

Track

Indians
State Track Meet
University of Texas, Austin
May 13-14

Calendar

Benefit lunch

The American Legion Rogers-Cox Post 221 of Haskell will cook hamburgers, hot links, hot dogs and fajitas Sat., May 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the northwest corner of the square. All proceeds benefit the post.

Sports banquet

The Haskell High School sports banquet will be held Tues., May 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Civic Center. Tickets are \$10 and are available from HHS athletes and Sport-About.

Elem. awards

Haskell Elementary awards programs will be held as follows:
Kindergarten, Thurs., May 19 at 8:30 a.m.; first grade, Thurs., May 26 at 9 a.m.; second grade, Wed., May 25 at 8:30 a.m.; third grade, Tues., May 24 at 8:30 a.m.; fourth grade, Thurs., May 19 at 9:30 a.m.; and fifth grade, Fri., May 20 at 8:30 a.m.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., May 21 from 10 a.m. til 11:30 a.m. at 206 S. 2nd (building east of Civic Center) in Haskell. Volunteers are needed.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., May 21 from 9:30 a.m. til 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Rule.

Veterans' pictures

The Haskell Free Press is seeking pictures of veterans to be published in the Thurs., May 26 edition. Space is limited to the first sixteen pictures received. Please bring your original picture to the Free Press office, email to hfpnews@lycos.com or call 940-864-2686 for details.

Scholarship contest

The Wild Horse Prairie Days scholarship contest will be held at 4 p.m. Thurs., June 2 at the Haskell Civic Center. Young men and young ladies should pick up an application from their school counselor's office or in the Haskell County Judge's office on the second floor of the county courthouse. Application deadline is June 1 at 5 p.m. For more information, call Susan Cockerell at 940-864-2851.

Vacation Bible school

Weinert First Baptist Church will hold a one-day Expedition Norway! Vacation Bible School Thurs., June 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for kids age 3 through sixth grade. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Call Bro. Dan Bullock at 940-673-8310 or Mary Murphy at 940-673-8269 for more information.



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Good luck at state Ezell

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 130-NO. 19, ©MAY 12, 2016

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS



GOING TO STATE-Haskell High School competed at the Regional UIL Academic Meet at Odessa College Sat., April 23. Schools were represented from the Panhandle down to the El Paso area and over to the Big Country area. In order to advance to the State Academic Meet an individual must place in the Top 3 of their event or a team must win first place in their event (or receive second place and declared the Wild Card Team of the State). Haskell High School had five students receive the honor of advancing to state competition. Colton Wright won first place in

Headline Writing. In Mathematics, Payton Thomas won third place, Hannah Foster won fourth place, and Tanner Thomas won sixth place. The three plus Morgan Nava-Munoz won second place team behind Sundown High School, but advanced to State as the Wild Card (Best Scoring second place team of the four regions in the state). These students will compete at the 2016 State UIL Academic Meet at the University of Texas in Austin May 23-25. Students are pictured, l-r, Hannah Foster, Morgan Nava-Munoz, Colton Wright, Payton Thomas and Tanner Thomas.

Election results reported

The votes have been cast and counted for the municipal elections held Saturday, May 7.

The uncanvassed results for the city of Haskell include John Gannaway, who was unopposed, for mayor with 95 votes. Vying for two spots on the city council were Jill Druessedow, 111 votes; JoNell Roberts, 75 votes; and Dan Hoover, 69 votes. Druessedow and Roberts will serve two year terms. 350 votes were cast.

The City of Rule also had contested races for mayor and two council positions. Continuing as mayor will be Jerry Cannon with 75 votes. Krissy Richards received 28 votes. Four candidates were running for two places on the Rule city council. With 103 votes registered, top vote getters were Bobby Robinson with 68 and Janet Lawler with 57 votes. Jim Kowalski received 42 votes, while Charles Brumley had 32.

New mural brightens the horizon in Haskell

by Jill Druessedow

Barely six months old, the city's newest volunteer organization, Keep Haskell Beautiful, launched its third project recently.

Using the north side of the Texas Best Outfitters building located half a block from the square, professional Abilene artist and Rule native Calina Kendall Johnson began the 36x18-foot mural depicting the city's motto of Deep Roots, Bright Horizons.

With palms outstretched and holding a clump of soil and plants, 98-year-old Paint Creek farmer R.V. Earles lent his hands to the project. Although the painting is not yet finished, citizens have watched daily as the brightly colored painting has brought to life the growth of this agricultural community with the integrity of the still-working farmer, the sprouting plants in his weathered hands, hay bales, a blue, cloud-splashed sky and sunflowers tilting in the wind. Deep roots, bright horizons indeed.

Keep Haskell Beautiful began after several members of this year's Knox-Haskell County Rural Leadership group heard a presentation from guest speaker Karen Longan at a meeting held in Munday. Longan touched on the subject of beautification and Munday's successful efforts to improve its community.

For member Christina Isbell that's all it took for her to become obsessed with wanting Haskell to join the state's Keep Texas Beautiful program.

"I immediately began researching on the Internet to learn about it," she said. "I had to be knowledgeable about the program before I

could sell it to others. Any free time I had was spent on the topic and sharing it with the Haskell members both past and present in the leadership group. The more I learned, the more I knew we should try to become a beautification city."

For guidance, Isbell contacted Jimi Copelen, director of the Knox County Visionary Group which sponsors the rural leadership program.

Copelen encouraged the Haskell members to move forward with their idea. After all, the premise of the leadership program is to build leadership skills and empower the class members to become involved in civic activities.

Isbell and leadership class member Veronica Anderson along with chamber of commerce manager Mynea Short met or talked almost daily to share information and solicit input from citizens, the chamber members, the DCOH, the city and civic organizations.

Within weeks, meetings were held, applications filled out, officers elected, fund-raisers planned and state paperwork filed. The Betterment Committee of Haskell and the 2014 leadership class also joined forces with the beautification volunteers.

"It was amazing how quickly we came together to make Keep Haskell Beautiful a reality," said Jamie Ferguson, another member from this year's 2015 class.

When Isbell posted on Facebook the idea of an art project on a building and the need for an artist, Candace Kendall of Rule was happy to share that her sister, Calina, was a talented artist and lived

in Abilene.

Isbell contacted Johnson, who worked by private commission, and the two discussed ideas for buildings. Ironically, when the two met, Johnson said she had a vision for using hands and soil.

"I was elated. I had not even discussed the city motto of Deep Roots, Bright

Horizons with her, but we were thinking along the same lines," Isbell said.

The art project was born. A photo session was held at Earles' farm, Becky and Roy Don Wilson agreed to let the painting be put on their building and funding was secured.

Despite weather delays,

the mural is almost finished.

"Because of rain and wind, the completion date has been pushed back. Calina had set her timeline to finish before she began a full time job in Abilene on May 9. With the weather delays, she wasn't able to do that, but she will come on the weekends now to work," Isbell explained.



INSPIRATION SHOT-Paint Creek farmer R.V. Earles holds a clump of soil and poses for Abilene artist Calina Kendall Johnson. The photos were used as inspiration for a Keep Haskell Beautiful mural on the Texas Best Outfitters building in downtown Haskell.



NEW MURAL-The new mural on the Texas Best Outfitters building in downtown Haskell is by Abilene artist Calina Kendall Johnson. The project is sponsored by Keep Haskell Beautiful.

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



UNWANTED DUMPING—The Haskell Pink Ladies have been saddled with unsalable items that have been dumped behind the Thrift Store. The workers at the store have no way to get these large items to the dump. Donors of items are asked to leave items at the store during usual working hours. Large items need to be accepted by the staff before unloading. Items left behind the store while the store is closed are often removed or rummaged through leaving a mess behind the store. The Thrift Store is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Operation Round Up accepting applications for financial assistance

Big Country Electric Cooperative (BCEC) believes in the power of working together to make good things happen. We work hard to take care of people and our local communities. Each of us

has the ability to do good but, when we band together that ability multiplies, turning good things into great things.

The Operation Round Up program allows the cooperative and its members to partner together to provide financial assistance to those in need locally.

This program is supported by co-op members whose electric bills are “Rounded Up” to the nearest dollar. The “Round Up” amount goes into the Operation Round Up fund for distribution to individuals and organizations with demonstrated financial

need in the counties served by BCEC: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton.

Applications are handled with the utmost confidence and respect. Applications are evaluated and funds disbursed by the trust’s Board of Directors—your peers and neighbors—who volunteer their time, hearts and consideration to making decisions that will positively impact lives in our communities.

Food needs and food banks, shelter, health and medical needs, rescue organizations, educational projects, child care programs and other special needs are just a few of the causes Operation Round Up can provide assistance for and help strengthen our communities. Every penny stays right here at home, in the counties served by BCEC.

Applications for assistance will be accepted through Tues., May 24 at 5:30 p.m.

For more information about the program or to download an application for assistance and instructions, go to www.bigcountry.coop and click on the Operation Roundup icon right on our home page.

Please contact Sarah McLen at 325-776-3803 or at smclen@bigcountry.coop with any questions about Operation Roundup.

Obituaries

Kenneth Wade Smith



KENNETH SMITH

A memorial service for Kenneth Wade Smith, 76, of Haskell will be held Sat., May 14 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist

Church in New Home.

Mr. Smith passed away Fri., April 22 at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Born June 4, 1939, he was the son of Aubrey Lanceford Smith and Thelma Pauline (Shadden) Smith. He lived in New Home for 60 years then moved to Haskell. He was a cotton farmer, built model airplanes and was an accomplished rifleman in school.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Aubrey Lanceford Smith and Thelma Pauline (Shadden) Smith; and wife, Sharon Smith.

Survivors include his two daughters, Michele Slavin and husband Ed

of Plano, and Kimberly Scott and husband Bob of Minneapolis, Minnesota; son, Kendal Smith and wife Audrey of Arlington; seven grandchildren, Taylor Chapman, Aubrey Slavin, Connor Slavin, Lan Scott, Hannah Scott, Julia Scott and Jacob Smith; one great-grandchild, Gage Chapman; sister, Kay Brown and husband Larry of Amarillo; nephew, Shon Brown and Joan of Keller; niece, Kristal Mooneyham and husband Darren of Amarillo.

Online condolences may be shared with Kenneth’s family at www.smithfamilyfh.com.

PD.NOTE

Understanding your credit score

How your credit score is calculated and the impact it can have on your life is a mystery to many. However, credit scores and the ways in which they’re used are actually pretty straightforward. It’s smart to be aware of this information to ensure your credit score remains as high as possible, especially if you plan to make a large purchase in the near future. Below are basic tips and information to give you a better understanding of your credit score.

What is a credit score?

A credit score is a number that reflects your credit risk level, with a higher number indicating lower risk. It is generated through statistical models using elements from your credit report. The three national credit reporting bureaus—Experian, Equifax and TransUnion—keep reports based on information they receive from companies that have extended credit to you. These reports include information such as your payment history, the length of your credit history, the types of credit you have and the amounts you owe. From that information, they derive your credit score, which can range from 300 to a perfect 850. The higher your score, the better interest rates you’ll receive. Consumers with a credit score above 700 generally receive lower interest rates, and those with a credit score of 760 or higher will receive the lowest interest rates. A score of 660 or below is considered “subprime” and may disqualify you from bank credit. If you’re thinking about buying a car or purchasing a home, your three-digit credit score will in large part determine your interest rate.

How is a credit score calculated?

Your credit score is calculated using this formula:

- 35 percent is based on your payment history. Do you pay your bills on time? Do you have any bankruptcies, liens or foreclosures on your record?

- 30 percent is based on your amount of debt, meaning the amount owed on available credit cards and installment loans.

- 15 percent is based on the length of time using credit, known as your credit history.

- 10 percent is based on the types of credit in use, including credit cards and installment loans.

- 10 percent is based on the number of new credit accounts or recent credit inquiries.

What are some ways a credit score is used?

Banks, mortgage lenders, auto dealers, credit card companies, retail stores and most any other lender will use a credit score to quickly summarize a consumer’s credit history, saving the need to manually review an applicant’s credit report as well as providing a better, faster risk decision. Depending on the amount of credit needed, additional factors such as an applicant’s income vs. the size of the loan are also used. However, your credit score is the leading indicator of creditworthiness.

Your credit score can also play a role in situations you might not expect. These include utility companies assessing whether they will require a deposit and if so, how much; landlords determining how much will be required as a security

deposit; cell phone companies potentially offering a flexible payment plan; and insurance companies reviewing whether to provide coverage, how much and at what cost.

How can you improve your credit score?

- Pay your bills on time. This is the single most important contributor to a good credit score.

- Be sure you don’t have too much credit. Too many credit cards and installment accounts can negatively affect your credit score. Keep in mind that too little credit, or a complete lack thereof, can also negatively impact your score.

- Don’t max out your credit cards and keep balances on your credit cards low. Experts suggest you keep your debt ratio on your credit cards under 50 percent. For example, if you have a \$5,000 limit, don’t carry a balance more than \$2,500.

- Don’t open a lot of credit cards you don’t need. Applications for credit show up as inquiries on your credit report, indicating to lenders that you may be taking on new debt. Instead, use the credit you already have to prove your ability to manage credit responsibly.

- Pay down those credit cards with the highest interest rates first.

- Carefully review your credit report and correct any errors immediately. You’re entitled to a free credit report annually from the three major credit reporting agencies and can access these reports by using AnnualCreditReport.com.

- Time is your ally in improving credit so if you have a low score, getting and staying on track over time will improve it.

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Conditions right for black flies

Reports of black flies are increasing as recent rains created favorable conditions for the swarming, biting pest, according to Dr. Sonja Swiger, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologist, Stephenville.

Black flies aren’t like run-of-the-mill house flies or other biting flies, such as horn or stable flies, Swiger said. They’re tiny, powerful blood-feeders who aren’t picky about their host. They attack humans as readily as domesticated animals, pets and wildlife, and feed at various times throughout the day.

“They’re nasty biters,” she said. “They’ll attack anything with blood but they prefer animals.”

Swiger said she has received a higher number of calls about black flies this year and suspects spring rains have created perfect breeding grounds for the pest. A mild spring may have also provided better conditions for the temperature-dependent fly, which usually is active throughout the summer.

Black flies are especially problematic in northern and eastern Texas where water is plentiful, but the rains may expand their habitat, she said.

One recent case in East Texas involved the loss of more than a dozen adolescent chickens, according to the caller, Swiger said.

Black flies have been known to kill animals by sucking blood or suffocation from clogging or covering up airways, she said. The flies also carry diseases.

Black flies’ flight patterns are dependent upon the wind, light, temperature and host availability.

Swiger said as with any pest it’s better to deal with black flies by addressing them before they reach adulthood, but the flies’ breeding habitat makes it difficult to kill eggs and larvae.

Eggs and larvae stick together in flowing water, such as creeks, attached to vegetation or rocks. Immature black flies can live in habitats ranging from trickling water to rivers.

Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis products, which are better known for controlling mosquitoes, can be used to kill black flies in the larval stage.

Black flies lay between 100-600 eggs, so one hatching could pose problems to a landowner because they grow together and move in swarms once they reach adulthood, she said. Several generations can reach adulthood each year.

“They’re not easy to find, but if you have a running creek nearby or have had a problem with them in the past you might see them again this year,” she said. “Target areas around vegetation and rocks in flowing water.”

Swiger said repellants with diethyl-meta-toluamide or DEET, are supposed to be effective against them but added that female black flies are determined feeders once they find a potential host. Permethrin can be applied to animals to repel and kill black flies, she said. Dabs of petroleum jelly around the sensitive areas of animals, such as the nose, ears and eyes, can prevent bites and the pest from congregating.

“The fact that they are fully aquatic and their habitat is flowing water can make them tricky to deal with but it might be worth looking,” she said.

For more information about black flies and other insects and pests, visit <http://livestockvetento.tamu.edu>.

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Project Fair to be held during WHPD

The Wild Horse Prairie Days event coming up the first weekend of June, has an added attraction this year.

New this year will be the First Annual WHPD Project Fair. Three categories including food, textile, as well as hobbies, arts & crafts will be offered for both youth and adult divisions. The age divisions are grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 and adult (19 years and older).

The WHPD Project Fair is open to all Haskell County residents and school students as well as employees/family members of participating ranch teams in the Wild Horse Prairie Days Ranch Rodeo. All entries must have been made by the exhibitor within the last twelve months. First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded in over 120 classes.

All entries will be accepted at the Haskell Memorial Civic Center on Thursday, June 2 from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m., as well as on Friday, June 3 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Judging will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday. Entries will be on display Friday and Saturday of the WHPD event.

First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded in the more than 120 different classes. Rosettes will be awarded in Youth Combined and Adult categories. Blue Rosette recipients are eligible for the Best of Show Youth Combined Award and Best of Show Adult Award. Each of the Best of Show winners will be presented a championship belt buckle and two free WHPD Ranch Rodeo tickets for the Saturday night performance.

WHPD scholarship applications available

The 21th annual Wild Horse Prairie Days Ranch Rodeo is fast approaching.

An important part of the activities is the WHPD Scholarship Contest. This contest is open to any student, male or female, who attends a Haskell County high school. High school age students that are associated with one of the participating ranches, are also eligible to enter. If the winners are not graduating seniors, the scholarship money will be held by their high school.

To apply, you must fill out and turn in an application by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1. Each applicant will be interviewed at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 2 at the Haskell Civic Center. The Sponsor Meal will be held the same evening, and all applicants will be introduced and winners announced at that time.

Each contestant will need a sponsor, which can be parents, grandparents or a business. Attire for this event is western or something equally appropriate for a ranch

All entries must be picked up from 5 to 6 p.m. on Sat., June 4. Only one entry per person per class, names will be displayed after judging and superintendents will have the final say in all category interpretation.

All canned foods must be properly sealed and labeled using standard canning jars with the name of the product and date of preservation. All baked goods must be wrapped in plastic wrap and displayed on a disposable container. It is requested that a copy of your recipe be exhibited with your product. No refrigerator pies or cakes will be accepted.

All textile entries must be clean and clothing on hangers. Machine division consists of items made using some type of machine, while handwork division must be done entirely by hand.

Paintings must be finished for hanging or display and photography entries must be 8x10 in picture size and be inserted in a clear plastic sheet protector. There should be no over mat, framing or writing on the front of the poster board.

Project Fair superintendents are Darlene Hopkins and Michelle Thane. For questions or more information on specific classes for the project fair, call (940)256-3625.

Start now gathering your entries of handwork, clothing, canned and preserved goods, baked goods, photography and arts and crafts projects, and the list goes on. It's just one more reason to look forward to the Wild Horse Prairie Days event in Haskell.



STORYBOARD WINNER—Haskell 4-H member Madilyn Moore won third place in the Wearable Division at the 2016 District 3 4-H Fashion Storyboard contest.



STORYBOARD WINNER—Haskell 4-H member Colton Hopkins won first place in the Junior Accessory (belt buckle) division at the 2016 District 3 4-H Fashion Storyboard contest.

Weinert FBC to host VBS June 9

A summer kids' event called Expedition Norway VBS will be hosted at First Baptist Weinert Thurs., June 9. Expedition Norway is like taking a trip to Norway! Kids will sing catchy songs, play high-energy games, dig into yummy Norwegian treats, experience cool Bible adventures, learn Bible verses and explore what daily life is like for kids in Norway. Plus, kids get to watch a video visit with real kids in Norway!

This is a day of fun that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Meet on the patio of the church fellowship hall on the north side of the church.

Expedition Norway VBS is for kids from age 3 to sixth grade and will run from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for this one-day Bible school.

For more information, call Bro. Dan Bullock at 940-673-8310 or Mary Murphy at 940-673-8269.

Food preservation workshops set

by Jane Rowan
CEA/FCS, Taylor Co.
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will be offering a "Food Preservation Workshop" Wed., June 1. The workshop will be held from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Taylor County Extension Office.

The workshop will be repeated the following day, Thurs., June 2. It is also scheduled from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. and will be held at Trinity Baptist Church in Sweetwater.

Participants will learn the science behind why canning works and the methodology of the process. Sessions of the workshop will cover: Introduction to Home Food Preservation; Canning Basics; Using A Pressure Canner; Jams and Jellies (including reduced and no-added sugar jams and jellies); Pickles; Tomatoes and Salsas; and Freezing and Drying Foods at Home

Safely. Also included will be how to use the various tools serious canners find indispensable.

Cost of the workshop is \$20.00 and includes instruction, handouts, light lunch and snacks. Pre-registration and payment is required by May 23.

Those wishing to attend the Abilene workshop should RSVP to the Taylor County Extension Office located at the Taylor County Expo Center, 1982 Lytle Way, Abilene. Anyone wanting to attend the Sweetwater workshop must RSVP to the Nolan County Extension Office located on the third floor of the Nolan County Courthouse in Sweetwater.

For more information about the workshops or registration, contact the Taylor County Extension Office at 325-672-6048 or the Nolan County Extension Office at 325-235-3184.

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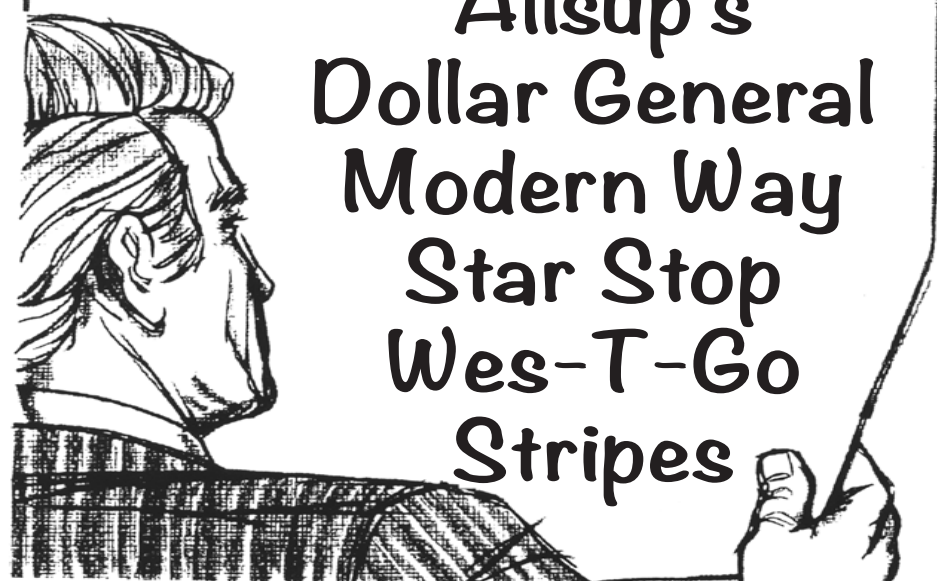
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4-H Youth Shooting Sports Team hosts Pasture Blast



PASTURE BLAST—Haskell County 4-H Shooting Sports members, l-r, Halee Alsabrook, Ethan Drager and Cody Dutton show what happens when a can of shaving cream is a shooting target.

The Haskell County 4-H Youth Shooting Sports Team hosted the first annual Haskell County Pasture Blast Sat., April 16. 4-H members from Haskell, Stonewall and Knox Counties gathered in the great wide open to practice shotgun trap shooting skills and compete for individual awards. The 16 shooters braved adverse conditions of cold and wind, but still had a great time while honing in their skills.

Placings for the day included:

Junior Division: 1. Corey Mathis; 2. Colton Hopkins; 3. Austen Sanford.

Intermediate Division: 1. Halee Alsabrook; 2. Luke

Leonard; 3. Corbyn Walker.

Senior Division: 1. Cory Hays (Stonewall Co.); 2. Cody Dutton; 3. Jami Leonard.

All placing competitors received a cash prize along with a commemorative Pasture Blast koozie donated by Joey and Elaina Mathis, a cap from Tractor Supply and ear plugs donated by Kinder Morgan/Katz Camp.

The afternoon was ended with drawings for door prizes donated by local businesses, fun shooting games of 'turkey' enjoyed by youth and parents, as well as a fun surprise shaving cream shoot out compliments of Steve Alsabrook.

Haskell County 4-H Youth Shooting Sports Team would like to thank the following supporters for helping make the 1st Annual Haskell County Pasture Blast a huge success: Terry Joe Mathis, Modern

Way, Sport-About, Haskell Healthcare Center, Safety Plus of Snyder, CNC Distribution and Clayton Nance PSCA Professional both of Abilene, Tractor Supply of Stamford, Kinder Morgan/Katz Camp

of O'Brien, Joey and Elaina Mathis of Rule and Carl and Darlene Hopkins of Haskell.

Up next for the youth shooters is the District 4-H Shooting Competition on May 14 in Iowa Park.



SHAVING CREAM EVENT—Haskell County 4-H Shooting Sports team member Maddox Drager shows the result of shooting a can of shaving cream.



PASTURE BLAST—4-H members participating in the Haskell County Pasture Blast Sat., April 16 included, front row, l-r, Kolby Bradshaw, Allen Alsabrook and Ethan Drager; back row, Austin Hacker, Corby Walker, Luke Leonard, Corey Mathis, Josiah Coplen, Maddox Drager, Cory Hays, Halee Alsabrook, Austen Sanford, Cody Dutton, Garret Dutton, Kolby Tidrow, Jami Leonard, Colton Hopkins and Hunter Bradshaw.



HALEE ALSABROOK
Intermediate first place
Pasture Blast



LUKE LEONARD
Intermediate 2nd place
Pasture Blast



CORBYN WALKER
Intermediate 3rd place
Pasture Blast



CORY HAYS
Senior first place
Pasture Blast



CODY DUTTON
Senior second place
Pasture Blast



JAMI LEONARD
Senior third place
Pasture Blast



COREY MATHIS
Junior first place
Pasture Blast



COLTON HOPKINS
Junior second place
Pasture Blast



AUSTEN SANFORD
Junior third place
Pasture Blast

CRP applications results in the selection of more than 800,000 acres

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the enrollment of more than 800,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Through CRP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) helps farmers offset the costs of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and strengthen wildlife habitat. Farmers' and ranchers' participation in CRP continues to provide numerous benefits to our nation, including helping reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases and providing resiliency to future weather changes.

"The Conservation Reserve Program provides nearly \$2 billion annually to land owners—dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs. When these direct benefits are taken together with the resulting economic activity, the benefits related to CRP are estimated at \$3.1 billion annually," said Vilsack. "Over the past 30 years, CRP has created major environmental improvements throughout the countryside. The program has removed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere equal to removing nine million cars from the road annually, and prevented 600 million dump trucks of soil from erosion. With this announcement, USDA is continuing these achievements by maximizing conservation benefits within the limitations provided by

law." This was one of the most selective sign-up periods in CRP's 30-year history, with a record high Environmental Benefits Index cut-off and the lowest percentage of applications accepted. The high bar means that the per-acre conservation benefits are being maximized and that acres enrolled address multiple conservation priorities simultaneously.

A nationwide acreage limit was established for this program in the 2014 Farm Bill, capping the total number of acres that may be enrolled at 24 million for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. At the same time, USDA has experienced a record demand from farmers and ranchers interested in participating in the voluntary program. As of March 2016, 23.8 million acres were enrolled in CRP, with 1.7 million acres set to expire this fall.

Over three million acres have been offered for enrollment this year across the three main categories within CRP, with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) receiving over 26,000 offers to enroll more than 1.8 million acres during the general enrollment period, and over 4,600 offers to enroll more than one million acres in the new CRP Grasslands program. Coming off a record-setting 2015 continuous enrollment of over 860,000 acres, more than 364,000 acres already have been accepted for 2016 in the CRP continuous enrollment, triple the pace

of last year. FSA will accept 411,000 acres in general enrollment, the most competitive selection in the history of the program, with the acreage providing record high conservation benefits. USDA selected offers by weighing environmental factors plus cost, including wildlife enhancement, water quality, soil erosion, enduring benefits, and air quality.

The results of the first-ever enrollment period for CRP Grasslands, FSA will also accept 101,000 acres in the program, providing participants with financial assistance for establishing approved grasses, trees and shrubs on pasture and rangeland that can continue to be grazed. More than 70 percent of these acres are diverse native grasslands under threat of conversion, and more than 97 percent of the acres have a new, veteran or underserved farmer or rancher as a primary producer. FSA continues to accept CRP Grasslands offers and will conduct another ranking period later this year. Acres are ranked according to current and future use, new and underserved producer involvement, maximum grassland preservation, vegetative cover, pollinator habitat and various other environmental factors.

Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil

erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

CRP is currently protecting more than 100,000 acres of bottomland hardwood trees, nearly 300,000 acres of flood-plain wetlands, and 300,000 acres each for duck nesting habitat and nearly 250,000 acres of upland bird habitat. In addition, CRP is creating economic benefits that include at least \$545 million

per year in recreation benefits and water quality benefits from reduced sedimentation of \$587 million per year.

Throughout the Obama Administration, USDA has generated thousands of critical partnerships to conserve and protect our natural resources on working landscapes, while enrolling a record number of acres in conservation programs. Seventy-percent of the nation's land is owned and tended to privately, and America's farmers, ranchers and landowners have willingly stepped up to address the growing impacts of a changing climate. With USDA's support, they work

to implement voluntary practices that improve air and water quality, prevent soil erosion and create and protect wildlife habitat.

Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect land and water on over 400 million acres nationwide.

To learn more about FSA's conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Click It or Ticket It—It's the law

"Click It or Ticket." It's simple, it's the law and it's a reminder from the Texas Department of Transportation that seat belts save lives.

"With Memorial Day weekend and the summer vacation season approaching, we're urging people to buckle their seat belts every time they get in their vehicle," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "Every person in a vehicle—front seat or back seat—needs to buckle up. Not only is it the law, but seat belts save lives."

Last year in Texas, 2,370 vehicle crashes involving unrestrained occupants resulted in 889

fatalities and 1,854 serious injuries. Wearing a seat belt helps keep occupants from being ejected in a crash and increases the chances of surviving by 45 percent. In pickup trucks, that number jumps to 60 percent, as those vehicles are twice as likely as cars to roll over in a crash.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that since its inception, the "Click It or Ticket" campaign in Texas has resulted in 4,687 fewer traffic fatalities while preventing 79,578 serious injuries. When the "Click It or Ticket" campaign launched in 2002, only

76 percent of Texans used their seat belts. Today, 9 out of 10 Texans buckle up.

Along with TxDOT's annual, statewide "Click It or Ticket" campaign and awareness tour, police departments across the nation will step up enforcement efforts from May 23-June 5. In Texas, the law requires everyone in a vehicle to buckle up or face fines and court costs up to \$200. Children younger than 8 years old must be in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they're taller than 4 feet 9 inches.

To learn more about "Click It or Ticket," visit texasclickitorticket.com.



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Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: Hanson Paint and Body Shop in Haskell needs a full time employee. Experienced preferred, but would train right person. Apply in person. 50tfc

BRAZOS VALLEY Care Home is now taking applications for licensed social worker. Please apply in person at 605 S. Ave. F, Knox City. 16-19c

WEEKEND Registered Nurse position available at Brazos Valley Care Home. Please apply in person at 605 S. Ave. F, Knox City. 18-19c

For Rent

FOR RENT: One and two bedroom apartments; two and three bedroom houses. 864-3762. 18-19c

Real Estate

HOUSE FOR SALE: 703 16th Street, Rule. Brick 3 bedroom/2bath. 1450sq.ft. on large corner lot with two car attached garage. Fenced backyard. New range and dishwasher; fireplace with insert. Cellar and water well. 325-660-9277. 18-19p

HOUSE FOR SALE: 704 Sunny Avenue, Rule. Stucco 3 bedroom/1bath. Two car garage. Fenced backyard. New heating unit. Cellar and water well. 325-660-9277. 18-19p

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
Haskell CISD will be providing information to private nonprofit schools within Haskell CISD's boundaries that would like to learn about participating in Title I, Part A services. Title I, Part A is a federal program intended to assist schools in meeting the academic needs of struggling students.

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45' Man Lift \$250 per day
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Forks \$25 per day
Digger 9" & 12" Auger \$50 per day
Tree Sheer \$75 per day
Steele Fire
940-864-2208


The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Haskell CISD Administration Office at 605 N. Ave. E on May 19, 2016.

Please contact Michelle Thane, Program Director, at 940-864-2602 for additional information. 19c

PUBLIC NOTICE

An end of year Title I and Migrant/PAC Parent Meeting will be held Thursday, May 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Haskell CISD Administration Office at 605 N. Ave. E. All parents of Haskell CISD students are encouraged to attend. 19c

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East Side Baptist Church would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who came out to the fish fry fund-raiser to send youth to summer camp. With your generous giving, we will be able to assist youth and preteen attend camp this summer. Thank you for investing in the lives of the youth of this community.

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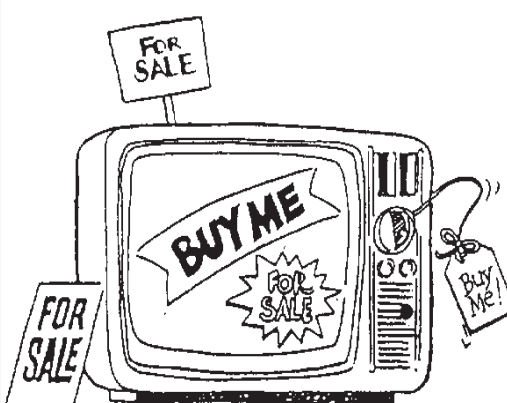
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162.9 +/- AC. NW HASKELL CO. - Ideal dryland farm on CR 188. \$1050/Ac. - NEW
219.5 +/- AC. WEST OF O'BRIEN - Dryland farm amongst pivots. \$1050/Ac. - NEW
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380 +/- AC. SE KNOX CO. - Mainly cultivated with current cash lease. \$1350/Ac. - REDUCED
135 +/- AC. STONEWALL CO. - SE of Old Glory, current 10 yr. CRP contract. \$1100/Ac. - REDUCED
48.2 +/- AC. NORTH OF RULE - Nice, smaller farm made up of old CRP. \$1300/Ac. - NEW
231.1 +/- AC. - Prime Haskell Co. dryland farm located on FM 618. \$1200/Ac. - REDUCED
30 AC. WEST OF O'BRIEN ON 2229 - \$1500/Ac.
160 +/- AC. NW HASKELL CO. - \$160K. - PENDING

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307 N. AVE. D - 2 houses. \$27,000 - NEW
806 S. 1ST ST. - 2/2. New updates. \$45,000 - NEW
1203 N. AVE. K - 3/2. Great patio. \$64,500 - NEW
821 HWY. 380W - 4/2 on 6 +/- Ac. Large rooms and pellet stove. \$179,900 - REDUCED
808 N. 16TH - 3/3 with office, \$155,000 - NEW
703 N. AVE. L - 4/3 with 2 living areas, 2 half baths and a basketball court on 1 Ac. \$334,000 - REDUCED
1706 N. AVE. H - 3/2. Potential. \$77,500 - NEW
1407 N. AVE. E - Historic 4/2. \$175,000 - REDUCED
1507 N. AVE. F - 4/2. \$139,900 - REDUCED
703 N. AVE. E - Large 4/3.5 with a pool. \$212,500 - NEW
308 S. AVE. L - New 2/2. \$39,000 - REDUCED
203 N. AVE. M - 3/1 w/metal roof. \$42,000 - PENDING
801 N. AVE. F - 3/2 open floor plan. \$89,900 - REDUCED

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5280 FM 617, ROCHESTER - 3/2 \$64,500 - PENDING
1200 8TH ST., RULE - 3/2.5 w/basement. \$72,000 - NEW
1209 UNION, RULE - Cute 2/1. \$47,500 - NEW
807 RAILROAD, ROCHESTER - 3/2. \$74,000 - PENDING
1004 UNION, RULE - 3/2. \$44,900 - REDUCED
220 S. 12TH AVE, MUNDAY - 3/3. \$76,500 - NEW
530 MAIN ST., MUNDAY - 3/2. \$67,500 - NEW
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159 FM RD 2976, LAKE STAMFORD - 2/2 lake front property. Large parking and patio. \$25,000 - NEW
1008 SE 5TH ST., KC - 3/2. \$59,900 - REDUCED

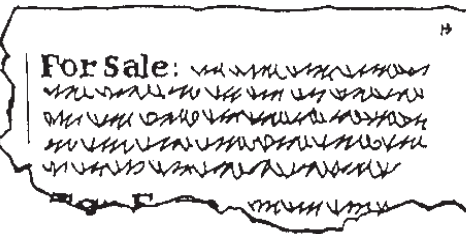
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707 S. AVE. E, LIFESPAN - \$47,500 - NEW
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621 5TH ST., RULE - \$29,900 - REDUCED
551 US HWY 277, MACIAS BALLROOM - \$212,500
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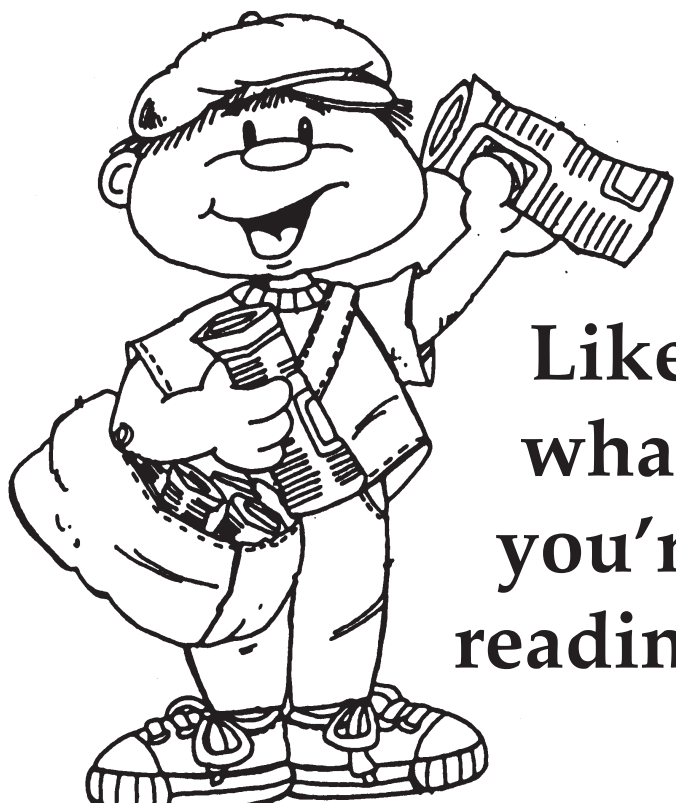
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TO JUMP AT STATE—Haskell Indian Ezell Woods will participate in the long jump competition at the state track meet this weekend in Austin. Woods placed third at the regional competition with a jump of 21-02.5 advancing to state as a wildcard.

Letter Carriers' Food Drive set Saturday, May 14

Sat., May 14 marks the 24th anniversary of one of America's great days of giving—the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food drive. Letter carriers walk through the community every day, often coming face to face with a sad reality for too many, hunger.

So, each year on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations from our customers. These donations go directly to local food pantries to provide food to people in Haskell who need our help.

Last year, we collected over 71 million pounds of food nationally, feeding an estimated 30 million people. Over the course of its 23-year history, the drive has collected well over one billion pounds

of food, thanks to a postal service universal delivery network that spans the entire nation, including Puerto Rico, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The need for food donations is great. Currently, 49 million Americans—one in six—are unsure where their next meal is coming from. Sixteen million are children who feel hunger's impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. And over 5 million seniors over age 60 are food insecure, with many who live on fixed incomes often too embarrassed to ask for help.

Our food drive's timing is crucial. Food

banks and pantries often receive the majority of their donations during the Thanksgiving and winter holiday seasons. By springtime, many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need.

Participating in this year's Letter Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is simple. Just leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox on Sat., May 14 and your letter carrier will do the rest. Please join in America's great day of giving and help us in our fight to end hunger.

Visit our archives (1886-1975) at <http://collections.swco.ttu.edu>

The Haskell Free Press

USDA offers new loans for portable farm storage and handling equipment

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide a new financing option to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment. Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Administrator Elanor Starmer announced changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program today during a local and regional food roundtable in Columbus, Ohio. The loans, which now include a smaller microloan option with lower down payments, are designed to help producers, including new, small and mid-sized producers, grow their businesses and markets.

"As more communities reconnect with agriculture, consumer demand is increasing for food produced locally or regionally," said Dolcini. "Portable handling and storage equipment is vital to helping farmers get their products to market more quickly and better maintain product quality, bringing them greater returns. That's why we've added this type of

equipment as a new category for our Farm Storage Facility Loan program."

The program also offers a new "microloan" option, which allows applicants seeking less than \$50,000 to qualify for a reduced down payment of five percent and no requirement to provide three years of production history. Farms and ranches of all sizes are eligible. The microloan option is expected to be of particular benefit to smaller farms and ranches, and specialty crop producers who may not have access to commercial storage or on-farm storage after harvest. These producers can invest in equipment like conveyers, scales or refrigeration units and trucks that can store commodities before delivering them to markets. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply.

"Growing high-value crops for local and regional markets is a common entry point for new farmers," said Starmer. "Since they often rent land and have to transport perishable

commodities, a loan that can cover mobile coolers or even refrigerated trucks fills an important gap. These producers in turn supply the growing number of food hubs, farmers markets or stores and restaurants interested in sourcing local food."

Earlier this year, FSA significantly expanded the list of commodities eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loan. Eligible commodities now include aquaculture; floriculture; fruits (including nuts) and vegetables; corn, grain sorghum, rice, oilseeds, oats, wheat, triticale, spelt, buckwheat, lentils, chickpeas, dry peas sugar, peanuts, barley, rye, hay, honey, hops, maple sap, unprocessed meat and poultry, eggs, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt and renewable biomass. FSFL microloans can also be used to finance wash and pack equipment used post-harvest, before a commodity is placed in cold storage.

AMS helps thousands of agricultural food producers and businesses enhance their marketing efforts through a combination of research, technical services and grants. The agency works to improve marketing opportunities for U.S. growers and producers, including those involved in specialty crop production and in the local and regional food systems. Visit www.ams.usda.gov to learn more about AMS services.

This announcement will further advance the efforts of USDA's Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative, which coordinates the Department's work to develop local and regional food systems. USDA is committed to helping

farmers, ranchers, and businesses access the growing market for local and regional foods, which was valued at \$12 billion in 2014 according to industry estimates. Under this Administration, USDA has invested more than \$1 billion in more than 40,000 local and regional food businesses and infrastructure projects. More information on how USDA investments are connecting producers with consumers and expanding rural economic opportunities is available in Chapter IV of USDA Results on Medium.

To learn more about Farm Storage Facility Loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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Haskell Co. Arrest Report

The following arrests were reported by the Haskell County Sheriff's Office during the week of May 2-8:

Paul Jason Stevens, public intoxication Haskell Co., surety withdrawal public intoxication Jones Co., surety withdrawal evading arrest Jones Co.

Laci Brookshire, possession of methamphetamine less than four grams.

Marty Lynn Stringer, criminal mischief over \$750 under \$1500.

Robert Kelly Corbin, failure to appear/DWI 1st Callahan Co., motion to revoke/theft of property over \$500 less than \$1500 San Patricio Co., DWI San Patricio Co., DWI 2nd TxDPS Haskell Co.

Jamie Renee Tucker, DWI 1st TxDPS Haskell Co.

Thirty-two calls were made to 911.

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