

Happy Thanksgiving

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 127-NO. 48, ©NOVEMBER 28, 2013

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

Basketball

HASKELL
VG-B Fantasy of Lights
Tournament
Nov. 29-30 at Wichita Falls
JVG-JVB, VG-VB vs Hawley
Tues., Dec. 3, 4 p.m.
at Hawley
B game-7th-8th vs Anson
Mon., Dec. 2, 5 p.m.
at Anson
PAINT CREEK
JH vs Bryson
Mon., Dec. 2
at Bryson
VG-VB vs Moran
Tues., Dec. 3, 6 p.m.
at Paint Creek
RULE
JH vs Northside
Mon., Dec. 2, 6 p.m.
at Rule

Calendar

Thanksgiving meal

Mi Familia Mexican Restaurant, 500 N. 8th St., in Haskell will serve its annual Thanksgiving meal for the community Thurs., Nov. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The free meal will include turkey with all the fixings and dessert. Dine in only.

Noah Project

The Noah Project-North's annual Christmas Tour of Homes will be held Sun., Dec. 1. The beautiful tour will include the home of Sheena and Chris Crosson, 1600 N. Ave. F; Encore Visions/Drive, 101 N. Ave. E (upstairs at the Sherman building); the home of Christye and Andy Gannaway, 137 CR 104; the home of Meg Cass, 304 1/2 N. 2nd; (upstairs), the home of Brenda and Darryl Goetz, 201 N. Ave. G; and Goetz/Guess remodeling, 606 N. 2nd, (the former home and office of Dr. Vaughter). Tickets are on sale now.

Santa letters

Hey kids! Santa is getting ready to make his trip to Haskell on Christmas Eve. It's time to get your Christmas letters written and sent to him. Letters to Santa may be dropped off at the Free Press office at 420 N. First St., mailed to P.O. Box 555, Haskell, Texas 79521 or emailed to hfpnews@lycos.com. Deadline for having your letter printed in the newspaper is Thurs., Dec. 5 at 4:30 p.m. Letters will be printed on Dec. 19.

Christmas music

Haskell Kindergarten students will sing Christmas selections Fri., Dec. 13 at 9 a.m. at Majestic Living Center, 1301 N. 1st St. The public is invited to come enjoy the music presented by the children.

Christmas Cantata

Rehearsals for the Community Christmas Cantata in Haskell are held Sundays at 4 p.m. in the chapel of the First Baptist Church. Everyone is invited to come take part in preparing for the Cantata to be presented on Sun., Dec. 15.

Help needed

The Noah Project-North is very low on canned goods, soups, macaroni and cheese, hamburger helper and food of that type. Also, there is a need for toothpaste, shampoo and conditioners. For anyone wishing to help with a donation, a box is located on the first floor of the Haskell County Courthouse. All donations are appreciated.

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CRAFT SHOW—The Christmas season was kicked off in Haskell with the annual Haskell Young Homemaker's Arts & Craft show held Sat., Nov. 23 at the Haskell Civic Center.

Tour of Homes set Sun., Dec. 1

by Caron Yates

The Christmas season brings excitement, beauty and compassion for others. It also signals an event to which many in Haskell County look forward, the Christmas Tour of Homes.

In its 20th year, the Noah Project-North's Christmas Tour will be Sun., Dec. 1 in Haskell. The beautifully decorated homes included on the tour, will be Sheena and Chris Crosson at 1600 North Ave. F; Encore Visions/Drive at 101 North Ave. E (upstairs at Sherman Bldg.); Christye and Andy Gannaway, 137 CR 104; Meg Cass, 304 1/2 North 2nd (upstairs); Brenda and Darryl Goetz, 201 North Ave. G; Goetz/Guess Remodeling 606 North 2nd (former home and office of Dr. Vaughter).

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from any advisory committee member, at the Noah Project-North office, or at the door on the day of the tour. Homes may be toured in any order from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the Crosson home.

The benefits of this event are twofold. Not only do you get to enjoy the beauty of these homes, but you are also helping raise funds for a very worthy cause.

The Noah Project-North's mission is to support people dealing with the crisis of family violence. Family violence is one of the most common, as well as devastating, problems in our country. They provide victims a safe shelter, help with basic living essentials, safety planning, crisis counseling and legal and medical advocacy. Their services are available to all victims of family violence.

Services provided by Noah Project-North are supported through grants, donations and the various fund-raisers held throughout the year.

Donna Sue Anders is the Noah Project-North service area director, and she is assisted by Janis Brzozowski.

The Noah Project-North, which serves five counties, offers not only help to victims, but also provides educational programs for all ages, including training for any professional audience.

The Noah Project-North is also selling poinsettias for \$12.50 or \$25 dressed. Contact the Noah office or any advisory member for more information or to place your order. In addition, tickets for the tour, available poinsettias and a bake sale will be held during the Haskell Young Homemakers Arts & Crafts Sale on Nov. 23.

In order to continue to provide services, Noah Project-North needs our help. So get in the Christmas spirit, enjoy some beautiful homes and help out a worthy cause.

Take time to pause and give thanks

By Caron Yates

Have you noticed that Christmas comes earlier and earlier each year? Although that is not literally true, it is still December 25, the promotion of it this year began even before Halloween.

While the importance of Christmas is not up for argument, it just seems a shame to almost pass over the time of year specifically intended for us to pause and give thanks. Young children know Thanksgiving as pilgrims, Indians and turkeys. As we get older we come to realize it is a time to stop and count our blessings.

According to Wikipedia, the precise historical origin of the holiday is disputed. Americans commonly believe that the first Thanksgiving was in 1621, at Plymouth Plantation, in Massachusetts. However, there is evidence for earlier celebrations in Canada and by Spanish explorers in Florida as early as 1565.

The modern holiday we call Thanksgiving is generally considered to have occurred following a long and brutal winter, when the Pilgrims celebrated their first successful harvest in the New World with a Thanksgiving feast. They were joined by members of the Wampanoag tribe who contributed deer and fowl to the celebration.

Thanksgiving was not considered a national holiday until President Lincoln in 1863, officially proclaimed the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving. Signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt, in an effort to extend the Christmas shopping season and improve the economy, it was moved in 1941 to the fourth Thursday in November.

As humans, we sometimes get weighed down with the negative happenings in our lives. Illness, drought, loss of loved ones, financial difficulties, job loss, state and national concerns and general stress and worries in our lives, can tend to overshadow the blessings, if we are not careful. For most of

us, if we truly stop to consider the really important things in our lives, we would have to agree we have been blessed. That's not to say everything is always as we want it, but even the hard times can provide opportunities for us to reach out and help others, or allow others to help us.

Thanksgiving.net estimates that over 84% of adults in the United States

will attend Thanksgiving dinners this year. Good food is always a part of those dinners, with over 45 million turkeys being prepared and eaten for Thanksgiving each year.

This year as you gather with family and friends to enjoy delicious food, fond memories, stories and a time of relaxation, remember to count each of your blessings,

down to the smallest of them, and then give thanks. Reach out to others in need or to those who can't spend the holiday with family.

While it may at times seem that our burdens outnumber our blessings, what a different world we might see, if the spirit of Thanksgiving was evident every day of the year, not just in November.

Goodfellows needs donations

The Haskell Goodfellows will distribute Christmas packages to needy families again this year. The project will be conducted as it has in previous years and a sincere effort will be made to provide a Christmas package of useful items to those who might not otherwise have provisions for Christmas.

On Sat., Dec. 7 and Sat., Dec. 14, the names of those who qualify for the Goodfellows project may be placed by application at the

Haskell City Hall between 1 and 3 p.m.

This year's Goodfellows project will be a joint effort between the Haskell Lions Club, the Haskell County Child Welfare Board and the Haskell Volunteer Fire Department. The Lions Club will take care of the food portion of the project; the Child Welfare Board will handle the toys and clothes and the Fire Department will handle delivery.

Haskell Lions Club

officers are John Hicks, president; Lela Bevel, vice-president and Donnie Rieger, secretary-treasurer.

If you would like to help with this project by donating food, toys, money or clothes, contact any member of the Lions Club for more information.

All cash donations may be made at the Haskell Free Press office at 420 N. First, or mailed to the Free Press at P.O. Box 555, Haskell, Texas 79521.

USDA reminds producers NAP deadline is Mon., Dec. 2

Haskell County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Glenn R. Brzozowski urges producers who want to purchase coverage through the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to do so before the sales closing date of Dec. 2, 2013. The sales closing date is actually Dec. 1, 2013, but producers have until Mon., Dec. 2, to purchase coverage this year because Dec. 1 falls on a Sunday.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields/grazing loss, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes.

The following crops have a NAP application closing date of Dec. 2, 2013: grazing

and forage/hay on native and improved grass, honey, potatoes, radishes, grapes and caneberries.

"NAP allows producers to protect their investment by purchasing coverage for noninsurable crops," said Brzozowski. "Natural disasters are an unavoidable part of farming and ranching and FSA programs like NAP help producers recover when they experience a loss," he said.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the

approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage." Producers must file the application and pay a service fee by the Dec. 2 deadline. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Limited resource farmers may request a waiver of the service fee at the time the application for coverage is filed. Producers must recertify their limited resource status for each year that a waiver is requested.

For more information on sales closing dates and NAP, contact the Haskell County FSA office at 940-864-2617 ext. 2.

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Looking for great Christmas Gifts?

Purchase **Haskell Dollars** at the *Haskell Chamber of Commerce Office* at 510 S. 2nd or by calling 940-864-2477

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| Gifted | Star Stop |
| Haskell Donuts | Stripes Convenience Store #2264 |
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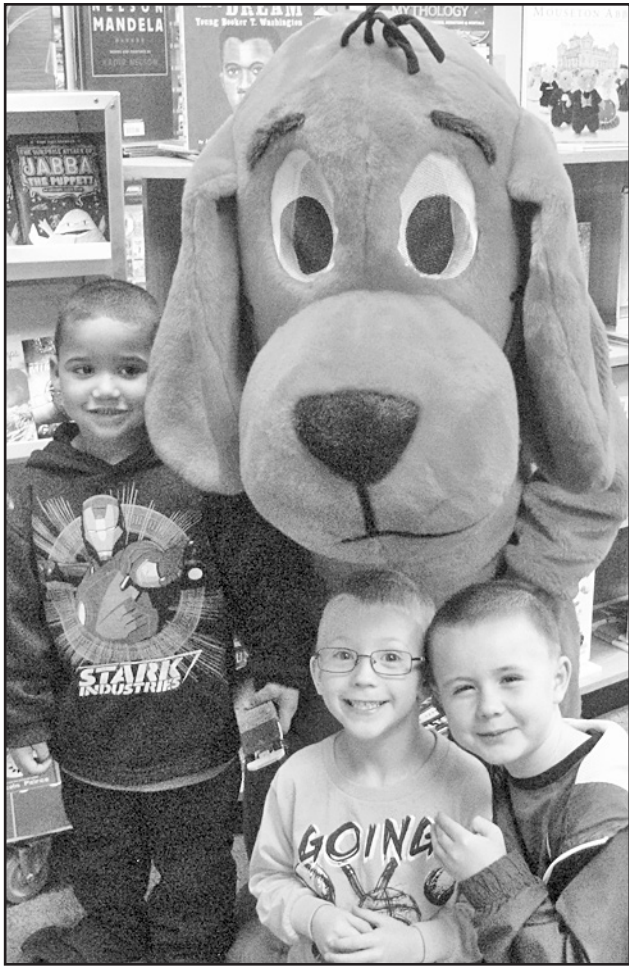


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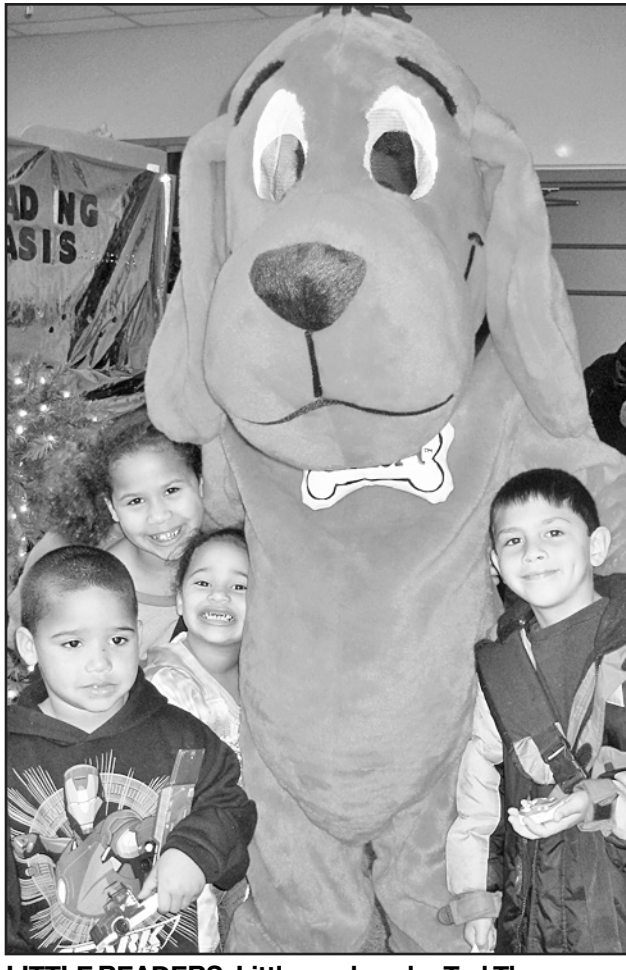
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Layaway Now for Christmas



BOOK FAIR VISIT—Clifford the Big Red Dog shares a hug with, l-r, Tre' Thompson, Jameson Daniels and Brandt Turner during the Haskell Elementary Book Fair.



LITTLE READERS—Little readers, l-r, Tre' Thompson, Arionna Thompson, Ryhana Thompson and Zachary Ingram visit with Clifford the Big Red Dog during family night held during the Book Fair sponsored by Haskell Elementary School.



BOOK FAIR—Jadyn Masias, left, visits with Clifford the Big Red Dog during family night held during the Haskell Elementary School's Book Fair.



SHARES A HUG—Janie Rodriguez takes time out from the Haskell Elementary Book Fair to share a hug with Clifford the Big Red Dog.



BOOK FAIR—Clifford the Big Red Dog visits with, l-r, C.J. Alexander, Colby West and Caden West during the Haskell Elementary School's Book Fair.

4-H bell ringers to help Salvation Army

by Jason Westbrook
CEA-Ag, Haskell Co.

The Salvation Army kettle has been set up during the Christmas holiday season for years at Modern Way Food Store's front entrance. The Haskell Ministerial Alliance and Haskell Salvation Army branch officers have asked the Haskell County 4-H Club to help out again this year.

The Haskell Jr./Sr. 4-H Clubs will man the bell for two weeks beginning Sun., Dec. 1 after Thanksgiving

through Sun., Dec. 15. The time that the 4-H'ers will be ringing the bell in front of Modern Way will mostly be from 4 to 6 p.m. on weekdays and on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

All funds collected in the Salvation Army kettle are kept in Haskell, 100% of the cash or checks. The money is given to the Haskell Ministerial Alliance to help people that are in special need of help.

Commissioners' Court report

The Haskell County Commissioners' Court met Tues., Nov. 12 at the regular meeting with all members present.

The County Attorney's reconciliation report, the County Treasurer's monthly report and the Experienced Citizens Center report were all accepted.

No burn ban is in effect.

Commissioner Kenny Thompson was elected to the Appraisal District's Board of Directors.

A discussion concerning the contribution to Air Evac was held with no action being taken. A contract will be considered if the City of Haskell and Haskell Memorial Hospital agrees to take part in contributing.

The Code Red Contract will

remain the same with no price increase.

A contribution of \$4,000 was made for a new brush truck for the Rochester Fire Department.

A \$10,000 contribution was made for the EMS living quarters.

The base pay for all secretaries, clerks and deputies will be increased to \$1,760.92 including the pay of the new employee for the District Attorney.

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Happy Thanksgiving
from our family to yours.

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