike Fouts presented the case to a jury and a verdict of guilty was returned.

Deputy Stephens, prior to the stop, had completed training in drug interdiction at the Desert Snow drug interdiction school. During the trial, Fouts expressed his appreciation of local law enforcement officers for their hard work, knowledge and dedication to fighting the war on drugs.

Alcazar elected to have his punishment assessed by 39th District Judge Shane Hadaway,

and a hearing to determine appropriate punishment has been set by Judge Hadaway.

The following week, on July 14, Quilla Marsh Moore, a resident of Stamford, was tried by another Haskell County jury, for the criminal offense of possession of cocaine. Trial took place in the 39th Judicial District Court, presided over by District Judge Shane Hadaway.

The jury heard evidence regarding the search of a room at the Deluxe Inn in Stamford on Aug. 10, 2007. The motel, while located in Stamford, lies within

Haskell County.

Testimony revealed that Haskell County Sheriff, David Haliburton received information from a confidential informant that Quilla Moore had in his possession cocaine in a motel room at the Deluxe Inn. Sheriff Haliburton sought and obtained a search warrant for the room. He notified the Stamford Police Department of the warrant and was assisted by Chief Huston and other Stamford Police Officers in the search. Haliburton also received cooperation from the staff of the Deluxe Inn. Haskell County and Stamford officers

served the warrant and recovered drug paraphernalia and 1.7 grams of cocaine.

Haskell County District Attorney Mike Fouts presented the facts to the jury and obtained a conviction against Moore. Fouts then urged the jury in the punishment phase of the trial to send a message that illicit drugs will not be tolerated in Haskell County. The jury sentenced Moore to the maximum sentence available, twenty years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division and a fine of ten thousand dollars.

FOR NEWS ITEMS OR TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 864-2686

Using over-the-counter pain medications safely

by Jane Rowan
CEA/FCS, Haskell County
Many older adults have pain that does not go away. Deciding what type of pain medicine to take is not easy. Andrew Crocker, Extension Program Specialist for Gerontology Health shares the following information about over-the-counter pain medications.

Over-the-counter (OTC) pain relievers are medicines that you can buy without a prescription from your doctor. Two main types of OTC pain relievers are available. One type is acetaminophen (brand name: Tylenol). The second type is nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (also called NSAIDs). NSAIDs include the following:

- Aspirin (two brand names: Bayer, St. Joseph)
- Ibuprofen (two brand names: Advil, Motrin)
- Ketoprofen (one brand name: Orudis KT)
- Naproxen (one brand name: Aleve)

Acetaminophen seems to relieve pain and reduce fever by working on the parts of the brain that receive pain messages and control the body's temperature. NSAIDs relieve pain and fever by reducing the level of hormone-like substances, called prostaglandins, which your body makes. Prostaglandins cause pain by irritating your nerve endings. They also help your body control its temperature.

Acetaminophen and NSAIDs relieve pain caused by muscle aches, stiffness and reduce fever. NSAIDs can also reduce inflammation—redness and swelling. OTC pain relievers can be helpful in treating many types

of pain, such as pain from arthritis, earaches, back pain and pain after surgery. They can also treat pain from the flu or a cold, sinusitis, strep throat or a sore throat.

Acetaminophen may help relieve headaches and other common aches and pains. It may be used safely by most people on a long-term basis for arthritis and other chronic painful conditions. NSAIDs may be helpful for pain from inflammation, such as muscle sprains. For most people, OTC pain relievers are all they need to control pain or fever. If an OTC drug does not help your pain or fever, or if you've been taking an OTC drug for more than 10 days for pain or 3 days for fever, call your health provider. These may be signs that you have a more serious problem or need a prescription medicine.

Side effects from OTC pain relievers are not common for healthy adults who only use pain relievers once in a while. However, side effects may be a concern for people who use pain relievers often, who have health problems or who take other prescription medications. If you have health problems, use pain relievers often or take prescription medications regularly, talk to your health provider before taking an OTC pain reliever.

Acetaminophen may cause liver damage in people who take very high doses or who already have abnormal liver function. To reduce your risk of liver problems, never take more than the recommended dose of acetaminophen. You generally should not take acetaminophen if you are already taking another

product containing acetaminophen. If you have severe kidney or liver disease, or if you have 3 or more drinks that contain alcohol every day, you should talk to your health provider before taking acetaminophen.

With long-term use, NSAIDs may cause gastrointestinal (GI) problems. These problems range from upset stomach to ulcers to GI bleeding. For minor stomach upset, eating some food or drinking some milk before you take an NSAID may help. Your risk of GI problems from NSAIDs goes up the higher the dose you take and the longer you take them. Drinking alcohol may increase this risk. Acetaminophen is much less likely than NSAIDs to cause GI problems. If NSAIDs are used regularly for many years, they may also hurt your kidneys. Your health provider can check for this with a blood test.

You should not take NSAIDs if you are allergic to aspirin or other pain relievers. Talk to your health provider or before you take an NSAID, especially aspirin, if you:

- Take blood-thinning medicine or have a bleeding disorder
- Have bleeding in the stomach or intestines, or have stomach ulcers
- Have liver or kidney disease
- Have 3 or more drinks that contain alcohol every day

If certain drugs are taken at the same time, they can interact with each other and change the way your body processes them. For example, if someone who takes high blood pressure medicine also takes an NSAID, the high blood pressure medicine may not work as well as it should. Too, many OTC drugs contain the same pain reliever or contain ingredients found in prescription drugs. For example, many OTC cold medicines contain acetaminophen. If you were to take one of these products and also take acetaminophen separately, you would be taking much more acetaminophen than you intended.

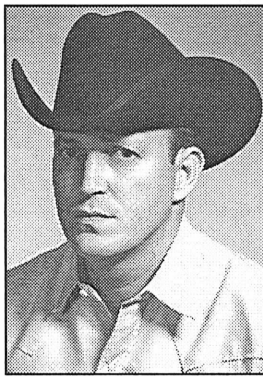
When choosing an OTC pain reliever, check the drug label for possible side effects or interactions with other drugs you are taking—this will appear in the "Warnings" section. Also, check that you are not taking two medicines that contain the same active ingredient—this will appear in the "Active Ingredient" section. Always read and follow the directions on the label. Be sure you understand the label information before taking the medicine. If you have any questions, ask your health provider or pharmacist.

Over-the-counter pain medications can be useful and effective. Even though they are considered safe enough to be taken without a prescription, they are real medicines. It is important to discuss their use with a health provider, especially if they are being combined with prescription medications.

For more information, contact Jane Rowan, County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences at the Haskell County Extension Office, 864-2546 or visit the American Academy of Family Physicians website: <http://familydoctor.org/online/famdocen/home/otc-center/basics/otc.html>.

Obituaries

Jerry Monroe Loe



JERRY LOE

Memorial services for Jerry Monroe Loe, 69, of Kaufman were held in his honor at Life Church Sun., July 13. Private graveside services, with Greg Richards, pastor of Life Church officiating, were held Sun., July 13 at Wilson Chapel Cemetery in

Kaufman under the direction of Parker-Ashworth Funeral Home. Mr. Loe went home to be with the Lord on Fri., July 11.

Born May 6, 1939 in Overton, he was the youngest of seven siblings born to John Wheeler Loe and Alice Lillian Loe. In his early childhood years, his family relocated to California. Later, he moved back to Texas with his family. In 1956, he joined the U.S. Navy. During this time, he married his high school sweetheart, Selda Callaway, on June 13, 1958. He served on the USS Fessenden and USS Piedmont, completing service in 1962. After the Navy, Jerry and Selda made their home in Garland. They were blessed with three children and raised their family in Kaufman.

He was employed by Safeway and the U.S. Postal Service as a

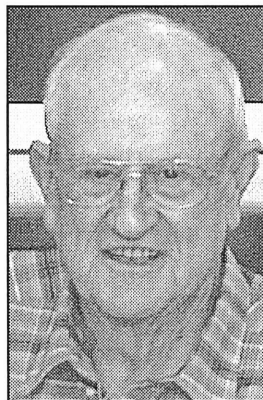
driver. He retired from driving in 1998. During his 37 years in Kaufman, he was a founding member of Our Father's House and Life Church. He enjoyed cooking, fishing and spending time with his family and friends. He was an extraordinary man in spite of his chronic illness and his courage was an inspiration to all.

He loved the Lord and wanted his life to be used by Him. We thank God for Jerry and he will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years., Selda Loe; children, Denan Loe Simoni and son-in-law, Richard J. Simoni II, Stacy Smart and Shawn Loe; grandchildren, Kailey, Cassy and Jake Smart, Erin, Daniel, David and Emma Simoni.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. Psalm 116:15. PD. NOTICE

Carl Bailey



CARL BAILEY

Funeral services for Carl Bailey, 83, of Haskell were held Sat., July 19 at Cornerstone Baptist Fellowship Sanctuary in Haskell. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mr. Bailey went home to be with his Lord and Savior Wed., July 16.

Born March 7, 1925 in Fisher County near McCauley, he was the son of the late Louis and Eva Lee Mahaffey Bailey. He married Phylecia DeBusk Bailey Dec. 25, 1947 in Anson. He served his country in World War II in the 4th Infantry Division 22nd Infantry Regiment in Germany under General George Patton. Carl and Phylecia made their home in Haskell where he farmed for forty years. He had a great love for fishing, hunting and golfing. One of his greatest accomplishments was helping his son build Tangle Oaks golf course near Hawley, a labor of love for the whole family. He was a Little League coach for the Haskell Tigers in 1977 and he proudly coached the All Star Game that year.

He became an ordained deacon at Curry Chapel in Haskell County in 1951. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church, Haskell and served his Lord for the last time at Cornerstone Baptist Fellowship Church in Haskell.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Phylecia; daughter, Lana Bailey Parker of Abilene; son, Ronnie Bailey of Haskell; son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Gayle Bailey of Hawley. He was Papaw to four grandchildren, Katie Parker of Fort Worth, Andrew of Crockett, Rachel Bailey and Lawson Bailey, both of Hawley.

Memorials may be made to Cornerstone Baptist Fellowship Church, 1600 N. 1st, Haskell, Texas 79521. PD. NOTICE

Animal entries due for fairs Fri., Aug. 8

by Wes Utley
CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co.
The fall show season is fast approaching. If you are a 4-H member and have an animal project, entries for the West Texas Fair and Rodeo in Abilene and the State Fair of Texas are due in the Haskell County Extension Office Fri., Aug. 8 by 4:30 p.m.

Entry forms are available at the Haskell County Extension Office, located at 101 South Ave. D in Haskell.

For answers to questions concerning animal projects, or the upcoming fairs and shows, call Wes Utley, Haskell County Extension Agent-Ag at 940-864-2658 or 864-2546.

JERUSALEM MARKETPLACE

Family Bible Festival

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
July 31, August 1&2
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

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Helpful secrets to make your lawn look its best

Mowing your own lawn can either be a source of pride or a real disappointment. Either way, it's a workout. And if you are like most people who choose to do it yourself, you might as well do it right.

"There are a few simple things anyone can do to make their lawn look great," says professional landscape manager Kris Birch. "Choosing the right equipment to maintain your lawn is really the first step." Other factors to consider are proper watering, feeding and weed control. "But in my mind," adds Birch, "the most important consideration is how you go about cutting your grass."

When asked the secrets to a great cut, Birch replied that keeping your blade sharp throughout the season is key—not only to a nice, even cut, but also for the overall health of the lawn. "We sharpen our blades after every ten hours of use," says Birch. "If you don't keep your blade sharp you'll end up tearing the grass instead of cutting it. This can put a lot of stress on your lawn, making it dry and prone to weeds and disease."

While blade sharpening is a ritual before the first cut of the season, people tend to put it off over the summer. According to Birch, you should sharpen your blade more often in the summer

because dry grass can dull blades faster than the succulent spring grass.

Birch also recommends alternating the direction you mow each week as a good way to make your lawn stand up and look fuller. If you mow in the same direction every time, the grass becomes trained to lay in one direction. Alternating directions and changing the way the lawn lays will expose all sides of the grass to sunlight, creating a better growing environment.

While many of us reserve a day of the week for mowing, the best approach is to mow at intervals that keep the turf at its optimal length. "Every type of grass has a height at which it thrives," said Birch. "Short grass requires more water, can be prone to showing weak areas and generally is lighter in color." A good rule of thumb is to keep the grass as long as possible during the seasons when it is actively growing (spring and summer) and shorter when the weather cools and growing slows (fall and winter). Birch also recommends not cutting more than one-third the plant height at any one mowing. "Sometimes you might have to mow more than once a week, but the great results are worth it."

While Birch and his crew rely

heavily on their zero turning radius mowers to get their larger jobs done quickly, there are times when he recommends keeping the mower in the garage. "I don't like to cut when it is extremely dry," said Birch. "Rolling over dry, dormant grass can kill it. Waiting to mow until it comes out of dormancy is probably the better option."

When using a riding mower, Birch recommends checking tire inflation often. Tires that are improperly inflated can lead to an uneven cut or can cause scalping.

Another maintenance area that is often overlooked is the build up of grass that can accumulate under the deck. Keeping the underside of the mower deck clean helps improve cutting performance. Lifting the deck and scraping the grass off is a dirty job—but can really improve your cut. Manufacturers have added a washout port (a standard on most professional mowers) to many of their consumer model mowers that makes this job easier. By simply attaching a garden hose to the deck, you can wash out the underside after each mowing.

By applying these tips to help improve your quality of cut, you can be on your way to a better-looking lawn in just a couple of weeks.

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Eighty attend Sanders reunion

The children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the late George and Harriett Alexander family, longtime residents of Haskell and Weinert, held a reunion at the Circle S Ranch July 17-20 with approximately 80 in attendance.

George and Harriett had ten children, nine of whom survived to have children and grandchildren including Minerva Touchstone, Richard Alexander, Nellie Rinehart, Washington Alexander, Sallie Sanders, Lola Tidrow, J.T. Alexander, Albert Alexander and Melba Kim.

Each year on the weekend nearest to July 24, the birthday of George Alexander, the family meets for a reunion.

Descendents of Minerva Touchstone attending were Troy and Jo Blakely and daughter of Micanopy, Florida, Gaylord and Barbara Touchstone of San Antonio, Shana and Dana Davis of Canton, Georgia.

Descendents of Richard Alexander attending were his daughters Frances and Bill Babbitt of Gorman, Edith Ross of Midland and grandchildren, Patty Isbell, her son, Andrew Isbell, all of Sunset, Jeremy, Wendy, Corley and Mallory Sanders of Stephenville, Jeannie Whittier, Angelina Perez and Daniel of Gorman, Courtney and Daylon Iley of Gonzales.

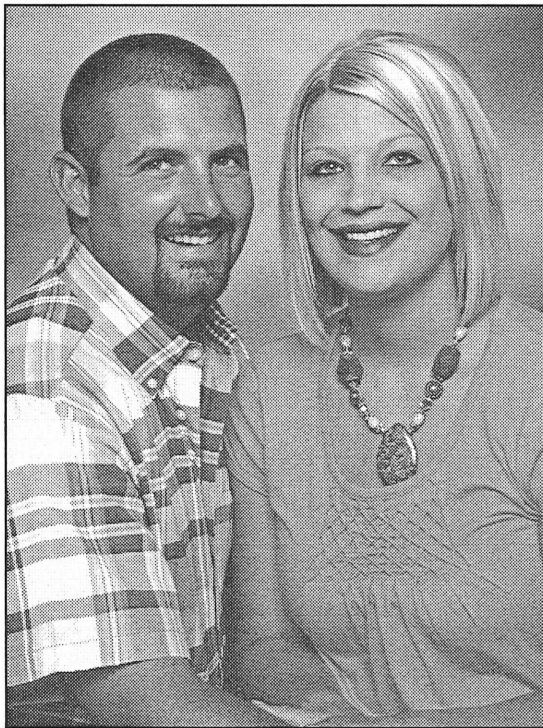
Descendents of Sallie Sanders attending were Lona Mae Phelps,

Kenneth and Elaine Campbell, all of Haskell, Karen, Allison Mitchell and Keagan, all of Abilene, Travis, William, Darrell and Phoenix Sanders of Coleman, Andy and Marlene Sanders of Cross Plains, Bill, Martha and Loretta Maupin of Odessa, Marie Kirkland of Fort Worth, Sue Cox of Omaha, Jacky and Sandra and Jaelyn Sanders of Weatherford, Ricky and Shambrey Sanders of Brock, Rex, Mandy, Abby and Robert Sanders of Aledo, and Rocky Sanders of Abilene.

Descendents of Washington Alexander attending were Evelyn Ellington of Muleshoe and her son, Eddie Ellington of Dalhart, Tom and Sue Alexander of San Antonio, Georgia Alexander and Jeremiah DeFelicia of Granite Shoals, Roy and Murl Alexander of Lubbock, Christi Hunt and Gary Smith, Terry and Connie Alexander of Bonham.

Descendents of Lola Tidrow attending were Pauline Slade of Phoenix, Arizona, Rocky and Lynn Cowley of Lueders, Charlie and Jackie Pittman of Scotland, Texas, Shane Fagan of Boyd, David, Marlene, Mathew, Katrina and a friend Pieoca of Scotland.

Visitors and relatives attending were Jimmy and Florence Alexander of Old Glory, Bobby and Pat Jenkins of Haskell, Gregg Sanders, and Kenneth and Brenda Sanders of Weinert.



CODY BRUMLEY - MELINDA PRICE

Price, Brumley to marry Sept. 13

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Price of Haskell and Pam Allen of Broken Bow, Oklahoma announce the engagement of their daughter, Melinda Kaye Price, to Cody Nathan Brumley, son of Andy and Sheri Brumley of Vernon.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Haskell High School and holds a bachelor of science degree with a major in chemistry from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She is working on an

alternative certificate to teach math in Vernon.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Vernon High School and holds a bachelor of science degree as an ag business major from Tarleton State University. He is employed by Waggoner & Son Electric of Vernon as an electrician.

They plan to marry Sept. 13 at Beavers Bend Resort Park Amphi Theater.

Harrell descendants to meet July 25-26

The descendants of Charlie, Ike, Nathan and Will Harrell will meet Fri. and Sat., July 25-26 at the Haskell National Bank Community Room.

Festivities will begin Friday at 6:30 p.m. and will continue until all the bingo prizes are won. Sandwiches, chips, cookies and soft drinks will be served to family members and guests.

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday with lunch being served at noon. Meat, bread and tea will be served. Those attending should bring their favorite side dish or dessert to share.

All family members are encouraged to attend along with any friends of the family.

Kretschmer reunion set Sat., Aug. 2

The annual Kretschmer reunion will be held Sat., Aug. 2 at the Haskell National Bank Community Room, 600 S. 1st in Haskell, with registration beginning at 2 p.m. Games and visiting will begin at 2:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting at 3 p.m.

An auction will be held to help raise money for next year's

reunion. Those attending should bring something for the auction such as canned goods, homemade items or baked goods.

The evening meal will begin at 5:30 p.m. Each family should bring a basket of food to share. Family are asked to bring pictures.

Friends are also welcome to attend.

Getting ready for back-to-school grind

Packing lunches, checking homework, taxiing kids, attending PTA meetings, going to sports practice—parents know all too well the "to do list" expands when the kids head back to school. Before the busy back-to-school schedule starts, take some time to prepare and ensure a less stressful year. Some timely tips to help parents get a jump on the new school year include:

- Clear out the study: Whether it is in the den or on the kitchen table, clear an area for kids to do their homework. Remove all the clutter, wipe down wood surfaces with a product that will protect the surface and stock with pens, pencils, staplers and other necessary supplies.

- Clean and organize bedrooms: There is nothing worse than your child not being able to find clean socks, ballet shoes or backpacks. Have your children clean and organize their rooms, giving them a short list of the sports gear, uniforms, etc. they need to dig out of their

closets.

- Pimp your ride: Most families spend a lot of time in the car shuttling kids to and from after school activities. Get your kid taxi ready by vacuuming out the sand from the family vacation, cleaning the windows and wiping down leather seats with a product that is designed to clean, condition and protect the leather. Stock the glove compartment with extra napkins, plastic bags for trash, tissues and hand sanitizer.

- Make a chore schedule: Schedules are typically more hectic throughout the school year for both parents and children. Make a chore schedule for the week to ensure responsibilities are being taken care of in and around the home.

To subscribe, Call 940-864-2686

Guess family holds reunion

The Guess family reunion was held Sat., July 19, at The Bevers House in Haskell, hosted by Tiffen and Erlinda Mayfield of Weinert, along with Couilla Cunningham of Ransom Canyon. Plenty of food, games, swimming, and of course, visiting was enjoyed.

Four of the eleven children of R.B. and Bell Guess are still living. While one daughter was unable to attend, the remaining daughter, LaVern Mayfield of Weinert, and two sons, Rebus of Haskell and Lindo of Weinert,

enjoyed the day spent with children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and some long lost cousins. Kinfolk came from not only the local area, but as far away as Houston, Dallas, Abilene and Lubbock.

Many memories, new happenings and family news were shared by the almost fifty family members in attendance.

An informative game of "Guess trivia" was enjoyed. It seems there is no end to the "legends." Plans for next year's reunion are already in the works.

E-mail your news and photos to The Haskell Free Press at hfp@valornet.com

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<p>24 hr. All Day Allergy Compare to Zyrtec 14 tablets \$5.99</p>	<p>Acid Reducer Compare to Prilosec OTC 14 tablets \$7.99</p>	

Bridal Registry
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Morgan Overman and Jonathan Hisey

Baby Shower Registry
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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Utility Commission OKs massive wind energy transmission plan

AUSTIN—The Public Utility Commission of Texas on July 17 approved a large-scale plan to transmit a high quantity of wind-generated power on new lines from West Texas and the Panhandle to metropolitan areas of the state.

The \$5 billion plan would add about \$4 a month to residential electric bills. The PUC estimated that the new lines will be in service within four to five years.

DPS chief resigns from office

On July 11, Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the Texas Department of Public Safety announced his resignation.

"After 43 years and 9 months with the Texas Department of Public Safety, I am retiring on Aug. 31, 2008," he said.

Gov. Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst reacted to Davis's announcement with statements expressing their appreciation of Davis and his many years of service.

Since the June 8 arson fire gutted the governor's mansion, the Department of Public Safety, which maintains a security detail at the mansion, has been under increasing criticism. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Restoration fund kicks off

On July 14, Texas First Lady Anita Perry held a press conference to solicit private donations to a fund created to restore the fire-gutted Texas Governor's Mansion.

The effort to fix up the 152-year-old state-owned building could take years and millions of dollars. Former Gov. Dolph Briscoe donated \$100,000 to the fund.

Comptroller leads trade mission

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs traveled to Spain in mid-July, leading a group of Texas government officials and business leaders on a business recruitment and trade mission.

Combs promoted Texas as a business location for companies and offered the state's assistance in finding opportunities.

She cited Texas' "favorable tax environment, tremendous work force, world-class universities and leadership in innovation and technology."

Bell to run for state Senate seat

Sen. Kyle Janek, R-Houston, resigned from office effective June 2, leaving his seat vacant.

A Nov. 4 special election will decide who will fill the vacant Dist. 17 seat in the Texas Senate.

Democrat Chris Bell, a former member of Congress and candidate for governor of Texas in 2006, on July 13 announced his candidacy for the seat.

Republicans Joan Huffman, Austen Furse and Grant Harpold also have declared as candidates for the seat.

Perry spokesman Black resigns

Robert Black, the governor's director of communications, announced his resignation on July 14.

Black, who had served on Gov. Perry's staff since 2003, said he plans to form his own consulting business, specializing in public affairs and political and strategic communications.

Parks agency reports drownings

At least 13 people drowned in public waters over the Fourth of July holiday, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reported.

The total number of water-related fatalities in Texas is 66 so far this year; more than half of those deaths did not involve boats, according to TPWD.

Toll moratorium gets extension

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, announced July 10 that she secured her amendment to a federal transportation spending bill that would continue the current ban on placing toll booths on interstate highways in Texas through September 2009.

However, efforts to toll newly constructed lanes or new highways are not prohibited in Sen. Hutchison's amendment.

The transportation spending bill, S.3261, moves next to the full Senate for consideration.

Lawmakers promote propane use

Three powerful Texas House committee chairs penned an open letter to all state and local leaders, seeking to promote the conversion of vehicles to plentiful and clean burning propane fuel.

Among suggestions offered was replacing retired fleet vehicles such as school buses and garbage trucks with ones fueled by propane or natural gas.

"Escalating gasoline and diesel prices are threatening our national economy and draining our personal budgets," they wrote.

The letter, dated July 14, was signed by Rep. Jim Keffer, R-Eastland, chair of House Ways and Means; Rep. Warren Chism, R-Pampa, chair of House Appropriations; and Rep. Rick Hardcastle, R-Vernon, chair of House Energy Resources.



From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago July 23, 1998

Mr. and Mrs. Cal Wilfong of Knoxville, Tennessee visited his mother, Laquita Wilfong.

Kaye Derrick of Fort Worth visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paris Barton.

Pansy Harris harvested a cantaloupe in her backyard weighing eleven pounds and measured 27 1/2 inches around the middle.

Tara Moeller Olson qualified for the President's Honor List at Texas Tech University.

20 Years Ago July 28, 1988

Justin Stewart, son of Danny and Sue Stewart, won first place in the Stonewall County Jaycees' Bass and Carp tournament at Lake Stamford. Stewart caught 162.3 pounds of carp. Matt Frazier won second with 122.7 pounds, and Jason Gilly won third with 34.1 pounds of fish.

The Haskell Indian teenage baseball team competed in the state tournament in Eastland.

Three girls from Haskell, Missy Davis, Dala Harris and Joy McKeever played in the team that won the championship in the girls' basketball league in Abilene.

Haskell basketball coach Randy Stone was a speaker at the six-man coaches' basketball seminar in Stephenville.

30 Years Ago July 27, 1978

Pauline Norman was selected as artist of the month.

The senior teenage league, coached by Sgt. Frank Jircik, won the Haskell-Clyde game. Winning pitcher was Mark Wallace.

Haskell Mayor Royce Williams stated that the city water rationing program still needs to be carried out.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewayne Moore, Marilyn, Doretha and Marsha were in Arlington at Six Flags.

Gary Womack, 13 year old, won the championship at the Haskell Trap Club tournament.

40 Years Ago July 25, 1968

Patricia Ballard of Rochester, was crowned Haskell County Cotton Queen.

The Mobil service station has changed hands. Ed Roberts is the new owner.

Elvis White is the new owner of Haskell Retail Merchants Association and Credit Bureau.

The Haskell County Sheriff's Posse has made nine road trips this season, and has brought home nine trophies.

50 Years Ago July 24, 1958

R.I. Johnson and Loraine Johnson of Boggs and Johnson Furniture Store were among buyers at the Southwest Furniture Market in Dallas.

Rule now has in use a complete new water system with

four wells and two storage tanks.

Preliminary plans are underway for clearing and bulldozing fairways and building greens on the new golf course northeast of Haskell.

Haskell relatives of Col. and Mrs. James A. Isbell and son Jimmy received assurance that the Air Force officer and his family were safe, and were due to be evacuated from Baghdad. Concern for their safety had been felt since the revolution in Iraq.

Haskell's High School-College baseball team, recently organized has two victories in its first two games. Rev. M.D. Rexrode and HHS coach Ray Overton, Jr. are managing the new team.

100 Years Ago July 25, 1908

George L. Grogan of Atlanta has returned home from a visit to his firm's lumber yard at Weinert.

The Christian Church will begin their big revival meeting.

The Haskell Dudes and Mother Hubbards played a lively game of ball at the park. The score was 1 to 8 in favor of the Mother Hubbards.

R.B. Spencer was in town looking after his lumber business.

James F. Watson of Navarro County was in town and purchased 175 acres of land near Rule.

W. French and F. Parish attended the old soldiers' reunion in Stamford.

Cotton Market Weekly

By Plains Cotton Cooperative Association

The cotton market is experiencing its typically slow part of the season, and traders are closely watching the progress of the U.S. cotton crop and weekly export sales to give them direction. The market will be hypersensitive to weather, and although there are no seriously adverse conditions currently, something could pop up at any moment.

"The extremely light trade in recent cotton sessions likely will continue if fundamental conditions continue," one trader said. "As long as the weather holds pretty well, the market probably will lazily lay around unless we hear some pretty big news."

USDA reported this week that moderate to severe drought conditions persist in most of the key cotton growing areas of the United States. The department rated one-third of the Texas cotton crop as very poor to poor as of July 14. Most of the remaining acreage in the state was rated fair to good.

However, recent rains have improved much of the remaining crops in West Texas. Some industry observers say, due to dry conditions, high winds, blowing sand, and high temperatures in late May and early June, some of the estimated 4.7 million acres planted in Texas is likely to be abandoned. The remaining acreage very well might end up with above-average yields. Traders will be focusing on future supply/demand reports to confirm or dispute the hypothesis.

Meanwhile, analysts expected strong export sales as prices neared seven-month lows last week. However, USDA's figures were only marginally higher. Net export sales of U.S. cotton totaled 56,800 bales in the week ended July 10, up six percent from the previous week and 45 percent from the four-week average. Featured buyers were China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Turkey. Net sales of 282,700 bales for delivery in 2008-09 were primarily for China.

Export shipments of 258,600 bales were down nine percent from the previous week and 16 percent from the four-week average. Major destinations included China, Turkey, Indonesia and Mexico.

As the summer doldrums persist, spot cotton sales continue to be dimly slow as online trading by producers in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas totaled just 2 bales in the week ended July 17 compared to one bale the previous week.

Although cotton typically experiences slow trading at this point in the year, some analysts say cotton will feel pressure through the long-term from higher oil prices and the slowing world economy. They point to the fact that cotton is a discretionary item and is more susceptible to demand destruction than many other commodities.

"While consumers need food and energy in their daily lives and they buy precious metals as a store of value, cotton is not an essential item and, therefore, more susceptible to demand destruction than some commodities," an observer explained.

In the case of cotton, the current energy debacle is affecting both the supply and demand sides of the equation. On the one hand, it becomes much more expensive to grow a crop, and many wonder how growers will be able to stay afloat if cotton prices remain at 70 cents per pound. On the other hand, textile mills face a similar problem since they use a great deal of energy to produce and transport yarn and fabrics. Without the ability to pass on these increases, there may be a loss of bales on both sides of the balance sheet, a trader explained.

From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Five Steps To Guard Against Botnets

Robot Networks, Zombie Armies these names may sound like science fiction. Unfortunately, they identify actual threats to information systems in Texas and across the globe.

By secretly invading residential Internet connections, hackers and spammers can download harmful software, including spyware and computer viruses, onto home computers. These malicious programs turn ordinary computers into robots that can be remotely controlled by cyber criminals. Once a robot computer network, or botnet, is in place, cyber criminals can use it to spy on Internet users, harvest sensitive personal information and send millions of spam messages.

Last year, the Office of the Attorney General shut down a Texas spammer who "leased" a substantial botnet to others who distributed illegal spam. We also took legal action against two suspects who used botnets to orchestrate spam e-mail campaigns touting near-worthless penny stocks. According to investigators, the defendants sent potential investors millions of unsolicited e-mails with baseless price projections about their stock offers.

Cyber security experts estimate that up to one quarter of all personal computers connected to the Internet may be hijacked

by botnets. Signs of an infected computer often include slow operation, frequent "crashing" and outgoing e-mail boxes filled with messages the user did not send. The botnet's viruses and spyware usually do not disable hijacked computers, because computers must be functional and connected to the Internet in order for the botnet to work.

Despite this growing threat, Texans can take five simple steps to prevent their home computers from becoming part of a zombie network.

First, home computer users should install anti-virus and anti-spyware programs. Many Internet service providers and software companies offer programs that protect against malicious software. Most operating systems issue periodic security patches to fix flaws in their software.

Second, home computer users should set up firewalls to block unauthorized access while connected to the Internet. Computers that are unprotected by anti-virus programs and firewalls are extremely vulnerable to harmful software invasions.

Third, consumers should never open e-mail attachments or download files from unknown sources. The links or files could contain hidden programs that could snare the computer in a botnet. Additionally, e-mail users should be aware that spammers often solicit personal information

through fraudulent spam e-mails that appear to be from a legitimate source, such as a bank or credit union. To prevent identity theft and unauthorized computer access, Texans should always be cautious when downloading files or opening e-mail attachments.

Computer users also should frequently change their passwords to e-mail accounts, online banking accounts and other secure Web sites. Cyber security experts suggest using passwords that contain a random string of characters that mix uppercase and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols. Consumers should refrain from using birthdays or anniversaries as part of their passwords or using the same password repeatedly.

Finally, home computer users should always disconnect from the Internet when they are away from the computer. Closing the Internet connection prevents hackers and spammers from accessing or abusing private information and resources.

Texans who believe their computers have been hacked or infected by spyware or a virus should immediately disconnect from the Internet and use updated anti-virus and anti-spyware software to fully scan the computer. Users should report unauthorized computer access to their Internet service provider as well as the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

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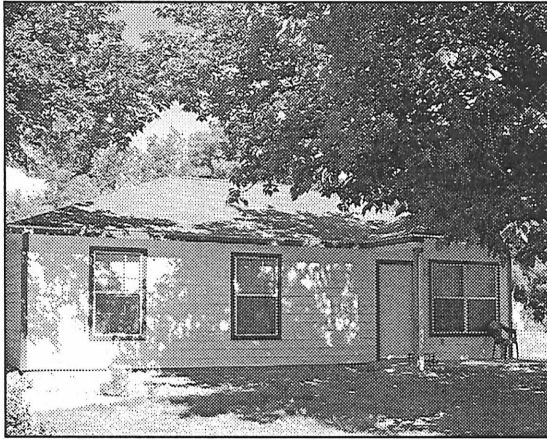


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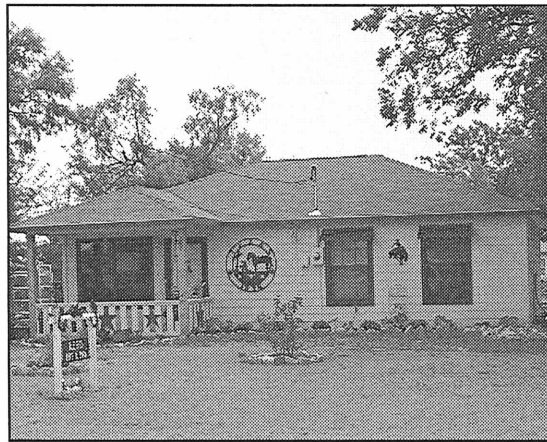
Team effort provides new homes for six families



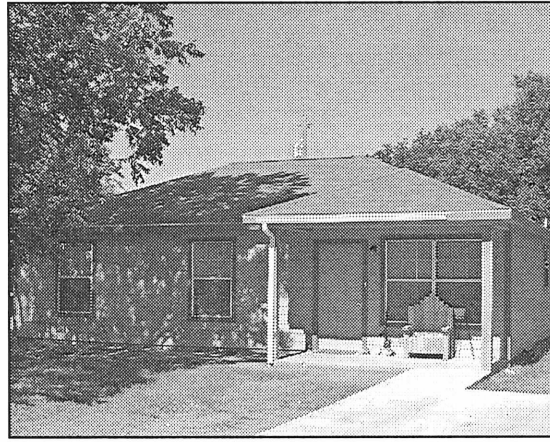
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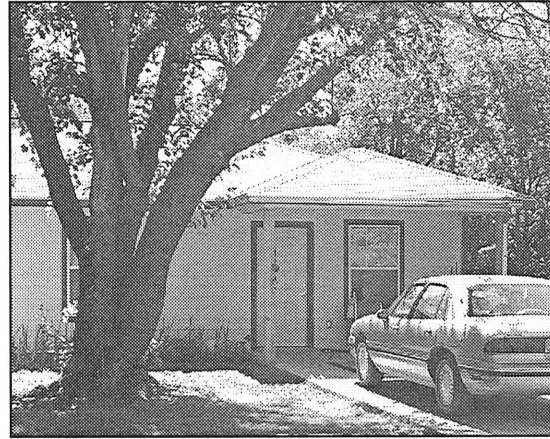
Fuentes home



Reed home



Rodriguez home



Workman home



Yeldell home

by Caron Yates

It's not always easy to find good in adverse situations. The tornado that hit The Anchor at Lake Stamford in March 2005, was certainly devastating for many residents at the lake.

However, in the midst of the destruction, good did indeed come about for six Haskell County families.

In August of 2005, County Judge David Davis was notified that a grant of up to \$520,000, offered through the Home Investment Partnership Program, was available for those households that received structural damage from the storm. The process of locating applicants for the grant began.

As is sometimes the case when dealing with government programs, many rules and regulations were attached. One such regulation was that mobile homes would not be eligible for the grant. Unfortunately, much of the damage at the lake was to mobile homes.

Consequently, Judge Davis expanded the search for damaged homes to include the entire county. Twenty applicants, who met the criteria for the grant, applied. This list was narrowed to ten applicants. By the fall of 2005, applications were complete and waiting approval when word was received from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs that the process would be starting over. It seemed the criteria and application process had changed. Some of the applicants chose not to reapply.

For the six families that patiently persevered, the good news of their approved applications came in January 2007. Receiving new homes were Janie Rodriguez, Mae Lou Yeldell, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Reed, Lawana Conner and Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Fuentes, all of Haskell, along with Bonnie Workman of Rule.

Applicants had to prove clear ownership of property, age, income, etc. to qualify. The new homes were to be built on the same lot as the existing house, so each family had to find alternative housing for the six months it would take for completion. The contractor would tear down, remove from the lot and rebuild each house. The recipients did have a choice of floor plan, as well as some of the paint colors and carpet. By the fall of 2007, most of the homes were ready for occupancy.

When asked for comment, without exception, each home owner quickly pointed out how blessed they were. Although there were a few "bumps" in the road with the paperwork process, the opportunity to meet and work with many new people was very rewarding for each family. One such example, was a lawyer from Dallas, Janice Cohen, who became interested and assisted in working out a problem on the deed for one of the home owners.

"Each contractor was kind and considerate and worked hard to meet our wishes," stated Reed. Rodriguez added, "I sit and look at my new house and am so very thankful." To share her appreciation with the community, Yeldell held a dedication and blessing of her new home. Conner, who has even added a porch and carport said, "It is exactly what I needed."

Certainly the deserving families receiving the comfortable, energy efficient homes are proud, excited and thankful. Perhaps another positive point worthy of pride is that our county, working together with its residents, helped bring about this good fortune. Working as a team is how it should be.

Some simple steps for smart water conservation offered

Did you know that a faucet that leaks just one drop per second can waste over 2,000 gallons of water per year? That a leaking toilet can waste 100 gallons a day? Or that an average shower uses 11 gallons of water?

Americans use an average of over 350 million gallons of water each day; much of that water is wasted due to carelessness.

Here are some simple water saving tips to conserve our most valuable and vital natural resource:

Indoors

- Turn faucets off when you are not using them; for example, do not leave the water running when washing dishes by hand or brushing your teeth.
- Make sure to repair any leaking faucets, pipes and toilets.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave instead of running hot water over it.
- Dispose of toxic chemicals properly; do not pour them down the drain.
- Install water saving fixtures such as ultra low consumption toilets, efficient faucets and

showerheads.

- Do not throw trash into the toilet as it will result in unnecessary and wasteful toilet flushing; instead, dispose of trash in the proper containers.
- Take a quick shower rather than a bath and save an average of 20 gallons of water.
- Clean vegetables in a sink or pan partially filled with water rather than running water from the tap.
- Re-use the water that vegetables are washed in for watering houseplants or for cleaning.
- Insulate water pipes; it'll make your water hotter faster and avoid the waste that comes when heating water.
- Instead of waiting for tap water to get cold enough for drinking, keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator.
- Whenever possible, compost food scraps or dispose of them in the garbage rather than using the garbage disposal, which requires a high level of water for operation.
- Only run your dishwasher

when it is full to make the best use of water, energy and detergent.

- Cut down on the amount of rinsing you do before loading the dishwasher. Most modern dishwashers do an excellent job of cleaning dishes, pots and pans.
- Wait until you have a full load of laundry before running the machine to save both water and energy. If you can't wait for a full load, use the right water level to match the size of the load.
- When washing clothes by hand, the water should not be left running. Fill a laundry tub with water, and re-use wash and rinse water as much as possible. Likewise with the dishes.

Outdoors

- Water your lawn early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation. Similarly, do not water your lawn on windy days as it can also help to avoid excess evaporation.
- Don't follow a fixed watering schedule. Water when the grass or plants show signs of needing it. Over watering is bad for plants and lawns. It promotes shallow root growth, making your lawn less hardy. To determine if your lawn needs to be watered, simply

walk across the grass. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.

- Cover swimming pools to minimize the loss of water due to evaporation. Also install a more efficient water saving filter.
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean sidewalks or driveways.
- Install efficient irrigation devices that can be adjusted according to seasonal irrigation needs. Install moisture sensors in each irrigation zone (sunny, shady, etc.) to better determine irrigation needs.
- Do not leave sprinklers or hoses on unattended; it can result in leaks and over watering.
- Maintain a lawn height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches to help protect the roots from heat stress and reduce the loss of moisture to evaporation. Allowing the grass to grow slightly taller reduces water loss by providing more ground shade for the roots and by promoting water retention in the soil.
- Watering in several short sessions rather than one long one allows the lawn to better absorb water and helps reduce the risk of over watering.
- Check sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and

keep the heads in good repair.

- Make sure your sprinkler is placed so it only waters the lawn, not the pavement.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, which increases evaporation.
- Wash your car with a bucket of soapy water and use a nozzle to stop the flow of water from the hose between rinsing.
- Consider washing your car on

the lawn, if possible, to reduce runoff.

- Consider Xeriscape landscaping which takes into consideration how the yard will be used and how it can provide the greatest benefit with the least amount of maintenance. This includes growing plants that are indigenous to the area and appropriate maintenance to reduce water use.

Prepare for outside activities in the heat


Heat-related injuries are especially dangerous for people who exercise or work outdoors in the heat of the summer. UT Southwestern Medical Center cardiologist Dr. Benjamin Levine, a sports medicine specialist, says people should be aware of ways to combat the heat and stay hydrated.

"For short-duration exercise, like working out at the health club or taking a run, exercisers should drink when they are thirsty, and then make sure they salt their food and replace the salt and water lost in sweat," he says. "For serious athletes or workers,

weighing themselves before and after a workout can give them a sense of how much sweat they are losing, and improve the precision of fluid replacement."

Dr. Levine also discourages drinking too much water when exercising outside, as that can lead to a rare complication called hyponatremia—a condition marked by a loss in the body's sodium content that can result in physical symptoms such as lethargy, disorientation, seizures and even respiratory distress.

"The old saying, 'Stay ahead of your thirst' is dangerous and should be abandoned," he says.



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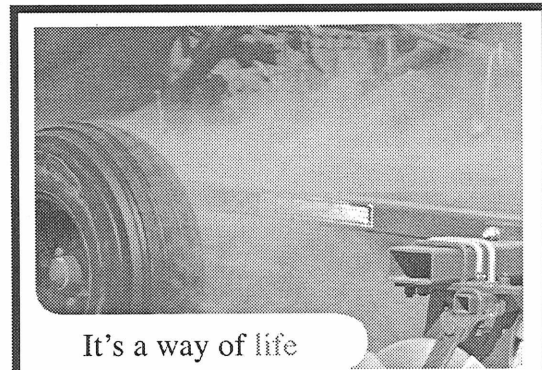


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the lawn, if possible, to reduce runoff.

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Use child safety seats properly

The widespread use of children's car seats has reduced the number of injuries and fatalities on American roads, but a national insurance program for educators says more needs to be done.

"Every state requires that children under the age of 4 are secured while riding in a car," noted Ray Palermo, director of public information for Teachers' Insurance Plan. "Yet despite the laws and warnings, car crashes are still the single largest cause of death among children under the age of fourteen." It is estimated that half of the approximately 1,500 fatalities each year could be prevented with the proper use of a child car seat.

Although state laws vary and parents should check to ensure

they are complying with all local regulations, Teachers' Insurance Plan offers these general guidelines for parents to help ensure their child is safe and secure.

Start out right: The best way to get children in the habit of using safety restraints is to learn from their parent's example. The driver, all adult passengers and all infants and children should be safely secured before starting the engine.

Infants up to 20 pounds: Infants from birth to 1-year old and under 20 pounds in weight should be secured in an infant car safety seat on the back seat of the vehicle, facing the rear. This avoids injury from an inflated airbag and will be less of a distraction for the driver. If your

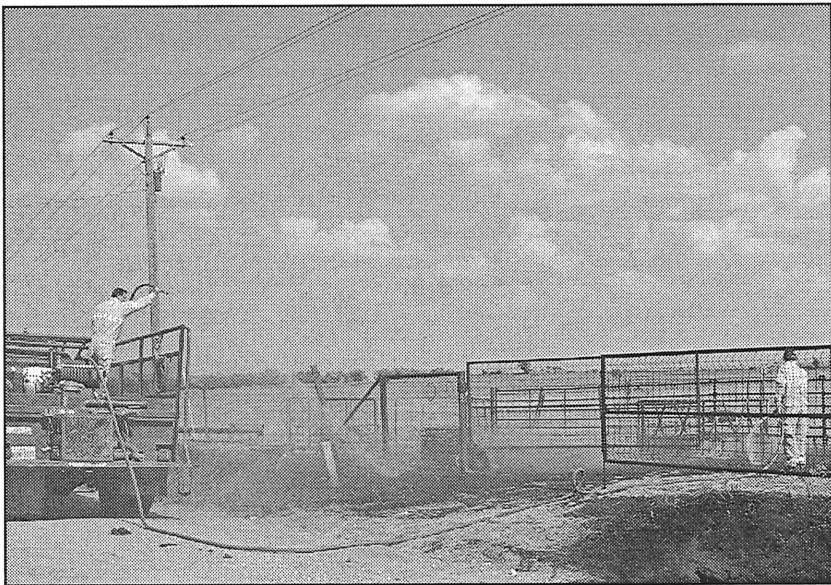
vehicle does not have a back seat, deactivate the airbag for that trip, but be sure to reactivate it when an adult is the passenger.

Infants 20+ pounds: Infants from birth to 1-year and more than 20 pounds should be either secured in a convertible safety seat or in an infant seat approved for their weight. The seats should be secured on the back seat of the vehicle, facing the rear.

Children 20 to 40 pounds: Children older than 1-year who weigh 20 to 40 pounds should be secured in a child safety seat on the back seat of the vehicle, facing forward.

Children 40+ pounds: Children who have outgrown their child safety seat, but are still too small (less than 4' 9") to use the standard adult safety belt in the car, should use a booster seat. The lap belt should sit across the hips and the shoulder belt should not cross the neck or face.

Be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions on proper installation or check with your local police or fire department, who are often certified to inspect car seats. When buying a car seat, look for the DOT tag. Do not use a car seat that is broken or missing parts.



SMALL GRASS FIRE—Haskell Volunteer firemen responded to a small grass fire around these pens belonging to Brueggeman Farms on East Road last Thursday about 5 p.m. Firemen did not know how the fire was started, but remind all citizens to be cautious when burning, welding, smoking or parking vehicles in dry grass.

ECC Calendar and Menu

<p>Mon., July 28 Lunch—Hamburger steak, onion and brown gravy, buttered corn, green beans, yeast rolls, milk, tea, or coffee</p> <p>Wed., July 30 Lunch—Beef stew, tuna/pimiento sandwiches, onions, pickles, misc. dessert, milk, tea,</p>	<p>or coffee</p> <p>Fri., Aug. 1 Lunch—Meatloaf, green beans, cream potatoes, yeast roll, strawberry cake, milk, tea, or coffee</p> <p>Announcements begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch.</p>
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Few students graduating with skills to manage finances well

Many of today's students are graduating from high school with the equivalent of an "F" in

financial literacy. Basic concepts of saving, investing, and using credit wisely elude many students, according to a biennial test administered by the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.

The latest test was given to more than 6,800 high school seniors in 40 states. High school seniors have scored consistently low since the test was first administered in 1997. Students responded correctly to about 57 percent of the questions that year—the highest score. Grades on this year's survey showed a marked decline—down to 48 percent.

Students continue to be challenged by a range of financial concepts. Only 42 percent understood that sales tax actually adds to the cost of a purchase. Less than 49 percent correctly said that someone who pays the minimum amount on a credit card will pay more in finance charges than someone who pays the entire balance. And only 17 percent answered that stocks are likely to yield better returns than savings bonds.

"The data suggest that not only age, but problem-solving ability are important factors in students' abilities to grasp and apply financial information," said Laura Levine, executive director of the national coalition, which is comprised of more than 180 companies and affiliated organizations.

Many colleges recognize that low financial literacy is an issue for their students, especially incoming freshmen. Financial aid offices regularly field questions on a variety of rudimentary financial skills, including how to budget or how to build good credit. A growing number of financial aid officers have begun connecting financial literacy with a student's long-term ability to thrive in college and in a career.

"For a majority of students, college means student loan debt, which will be carried for years beyond graduation," said Paul Goebel, director of the Student

Money Management Center for the University of North Texas. "Research has shown that as debt from the college years increases, graduates postpone major life milestones including marriage, home ownership, even children."

According to Goebel, incoming freshman sometimes find that financial aid does not cover all of their college and living expenses, and working part time may not necessarily offset extra costs. Students look for help from Goebel's office, often as the first step to becoming independent money managers.

"Many freshmen are intimidated by the unknown—what skills are needed? Where do they begin? What happens if they make mistakes? How do they talk with their parents?" he said.

Goebel sees his role as essentially a guide for students. His office assesses each student's financial skills and then works with the individual to cultivate effective money management skills. He often has to remind students that, to succeed financially, commitment is required, whether it be time, money, or lifestyle changes.

More colleges are offering financial counseling services to students, or even requiring mandatory courses on academic skills and money management. These services are very timely, considering that student loan debt has doubled over the last decade, and bankruptcy rates are rising for those in the 19- to 25-year age bracket.

Colleges need to do more to prepare students for the future, according to Goebel, especially with tuition and living costs continuing to rise.

"Financial literacy is so important to students because every life decision they will make has a financial component to it," he said. "We have to help them bridge their skills today with the path they see for themselves in the future. Identifying that path should be our priority in guiding students towards financial independence."

This Week's Devotional Message:



GOD'S WORLD OFFERS AN ENJOYABLE ECONOMY VACATION

Vacation time can mean many things to many people, depending on their interests as well as what the budget will allow. They may travel a great distance in style, go camping in the nearby woods, or just languish in the back yard. All of these places can provide enjoyment and relaxation, being a departure from the normal routine. Moreover, even a low

budget vacation can be a learning experience, because it is not necessary to go far in order to observe the wonders of God's creation. They are on display everywhere, in different forms, just waiting for you to discover them. Take your Bible along as a sort of guide book, and remember that wherever you go on your vacation, God will be there to watch over you and protect you.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

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| <p>—HASKELL—
East Side Baptist Church
Dr. Jim Hefflin, interim pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
600 N. 1st East, Haskell</p> <p>Christian Church
Richard Barr, minister
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m.; Thurs. 7 p.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell</p> <p>Church of God
Bruce Ray, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:00 p.m.
714 North First East, Haskell</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church
Ron Rennegarbe, pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
Hwy 380 East, Haskell</p> <p>Iglesia Bautista El Calvario
Art Flores, Interim pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell</p> <p>First United Methodist Church
Rev. Tom Long, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
201 N. Ave. F, Haskell</p> <p>First Assembly of God
Rev. J.C. Amburn
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell</p> <p>St. George Catholic Church
Father George Roney
Sat. Mass 7 p.m.; Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m.
901 N. 16th, Haskell</p> <p>Church of Christ
Philip Sims, minister
Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
510 N. Ave. E, Haskell</p> <p>First Presbyterian Church
Kelly Pigott, interim pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
306 N. Ave. E, Haskell</p> <p>Trinity Baptist Church
Larry White, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6 :30 p.
114 S. Ave. D, Haskell</p> <p>Hopewell Baptist Church
Sun. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
908 N. Ave. A, Haskell</p> | <p>Greater Independent Baptist Church
Sun. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.
301 N. 3rd St., Haskell</p> <p>New Covenant Foursquare
Bill and Renee Glass, pastors
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.
200 S. Ave. F, Haskell</p> <p>Mission Revival Center
Rev. William Hodge
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Tues. 6 p.m.
1600 N. Ave. B, Haskell</p> <p>First Baptist Church
Greg Gasaway, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m.
301 N. Ave. E, Haskell</p> <p>Church in the Wind
C.C. Curran, pastor
Sun. fellowship 5 p.m. Church 5:30 p.m.
Tues. Bible Class 7:30 p.m.
203 S. 1st East, Haskell</p> <p>Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church
Morris R. Johnson, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
1600 N. First St., Haskell</p> <p>—WEINERT—
First Baptist Church
Dan Bullock, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
Weinert</p> <p>Weinert Foursquare Church
Rev. Robert Harrison
Sunday 11 a.m
Weinert</p> <p>—ROCHESTER—
Church of Christ
Steve Willis, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
West on Main Street, Rochester</p> <p>First Baptist Church
Joseph Barrett, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Prayer Time/
Team Kids 5 p.m.; Wed. Youth meeting 7 p.m.
500 Main, Rochester</p> <p>Union Chapel Baptist Church
Clovis Dever
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Rochester</p> <p>Faith Chapel of Rochester
Randy Hollingsworth, minister
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 6 p.m.
Hwy 6, Rochester</p> | <p>—SAGERTON—
Sagerton Methodist Church
Stephania Gilkey, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m.
Sagerton</p> <p>Faith Lutheran Church
Curtis Baker, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Sagerton</p> <p>—RULE—
First Baptist Church
Russell Stanley, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
1001 Union Ave., Rule</p> <p>Primitive Baptist Church
Dale Turner Jr., pastor
First & Third Sundays 10 a.m.
Corner of 8th & Robins, Rule</p> <p>Church of Christ
John Greeson, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
811 Union, Rule</p> <p>First United Methodist Church
Tom Long, pastor
Sun. Morn. Worship 8:30 a.m.
1000 Union Ave., Rule</p> <p>Primera Iglesia Bautista
Alfa y Ornegs
Manuel Marin, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
500 Elm Street, Rule</p> <p>Sweet Home Baptist Church
Larry Neal, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.;
Gladstone Ave., Rule</p> <p>West Bethal Baptist Church
Rev. Clovis Dever
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
300 Sunny Ave., Rule</p> <p>—PAINT CREEK—
Paint Creek Baptist Church
Sun. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.
Paint Creek</p> <p>—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</p> |
|--|---|---|

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Weather Whys

Summer Heat Waves
Q: We hear of heat waves in the United States, but what's the worst heat wave in other countries?

A: The summer of 2003 has to be the worst heat wave in modern times, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University.

"That year, heat gripped all of Europe for more than a week. France was hardest hit, with more than 14,800 people dying, and you have to remember that few residents there have air conditioners. Most of those that died were elderly citizens. In Italy, between 10,000 to 15,000 died when temperatures hit 102-105 for days. More than 140 people died in Spain and at least 60 in Germany. England hit its

all-time record high temperature of 101 degrees on Aug. 10, 2003, and within a day, more than 900 people died."

Q: What about the United States?

A: The heat wave of 1980 is considered the worst in U.S. history, claiming between 1,200 to a possible 10,000 lives.

"Dallas was over 100 degrees on 69 days between June and September and recorded its all-time high of 113 degrees, while Wichita Falls hit 119 degrees in the summer of 1980. But the longest heat wave is believed to be one that hit Western Australia in 1924. The temperature reached 100 degrees or higher for 160 days between Oct. 31 to April 7," McRoberts adds.



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ALL DEADLINES MONDAY 5 P.M.

864-2686

For Sale

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

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

FOUR FREE KITTENS about nine weeks old. Two gray, one buff, one orange. Adorable. 940-864-2042. 30p

Garage Sale

GARAGE SALE: Lots of girls' baby clothing (NB-18 months), toys, teen/young women clothing, baby mattress, misc. items. Come by and see. 900 N. Ave. G. Sat. 8 til? 30nc

Estate Sale

ESTATE SALE: Ms. Jirick. July 25. 1102 N. 7th, Haskell. VP girls. 940-996-2428. Early sales. 29-30p

ESTATE SALE: Washer, dryer, bookcases, end tables, books, small TV, lamps, desks, suitcases, mattresses, clothing, toys, kitchen items, unused pipe, other items. Everything goes. 202 S. Ave. G. Sat., July 26, 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. 29-30c

Miscellaneous

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

Real Estate

200 CULTIVATED ACRES southwest of Woodson. Loaded with peanut base. Will consider carrying note. Sell or lease purchase. 806-252-0683. 28-31c

HOUSE FOR SALE: 4 bedroom. Shop. Carports. Extra lot with house. 302 S. Ave. C. 940-207-0244. 28-30p

PROPERTY FOR SALE: 4 lots on Union Avenue in Rule. \$400. 806-744-4127 or 806-549-4805. 29-43p

HOUSE FOR SALE: In Rule. Lease purchase. 2 bedroom, \$300 down. \$275 monthly. 110 Adams. 325-829-1935. 29-30p

FOR SALE WILL FINANCE

502 N. Ave. F. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large open dining area. Large master bedroom. All appliances stay. Cash offers welcome. Call DeWayne 940-391-8306 Agent for TruStar Real Estate

Help Wanted

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

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

WANTED: Experienced waitresses, dishwashers and cooks. Apply in person at Red Rooster Restaurant, 1006 S. Ave. E. 28-33c

NOW HIRING: Full time position for assistant manager at Security Finance, 112 N. Swenson, Stamford, Texas. 325-773-3081. Base pay \$8 to \$10.50 hour. We do offer full benefits. Come by and pick up an application today. 29-30c

HIRING Experienced Class A CDL drivers. Apply at Strickland Bridge in Haskell. 29tfc

BOOE COMMERCIAL Roofing Inc. is currently taking applications for roofers. Driver's license required. Some travel. Must be able to climb tall ladders. Contact Keila Cude at 940-422-4500. 29-30c

CNAs and LVNs. Must have state license or certification, with good 'people skills' and a positive attitude. We can offer competitive rates and benefits available for full time employees. For more information, call Cindy at 940-864-8537 or apply at Haskell Healthcare Center 1504 North First St., Haskell. Equal opportunity employer. 30-31c

DRIVERS: Home every other day. Excellent benefits. Competitive pay. Tanker end. 2 years experience. 23 YOA. Good MVR. 800-469-7714. 30-31c

COOKS NEEDED at Haskell Healthcare Center. Call Dorothy at 864-8537. 30-31c

HELP WANTED: Texas Burrito Express. All positions available. 940-863-4553. 507 N. Ave. E. 30-32c

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.

For Rent

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

HOUSE FOR SALE: In Rule. Lease purchase. 2 bedroom, \$300 down. \$275 monthly. 110 Adams. 325-829-1935. 29-30p

FOR RENT: 1 bedroom house. Furnished. \$300 month. No pets. 864-2986. 30c

Public Notices

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE THE STATE OF TEXAS & COUNTY OF HASKELL &

By virtue of an Order of Sale issued out of the Honorable 39th Judicial District Court of Haskell County, on the 3rd day of July, 2008, by the Clerk thereof, in the case(s) styled as follows:

Cause No. 11,323. Styling: Haskell County Appraisal District v. David McNelly. Legal Description: 1. Lots 2, 3, Block A of the Allison Addition to the City of Rule, Haskell County, Texas.

and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell, at 10:30 o'clock a.m. on the 5th day of August, 2008, which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the South door of the Courthouse of Haskell County, in the City of Haskell, Texas.

Levied on the 3rd day of July, 2008, as the property of said defendants, to satisfy the judgment rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest, at 12 percent per annum, and all costs of suit in favor of each jurisdiction.

"All bidders must now display proof of compliance with 34.015 of Texas Tax Code."

Given under my hand this 3rd day of July, 2008. David Halliburton Sheriff, Haskell County, Texas 28-30c

NOTICE

Haskell CISD is accepting sealed bids on property in Rochester, Texas. These lots are located in Block 14 lot numbers 11 & 12.

Bids will be due by 4:00 p.m., July 29, 2008, at the Administration Building at Haskell CISD, 605 North Avenue E, Haskell, Texas.

Haskell CISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. 29-30c

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that on July 15, 2008, Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc., (Big Country) and Golden Spread Electric Cooperative (Golden Spread) filed a joint application (Application) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) under Section 37.154 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act. The case has been assigned Docket No. 35884.

In the Application, Big Country and Golden Spread request that the Commission approve their proposal to transfer the CCN rights concerning certain transmission facilities from Big Country to Golden Spread. No new facilities are being sought and the boundaries of Big Country's service area are not affected by the Application.

Both Big Country and Golden Spread are engaged in the transmission of electricity under certificates of convenience and necessity (CCN). Big Country owns and operates approximately 69 miles of high voltage transmission facilities, equipment and related substation facilities and SCADA equipment. Those facilities are located in Garza County, Jones County, Scurry County, Fisher County, Shackelford County and Haskell County, Texas. Big Country proposes to sell all of these facilities to Golden Spread. The estimated sales price is approximately \$4,395,603. Under the proposed transaction, Big Country will continue to operate and maintain the facilities.

The deadline for intervention in this proceeding is August 29, 2008, and persons who wish to intervene in this proceeding must submit 10 copies of a letter requesting intervention to the Commission by that date. Persons with questions about this project should contact Fredda Buckner of Big Country at (325) 776-2244 or Mike Wise of Golden Spread at (806) 379-7766. Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon the action sought, should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. The telephone number of the Public Utility Commission's Customer Protection Division is (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or (800) 735-2989.

Spread at (806) 379-7766. Copies of the Application and the map illustrating the facilities are available in Big Country's offices at 1010 W. South 1st Street, Roby, Texas 79543. Arrangements to view or obtain a copy of the Application or map may be made by contacting Fredda Buckner of Big Country at (325) 776-2244 or Mike Wise of Golden Spread at (806) 379-7766. 30-31c

Paint Creek ISD Board of Education hereby calls for a school board election on November 4, 2008 to fill one unexpired term and three full terms. July 27th is the first day to file for a place on the ballot. August 26th is the last day to file for a place on the ballot. Ballots may be picked up at the Paint Creek School Superintendent's Office, 4396 FM 600, Haskell, Texas 79521. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:30-3:30. 30c

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Haskell's General Store and RadioShack. New inventory of Gifts just received. Come and see the new things! Don't forget - We also have guns and ammo, gifts, musical instruments and ladies clothing! 419 S. 1st, Haskell • 864-2200 Hours: M-F 9-6; Sat. 9-3

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FEATURED LISTINGS

604 8TH ST. ROCHESTER, TEXAS. UNDER \$10,000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, mobile home, large deck off the front, sets on two lots, storage building, carport.

1005 N. 3RD ST. EAST. MUST SEE. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, frame home, entire home remodeled, beautiful kitchen with new cherry wood cabinets and tile counter tops, an island sets in the kitchen for easy entertaining, living room open to dining room, large utility room, nice storage throughout home, fenced in back yard with amazing landscaping, covered patio, two car carport.

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Mary Rike, Broker John Rike, Agent
411 1/2 S. First Street
Haskell, Texas 79521
940 864 2411 940 864 2332
mjrike@windstream.net
www.rikerealestate.com

9 N. AVE. E. Large commercial building on the west side of the square in Haskell. Property has C/HA, suspended ceiling over beautiful old tin ceiling and approximately 5500 square feet.

900 N. FIRST ST. Fully equipped meat and wildlife processing plant with approximately 1500 square feet. Facility is in excellent condition.

1303 N. AVE. I. Large multi-purpose building with kitchen, two restrooms, and several partitioned rooms of various sizes. Property has several lots and parking space. Adjacent to the property can be used for storage or a game room. Property is in good condition and priced to sell.

418 N. FIRST ST. (HIGHWAY 380 EAST) Very nice building on the north side of the downtown square. Great location for through traffic. There is a back storage area with access to an upstairs area. Building has been rewired, has new plumbing, a new floor and much more. Glass front is great for display and is good for a retail business, restaurant or office.

Come by Rike Real Estate for a complete list.

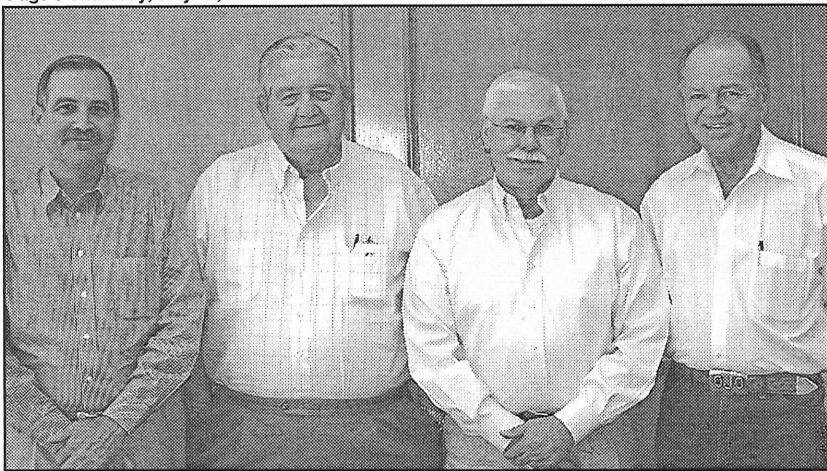
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NEW PRESIDENT—Mike Guess, second from right, has been named president of First National Bank—Haskell and First National Bank—Rochester. His election was announced by, from left, Lyndell Reeves, president, CEO and director of First National Bank—Munday, Bailey Toliver, director and Wallace Emerson, president and director. Guess has served as vice president of First National Bank—Haskell and First National Bank—Rochester since March 2007.

Mike Guess named First National Bank president

Mike Guess of Haskell has been elected president of First National Bank—Haskell and First National Bank—Rochester by Lyndell Reeves, president, CEO and director of First National Bank—Munday; Bailey Toliver, director; and Wallace Emerson, president and director.

Guess, a life long resident of Haskell, is a graduate of Haskell High School. He holds a BBA from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He has been in the farming and ranching business

since 1975. Additionally, he managed a local cotton warehouse and owned and managed a local cotton acquisition and marketing company.

In December 1986, he was employed by First Ag Credit, FCS (Stamford Office), where he worked for over twenty years and was serving as branch president at the time of his early retirement in February 2007. He has served as vice president of First National Bank—Haskell and First National

Bank—Rochester since March of 2007.

He and his wife, Beth Middleton Guess, have two adult sons, Chan and wife, Bridgett and daughters, Jacee and Cami of Haskell and Mart of Chicago, Illinois. They are members of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Haskell. Guess previously served on the Haskell School Board. He is serving as chairman of the board of the Haskell Housing Authority and Rolling Plains Health Care System Corporation.

Watermelon Festival set in Knox City Sat., July 26

The Donald Johnson Memorial 20th Annual Seedless Watermelon Festival and Classic Car Show, will be held Sat., July 26.

Activities for the day begin with registration for the car show at 8:00 a.m. A parade, in which everyone is invited to participate, will follow at 9:00 a.m. Parade winners will be announced during the festival.

The festival itself begins at 10:00 a.m. at City Park, with free admission. Throughout the day arts and crafts booths, food booths, free swimming, free watermelon slices, watermelon train rides, official Nascar racing, bounce house and many other activities for children will be

available to enjoy.

Registration for the watermelon eating contest begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Chamber booth, with the contest at 11:30 a.m. Prizes of gift certificates for Knox City shopping will be awarded in several age groups.

The Classic Car Show will be held all day, with registration at 8:00 a.m., judging at 12:30 p.m. and awards presented at 3:30 p.m. If you like a little competition, join the Horseshoe Tourney or the Washer Tourney. For details call the Knox City Chamber at 940-658-3442.

If, by chance, more "laid back" is your style, come listen to Glory Bond Gospel Band from 12:00-2:00 p.m., Beck y

Kinnibrough from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and country artist Gary Helms from 4:00-5:00 p.m. and again from 5:45-6:45 p.m.

A special treat will be Three Rivers Foundation bringing their large telescopes for viewing of the sun, as well as other night time viewing. All viewing, is free.

The day's activities will conclude with a street dance featuring "Brazos Stone" at the City Park from 8:00-11:00 p.m.

Watermelon Festival T-shirts will be for sale. Food vendors and all kids activities will remain open until the street dance ends.

Bring your chairs and join us for the Donald Johnson Watermelon Festival. There's something for everyone to enjoy.

City Council report

The Haskell City Council met Mon., July 14 in a regular meeting with Mayor Bob Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Sue Medford and Councilmen Chan Guess, Randy Bowers, Robert Tribbey and Jason Hall in attendance.

The Council approved the zoning board's recommendation requested by Loraine Johnson to rezone Block 9, Lots 7 & 8 of the Brown & Roberts Addition at 201 N. Ave. B East from industrial to general residential with the purpose to use the property for a single wide mobile home.

The Council approved the sale agreement as presented with the provision that gives power to the Mayor to authorize any minor changes as they come along and to sign any documents; a provision to present to the

Council any final documents; an agreement with Emerald to do away with their contract and request Inland Public Properties Development, Inc. to come meet in person to finalize all documents.

The Council approved an ordinance creating the golf course advisory board and providing for the financial management of the golf course.

The Council approved the annual financial report and proposed 2009 budget for Haskell County Appraisal District.

The Council approved putting the lease on farm land at the landfill out for bids.

In the City Administrator's Report, Brandon Anderson reported:

•The health insurance increased 17 percent. Anderson checked with other companies for cheaper coverage, but plans to stay with the current provider.

•Anderson attended the Texas City Managers Association meeting in Arlington in June and gained valuable and worthwhile information from the sessions and from other managers.

•Budget workshops are set for July 22 and July 29.

•Part-time employees at the golf course and Civic Center will be paid by the City in the near future, allowing these employees to be covered under the City's Workman's Comp plan.

•Carolyn Graston is the new office employee and Christopher Moynihan is a new employee in the public works department.

AG Consumer Alert

By Greg Abbott

Give Wisely To Organizations Claiming To Benefit Public Safety Officers

Before donating to an organization that claims to represent law enforcement, Texans should ask questions and check the facts. Donations to groups with the words "police," "law enforcement," or "trooper" in their names may not actually benefit real peace officers or their families. As with most things, the devil is in the details.

Two common types of organizations can serve law enforcement. The first are legitimate charities, such as police benevolent societies. These charitable organizations might honor outstanding officers with an annual gala or raise money to provide scholarships for the children of wounded or fallen officers. However, when an unknown caller solicits donations for a peace officers' charity, Texans need to ask questions before they open their wallets.

In 2003, the Office of the Attorney General and the Harris County Attorney's Office filed an enforcement action against the Texas Police Officers Alliance (TPOA), which collected nearly \$300,000 that it claimed would benefit peace officers. Before the state intervened, TPOA had given a paltry \$500 to benefit the families of three sheriff's deputies. Texans who want to donate funds to law enforcement charities should know how the organization will spend their money—and whether it will actually benefit any peace officers.

A second type of law enforcement organization is a non-profit professional association or labor union. Their membership is usually comprised of dues-paying peace officers who rely on the association for professional insurance, legal counsel, and representation before city, county, or state officials. These associations typically are governed by an elected board of directors that includes actual licensed peace officers. Non-executive board members ordinarily receive no compensation, so many organizations rely on a professional staff to administer day-to-day operations at the association.

Though many of these organizations legitimately represent actual peace officers and their interests, they are not charities. Because they do not serve a charitable purpose, donations to these organizations are not deductible for federal income tax purpose. For the same reason, it is entirely lawful for a law enforcement association to use donations to pay for administrative expenses, provided they do not mislead prospective donors about how contributions will be spent.

To separate organizations that actually serve or represent peace officers from those that may not, it helps to examine the size of an organization's membership, the

composition of its governing board, its history, its affiliations, and the organization's willingness to disclose how it spends its resources.

The state's largest peace officers' organization is the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT), a labor union with more than 15,000 members and 100 local associations. Founded in 1974, CLEAT is governed by a 17-member elected board of directors that are all licensed peace officers. It is affiliated with the National Coalition of Public Safety Officers.

Another prominent law enforcement association, the Texas Municipal Police Association, represents more than 13,000 Texas peace officers. Its 14-member board of directors, which is elected by its membership, receives no compensation and is composed almost entirely of licensed peace officers. Other examples of well-known, established organizations that represent peace officers include the Fraternal Order of Police, the Houston Police Officers Union, and the Dallas Police Association, among others.

While some organizations rely largely on membership dues to fund their operations, others solicit contributions by telephone and mail. Unfortunately, a few organizations that claim to represent law enforcement may not actually spend donors' contributions on items that directly help Texas peace officers.

Consider, for example, the Texas State Troopers Association (TSTA), which hires professional telemarketers to call potential donors for contributions. While the paid solicitor might have a good sales pitch urging potential donors to support the state police, much of the money raised by TSTA doesn't actually go to officers or their families. According to a recent IRS filing by the TSTA, its telemarketing efforts yielded \$3.59 million through telephone solicitations. Of that amount, more than 75%—or \$2.78 million—was spent on "professional fundraising fees."

The IRS documents also indicate the organization spent just \$10,800 on trooper death benefits; \$22,000 on a "trooper event;" and \$72,000 on contract lobbyists.

Texans who are solicited for donations by a purported law enforcement association need to ask tough questions before contributing to any non-profit organization. If the solicitation is made by telephone, prospective donors should take their time and ask for more information. Consumers should ask whether solicitors are volunteers or paid telemarketers. If a solicitor claims that a state or local police department has authorized the solicitation or will somehow benefit from a contribution, citizens should contact the local police department to determine whether the caller's claim is accurate.

To understand how their contribution will be used, prospective donors should ask the organization to provide a written comparison of how much donated revenue goes to telemarketing or lobbying expenses and how much directly benefits peace officers or their families.

Prospective donors should be wary of high-pressure sales tactics or unsolicited "pledge" letters. The Office of the Attorney General has received complaints by citizens who received unsolicited "pledge letters" from certain organizations. These letters claim that the recipients "generously agreed to donate" a certain amount when, in fact, no such promise was ever made. Texans should also question solicitors who imply their organization's donors receive special treatment by law enforcement authorities. And, of course, no legitimate public safety organization would intimidate or harass consumers who decline to give.

Consumers who receive bogus pledge cards or harassing telephone calls from organizations claiming to benefit law enforcement may file a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General by calling 800-252-8011 or visit www.oag.state.tx.us.

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12:30 p.m. Car Show Judging
1 p.m. Free swimming until 5 p.m.
2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Becky Kinnibrough performing
3:30 p.m. Car Show awards
4 to 5 p.m. Country Recording Artist Gary Helms
5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Country Recording Artist Gary Helms
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