

Softball

HASKELL

Wichita Falls Tournament
Thurs.-Sat., March 1-3
at Wichita Falls

Baseball

HASKELL

Rock Field Classic-Early
Thurs., March 1, 1:30 p.m.
at Hamlin

Rock Field Classic-
Hermleigh
Thurs., March 1, 3:45 p.m.
at Hamlin

Rock Field Classic-Merkel
Sat., March 3, 9 a.m.
at Hamlin

Indians vs Winters
Mon., March 5, 4 p.m.
at Haskell

JV Indians vs Jim Ned
Mon., March 5, 6:30 p.m.
at Jim Ned

Track

HASKELL

V Roby Invitational
Sat., March 3 at Roby

Golf

HASKELL

Mon., March 5
Seymour Invitational
Boys 8:30 a.m.
Seymour Golf Club
Tues., March 6
Seymour Invitational
Boys & Girls 8:30 a.m.
Seymour Golf Club

Calendar

Pie contest

Do you remember the days of the County Fair when the ladies of the community entered their best pies? Well those days are here again. God Loves You Ministries will be sponsoring "The Pies Of Texas" Pie Baking Contest this year. The contest is open to all so challenge your neighbors, family or friends to enter and see who is the "Best Pie Baker" in Haskell County. Information, applications and rules are available at the Chamber of Commerce office, 940-864-2477; or the County Judge's office 940-864-2851.

Benefit lunch

A benefit lunch and auction will be held for Felix Cassidy Sat., March 3 at Macias Ballroom, South Hwy. 277 in Haskell. The lunch of enchiladas or carne gasada plate will be held from noon to 5 p.m. The silent auction will be held from noon to 9 p.m.

Relay for Life

The regular monthly update meeting for Relay for Life is set March 5 at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Munday. All committee members should attend the 5:30 p.m. meeting. The team meetings will follow at 6:30 p.m. Any interested person is welcome to attend.

Night of Plays

A Night of One Act Plays featuring the UIL entries of Hamlin, Haskell, Rule and Stamford will be held Mon., March 5 at the Haskell Memorial Civic Center. Plays begin at 5:30. Admission is \$3.

Rule banquet

Rule Chamber of Commerce will host their annual banquet Tues., March 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Rule School cafeteria. Tickets are available in advance from any Chamber member or at the door.

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Welcome to Texas Independence Day Haskell County Style

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 126-NO. 9, ©MARCH 1, 2012

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS



VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR—Leatrice and Charles Swinson of Haskell were named Volunteers of the Year at the 2012 Haskell Chamber of Commerce Banquet held Mon., Feb. 20 at the Haskell Civic Center. The couple continues to serve as tireless volunteers to their community.

Activities to fill the square Saturday

It's almost that time again—time to celebrate "Texas Independence Day Haskell County Style." This year's celebration will be held Sat., March 3 around the Courthouse and city square.

All the old favorite attractions, a Native American flint knapper with his Tepee, the different forts with Calvary, the cannon and soldiers, Drummer Boy Ice Cream will be back. Also back will be Native American games, which were a big hit with the kids last year and many others.

This year some new attractions and even some contests are planned.

One new attraction is the Dig N for Gold event for kids ages 8 and under. Coins will be scattered through a pile of sand and kids will be given 2 minutes to dig for gold. Each child will only be allowed to

win one gold dollar coin but there is no limit on other coins. Haskell National Bank is sponsoring Dig N for Gold. This activity and many others will begin at 10 a.m. around the courthouse square.

The sounds of gunfire will join the cannon bursts when the Texas Gunslingers will be entertaining crowds with gun fights featuring actors and actresses in authentic western regalia. In addition to the gun fights, the group will bring a western town, stagecoach and other Old

West items to the Haskell County square. First National Bank is sponsoring this event for everyone's enjoyment.

A pie contest, sponsored by God Loves You Ministries, will be held. Entries will be due by 10 a.m. Sat., March 3 at 9 Ave. E in Haskell. Proceeds benefit the ministry. Entry information is available at the Chamber of Commerce office or by calling Susan Cockerell at 864-2851.

Applications are now being accepted for vendor registrations for food or

crafts. All food vendors must have food handler safety certificates. Applications can be picked up in the County Judge's office or by calling Susan Cockerell at 940-864-2851 or 940-256-3296.

During the celebration, city streets around the courthouse square will be closed to facilitate the celebration. The area will be closed Fri., March 2 at 7 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., March 3. Closed will be Ave. D, Ave. E, N. 1st and S. 1st around the square.

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Brueggeman, Thomas to participate in FCA game

by Caron Yates
The 133 athletes and cheerleaders who will make up the all-star class for the 13th Annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes Myrle Greathouse All-Star Classic have been officially announced.

The 2012 All-Star Classic, a basketball-football doubleheader, is scheduled for Sat., June 2. The girl's basketball game at Abilene Christian University's Moody Coliseum will tip off at noon, followed by the football game at 7 p.m. at Shotwell Stadium.

All proceeds benefit the Big Country Chapter of FCA. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization, since 1954, has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high and youth levels to use the powerful medium of athletics to impact the world for Jesus Christ. It is the largest Christian sports organization in America.

On Sunday, Feb. 19, 109 players, 24 cheerleaders and the coaching staffs were introduced to the media and then attended orientation meetings with organizers and coaches.

All participants will be honored again at the All-Star Classic Induction Banquet on April 22 at the Abilene Civic Center.

The young All-Stars were

nominated by their coaches, and represent approximately 50 area schools, covering 36 counties. Teams, cheerleaders and coaches report for two-day practices in Abilene on Wed., May 30.

Haskell Indian Garrett Brueggeman, son of Danny and Connie Brueggeman, has been selected to be a part of the All-Star-North football team. The 5'10", 195 lb. offensive guard was earlier named to the 1st team All-District, as well as being chosen All-Big Country Honorable Mention for Class A.

Brueggeman participates

in football, band, UIL events and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is also on the student council.

He was state champion in UIL Mathematics and second in Calculator Applications his junior year. He served as captain of the football team and is senior class president. Brueggeman plans to attend Angelo State University, majoring in computer science and mathematics.

Haskell cheerleader Mackenzie Thomas, daughter of Joey and Tiffany Thomas, will cheer for the All-Star-North team. Thomas has

Maidens named to All-District teams

by Caron Yates

The Haskell Maidens placed several players on the District 9, 1A All-District basketball team.

The Newcomer of the Year Award went to Reagan Hadaway, a freshman at Haskell High School.

Junior Carson Hadaway, was selected for the 1st team All-District, while junior Caitlin Johnson and freshmen McKenzie Shelton were listed on the 2nd team All-District.

A notable percentage of the Haskell Maidens team was also named to the Academic All-District roster. They include Jacie Klose, Taylor Burson, Reagan Hadaway, Ashley Adams, Maci Colley, Dana Rodriguez, Carson Hadaway, and McKenzie Shelton. To qualify for Academic All-District, you must have a 90 or above grade average for the third and fourth six weeks.

The Maidens, coached by David Middleton, finished third in district behind Hamlin and Munday. They met Seymour in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

Congratulations to these Maidens for their outstanding work on the court, as well as in the classroom.



ALL-STAR PARTICIPANTS—Garrett Brueggeman, left, and Mackenzie Thomas, right, will participate in the 13th Annual FCA Greathouse All-Star Classic football game, scheduled Sat., June 2 at 7 p.m. at Shotwell Stadium in Abilene. Brueggeman will play for the North All Stars while Thomas will cheer for the North.

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

Rule ISD lists honor rolls for fourth six weeks

Rule ISD has released the names of students appearing on the A and A-B honor rolls for the fourth six weeks of school.

First grade: A honor roll, Karleigh Hertel, Kelly

Lowack, Cory Mathis and Austen Sanford; A-B honor roll, Julian Trevino.

Second grade: A-B honor roll, Jillian Herrera and Abigail Ortiz.

Third grade: A-B honor

roll, Carlos Cassal.

Fourth grade: A-B honor roll, Danny Kreger and Madalyn Navarrette.

Fifth grade: A honor roll, Kourtney Hertel; A-B honor roll, Del Fritzler, Leann Manske and Avery Tanner.

Sixth grade: A-B honor roll, Thomas Short.

Seventh grade: A-B honor roll, Alysia Hollabaugh.

Eighth grade: A honor roll, Sierra Faulkner; A-B honor roll, Gabriel Baiza, Samantha Lewis, Kade Lowack and Braden Tanner.

Ninth grade: A-B honor roll, Christina Herrera.

Tenth grade: A-B honor roll, Marissa Holder and Tamran Castillo.

Eleventh grade: A honor roll, Joshua Quintero; A-B honor roll, Darryl Williams.

Students listed on the perfect attendance rolls included:

Pre-K: Kaylee Silvas. Kindergarten: Astrid Guzman.

First grade: Sean Gatlin and Mason Whitehead.

Second grade: Hannah Ervin, Jillian Herrera, Patrick Lightfoot, Lenzi Manske, Abigail Ortiz, Alfonso Ramos and Bryson Silvas.

Third grade: Dean Kreger, Michael Medford, Hannah Sears and Taylor Silvas.

Fourth grade: Cheyenne Kreger, Danny Kreger, Jessica Ramos Cruz and Tyler Williams.

Fifth grade: Kourtney Hertel, Leann Manske and Avery Tanner.

Sixth grade: Rinaldo Chavez, Pablo Sandoval and Thomas Short.

Seventh grade: Alysia Hollabaugh and Abel Sandoval Cruz.

Eighth grade: Chris Holder and Braden Tanner.

Ninth grade: Josh Starr.

Eleventh grade: Jennifer Starr and Darryl Williams.



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Monday, March 5, 2012
Registration 6 p.m.
Business Meeting 7 p.m.

TAX PLANNING
Written By
Rick Rodgers, CPA



LAST-MINUTE TIPS FOR TRIMMING YOUR 2011 TAXES
Time is short, but it may not be too late to trim your 2011 tax bill. Here are some last-minute moves and deductions you shouldn't overlook.

Maximize your 2011 IRA contribution. You have until April 17 to make deductible 2011 contributions. The maximum contribution is \$5,000 for 2011 (\$6,000 if you were 50 or older last year).

If you changed jobs in 2011, make sure you didn't have excess social security taxes withheld. Claim credit for the excess on your Form 1040 if you paid over \$4,486.

Look into itemizing deductions if you usually take the standard deduction. Search for allowable deductions that you might have overlooked, such as the reinstated deduction for state and local sales taxes in lieu of deducting state and local income taxes.

Medical deductions are allowable to the extent they exceed 7.5% of adjusted gross income (AGI). Don't forget items such as eyeglasses and hearing aids. You can deduct mileage for medical appointments, plus parking and tolls.

Don't overlook tax preparation fees, safe deposit costs, and certain investment advice. They all qualify as miscellaneous deductions, subject to a 2% of AGI limit.

Up to \$2,500 of student loan interest is deductible whether you itemize or not.

The deduction of up to \$4,000 for qualified tuition and school expenses is available for 2011. Qualifying amounts for you, your spouse, and dependents may be deductible. Income limits apply.

If you're a teacher or teacher's aide, you can deduct up to \$250 for classroom supplies that you purchased with your own money.

The tax law is full of deduction restrictions and income limits. If that left you unable to take full advantage of certain losses, deductions, and credits in a prior year, check to see if you have some usable "carryforwards." The unused portion of prior-year items can often be carried forward to your current year to reduce your tax liability.

Call our office for details or tax filing assistance.

RODGERS & COMPANY
Certified Public Accountant
20 Southwest Third St. • Hamlin, Texas • 325-576-2356

Obituaries

Elida Lopez Reyna



ELIDA REYNA

Funeral services for Elida Lopez Reyna, 76, of Rochester were held Thurs., Feb. 23 at St. George Catholic Church in Haskell with Fr. George Roney officiating. Rosary was held Wed., Feb. 22 at the funeral home in

Rochester. Burial was at O'Brien Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of Haskell.

Mrs. Reyna passed away Sunday morning, Feb. 19 in Knox City.

Born March 3, 1935 in Roby, she was the daughter of Manuel and Maria (Marines) Lopez. She married Jessie Reyna in Benjamin, March 2, 1961 and they have resided in Rochester for 51 years. She was a homemaker and a member of St. George Catholic Church in Haskell.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Manuel and Maria Lopez, Sr.; three brothers, Max Lopez, Manuel Lopez, Jr., Alex Lopez; and a sister, Beatrice Longoria.

Survivors include her

husband, Jessie Reyna of Rochester; seven daughters, Stacy Reyna of Rochester, Olivia Saucedo of Richardson, Linda Hearn of Knox City, Chris Reyna of Abilene, Susan Webb of Rochester, Helen Lopez of Haskell, Anna Estrada of Fort Worth, and Teresa Estrada of Fort Worth; three sons, Billy Frausto of Dallas, Manuel Estrada, and Mark Estrada, both of Fort Worth; three brothers, Arthur Lopez of Fort Worth, Joe Lopez of Abilene, and Frank Martinez of Salina, Kansas; three sisters, Argentina Longoria, Dina Beltran and Tina Gomez, all of Stamford; 25 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren; and numerous great great grandchildren.

PD. NOTICE

E.L. 'Tick' Elmore



E.L. 'TICK' ELMORE

Funeral services for E. L. 'Tick' Elmore, 86, of Rule were held Sat., Feb. 25 at First Baptist Church in Rule with Rev. Mike Herrington and Rev. Russell Stanley officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery in Haskell under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of

Haskell.

Mr. Elmore passed away in Haskell Tues., Feb. 21.

Born Dec. 16, 1925 in Paint Creek, he was the son of James Frank and Rosie Lee (Terrell) Elmore. He married Venice Brewer Dec. 21, 1945 in Haskell. He and Venice have lived in Rule for 49 years during which, 'Tick' served as a deacon at the First Baptist Church for 43 years, served on the Rule Gin Board, Rule School Board, and the Haskell Hospital Board. He is the past recipient of the comeback farmer of the year award.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Rosie Elmore; brothers, Chester, Otis, J.W., and Doyle Elmore.

Survivors include his dear wife of 66 years, Venice

Brewer Elmore of Rule; two daughters, Elaine Gomillion and husband Wade of Rule, Paula Martin and husband Walter of Lake Dallas; son, Eddie Elmore of Leonard; grandchildren, Justin Holcomb and wife Alma of San Antonio, Venece and husband Chris Perepiczka of Anna, Nicole and husband Randy Spalding of Tuxedo, Stephanie and husband Ken Scruggs of Hendersonville, Tennessee, Elise Martin of San Augustine and Elizabeth and husband Wade Griffin of Fox, Oklahoma; great grandchildren, Emma Iliif, Rylea and Colten Spalding, Gavin and Gage Scruggs, and Addison Perepiczka.

Memorials may be made to Hendrick Hospice, 1682 Hickory Street Abilene, Texas 79601. PD. NOTICE

Paint Creek ISD honor rolls

Paint Creek ISD has announced the names of students listed on the A and A-B honor rolls for the fourth six weeks of school.

First grade: A honor roll, Alysha Mitchell, Levi Rhoads and Ragen Thompson; A-B honor roll, Gus Blair, Steelyn Blair, Kaiden Castillo, Brennan Jordan, Matthew Villarreal, Mason Webb, Autumn Westerman and Addi Yarbrough.

Second grade: A honor roll, Chris Acosta and Ethan

Jenkins; A-B honor roll, Aaron Lynskey, Christopher Pannell, Donovan Rodriguez and Jordan Westerman.

Third grade: A-B honor roll, William Bogle, Steven Crain, Dakota Davis, Danica Elias, Zakary Elkins, Gabe Mitchell, Gracie Oliver, Dylan Souther and Corbin Waggoner.

Fourth grade: A honor roll, Nancy Acosta and Tanner Booe; A-B honor roll, Kayla Bosnjak, Bobby Nieto and Jaclyn Snelling.

Fifth grade: A honor roll, Garrett Arendall; A-B honor roll, Manuel Acosta, Jr. Bogle, Bailey Hawkins, Gabe Todd, Antonio Yanez and Brittany Yanez.

Sixth grade: A-B honor roll, Felicity Hannsz and Katelyn Jenkins.

Seventh grade: A honor

roll, Catherine Lemond; A-B honor roll, Dakota Dawson, Corey Mengwasser, Melisa Rock and Buddy Trotter.

Eighth grade: A-B honor roll, Ben Steele.

Ninth grade: A-B honor roll, Hanna Colley, Caitlyn Mengwasser and Micah Waggoner.

Tenth grade: A honor roll, Kadie McCord; A-B honor roll, Hunter Hollingsworth, Marco Martinez, Cody Mayfield and Tarah Trotter.

Eleventh grade: A honor roll, Katie Jones; A-B honor roll, Matt Booe, River McTasney, Danielle Oliver and Jamie Todd.

Twelfth grade: A honor roll, Katie Bosnjak, Katrina Buerger, Caleb McCord, Haley Myers, Layne Petty and Felysha Walker.

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RE-ELECT JOHNNY SCOGGINS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1 HASKELL COUNTY



I am seeking re-election as County Commissioner Precinct #1, Haskell County. In the 11 years I have served in this position, we have updated all of our equipment and brought our roads to a higher level.

I spent 30 years in the Natural Gas Liquids Division for Cities Service, Occidental and Conoco Oil Companies. I was born, raised and lived my entire life west of Rochester on the family farm, where I raised mostly wheat, cotton and cattle.

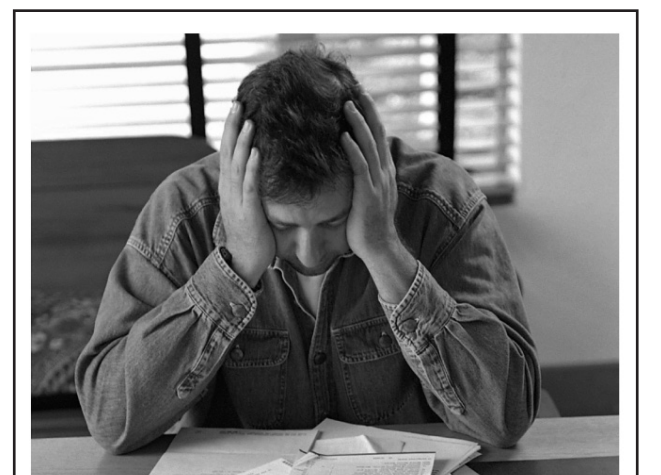
I have been a member of the Haskell County Historical Commission for 19 years, a member of the Haskell County Historical and Genealogical Society for 17 years, and am serving my 14th year as President of this organization. I am also serving my third term as a member of the Haskell County Appraisal District. I served on the Haskell County Junior Livestock Board of directors for 9 years and was co-chairman of the lamb show for 2 years. I still support 4-H and FFA as two of the best programs for our youth.

I have been married to my childhood sweetheart, Teresa Martin, almost 52 years. We have one daughter, Michelle Dunnam of Haskell, and one precious granddaughter, Shalee Dunnam.

If re-elected I will continue to devote my time to improving the roads in Precinct #1, and to work with Commissioners' Court to handle the county business as efficiently and economically as possible. Your vote and support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Johnny Scoggins

Pd. Pol. Adv. Pd for by Johnny Scoggins



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Pie contest set Sat., March 3

by Caron Yates

Get out the recipe box and heat up the oven, it is time for the Pie Baking Contest, being held in conjunction with Celebrate Texas Independence Day-Haskell County Style.

The contest is open to the public, with two age divisions, adult and seventeen years and younger. Due to safety regulations, only fruit pies and nut pies are eligible. Entry fee is two dollars, and pies and recipes must be submitted by 10 a.m., Sat., Mar. 3, to the God Loves You Ministries building on the west side of the square.

Mark Wallace, pastor at God Loves You Ministries,

says any money raised will be used to continue the mission and purpose of the church. It was about seven years ago Wallace said, when he began to feel God leading him to step out on faith and do more to minister to those in this community who were in need.

He says that although he offered many reasons why it wouldn't work, God just kept showing him the need and opening doors to make it happen. He began holding a Sunday night service in a room near an apartment complex in Haskell. While there were times, when no one came, people eventually began to see that he truly

cared and wanted to help meet their needs.

Before long, he knew God wanted him to take it to the next level. They began having Sunday morning services in a small music studio offered by Paul Gibson. Wallace says that it was unbelievable how people and businesses in the community began donating exactly what was needed, everything from chairs and pews to musical equipment.

As their ministry grew, so did the need for a larger place to hold worship services. Feeling that God needs to be seen everywhere, including downtown, they began negotiations to purchase the building they are presently in. Wallace recalls that as they were praying about how to work things out, he arrived home one day to a message on his answering machine. It was from a young man who simply said, "I have purchased the building for the use of your church."

Wallace is overwhelmed with the way God has

provided, through the generosity of so many, to keep the ministry strong. In fact everyone involved volunteers their services, in order to use all funds to promote their message, and that is "God Loves You." The church body feels that by helping individuals with their personal needs, be it food, rent, medicine or bills, they can better help with spiritual needs. Wallace says, "The idea is simple, when others see God's help through our actions, they see God's love."

Plan now to enter your favorite pie and win the honor of being the "Best Pie Baker" in Haskell County. If you don't have a pie to enter, then you can always stop by the God Loves You building and purchase a slice of pie, or even a whole pie, and that will help the cause as well. For more information contact the Haskell Chamber of Commerce office at 864-2477 or Susan Cockerell at 864-2851.

Rule ISD Employee Spotlight

Susan Carver of Knox City has been the Spanish teacher at Rule ISD for 30 years.

She has two grown children, Riley and Lacy. She has three grandchildren, Carson, Riley Paige and Julian.

She enjoys reading and getting together with her family.

Her favorite quote

is, "Don't worry about tomorrow...Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Mat. 6:34).

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Alzheimer's workshop set Mar. 6 in Abilene

The Alzheimer's Association-North Central Texas Chapter will offer a special presentation and workshop on Memories in the Making, an art program for people with memory loss. The workshop will be held from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Tues., March 6, at the Alzheimer's Association office, 301 S. Pioneer, Suite 105, Abilene. Everyone is welcome; there is no charge to attend.

A box of watercolor paints, a little inspiration, and guidance from a caring person is all it takes for someone with dementia to create a beautiful work of art. Memories in the Making is a method of inspiring, helping and encouraging people to express themselves creatively, regardless of the type or severity of their memory loss. The paintings created by participants in the program have been exhibited across North Central Texas.

Lisa Buck, Memories in the Making Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association, shares the philosophy, inspiration and method of painting with people with dementia. The presentation is richly illustrated with paintings and stories by people with dementia and

prepares people to facilitate MIM sessions on their own. Artists, volunteers, staff at area memory care facilities, and the simply curious are invited to find out why more than 20 chapters of the Alzheimer's Association nationwide offer Memories in the Making.

"This workshop is a way of introducing the program to a larger Abilene audience," says Buck. "Facilitating the painting sessions is an especially rewarding experience for volunteers. It only takes an hour a week, but the impact on the lives of people who have lost their hobbies and professions to dementia is tremendous."

Continuing education credit is available for activity professionals and social workers.

There is no charge to attend but reservations are required. For more information or to register, call Mindy Bannister at 325-672-2907 or 1-800-272-3900, or email mbannister@alz.org.

For more information about Memories in the Making, visit www.alz.org/northcentraltexas/in_my_community_memories_in_the_making.asp.

5K run/walk to be held Sat., Mar. 3

The Camo Chicks Relay For Life team is having a fund-raiser 5K run/walk in conjunction with the Texas Independence Day Celebration in Haskell. The 5K run/walk will start at 8:30 a.m. on the Haskell County Courthouse square Sat., March 3.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Haskell County Courthouse. Forms will be on a table on the first floor of the Courthouse. Pre-registration fee is \$20.

Registration fee on the day of the event is \$25, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. To receive a registration form by email, contact Terri Fillmon at 940-256-0259 or Stacia Leach at 940-256-0685. First 100 participants will be guaranteed a t-shirt. A registration form may be downloaded at www.abilenerunners.com.

All proceeds of the event will go towards the Knox-Haskell County Relay for Life.

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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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Macy Hindman and Will Kitley
Ariel Ingram & Judson McDonald
Tiffany Wilde and Gilbert Saucedo

Baby Shower Registry
Destini Cooke
Shanna and Jason Daniels

The Haskell Drug Store is on Facebook!
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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Court favors landowners in water rights case

AUSTIN—A Texas Supreme Court opinion delivered last week in the case Edwards Aquifer Authority v. Day can be boiled down to this: the rights of property owners to the water under their land outweighs governmental control of access to that water.

Justice Nathan Hecht, author of the opinion dated Feb. 22, wrote that the landowners have a constitutionally protected interest in the groundwater beneath their property and that groundwater cannot be taken for public use without adequate compensation guaranteed by the Texas Constitution.

The court affirmed an appellate court ruling and remanded the case to the district court for further proceedings. The case was brought by farmer-ranchers near Von Ormy in Atascosa County, near San Antonio.

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples and a coalition of private property owners' rights advocates applauded the decision.

But the Edwards Aquifer Authority said the ruling could prove problematic for local water districts whose job it is to manage and conserve water supplies.

Report shows lag in insurance

Among working Texans age 65 or younger, 51.1 percent did not have health care coverage through their employer in 2009-2010. This calculation puts Texas at 48th among the 50 states. Only New Mexico with 48.6 percent and Mississippi with 48.4 percent ranked lower.

The information was published in a Feb. 23 report by the Austin-based Center for Public Policy Priorities using statistics from the Washington, D.C.-based Economic Policy Institute. The report shows a decline in coverage by Texas employers in the period between 2000-2001 and 2009-2010.

Center for Public Policy Priorities policy analyst Stacey Pogue said the information indicates small employers need the support and protection of federal health care reform. State-based affordable health care exchanges mandated by the U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 are scheduled to become available to employers by 2014.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and the attorneys general of 25 other states have united in the opinion that the federal health care law violates the U.S. Constitution by forcing citizens to buy health insurance.

The federal health care law, referred to by some as "Obama Care," on Jan. 1, 2014, will impose an annual penalty of \$95, or up to 1 percent of

income, whichever is greater, on individuals who do not secure health insurance coverage.

Abbott, AGs, call on Google Attorney General Abbott last week issued a statement after joining a coalition of state attorneys general who wrote to Google expressing concerns about planned changes in the Internet search engine company's privacy settings set to take effect March 1.

To quote: "By unilaterally consolidating users' personal data from multiple but previously distinct platforms and failing to allow users to opt-out, Google is depriving its customers of an opportunity to control how their personal information is used and shared. A bipartisan coalition of states is urging Google to reconsider and work with us to ensure that millions of consumers' privacy is properly protected."

The National Association of Attorneys General listed key concerns as follows:

- Google's new policy appears to invade consumer's privacy by automatically sharing personal information that users input into one Google product with all Google products—without affording users a genuine opportunity to opt-out of having their information shared;

- Computer users—particularly business and government computer users—who wish to avoid Google's information sharing would be forced to incur significant expenses associated with switching their operations to different platforms; and

- Google's new policy is incompatible with Google's long-standing promise to respect consumers' privacy.

Tuition plan enrollment ends

Comptroller Susan Combs on Feb. 24 posted a reminder that Feb. 29 is the deadline for enrollment in the state's prepaid college tuition program.

Under the plan, Combs said, families can prepay tuition and required fees for a four-year degree, two years of community college or just a few semesters at Texas public colleges and universities by purchasing tuition units.

July 31, however, is the enrollment deadline for parents of newborns and children under one year old.

Date for primaries still up in air

Because of ongoing legal disagreements over the drawing of state House districts and U.S. congressional districts, the earliest date party primaries can be held has moved continually later over the last few months.

March 6 was the original scheduled date. The current but tentative seeming date is April 3. But an array of calculations push the date to late April, late May and even late June.



From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago February 28, 2002

Shane Hadaway, Haskell High graduate and community leader was named Citizen of the Year at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet. He demonstrates a deep love for the county and town along with a dedication to seeing it expand and prosper.

Winners in the Soil Conservation Poster contest were fourth graders Brooke Bullinger, McKenzie Barrington and Breanna Villa; fifth graders Brittany Garison, Samantha Rodriguez and Paige Adams; sixth graders Derek Agraz, Hannah Page and Paige Wheatley.

Henrietta Druessedow Fisher was honored on her 80th birthday with a reception held by her children. She was a graduate of Mattson High School and was married to Herbert Fisher for fifty-four years.

20 Years Ago February 27, 1992

Hegan Lamb of the Paint Creek FFA, showed the reserve champion Hampshire barrow at the 43rd annual San Antonio Stock Show.

Kayce Nemir, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Nemir of Haskell, was initiated into Alpha Gamma Delta Epsilon Rho chapter at Texas A&M University.

Members of the undefeated eighth grade Warriors include Brett Proctor, Jeremy Futch, Mik Everett, Justin Stewart, Christopher Tatum, Jace Yates, Justin Lisle, Joseph

Thigpen, Josh Gordy, Frankie Masias, Cory Green and Cody Cooley. They were coached to a 16-0 season by John Foster.

30 Years Ago March 4, 1982

Bennita Mitchell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Jackson of Haskell, has been promoted to Administration Supervisor at 2RW-REDA Pump in Midland.

Matt Langford, a senior accounting major at McMurry College, has returned from a study trip to London, England. It was sponsored by the Business Department at Hardin-Simmons University. He is the son of Harley and Wanda Langford of Rule.

Officers for the Chamber of Commerce for 1982 will be Gene Long, president; Hank Sherman, first vice-president; Bill Lane, Jr., second vice-president; Mike Harrell, treasurer; Wanda Dulaney, manager-sec.; and Joe Alves, West Texas C of C director.

40 Years Ago March 2, 1972

Janie Ahman and Patsy Crockett completed requirements for a degree from North Texas State University. Ahman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Kennedy of Haskell, received a Bachelor of Science in physical education. Crockett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Cunningham of Rt. 1, Weinert, earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education.

Haskell County Justice of the Peace H.M. Bledsoe,

completed a forty hour educational training in Lubbock, conducted by the Texas A&M University Police Training School.

The Haskell High School student body voted Pat Harris as Miss HHS and Steve Guess as Mr. HHS. Representing the school as Mr. and Miss Spirit are Danny Smith and Ellen Walling.

50 Years Ago March 1, 1962

Haskell Maidens earning All-District honors were 1st team LaVern Jones, forward and Nancy Hollar, guard; 2nd team Patsy Robertson, forward and Julie Drinnon, guard; and honorable mention Sue Christian, guard.

Presenting the flag at a "Thinking Day" ceremony for Girl Scouts were Dara Stephens, Sheila Gilleland and Debbie Darnell.

Army 2nd Lt. Waller Overton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Overton, completed the officer orientation course at the Armor School, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

100 Years Ago March 2, 1912

W.H. Murchison returned from Austin, where he argued the McWhirter case from this county. He reports the Attorney General has admitted error in the case and he believes it will be reversed.

Mr. and Mrs. S.W. Scott have returned from New Orleans where they have been visiting friends and attending Mardi Gras.

City Council report

The Haskell City Council met in a regular meeting Mon., Feb. 27 with Mayor John Gannaway, Mayor Pro Tem Randy Bowers, Councilmen Stacy Bridges, Sue Medford, Dan Hoover and Jill Druessedow in attendance.

The previous minutes were approved as corrected.

Lois Rockefeller, prospective attorney for the city, gave a presentation of her law firm.

The fire department's proposal for a new truck was tabled until a later date.

Council approved starting the process of putting the acreage south of town out for bids.

Matthew Duran, Director of Public Works/Safety, gave an update on several work projects going on with the city at this time.

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

- The annual Spring Clean-Up week will be held in April or May, so begin getting your projects ready.

- Anderson will attend a "Water in Texas" seminar in Austin March 1-2.

- Texas Independence Day Haskell County Style will be held Sat., March 3.

- Wild Horse Prairie Cook-off will be held April 27-28.

- The Haskell Civic Center Board will host the Night of One Act Plays Mon., March 5. Plays from Haskell, Stamford, Rule and Hamlin will be presented.

- The City is working with the school to fix an unauthorized reroute of a sewer line with their current construction project.

Correction

In the story about the alumni game in the Feb. 23 issue of the Haskell Free Press, the headline should have read: Alumni game set March 10.

Ask the Mayor

By John Gannaway, Mayor of the City of Haskell

Needless to say, there have been lots of surprises since becoming your Mayor, but the biggest surprise of all was last Monday night at the Chamber of Commerce banquet. I was pleased that Robert and Suzanne Starr, Tommy and Selina McGuire, and Robert and Jerita Howard were all in attendance and I just assumed they were there because they all had roots and interests in Haskell. But, boy oh boy, was I shocked, surprised, humbled, honored and many other feelings when I was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Chamber. I could ramble on and on but the most appropriate thing I can say is, "Thanks." Like I have said before and will continue to say, it is not because of me, it is because of us, each and every one of you, that good things are happening in our town. Also, a big congratulations to Charles and Leatrice Swinson for being named the Volunteers of the Year. I will tell you a story about him next week.

I have written letters inviting the art students

from six universities to come and participate in our Texas Independence Day Celebration and received a response from only McMurry University. I was told that they had given the information to their students and they would call me if interested. I'm still waiting for the phone to ring. All we can do is offer the invitation.

Even though our Art Walk has not worked out to date, it is going to be a big and exciting celebration. Kids will be allowed to Dig for Gold, our new sound system will be in operation around the square, a pie baking contest, homemade ice cream that will put the pounds on you even as you look at it, more than 15 antique cars to bring back memories, law enforcement booths and much more. I am going to get there before 10 a.m. and stay until the very end in hopes that I can partake of all the activities—sounds like a full day.

The EMTs have once again contacted the city asking that I again address the issue of lack of address numbers on

houses or on the curbs. So, one more time, please put your house number either on your curb or on your house where it is clearly visible. Some cities have ordinances requiring citizens to identify their house or apartment with reflective numbers that are from 3-5 inches tall. Your City Council has not had this item come before them yet but we may have to put it on the agenda soon. I am sure that everyone feels they don't need a number on their house because 'everyone knows where I live.' Not necessarily so. When you pick up the phone and call for help and they don't arrive in time to address the problem and a disaster occurs because they couldn't find your house—this would be horrible. Proper identification of your property is cheap compared to the loss of life or the loss of property.

I have noticed that two more buildings around the square have recently sold. This is excellent. To me, there is nothing more depressing than driving through a town and seeing one vacant

building after another. I think it would be a very good idea if we would put something in the windows of our vacant buildings to make them look occupied.

The fourth mistake on city web sites is out-of-date information. This type of information is probably worse than erroneous info. The Internet is a dynamic, fast-changing tool. The information about our city is also changing and we need to make certain that it is current.

Congressman Randy Neugebauer and Texas Agricultural Commissioner Todd Staples were in town last week to meet and greet. Congressman Neugebauer was here because if and when redistricting is completed, Haskell County may well be in the 19th District. Commissioner Staples was here to talk about agriculture. We appreciate both these gentlemen taking time out of their busy schedules to visit our fair city. Are we suddenly getting on the political radar screen for some other reason? Interesting thought.

The Haskell Free Press

Established January 1, 1886
 PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
 420 North First Street • P. O. Box 555
 HASKELL, TEXAS 79521
 Phone 940-864-2686 • Fax 940-864-2687
 hfp@valornet.com

John McDougalPublisher
 Lisa ShawBusiness Manager
 Doris McDougalProduction
 Caron Yates.....Editor

Periodical Paid Haskell, Texas 79521
 (USPS 237-040)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

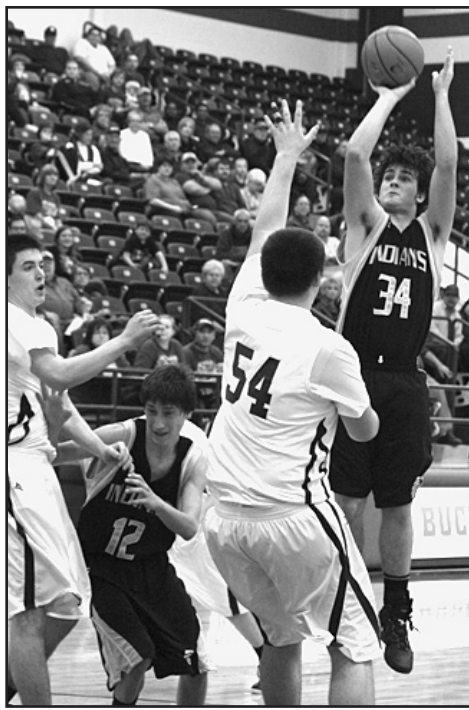
Haskell County, one year, \$25.00.
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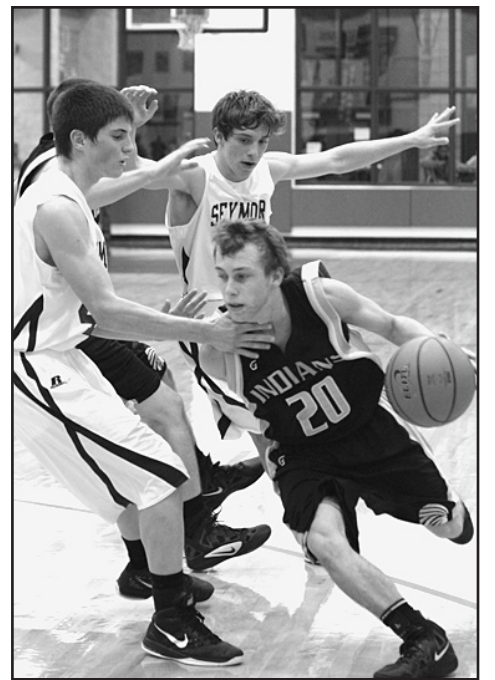
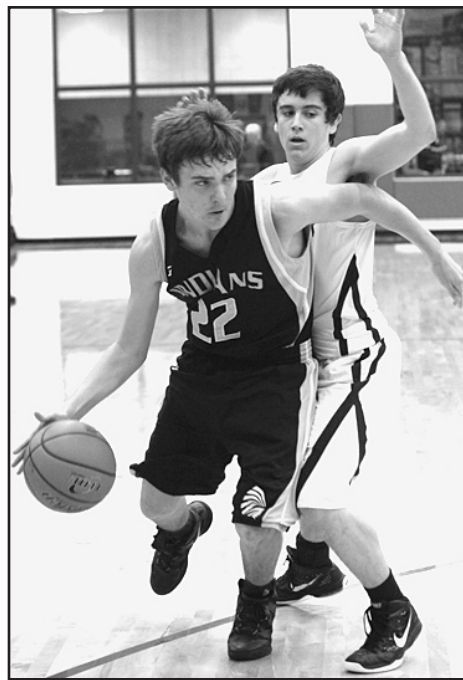
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Haskell Free Press, P.O. Box 555, Haskell, TX. 79521-0555.

This issue mailed Wed., Feb. 29, 2012





INDIANS UNDER THE BASKET—Haskell Indian #30 Brett Shelton, left, rebounds the ball during the Seymour playoff game. Senior Indian #34 Sterling Bird, right, puts points on the board against the Panthers. Bird had four points for the evening. Shelton posted 2 points.



INDIANS MOVE THE BALL—Haskell Indian Senior #22 Brady Leach, left, battles to the basket against a Seymour Panther during the playoff game on Mon., Feb. 20. Indian #20 David Newton, right, meets opposition as he attempts to drive to the basket. Seymour moved up in the playoff brackets by defeating the Indians 51-25. Leach posted 13 points during the game.

Calendar

Texas celebration

The Texas Independence Day Haskell County Style celebration will be held Sat., March 3 around the Courthouse and city square. Applications for food vendor and craft booth registration may be made by visiting the County Judge's office or by calling Susan Cockerell at 940-864-2851 or 940-256-3296.

Night of Plays

A Night of One Act Plays featuring the UIL entries of Hamlin, Haskell, Rule and Stamford will be held Mon., March 5 at the Haskell Memorial Civic Center. Plays begin at 5:30. Admission is \$3.

Cantata rehearsals

Community wide Easter cantata rehearsals will be held Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. at the East Side Baptist Church. Child care is provided. For more information, call 864-2738.

Box Tops drive

The Haskell Elementary PTO and students are collecting Box Tops for Education. Box Tops for Education are found on many grocery and other items. Each box top turned in equals 10 cents for our school. Over \$500 in box tops for the fall semester were turned in. Box tops from anyone will be accepted to help us beat the amount collected in the fall semester. If any businesses would like a collection jar for Box Tops, one can be provided. For more information, email haskellelementarypto@gmail.com or leave a message with the elementary school secretary.

Texas flags

Citizens are invited to sponsor a Texas flag for the Celebrate Texas Independence Day—Haskell County Style. The Committee to Help Haskell County needs sponsors for 40 flags which will be flown March 2, Texas

Independence Day and March 3. Flags may also be used on other special days like Wild Horse Prairie Days and 4th of July. For more information contact Susan Cockerell at 864-2851 or Billie McKeever at 864-4814 or any committee member.

Relay for Life

To sign up for a team for the Knox-Haskell Relay for Life visit www.relayforlife.org/knohxaskelltx or call Becky or Carla at 940-864-3050.

Alumni game

Individuals who attended Haskell High School or a consolidated school with Haskell CISD or who have a son who played baseball for the Indians are eligible to play the 2012 Haskell Indians in an Alumni game Sat., March 10 at 4 p.m. at Indian Field. Entry fee is \$20. All alumni playing will receive a t-shirt. The field will be available for practice at 1 p.m. March 10. Hamburger meals will be available throughout the game. All proceeds go towards scholarship money for Haskell High School student athletes. Registration will begin at 3 p.m. before the game. For more information, contact Josh Damron at 903-267-2129.

Deadlines

All deadlines for issues of the Haskell Free Press are at noon on Mondays.

Donations

Noah Project—North is now accepting donations for the dinner/silent auction to be held at the Haskell Civic Center Sat., April 21. All monetary and item donations are appreciated. Call 940-864-2551 if you have questions or need someone to pick up an auction item. You may mail your monetary donations to the Noah Project—North, P. O. Box 52, Haskell, Texas 79521.

Concert

Tribute will be in

concert Sun., March 4 at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 220 S. 5th Ave., Munday. For more information, call 940-422-4559.

40 Days

40 Days of Purpose Campaign has begun at First Baptist Church in Haskell. The campaign will be held through Sun., March 25. Call 864-2581 for details.

Volleyball night

First Baptist Church in Haskell is hosting an open gym for volleyball every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. Adult and high school volleyball players are welcome to come and play. There is no charge. Parents who bring their children must supervise them at all times. For more information, call the church office at 864-2581.

Cancer support

The Haskell Area Cancer Support group meets the last Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Haskell Memorial Hospital Educational Building. For more information, call 325-864-4466.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon meets Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. at the AA building across from the RV park in Haskell.

Teamkid

Teamkid "Jumping the Hurdles" meets on Wednesdays from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at the Family Activity Center of the First Baptist Church in Haskell for students ages 4 years through the sixth grade. Parents may call the church office at 864-2581, if their child needs a ride.

Join Booster Club

To become a member of the Haskell Athletic Booster Club call Barbara Utley 940-256-0972 or Billie Lindsey at 864-2602. The club dues benefit all athletes in all sports. Dues are \$15.

Wildflowers blooming across Texas this spring

Timely rains last fall and this winter have benefited early spring wildflowers, which will likely put on a good show in much of Texas despite last year's drought, according to the senior botanist at The University of Texas at Austin's Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

"The seeds left behind by annual wildflowers such as bluebonnets don't care if it's the worst drought in recorded history, as long as they get bouts of rain at the right time for germination and growth," said Damon Waitt, who also is the center's senior director.

The bumper crop of wildflowers in 2010 also helped add to the seed stockpile in Texas soils that can be revived by recent rains. Rain showers should provide decent viewings in regions of North, Central and East Texas. However, it is possible that the Panhandle, South and West Texas won't fare as well.

Among the early sightings of wildflowers this year are: Carolina jessamine blooming in North Houston along FM 1960, and along Woodlands Parkway between Interstate 45 and Kuykendahl Road; hundreds of trout lilies blooming in Dogwood Canyon and elsewhere around Dallas; Texas mountain laurel trees blooming in Dripping Springs and Austin; and patches of stiff greenthread spotted in north San Antonio, such as along U.S. 281 above North Loop 1604.

Complementing these sightings will be a bumper crop of Texas bluebonnets and other wildflowers at the Wildflower Center and sites such as Brenham and the Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens in Houston. Bluebonnet rosettes the size of dinner plates are hugging the ground at the Wildflower Center, and Texas mountain laurel, windflower, plains fleabane and Mexican plum trees are already blooming.

Other early spring bloomers will include

Indian paintbrush, winecup and Indian blanket. Center staffers will mark peaceful spots for taking bluebonnet photos. And a sneak peak of bluebonnets growing on site is available online via live broadcast.

Regions that missed pre-season rains may still have drought-tolerant wildflowers that bloom. For instance, Fendler's bladderpod may become noticeable soon near Amarillo. A Wildflower Center plant conservationist has also seen a few Big Bend bluebonnets and yucca prepping to open blooms in the national park. The outlook may not be great for many tree species, such as Mexican plum and Texas redbud in Central Texas, though.

"Trees had such a tough year in 2011. They may not have the energy resources to put on a significant flowering display this year," Waitt said, adding that perennial wildflowers may share that predicament.

For public sightings, visit the Wild About Texas Wildflowers website, contact the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) at 1-800-452-9292, or view TxDOT's online flora map.

To learn more about wildflowers nationally, search the Wildflower Center's Native Plant Information Network. To purchase seeds to sow of mid- to late bloomers or potted native plants, visit the suppliers directory.

Texas flag donors listed

The Committee to Help Haskell County is listing more names of those who have sponsored the Texas Flags.

Rotary Club, Haskell

Ambulance Service, First National Bank, The Carousel, Wild Horse Trading Post (2), Mary M. Byrd, and Memory Lane Assisted Living.

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 Si contesta si a uno de las preguntas y vive en los condados de Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall o Throckmorton, es possible usted puede elegible para ayuda del **Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc. El Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)** y los fondos del **Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)** están usado por ASBDC, INC. para suministrar servicios a las familias con ingresos bajos. Hay un proceso de application a determinar elegibilidad para ayuda. Llame usted ASBDC, INC. para mas información o si tiene preguntas.

940-989-3538 o 800-722-0137

DO YOU NEED HELP . . .

Paying a utility bill?
 Getting eyeglasses or dental work?
 Paying an eviction or disconnection notice?
 Setting goals to achieve energy self-sufficiency or overcome poverty?
 Because you are elderly or disabled, trying to live on a fixed income?
 If you answered **YES** to any of the above questions and live in Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall or Throckmorton counties, you may be eligible for assistance from the **Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc.** The Community Services Block grant (CSBG) and the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) funds are used by ASBDC, Inc. to provide services to low-income households. There is an application process to determine eligibility for assistance, so call ASBDC, Inc. for more information.

940-989-3538 or 800-722-0137



GRAND CHAMPION DUROC—Claire Carmichael of Haskell, center, showed the Grand Champion Duroc at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo held Feb. 20. Carmichael is a member of Haskell FFA. Her barrow, Uh-Huh, was bred by Risky May. Carmichael plans to attend either TCU or Oklahoma State University.

Clip-Out

2012 INDIAN-MAIDEN GOLF SCHEDULES

Date	Team	Tournament	Place	Tee Time
March 5	Boys	Seymour Invitational	Seymour Golf Club	8:30 a.m.
March 6	B/G	Seymour Invitational	Seymour Golf Club	8:30 a.m.
March 19	B/G	River Creek Tourney	River Creek Club, Burkburnett	9 a.m.
March 19	Boys	Munday Invitational	Munday Golf Club	8 a.m.
April 2	B/G	District 13-A	River Creek Club, Burkburnett	9 a.m.
TBA	B/G	Regional Qualifiers	TBA	TBA
April 16-19	B/G	Region II	TBA	TBA
May 2-4	B/G	State	Austin	7 a.m.

HEAD COACH: David Middleton

Rule School Menu

March 5-9 Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Sausage biscuit, Berry Puffs cereal, mixed fruit
Tuesday: Biscuits with sausage, gravy, Lucky Charms cereal, peaches
Wednesday: Breakfast taco, Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, green applesauce
Thursday: Waffles with syrup, Cocoa Puffs cereal, pears
Friday: Breakfast biscuit, Trix cereal, applesauce

Lunch
 Milk and slushy are served daily.
Monday: Ravioli with roll, sweet corn, green peas, mixed fruit, red applesauce
Tuesday: Frito chili pie, glazed carrots, crackers, apple, lettuce and cheese
Wednesday: Beef and bean burrito, corn, refried beans, applesauce, pears
Thursday: Steak fingers with gravy and roll, scalloped potatoes, green beans, fresh fruit, crackers
Friday: Turkey on a bun, lettuce and cheese, fritos, fruit, cookie

Haskell School Menu

March 5-9 Breakfast
 Milk is offered daily.
Monday: Biscuits with sausage gravy or Berry Puffs cereal, peaches, apple juice
Tuesday: Cinnamon toast or Lucky Charms cereal, majestic pears, orange juice
Wednesday: Scrambled eggs with sausage or Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, mixed fruit, fruit punch juice
Thursday: Pancakes with syrup or Cocoa Puffs cereal, sour green applesauce, apple juice
Friday: Cinnamon roll with sausage or Trix cereal, pears, orange juice

Lunch
 Milk is offered daily at all cafeterias. Iced tea is offered at the high school cafeteria only. An energy meal includes a sandwich and a cookie.
Monday: Choice of one: Italian beefy macaroni with roll or Italian antipasto salad with salami or energy meal with bologna and cheese; Choice of up to three: glazed carrots, sweet corn, fresh kiwi fruit, cinnamon apple slices, white slushy
Tuesday: Choice of one: Chicken nuggets with gravy and roll or fajita chicken salad or energy meal with turkey and cheese; Choice of up to three: mashed potatoes, green beans, whole wheat crackers, majestic pears, white slushy
Wednesday: Choice of one: Chicken fajita enchiladas or garden pasta salad or energy meal with ham and cheese; Choice of up to three: Mexicali corn, charro beans, fresh orange, mixed fruit, white slushy
Thursday: Choice of one: Baseball Park hot dog or zesty tuna salad or energy meal with tuna salad; Choice of up to three: Scalloped potatoes, whole wheat crackers, sour green applesauce, peaches, white slushy
Friday: Ham and cheese sandwich, assorted chips, fresh fruit, chocolate chip cookie, white slushy

Paint Creek School Menu

March 5-9 Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Waffles
Tuesday: Biscuits, sausage, gravy
Wednesday: Pancakes
Thursday: Breakfast bagels
Friday: Donuts

Lunch
 Milk is served daily.
Monday: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, corn, gravy, rolls, apple crisp
Tuesday: Tater tot casserole, green beans, salad, bread, oranges
Wednesday: Chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese, peas, salad, cobbler
Thursday: Burritos, beans, salad, fruit
Friday: Ham sandwiches, salad, cheese, chips, rice krispies

ECC Menu

Mon., March 5
 Meatballs with tomato gravy, mashed potatoes, turnip greens, rolls, peach cobbler, tea or coffee

Fri., March 9
 Creamy mushroom steak, cream potatoes, blackeyed peas, cornbread, jello, brownie, tea or coffee

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

BCEC announces Youth Tour Speech contest winners

The annual Big Country Electric Cooperative Government-In-Action Youth Tour speech contest was held Feb. 20 at the Roby High School Auditorium. Out of an outstanding 18 competitors, three winners were selected, Annie Martin of Stamford, Molly Spraberry of Anson, and Regan Head of Snyder. They will join 1,500 other teens from across the country for a 9-day all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June. Along with the trip to D.C., the students will each receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Hannah Herring of Snyder receives a \$1,500 scholarship and will serve as alternate in the event one of the students is unable to go on the trip. The purpose of this tour is to provide an opportunity for youth to visit monuments, government buildings and cooperative related organizations in order to become familiar with the historical and political environment of our nation's capital. They will enjoy the best of Washington, D.C., tour the Smithsonian Institute, Ford's Theatre, the FBI Building, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, Mount Vernon and countless other points of interest. The students will experience the sight of Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Memorial, and the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They will visit their Congressman's office and find out face to face what's going on in national government. Their Congressman will meet with the students and answer questions about current governmental issues. Big Country Electric Cooperative is excited to offer our area youth a chance for such an experience. Other contestants were Zach McMeans of Borden County, Shelby Harris of Roby, Brittany Birkenfeld of Ira, Justin Clifton of Snyder, Darrell Buratti of Rotan, Katie Jones of Paint Creek, Micah Birdsong of Stamford, Marissa Moroz of Stamford, Blair McCowen of Ira, Alyssa Clawson of Hamlin, Catie Anderson of Hermleigh, Garrett Brueggeman of Haskell and Dallas Whitefield of Roby.

Help support the Wall of Honor Project by donating your aluminum cans/scrap metal!

This Week's Devotional Message:
 Apply the lessons of the Sabbath all the rest of the week



At the place where you worship the sermons compel
 That you contemplate mending your ways;
 After which you are told to remember this well,
 For the week has another six days.
 You consider that service an hour well-spent;
 Where the guidance of God will abound;
 And with all good intentions you try to repent,
 For temptations are always around.
 But those wonderful lessons you're apt to ignore
 For the rest of the week, as we know;
 So just carry them with you right out of the door.
 And apply them wherever you go.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

- HASKELL**
- East Side Baptist Church**
 Jay Beerley, Senior pastor
 Shawn Smith, Youth Worship pastor
 Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 600 N. 1st East, Haskell
 - Christian Church**
 Frank Slayton, minister
 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**
 Rev. David White, 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., 10:45 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 607 S. 7th, Haskell
 - First United Methodist Church**
 Rev. Dustin Wilhite, 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
- First Baptist Church**
 Rev. Jim McCurley
 Jason Daniels, minister of Youth and Music
 Sun. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m.
 301 N. Ave. E, 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 Omegs
 Manuel Marin, pastor
 Sun. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
 500 Elm Street, Rule
- Sweet Home Baptist Church**
 Russell Stanley, interim pastor
 Sunday 9 a.m.
 Gladstone Ave., Rule
- West Bethal Baptist Church**
 Rev. Clovis Dever
 Sun. 10 a., 11:00 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

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USDA announces new highly erodible cropland initiative for CRP

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Vilsack made the announcement via video to attendees of the National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic, held Feb. 17-19 in Kansas City, Missouri. The new initiative will assist producers with targeting their most highly erodible cropland (land with an erodibility index of 20 or greater) by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. With the use of soil survey and geographic information system data, local FSA staff can quickly determine a producer's eligibility for the initiative.

"As we work towards President Obama's vision for an economy that is built to last, America's natural resources must play an

important role. Lands in CRP help support strong incomes for our farmers and ranchers and are the source of good middle class jobs related to outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing," said Vilsack. "This announcement will strengthen CRP by focusing on protecting the most environmentally sensitive land. It targets limited resources where they can make the most difference for farmers, ranchers and to drive economic growth. I urge landowners who have highly erodible land to visit their county office to learn more about this program."

Lands eligible for this program are typically the least productive land on the farm. In many cases the most cost-effective option to reduce erosion is to put the land into a wildlife friendly cover, which will improve habitat and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and reduce wind erosion. For 25 years, CRP has improved water and air quality, preserved habitat for wildlife, and prevented soil erosion. Programs such as CRP are important conservation

safeguards. They prevent the return of the dust storms of the 1930s and the ravages of unmitigated gully erosions of our past.

CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Through this initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land can be enrolled on a continuous basis for a period of 10 years. Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this sign-up provided all eligibility requirements are met. Current CRP participants with eligible land expiring on Sept. 30, 2012, may make new contract offers.

CRP has a 25-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

In addition to the announcement, USDA will conduct a four-week CRP general sign-up, beginning on March 12 and ending on April 6. Currently, about 30 million acres are enrolled in CRP.

CRP continues to make major contributions to national efforts to improve water and air quality, prevent soil erosion by protecting the most sensitive areas including those prone to flash flooding and runoff. At the same time, CRP has helped increase populations of pheasants, quail, ducks, and other rare species, like the sage grouse, the lesser prairie chicken, and others. Highlights of CRP include:

- CRP has restored more than two million acres of wetlands and two million acres of riparian buffers;
- Each year, CRP keeps more than 600 million pounds of nitrogen and more than 100 million pounds of phosphorous from flowing into our nation's streams, rivers and lakes.
- CRP provides \$1.8 billion annually to landowners—dollars that make their

way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs; and

•CRP is the largest private lands carbon sequestration program in the country. By placing vulnerable cropland into conservation, CRP sequesters carbon in plants and soil, and reduces both fuel and fertilizer usage. In 2010, CRP resulted in carbon sequestration equal to taking almost 10 million cars off the road.

In 2011, USDA enrolled a record number of acres of private working lands in conservation programs, working with more than 500,000 farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that clean the air we breathe, filter the water

we drink, and prevent soil erosion. Moreover, the Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, implement the Farm Bill, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp> for additional information regarding CRP.

Student in the News

Brennan Kyle Snyder, Medford received a certificate for scholastic accomplishment qualifying him for the President's Honor List for the fall 2011 semester at Western Texas College in

The award is only presented to those students who have attained a grade point ratio of 4.0. Medford is a 2010 graduate of Paint Creek High School.

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FREE to a good home. Black lab mix puppies. 4 males/3 females. Call 940-206-4181. 9c

Garage Sale

GARAGE SALE: Sat., 8 to 1, 1107 N. Ave. I. Seasonal items, TV, sofa/sleeper, dining room suite, dishes, toys, bedding, VHS tapes, (Men's, Ladies Plus, Jr's and Boy's) clothing, shoes, and much more misc. 9c

GARAGE SALE: Sat., March 3, 8:00 a.m. 401 N. Ave. H. Twin bed with mattress set, dresser, night stand, blankets, twin comforters, twin sheets, 2 TVs, men, women, and boys clothing, decorations. 9c

Miscellaneous

SRACCESS.NET. High speed internet \$9.95 and up. 41tfc

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S&S STORAGE in Haskell has storage units for rent. Call 864-2208. 9c

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SONIC DRIVE IN in Haskell is now taking applications for all positions. Apply in person. 44tfc

\$5000 Sign-on bonus! Tons of runs. Frac sand hauling. Owner operators need tractor, pneumatic trailer, blower. 800-397-2338. 9c

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Real Estate

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137 +/--ACRE farm 1 mile south of O'Brien in Haskell Co.; irrigation water available; 3 plots; therefore affordably priced. \$950/acre. 940-742-4367. 9c

Public Notices

NOTICE
The City of Haskell will

be accepting sealed bids for the following property until March 23rd at 12:00 noon.

•Property #6682, Brown & Roberts (outlots) Haskell N/2 OL 12 TR 4.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 12:00 noon March 23rd, 2012 at which time bids will be opened. Bids will be accepted or rejected at a Regular City Council Meeting on March 26 or April 9, 2012 at 7:00 a.m.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids. 9-10c

We would like to give a sincere thank you for your donation and support to our youth's annual fish fry.

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NEW 100 EAST DUVAL, WEINERT-
This 3/3 has abundant storage, a large living room, updated kitchen and oversized pantry. The property also has a large fenced back yard, mature trees and very nice 24x36 foot barn. \$65,000

1503 SOUTH FIRST, IMMACULATE! This home is move-in ready. The three bedrooms are large and have ample closets for storage. Built-in appliances are in the kitchen which opens into the large den. There is a water well and sprinkler system for the yard, a garden spot and storage building, fenced yard, carport and much more. \$64,000.

1103 NORTH AVENUE G- This two bedroom two bath home would be perfect for a small family or a couple wanting to downsize. The master bedroom is large and has an oversized bathroom. The home has a large living area, new carpet as well as new hardwood floors, a large covered circle drive, mature trees and shrubs and a beautiful back yard with large patio. \$72,500

418 N. 1ST-Commercial Building. SOLD
404 N. 1ST-Commercial Building. PENDING
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Bridget Guess - broker

FEATURED LISTINGS

- **200 N. 2ND-CUTE AND CHARMING!** 2/1. \$29,900. **NEW**
- **101 N. AVE. F-UNBELIEVABLY AWESOME!** 8/2.5. \$29,900.
- **1207 N. AVE. K-IMMACULATE HOME!** 3/1. \$32,900. **UNDER CONTRACT**
- **203 S. 5TH E-MOBILE HOME-OWNER FINANCE!** 3/2. \$39,900. **NEW**
- **404 S. AVE. F-NEWLY REMODELED!** 3/1.5. \$59,900. **REDUCED**
- **1004 N. AVE. L-GOT TO SEE!** 2/2. \$72,500.
- **911 N. AVE. L-INVITING & WELL MAINTAINED!** 3/1.5. \$73,900.
- **1106 N. AVE. H-FAMILY FRIENDLY!** 3/2. \$75,000.
- **701 N. AVE. E-SPACIOUS HOME WITH CHARACTER.** 3/3. \$76,500. **REDUCED**
- **907 N. AVE. F-IDEAL LOCATION AND OPEN CONCEPT.** 3/2. \$99,000. **NEW**
- **1507 N. AVE. E-BEAUTIFUL RESTORED HISTORIC HOME!** 4/3. \$165,000.
- **1702 N. AVE. E-FABULOUS PROPERTY ON 6 ACRES.** 5/4.5. \$298,000 (with allowances) **NEW**
- **500 BLOCK N. AVE. A-4 LOTS-BY PASS FRONTAGE!** \$17,900. **REDUCED**
- **408 N. AVE. E-OFFICE SPACE & APARTMENT!** \$25,000. **UNDER CONTRACT**
- **507 N. 1ST EAST-COMMERCIAL PROPERTY!** \$49,900.
- **551 U.S. HWY. 2775-NEWLY UPDATED PRIME COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ON 2 ACRES!** \$250,000. **NEW**

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RIBBON CUTTING—A ribbon cutting was held Thurs., Feb. 23 at Video's Galore N More, 512 N. 1st in Haskell, hosted by the Haskell Chamber of Commerce. Present for the occasion were, l-r Luis Olivarez, Debbie Kennedy, Misty Silvas, Chris Bridges—owner, Cheri Evans—manager, Pam Strickland, Sheila Hester and Sally Rueffer.

Deadline nears to file for city, school board elections

If you are considering running for a position in the upcoming school or city elections, you only have a few days remaining to file the application.

Filing for a place on the ballot began Feb. 6 and will close Mon., Mar. 5. Applications for each city election, may be picked up at the respective City Hall in Haskell, Rule, Weinert and Rochester.

Applications for positions

on the school board may be obtained at the Rule ISD and Haskell CISD administration offices.

In the Haskell city election, there are two city council positions up for grabs, as well as the office of mayor. Three single member districts will be decided for the Haskell CISD school board. They are single member districts 4, 5, and 7.

In Rule's city election,

the mayor and two council seats are to be determined. Filing for two places on the Rule ISD school board is also being accepted.

The City of Weinert will be electing a mayor and two council positions, while the City of Rochester has two council seats due to expire.

The election is set for Sat., May 12, with early voting by personal appearance beginning April 30 and continuing through May 8.

Voter registration cards delayed by redistricting

As a result of on-going redistricting litigation, the mailing of new voter registration certificates is delayed. In the absence of approved interim redistricting maps, county voter registration officials in many counties are unable to finalize electoral precincts for the purposes of conducting elections.

All previously-issued voter registration certificates expired on Dec. 31, 2011, but only the cards expired, voter registrations remain valid. Voters, who are currently registered, but:

- Do not have any changes to their voter registration (i.e., haven't moved or changed name), do not need to take any action, their cards will be automatically renewed.

- Remain in their county of registration but have changed residence address or name, will need to submit their updated information to their county voter registrar.

- Have changed their county of residence, will need to submit a new voter registration application no later than the 30th day before Election Day.

Once interim redistricting maps are approved and counties have the opportunity

to finalize precinct lines, counties will mail new voter registration certificates to all registered voters.

For information on how to register to vote or to determine if you are already registered, please visit www.votetexas.gov.

Rule banquet

Rule Chamber of Commerce will host their annual banquet Tues., March 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Rule School cafeteria.

The meal will be catered by the Junior class parents.

Out-of-town visitors and those candidates running for offices will be recognized.

Entertainment will be by Ray and Nancy Clark.

Citizen of the Year will be announced.

Tickets are \$9 and may be purchased in advance from any chamber member or at the door.

Passport Day set March 10 in Seymour

The Seymour Post Office, 210 N. Washington in Seymour, is hosting a special passport event Sat., March 10 from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. to provide passport information to U.S. citizens and to accept passport applications. The Seymour Post Office is joining the Department of State in celebrating Passport Day in the USA 2012, a national passport acceptance and outreach event.

U.S. citizens must present a valid passport book when entering or re-entering the United States by air. U.S. citizens entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry must present a passport book, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government.

Information on the cost and how to apply for a U.S. passport is available at travel.state.gov. U.S. citizens may also obtain passport information by phone, in English and Spanish, by calling the National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778.

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CUSTOMER NOTICE INCORPORATED AREAS OF THE MID-TEX DIVISION

On January 31, 2012, Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division ("Atmos" or "the Company"), filed a Statement of Intent with each City served by the Mid-Tex Division (hereafter "Affected Cities") with the exception of the City of Dallas. The Company's Statement of Intent proposes to increase its gas rates and implement a new schedule of rates and riders applicable to all customers within the Affected Cities. The proposed effective date of the requested rate changes is March 6, 2012. If approved, the proposed changes will affect approximately 1,194,420 residential, 100,461 commercial, and 705 industrial & transportation customers.

If approved, the proposed rates will increase the Company's annual revenues by \$49,080,069 or 4.36%, including gas costs, or 11.94% excluding gas cost. The proposed change in rates constitutes a "major change" as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. In addition to the rate changes, other proposed tariff changes include revision of the Company's residential and commercial rate schedules (Rates R and C), as well as its Rider WNA and Rider GCR to change the current billing rate basis from Mcf to Ccf. The Company further proposes to revise the Rider GCR to: (1) remove the 2009 interest rate reference, (2) clarify that the calculation of (b) Pipeline Cost is inclusive of interest, and (3) update the Upstream Pipeline Charge Allocation (Factor D). Atmos also proposes to modify its Rider WNA to update the heat load and base load factors. The Company further seeks to implement a new Rate Review Mechanism ("RRM") tariff, as well as a new conservation and energy efficiency tariff ("Rider CEE"). In addition, the Company seeks to recover all of its rate case expenses and all city rate case expenses as allowed by law. The exact amount will not be known until the case is completed.

Based on the proposed rate design, the average monthly bill for each customer class within the Affected Cities will change by the amount and percent shown in the table below:

Customer Class	Current Bill **	Proposed Bill**	Difference	Percentage Change with Gas Cost	Percentage Change without Gas Cost
Residential *	\$48.51	\$51.21	\$2.70	5.57%	13.60%
Commercial *	\$241.15	\$246.50	\$5.35	2.22%	9.69%
Industrial *	\$3,703.47	\$3,499.26	\$(204.21)	-5.51%	-14.22%
Transportation	\$1,754.60	\$1,550.39	\$(204.21)	-11.64%	-14.22%

*Includes Rider GCR Part A cost of \$4.5750 per Mcf.

**The calculation of bill impacts assumes average monthly consumption of 4.4 Mcf for residential, 34.2 Mcf for commercial, and 3,897 MMBtu for industrial and transportation customers.

Persons with specific questions or desiring additional information about this filing may contact Atmos Energy Corporation at 1-888-286-6700. Complete copies of the filed Statement of Intent, including all proposed rates and schedule changes, are available for inspection at Atmos' offices located at 5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75240 or on our website www.atmosenergy.com/mtx-soi. In addition, customers can contact their City for additional information regarding this rate request.

Éste es un aviso a los clientes de Mid-Tex División de Atmos Energy Corporation, (la "Compañía"), que la Compañía está solicitando un aumento en la tarifa del gas. Este aumento afecta a todos los clientes de la Compañía excepto en la ciudad de Dallas y las áreas no incorporadas. Aquellas personas que deseen comunicarse con la autoridad reguladora que tiene jurisdicción sobre esta solicitud deben ponerse en contacto con su ciudad. Si usted tiene preguntas con respecto a este aumento, por favor llame a Atmos Energy Corporation al 1-888-286-6700.

MY DAD WOULD ALWAYS SAY...

My dad would always say, "Work hard and save your money for a rainy day. Don't buy things you can't afford. You've got to spend less than you make." I used to think, "Give me a break, Dad. This is not economic news, everybody knows that." Well, with every year that goes by Dad's advice makes more sense. It seems that he's getting smarter as I get older. Common sense. Simple, but effective.

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