

Basketball

HASKELL
JVG-VG, JVB-VB vs Knox City
 Fri., Dec. 19, 4 p.m.
 at Haskell
JVG-JVB Munday Tourney
 Dec. 20
PAINT CREEK
VG-VB vs Throckmorton
 Fri., Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.
 at Throckmorton
RULE
VG-VB vs Benjamin
 Fri., Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.
 at Benjamin
JV Open
 Fri., Dec. 19

Calendar

Early deadlines

The deadline for the Dec. 25 Christmas issue of The Haskell Free Press is Thurs., Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. The deadline for the Jan. 1 New Year's issue of The Haskell Free Press is Tues., Dec. 23 at 5 p.m.

Candlelight service

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held Wed., Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Haskell.

Immunizations

The Texas Dept. of Health in Stamford will hold an immunization clinic Thurs., Dec. 18 at the Haskell National Bank Community Room in Haskell. Clinic times are from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information call 325-773-5681.

ECC lunch

The Experienced Citizens Center of Haskell will host a fund-raiser lunch Sun. Dec. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The meal will consist of chicken and dressing, and all the trimmings. Cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children 13 and up.

Lighting contest

The Rule Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Home and Yard Lighting Contest. Judging is set for Fri., Dec. 19. Prizes are \$50 for first place, \$35 for second place and \$25 for third place. To enter, have your lights on at dark. No fee is charged to enter.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 206 S. 2nd (building east of Civic Center) in Haskell.

Youth center survey

A survey in reference to the development of a teen center in Haskell is available for community response at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/a_spx?sm=doDsUpz0ywwns1vM2flzCg_3d_3d. Citizens are encouraged to log on to the link and express their thoughts on the center by filling out the survey.

Christmas service

St. George Catholic Church will celebrate Christmas Eve Wed., Dec. 24 at 8 p.m.

Bake sale

To raise money for an educational trip to Boston in May, eight Haskell students and sponsors will hold a bake sale Sat., Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in front of the Wal-Mart store in Stamford. The bake sale will include homemade dinner rolls, bread, cookies, cakes and pies. An ongoing aluminum can drive is also in progress. Parent Cheryl Hutchinson is heading up this fund-raiser. For donations or information, call 940-864-2372. Students taking the trip are Paige Adams, Laura Garcia, Kimie Hutchinson, Claire Isbell, Lauren Newton, Samantha Rodriguez, Selina Rodriguez and Shayla Session.

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Shop Haskell first

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 122-NO. 51, ©DECEMBER 18, 2008

"The People's Choice"

12 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS



COMPETE AT STATE—The Haskell FFA Chapter advanced eight teams to the Area II Leadership Contest in Big Spring Nov. 22. After competing at the area contest, three teams advanced to the State LDE contest held Dec. 5-6 in Huntsville. Team members competed in the first round of the state semifinals and all three teams advanced to the finals. FFA members placing at state are, front row, l-r, Ashley Meier, Aerial Thane, Lauren Newton, Jordan

Burson, Kimie Hutchinson, Ashton Rutkowski and Paige Adams; back row, Stewart Ulrich, Garrett Brueggeman, Brady Leach, Briè Torres, Miranda Johnson, Claire Isbell and Kayce Wilcox. The Ag Issues team placed first in the state semifinals and fifth in the finals; the Junior Skills team placed first in the state semifinal and seventh in the finals; and the Public Relations team placed second in the state semifinals and eighth in the finals.

Bill Alcorn named new Haskell superintendent

by Caron Yates
 Bill Alcorn, 53, was officially hired as superintendent of Haskell CISD by the school board at a meeting on Dec. 11.

Alcorn not only brings thirty years of experience in education to the school system, but he also brings much enthusiasm and vision for its future.

Alcorn graduated from Graford High School and earned his Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, Mid-Management certification and Superintendent's

certification all from Tarleton State University. He began his career as a coach, later becoming a principal and then taking over the role as superintendent in 1996.

Alcorn and his wife, Vicki, have five children. Daughter Jennifer and husband, Ron, both coach at Bay City ISD. Kimberly, a CPS investigator, and her husband Brandon live at Shiner, where he also coaches. They have blessed the Alcorn family with their first grandchild. Michelle is a Physician's Assistant in Weatherford. Alcorn also has

twin sons. Josh is a coach at Coleman and Jeremy plays golf on the PGA mini-tours.

Alcorn retired in 2007, but soon discovered he greatly missed the school business. He says, "I love people, education and students. I just wasn't ready for retirement."

He is committed to unity and compassion for the school, staff, students and community. Working with the school board and staff, he wants to see Haskell CISD move forward. A primary goal Alcorn has for the

district, is maintaining high ratings while striving for improvement where needed.

Alcorn states, "I am a firm believer in the Golden Rule, in treating people the way I want to be treated. Of course, the reason we're all here is for the kids. An important part of our job is to help build character."

Alcorn wasted no time in getting to work. He and his wife have moved to Rochester. They look forward to being a part of the school system as well as the community.

Haskell Co. quarantined by imported fire ants

by Wes Utley
 CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co.

Red imported fire ants have made it to far West Texas, and officials say it appears they are probably here to stay.

Dr. Chris Sansone, Texas AgriLife Extension Service entomologist at San Angelo, said the ant movement has prompted the Texas Department of Agriculture to expand its red imported fire ant quarantined area to include another 29 counties, many of which are in West Texas.

The counties are Archer, Baylor, Callahan, Clay, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Fisher, Haskell, Howard, Irion, Lubbock, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Starr, Terrell, Throckmorton, Upton, Ward, Wilbarger and Winkler counties.

Sansone quoted a Texas Department of Agriculture news alert saying the quarantine will slow the artificial spread of red imported fire ants through the movement of hay and nursery-floral commodities to fire ant-free areas.

"The quarantine impacts both in state and out-of-state movement," Sansone said.

"Quarantines are just one more tool that can be used to manage pests. Hay and nursery and other regulated products from the quarantined counties may only be moved to ant-free areas after USDA-approved quarantine treatments.

"On hay, which will no doubt have the greatest impact on agricultural producers, Texas Department of Agriculture guidelines prohibit storing hay directly on the ground if it is to be shipped to a non-quarantined county."

Sansone's advice is that producers do not sell the bottom layer of stored hay.

If producers are going to ship out of the quarantined counties to a non-quarantined (fire-ant free) county they need to contact a Texas Department of Agriculture inspector before shipping. The inspector will provide the producer with a certificate for a fire ant-free product.

The Texas Department of Agriculture alert (<http://tinyurl.com/69pol2>) said they will publish a proposed rule in the next few weeks which is identical to the emergency

quarantine now in effect. At that time, the public will have a chance to comment on the proposed rule before the emergency quarantine becomes permanent. Quarantine questions should be directed to the Texas Department of Agriculture's regional offices or to 1-800-TELL TDA.

Federal information for nursery and other regulated stock can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/5e3rkz>. More information on managing red imported fire ants can be found at <http://fireant.tamu.edu/management/>.

Fireworks display to pop New Year's Eve

The tenth annual W. E. Hollingsworth Memorial Fireworks display, sponsored by the Haskell County Historical Commission, will be held Wed., Dec. 31 at 9 p.m.

Jim Hollingsworth, chairman of the Commission, and his family will set off another large load of fireworks on their farm between Rule and Rochester, located five miles west of Hwy. 6 at the intersection of FM 617 and County Road 146. The fireworks will be on the west side of County Road 146 on thirty acres of land especially prepared for the event due to dry weather conditions. Parking along FM 617 for a mile east of County Road 146 will provide a prime view of the fireworks display.

About this time in 1999 a local article was published about Hollingsworth and his grandfather William Edward Hollingsworth's discussion in 1944 about the change of the century. A five year old boy was heartbroken that his beloved granddad would not be with him to witness the new century on New Year's Eve.

Jim vowed to celebrate in honor of his grandfather nevertheless. News wires picked up the story for Abilene, Wichita Falls, Amarillo and Lubbock newspapers. That article triggered an overwhelming response among area grandparents. The older generation brought their grandchildren to witness the fireworks party that Hollingsworth gave in honor of his grandfather's memory a half century after their talk. The roads were lined triple deep for miles around. Hollingsworth says he feels the presence of his granddad every New Year's Eve during the fireworks display.

It is estimated that the small but close-knit Jud Community, population about 25, swells to hundreds of people on New Year's Eve. The event has become a ritual for many area residents.



NOAH DONATION—Members of the Lueders American Legion Auxiliary Post 661 brought toys to the Noah Project-North last week. The only active Post in Jones County brings toys to their annual Christmas party each year to be donated to the Noah Project. Auxiliary members included, front row, l-r, Margarie Thomas, Lois Doerschuk, Joyce Olson, Ada Wills and Letitia Smith. On the back row are representatives of the Noah Project, Ben McGee, Debbie Earles, Donna Sue Anders, Dorothea Monroe and Janice Browning.

FOR NEWS ITEMS OR TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 940-864-2686

Haskell High named 'Best High School'

by **Caron Yates**
 Haskell High School was one of eleven Big Country high schools to make the "Best High School" list, according to a recent publication by U.S. News and World Report. According to U.S. News, the methodology for comparing and ranking America's high schools was developed by School Evaluation Services. Many factors were considered for the rankings. It is based on the key principles that a great high school must serve all its students well, not just those bound for college. Another requirement for the rankings is to be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show that the school is successfully educating its student body

across a range of performance indicators. SES analyzed 21,069 public high schools in forty-eight states using data from the 2006-07 school year. A three step process was used in determining the "best high schools." The first two steps determined if schools served all their students well as measured by state proficiency standards. Reading and math results were analyzed and the percentage of disadvantaged students was factored in. Schools that proved to be performing better than their statistical expectations then moved on to the third step, which assessed the degree to which schools prepare students for college level work. After all the analysis from

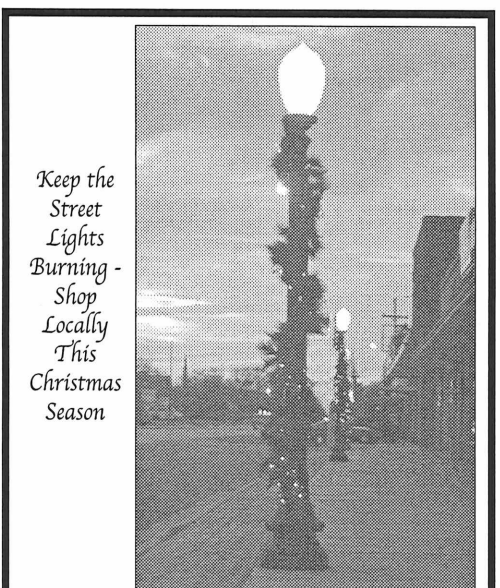
the different categories was complete, a list of the top nineteen hundred schools was compiled. One hundred schools nationwide were awarded gold medals, five hundred four were given silver medals and thirteen hundred twenty-one were named bronze medalists. Haskell, along with Hamlin and Knox City, were all awarded the bronze medal. Larry Howe, high school principal stated, "All the credit goes to the students and teachers working together as a team. They have done an outstanding job." It takes hard work and dedication to the cause by teachers, students and parents alike to be successful. How nice it is to be recognized and honored for your efforts.

Nutrition key part of growing bred replacement heifers

by **Wes Utley**
CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co.
 Bred replacement heifers that will calve in January or February should be in a body condition score six at the time their first calf is born. "This allows the heifers the best opportunity to provide adequate colostrum to newborns, repair the reproductive tract, return to heat cycles, rebreed on time for next year and continue their normal body growth," said Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension cattle specialist. Heifers should be gaining 1.0 to 1.5 pounds per head per day, from now until calving time. That means heifers will need supplemental protein if their major source of forage in the diet is bermudagrass, native pasture or grass hay. If the forage source is average in quantity and quality, 6 percent to 9 percent crude protein, heifers will

need about 2 pounds of a high-protein supplement containing 38 percent to 44 percent crude protein each day. "Remember that winter weather increases the animal's nutrient requirements; the base recommendation will probably need to be increased with higher quality hay such as alfalfa or additional energy feed such as 20 percent range cubes to offset the effects of bad weather," Selk said. Soybean hulls or wheat midds also may be used to help ensure adequate energy intake by pregnant heifers. Yes, wheat pasture—provided there is sufficient growth from rainfall—can be used as a supplement for pregnant replacement heifers, provided it is used judiciously. Selk said judicious use is important because pregnant heifers consuming full feed of wheat pasture will gain about 3 pounds per head per day; however, the heifers

can become very fat and may suffer from dystocia if they are left on the wheat too long. "Wheat pasture can be used more efficiently for gain of stocker cattle or weaned replacement heifers," he said. "If wheat pasture is used for bred heifers, use it as a protein supplement by allowing the heifers to access the wheat on alternate days." Some cow-calf producers have reported that one day on wheat pasture and two days on native grass or bermudagrass work well. "It makes sense," Selk said. "This encourages the heifers to rustle in the warm season pasture for the second day, rather than just stand by the gate waiting to be turned back into the wheat pasture." Whatever method is used, the ultimate goal is to get a healthy calf on the ground while having the bred heifers in good body condition by calving so that they will grow into fully developed, productive cows. "Producers need to remember that the 2-year-old heifers are handicapped because their teeth are in the process of changing from baby teeth to adult teeth," Selk said.



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Obituaries

Jack B. Melton

Memorial services for Jack B. Melton, 60, of Milton-Freewater, Oregon were held Fri., Dec. 12 at First Baptist Church in Milton-Freewater under the direction of Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater. Mr. Melton died Sat., Dec. 6 at The Park in College Place, Washington. Born Feb. 12, 1948 in Haskell, he was the son of Bob and Ruby Bland Melton. He graduated from Haskell High School in 1966 then attended Texas Tech University. He served in the United States Marine Corps from Feb. 1970 through Dec. 1970 and honorably discharged as an E4. He married Dorothy Bishop in 1975 in Milton-Freewater. The couple lived in Haskell then moved to Milton-Freewater in 1976. He worked for IBP/Tyson Foods from 1978-2006 when he retired because of illness. He was a member of the First Baptist

Church of Haskell, but attended the First Baptist Church of Milton-Freewater for 30 years. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy of Milton-Freewater; son, Kyle and daughter-in-law, Monica Melton of Buena Vista, Colorado; daughter, Kim and son-in-law, Mark Forster and granddaughter, Oliva Forster of Milton-Freewater; sister, Sue and brother-in-law, Donald Story of Newcastle; brother, Mickey Melton of Haskell; brother, Garry and sister-in-law, Cherry Melton of Olney; sisters-in-law, Jeri Bishop and Kathy Bishop, both of Milton-Freewater; numerous nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends. Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, through Munselle Rhodes Funeral Home, 902 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater, Oregon 97862. PD. NOTICE

Tips to purchasing personal emergency response systems

by **Jane Rowan**
CEA/FCS, Haskell County
 With more older adults choosing to "age in place"—remain in their home as they grow older—rather than transition to some sort of care facility, questions of "what if" may begin to loom. What if I fall? What if I need help? What if I cannot make it to the phone? Andrew B. Crocker, Extension Program Specialist—Gerontology Health, shares that there are many types of personal alarms that may help further independent living but careful consideration may need to be given when choosing one.

When it comes to monitoring centers, there are two basic types: provider-based and manufacturer-based. Provider-based centers usually are located in the user's local area and are operated by hospitals or social service agencies. Manufacturer-based operations usually have a national center. A typical Internet search will bring up only the national companies. Adding a town, county or state to your search may help you find local options. Sometimes, users who purchase systems may choose between provider-based and manufacturer-based centers, but users who rent or lease systems may have to use a national center. Centers vary in the level of training and back-up given to personnel, the amount of information maintained on each user, the procedures used when an emergency call is received and the type and frequency of testing done on the systems.

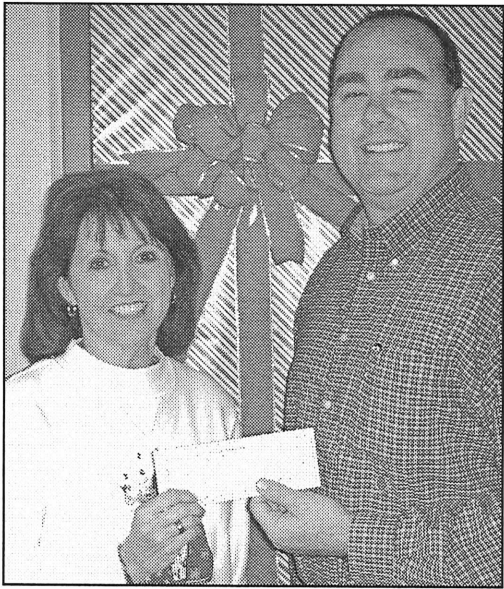
The purchase price for PERS may range from \$200 to more than \$1000, depending on the manufacturer, the features included and the seller's integrity. In addition to the initial investment, most systems require that the user pay a monthly monitoring fee which can range from \$15 to \$50. Presently, neither Medicare nor Medicaid will cover the costs of PERS, nor will most private insurance policies. It may be possible, however, for low-income persons in some areas to obtain a PERS at a subsidized rate from local agencies. Many consumer groups strongly recommend that consumers rent or lease a system on a short term basis because of the possibility that any manufacturer may go out of business, taking its monitoring center with it and leave the consumer with a useless system. PERS providers and their employees are usually involved with all aspects of furnishing PERS services to the public, including telephone sales, in-home sales, installation and maintenance. When determining need and evaluating companies to provide services, consumers must ask very specific

questions and get definite answers about the various features of both the PERS unit and the monitoring center. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends the following when shopping for a PERS to meet your needs:
 •Check out several systems before making a decision.
 •Find out if you can use the system with other response centers. For example, can you use the same system if you move?
 •Ask about the pricing, features, and servicing of each system and compare costs.
 •Make sure the system is easy to use.
 •Test the system to make sure it works from every point in and around your home. Make sure nothing interferes with transmissions.
 •Read your purchase, rental, or lease agreement carefully before signing.
 The FTC also recommends you ask some questions about the response center:
 •Is the monitoring center available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?
 •What is the average response time?
 •What kind of training does the center staff receive?
 •What procedures does the center use to test systems in your home? How often are tests conducted?
 In Texas, all PERS companies must be officially licensed with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Before doing business with companies selling PERS, contact DSHS, the Attorney General's Office and the Better Business Bureau to see if the company is licensed and if any complaints have been filed against them. Also get recommendations from friends, neighbors or relatives who use personal emergency response systems.

For more information, contact Jane Rowan—Haskell County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences at 940-864-2546. You may also access additional information from the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro24.shtm>.

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GRANT RECIPIENT—The Haskell CISD Educational Foundation awarded a \$500 mini-grant to Haskell Elementary Music teacher, Pam Gibson, left, for the purchase of musical instruments. Presenting the award on behalf of the foundation is board secretary/treasurer Shane Hadaway, right.



RECEIVES GRANT—The Haskell CISD Educational Foundation awarded a \$500 mini-grant to Betsy Coleman, right, to be applied toward the purchase of lab supplies for junior high science students. Presenting the award on behalf of the foundation is board secretary/treasurer Shane Hadaway, left.

Preventing holiday home burglaries

With many people away, visiting friends, or just out of the house shopping for the holidays, burglars will have countless good prospects. Experts agree that it is a very vulnerable time for homeowners. People are busy, distracted and not always focusing on the more mundane things of life, like making sure your home or apartment is secure. Here are a few precautions to help prevent homeowners from falling victim to thieves during this time of year.

•Start by making a full exterior examination of your house. Make sure all locked doors and windows have a tight fit when closed. Check to see if there is any "wiggle room" that could give a thief enough space to jimmy it open. Walk around your whole property to ensure there is nothing that can be used to climb to upper floors. Look in your windows to make sure blinds are positioned to screen the interior view, but not closed completely. You may want to move any

computers and TVs away from prying eyes. Never leave an "emergency key" hidden outside your house.

•Always leave your home in a secure state, regardless of the amount of time you expect to be away. A burglar watching your house is capable of taking what he wants in a few carefully planned moments.

•When you are away from the house, particularly for an extended period, be sure to make it look lived-in. Put timers on a few lights at varied times; put a timer on a radio set to a talk-radio station; install a dusk/dawn outside light or motion detector; ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and any circulars that might pile up on your doorstep; and stop delivery of newspapers or other mail.

•In many instances installing a home alarm system will give you protection, a sense of calm and even a discount on your homeowner's insurance.

•Walk around the interior of your home and inventory your major possessions. An easy way is to place valuables out

to them would be alarming if they knew you are away from home

•Be sure your homeowner's insurance coverage reflects any improvements or purchases that have increased the value of your home or its contents since you got your homeowner's policy. The only thing worse than losing your possessions is not being sufficiently covered to recoup your losses.

•Tell a trusted neighbor on your block that you will be away. Activity or noise that might otherwise seem normal

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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Governor asks for new FEMA aid extension

AUSTIN—Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 11 requested an extension of the registration deadline until Jan. 10 for Hurricane Ike victims to apply for individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FEMA's current registration deadline for Ike victims ended Dec. 12.

"Since Ike made landfall on our coast, families and communities have struggled to restore their lives," Gov. Perry said. "If granted, this extension will allow more families the assistance they need and deserve to rebuild their homes and lives."

Individual assistance is for individuals, families and small businesses with disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance, including:

- Temporary housing and rental assistance;
- Crisis counseling;
- Unemployment assistance;
- Legal services; and
- Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration for homeowners, renters, businesses and non-profit organizations.

To date, more than 700,000 households from the affected area have registered, and more than 150 residents have registered each day since Dec. 1, Perry's office reported. Ike hit Texas in mid-September.

Beach debris removal begins

The Texas General Land Office has been preparing for Hurricane Ike beach debris removal by creating cleanup zones marked by 5-foot-tall metal posts. The top 12 inches of each post will be painted bright orange. Debris removal was set to begin after Dec. 15.

Sharp to run for U.S. Senate

John Sharp, the former Texas comptroller, said Dec. 10 he will run for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate.

The seat is currently held by Kay Bailey Hutchison, who has filed papers necessary to run for governor in 2010. Her six-year term of office as a U.S. senator will expire in 2012, but she could resign to run before then.

In his announcement, Sharp said, "I will be a candidate whether the election is in 2012 or any time before then."

Sharp, who received the highest percentage of votes statewide of any Democrat during the past decade, added,

"Texans face tough challenges that call for innovative solutions, and that's what our campaign is all about."

Sharp said he is forgoing the step of forming an exploratory committee and will file the required papers on Jan. 1 so that he can begin raising money and campaigning across the state in the new year.

As state comptroller from 1991-99, Sharp earned national recognition for initiating the Texas Performance Review, a governmental body auditing program that saved taxpayers billions of dollars.

Sharp previously served as a member of the Texas House, the Texas Senate and as chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission.

In 2005, Sharp was appointed by Gov. Perry to serve as chair of the Texas Tax Reform Commission, a bi-partisan committee that produced a solution to fund public schools without the creation of a state income tax.

Sharp, 58, is currently a principal in the Austin office of Dallas-based Ryan & Company, a tax-consulting firm.

Governor supports new ID rules

Gov. Perry on Dec. 9 spoke out regarding Department of Public Safety rule changes requiring non-U.S. citizens to present proof they are in this country legally before being issued an original, renewal or duplicate Texas driver's license or identification card.

"I strongly support the recent DPS rule changes that ensure public safety and national security, and am confident the vast majority of Texans feel the same way."

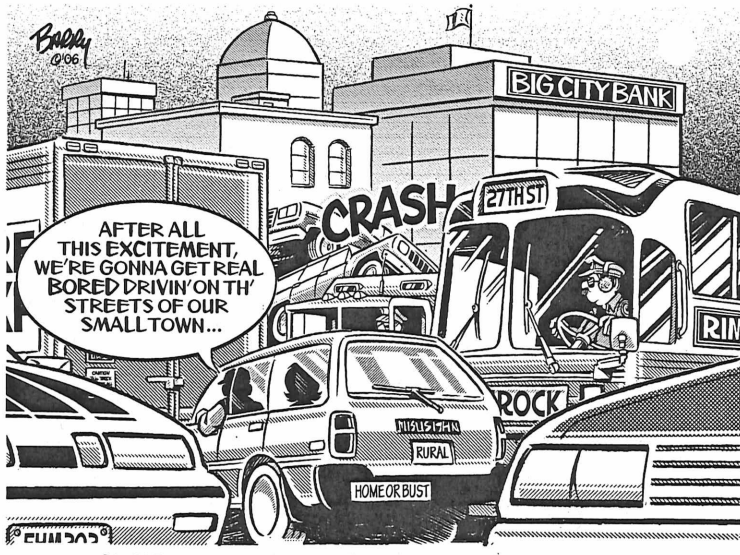
Perry said the new policy is no different than what U.S. citizens must do to obtain a driver license in most Mexican states and Canadian provinces.

Troopers get in-car computers

A \$15 million project to equip troopers across Texas with in-car computers is close to completion the Department of Public Safety, reports.

When the project is completed, nearly 2,000 highway patrol and commercial vehicle enforcement units will have in-car computers.

In-car computers give troopers a way to instantly identify wanted individuals and stolen vehicles. The secure network provides real-time alerts, digital photographs and homeland security information and GPS (Global Positioning System) technology.



AVOID BECOMING OVERLY EXCITED — SHOP LOCAL!

From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago
December 17, 1998
Haskell Memorial Hospital is providing a new medical service, MRI testing, through the services of Diagnostic Management Group of Abilene.

The Progressive Study Club went caroling at Rice Springs Care Home.

Viola Tidwell celebrated her 88th birthday.

Bernice Hilliard spent the weekend in Abilene with her daughter, Pat Shaw.

The Haskell Garden Club met at the Haskell National Bank Building for a covered dish luncheon. Each member brought a Christmas decoration they had made.

20 Years Ago
December 22, 1988

An 1800 foot discovery well was found six miles southwest of Haskell. Texas State Oil Company of Dallas drilled the well on property owned by Jimmy and Grace Hansz.

The Haskell FFA chapter distributed fruit and candy to Rice Springs and Haskell Nursing Center residents.

Scotty and Linda Moody of Kingsville visited her mother, Lucile Adams, and brother, Elmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Schackely of Levelland spent the weekend in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Gellner.

30 Years Ago
December 21, 1978
Vera Hunt, LVN at Haskell Memorial Hospital was presented a certificate of merit during their Christmas party. Hunt began working at the hospital Sept. 1, 1943.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Edward Harrington celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Retiring firemen were presented plaques of appreciation at the Christmas banquet. Retirees included Bob Dumas, 20 years; J.B. Gibson, 36 years; Ray Lusk, 36 years; Jack Medford, 21 years; Dude Mercer, 30 years and Belton Duncan, 36 years.

40 Years Ago
December 19, 1968
James Wimberly celebrated his 103rd birthday. His wife celebrated her 83rd birthday on the same day.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Haynes and children of Abilene visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Alexander.

Lanny Ivy and Charles Franklin were named to the Abilene Reporter News Class AA All-Area team for 1968.

Four Haskell boys got stuck on the railroad track about 3.5 miles north of Haskell. While two of the boys ran for help, the car was hit by a train. Luckily, no one was injured.

50 Years Ago
December 18, 1958
Virgil Cobb, Cecil Bowers,

Dude Mercer, Dent Atchison, Louis Tucker and Bud Derr, employees of the West Texas Utilities Company's Paint Creek power plant, spent several days visiting the Rio Grande plant of El Paso Electric Company in El Paso.

First Lt. Emory E. Smith, Haskell High School graduate in 1945, was promoted to captain in the United States Air Force.

Wayne Collins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Collins, entered the Army and is attending basic training at Fort Hood.

100 Years Ago
December 19, 1908
O.B. Norman, former employee at McNeil & Smith Hardware Co., opened an exclusive paint and wallpaper store.

Mrs. J.T. Killingsworth and son Floyd are visiting Mrs. Killingsworth's parents in Alvarado.

Bruce W. Bryant, county attorney, has issued a warning to business men that the Sunday closing law, which had been openly violated in the past, will be strictly enforced.

Hon. J.C. Baldwin, brother of fellow townsman J.L. Baldwin, was in attendance at District Court. He was a former lawyer in Haskell and also represented this district in the State Senate one term.

From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Frequently Asked Questions About Credit Cards

Each year, the Office of the Attorney General receives inquiries from thousands of Texans who have questions about credit cards. Their questions involve everything from the amount of interest they can be charged to whether businesses can impose surcharges if a customer pays for a good or service with a credit card.

Texans with questions about their credit cards should first review their credit card agreement. Frequently, these documents are lengthy and written in very fine print. Potential customers should read this agreement thoroughly, ideally before signing up for a card.

Many debtors complain that they were lured into high interest credit cards by promotions that touted low or even "zero interest" offers. Often, these rates last a few months and are subject to change for a number of reasons which are specified in the agreement.

While Texas law generally caps credit card interest, the interest rate limit only applies if the bank issuing the card is chartered in Texas. Most credit card companies are based out-of-state and therefore not subject

to limits imposed by Texas law. While Texans with good credit histories are generally offered a relatively low rate, many things can trigger a substantial rate increase, including being even a single day late on a payment.

Texans also should be aware that many credit card companies regularly monitor customers' overall creditworthiness. This means that interest rates can be increased if the customer is delinquent paying another debt, such as an auto loan or mortgage. Most credit card agreements also allow the issuer to periodically change the rate at its discretion.

Credit card holders should keep a close watch on each month's statement to find out if their interest rate has suddenly changed. This might happen even if the card holder has made timely payments on the card and all other outstanding debt. To dispute a sudden rise in interest, card holders may contact the credit card company and attempt to negotiate a better rate.

Just as credit card companies are permitted to raise interest rates, they are generally allowed to change other terms, including late fees and the minimum payment amounts. Again, if terms abruptly change from one statement to the next, card holders should contact their credit card company to

find out why, and see if the company is willing to reinstate the original terms.

In Texas, a business generally cannot penalize customers who pay for a good or service by using a credit card. Businesses that add a surcharge to those who pay by credit card might be violating provisions of the Texas Finance Code. Usually increased payment fees can only be charged by government entities, such as for the payment of property or other taxes and fees required by a government agency.

However, businesses in Texas can discount the regular retail price of an item for customers who pay cash instead of using a credit card. Consumers who are charged extra for using a credit card should report it to the OAG by calling 800-252-8011 or filing a complaint online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.

Similarly, businesses that accept credit cards are generally forbidden from setting a minimum amount to be charged to the card. While there is no law that prohibits this practice, virtually all agreements that merchants have with credit card companies prevent businesses from imposing a minimum charge for card users. Card holders who are faced with this should report it to their credit card company.

Social Security implements Compassionate Allowances

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, has announced the national rollout of the agency's Compassionate Allowances initiative, a way to expedite the processing of disability claims for applicants whose medical conditions are so severe that their conditions obviously meet Social Security's standards.

"Getting benefits quickly to people with the most severe medical conditions is both the right and the compassionate thing to do," Commissioner Astrue said. "This initiative will allow us to make decisions on these cases in a matter of days, rather than months or years."

Social Security is launching this expedited decision process with a total of 50 conditions. Over time, more diseases and conditions will be added. A list of the first 50 impairments—25 rare diseases and 25 cancers—can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

Before announcing this initiative, Social Security held public hearings to receive information from experts on rare diseases and cancers. The agency also enlisted the assistance of the National Institutes of Health.

Compassionate Allowances is the second piece of the agency's two-track, fast-track system for certain disability claims. When combined with the agency's Quick Disability Determination process, and once fully implemented, this two-track system could result in six to nine percent of disability claims, the cases for as much as a quarter million people, being decided in an average of six to eight days.

"This is an outstanding achievement for the Social Security Administration," said Peter Saltonstall, President of the National Organization for Rare Disorders. "It has taken Social Security less than a year to develop this much-needed program that will benefit those whose claims merit expedited consideration based on the nature of their disease. Disability backlogs cause a hardship for patients and their families. Commissioner Astrue and his staff deserve our thanks for a job well done."

"Unfortunately, many hardworking people with cancer may not only face intensive treatment to save their lives, but they may also find themselves truly unable to perform their daily work-related activities and as result, may face serious financial concerns, such as the loss of income and the cost of treatment," said Daniel E. Smith, president of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. "The Social Security Administration's Compassionate Allowances program will help streamline the disability benefits application process so that benefits are quickly provided to those who need them most."

"This is America, and it simply is not acceptable for people to wait years for a final decision on a disability claim," Commissioner Astrue said. "I am committed to a process that is as fair and speedy as possible. The launch of Compassionate Allowances is another step to ensuring Americans with disabilities, especially those with certain cancers and rare diseases, get the benefits they need quickly."

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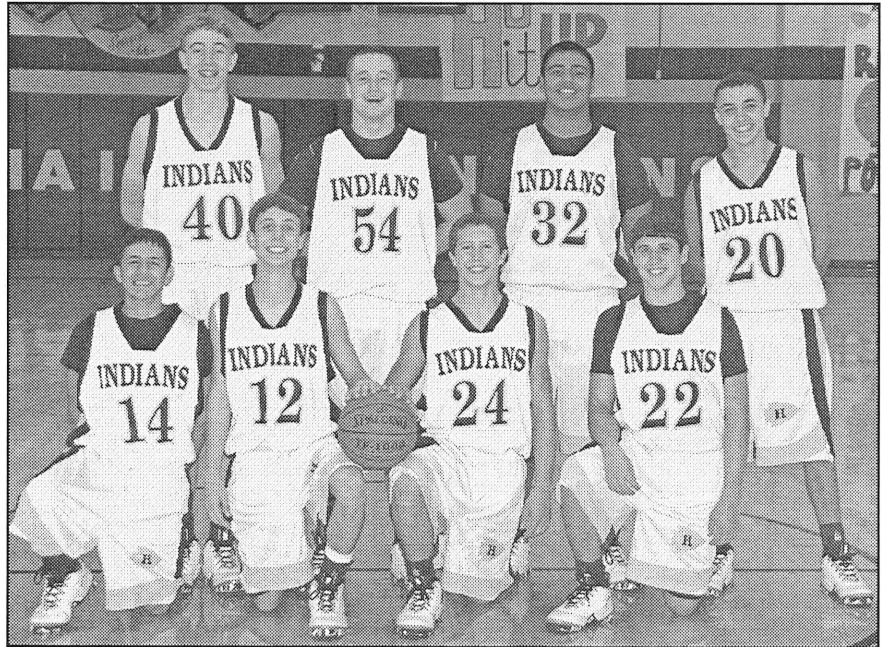
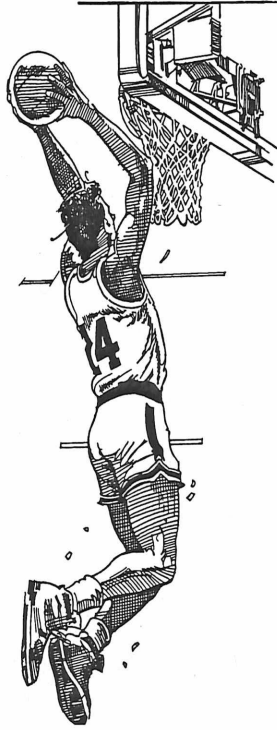


This issue mailed Wed., Dec. 17, 2008

INDIANS

MAIDENS

BASKETBALL



HASKELL INDIANS—Front row, l-r, D.J. Macias, John English, Christian Myers and Austin Marshall; back row, Ross Wittenborn, Cody Wyrick, Simon Rodriguez and Tyler Rodriguez.
Photo by Bill Blankenship

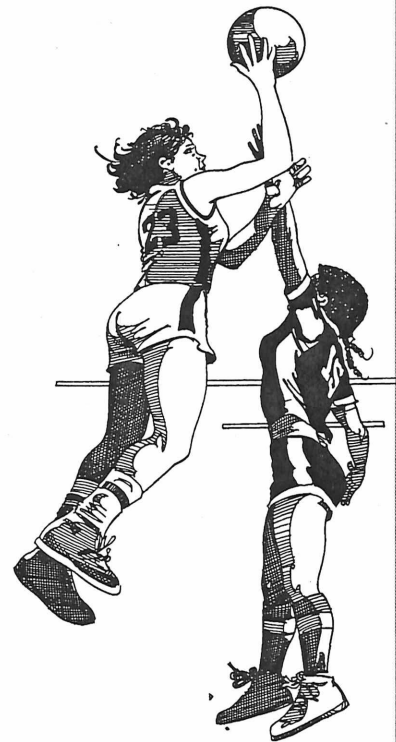
GO INDIANS

Fri., Dec. 19 • 4 p.m.
JV & Varsity Boys
vs Knox City
at Haskell

Dec. 20
JV Boys
Munday
Tournament



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



GO MAIDENS

Fri., Dec. 19 • 4 p.m.
JV & Varsity Girls
vs Knox City
at Haskell

Dec. 20
JV Girls
Munday
Tournament

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Hanson Paint and Body
Haskell Save-A-\$
Larned Sales Center
Smitty's Auto Supply
D & S Aerial

Comments sought on proposed cattle program for Texas

Ranchers, cattle owners, veterinarians and other interested persons are encouraged to comment on Texas proposed regulations to control Trichomoniasis, or trich, a venereal disease of cattle that causes the early death of fetuses and abortions, resulting in infertility in cows and extended breeding seasons in a herd. The comment period for the proposed regulations by the Texas Animal Health Commission will end Jan. 30, 2009.

Trich infection often occurs when a producer unknowingly introduces into the herd a trich-infected bull, which in turn, infects cows during breeding. Likewise, infected cows can transmit the disease to clean bulls, creating a cycle of disease. Cattle experts say that the extended breeding seasons, loss of a percentage of the calf crop, and strung-out calf crops resulting from trich infection can cause up to a 20 percent loss of herd income, said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas state veterinarian and executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency.

In the absence of a national trich control or eradication program, all western states, except Kansas and Texas, have taken regulatory action to prevent the introduction of

infected bulls, and to control the spread of this cattle disease within their states," said Dr. Hillman.

After being approached by the Texas cattle industry regarding the need for Texas trich regulations, the 13-member governor-appointed TAHC commission appointed a working group of cattle industry, veterinarians, university and allied representatives to provide recommendations to the TAHC on the components and implementation strategy for a proposed Texas Trichomoniasis Program. The working group met in September and made recommendations to the commission on the components of a proposed trich program. A proposed Texas trich program has been developed from these recommendations, focusing on breeding bulls, he said. TAHC commissioners are seeking public comments on the proposed trich rules, which were published in the Texas Register Nov. 28, so the input may be considered prior to their Feb. 24, 2009, commission meeting in Austin.

"The Texas Trichomoniasis Program, as proposed, would roll out in two stages," explained Dr. Hillman. "The first stage could go into effect in late March 2009 and would

place new entry requirements on bulls entering Texas from other states. Breeding bulls would have to be officially identified and certified as virgin bulls, or be tested negative for trich within 30 days prior to entering Texas from any state. Bulls could be certified as virgins until they were about 18 months old, as evidenced by the eruption of permanent incisors, and accompanied by a breeder's statement that the animal had not been commingled with heifers or cows. Bulls entering Texas without certification as virgin or proof of negative trich tests would be restricted to sale or movement for slaughter only."

Culturing the trich organism is the 'gold standard' for testing bulls. In nearly all states with regulations, accredited private veterinary practitioners must be certified to collect a sample from the bull, and the laboratories must be approved to conduct trich tests, Dr. Hillman explained. The system specified for Texas is the InPouch, which allows for the sample to be collected, then incubated in the pouch. The cultured sample is microscopically examined while it is still in the pouch. Another test, the Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction test (RT-PCR) also be can run on the incubated sample.

"According to the proposed regulations, all the non-virgin bulls in a herd could be tested at the same time, and if results are negative, this single test would be sufficient for Texas import purposes for any of the bulls in the tested herd," said Dr. Hillman. For individual bulls not part of a whole herd negative test, three consecutive negative culture tests would be required, at least seven days apart; or two negative RT-PCR tests performed at least seven days apart.

"One positive test indicates that the bull is infected," he said. In most states, a positive-test bull may undergo a confirmatory test before being classified as infected and restricted to slaughter only.

"Repeated tests are needed on individual bulls, due to the difficulty in collecting the tiny trich protozoa from the surface folds of the infected bull's reproductive organs. Oftentimes, a second or third attempt is needed to either assure the absence of trich, or to capture the organism in the collection pipette, so it can be cultured," explained Dr. Hillman. "If an entire bull herd is tested, statistically the disease, if it is present, should be detected on a single test of all bulls in the herd."

"There is no effective treatment for infected bulls.

To halt the spread of disease, these animals should be culled. As infected bulls age, they become persistently infected, as the surface tissues of the reproductive organs become more hospitable to the growth of the trich protozoa," explained Dr. Hillman.

"On the other hand, most infected cows can recover from the disease," he said. The trich protozoa, which can colonize in the vagina, cervix, uterus and oviducts, will clear, if the animals are given three to four heat cycles of sexual rest. A small percentage of cows will not clear, and these cows should be culled. A cow's disease status can be identified through a veterinary examination of the reproductive tract.

Under the proposed regulations, trich would become a reportable livestock disease in Texas, requiring both negative and positive test results to be reported within 48 hours. Acquiring negative data is as important as positive results when determining the prevalence and distribution of the disease within the state. This information would be invaluable for determining the future direction of the program," he explained.

The second phase of the proposed Texas Trichomoniasis Program would be effective no earlier than September 2009. Prior

to changing ownership in Texas, breeding bulls within the state would be required to be officially identified and certified as a virgin bull or undergo the testing process for trich. Infected bulls would be restricted to slaughter, or movement through a livestock market to slaughter.

"This second phase would fulfill the program objective to stop the spread of trich within the state," said Dr. Hillman. "When infected bulls are removed from the picture, the disease cycle can be broken." The negative trich tests for Texas-origin bulls would be valid 150 days, provided the animals were not commingled with female cattle from the date of the test until being sold.

As proposed, said Dr. Hillman, the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratories in College Station and Amarillo would serve as the official laboratories for the program, and Texas accredited veterinarians could be certified to collect the samples. The bull's owner or seller would be responsible for costs associated with virgin certification or testing of bulls. Laboratory fees are about \$5 for the InPouch culture test and \$25 for the RT-PCR test.

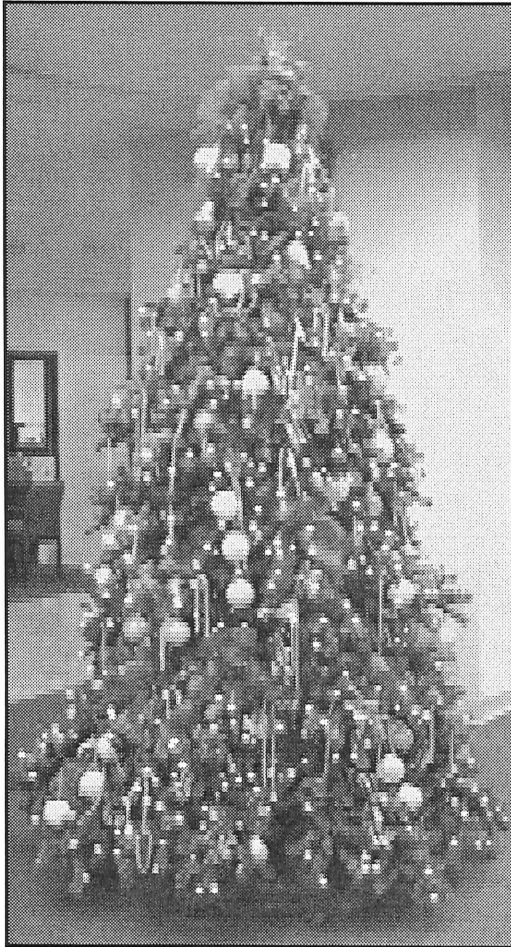
"When the commissioners proposed the regulations, they wanted to allow ample time for the Texas cattle industry to prepare for implementing the second phase of the trich program," said Dr. Hillman. "This is a new disease program, so time also is needed to provide information to Texas accredited veterinarians, who must be familiar with the program requirements, testing and reporting procedures, and documentation."

"To ensure that the trich program continues only as needed, the TAHC commissioners added a final, very important caveat to the proposed regulations," said Dr. Hillman. "The proposed Texas Trichomoniasis Program would undergo an annual review by a Trichomoniasis Program Review Working Group, which would consist of representatives from the cattle industry, veterinary college and profession, university and the TAHC."

"We are available to discuss trich and the proposed program regulations at industry, producer or veterinary meetings, classes or association gatherings," noted Dr. Hillman. To arrange for a speaker, contact the nearest TAHC area office or call the TAHC Public Info Office at 800-550-8242, ext 710.

In addition, a fact sheet is posted on the TAHC web site, and the text of the proposed TAHC regulations is posted on the TAHC web site. This information also can be faxed, emailed or mailed upon request by emailing comments@tahc.state.tx.us or calling the TAHC Public Info Office at 1-800-550-8242, ext 710. Written comments regarding the proposed trich program regulations must arrive at the TAHC no later than Jan. 30, 2009. Comments may be emailed to comments@tahc.state.tx.us, faxed to 512-719-0179, or mailed to: TAHC Comments, Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966.

*Wishing you a Beautiful Holiday Season
and a New Year of Peace and Happiness*



Christmas Open House

Friday, December 19th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We will be open Dec. 24th and 26th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lobby and Drive-In
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We will be open December 31.
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Haskell FFA teams compete at Area and State contests

The Haskell FFA competing at the Area Chapter advanced eight teams to the Area II Leadership contest in Big Spring Nov. 22. After

Team members competed in the first round of the state semifinals and all three teams advanced to the finals.

These students put in countless hours speaking in public, researching topics, learning and learning parliamentary procedure practices. These FFA members compete at all levels against all size schools as well. Haskell FFA members

would like to thank the elementary school for the great send off and all of the community and school support shown this year.



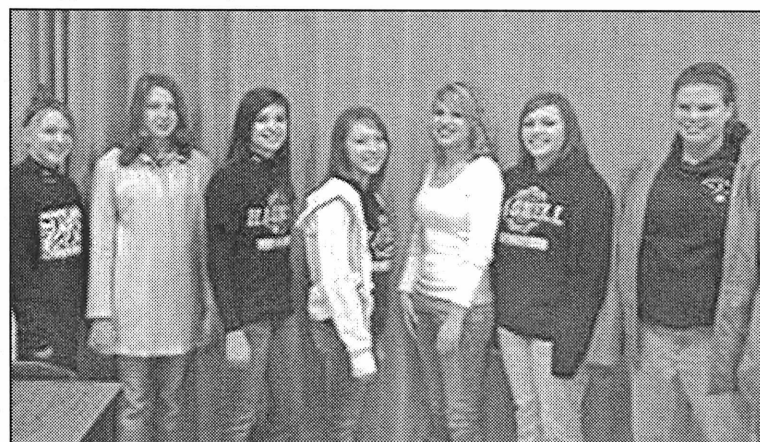
AG ISSUES TEAM—The Haskell FFA Ag Issues team placed second at district, second at area, first in the state semifinal and fifth in state among 139 teams statewide. Team members are, I-r, Miranda Johnson, Lauren Newton, Claire Isbell, Kimie Hutchinson, Jordan Burson, Kayce Wilcox and Paige Adams.



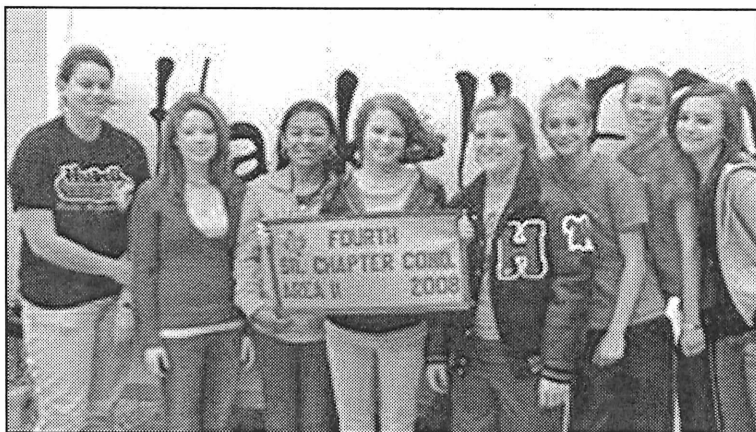
JUNIOR FFA SKILLS TEAM—The Haskell FFA Junior FFA Skills team placed second at district, second at area, first in the state semifinal and seventh state among 194 teams statewide. Team members are, I-r, Stewart Urich, Garrett Brueggeman and Brady Leach.



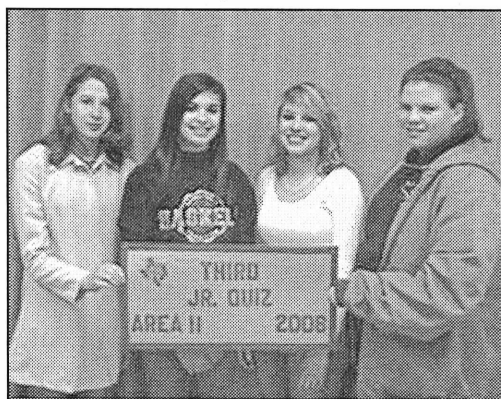
PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM—The Haskell Public Relations team placed second at district, second at area, second in the state semifinal and eighth in state among 254 teams statewide. Team members are, I-r, Ashton Rutkowski, Ashley Meier, Aerial Thane and Briè Torres.



JUNIOR CHAPTER CONDUCTING TEAM—The Haskell FFA Junior FFA Skills team places second at district and third at area. Team members are, I-r, Mackenzie Thomas, Krista McLemore, Claire Carmichael, Sasha Walker, Kymbre Kupatt, Paige Glover and Jasmine Klose.



SENIOR CHAPTER CONDUCTING TEAM—The Haskell Senior Chapter Conducting team placed second at district and fourth at area. Team members are, I-r, Ashlee Short, Amber Allen, Angelica Gonzalez, Pamela Walker, Sara Weise, Cheslee Hearn, Marissa McGhee and Dawn Skinner.



JUNIOR QUIZ TEAM—The Haskell Junior Quiz team placed first at district and third at area. Team members are, I-r, Krista McLemore, Claire Carmichael, Kymbre Kupatt and Jasmine Klose.



SENIOR SKILLS AND RADIO TEAMS—The Haskell Senior Skills team placed first at district and fourth at area. The Radio team placed second at district and fifth at area. Team members are, I-r, Arabella Garcia, Harley James and Codi Foster.

Take care with rooftop tasks

The task of spending hours hanging and then taking down outdoor holiday lights puts us at risk of injury while perched atop a ladder. Almost 550,000 people seek medical attention annually because of ladder-related injuries, including cuts, bruises and fractured bones.

"Knowing how to properly use and set-up a ladder can significantly reduce the possibility of injury," says Dr. Robert Bucholz, chairman of orthopaedic surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center. "It's essential that ladders are placed on firm, level surfaces."

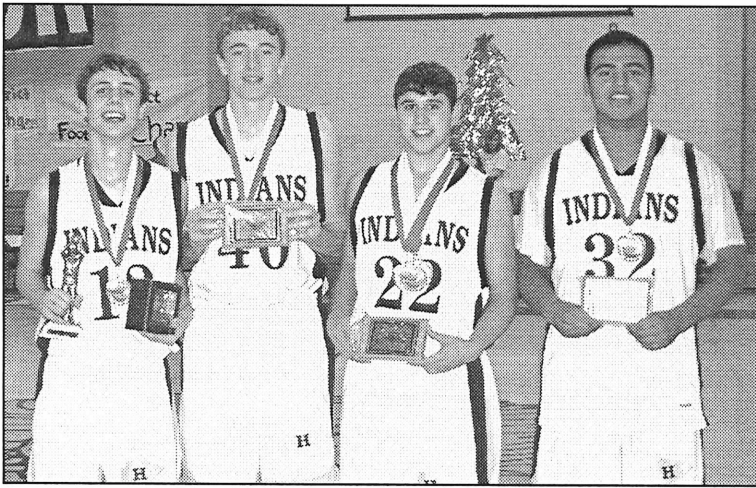
Bucholz, past president of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, offers this advice:

- Inspect and properly set up the ladder.
- Remember the one-to-four rule: Ladder's bottom should be one foot away from the wall for every four feet that the ladder rises.
- Don't use the ladder as a seat between tasks.
- Position the ladder close to the work and move materials with caution.

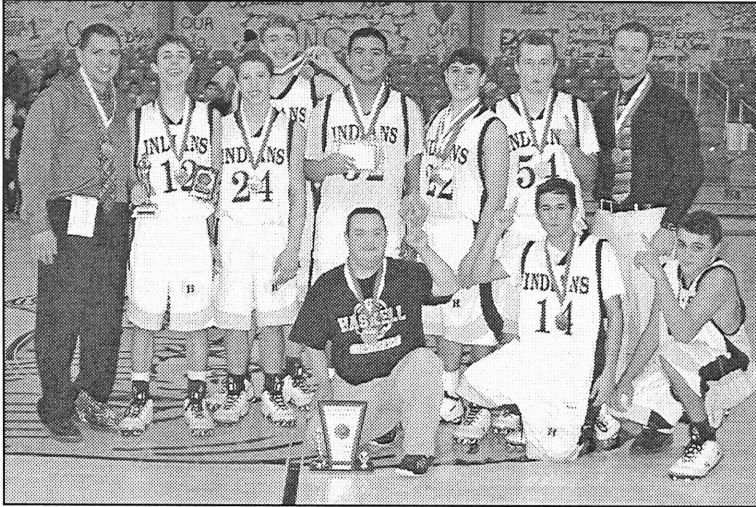
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 Tues., Dec. 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 We will close Wed., Dec. 24 at 12 noon.

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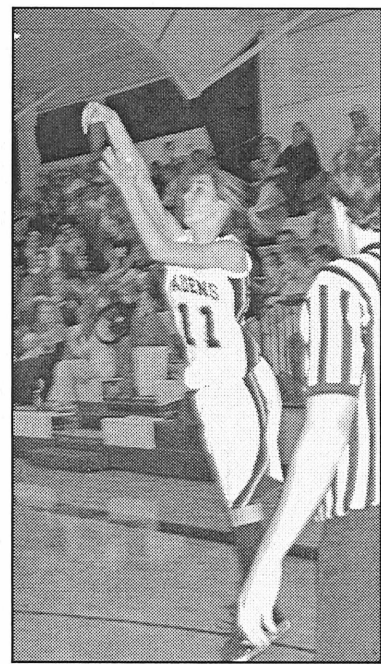
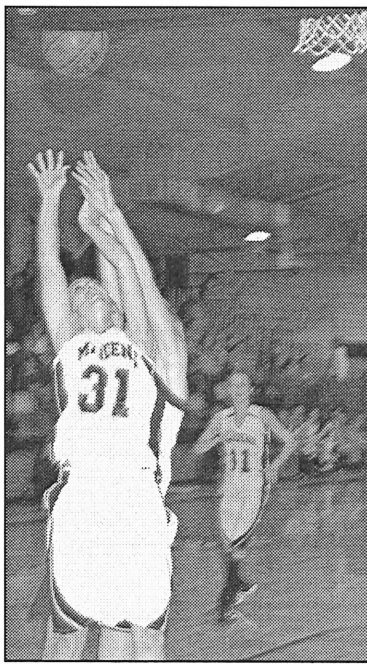
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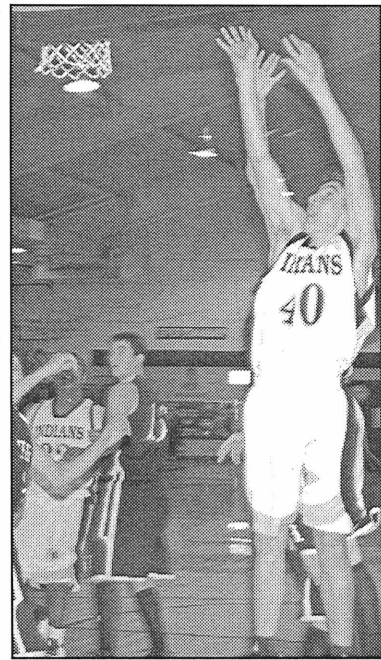
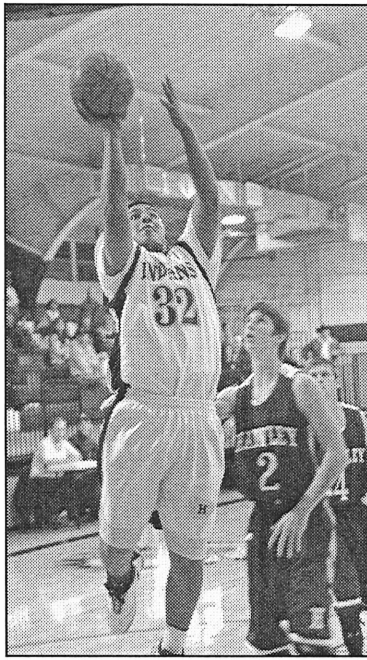
ALL-TOURNAMENT SELECTIONS—These Haskell Indians were All-Tournament selections at the Albany Tournament this weekend: l-r, John English, Most Valuable Player and 3 point Contest Champion; Ross Wittenborn, All-Tournament Team; Austin Marshall, All Tournament Team and Free Throw Contest Champion; and Simon Rodriguez, All-Tournament Team.



TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS—The Haskell Indians won the Albany Tournament this past weekend. Team members are, front row, l-r, Joseph Rodriguez, D.J. Macias and Tyler Rodriguez; back row, Coach Lolo Martinez, John English, Christian Myers, Ross Wittenborn, Simon Rodriguez, Austin Marshall, Cody Wyrick, and Asst. Coach Tate Thompson.



MAIDENS WIN—The Haskell Maidens defeated Hawley 47-30, in a game played Dec. 9. Maiden #31 Hannah Wallace, left, posted 10 points and Maiden #11 Aubrey Bassett had 9 points during the game. Photos by Bill Blankenship



INDIANS DEFEATED—The Haskell Indians were defeated by Hawley 59-50, in a game played Dec. 9. Indian #32 Simon Rodriguez, left, and Indian #40 Ross Wittenborn, right, add points to the Indians' score. Photos by Bill Blankenship

You are invited to a
Candle Light Christmas Eve Service
Wed., Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.
at the
First United Methodist Church of Haskell

Six-man All-District football selections

The District 11A Six-Man Football Division II has made the 2008 All District Selections. Included on the list are:

First Team offense: Tate Clark, Sr., Rule, tight end; Joseph Turner, Jr., Rule, Center; Andrew Hertel, Sr., Rule, wide receiver; and Marty Hall, Sr., Rule, spreadback.

First Team defense: Josh Large, Jr. Rule, noseguard; Andrew Hertel, defensive lineman; Tate Clark, linebacker; and Marty Hall, safety.

Second Team offense: Darren Johnson, Freshman, Paint Creek, wide receiver; Vinnie Perales, Sr., Rule, running back; and Brett Siegfried, Sr., Paint Creek, utility back.

Second Team defense: Vinnie Perales, cornerback.

Coach of the Year: Cody Blair, Paint Creek.

Newcomer of the Year: Darren Johnson.

Academic All District team: Darren Johnson and Caleb Whitfield, Sr., Paint Creek.

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Area basketball scores

Varsity Girls Haskell 47, Hawley 30 Scoring: Lisa Rodgers 12, Hannah Wallace 10, Aubrey Bassett 9. Rule Tournament Rule 37, Moran 19 Scoring: Muniz 16, M. Dudensing 9, Benavides 4. Baird 57, Rule 21 Scoring: M. Dudensing 7, Muniz 6, J. Dudensing 6, Benavides 2. Albany Tournament Haskell 54, Strawn 44	Scoring: Bassett 13, Agraz 12, Wallace 11, Reid 10, Rodgers 6, Rutokowski 2. Roby 33, Haskell 30 Scoring: Agraz 9, Wallace 6, Reid 6. San Saba 45, Haskell 26 Scoring: Bassett 9. All-tournament team: Hannah Wallace and Aubrey Bassett.	Masias 7, Myers 4, Wittenborn 1. Haskell 33, Bangs 31 Scoring: English 15. Championship game Haskell 56, Roby 42 Scoring: English 19, Marshall 12, Rodriguez 11. Rule Tournament Rule 80, Moran 8 Scoring: Maran 26, Clark 16, Hall 15. Rule 67, Baird 60 (2OT) Scoring: Clark 19, Hall 16, Perales 12.
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Best advice for cold season

Homespun medical advisers had it all wrong when they warned you that going outside with wet hair would cause you to catch a cold. The same goes for the advice touting a drab of whiskey or brandy as a cold treatment. And the warning that the flu shot causes the flu? Also off the mark.

Dr. Doug Hardy, an infectious-disease specialist at UT Southwestern Medical Center, says people shouldn't depend on myths—even plausible ones—when they're trying to stay healthy.

"The simplest and best germ-fighting tactic is to wash your hands often, especially if you've been interacting with people or if you've been in a high-traffic, public place like a shopping mall," said Dr. Hardy, who added that getting a flu shot is an important preventive measure.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest recommended targeted groups for 2008-09 flu shots include: Children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday; pregnant women; people 50 years of age and older; anyone with certain chronic medical conditions; people who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities; people who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including health care workers, household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu, household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated)

Most of these groups are recommended for vaccination because they are at high risk of having serious flu complications or they live with or care for people at high risk for serious complications.

Candlelight Service Christmas Eve
11:00 p.m.
at
Trinity Lutheran Church
Throckmorton Hwy.

We invite you to share with us the worship service And the beautiful music of Christmas.

Some other old wives' tales worth forgetting:
•I won't pass on my cold if I don't breathe on anyone.
•You can't get one cold right after another.
•You're more likely to catch a cold from someone who sneezes than by holding someone's hand.

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Brush control a must even in tough economic times

by Wes Utley
CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co.

Brush management may seem like a place to cut corners in tough economic times, but Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialists say doing so will cost ranchers more in the long run.

"The cost of doing nothing is very expensive," said Stan Bevers, AgriLife Extension economist. Ranchers typically budget some for brush control, generally about \$1 per acre per year, so it adds up substantially, Bevers said. "With the rising cost of running cattle on ranches, managers are asking where managing brush fits," he said. "It is going to be increasingly more difficult to find dollars for brush control. But it is a situation where brush doesn't know or care

that there is a financial crisis going on. It's going to keep growing."

Brush control requires a long-range plan, but it also has to fit into a rancher's cash-flow plan, Bevers said. "We know we can't just be out there telling people this is what they need to do without realizing the financial situation they are in right now," he said. "But if they aren't spending that much, they may be falling behind."

More brush equates to lower productivity, he said. A lot of brush growth happens slowly. "We think we're okay for a number of years and then start noticing the weights aren't there on the calves and the conception rates on the females drop," Bevers said. "It all has to do with the

stocking rates being higher than the carrying capacity for the ranch."

When females are not staying in a healthy condition and are not able to reproduce as expected, either the stocking rate is too high or the brush has become a problem, he said. Determining the most economical method of brush control may be a more difficult decision, Bevers said. Fire is still the cheapest route for brush control, but after several seasons of wildfires, it makes many people nervous. "Fire has always been a part of the ecosystem and controlling brush," he said. "The other methods tend to be more expensive. A lot of it comes back to how much a ranch has budgeted for brush control and do they have a continuous plan."

good control of the brush. "First, you have to determine what the goals are for the ranch will it be used primarily for cattle grazing, a mixture of cattle and wildlife, or primarily wildlife," Cadenhead said. "If you are getting over 50 percent brush cover, you are getting behind if you are in the livestock business," he said. "But if you are integrating wildlife, you may need from 50 to 60 percent coverage. Remember, wildlife need some open spaces also."

The brush concerns may vary from cedar or red-berry junipers in areas with canyons, to cholla cactus in the western Panhandle, sand sagebrush and sand shinoak on the sandier soils of the eastern Panhandle and Rolling Plains, and mesquite and prickly pear all over.

and make sure arrangements are made for the cattle.

Cattle should be taken off the land for almost a whole growing season before burning to allow enough grass fuel to grow, Cadenhead said. And then the land has to be deferred after the burn from early spring until the grass gets 6 to 8 inches tall, which could take until mid-summer, depending on the moisture.

Chemical work and mechanical cutting and spraying are primarily done in the summer when plants are in mature growth, he said. The mechanical brush work, such as grubbing, can be done in the winter with good soil moisture conditions.

Depending on the severity

of the brush cover, Cadenhead said it might be necessary to use mechanical or chemical operations to open up a pasture enough to let grass grow and build the fuel base needed for a good prescribed burn.

"Individual plant treatment, once the brushy areas are opened up and/or burned, can then be used for maintenance," he said. "You can't go in there and burn every year." Cadenhead said the cover layer must be allowed to recover to protect the soil from erosion and to provide adequate time for microbial degradation of the plant matter on top of the soil that will help in nutrient cycling. "You may not want to burn any closer than 5 or 6 years apart," he said.

ECC Menu

Mon., December 22
Lunch—Mexican casserole, Spanish rice, pinto beans, garden salad, chips, salsa, choco cake, tea, or coffee

Wed., December 23
Lunch—Ham and beans,

onions, pickles, creamy coleslaw, cornbread, jello, cookie, tea, or coffee

Announcements begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch.

"What is needed is different for every ranch," Bevers said. "But as you see productivity fall, you know something is going on there."

J.F. Cadenhead, AgriLife Extension range specialist, said an integration of mechanical, burning and spraying will most likely be needed to get

The timing of treatment will depend on the method planned and maintenance program, Cadenhead said. Burning is typically done in late winter or early spring, he said. Ranchers need to plan in advance for the cutting of fire guards during the off season,

RSV symptoms surging in children

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) isn't the flu, but its cold- and flu-like symptoms are surging in children, say infectious-disease specialists at UT Southwestern Medical Center. RSV is the leading cause of viral respiratory infections and hospitalizations in infants and children worldwide.

"RSV can cause bronchitis and pneumonia in several high-risk groups. These include prematurely born infants, children with heart disease or immune deficiencies and children up to 3 years of age who suffered from asthma or any other chronic lung ailment within six months prior to showing RSV symptoms," warns Dr. Asuncion Mejias, assistant professor of pediatrics.

other home and day-care surfaces, toys and eating utensils are effective steps in limiting exposure to RSV. Monthly intramuscular injections of RSV-fighting antibodies are recommended for treating some higher-risk children during the fall-to-spring RSV season. Children with heart disease can be hospitalized and treated with high doses of aerosolized ribavirin within 48 hours of infection.

"RSV is mild to most adults, but elderly folk and others with immune deficiencies are at high risk for severe RSV impact," says Dr. Ramilo. Drs. Mejias and Ramilo recently conducted a study in mice that suggests that RSV may hide in the lungs even after other symptoms abate, ultimately resurfacing to cause recurrent wheezing and chronic airway disease.

Half of all babies develop an RSV infection within the first year of life and practically all have had at least one RSV infection by age 3, says Dr. Octavio Ramilo, professor of pediatrics. About 3 percent to 10 percent of infants with RSV infections develop severe bronchitis and require hospitalization.

Most children recover within a week, but RSV can cause repeated infections throughout life. There is no vaccine available.

Dr. Mejias says you can help prevent infection by maintaining high nutrition, washing hands regularly, keeping those infected away from children, and not taking infants to areas of potential infection. Also, regularly cleaning bathrooms,

"This research suggests that there's a potential new mechanism for asthma related to viral infections in children that could be associated with RSV," says Dr. Mejias. "These findings could aid in the development of preventive and therapeutic interventions."

The most striking finding, Dr. Mejias says, is that the amount of virus detected in the lungs of the mice directly correlates with the severity of airway hyperactivity. Airway hyperactivity, or episodes of bronchospasms in humans, is the main characteristic of asthma.

This Week's Devotional Message:



God's Love Appears in the Sparkling White of Winter

When autumn colors fade away
And skies aren't overcast with gray,
The brightest stars are on display
To brighten up the night;
And meanwhile, on the earth below,
The ground and trees are all aglow,
They're blanketed with ice and snow,
To everyone's delight

The icicles adorn the trees
And all the world would seem to freeze;
However, everyone agrees
It is an awesome sight.
Each lesson of our faith implies
A blessing we should recognize;
The love of God before our eyes,
With winter's sparkling white.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

—HASKELL—

East Side Baptist Church
Dr. Jim Hefflin, interim pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
600 N. 1st East, Haskell

Christian Church
Richard Barr, minister
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m.; Thurs. 7 p.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell

Church of God
Bruce Ray, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wed. 7:00 p.m.
714 North First East, Haskell

Trinity Lutheran Church
Ron Rennegarbe, pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
Hwy 380 East, Haskell

Iglesia Bautista El Calvario
Art Flores, Interim pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell

First United Methodist Church
Rev. Tom Long, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. 6 p.m.
Wed. 6 p.m.
201 N. Ave. F, Haskell

First Assembly of God
Rev. J.C. Amburn
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell

St. George Catholic Church
Father George Roney
Sat. Mass 7 p.m.; Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m.
901 N. 16th, Haskell

Church of Christ
Philip Sims, minister
Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.;
Wed. 7 p.m.
510 N. Ave. E, Haskell

First Presbyterian Church
Kelly Pigott, interim pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
306 N. Ave. E, Haskell

Trinity Baptist Church
Larry White, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m.
114 S. Ave. D, Haskell

Hopewell Baptist Church
Sun. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
908 N. Ave. A, Haskell

Greater Independent Baptist Church
Sun. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.
301 N. 3rd St., Haskell

New Covenant Foursquare
Bill and Renee Glass, pastors
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.
200 S. Ave. F, Haskell

Mission Revival Center
Rev. William Hodge
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Tues. 6 p.m.
1600 N. Ave. B, Haskell

First Baptist Church
Greg Gasaway, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m.
301 N. Ave. E, Haskell

Church in the Wind
C.C. Curran, pastor
Sun. fellowship 5 p.m. Church 5:30 p.m.
Tues. Bible Class 7:30 p.m.
203 S. 1st East, Haskell

Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church
Morris R. Johnson, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.m.
1600 N. First St., Haskell

—WEINERT—

First Baptist Church
Dan Bullock, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
Weinert

Weinert Foursquare Church
Rev. Robert Harrison
Sunday 11 a.m
Weinert

—ROCHESTER—

Church of Christ
Steve Willis, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
West on Main Street, Rochester

First Baptist Church
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

Union Chapel Baptist Church
Clovis Dever
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Rochester

Faith Chapel of Rochester
Randy Hollingsworth, minister
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 6 p.m.
Hwy 6, Rochester

—SAGERTON—

Sagerton Methodist Church
Stephanie Gilkey, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m.
Sagerton

Faith Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. Keith Palmquist, pastor
Sun. 10:30 a.m.
Sagerton

—RULE—

First Baptist Church
Russell Stanley, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
1001 Union Ave., Rule

Primitive Baptist Church
Dale Turner Jr., pastor
First & Third Sundays 10 a.m.
Corner of 8th & Robins, Rule

Church of Christ
John Greeson, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
811 Union, Rule

First United Methodist Church
Tom Long, pastor
Sun. Morn. Worship 8:30 a.m.
1000 Union Ave., Rule

Primera Iglesia Bautista
Alfa y Omegas
Manuel Marin, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
500 Elm Street, Rule

Sweet Home Baptist Church
Larry Neal, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.;
Gladstone Ave., Rule

West Bethal Baptist Church
Rev. Clovis Dever
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
300 Sunny Ave., Rule

—PAINT CREEK—

Paint Creek Baptist Church
Sun. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.
Paint Creek

—O'BRIEN—

O'Brien Baptist Church
Jim Reid, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a., 5 p., 6 p., Wed. 6 p.m.
O'Brien

Weather Whys

Weather and Aches and Pains

Q: Can the weather affect how you feel?

A: For certain people, the answer is definitely yes, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "Many people have said they can tell a change in the weather is about to happen because their joints or muscles start to ache," says McRoberts.

"This is likely due to a change in the barometric pressure, which often happens before a thunderstorm or in advance of a cold front. Damp weather is often associated with a low pressure system. A decrease in the air pressure decreases the tension in some large blood vessels, meaning they tend to expand. When this happens, it tends to lead to increased discomfort in joints and muscles. Also, we know that very rapid changes in temperature and humidity can make some people say they feel 'stiff and achy.' Many people who have arthritis say their joints are definitely

affected by weather changes."

Q: So can any weather change be a health problem?

A: Probably so, he adds. Some people like rainy days, which can bring muscle misery to others and even breathing trouble, and some people may enjoy cool, dry days, which can also bring aches and pains for some people, including increased sniffing.

"The affects of weather on human health have not been the subject of much research," says McRoberts. "But since it appears almost certain weather can and does affect how we feel, a relatively new field has emerged, called biometeorology - the study of how weather affects our bodies. One German study shows that as much as 25 percent of the human population is 'weather sensitive,' meaning weather changes tend to worsen some pre-existing health conditions. Even headaches are being investigated - some researchers say migraine headaches are linked to sudden weather changes."

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AMERISTAY INN & Suites is now taking applications for assistant manager. Experience in hotel management or similar is required. Pick up application at 108 N. First St., Haskell. 46fc

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Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6032-51-0001 for "ON DEMAND" MBGF in CALLAHAN County, etc. will be opened on January 13, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the State Office for an estimate of \$642,105.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 28457
State Office: Constr./Maint. Division, 200 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704. Phone 512-416-2540.
Dist/Div Office(s): Abilene District, District Engineer, 4250 N. Clack, Abilene, Texas 79604-0150. Phone 325-676-6800.

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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ROCHESTER 209 8th Street Nice older home on a tree lined corner lot with large pecan trees, large rooms, wood floors, C/HA, 3 bedrooms and 1 bath. Kitchen is oversized with stove and refrigerator. The rear entrance is through the utility room. This home has a front porch with a porch swing and grey siding.



907 N. AVE. F Custom built brick home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, built in kitchen, den, large utility room, covered patio, C/HA, and one car garage. There is a sprinkler system and water well for the yard. Property is in excellent condition.



1310 N. AVE. H. Very large four bedroom, two bath home on an oversized fenced lot. Property has a living, dining, large kitchen and den with a fireplace. The attached carport is oversized and has storage. Most of the interior walls have been textured and painted and the kitchen has new countertops. There is a large back porch in the rear with a huge tree for shade and climbing and perfect for cookouts. Don't miss this one! **REDUCED!**



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DELIVER TOYS—Members of the Rule High School Beta Club collected toys for the Haskell County Child Welfare Board and delivered their collection on Friday. Senior Beta Club members and Child Welfare Board members include, front row, l-r, Cheryl Hutchinson, Vinnie Perales, Marty Hall, Tate Clark, Linda Haynes and Melba Lowrance; back row, Molly Dudensing, Kelsie Miller, Steven Anderson, Rance Sorley and Andrew Hertel.



DELIVER TOYS—Members of the Rule High School Beta Club collected toys for the Haskell County Child Welfare Board and delivered their collection on Friday. Junior Beta Club members and Child Welfare Board members include, front row, l-r, Cheryl Hutchinson, Linda Haynes, Vicky Benavides and Lorena Diaz; back row, Nils Weigeldt, Nick Johnson, Joseph Turner, Kate Rowan and Melba Lowrance. Karla Rimes is the group's sponsor. They were accompanied by Leslie Kupatt Counselor and David Parr Superintendent.

Rule Beta Club conducts annual Christmas toy drive

For the last several years, the Rule Beta Club has held a Christmas toy drive to collect toys for the Haskell County Child Welfare Board.

Collection boxes are placed at the churches in Rule and in Sagerton, at Rule City Hall, and at Rule

School. Toys are collected for two weeks and then taken by the Beta Club members to the Department of Human Services building where they are wrapped and delivered to area families for Christmas by members of the Haskell Child Welfare Board and

other volunteers from the community.

The annual toy drive is something that the students at Rule ISD look forward to doing each Christmas and appreciate those who donate to this wonderful cause.

City Council report

Attending the Dec. 8 regular meeting of the Haskell City Council were Mayor Bob Smith and Councilmen Chan Guess, Randy Bowers, Robert Tribbey and Jason Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Smith with the invocation given by Hall.

The council approved a resolution authorizing the police department to purchase Cop Sync computer systems.

Bids will be received for seal coating of proposed city streets.

A bid from Conservation Dirtwork, Inc. of Littlefield was accepted to dig pits at the landfill.

Water bills will no longer be charged to the Civic Center and golf course. Both are City properties.

The 2009 holiday schedule was accepted.

Police Chief Steven Grand gave a police report.

City Administrator Brandon Anderson gave reports on:

- The computer technician has the city's systems in good order and has reduced his monthly fee.

- TxDOT met last week with the city and other authorities to discuss welcome signs as well as other landscape and water meter issues.

- A meeting was held with Larry Clements and a USDA official in Abilene in regards to the assisted living facility. A list of expectations was made and if followed the project

should be a go.

- A copy of the proposed solicitation ordinance has been received. It should be presented to the Council very soon.

Ballots to elect 2008 Citizen, Volunteer of the Year available

Ballots for the 2008 Haskell Citizen of the Year and Volunteer of the Year are available at the Haskell Chamber of Commerce office,

510 S. 2nd. Haskell residents are given the opportunity to nominate their choice and list a reason for the nomination.

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COMBO MEALS

COMBO NO. 1 BACON/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE \$2.09	COMBO NO. 6 3 TAMALES, HOWLERS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.69
COMBO NO. 2 SAUSAGE/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE \$2.09	COMBO NO. 7 2 HOT LINKS WITH BREAD & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.59
COMBO NO. 3 BBQ SANDWICH & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.09	COMBO NO. 8 2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.69
COMBO NO. 4 HOMESTYLE POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.79	COMBO NO. 9 CHIMICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.49
COMBO NO. 5 SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.79	COMBO NO. 10 2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP \$2.69

MORE SPECIALS

BAR-5 THIN CUT DELI MEAT TURKEY, HAM, HONEY HAM 9 OZ.	\$2.49
TAMALES MILD OR EXTRA HOT 3 PER ORDER	\$1.79
TAMALES MILD OR EXTRA HOT DOZEN	\$6.59
ALLSUP'S SANDWICH BREAD 24 OZ. / 89¢ OR 2 FOR	\$1.69
ALLSUP'S WHEAT BREAD 24 OZ. / 99¢ OR 2 FOR	\$1.89
SHURFINE LARGE EGGS DOZEN	2 FOR \$3.00
TENDER CRUST BROWN AND SERVE ROLLS PACKAGE	\$1.29
DORITOS® ASSORTED REGULAR \$1.29	99¢
TOM'S FRIES/NACHO/CHEESE REGULAR \$2.19	3 FOR \$5.00
WOLF BRAND CHILI NO BEANS OR WITH BEANS MIX OR MATCH	2 FOR \$4.00
CHEF BOYARDEE BEEF RAVIOLI OR MINI RAVIOLI MIX OR MATCH / \$2.19 EACH OR	2 FOR \$3.00
CLOROX CLEAN-UP SPRAY EACH	\$3.39
CLOROX WIPES EACH	\$2.99
LYSOL SPRAY EACH	\$4.99