

Softball

HASKELL

V Maidens vs Roby
Fri., March 19, 5 p.m.
at Haskell

V Maidens vs Westbrook
Tues., March 23, 5 p.m.
at Westbrook

Baseball

HASKELL

Indians vs Seymour
Fri., March 19, 1 p.m.
at Seymour

Indians vs Stamford
Tues., March 23, 4:30 p.m.
at Stamford

Track

HASKELL

V at Hamlin Meet
Sat., March 20

RULE

VG at Aspermont Meet
Sat., March 20

Calendar

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., March 20 from 10 a.m. til 11:30 a.m. at 206 S. 2nd (building east of Civic Center) in Haskell. Volunteers and boxes are needed.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., March 20 from 10 a.m. til 11:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Rule.

Easter contest

Rule City Hall is sponsoring an Easter Egg Decorating Contest for early childhood through fifth grade students. Children should go by Rule City Hall, pick up a foam Easter egg, decorate it and return it to City Hall before March 24. Each participant will receive a surprise just for entering. Winners will be chosen March 26. Prizes will be given to one boy and one girl from each grade for the best decorated egg.

Open house

Rule ISD will host an open house Thurs., March 25 from 5 to 6 p.m. All parents and students are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served in the homemaking room. The Scholastic Book Fair will be held until noon Fri., March 26 in the library.

Book sale

The Haskell County Library will hold a book sale Thurs., March 25 through Sat., March 27. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Enter at the north back door.

4-H meeting

The Haskell Sr. and Jr. 4-H club will meet Sun., March 21 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Extension Office.

Cowboy breakfast

The annual cowboy breakfast will be held Sun., March 28 with breakfast served at 7 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall in Haskell. Donnell Brown of Throckmorton will bring a devotional at 8 a.m. with music brought by the Wittenborns of Haskell.

Index

Obituaries..... Page 2
Out of the Past.... Page 4
Menus Page 6
Classifieds..... Page 7

Spring break ~ Watch for children playing

The Haskell Free Press

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"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES—ONE SECTION—75 CENTS

Answer ten questions for Census—It's important

Asking just 10 questions and taking about 10 minutes to complete, 2010 Census forms began arriving in 120 million mailboxes across the nation Mon., March 15—just the 23rd time the country has undertaken the constitutionally mandated population count that dates back to 1790.

The only civic event that includes every person in the country, the Census is the basis for America's representative democracy, ensuring that Congress is fairly reapportioned every 10 years between the states. Census counts are also used to redraw state and local legislative boundaries so that political representation is fairly distributed across their changing populations.

"When you receive your 2010 Census, please fill it out and mail it back," Census Bureau Director Robert M. Groves said. "It's one of the shortest forms in our lifetime with just 10 questions very much like the questions James Madison and Thomas Jefferson helped craft on the very first Census."

As America has grown and become more complex and more diverse, it has become more challenging over the decades to get a complete

count of the population. The 2010 Census faces special challenges during the current economic downturn, including the housing crisis which has resulted in higher rates of vacant housing that must be visited to ensure a complete count.

The Census Bureau estimated that if every household completed and mailed back their census form, taxpayers could reduce the cost of taking the census by \$1.5 billion. The Census Bureau saves about \$85 million in operational costs for every percentage point increase in the nation's participation rate by mail.

"Here is something every family can do to help their government save money, and get an accurate Census at the same time. Mailing back your census form when it arrives will contribute to saving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars," Groves added. "It's a lot less expensive to get responses back by mail than it is to send census takers to knock on doors of households that failed to respond."

"It costs the government just 42 cents for a postage paid envelope when a household mails back the form," said

Groves. "It costs \$57 to send a census taker door-to-door to follow up with each household that fails to respond."

Advance letters alerting households to the arrival of the 2010 Census form last week, as well as reminder postcards sent later this month, are all part of a mailing strategy that has been proven to increase participation in the census by mail—a cost savings that could exceed more than \$500 million.

Even with these changes to make the census the shortest and easiest in a lifetime, the Census Bureau still projects that it will have to send census takers to an estimated 48 million households that do not respond by mail. Following up door-to-door to count households from May to July will require hiring about 650,000 census workers.

Participating in the census is required by law for everyone living in the United States, and the public is encouraged to promptly mail back their 2010 Census forms once they are delivered this week between March 15-17. About 12 million addresses, mostly in rural areas as well as Gulf Coast areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, began receiving hand-

delivered forms March 1.

Census data also help determine how more than \$400 billion in federal funds are distributed to tribal, state and local governments every year—including funding for schools, roads, health care and other critical programs.

As a way of encouraging response, the Census Bureau will be publishing mail participation rates showing the percent of the population that have mailed back their 2010 Census forms on a daily basis on 2010census.gov. This map-based feature and widget application allows communities to track how well they are responding by mail and if they're doing better than neighboring cities, counties or states. The first participation rates for the 2010 Census will appear March 22. Rates from the 2000 Census are already on the new site and serve as a benchmark. We hope communities will challenge themselves to exceed their 2000 performance for this census.

It's Easy: A Look at the 2010 Census Questionnaire

The census mailing package includes a cover letter, the 2010 Census form and a postage-paid return envelope.

The 10 questions are basic and should take about 10 minutes to complete. The 2010

Census asks the following questions:

- The number of people living in the residence
- Any additional people that might be living there as of April 1, 2010
- Whether the residence is owned or rented
- Telephone number (in case the Census Bureau has follow-up questions)
- Name
- Sex
- Age and date of birth
- Whether of Hispanic origin
- Race
- Whether that person sometimes lives somewhere else

Census forms are available upon request in six languages: English, Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian. For the first time, bilingual English/Spanish forms will be mailed out to 13 million households where Spanish is the predominant language spoken at home. Braille and large print forms are also available on request. For the hearing impaired, a TDD program is available at 1-866-783-2010.

Language assistance guides are available in 59 languages on 2010census.gov to assist non-English speaking residents fill out their forms. There are also short, in-language videos on the Web site to help with form filling. Telephone Questionnaire Assistance is also provided in Spanish (1-866-928-2010), Chinese (1-866-935-2010), Vietnamese (1-866-945-2010), Korean (1-866-955-2010) and Russian (1-866-965-2010) in addition to English (1-866-872-6868).

The Census Bureau will also be staffing more than 30,000 Questionnaire Assistance Centers around the country where people can get help with their forms in multiple languages. Locations of the centers are being publicized locally and can also be found on 2010census.gov. These locations are temporary and may change based on levels of local assistance needed by residents.

It's Safe: Your Personal Information is Confidential by Law

All census responses are confidential; they are protected by law and not shared with anyone. The Census Bureau takes extreme measures to protect the identity of individuals and businesses. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' individually identifiable answers with anyone, including tribal housing authorities, other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000, imprisonment of up to five years or both.

Haskell CISD election shows only contested races for May 8 election

by Caron Yates

Sat., May 8 is the day designated for city and school board elections across the state of Texas. The final day to file for a place on the ballot was March 8.

In a somewhat unusual turn, the only contested races in the county will be for Places 1 and 6 on the Haskell CISD school board, consequently that will be the only election held.

In the Haskell city race, the mayor and two councilman are up for

election. The councilman are two year at large terms. John Gannaway has filed to fill the position of mayor, while current mayor, Bob Smith, decided not to run for another term. Incumbent Jason Hall filed to keep his city council seat, while Dan Hoover filed for the position held by Robert Tribbey, who is not seeking reelection. No city election will be held.

Haskell CISD will have two single member districts on the ballot. Felix Rodriguez who currently holds the

single member district 1 seat, is being challenged by Joel Torres III. Incumbent Joey Kimbrough, who serves single member district 6, will face Tyke Meinzer in the election. Only voters living in these two single member districts are eligible to vote.

Information as to the member district in which you are eligible to vote, can be found on your individual voter registration card. Additional information for voters and their corresponding single member districts is available

at the school administration office.

Early voting will take place at the school administration office from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., April 26 through May 4. Voting on election day, May 8, will be at City Hall from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Although a few changes in personnel are being made, there will be no elections held in Rule, Rochester or Weinert. None of the candidates drew opponents.

In Rule's city election, Mayor James Marquis is not seeking reelection, so W.L. Wolf, who filed for the position, will be sworn in as the mayor of Rule. Bobby Robinson and Patrick Pace will serve on the city council.

Three 3-year terms on the school board for Rule ISD, will be filled by incumbent Elaina Mathis, Teresa Baiza and Jason Tanner. Norva Smith and Teresa Stryker did not file for reelection.

City council seats in Rochester, will continue to be held by Darryl McGhee and John Hicks.

The City of Weinert had the positions of mayor and two council seats up for election. Continuing to serve as mayor is Julian Estrada, while Randy Waggoner and Angela Kirkland retain their city council seats.

Voters who will be participating in the Haskell CISD school board election, are reminded to bring their voter registration card or some other type of photo identification with them.

Haskell City Wide Clean Up set April 17-24

The Haskell City Wide Clean Up week will be held Sat., April 17 through Sat., April 24.

The landfill will be open Sat., April 17 and Sat., April 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Landfill hours April 19-22

will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fri., April 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The City does not have trailers. Personal trailers and trucks hauling loose trash must have a tarp. Bulky items, lumber, tin, etc. must

Citizens urged to clean and mow lots

Haskell Chief of Police Steven Grand reminds the citizens of Haskell that after large amounts of rain this winter, lots of weeds and trash are problems on vacant lots and yards. Grand reminds residents that many of these areas need to be cleaned and mowed.

Cleanup week is April

17-24 and Grand encourages everyone to take advantage of the opportunity and clean up the weeds and trash from their lots and around their homes.

The City has issued letters recently on several properties in violation of the City's weed ordinance.

be tied down.

Trailers and loads will be weighed at the landfill on the new scales. There will be no charge, but the landfill must record the weight in compliance with TCEQ rules.

Chemicals, tires, batteries, anything containing Freon, asbestos, roofing materials and paint will not be accepted during clean up week.

Bulky items will be picked up if they are by the dumpster only if arrangements have been made by calling City Hall at 864-2333.

This is a service for the citizens of Haskell who live in the city limits. Those using the service may be asked for proof of residence, such as a water bill.

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

Rule Volunteer Fire Department receives check

The Rule Fire Department received a check for \$150 recently from Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies as an expression of thanks for the department's work on the property of Saha Farms, Inc.

for their loss prevention program. The Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies pay fire departments this amount when the department works at a fire in rural areas, involving property insured by them. The insurance company

believes fire departments have contributed to reduce the amount of loss involved by fire and more importantly, to prevent fires.

It is their hope this money will help the Rule Fire Department in their program.

Calendar

Cancer support

The Haskell Area Cancer Support group meets every other Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the First Assembly of God Church. For more information, call 940-864-5964.

Garage sale

Haskell Heroes is getting ready for their community wide garage sale and needs your stuff. Clean out and get rid of your treasures. Drop off at 1307 N. Ave F or call 256-2509 for pick up. Deadline is April 2.

Garage sale

A benefit garage sale will be held Sat., April 3 at the Haskell National Bank Building. All proceeds go to Autism Speaks.

Bible school

First Baptist Church of Weinert will hold Vacation Bible School June 7-11 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The theme will be Saddle Ridge Ranch: Driving Home Answers. Area youth will have their own sessions upstairs led by Shanna White. Call Pastor Dan Bullock at 940-673-8310 or director Mary Murphy 940-673-8269 for more information.

Dinner/auction

The annual dinner and silent auction to benefit the Noah Project will be held Sat., April 17 at the Civic Center. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will be a play by local actors. Items are needed for the auction. To donate, call the Noah Project office at 864-2551.

Immunizations

The Texas Dept. of Health in Stamford will hold an immunization clinic Thurs., March 25 at the Haskell Hospital Education Building, 1 N. Ave. N in Haskell. Clinic times are from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. For more information call 325-773-5681.

Volleyball night

First Baptist Church in Haskell is hosting an open gym for volleyball every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. Volleyball players of all ages are welcome to come and play. There is no charge. For more information, call the church office at 864-2581.

Rochester homecoming

Plans for Rochester homecoming are being made for Friday and Saturday Oct. 8-9.

Obituaries

Annie Doris Tidrow



ANNIE TIDROW

Funeral services for Annie Doris Tidrow, 82, of Haskell were held Sat., March 13 at the First Assembly of

God Church of Haskell with Bro. Joe Wayne Davis officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mrs. Tidrow passed away Wed., March 10 in Haskell.

Born Jan. 16, 1928 in Haskell, she was the daughter of the late George Thomas Brown and Ola Eudroa Gibbs Brown. She married Joel C. Tidrow in Stamford May 5, 1948. He preceded her in death Aug. 29, 2009.

She was a homemaker and member of the Church of God.

She was preceded in death

by her parents; her husband, J.C.; sisters, Ova Lee 'Sally' Chastant, Lola Belle Smetak and Wanda Faye Chavis; brothers, Sonny Alton Brown and Bennie Joe Brown.

Survivors include her children, Linda Martinez and husband Robert of Haskell, Denny Tidrow and wife Trivina of Navasota, J.T. Tidrow and wife Alicia and Melanie Baugh and husband Allen, all of Haskell; two sisters, Betty Louise Beggs of Irving and Lola June Muse of Haskell; 10 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of dear friends. PD. NOTICE

J.B. Dunnam

Funeral services for J.B. Dunnam, 96, of Haskell were held Fri., March 12 at East Side Baptist Church in Haskell with Rev. Jimmy Griffith and Rev. Tom Long officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mr. Dunnam died Tues., March 9.

Born May 20, 1913 in Gunter, he was the son of the late Charley Allen Dunnam and Mary Lutie Cox. He married Nina Opal Kreger Nov. 5, 1932 in Haskell County. She preceded him in death Jan. 31, 1998. He has been a member of the Haskell community since 1927. He was a self employed farmer and a member of East Side Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nina Dunnam; his parents; his brothers,

Charlie Willie Dunnam and Joseph Clifford Dunnam; and sisters, Lena May Dendy and Audrey Juanita Sturdy.

Survivors include his son, Jerry Dunnam and wife Jean of Haskell; grandchildren, Mickey Dunnam and Ricky Dunnam and wife Erin, all of Haskell; great grandchildren, Colin, Shelby, Shalee, Morgan, Dakota and Raylee; great great grandson, Brayden; brothers, Charles Alfon Dunnam and wife Darlene of Nocona, Raymond Everett Dunnam and wife Barbara of Friendswood and Harold Wayne Dunnam and wife Eva of Haskell; sisters, Martha Estella Breeden of Haskell, Opal Dunnam of Haskell and Wanda Ham and husband Wayne of Haskell; several nieces, nephews and a host of friends. PD. NOTICE

Kids just need to play

A stock conversational topic in any middle-agers' social gathering is How Things Were Better When We Were Kids. Once this discussion starts, it's just a matter of time until some exasperated parent serves up their own video-addicted, couch potato kids as Exhibit A: "You never see kids just playing in sprinklers, riding bikes or throwing frisbees anymore!"

This trend is blamed for many negative outcomes including, almost invariably, childhood obesity. But is that really true? And, if so, how can parents encourage their children to pull out the iPod earbuds, lay down the Wii controller and go outside for some healthy physical activity?

To answer the first question, scientific opinion is divided as to how the growing percentage of overweight kids relates to their perceived lack of physical activity. Researchers agree that diet is a key factor, but opinion diverges on the role of physical activity levels.

Smart parents will ignore the controversy and focus

on two clear facts: Weight gain happens when more calories are consumed than burned, and active kids with healthy diets tend to be physically healthier than their less active, junk food-eating peers.

Since most moms and dads find it easier to influence what pre-teen children eat (by purchasing healthier foods and monitoring how much is consumed at home) than to get them up and moving, we'll focus on the exercise side of the equation.

Here are a few practical tips from the Mayo Clinic and National Association of Sport and Physical Education:

1. Start 'em Early: Children between 1 and 3 need at least 90 minutes of physical activity every day. This should include a mix of structured activity (holding your child's hands while he or she jumps, exploring the backyard together, climbing stairs) and unsupervised play (crawling, exploring or playing with toys).

Toddlers shouldn't be inactive for more than an hour at a time, except when sleeping. One way to discourage inactivity is to limit TV and DVD-viewing from an early age. This not only encourages independent physical activity but reduces the "cold turkey" effect of weaning older kids off established video habits.

2. Be the Example: As passionately as kids may deny it, parents are major influences on their thought and behavior. Parents who "reward" themselves after work by ripping open a party-sized bag of Tostitos and settling in for a Law and Order marathon have little credibility when they urge their children to be more active. So, set the tone by making physical activity a standard feature of your daily life.

Ride your bike or rollerblade around the neighborhood. Walk the dog. Jog to the drugstore instead of driving. Organize a game of pickup basketball

or softball. What you do isn't so important. What matters from your children's standpoint is seeing that you believe in what you're selling to them.

3. Sell It as Activity, Not Exercise: Although it may not always be obvious, kids are drawn to physical activity as long as it looks like fun, not work. With smart planning, the fun factor can be added in many ways.

If you're hosting a birthday party, hold it at a bowling alley, batting cage, paintball field or indoor climbing wall. Or, make it a So You Think You Can Dance? party with your child as the deejay.

To encourage daily activity, fill your home (and yard, if you have one) with opportunities for spontaneous play: basketball goals, "beach volleyball" pits, badminton nets or treehouses, just to name a few. If your child looks bored, throw down a basketball or touch football challenge. Games between kids and parents not only promote health but also encourage closeness and may inspire conversations that wouldn't naturally occur in other settings.

4. Don't Push Too Hard: Some children enjoy organized team or club sports such as soccer, baseball, swimming and gymnastics. Others, however, chafe under Mom and Dad's efforts to schedule their lives and may come to think of physical activity as a chore to be abandoned at the first opportunity. Watch and listen to your kids to learn their preferences. Then, respect and work with those preferences. A boy or girl who dislikes team sports may take readily to hiking, skateboarding, bicycling, martial arts or dancing.

Be open-minded and focus on the bottom line. Games that you cherished as a child may not have the same appeal or relevance to your kids. Activity is activity. After all, when was the last time you saw an overweight skateboarder?



Thank You Haskell County

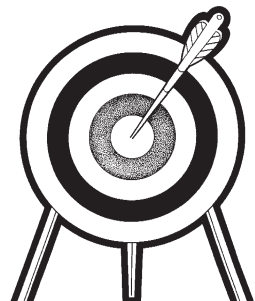
I would like to send a big, heartfelt thank you to everyone that supported me in the March 2nd Primary.

I am looking forward to serving you, the citizens of Haskell County, as your Tax Assessor Collector.

Thank you,
Connie Benton

Pd. Pol. Adv. Pd. for by Connie Benton

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HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH... AT HOME!

Brought to You By:

Haskell Home Health Agency

Michelle Johnson
RN

Dear Michelle,
What is a stroke?

A stroke is a life-threatening event in which the brain's oxygen supply is cut off. A stroke can affect the senses, speech, behavior, thought patterns and memory. It may also result in paralysis, coma and death.

What causes a stroke?

A stroke occurs when an artery to the brain bursts or becomes clogged, cutting off the supply of oxygen to a part of the brain. Brain tissue deprived of oxygen dies within minutes. As a result, the part of the body controlled by those brain cells cannot function properly.

High blood pressure and *atherosclerosis*, the buildup of fatty plaque in the arteries, increase the risk of a stroke. Bleeding into the brain from an injury can also cause a stroke.

SYMPTOMS

- Sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm and leg, usually on one side of the body.
- Difficulty talking or understanding speech.
- Dimness or loss of vision, particularly in only one eye.
- Unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or falls.
- Sudden, severe headache.

What questions regarding home care do you have for the nurse? Send your questions to Haskell Home Health Agency, 417 S. First, Haskell, TX 79521 or call 940-864-5074 or 1-877-864-5074.

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Club learns use of spices and herbs

The Haskell County Texas Extension Education Association met March 11, at the Haskell Extension Office. Joetta Burnett called the meeting to order in place of Pat Jenkins, president, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Jane Smith read the opening exercise from an article by Sharon Randell on birthdays.

The roll call was answered with "What is a sound you like to hear?"

The yearly 4-H scholarship was discussed.

Jane Rowan, County Extension Agent, reported on the 4-H activities.

The 4-H photography project awards program will be held Sun., March 28. There are 70 entries and most photos will be on display. The winning photos have been sent to District for district judging.

The Clothing project will conclude with the fashion show Sun., March 28 at the Rochester School. The beginner participations have made pillowcase dresses which will be donated to a Haiti Benefit program. Seventeen 4-Hers will model their garments.

The Tri-County Rally Day will be held at Seymour March 17. Jane Mosley will present a program on chocolate and a National Guard representative will tell about a National Guard Craft program.

The District Spring Conference and Cultural Arts will be held in Seymour Wed., April 28. The theme of the program will be "TEEA Rules the West." Each club will provide an item for the silent auction and door prizes. Sue McGee will make homemade embroidered kitchen towels.

Rowan presented the program for the day entitled "Add a little Spice and (Herbs) to Your Life." During the presentation the group learned using spices can reduce fat, sugar and salt in our diets, the general rules for amounts to use, when to add spices and herbs during food preparation, various spices add flavor to foods and the guidelines on storing and keeping spices and herbs.

Decorations and refreshments carried out the St. Patrick theme and were served by Lena Tidwell and Kathryn Schonerted.



MR. AND MRS. MY PHAM

Couple marries in Fort Worth

Dr. and Mrs. John R. Gannaway are announcing the marriage of their daughter, Julia Janette Gannaway to My Pham.

The couple was married Feb. 25 in a private ceremony in Fort Worth. A reception followed at the Ashton Hotel on Feb. 27.

The bride is a graduate of Texas A&M and the University of Houston Law

School and practices law at the firm of Lynn, Pham and Ross in Fort Worth.

The groom is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and is a paramedic/firefighter with the Arlington Fire Department.

The couple resides in Fort Worth and plans a honeymoon to Las Vegas in the future.

Use credit wisely

In today's economy, many people find their spending spiraling out of control and borrowing money to live on from month-to-month. This column will suggest ways to take control of your debt and get your financial life back on track.

Debt reduces your net worth and the interest you pay on credit card balances is money that cannot be saved or invested. Debt is good for purchasing a home, an automobile or paying for a college education. However, if you use your credit cards to pay for your daily living expenses, you may need to re-think your financial situation.

Our national economic recession has hurt many families and individuals who have lost their jobs and homes. Unfortunately, many Americans have resorted to using their credit cards just to get by day to day. Ideally, you should have a rainy day fund to cover three to six months of living expenses in the event of hard times.

One way to change your thinking is not to use your credit card unless you are buying something that is a necessity and you will still have that item when you pay your credit card bill. That eliminates paying for food and entertainment using credit cards.

Another way to look at it is that if you would feel silly asking your banker for a loan to buy an item, don't use a credit card. In essence, when you use your credit card, you are asking a banker for a loan.

If possible, pay your credit card bills in full each month. With the annual interest rates on credit cards often as high as 20 percent or more, it is more like paying a high-interest loan.

To help reduce your credit card debt, set a monthly limit on how much you charge to your card and limit the number of credit cards you have. Choose the card with the lowest interest rate and one with the lowest or no annual fee. Understand that the blank checks often enclosed in your monthly statement are cash advances that may carry a higher interest rate. Remember that the way you handle your credit will be reflected in

your credit report, which lenders will use to see if you are a good credit risk.

You should not throw away all of your credit cards and spend only on a cash basis. Creditors look to your credit history to decide how good of a credit risk you are.

Keep your credit in good standing by making sure your monthly bills are paid on time. Late payments are reported to the credit reporting agencies and can affect your credit score. Although all late payments are problematic, 90-day late payments can continue to damage your credit score even after you have paid the bill. To help you with budgeting and paying bills on time, you may want to consider setting up your monthly payments on automatic debit and eliminate the worry of late payments.

Lenders are more wary of loaning money in these economic times. At one time, a score of 620 was considered to be a good score when applying for a home loan. Now that score needs to be at least 760 to get the best interest rate.

If you find yourself drowning in debt, do not give up. There are credit counseling programs that will give you advice for free or at a low cost. They may recommend a debt management plan or negotiate payment plans with your creditors. If your debts are overwhelming, you may want to consider a debt settlement company that will work with your creditors to convince them to let you pay a lesser amount than you owe. The alternative is bankruptcy and most creditors would prefer debt settlement than bankruptcy where they may receive nothing.

Be sure to do your research before signing up with a debt settlement company. Many of these companies are scams and you might be better off negotiating a repayment plan with your creditors on your own rather than through a debt settlement company that may also charge high fees.

The best solution for controlling your debt is to keep a monthly budget and be aware of payments and interest rates versus your monthly income.

The Sagerton community has begun making preparations for the 40th production of the Sagerton Hee Haw. The dates are March 25-27 beginning at 8 p.m. each evening. Music and singing will begin about 6:45 p.m.

Larry LeFevre is the Hee Haw director and Dickie Greenwood is in charge of the music. The whole community is involved in some capacity for the evening's entertainment. Proceeds from the Hee Haw go for scholarships for each graduating senior on the

Sagerton mail route, upkeep of the community center, and community projects.

The Hee Haw program for Thurs., March 25, is especially for groups. If a group is interested in tickets on group night, call 940-997-2688 for more information.

Tickets may be ordered by calling 940-997-2688 or come to 1825 FM 1661, Sagerton. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Plate lunches, sandwiches, and pies will be available in the cafeteria from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. when the cafeteria will close.



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Conn demonstrates portrait drawing at art meeting

The Brazos West Art Association met March 8 in the Haskell National Bank Community Room with Gary Conn, well-known and talented artist of Knox City, presenting the program.

Conn began and completed a portrait of an Indian working with a graphite pencil, a large artist stub and

a white eraser to blend and shade the portrait.

Betty Berry was presented the portrait.

Present were Betty Sanders, Melissa Summers, Nelwyn Beakley, Carolyn Everett, Marsha Whittemore, Martha Spitzer, Peggy Middlebrook, Berry and Conn.

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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

State Board of Education proposes changes to school curriculum

AUSTIN—Changes to the social studies curriculum for public schools are in the hopper.

The State Board of Education on March 12 voted 10-5 in favor of a set of proposed revisions. The next step is for the proposed revisions to be posted in the Texas Register in mid-April, and then a 30-day public comment period will begin.

One of several points of contention arose over whether to require that students be taught the names of Tejanos, the Texans of Hispanic ancestry, who were among the 189 that fought for independence and died at the Alamo, but are not named in textbooks. The effort to include those names failed.

Comments with suggested changes to the proposed revisions may be sent to rules@tea.state.tx.us. The final steps in the process are for the board to consider additional updates and final adoption at its May meeting.

Also on March 12, the board adopted educator certification requirements and voted to enter into agreements with Mesa West Real Estate Income Fund II L.P. and Invesco Mortgage Recovery Fund. Each entity will be allowed to invest \$40 million of the multi-billion dollar Permanent School Fund in real estate. The Texas Education Agency said never before has the board entered into a real estate purchase agreement.

Projects to receive federal funds

Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples on March 12 congratulated the recipients of tens of millions of federal dollars in broadband funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help bring high-speed Internet service to rural areas.

Projects in Texas to receive funding will improve broadband service in the Texas South Plains region, the Dalhart and Stratford communities in the upper Texas Panhandle and in the Burkburnett and Iowa Park community areas in north central Texas.

The money is part of a \$7.2 billion appropriation through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act directing the USDA's Rural Utilities Service and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration to expand broadband access to unserved and underserved communities across the U.S., increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure and provide long-term economic benefits.

School fund increases in 2009

The fund that guarantees

school district bonds and supports the purchase of student textbooks realized a 25 percent return in 2009, the Texas Education Agency reported March 12.

The Texas Permanent School Fund, the largest public endowment for public schools in the nation, was valued at \$22.2 billion on Dec. 31, 2009, up from \$18.1 on Dec. 31, 2008.

The fund's guarantee of school bonds allows Texas school districts to gain AAA ratings for their bonds, saving them millions in interest and insurance costs. The fund also provides textbooks free of charge to the state's 4.7 million schoolchildren and provides general financial support to the more than 8,000 Texas public schools, the Texas Education Agency said.

Firm must provide restitution

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, attorneys general from 34 other states and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission on March 9 resolved their investigation of Arizona-based LifeLock Inc. and reached an agreement with the private identity theft protection service.

Under the agreement, LifeLock Inc. must provide \$11 million in restitution to eligible customers and must not misrepresent that it: (1) protects against all forms of ID theft; (2) eliminates the risk of ID theft; (3) constantly monitors activity on each of its customers' consumer reports; and (4) always prompts a call from a potential creditor before a new credit account is opened in the customer's name.

Grief named lottery agency chief

The three-member Texas Lottery Commission on March 9 announced the appointment of Gary Grief as executive director of the agency.

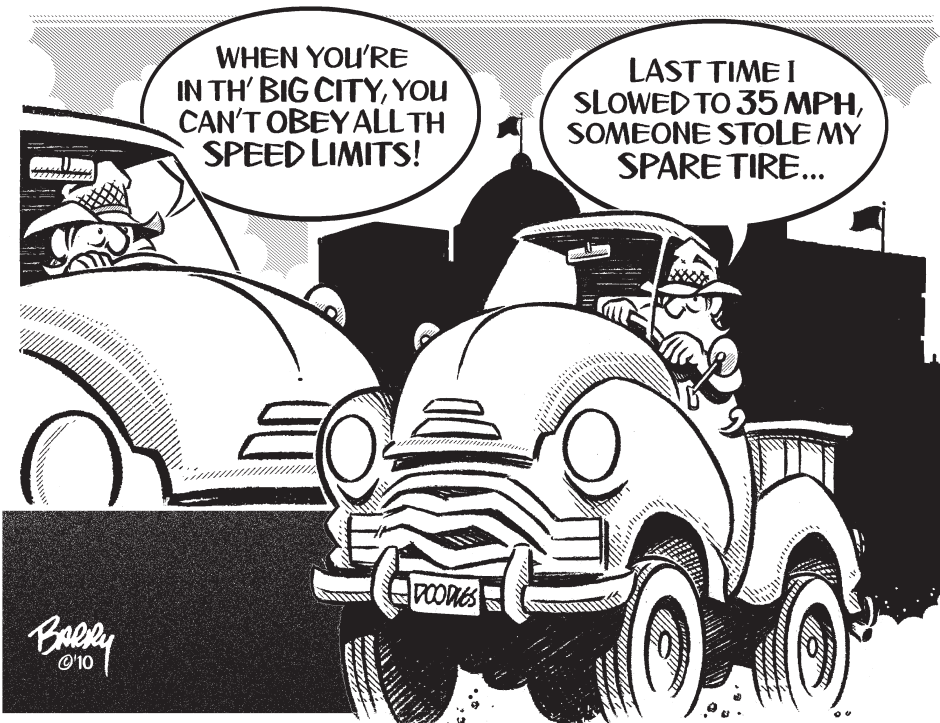
Grief, who had been leading the agency as deputy executive director since October 2008, was appointed on a unanimous vote.

An original member of the task force assigned to research and launch the Texas Lottery, Grief has been with the agency since 1992.

Census 'ambassador' is named

Gov. Rick Perry on March 9 named Secretary of State Hope Andrade the "Texas Census Ambassador" to promote participation by Texans in the 2010 Census. Forms for the 2010 Census will be delivered to residents this month.

Andrade, U.S. Census officials and others joined in Austin on March 12 to encourage all who live in Texas to participate in the census. She will promote the Census statewide until the April 1 deadline.



From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago March 16, 2000

For the sixth year, the Texas Chiefs Model Airplane Club has been honored as a Gold Club by the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

The Haskell County Historical and Genealogical Society heard Haskell High School students Kristi Christian and Tom Fouts. Christian spoke on the life and times of her great aunt, Lola Everett, while Fouts told of his grandfathers' life experiences.

Sarah Cothron, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Cothron, was inducted into Harding University's chapter of Alpha Chi. Alpha Chi is a national society encouraging and recognizing superior scholarship.

20 Years Ago March 15, 1990

Haskell Indians competed in the Anson Relays with Roger Roewe taking first place in the discus and Joe Ray Comacho winning first in the 3200 meters race.

Erica Hollingsworth competed in "Our Diamond Miss Pageant" held recently in Abilene. She was a triple-crown winner, winning in the Glamour Girl, Modeling and Talent divisions.

Haskell County was well represented at the Houston Livestock Show. In the steer division, winners were Brad Bevel, first; Kim Gilly, fifth; Tommy Casey,

sixth; Heather Stewart, sixth; and Stacie Bevel, fourteenth.

30 Years Ago March 13, 1980

On hand to draw for places on the ballot for the April city election were Mayor Royce Williams, City Secretary Desmond Dulaney, Councilman Joe Cortez and Darel Anderson, who is seeking a council seat.

Mary Rike was among two hundred of Texas' finest artists selected to display their wares at the Texas State Arts and Crafts Fair in Kerrville.

District All-Star basketball honors went to Weinert High School students Deena Walker and Debbie Hutchinson, first team. Named to the second team was Derinda Griffis, Cristi Guess and Michelle Raynes. Making the boys' all-district second team was Brian Adams.

40 Years Ago March 12, 1970

Riley C. Couch III, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Couch, Jr., was recently honored by the Southwestern Company of Nashville, Tennessee with the Gold Award for superior sales.

Paula Mayfield, a guard on the Haskell High School girls' basketball squad, was named to the District 7AA All-district first team.

Haskell Memorial Hospital administrator Alfred Turnbow, announced

the hospital has purchased a heart monitor unit to better serve its patients.

50 Years Ago March 17, 1960

In a field of forty players, Harlan Weinert and Ted Jetton of Weinert, won the championship title in the Haskell Jaycees first domino tournament. Runners-up were Garth Garrett and Clinton Kimbrough of Haskell.

Air Force Capt. Bobby Bradley, son of J.N. Bradley of Haskell, was honored recently for the outstanding performance of his B-52 flight crew.

Little League baseball has been inaugurated in Haskell as a summer activity for young boys. Officials attending the District 6 meeting in Olney were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wiseman, Mr. and Mrs. W.N. Mercer, Mr. and Mrs. Desmond Dulaney, Mr. and Mrs. Volley Ivy and Roy Everett.

100 Years Ago March 12, 1910

The commissioners' court has adopted an order calling for sale of the Haskell County School lands. The land will be sold to actual settlers in tracts of 160 acres.

A well-known lecturer and scientist, William Patty, will speak at the North Ward School and present demonstrations concerning Radium Liquid Air and Wireless Telegraphy.

AG Consumer Alert

By Greg Abbott

Parents Should Keep Children Away From New Video Chat Web Site Chatroulette.com

An increasingly popular Web site poses a threat to Texas children by giving users—including dangerous sex offenders—an opportunity to conduct live video chats with randomly selected participants.

Armed with only a Web camera and Internet access, www.chatroulette.com users are paired with a random stranger for a video chat. Neither a login nor registration is required before young users can be face-to-face with a total stranger. Worse, users who simply click "next" are shuffled to a new video chat partner.

An undercover investigation by the Cyber Crimes Unit revealed startling results. Nearly half of the randomly selected users encountered by Cyber Crimes investigators immediately exposed themselves and conducted sexually explicit acts on camera.

In light of the serious threat that children will be exposed to graphic sexual conduct, Texas parents should prohibit their children from accessing www.chatroulette.com. Although site users are supposed to be at least 16 years old, the rule is not clearly enforced—which means parents' preventative role is particularly important.

Attorney General Abbott reminds parents to closely monitor their children's Internet activities by using the following safety tips:

- Place the computer in a public room at home so that parents can monitor their children's Internet use. Do not allow computers in a child's bedroom or permit the use of Web cameras.

- Make sure children know never to agree to a face-to-face meeting with someone they meet online and never to divulge personal information to an Internet stranger.

- Stay informed. Surf the Internet with children or at least talk to them about the Web sites they are visiting.

- Establish ground rules for children's Internet usage, including the hours they may surf and the kinds of Web sites they may visit. Post the rules near the computer.

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor,

If you missed "Over The Rainbow for Noah" at the First Methodist Church, you missed a real treat!

The musical entertainment was outstanding. I would like to thank the following people for making it so special with their talents: Brian Burgess, Travis Dean, James and Brenda Campbell, Lindo Guess, Kenneth and Martha Jarred, Larry and Susan LeFevre, Nelda Lane, Amy McKnight, Hannah and Mia Long, Pam Norton, William Overton, Danny Payne and Rob McKnight. I would also like to thank Bro. Tom Long for the great job that he did as emcee.

I would like to also thank the Noah Advisory Committee members that work so hard to make these things happen to help victims of family violence that come to us for help.

Thanks also for the ones that came to help support the Noah Project! You are appreciated.

Sincerely,
Donna Sue Anders

From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Texas Targets Immigration Scams

Every year, countless foreign nationals pursue the opportunity to legally reside in America. Whether they arrive with student visas or temporary work permits, these law-abiding immigrants follow the proper procedures and comply with the law so they do not jeopardize their presence in our country.

Unfortunately, a few unscrupulous scam artists are preying upon these legal immigrants. Exploiting immigrants' desire to legally obtain resident status or extend their visa, scammers falsely claim they have the authority to provide immigration-related legal services, but all too often they do not. This not only harms

law-abiding immigrants, but it also undermines immigration laws by sending the wrong message to those who attempt to play by the rules.

Scammers who falsely call themselves "immigration consultants" have long exploited the misunderstanding between the term "notary" and the similar-sounding Spanish term "notario," which is commonly used in Latin America to refer to highly specialized attorneys.

Texas law bars a notary public from preparing immigration documents or implying that a notary public is an attorney licensed to practice law. Notaries face criminal prosecution if they use the words "notario" or "notario publico" to advertise

their services.

In Texas, notaries public are authorized to witness the execution of certain legal documents, such as contracts or wills. Texas law specifically prohibits notaries public from providing immigration services unless they are a licensed attorney or accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice's Board of Immigration Appeals.

While the OAG cannot help immigrants obtain residency status, the agency will pursue fraudulent notarios for breaking the law. For additional information or to file a complaint against a suspected unauthorized legal services operation, contact the Office of the Attorney General at 800-252-8011 or visit the Web site at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov. Assistance is available in English and Spanish.

Individuals who need assistance with residency issues can call the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

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

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Production practices may improve water efficiency

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

A combination of strip tillage and irrigation timing may improve water use efficiency and yield for Southwest cotton.

Water resources may be dwindling across much of the Southwest, making improved irrigation efficiency essential, says a Texas AgriLife plant stress physiology researcher.

Conserving water is increasingly important for

cotton farmers, says Diane Rowland, Texas AgriLife researcher in plant stress physiology in Uvalde. "Texas farmers have felt the devastating effects of drought, compounded by dwindling water resources," she said during the Texas Plant Protection Association annual conference last December in College Station.

Rowland is studying methods to improve drought tolerance and water use

efficiency in Texas cotton fields and to develop "field scale management tools to manipulate the physiology of the plant to make it more drought tolerant and increase yield."

She said several factors are involved, including the plant's physical endurance and its ability to recover following drought stress.

"Two Texas cotton production techniques—conservation tillage and

primed acclimation—have shown promise for water savings while maintaining yield," she said.

"Conservation tillage increases soil moisture, increases root growth and changes the plant's water use pattern. Primed acclimation involves holding off water early and allowing the plant to develop root growth to become more tolerant later in the season.

"Combining the two techniques provided the

best results," in a 2009 test in Uvalde, Rowland said. It was a good year to test for drought tolerance. "The region experienced more than 60 days of triple digit temperatures and severe drought conditions that broke a 105-year record."

Research included plots with a combination of tillage practices (conventional and strip) and water application (100 percent—full irrigation; 70 percent—deficit irrigation; and 70 percent to first

flower and then 100 percent application for the rest of the growing season—primed acclimation).

"Despite the severe growing conditions, yields for the conservation tillage treatment were consistently greater than for the conventional tillage cotton," she said. "The highest yields were found in the treatment that combined conservation tillage with primed acclimation."

She said mechanisms responsible for yield benefits seem to be "related to soil moisture conditions, water use patterns, and stress tolerance in the crop."

She also added ryegrass winter grazing to the Uvalde test under a quartered irrigation system with cotton, corn and sunflowers "to add economic benefits."

She put in another test at Lubbock that included deficit irrigation and saw "similar results."

She's using monitors to measure water use. "Daily water use with strip till at Uvalde and Lubbock was significantly lower and the yield increased," she said. "We are possibly increasing the endurance of the crop."

She said bioassays used to measure recovery again show strip till has the advantage over conventional tillage. "We are improving the recovery of a crop with management techniques," she said. "The combination of primed acclimation and strip till offers significant benefits. Primed acclimation may program the plant to turn on genes to respond to drought."

Scheduling irrigation for primed acclimation, she said, may change from one year to the next. "Some years it may need 60 percent of full irrigation and some years it may need 80 percent. We need to monitor crop stress to make certain. But we need enough stress to get those genes turned on."

She said the number of hours a crop is exposed to temperatures above the stress threshold may be as important as the temperature. "A significant time above the temperature line affects the crop. Also, some irrigation events are more effective than others."

She's making more detailed measurements of crop stress with a SmartCrop program.

"We need two more years of research at Uvalde to develop recommendations," Rowland said.

USDA to issue partial 2009 CCC payments

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA will issue approximately \$121 million in partial 2009-crop counter-cyclical payments to producers with upland cotton and peanut base acres enrolled in USDA's Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program.

USDA will not issue final 2008-crop counter-cyclical payments for long grain rice and short and medium grain rice because their average market prices exceed levels that would trigger these

payments.

The 2008 Farm Bill provides that one partial counter-cyclical payment, in an amount up to 40 percent of the projected counter-cyclical rate, may be issued after 180 days of the marketing year. The projected counter-cyclical payment rate is the amount by which the target price of each commodity, specified by the 2008 Farm Bill, exceeds its effective price. The effective price equals the direct payment rate plus the higher of either the projected

national average market price received by producers during the marketing year or the national average loan rate for the commodity.

The partial 2009-crop upland cotton counter-cyclical payment rate is 1.03 cents per pound, equal to 40 percent of the difference between the target price of 71.25 cents per pound and an effective price of 68.67 cents per pound. The effective price is equal to the projected average market price of 62 cents per pound plus the direct payment rate of 6.67

cents per pound.

The partial 2009-crop peanuts counter-cyclical payment rate is \$9.20 per ton, equal to 40 percent of the difference between the target price of \$495.00 per ton and an effective price of \$472.00 per ton. The effective price is equal to the projected average market price of \$436.00 per ton plus the direct payment rate of \$36.00 per ton.

Under the 2008 Farm Bill, producers are required to repay any amount by which the partial payment exceeds

the actual counter-cyclical payments determined after the end of the marketing year.

For all commodities other than upland cotton and peanuts, the market price projections exceed levels that would trigger these payments. Thus, no partial 2009-crop counter-cyclical payments will be issued for wheat, barley, oats, long grain rice, short and medium grain rice, pulse crops, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and the other oilseeds.

Also, USDA will also not issue final 2008-crop counter-cyclical payments for rice. The final market year average price published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service on Jan. 29, 2010, is \$14.90 per hundredweight for long grain rice and \$24.80 per hundredweight for short and medium grain rice. The direct payment rate of \$2.35 per hundredweight is the same for long grain rice and short and medium grain rice. Thus, the respective effective prices of \$17.25 per hundredweight for long grain rice and \$27.15 hundredweight for short and medium grain rice far exceed the target price of \$10.50 per hundredweight for both long grain rice and short and medium grain rice.

For each commodity, the counter-cyclical payment for each crop year equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage multiplied by the farm's counter-cyclical payment yield multiplied by the counter-cyclical payment rate.

For more information on the direct and counter-cyclical payment programs including a table displaying the target price, projected average market price, loan rate, direct payment rate, effective price and projected counter-cyclical rates, visit your local FSA office or the FSA DCP Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>.

Hog cams can monitor feral hogs

Know your enemy better than your friends, the saying goes.

As for feral hogs, knowing when, how many and where they visit is critical to controlling them, said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert.

And one of the best ways to monitor feral hog activity, either with trapping or hunting in mind, is by using remote-sensing cameras, said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, AgriLife Extension wildlife and fisheries specialist.

In Texas, feral hogs cause an estimated \$52 million in damage to crops and pastures annually, he said.

"And that does not include damage to wildlife food plots, wildlife feeds and feeders, or to recreational areas like parks, golf courses and landscapes," Higginbotham said.

From the standpoint of either recreation or economics, the impact of feral hogs on deer hunting in Texas is large, he said. Deer hunting has an economic impact of more than \$2 billion dollars annually, and feral hogs compete with white-tailed deer for food and territory throughout their habitats.

"Feral hogs are impressive adversaries," he said. "They're smart and wary of both hunters and traps. Remote-sensing cameras can swing the advantage to the side of hunters and trappers trying to abate damage."

The film cameras of 20 years ago were tripped electronically, either by motion or infrared sensors, he said. The digital cameras of today are weather-proof

and easier to set up. And in the past few years, prices have dropped significantly, with entry level cameras costing about \$80 and higher-end cameras in the range of \$600, with many options in between.

"The utility of these little devices extends well beyond patterning deer," Higginbotham said. "Their capability to record the date and time of events captured digitally is what makes them especially useful for combatting feral hogs."

For trapping, when the landowner spots a herd of feral hogs, called a "sounder," or finds damage, he or she can put out shelled corn as bait and set up a camera to monitor activity. By taking a head count of the sounder, the landowner can determine the best size trap to put out.

"The idea is to have a trap large enough so the last hog enters through the gate before the first hog trips the gate trigger, usually located near the back of the trap," Higginbotham said. "Maximizing the distance between the gate and trigger means using bigger traps if large numbers of hogs make up the sounder."

Higginbotham recommended using a camera to continue monitoring hog activity long after the trap is erected.

"It may take several days or even a week or more for the hogs to become accustomed to the freshly erected trap.

Pre-baiting both outside and inside the trap toward the trigger mechanism should continue. Once the hogs are regularly entering the trap to feed, you can set the gate

to trip—based on camera data—and be confident that you will catch hogs."

As for removing feral hogs with firearms or bows, using the cameras in conjunction with solar-charged spotlights is highly effective, Higginbotham said.

As with trapping, the strategy is to use shelled corn or soured grain as bait, and then set up a camera to determine the patterns of their visits. A blind is erected downwind of the bait sites. Solar powered spotlights are set on T-posts to illuminate the bait.

"The spotlights are the key," Higginbotham said. "If you leave them on continuously, the hogs get used to them."

Hogs are primarily nocturnal, visiting the bait sites between dusk and dawn, Higginbotham noted.

"The spotlights are placed so they point away from the blind to avoid creating glare," he said.

Landowners have successfully used this technique with both rifles, crossbows and compound bows, Higginbotham said, but noted there are some definite advantages to using a bow.

"Unlike firearms, the use of bows does not frighten the hogs, allowing for multiple removals in some instances," he said.

The rest of the sounder,

particularly the large boars, will often stay around the bait allowing for more to be taken.

Also, there's no gun report to disturb neighbors, he said, an important issue in some areas as hogs are nocturnal and best hunted at night.

Higginbotham noted that removing hogs with firearms or bows at night is legal in Texas.

"But a courtesy call to the local game warden is recommended to those planning on discharging firearms after dark," he said.

Higginbotham said he knows of instances where this technique allowed the removal of as many as three boars at the same site the same night, and boars will often come back night after night.

Sows tend to be more wary, he said. All large sows in a sounder must be taken the same night or they may not revisit the bait site for weeks, he said.

"Rather than spending hours swatting mosquitoes and missing sleep, the cameras allow the landowner to pattern hog activity and concentrate their time afield when it really counts," Higginbotham said. "The goal is to abate damage to agricultural enterprises, so maximizing efficiency is the key to trapping and shooting marauding feral hogs."



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PLACES SECOND—Kymbre Kupatt placed second with her Crossbred Barrow at the San Angelo Livestock Show. A sophomore student, Kupatt shows through the Haskell FFA program. She is the daughter of Kraig and Leslie Kupatt of Sagerton.

Paint Creek School Menu

March 22-26 Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: French toast
Tuesday: Biscuits, gravy
Wednesday: Toast or oatmeal
Thursday: Breakfast burritos
Friday: Cinnamon rolls

Lunch
 Milk is served daily.
Monday: Burritos, corn, salad, fruit
Tuesday: Teriyaki chicken, rice, broccoli, salad, cake
Wednesday: Hamburgers, salad, cheese, fries, fruit
Thursday: Chalupas, rice, refried beans, salad, jello
Friday: Chicken patty sandwiches, salad, chips, brownies

Haskell School Menu

March 22-26 Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily on the breakfast menu.
Monday: French toast
Tuesday: Breakfast quesadilla
Wednesday: Cereal, toast
Thursday: Biscuit, sausage, egg
Friday: Chocolate muffin, peanuts

Lunch
 Milk and iced tea are served daily at the Secondary campus. Milk is served daily at the Elementary School. Junior High campus: Choice of entrée or baked potato with cheese and ham. High School campus: Choice of entrée or chef salad with crackers.
Monday: Popcorn chicken, gravy, mashed potatoes, English peas, hot roll, peaches
Tuesday: Chicken spaghetti, green beans, garden salad, breadstick, apricots
Wednesday: Submarine sandwich, lettuce, tomato, pickles, assorted chips, fresh fruit
Thursday: Chalupas, salsa, corn, garden salad, applesauce
Friday: Chicken on a bun, lettuce, tomato, pickles, baked fries, cherry shape-ups

Rule School Menu

March 22-26 Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Egg patty, sausage patty, biscuit
Tuesday: French toast sticks, waffle syrup
Wednesday: Sausage patty, biscuit, country gravy, strawberry jam/ grape jelly
Thursday: Breakfast pizza
Friday: Rice, butter toast

Lunch
 Milk is served daily.
Monday: Grilled cheese, tomato soup, dill pickle spears, crackers
Tuesday: Baked potato, steamed broccoli, diced ham and cheddar cup, cornbread
Wednesday: Frito pie, pinto beans, lettuce and tomato salad, fresh orange
Thursday: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, carrot coins, hot roll
Friday: Tuna sandwich, baked chips, fresh apple, pickle spears

Paint Creek tracksters compete in Throckmorton

The Paint Creek Pirates and Lady Pirates competed in the Cow Country Relays in Throckmorton last weekend.
 The Lady Pirates placed twelfth in the meet. Individual results included:
 100 hurdles: 5. Katie Bosnjak 19.24.
 300 hurdles: 5. Meetze, 64.96.
 200: 5. Katie Bosnjak, 29.99.

ECC Menu

Mon., March 22
 Lunch—King ranch chicken, cream potatoes, green beans, yeast roll, strawberry cake, tea or coffee

Wed., March 24
 Lunch—Tacos and trimmings, pinto beans, onions, pickles, jello, choco chip, tea or coffee

Fri., March 26
 Lunch—Beef a roni, cream potatoes, blackeyed peas, yeast roll, misc. dessert, tea or coffee

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

This Week's Devotional Message:



When winter snows have left the earth
 And warmer breezes start to blow,
 Behold the annual rebirth,
 When grass will soon begin to grow
 And tiny buds of leaves will sprout
 On limbs of trees in forest glades
 Then flowers soon will blossom out,
 Exquisite in their pastel shades.

The air is filled with songs of birds,
 And humming insects will abound,
 A scene of beauty, where no words
 Do justice to each sight and sound
 Incorporated in the plan,
 Or could describe each living thing
 That signifies God's love for man,
 When nature comes alive in spring.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

- HASKELL—
- East Side Baptist Church**
 Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 600 N. 1st East, Haskell
 - Christian Church**
 Jim McCurley, pastor
 Sun. 10:45 a.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**
 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., 10:45 a., 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., 10:45 a., 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., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.
 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**
 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
- God Loves You Ministries**
 Mark Wallace, pastor
 Church Service 10 a.m.
 West side of square, Haskell
- WEINERT—
- First Baptist Church**
 Dan Bullock, pastor
 Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.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
- 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

Passport Day set in Seymour Sat., March 27

On Sat., March 27, the Department of State will celebrate its second annual "Passport Day in the USA." U.S. citizens throughout the country can apply for a passport at any one of the 23 regional passport agencies without an appointment. With summer vacation right around the corner, now is the time to start making travel plans and apply for a passport.

The first Passport Day in the USA was held in March 2009. Over 57,000 passport applications were accepted at passport agencies and 2,000 passport acceptance facilities. This year, with the addition of new passport agencies in Detroit, Dallas, Minneapolis and Tucson, we expect that even more Americans will take the opportunity to apply for their passport on this special day.

"Passport Day in the USA is a great opportunity for Americans to apply for their passports," said Deputy Assistant Secretary for Passport Services, Brenda S. Sprague. "Since it is on a Saturday, people can drop by a passport agency or their nearest passport acceptance facility and still have plenty of time to enjoy their weekend."

On March 27, all passport agencies will be open and accepting passport book and passport card applications. The Seymour Post Office

will be open from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., with no need to schedule an appointment. Persons interested in applying for a U.S. passport must bring a certified birth certificate and valid driver license. Additional information about the event at the Seymour Post Office may be obtained by calling 940-889-3550.

Many other passport acceptance facilities around the country will also be hosting Passport Day in the USA events. U.S. citizens can visit www.travel.state.gov to find a participating passport acceptance facility near them and the event details. This website also contains complete passport information about what is needed to apply for a passport, as well as the application fees and processing times. U.S. citizens may also call the National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778.

Please note that since June 1, 2009 U.S. citizens have been required to present a passport book, passport card, or other travel document approved by the U.S. government when entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry. Additional information on travel requirements is available at www.getyouhome.gov.

Those in pain can relieve some suffering with meditation

Pain sufferers sometimes intensify their pain levels by adding layers of mental anguish, say UT Southwestern Medical Center psychologists. But, by learning and using mindfulness—attending to the present without judgment—the physical pain can be separated out from the surrounding mental distress, says Dr. Marty Lumpkin, a clinical psychologist.

"Fighting pain perpetuates and spirals it into the dimension of suffering," he says. "Mindfulness meets the pain with an attitude of allowing, not protesting."

Mindfulness is often learned through a form of meditation. Mindfulness meditation combines focusing on some present experience, like taking a breath, with open awareness to whatever else—sights, sounds, feelings, thoughts—

arises in the moment. Mindfulness involves five aspects:

- Intent—choosing to be in the moment;
- Wakeful energy—cultivating relaxed alertness;
- Attention—sustaining focus on some present experience instead of mental wandering;
- Awareness—open perception of all current experiences; and
- Acceptance—the attitude of non-judging or non-resistance to what arises in our experiences.

Dr. Lumpkin says that practicing mindfulness keeps us from contracting around the pain experience.

"It is a profoundly simple discovery," he says. "We find that it is our pain stories, not pain sensations, that make up most of our suffering."

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Garage Sale

GARAGE SALE: Sat. only! 508 S. 8th. 8 to ? Furniture, some tools, baby items. Lots of knick-knacks. 11p

ASPERMONT Community Wide Garage Sale, Sat., March 20. For information call 940-989-3197, to pick up maps come by Chamber of Commerce office at 612 Washington Street on Saturday. 11c

2 FAMILY YARD SALE: Fri.-Sat. 8 to 6. 604 N. 3rd St. Apt. 2A. New chrome pickup rims, jewelry, bikes, Hot Wheels, toys, Beanies, VCR tapes, kids clothing, other items. 11p

GIANT GARAGE SALE: Displays, health/beauty products, teacher supplies, comforters, bedspreads, small girls through teenage and adult clothes. Sat. 8 to 5. 307 N. Ave. G. 11p

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Real Estate

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WANTED: Spring turkey lease. Call Steve Ford 325-762-4441 or 325-762-2859. 11-12c

Help Wanted

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

THE HASKELL Police Dept. is taking applications for one certified police officer. Applications can be picked up at Haskell City Hall or mailed upon request by calling 940-864-2323 and leaving your name, address and phone number. For more information contact Haskell Chief of Police, Steven Grand, 940-864-2323. Position open until filled. Applications can be mailed to: Haskell Police Dept., Box 1003, Haskell, Texas 79521. 10-12c

HASKELL MEMORIAL Hospital is taking applications for a full time cook. Individual must be dependable, team-oriented, follow strict cooking schedules and have basic knowledge of portion control and measurements. Food service certification or prior related experience preferred, but will train right person. Applications are available at Haskell Memorial Hospital or can be mailed upon request by calling 864-2621. EOE. 10-11c

Miscellaneous

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

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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 8th day of March, 2010, by the Clerk thereof, in the case(s) styled as follows:

Cause No. 11,261: Styling, Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v. Lee Jenkins. Legal Description, 1. Lots 7, 8, 9, Block 29, Original Town Addition to the City of Rochester, Haskell County, Texas.

Cause No. 11,319: Styling, Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v. Harold Cagle, Ind/Heir of J.H. Cagle, Deceased, Unknown Heirs of. Legal description, 2. Lots 3, 4, Block A of the Haskins Addition to the City of Haskell, Haskell County, Texas.

Cause No. 11,421: Styling, Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v. John Narvais. Legal description, 3. Lot 1 Southeast Corner (65.5x84'), Block 51, Original Town Addition to the City of Haskell, Haskell County, Texas.

Cause No. 11,454:

Styling, Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v. Wilmer Clark and Mary Clark. Legal description, 4. Northeast Corner 150X168 out of Block 4, Outlot 88 of the Parsons Addition to the City of Haskell, Haskell County, Texas.

Cause No. 11,461: Styling, Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v. Barney Lou Ryan, Deceased, Unknown Heirs of. Legal description, 5. Lots 1-4, and Lots 7-12, Block 38, Original Town Addition to the City of Sagerton, Haskell County, Texas.

Cause No. 11,638: Styling, Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v. Paulette Hagle aka Yvonne P. Hagle. Legal description, 6. Lots 4 thru Lot 10, Block 23, Original Town Addition to the City of Rule, Haskell County, Texas.

and to me, as Sheriff,

directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell, at 2:30 o'clock p.m. on the 6th day of April, 2010, 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 8th day of March, 2010, 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 8th day of March, 2010.

David Halliburton, Sheriff, Haskell County, Texas
By: J. Torres, Deputy

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606 N. 5TH. Older home with large rooms on a nice corner lot and only five blocks to the downtown square. Dwelling has three large bedrooms, one bath, large living-dining and a large kitchen. Amenities include central heating and cooling, new flooring in bathroom and kitchen, new shower, water heater, new privacy fence, new doors and much more. There is an outside building that can be used for storage, a workshop or game room.

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1003 N. AVE. I. Two bedroom with large master, two bath, living, kitchen and dining and utility room. Home has central heating and cooling, new windows, a fenced yard and a carport for parking. This property would have low maintenance.

1004 UNION-RULE. Church building with heavy beamed ceiling in a large auditorium, choir loft, offices, beautiful stained glass windows, basement with a second story floor has multiple rooms and lots of storage. Building has many possibilities.

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City, County see decline in March sales tax receipts

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said the state collected \$1.60 billion in sales tax revenue in February, down 8.8 percent compared to February 2009.

"After eight straight months of double digit declines, sales tax losses have begun to moderate," Combs said. "Sales tax revenue continues to be down in

major sectors such as retail, oil and gas production and construction. However, there was a slight uptick in the manufacturing sector. We will keep monitoring the revenue, and as we have recently noted we expect further declines in the near term before a return to sales tax revenue growth later this year."

Combs delivered \$404.4 million in March sales tax payments to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts. Local sales tax allocations are down 6.7 percent compared to March 2009. So far this calendar year, local sales tax allocations are down 8.4 percent compared to the first

three months of 2009.

State sales tax revenue for February and March payments made to local governments represent sales that occurred in January.

Combs sent March sales tax payments of \$271.3 million to Texas cities, down 6.8 percent compared to March 2009. Texas counties will receive sales tax payments of \$24.4 million, down 11.2 percent compared to one year ago.

The 166 special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$15.8 million in sales tax revenue, down 8.4 percent compared to last March. Ten local transit systems received \$92.7 million, down 4.7 percent.

Haskell County had a 5.06 percent decrease for March 2010 of \$27,937.22 in comparison to \$29,428.04 for March 2009. 2010 payments to date of \$96,022.70 reflect a 1.81 percent decrease over 2009 payments to date of \$97,801.11.

The City of Haskell had a 7.74 percent decrease for March 2010 of \$25,275.50 in comparison to \$27,396.04 for March 2009. 2010 payments to date of \$87,660.81 reflect a 3.00 percent decrease over 2009 payments to date of \$90,377.53.

The City of O'Brien had a 675.49 percent increase for March 2010 of \$492.98 in comparison to \$63.57 for March 2009. 2009 payments to date of \$798.06 reflect a 197.87 percent increase over 2009 payments to date of \$267.92.

The City of Rochester had a 28.70 percent decrease for March 2010 of \$335.62 in comparison to \$470.75 for March 2009. 2010 payments to date of \$1,587.79 reflect a 5.27 percent decrease over 2009 payments to date of \$1,676.21.

The City of Rule had a 27.55 percent increase for March 2010 of \$1,673.82 in comparison to \$1,312.26 for March 2009. 2010 payments to date of \$5,415.37 reflect a 20.27 percent increase over 2009 payments to date of \$4,502.47.

The City of Weinert had a 14.08 percent decrease for March 2010 of \$159.30 in comparison to \$185.42 for March 2009. 2010 payments to date of \$560.67 reflect a 42.61 percent decrease over 2009 payments to date of \$976.98.

Medford receives scholarship



BRENNAN MEDFORD

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Scholarship winner Brennan Kyle Medford, son of Kendell and Emily Medford is from Paint Creek. Medford plans to attend Cisco Junior College for his basics, then on to Texas A&M majoring in Architecture and Engineering to become a Civil Engineer.

Medford is a fifth generation member of the Paint Creek community and has been a member of the Boy Scout Troop 136. He received his Eagle Scout Award last May. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Gifted and Talented. He was elected class president for six years, FFA chapter president two years and Paint Creek Student Council president his senior year. He was a regional qualifier for 100 meter sprint for three years, and the 200 meter sprint for two years. Medford has broken Paint Creek school

records in 100 and 200 meter sprints the past three years.

His hobbies are playing guitar and video games, woodworking, hunting, fishing, mechanics and the outdoors.

The second recipient, Renee Peters, is the daughter of Glenn and Deedee Peters of Seymour.

There are two contributing factors that make up the scholarship fund. The largest contributor is the Division of Unclaimed Property of Texas, which allows for a percentage of Santa Rosa Telephone yearly reported dollars of unclaimed or uncashed money to be placed in a scholarship fund. The other contributing factor is Santa Rosa Coop members and their families, who have donated their capital credit refunds to the scholarship fund.

Scholarship winners were determined by committee.

City Council report

The Haskell City Council met in a regular meeting Mon., March 8 with Mayor Bob Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Sue Medford and Councilmen Chan Guess, Randy Bowers, Robert Tribbey and Jason Hall in attendance.

The invocation was offered by Medford.

The presented update on the policy of the holiday pay schedule for the police department with suggested changes was approved. Only officers working on the day of the holiday will be paid an

hourly wage rate for working these hours or be offered an equal amount of comp time. This includes the day officer and the night officer. The policy is effective immediately.

The Civic Center board and possible alternatives were discussed.

In the City Administrator's report, Brandon Anderson stated:

Haskell will host a regional Texas Midwest Community Network meeting April 7 at the Haskell

National Bank Community Room. Those interested in attending should RSVP to Anderson.

The City election is slated for May 8.

Anderson will attend a wage and hour training meeting in Lubbock March 11.

Councilmen were given a copy of the response letter sent to TDA to ask for any type of forgiveness of the debt owed from the assisted living project.

Officer Bill Glass tendered his resignation from the City of Haskell Police Dept. on Tues., March 2.

The City has not been able to repair the roads due to the unusually wet weather this winter. Hopefully with some drying weather repairs can begin.

One Act Play schedules listed

UIL One Act Plays for 11A-Zone 1 will be held at Throckmorton High School Auditorium Sat., March 27, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Schools and their plays in order to be presented are as follows:

Knox City: Crimes of the Heart; Throckmorton: Steel Magnolias; Paint Creek:

Chamber Music; Woodson: The Tricks of Scapin; Rule: Ordinary People and Newcastle: Arsenic and Old Lace.

The two advancing plays from each zone contest will participate in the District 11A contest to be held at Aspermont High School Wed., March 31.



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