

Calendar

Movie night

Haskell Family Movie Night, sponsored by Haskell County Grain, LTD and Haskell Young Homemakers, will be held Fri., July 24 at 9 p.m. at the city park. The featured movie is "Singin' in the Rain." This is an outdoor showing with no charge to participate. All ages are welcome. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and bug spray. No alcohol or glass containers permitted at the event. For more information, call 864-3424.

Pink Ladies to be closed

Due to late arrival of materials for work to be done in the Haskell Hospital Auxiliary (Pink Ladies), the closing dates have been changed. Donations will not be accepted after Thurs., July 23. The Pink Ladies store will close Sat., July 25, at 4 p.m. It is suggested that persons wishing to donate items may do so to the Pink Ladies in Stamford or the Pink Ladies in Knox City. We apologize for the inconvenience, but it is necessary for renovations to be made. The Pink Ladies will re-open Thurs., Sept. 3 with regular hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the regular first of the month bag sale.

Hot dogs

A hot dog fund-raiser will be held Sat., July 25 beginning at 9 a.m. on the square to benefit the medical fund of Janice Smith. Donations will also be accepted.

Men's breakfast

A men's breakfast will be held Sun., July 26 at 8 a.m. at the Haskell High School Cafeteria. All men in the community are invited. There is no charge.

Booster Club kickoff

The Haskell Athletic Booster Club Kickoff is set Sat., Aug. 1 at the Haskell Country Club. The Indians and Maidens will be honored at a family meal and golf tournament. The golf tournament will begin at 1 p.m. The fish fry will be held beginning at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the meal is \$12 per plate. The 3 Man/Woman Scramble is \$150 per team, which includes dinner. To register, contact Roger Roewe at 325-669-8848, Kristi Gibson at 940-256-1421 or Chris Tatum at 325-864-3192 by Sat., July 25.

Vacation Bible school

East Side Baptist Church in Haskell will host Vacation Bible School Aug. 2-6 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Registration is Aug. 2 at 5:30 p.m. for ages 4 through those entering sixth grade. This year's theme is "Journey Off the Map."

HHS registration

Haskell High School will hold registration for new high school students Tues., Aug. 11 from 8 a.m. til 4 p.m. in the high school office.

Homecoming

Haskell-Mattson-Rochester-Weinert homecoming will be held Sept. 25-26.

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Movie night Fri., July 24, 9 p.m., City Park

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 129-NO. 30, ©JULY 23, 2015

"The People's Choice"

6 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

Paint Creek FFA members attend convention

Members of the Paint Creek FFA chapter attended the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 13-17 in Corpus Christi.

Paint Creek FFA members who attended the convention were Corey Mengwasser, president; Catherine Lemond, secretary; Seth Harper, treasurer; Devon

Benitez, reporter; and Dakota Mayor, sentinel.

More than \$2 million in scholarships were awarded to FFA members and more than 2,500 members received the Lone Star FFA Degree, the highest degree of active membership bestowed by a state FFA association. More than 2,000 members were

recognized on stage for their accomplishments.

Mayor was awarded the Lone Star FFA Degree at the Texas FFA Convention. The Lone Star FFA Degree is the highest degree bestowed by the Texas FFA. The Lone Star FFA Degree recognizes FFA members who have received the Chapter degree, been

active FFA members for at least two years, completed at least four semesters of agricultural science at or above the ninth grade level, maintained a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, demonstrated their leadership skills and has shown a commitment to the FFA through involvement at the chapter level and above. Mayor was one of more than 2,500 FFA members to receive this esteemed degree.

Members heard from Melvin Adams, Jim Bob Solsbery, as well as Commissioner Sid Miller and Governor Greg Abbott. The Cody Johnson Band, Texas country music artist, also performed exclusively for FFA members.

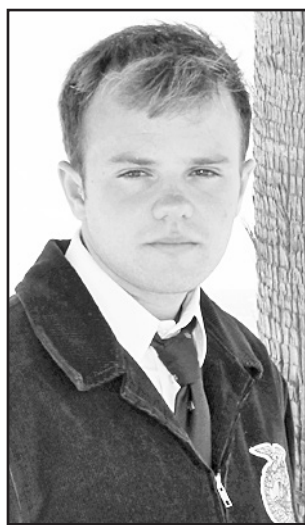
The 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention recorded approximately 12,000 members and guests. Members of the agricultural youth leadership organization spent the week attending leadership workshops, participating in events and activities, being recognized for their

achievements and serving as the legislative body for the Texas FFA Association.

The Texas FFA is the nation's largest state FFA association with a membership of more than 109,000 members and 1,032 local FFA chapters. FFA gives students the opportunity to apply practical classroom knowledge to real world experiences through local, state and national competitions. For more information about the Texas FFA visit www.texasffa.org.



ATTEND CONVENTION—Members of the Paint Creek FFA chapter attending the 87th annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 13-17 in Corpus Christi were, l-r, Corey Mengwasser, Catherine Lemond, Seth Harper, Devon Benitez and Dakota Mayor.



DAKOTA MAYOR

Wooten named to Texas Trapshooting Hall of Fame

Wallace Wooten, longtime Haskell businessman and trapshooting enthusiast, was recently inducted into the Texas Trapshooting Hall of Fame.

Always interested in shooting, Wooten says as a youngster he started with a BB gun, progressed to a 22 rifle and eventually found the sport of trapshooting, which requires a shotgun. He estimates he has competed in trapshooting in close to twenty different states.

Wooten began his trapshooting career in 1963. Although he registered targets up until 1993, most of

his 144,275 targets were shot over a twenty year shooting period. He averaged 97.65 on 55,050 Singles, 91.61 on 53,525 Handicap (27 yards) and 94.33 on 34,100 Doubles targets. He was selected to the Texas State Team in 1977, 1978, 1979, and 1983.

Although Wooten had many accomplishments on the trap fields, he is probably remembered most for his accomplishments off the trap fields. He served as Texas Trapshooting Association president in 1974/1975, as well as Zone 3 president. He was also instrumental in the promotion and development

of Trapshooting in the area from Fort Worth to Lubbock, during the early 1960's through the mid 1980's.

The first record of trapshooting in America is found in the history of the Sportsmen's Club of Cincinnati, beginning in 1831. According to the Amateur Trapshooting Association, trapshooting is a specific form of clay target shooting. It is a game of movement, action and split-second timing. It requires the accuracy and skill to repeatedly aim, fire and break the 4 1/4 inch disc, which is hurled through the air at a speed of 42 mph, simulating the flight path of a bird fleeing a hunter.

The ATA Hall of Fame was established in 1968. Hall of Fame nominees are selected from two groups: competitors who have made impressive records in shooting on an ATA-wide basis, and contributors

who have contributed to the growth of trapshooting or to the betterment of the sport.

Wooten seems to have accomplished both these objectives. Going "all in," he built, at his own expense, a four trap gun club in a cotton field behind his home. It still stands today. During those early years, he hosted

regular ATA shoots that attracted shooters from all over Texas. Always a great host, he earned the title "The Rascal from Haskell."

We congratulate you on your accomplishments and contributions to the sport of trapshooting, as well as your induction into the Texas Trapshooting Hall of Fame.

Paint Creek School to register students Aug. 13

Paint Creek ISD will hold registration for all students for the 2015-2016 school year Thurs., Aug. 13. Please come by the school office between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to complete needed paperwork. Schedules for high school students will be given at this time.

To attend Kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2015. To attend Pre-K, a child

must be 4 on or before Sept. 1, 2015.

For all new incoming students, parents should bring their driver's license, their child's immunization record, birth certificate, and social security card to registration.

The first day of school will be Aug. 24.

If you have any questions, please call the school at 940-864-2868.

Maiden basketball camps set July 27-29

The 2015 Rising Stars-Maiden Basketball Camp will be held Mon., July 27 through Wed., July 29.

Camps for incoming third-sixth graders will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and incoming seventh-ninth graders will be from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Haskell High School Gym.

Camps for incoming Kindergarten-second grade will be from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the Haskell Elementary gym.

Cost is \$25.00. For more information, call Blake Eddleman at 940-249-3111 or check the Haskell Athletic Boosters Facebook page. Camp forms can also be picked up at Sport-About.

Sales tax holiday set

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds shoppers they can save money on certain items priced under \$100 during the state's annual sales tax holiday. This year, the sales tax holiday is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 7-9.

The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from sales tax, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every

\$100 they spend during the weekend.

Lists of apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

This year, shoppers will save an estimated \$87 million in state and local sales taxes during the sales tax holiday.

The tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.



RIBBON CUTTING—The Haskell Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony during the Open House of V's Fresh Flowers, owned by Veronica and David Anderson and located on the east side of the square, Mon., July 20. Attending were, l-r, Tammy Cunningham, Mynea Short, Renee Glass, David Anderson holding Reagan Anderson, Veronica Anderson, Sammy Bitner, Christina Isbell, Tom Bassett, Caitlyn Lewis and Wallace Emerson; in front are Haylin Hall and Schyler Anderson.

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

Hodgin retires from Rule ISD Food Protection Management Training Course available



SARA HODGIN
by Caron Yates

Sara (Yearly) Hodgin, longtime Rule teacher, has added her name to the list of Haskell County retired teachers.

After a career that spans some forty-two years, she has decided the time is right to pursue other interests through retirement. Hodgin is very proud to be a third generation teacher, following in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother.

Although she was born in Gatesville, because her dad was an ag science teacher in a tiny school in Star, she has lived in Haskell most of her life. Her family moved to Haskell in 1959, and she started third grade at Haskell Elementary. After graduating from Haskell High School in 1969, Hodgin attended Baylor University in Waco for four semesters. While there she studied music and education.

When she married Lonnie

Hodgin in 1971, they both transferred to West Texas State University in Canyon. She graduated from there in 1973, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, and a minor in math. Hodgin also holds a kindergarten certification.

The first teaching job for Hodgin was a two year stint for the Canyon Independent School District in special education.

In 1975, she and Lonnie moved back to their home town of Haskell, where he was engaged in farming. At this time, Hodgin decided not to teach, opting instead to help with the farming operation and raise their children. They have three sons, all born, raised and graduated in Haskell.

In 1982, deciding it was time to return to teaching, she was hired as a third grade teacher at Rule ISD. She remained at that grade level for the next twenty-eight years, before moving to second grade for five years. During that time Hodgin taught math, reading and language arts and multi-levels of elementary social studies. Being an accomplished musician, she and teaching partner Ellen Rieger, have presented elementary music programs for many of her years at Rule. She has also taught private piano lessons off and on over the past thirty years.

As is true for many teachers, Hodgin says the

highlight of her teaching career is seeing students she taught graduate from high school and college, then move into society and be successful as good workers, good parents and good role models in today's world. She continues, "Many of my students have careers in education, the medical field, law enforcement, business owners, church ministry and in the military."

While she has certainly enjoyed her career in education, Hodgin says she won't miss getting up at 6 a.m., writing lesson plans or grading papers. She probably won't even miss playground duty, but she does look forward to being able to "sleep in" on those cold, snowy and icy days.

One of her top priorities for retirement, is spending more time with her four grandchildren. She and Lonnie would also like to do some traveling. Hodgin loves working in her yard and caring for her plants, and looks forward to having more time for that. She plans to spend more time playing the piano and organ, and may even take violin lessons one day. Of course, if she misses teaching school, she just might get on the substitute teaching list.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many, through your efforts as an educator, and best wishes on your well deserved retirement.

Food Protection Management Training Course available

by Jane Rowan
CEA/FCS, Taylor Co.

A two-day Food Protection Management training for food service managers in the Big Country area will be held Aug. 17-18 at the Taylor County Extension Office located on the Taylor County Expo grounds in Abilene from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days.

The training will allow food establishments permitted by the Texas Department of Health to meet their certification requirements if they pass the exam. The exam being used is the National Restaurant Association's ServSafe exam. The class covers twelve food safety concepts related to personal hygiene, cross contamination, time and temperature, sanitation, pest management, foodborne

illness and related areas. The course is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Jones, Nolan, and Taylor Counties and the Environmental Section of the City of Abilene.

Cost for the class is \$125, which includes the course book and exam. Registration deadline is Aug.

1. Registration information is available by calling Taylor County Extension Office, 325-672-6048; Jones County Extension Office, 325-823-2432 or the Nolan County Extension Office, 325-236-6912. You may also access a downloadable registration form at <http://taylor.agrilife.org>.

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Calendar

Rule Chapter #989

Rule Chapter #989 will meet Thurs., Aug. 6, at 7:30 p.m. for a stated meeting of Rob Morris and Rule Chapter birthday. Members are reminded to bring items for the kitchen. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. All members are asked to be present for the meeting.

Music Jubilee

The Haskell Country Music Jubilee will be held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at HTS in Haskell. Those interested in playing and listening are encouraged to come and enjoy the fun. A practice session will be held on the Thursday night before the musical at HTS.

Summer reading

The Haskell Country Library will hold storytime for children ages infant through 4 years on Tuesdays beginning June 2 and ending July 30 from 10 to 11 a.m. The summer reading program for children ages Kindergarten through fifth grade will be held Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. beginning June 2 and ending July 30.

Wheat/stocker conference

The Cattle Trails Wheat and Stoker Conference will be held Tues., July 28 at the Great Plains Coliseum, 920 SW Sheridan Road in Lawton, Oklahoma. Contact Jason Westbrook, Haskell County CEA/Ag at 864-2658 or the OSU Area Extension Office at 580-255-0546 for registration details.

DPS reminds Texans about dangers of leaving children in vehicles

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds Texans about the dangerous potential for vehicular heatstroke in summer months when a child is left alone in a vehicle. Every year, children die from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle or entering a vehicle unnoticed.

"Children should never be left unattended in a vehicle regardless of the weather; however especially in warmer temperatures, the likelihood of serious injury or death increases exponentially when a child—or anyone—remains in a hot vehicle for too long," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "DPS is continuing to urge parents, caretakers and the public to do their part to prevent vehicular heatstroke by never leaving a child inside a vehicle without an adult present, and by notifying emergency personnel if they see a child alone in a car."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, temperatures inside a car can rise more than 20 degrees in only 10 minutes;

and even with an outside temperature of 60 degrees, the temperature inside a car can reach 110 degrees. Leaving windows partially rolled down does not help. In addition, young children are particularly at risk since their bodies heat up faster than an adult.

DPS offers the following tips for preventing vehicular heatstroke deaths and injuries:

- Always check the back seats of your vehicle before walking away.
- Establish reminders that help ensure you remove children from the vehicle. For example: leave your bag, lunch or cell phone in the back seat with the child's car seat.
- Call 9-1-1 if you see a child alone in a car, and emergency personnel will instruct you what to do next.
- If a child goes missing, open the doors and trunks to every vehicle in the area. One-third of all of the deaths occur when a child accesses a parked car unnoticed.
- Teach children not to play in vehicles and make

sure to place the keys out of reach when not being used.

For more information, visit www.safercar.gov/parents/index.htm.

Pets are also susceptible to heat-related injuries and death if left unattended in a vehicle. For more information on how to protect your pets from heatstroke, visit http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/help-dog-in-hot-car.html?credit=web_id353383049.

Weather

by Kim Hutto
National Weather Service
Volunteer Co-op Observer
Temperature

Mon., July 13	74°/95°
Tues., July 14	75°/98°
Wed., July 15	77°/98°
Thurs., July 16	73°/97°
Fri., July 17	74°/97°
Sat., July 18	75°/97°
Sun., July 19	75°/98°

Happy 80th Birthday
Wanda Saffel

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Jerry and the kids

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Some restrictions may apply. Services where available. Up to three connections waived. After 3 connections, additional connections are \$20 each.

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From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago July 28, 2005

Chosen for the 2005 Texas Sports Writers All-State Baseball Team were Haskell Indians Brad Blanks, Class A third team pitcher and honorable mention designated hitter; and Jeffrey Silba, honorable mention catcher.

Wallace Emerson, president of the First National Bank of Haskell, has announced the election of Cody Mathis of Stamford as an Assistant Vice President of the bank.

Haskell Fire Chief Bill Steele reported to the city council on lightning damage, as well as a grant received from the Forest Service for computers, to be used by the Haskell Volunteer Fire Department.

20 Years Ago July 27, 1995

Attending a two day plant and wildlife seminar on Krooked River were Haskell FFA members Landon Terry, Wendy Dulaney, Shayne McKenzie and Michelle Green. They were accompanied by Ag Science teacher James Bevel and Lee Barnett.

Members of the Rochester Hobby Club that met for a day of quilting and a luncheon were Helen Cox, Jo Veta Ellison, Stella Carver, Ida Pack, Eda Faye Pounds, Emily Wilson, Johnnie King, Annie Marshall, Myrtle Townsend, Lavern and Truett Kuentler.

Several members of the Rule Baptist Church traveled to Wolf Point, Montana to hold a bible school. Making the trip were Rev. Stewart Farrell; Bobby Don, Norva, Josh, Kelli and Hollie Smith; Rod, Julie, Allison and Zeb Petty; Magan Jones, Stephanie Stegemoeller, Isabell Baez, Sarah Kittley and Debra Wilson.

30 Years Ago July 25, 1985

Bob Brandon was elected president of the Industrial Foundation Board. Other officers are vice presidents Mabry Brock, Bud Lane and Bettye McBroom. Don Comedy was elected secretary and Dickie Greenwood will be treasurer.

Haskell High School cheerleaders Stephanie Browning, Kelly Wallace, Mindy Smith, Sheree Dumas, Vicky Chavez and

Lorie Alvarez attended cheerleading camp at the University of Dallas in Irving. They were accompanied by their sponsor Cathy Bartley.

40 Years Ago July 24, 1975

Sponsored by the Haskell County Farm Bureau, Kathy Caddell of Paint Creek, Craig Childress of Haskell and Suzanne Frierson of Haskell, all attended the Texas Farm Bureau High School Citizenship Seminar held at Baylor University.

Mike Turner, seventeen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Turner of Haskell, received his Lone Star Farmer award during the 47th annual State FFA Convention in Houston.

The Haskell County Home Demonstration Council met to install new officers. Myrtle Phemister of Weinert conducted the installation of officers Mrs. Henry Smith, chairman; Mrs. Adell Thomas, vice chairman; Mrs. Paul Fischer, secretary; and Mrs. Carl Bailey, treasurer.

50 Years Ago July 29, 1965

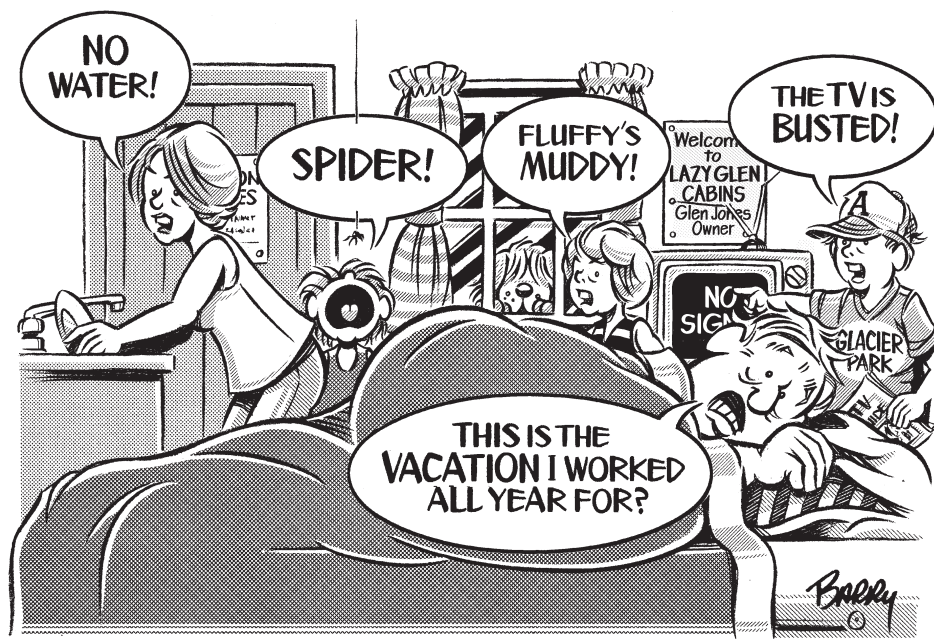
Hill Oates announced today that Jim Medley and James Freshour, both registered pharmacists and graduates of the University of Texas School of Pharmacy, are now associated with Oates Drug Store. The drug store has been owned and operated under the same name for the past 50 years.

Nancy Vahlenkamp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Vahlenkamp of Old Glory, has been awarded a tennis scholarship at Navarro Junior College. A graduate of Old Glory High School, she is a former state Class B champion in doubles.

100 Years Ago July 24, 1915

The Star Route to Vontress that has formerly been made three times a week by the carrier, Charlie Wilson, is now a daily affair. This is proof of the fact that postal business to this locality has materially increased.

There was a baseball game last Friday at the High School Park, between Haskell and O'Brien. There was a fair-sized crowd out to witness the game, which resulted in a 9 to 3 score, the large end of the score being in Haskell's favor.



USDA accepting more farmland for wildlife habitat in Texas

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Judith A. Canales has announced that an additional 27,300 acres of agricultural land in Texas is eligible for funding for wildlife habitat restoration.

The initiative, known as State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally-funded voluntary program that for 30 years has assisted agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. CRP has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative

to cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively, and even sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road.

In total, up to 400,000 acres of additional agricultural land will be eligible for wildlife habitat restoration funding through this SAFE announcement. The additional acres are part of an earlier CRP wildlife habitat announcement made by Secretary Vilsack. Currently, more than 1 million acres, representing 98 projects, are enrolled in SAFE nationwide.

"This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program, which has not only resulted in significant soil and water improvements, but also greater populations of waterfowl, gamebirds and other wildlife native to the rural countryside," said Canales. "Here in Texas, 114,800 acres in the Mixed

Grass Project for the benefit of the Lesser Prairie Chicken are designed specifically to increase the Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat. Since it was first established in 2008, farmers and ranchers have enrolled 87,500 acres, which increased managed and developed habitats, resulting in a 25 percent increase of the Lesser Prairie Chicken population. We hope to continue this progress by offering interested farmers and ranchers the opportunity to enroll another 27,300 acres in this project."

Interested producers can offer land for enrollment in SAFE and other CRP initiatives by contacting their local FSA county office at <http://offices.usda.gov>. To learn more about the 30th anniversary of CRP and to review 30 success stories throughout the year, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30 or follow Twitter at #CRPis30. And for more information about FSA conservation

ECC Menu

Mon., July 27

Hamburgers and all the trimmings, chips, dump cake, tea or coffee

Wed., July 29

Chicken salad sandwich on bread, sliced tomatoes, pickles, macaroni salad, baby carrot sticks, tea or coffee

Fri., July 31

Frito chili pie, pickles, onions, pinto beans, misc. dessert, tea or coffee

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



Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service

by Jason Westbrook, CEA-Ag, Haskell Co.

A positive case of chronic wasting disease was recently verified in a captive white-tailed deer in Medina County, and hunters are advised to learn precautionary measures.

"Chronic Wasting Disease is a condition that affects the nervous system of deer, elk and moose," said Dr. John Tomecek, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist at San Angelo. "It is similar to diseases such as scrapie in sheep and goats, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE in cattle. There is no evidence chronic wasting disease can be transmitted to sheep, goats, cattle or humans."

"Chronic wasting disease was reported in Far West Texas in 2012, which was the first instance in the state in wild mule deer until the Medina County confirmation reported by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Animal Health Commission on July 1, 2015."

Tomecek said the precise origin where chronic wasting disease developed is unknown, but the condition was first detected in 1967 in a captive research mule deer herd in Colorado. Since then it has been detected in 22 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces.

"As its name suggests, chronic wasting disease causes weight loss and

degraded body condition, abnormal behavior and ultimately death of the animal," Tomecek said. "Infected animals may drink and urinate excessively and exhibit symptoms ranging from repetitive movement to sluggishness or hyperactivity to standing 'spraddle-legged' with a blank expression and head held low."

There is no vaccination to guard against it, and once infected there is no treatment for animals with the disease, so prevention is the only solution, he said.

"The most common prevention techniques practiced in other states include removing infected animals from the population and discouraging high-density deer scenarios coupled with intensive sampling for early disease detection. It should be noted that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been monitoring our state's deer for the disease since 2002."

Among the over 33,000 deer tested, no white-tailed deer tested positive until the recent occurrence near Medina, he said.

Tomecek said deer hunters have always been important in deer management to balance population size, while maintaining healthy habitat.

"High deer densities compromise habitat

and contribute to easier transmission for a variety of pathogens," he said. "Common sense should prevail, and a diseased animal, whether it might have chronic wasting disease or some other health issue, should not be consumed."

"Although there is no evidence of human health risks, experts advise those hunting in known chronic wasting disease areas to completely process healthy-looking harvested animals to include removing the bones and any brain, spinal, tonsil, spleen or lymph node tissues," he said. "Disposing of these organs in a location where other susceptible species will not encounter them helps limit the spread of the disease."

"Some people have expressed concern about the potential of chronic wasting disease to negatively impact deer populations in Texas. While that is a possibility, states where CWD is prevalent still have large, healthy deer populations that provide excellent hunting. Early prevention and action are paramount in controlling many diseases, including this one," he said. "Therefore Texans should focus on remaining vigilant by immediately reporting any deer they suspect may be diseased to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department."

Tomecek added, "The key message is to enjoy the outdoors, while paying attention for animals showing signs of distress."

Commissioners' Court report

The Haskell County Commissioners' Court met Tues., July 14 in their regular meeting place with David C. Davis, County Judge and Commissioners Billy Wayne Hester, Tiffen Mayfield and Neal Kreger in attendance.

Janis McDaniel, County Treasurer, submitted her monthly and quarterly reports along with the Experienced Citizen Center report and County Attorney's reconciliation report.

Eric Blair was hired as a temporary road hand in Precinct 3.

The Sheriff's and Constable's fees for 2016 and quotes from VGI Technology regarding the addition of five cameras and control for the courthouse were tabled.

Chris Davis, probation officer, presented his budget for the Probation Department's Fiscal Year 2016.

An amended order

approving a Tax Abatement Agreement between Haskell County and OCI Solar Power, LLC, the prospective owner of eligible taxable property to be located in Haskell County Tax Abatement Reinvestment Zone, Alamo 7 Solar Energy Project, for a maximum of ten years and any other matters relevant thereto, and authorizing the Haskell County Judge and Haskell County Clerk to execute and deliver the Tax Abatement on behalf of Haskell County and all other relevant documents was approved.

Linda Griffith was appointed to the board of the Helen Farabee MHMR.

A representative from McKinstry Co. submitted information on the feasibility of updating County owned buildings to make them more energy efficient. A motion to allow McKinstry to do a preliminary audit agreement was approved.

E-mail your news, photos and ads to The Haskell Free Press at hfpnews@lycos.com or hfp@valornet.com

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
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Caron YatesEditor

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Haskell County, one year, \$25.00.

Outside of Haskell County, one year, \$34.00.

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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., July 22, 2015



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MEDICAL Laboratory Technologist/MLT: Haskell Memorial Hospital is seeking a full time medical laboratory technologist or MLT to perform routine and clinical lab tests. Position will include weekdays, some weekend, and holiday calls. Minimum education requirement is a Bachelor's or an Associate Degree and one year of experience performing moderate complexity testing in a hospital lab setting. Must be ASCP certified. Only applicants meeting these minimum requirements need apply. Haskell Memorial Hospital has an excellent salary and benefit package including health insurance and retirement. Please send resumes to Human Resources via email at emoore@hmhhealth.org, via fax at 940-864-5014, or call 940-864-2621 x301 if you would like an application mailed to you. EOE. 30-31c

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Public Notices

NOTICE Pursuant to Section 152.905 of the Local Government Code of the

Public Notices

State of Texas, a public hearing will be held to set the annual compensation of the Official Court Reporter

of the 39th Judicial District at Haskell, Texas in the District Courtroom on August 13, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. 30c

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509 N. AVE. F-3/3 on large corner lot. \$54,500-PENDING

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2576 FM 267, MUNDAY-A secluded 3/3 on 3 acres with out buildings and landscaping. \$78,500-NEW
608 SUNNY AVE, RULE-3 or 4/2 with a pool and historic charm. \$64,900-NEW
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672 +/- ACRES MUDDY CREEK- US Hwy 277, diverse mix of 397 acres native pasture, 56 acres CRP and 211 acres cultivation. 4 tanks, 1 acre lake, seasonal creek. NEW

Conservation incentives for working grass, range and pasture lands offered

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that beginning Sept. 1, farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands.

The initiative is part of the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally funded program that for 30 years has assisted agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. In return, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. CRP has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively, and even sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, equal to taking 8

million cars off the road. "A record 400 million acres and 600,000 producers and landowners are currently enrolled in USDA's conservation programs. The Conservation Reserve Program has been one of the most successful conservation programs in the history of the country, and we are pleased to begin these grasslands incentives as we celebrate the program's 30th year," said Vilsack. "This is another great example of how agricultural production can work hand in hand with efforts to improve the environment and increase wildlife habitat."

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or

other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences.

With the publication of the CRP regulation today, the Farm Service Agency will accept applications on an ongoing basis beginning Sept. 1, 2015, with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period will be Nov. 20, 2015.

Later this week, USDA will also announce state-by-state allotments for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE). Through SAFE, also a CRP initiative, up to 400,000 acres of additional agricultural land across 37 states will be eligible for wildlife habitat restoration funding. The additional acres are part of an earlier CRP wildlife habitat announcement made by Secretary Vilsack. Currently, more than 1 million acres, representing 98 projects, are enrolled in SAFE.

To learn more about participating in CRP-

Grasslands or SAFE, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or consult with the local Farm Service Agency county office. To locate a nearby Farm Service Agency office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. To learn more about the 30th anniversary of CRP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30 or follow on Twitter using #CRPis30.

The CRP-Grasslands program was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

Leadership Program enrollment open

The Knox-Haskell Rural Leadership Program is gearing up for round two. This eight-month leadership series will be packed with outstanding speakers, tours, workshops, networking and much more. The Knox County Visioning Group (KCVG) and the Development Corporation of Haskell (DCOH) are sponsoring the Knox-Haskell Rural Leadership Program.

Each class will include curriculum elements such as communication, conflict management, dealing with difficult people/situations, diversity, leadership styles, customer service and team building to name just a few. In addition, there will be local tours of businesses, museums, and other places that make each county unique. These tours will help participants learn more about their community and the region.

The leadership series will be open to 20 people. Those participating will attend an orientation Sept. 18. Monthly sessions will be held on the first Friday of

each month from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., starting October and going through May 2016 in Knox and Haskell County. The group will take a trip to Austin in February 2016. And, each group will launch a community project upon completion of the training in May.

The program costs \$275 and may be paid by the employer or by individuals. Each participant will receive 4.8 CEUs from Vernon College. This fee includes all travel, food, a t-shirt, the overnight trip to Austin and all supplies. Applications are available to Knox County residents at the Knox County Visioning Group office in Benjamin, TX, or downloaded at <http://www.thescoopofknoxprairie.blogspot.com>. For Haskell County residents, applications can be picked up at City Hall or downloaded at www.haskelltx.usa.com. Application deadline is Sept. 1, but sooner is better because space is limited.

For more information call the KCVG at 940-459-4121 or the DCOH at 940-864-3424.

Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service

by Jason Westbrook, CEA-Ag, Haskell Co.

The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension offices in Jones, Fisher, Haskell and Stonewall counties will host a Dove Management Seminar in Hamlin, July 27, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. The seminar will be held at Central Place, located at 311 South Central.

The seminar will focus on managing dove hunting and the economic impacts the sport has on local communities and landowners. Topics for the meeting include dove biology and managing habitat, economic impact of dove hunting and leasing considerations, public hunting lease opportunities, interpreting dove hunting laws and regulations, and landowner liability concerns.

This will be an excellent opportunity for both hunters and landowners to learn how to improve their hunting

and leasing management. Sponsors for the meeting include Capital Farm Credit, and the local Farm Bureaus in Jones, Haskell and Fisher counties.

A catered meal will be served. Participants are asked to RSVP by calling any of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension offices in Jones County at 325-823-2432, Fisher County 325-776-3259, Haskell County 940-864-2658, or Stonewall County 940-989-3510 by July 24. Registration for the meeting will be \$10, payable at the door.

Haskell Co. Arrest Report

The following arrests were reported by the Haskell County Sheriff's Office during the week of July 13-19:

Julian Sanchez, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon gun second degree felony.

Miguel Guzman, injury to elderly felony 3 injury to child reckless endangerment state jail felony.

Michael Erwin Anderson, violation of court mandate Throckmorton charge.

Pedro Ramon Plaz Jr., felon possession of firearms Throckmorton charge.

Conrad Angel Silvas, manufacturing deliver of a

controlled substance more than 1 oz. less than 4 oz. meth, driving while license suspended, open container failed to maintain financial responsibility.

Ray Anthony Hodge, manufacturing deliver of a controlled substance more than 1 oz. less than 4 oz. meth.

Jimmy Villa Jr., unlawful carry weapon misdemeanor A, also unlawful possession firearm by felon felony 3.

Vernon Ray Jones, failure to identify.

Hector Ibarra, driving while license suspended.

Thirty-eight calls were made to 911.

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