

Shop Haskell first

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 123—NO. 11, ©MARCH 12, 2009

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES—ONE SECTION—75 CENTS

Softball

HASKELL
V Maidens
Eula Tournament
March 12-14
JV Maidens
Slaton Tournament
March 12-14
V Maidens vs Stamford
Fri., March 13, 5 p.m.
at Haskell

Baseball

HASKELL
Indians
Bangs Tournament
March 12, 3 p.m.
Mar. 13, 12:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.
March 14, 2 p.m.
Indians vs Knox City
Tues., March 17, 5 p.m.
at Knox City

Track

HASKELL
Roscoe meet • Fri., Mar. 13
RULE
Jr. High meet at Jayton
Thurs., March 12
Bobcats at Jayton meet
Fri., March 13
PAINT CREEK
Jr. High meet at Jayton
Thurs., March 12
Pirates at Jayton meet
Fri., March 13

Golf

HASKELL
Indians & Maidens
Merkel Golf Tournament
Tin Cup Country Club
Wed., March 18, 9 a.m.

Calendar

Brisket dinner

A brisket dinner will be held Sat., March 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Macias Ballroom to benefit a medical fund for Ralph and Dora Macias Torres. Tickets are \$5. The meal will include brisket, pinto beans, rice and potato salad. Take out is available. Tickets may be purchased from Francis Silba by calling 940-863-4053 or Ann Elias Sanchez by calling 325-338-3010.

Car Show

The 13th annual Haskell Fire Department's Car Show will be held Sat., March 21 around the courthouse square in Haskell. Entries are \$20. Registration will be held from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Fire Station. Judging will be at 12:30 p.m. followed by a 3:30 trophy presentation. Hot Wheel races and a kids tractor pull will be held for the kids. For more information call Randy Shaw at 325-721-0674 or 864-2023.

Vendors needed

Vendors are being sought for the 13th annual Haskell Volunteer Fire Department Car Show set Sat., March 21 in downtown Haskell. Cost of vendor spaces is \$15. No food vendors will be accepted. Call Randy or Lisa Shaw at 864-2023 evenings or Randy at 325-721-0674 or Lisa at 325-721-0441.

Garage sale

A huge garage sale will be held Sat., March 14 from 8 a.m. until ? at the Young Farmers Barn in Munday, 3 blocks south of Allsup's to benefit the Cancer Relay For Life.

Noah Project

The Noah Project-North Advisory Committee will meet Fri., March 13 at noon in the jury room of the Haskell County Courthouse. All members are asked to attend to discuss the Dinner/Silent Auction to be held Sat., April 4.

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STUDENTS SHOW IN FORT WORTH—Haskell County 4-H and FFA students had six steer entries at the Fort Worth Stock Show. Students with entries include, front row, l-r, Katie Newberry, second place medium weight shorthorn; Madeline Williams; Chase Gibson, second place light weight shorthorn; back row, Shelby Dunnam, ninth place class 7 European cross; Katrina Buerger, second place class 1 European cross; James Williams, ninth place class 1 European cross; Paige Adams, fourth place class 10 European cross; and Kelsie Adams. Not pictured are Taylor Buchanan, Courtney Howard, Pryce Stewart, Alye Stewart and Luke Terry.

Car Show to be held Sat., March 21

The 13th annual Haskell Volunteer Fire Dept. Car Show will be held Sat., March 21 in downtown Haskell around the Haskell County Courthouse square.

With its widespread reputation for being a major show, featuring something of fun and interest for everyone

in the family, the popular event is expected to again bring numbers of entries and visitors to the city. As in previous years, entries are coming in from around the country.

Along with the ten classes of vehicles in the show, other activities will include the Hot Wheels Races for Kids (with

an entry fee of \$1 per car).

Hamburgers and french fries will be served on the southeast corner of the square during the noon hour by members of the fire department.

Vendor spaces will be located around the square in front of business for \$15 each. Vendor information is

available by contacting Lisa Shaw at 864-2686, 864-2023 or 325-721-0441.

Classes for this year's car show are:

Cars Pre-'64; Cars '65 to '75; Cars '76 and up; Antique Cars, Trucks thru '50; Street Rods Pre-'49; Older Pickups Pre-'84; Pickups '85 and up; Motorcycles; Restoration in Progress; and Antique farm equipment.

First, second and third places in each class will receive a trophy. Entries are \$20 each. Judging will be held at 12:30 p.m., with a trophy presentation at 3:30. Trophy and cash will be given for Best of Show and People's Choice, and a trophy will be given for Farthest Distance Traveled.

Registration forms for the show or vendors may be obtained from any Haskell Volunteer fireman.

For more information, call Randy Shaw at 940-864-2023, 325-721-0674 or e-mail haskellfdcarshow@hotmail.com.

PTO helps Elementary School

by Caron Yates

Our schools, like our families, are on a tighter budget during these tough economic times. While the things on the "need" list, those things deemed necessary to reach the school's educational goals and responsibilities, are surely being provided, the "wish" list may not be so easily attained.

Haskell Elementary has a friend in deed. The Parent-Teacher Organization, or PTO, is made up of parents or guardians of elementary students. PTO members, along with officers Emmalee Phemister, Andrea Coleman, Laurie Newberry and Bridget Guess, have helped make some of these "wishes" possible.

The fund-raising began in Sept. and Oct. with a very successful cookie dough sale. In Dec. the PTO provided the concession stand for the UIL meet held at the elementary school. They also held the

Santa Shop where students could purchase gifts for family and friends. This spring, they hope to have finished and available for sale, a cookbook. It is made up of recipes submitted from elementary students, families and staff.

Along with the tropical fish tank installed early in the school year and dedicated to principal Jim Lisle, the organization also contributed toward the purchase of a new laminator for the elementary campus. While it may not be absolutely essential for instruction, every elementary teacher knows how exasperating it is when the laminator isn't working.

Especially appreciated is the overhead projector and screen that has been installed in the cafeteria. PTO donated a significant amount of money toward this purchase. School personnel commented on how very useful this projector will be when parent programs, teacher in-service

or student activities are being conducted.

A long-term project for the PTO is the purchase of new curtains for the stage at the elementary campus. They also are planning a celebration for teachers and staff in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

If you have elementary age students and are not a member of the PTO, you are invited to join. This is just another important way to be an active part of your child's education.

Maidens place second at Seymour

The Haskell Maidens placed second in the Seymour tournament last weekend. Vernon was the first place winner. Haskell defeated teams from Olney, Quanah and Seymour twice. The only loss was to 3A

Vernon. The Maidens played Anson on Tuesday and are scheduled to play in the Eula tournament March 12-14.

The district opener will be against Stamford in Haskell at 5 p.m. on Fri., March 13.

Indians named to All-District teams

District 9-A released the names of the athletes listed on the All District boys basketball teams. Haskell Indians on the roster include:

Co-MVP is John English, senior point guard.

Second team All-District is Austin Marshall, junior guard.

Honorable mention members are Christian Meyers, sophomore guard and Simon Rodriguez, sophomore post.

On the academic all district team are John English and Ross Wittenborn, sophomore.

Hee Haw tickets on sale

The Sagerton Community is preparing for the thirty-ninth production of the Sagerton Hee Haw to be held March 26, 27 and 28, beginning at 8 p.m. each evening. Music and singing will begin about 7 p.m. each evening.

Larry LeFevre is the director and Dickie Greenwood is in charge of the music. The whole community is involved in some capacity for the evenings' entertainment. Proceeds from the Hee Haw go for scholarships for each graduating senior on the Sagerton mail route, upkeep of the community center and community projects.

The Hee Haw program for Thurs., March 26 is especially for groups. If a group is interested in tickets on group night, call 940-997-2688 for more information. Ticket orders may be placed by calling 940-997-2688 or at 1825 FM 1661, Sagerton. Tickets are \$5 each.

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



PLACE SECOND—The Haskell Maidens placed second in the Seymour tournament held last weekend. Teammates include, front row, l-r, Claire Isbell, Sara Weise, Codi Foster, Haley Chavez, Brooke Bullinger, Shelby Hagle and Jessica Rodriguez; back row, Harley James, Kimie Hutchinson, Lynette Ortiz, Ashton Rutkowski, Claire Carmichael and Brittany Martinez.

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

National Ag Day to be celebrated March 20

American agriculture is responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life—food, fiber, and even fuel. That's the message of National Ag Day, which is celebrated March 20. According to Glenn R. Brzozowski, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Haskell County—producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America will gather to celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture on this first day of spring.

"The National Ag Day program is committed to increasing public awareness about American agriculture," said Brzozowski. "As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for

the food, fiber and renewable resources that the United States produces."

The Agriculture Council of America, organizers of National Ag Day, says that every American should understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced and should value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy. Consumers should appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. National Ag Day will focus on educating Americans about the industry, so they may also acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industry.

"Today's farmer feeds more than 130 people in the United States and abroad," said Brzozowski. "In 1960, that number was 25. Today, more than 15 percent of the U.S. population is employed in farm or farm-related jobs."

Each year, the National Ag Day program gathers members of the agricultural industry in an effort to promote American agriculture. Focused on sharing how agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, the National Ag Day program helps educate millions of consumers each year. Join this effort to promote American agriculture to everyone during National Ag Week, March 15-21. For more information contact your local USDA Service Center or the Agriculture Council of America.

Obituaries

Bernice Hilliard



BERNICE HILLIARD

Funeral services for Bernice Hilliard, 84, of Haskell were held Thurs., March 12 at First United Methodist Church in Haskell with Rev. Tom

Long officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mrs. Hilliard passed away Mon., March 9.

Born April 20, 1924 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, she was the daughter of the late Joe Kolasa and Anatasia Gembrois. She married Elmer Lee Hilliard April 12, 1946 in Yuma, Arizona. He preceded her in death Oct. 29, 1995. She was a cook at Haskell Elementary School for twenty years before retiring. She was a member of First United Methodist Church and the Country Cousins Square

Dancers in Abilene,

She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents, two sisters, four brothers and one great grandchild.

Survivors include two sons, Ronald Hilliard and wife Edith of Stillwater, Oklahoma and Kenneth Hilliard and wife Dee Dee of China Spring; two daughters, Patricia Shaw of Nash and Linda Short and husband Larry of Rochester; ten grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 201 N. Ave. F, Haskell, Texas 79521 or the donor's favorite charity.

PD. NOTICE

Holden-McCauley Funeral Home celebrates membership in OGR

Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell is celebrating the renewal of its membership in the International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR), a professional association of independently owned and operated funeral homes. Holden-McCauley Funeral Home was accepted into the prestigious funeral home organization in February, 2009. As independently owned firms, Golden Rule funeral homes must meet and maintain a strict code of conduct and high ethical standards.

"We are pleased to have the Holden-McCauley Funeral Home as a member," said Karen Gentles, OGR Director of Membership. "The people

at Holden-McCauley Funeral Home have proven for 4 years that they are caring, compassionate professionals. As a member of the Order of the Golden Rule, the funeral home owners and staff have dedicated themselves to continue this tradition of caring in their community."

"It has been our privilege to maintain ties to OGR," said Marc Robison, Holden-McCauley Funeral Home. "Being a Golden Rule firm has helped us to better serve our families in Haskell, to offer them peace of mind and integrity they can count on. That is absolutely key to maintaining good relations with our clients in this sensitive business."

Headquartered in St. Louis, the International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR) is one of the world's largest professional associations of independent funeral homes, whose members are dedicated to offering dependable, dignified and caring service to families. "Service measured not by gold, but by the Golden Rule" has been the credo of the association since its founding in 1928.

For more information, contact the staff of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home, 940-864-2151. To request support for the bereaved or to learn more information about funerals, memorialization or cremation, visit <http://www.golden-rule.com>.

America Grows With Agriculture

USDA Farm Service Agency Salutes America's Farmers and Ranchers

National Ag Day - March 20

National Ag Week - March 16-22

TAX PLANNING

Written By
Rick Rodgers, CPA

NEW DISTRIBUTION RULES PROVIDE RELIEF TO STRUGGLING RETIREES

Recent tax legislation has pressed the pause button on 2009 required retirement plan distributions. With many IRAs and 401(k) plans severely affected by the economy, the new law relieves retirees from having to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) and risk further eroding their nest eggs.

Normally, taxpayers age 70½ and older are required to take taxable withdrawals from their 401(k), IRA, or similar retirement account. In the year that an individual turns 70½, he or she has until April 1 of the following year to take the first distribution. After that, the RMD must be taken by December 31 of each year.

The Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 suspends RMDs for 2009. However, those who turned 70½ in 2008 and opted to defer their first withdrawal until April 1, 2009, are still required to take that 2008 distribution. In 2010, the old RMD rules become effective again.

The new legislation is not just for retirees. Those who inherited a retirement account subject to RMD rules can also suspend their 2009 withdrawal. Heirs using the five-year RMD schedule can skip their 2009 distribution, pushing the installments into year six. For those taking systematic withdrawals, the RMD simply resumes again in 2010.

There is one more wrinkle to the new rules. Taxpayers who planned to make direct charitable contributions from their IRA in 2009 may want to reconsider that strategy. One of the benefits of the charitable IRA rollover is meeting the RMD rule, and without the required withdrawal in force, there is less incentive to give from your IRA.

Of course, you can still choose to take distributions from your retirement fund if you wish. If you need assistance in deciding which route to take, give us a call.

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Hamlin, Texas • 325-576-2356

City Council report

The Haskell City Council met in a regular session March 9 with Mayor Bob Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Sue Medford and Councilmen Chan Guss, Randy Bowers, Robert Tribbey and Jason Hall in attendance.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order followed by the invocation, led by Tribbey.

The request to close the existing platted street at North 13th between Avenue A West and Highway 277 was approved.

The sale of city property land of the Frisco Addition, Block 42, Lots 2 and 3, at the 1400 block of North Avenue A East and Frisco Addition, Block 42, west part of Lots 10, 11 and 12 at the 1400

block of North Avenue A East was approved. The attorney has redrawn the scope of property and added the closed street into the land description. City Administrator Brandon Anderson will approve the land description and negotiate with Robert Tribbey as needed.

A request from current and future owners of Block 11 of the Brown and Robert Addition to close alleys and portion of existed platted street was approved.

A budget amendment adding an insurance check for window expenses to miscellaneous revenue and dispersing into the correct accounts was approved.

An ordinance regulating the public right of ways within the city was tabled.

In the City Administrator's report:

- The Civic Center board has accepted the resignation of Leland Thane and hired Rhonda Howard to oversee the center. A Night of One Act Plays was to be held March 9.

- The Haskell Fire Department will host their annual Car Show March 21.

- The annual landfill inspection was held last week and with the exception of a few minor violations, everything is going well at the landfill. The inspector, Ron Dennis, informed of a change in TCEQ requirements that will require

an employee with a class A certification to be at the landfill at least 80% of the time.

- Anderson met with TxDOT Aviation and KSA engineers of McKinney and analysis of the needs at the airport will begin and bidding for the refurbishment should begin in about four months. A good response on recent airport project bids has brought competitive bids and maybe the project will come in under budget.

- The new highway signs were delayed in production, but hopefully they will be in place in the next two weeks.

- The EDC is busy trying to bring jobs to Haskell. They have hired Monty Montgomery on a consulting basis to help with current projects.

- The Census count will be coming up soon and it is important to get an accurate count. If something is received in the mail or if someone comes to a citizen's door, citizens are encouraged to participate to ensure a correct count for Haskell. City Hall has information for those wishing to work part-time with the census.

A motion to pay the bills was approved.

Clear Fork Crime Stoppers
1-800-222-TIPS

Women must be aware when it comes to matters of the heart

Heart disease is the No.1 killer of women in the U.S., claiming nearly twice as many lives as all forms of cancer.

"There are many theories as to why women have a higher mortality rate from heart disease," says Dr. Elizabeth Holper, associate professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center. "Research has demonstrated that patients who know the status of their risk factors, including cholesterol levels

and blood pressure, and who control these risks, do better in the long term."

Other ways women can reduce their risk of heart disease include quitting smoking, lowering the amount of saturated fat in their diets and exercising—even as little as 30 minutes a day.

"Most of all, talk with your doctor about your risk," says Dr. Holper, an interventional cardiologist. "It should be a top priority."

Congressman Mac Thornberry
will have a member of his staff available in Haskell to assist area residents with questions or concerns related to federal issues.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Thursday, March 12, 2009
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Haskell City Hall
Conference Room
301 S. 1st Street
Haskell, Texas

For more information, please call 940-692-1700
<http://www.thornberry.house.gov>

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Agent Jean Merchant

Collected t-shirts to help injured service personnel

Texas Clothing Advisory Board members and District 3 4-H are collecting men's heavy weight t-shirts in support of the "Sew Much Comfort" organization.

Last year 4-H collected boxer shorts for the same organization but due to outstanding response, they have plenty of boxer shorts and are in need of t-shirts this year.

"Sew Much Comfort" provides adaptive clothing free of charge to support the unique needs of our injured service members from all branches of the military and National Guard. The needs for adaptive clothing continues to grow as American military members are injured serving their country.

Each week, many wounded military members arrive in the States from Germany for extensive

medical treatment for bullet and shrapnel wounds, burns, head and limb injuries and amputations, while tens of thousands are still in the recovery process. These medical conditions require large fixator, prosthetics and casts that are too bulky to fit under ordinary clothing or underwear.

"Sew Much Comfort" is the only organization providing adaptive clothing in large volumes to attempt to meet those special needs.

Since volunteers have to pay for all their supplies with their own money, the Texas Clothing Advisory Board and District 3 4-H has decided to collect and donate heavy weight t-shirts to "Sew Much Comfort." Volunteers will adapt the shirts to make them easier for injured service members to wear.

Although this is a 4-H community service project, others who are interested are encouraged to participate.

Plain, heavy weight t-shirts for men of any size will be accepted and delivered to "Sew Much Comfort."

Drop off boxes are located at the County Extension Office in Haskell and at Rule High School. All donations will be delivered to the District Office at the District Fashion Show on April 4. Please deliver your donations by Fri., April 3.

For further information, contact Molly Dudensing, Clothing Advisory Board member, or Jenny Dudensing, District 3 4-H officer at 996-2738 or Jane Rowan, FCS Extension Agent, at 864-2658.



ATTENDING MEETING—Among those attending a recent Haskell Lodge #241 meeting were, l-r, Ruby Medford, Jerry Don Klose, president, Phyllis Klose, T.J. Brueggeman and J.R. Merchant.

Andress family members gather to honor brother

Four remaining children of Beno and Opal Andress gathered for a mini family reunion March 1-2 in the home of Gerald and Wanda Cheek in Haskell.

The gathering was in remembrance of their brother, Melvin, who died 50 years prior on this date. Melvin had

been in the service only three weeks when he died.

Attending were Melvin's wife, Dessie Leham of Roby, Boyd and Patsy Andress of Everman, Bennie Shelton, Vernay and Myrl Andress and the Cheeks, all of Haskell. Also present were Scott and Betsy Langford, Tim and

Dana Shelton of Haskell, Jodi Langford and Adam Conner of Abilene.

Boyd presented Dessie and the brother and sisters with a remembrance tribute book honoring Melvin.

The group shared lots of memories, laughter and tears.

Relay for Life event to be held April 25

The Relay for Life event will be held in Knox City April 25 from 3 p.m. to 3

a.m. to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

Teams will walk on the

track for 12 hours in shifts to help raise money for the organization. Teams may consist of office teams, a family, a church organization or just a group of friends.

Teams will get sponsors and donate the proceeds to the American Cancer Society. The money will be used for research, diagnostics and treatment of different kinds of cancer.

For information contact Dana West at KP's Lunch Bar in Haskell or Betty Johnston at the City of Knox City at 658-3313.

Two new members join lodge

Haskell Lodge #241 met with President Jerry Don Klose presiding, and fifteen members and one guest in attendance.

March birthdays of those in attendance were T.J. Brueggeman and Dorothea Monroe. J.R. and Inez Merchant were celebrating their anniversary in March.

Correspondence concerning the Hermann Sons Summer Youth Camp was read and followed by discussion of those interested. Complete information is in the current issue of the Hermann Sons periodical.

Two new members were accepted into the lodge, Dennis Wayne Merchant and Selena Wood.

At the April meeting, 60 year membership pins will be presented to several members.

Door prizes were awarded to Doris Brueggeman, Pauline Dick and Leona Seelig.

The youth are involved in many service activities. Payton Thomas and Tanner Thomas are busy with Cub Scout Pack 136. Haskell Heroes are working for funds to help the Autism Speaks. Some are helping with the local food bank and 4-H activities which include gathering T-shirts to benefit wounded military returning in need of adaptive clothing. The shirts will be adapted by the "Sew Much Comfort" organization volunteers.

Several young members are listed on the Haskell CISD honor roll including, Jasmine Klose, Sara Weise and Kimie Hutchinson.

The April meeting will be

held at the Pit 'n Grill with dominoes and games at 2 p.m. followed by business meeting at 3 p.m. which shall include the presentation of 60 year membership pins.

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

Spring is here! Easter decorations are in! Designer Headbands, Leggings and Socks

Bridal Selections for M'Lynn Lehrmann and Justin Johnson Robin Harrell and Kenneth Price

The Carousel Gift Shop

Erlinda Mayfield

Open M-F 10 to 5:30. Sat. 10 to 4 Southside of the square in Haskell 864-2069

Births

Jason and Sara Shaw of Abilene announce the birth of their son, Seth Ryan Smith Shaw, born March 5 at 5:06 p.m. at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, weighing 6.95 lbs. He was 19-1/4" long.

Grandparents are Glenn E. and Nancy A. Smith of Winters and Randy and Lisa

Shaw of Haskell.

Great grandparents are A.M. Stocks and the late Wanda Stocks, and Vivian Shaw and the late Bill Shaw, all of Haskell, Dr. Walter W. Hollis and the late Dorcas A. Hollis of Springfield, Virginia and the late Glenn P. Smith and Lula B. Smith of Sutherland, Oregon.

The Haskell Free Press

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What is a stroke?

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

What causes a stroke?

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

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

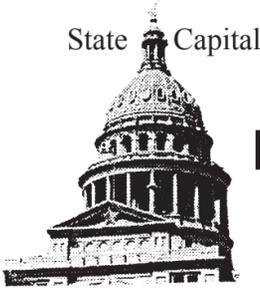
What questions regarding home care do you have for the nurse? Send your questions to Haskell Home Health Agency, 417 S. First, Haskell, TX 79521 or call 940-864-5074 or 1-877-864-5074.

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH-AT HOME is brought to you by Haskell Home Health Agency providing home care services in Haskell, Knox, Stonewall, Throckmorton and Jones Counties

Home Care: Keeping Texans Proud & Independent

OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



State Capital

HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Education chairs offer plan to update school accountability system

AUSTIN—In 1984, the 68th Texas Legislature passed HB 72, a groundbreaking attempt to increase the quality of public education with accountability standards.

HB 72 put the greatest weight in rating public schools on student academic performance and also created the no-pass no-play rule, lowered the students-to-teacher ratio, ended social promotion of students and initiated a teacher career ladder.

In the quarter century since passage of HB 72, lawmakers have reworked the school accountability puzzle a few times. For example, in 1994, lawmakers made school accountability hinge on high-stakes academic testing. In 2003, the Legislature made changes to put accountability standards in synch with the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Two bills filed March 5 would revise in 2011 the current system of rating schools that is based on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills or "TAKS," the standardized test that evaluates students' skills in reading, writing, math, science and social studies at various grade levels.

SB 3, authored by state Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, and its twin, HB 3 by state Rep. Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands, would employ a two-tiered method that values more than TAKS.

The first tier, accreditation, would judge schools on student achievement, the growth of post-secondary readiness and graduation rates. The second tier, called the distinction tier, would reward school districts and campuses for excellence in other areas, including growth in student achievement, fine arts and second language skills.

College readiness under SB 3 and HB 3 is based on student performance in English and algebra end-of-course exams. Skilled workforce readiness factors in English and algebra scores and rates those against success in training and certification programs at technical or community colleges.

Shapiro, chair of the Senate Education Committee, called the legislation "dramatic" and credited a 15-member select committee that met over the legislative interim for its efforts.

Eissler, chair of the House Public Education Committee, said "we recognize the need

for more flexibility for students to pursue an academic path that allows them to nurture their individual interests and talents."

Senate and House education committees will soon consider the bills.

Web page tracks stimulus money

Comptroller Susan Combs' office announced it is reviewing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

And while the Legislature wrestles with how to deal with the sudden influx of \$16 billion in federal funding, citizens who have Web access can keep informed by visiting "Tracking the Texas Stimulus," a page linked to the comptroller's Web site. The page will help state and local officials, business leaders, economic developers, human service providers and taxpayers track what Texas may receive from the estimated \$787 billion in federal economic stimulus funds, Combs said.

Those who visit the page will find a spreadsheet listing the provisions of the federal bill, preliminary estimates of federal spending and the amounts Texas might expect to see.

Perry renews disaster declaration

Gov. Rick Perry on March 5 officially renewed his Hurricane Ike disaster declaration, effective March 7.

The declaration, in effect until April 5, "suspends all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response" to the hurricane that hit Galveston Sept. 13, 2008, and ravaged a long list of counties in South and East Texas.

In other news, on March 6, Perry asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide disaster relief assistance for farms and ranches suffering from severe drought.

Drought conditions and high winds have exacerbated wildfires. Since Jan. 1, 3,685 wildfires have burned 118,061 acres of land across the state.

Bill toughens tanning regulations

State Rep. Burt Solomons, R-Carrollton, filed HB 1310, legislation to limit minors' access to tanning salons.

"There are multiple studies which show that excessive exposure to tanning leads to melanoma which is the deadliest form of skin cancer," he said.

HB 1310 would require a minor to get parental permission and supervision and a doctor's note to use electromagnetic radiation exposure commonly offered by indoor tanning salons.

HAPPY ST. PAT'S!

WE IRISH HAVE EVER HAD TROUBLES, 'TIS SO — FROM TYRANTS TO FAMINES TO SNAKES...

..BUT, NARY A WORRY FEEDS ON OUR WOE — WE WEATHERS WHATEVER WE TAKES!



WHILE OTHERS ON THIS ST. PADDY'S DAY PRAY: "GIVE US STIMULUS PACKAGES!"...

..WE SONS OF OL' IRELAND SIMPLY DO SAY: "PASS TH' CORN'D BEEF & CABBAGES!"

Featuring those who have made a difference

From time to time, The Haskell Free Press would like to feature a story on an ordinary person who has truly made a difference with their life.

To contribute a name for consideration, please contact the Haskell Free Press at 940-864-2686 or hfp@valornet.com.

From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago March 18, 1999

Haskell County Green Thumb enrollees, Lona Mae Phelps and Nettie Wilson, were honored at a noon luncheon at the Experienced Citizens Center.

Haskell athletes named to 9-AA All-District girls basketball teams were Shayne McKenzie and Nikki Wallace. J.J. Comedy was honorable mention.

Haskell students, Jamey Brown, Ruben Martinez and Michael Gonzales, visited the Rotary Club.

Wesley LeFevre, a Paint Creek senior, advanced to the State Powerlifting Championships held at Fort Hood.

Dr. William J. Kemp was named Citizen of the Year.

Rusty Howard of Haskell won the Breed Champion Award at the 50th annual San Antonio Livestock Exposition.

20 Years Ago March 16, 1989

Kathy Hager, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Hager, Jr. of Weinert, has been named "Who's Who in American Women."

J.W. and Joyce Hawkins celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Julie Roewe was one of the leading players on the Western Texas women's basketball team.

Boy Scout Troop 148 members of Paint Creek reporting to state were Marcus Overton, Hans Overton, Billy Hood, Jacob Blair, Cody Wilkinson, Wallar Overton and Robert Parsons.

Sammie Lee Griffith of Paint Creek celebrated his 80th birthday.

30 Years Ago March 15, 1979

In observance of Girl Scout week in Haskell, a Girl Scout Honor Guard raised the flag in special ceremonies at Haskell Elementary. Members of the Honor Guard were Lorry Kay Geilhausen, Emily and Sandra Thornhill and Mary Lehrer.

Mrs. Lee Roy O'Neal is the artist of the month at Iva Lee's Fabrics for the month of March.

District Clerk, Carolyn Reynolds and County Clerk, Sue Fincher, attended the county and district clerks seminar at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Frank Cadenhead of Haskell presented Danny Isbell of the West Texas Rehabilitation Center in Abilene with a donation from the Baylor/Haskell/Knox County Medical Society.

40 Years Ago March 13, 1969

Plans for new "super" rest areas were approved by the highway commission to be put along U.S. 277 in Haskell County.

A fire destroyed an empty frame barn on the S.P. Herren farm, nine miles north of

Haskell.

Army Sergeant First Class Jackie L. Bevel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman L. Bevel of Haskell, received the Bronze Star Medal for outstanding meritorious service.

Myrle Orr of Haskell was honored with a birthday dinner in the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. McCarron of Elbert.

The Weinert FHA Chapter attended the Area FHA meeting held at Tarleton State College in Stephenville.

Forty-one tasty and attractive dishes were offered at the B&PW 7th annual "Four Season's Tasting Bee" in four categories including salads, for spring; desserts, for summer; vegetables, for fall and meats, for winter.

Eddie Stuart, Gary Felker and Ed Riley, all of Haskell,

received honorable mention on the boys 7-AA All-District basketball team.

The Haskell High School track team placed third at the Anson track meet.

HHS Spanish Club students and sponsors returned from their trip to Old Mexico.

50 Years Ago March 12, 1959

High school students, Jimmy Vaughter, Barbara Rexrode, Tommy Coston and Dianne Montgomery, received the first scholastic sweater awards ever presented in Haskell, at a quiz show program held under auspices of the HHS Quill and Scroll.

Haskell Jaycees annual Sportsmanship Award in basketball was presented to Louis Jones, HHS senior and guard on the Indian basketball team.

Gene Bruce, son of Rev. and Mrs. Oscar Bruce of Haskell, is one of twenty-six students who pledged KIVA Men's Social Club at McMurry College.

100 Years Ago March 13, 1909

T.E. Russell completed a census of Haskell, showing the city had a population of 5,015.

Miss Humphrey and her seventh grade pupils of the Howard School visited the manufacturing plants in town including, the oil mill, the broom factory, electric light plant and the Free Press.

C.E. Bowers of Midland purchased the dry goods business of E.E. King in Haskell.

Tim Barlow and Chas. McFatter left for Tyler to enroll in a business college.

AG Consumer Alert

By Greg Abbott

Attorney General Abbott Urges Texans To Get All The Facts Before Entering Into Credit Counseling, Debt Servicing Agreements

It can happen quickly and catch even the most financially savvy Texans by surprise. Unexpected expenses and, perhaps, a break in employment or a decrease in income can lead to late payments as debt piles up. In the process, credit ratings start to suffer and debt becomes more expensive. The cycle can be vicious.

Texans hoping to reduce their credit card debt may encounter advertisements from credit counseling, debt management, or debt settlement companies. While reputable companies offer these services, unfortunately there are also some unscrupulous operators who make false promises in an attempt to profit from others' hard times.

Credit counseling is a service that is designed to teach credit card holders how to use credit responsibly and get out of serious debt. Some credit counselors also offer debt management plans and may refer clients to companies that offer debt management services.

Generally, legitimate debt management plans allow a debtor to consolidate their bills into a single monthly payment each month. The debtors' monthly payment is made to the credit counselor, which redistributes it to creditors—often at reduced interest rates. If executed properly and operated by a legitimate enterprise, this process can help Texans reduce their debt load.

Debt settlement companies advertise that they will assist consumers in resolving unsecured debt for less than the amount owed. Debt settlement companies attempt to reach an agreement with the consumers' creditors for a lump sum payment in settlement

of the consumers' debts. Debt settlement companies require that the consumers stop paying on their creditors, which can lead to aggressive collection efforts, legal action, and negative reports to credit bureaus.

Some fraudulent companies fail to provide any real services. These types of programs only increase financial instability and draws customers deeper into debt. Texans hoping to avoid fraudulent debt management services should avoid the following:

- Companies that guarantee "100 percent" satisfaction;
- Companies that spend little or no time reviewing a potential customer's financial situation; and
- Companies promising to perform credit repair.

As with most financial decisions, Texans should research prospective credit-counseling, debt-management, and debt settlement companies before entering into any contracts, divulging any personal information, or paying for any services. Some of these are non-profits, while others are for-profit, so their business models and fees may differ. Before hiring company, Texans should:

- Review the Office of the Consumer Credit Commissioner's list of licensed credit counselors.
- Inquire about the company's services—some will perform in-depth evaluation of each customer's monthly expenditures, while others only offer debt management programs.
- Request information about the cost of up-front and monthly fees that the service will charge for its services.
- Ask for the estimated monthly payment amount—including how much of that payment will actually be applied to preexisting debt (as opposed to new fees).
- Request that the service

provide accounting statements, which ensure that debtors can track their remaining debts and outstanding balances.

•Determine how long the repayment term will last so that an estimated debt-free day is clear.

•Check for complaints at the Office of the Attorney General and the Better Business Bureau. Consumers can check for complaints at the BBB's Web site at www.bbb.org.

For additional information visit the OAG Web site at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov. The Federal Trade Commission also offers a brochure on choosing a credit counselor.

Consumers who believe they have been victimized by a credit-counseling, debt-management, or debt settlement company can file a complaint with the OAG at 800-252-8011 or online at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.

Because only false, inaccurate, or out-of-date information can be removed from credit reports, Texans can contact credit reporting agencies on their own and do not need to pay a service to do that work for them. Each of the major credit bureaus' contact information is available below.

- Credit bureaus:
- Equifax fraud department: 888-766-0008, www.equifax.com.
 - Experian fraud department: 888-EXPERIAN (888-397-3742), www.experian.com/fraud.
 - Trans Union fraud department 800-680-7289, www.transunion.com
- Other resources:
- National Foundation for Credit Counseling 800-388-2227, www.nfcc.org.
 - Federal Trade Commission, 877-FTC-HELP, www.ftc.gov.
 - Better Business Bureau, www.bbb.org.

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Texas Forest Service urges homeowners to take precautions

With a dangerous wildfire bearing down on her Bastrop County neighborhood, Dotty Taylor grabbed little more than a change of clothes and her dog Munch before fleeing her home of nearly 20 years.

The 74-year-old woman was scared. She didn't know what was going to happen. The only thing she could think to do was pray.

It's since been four days and the massive wildfire sparked Saturday by a downed power line still is burning in Bastrop County. Nearly 1,500 acres have been scorched and 12 businesses and 28 homes have been lost.

But Taylor's home is not included among the tally.

"It looks like the Lord just put a rain coat over my place," Taylor said as she pointed to a couple of singed fence posts as her most significant damage.

Describing herself as an "old country girl," Taylor said she always has feared wildfires. So she does what she can to protect herself, keeping her yard mowed, the leaves and pine needles raked and the roof and gutters clear.

Sadly, not everyone followed her lead. Neighboring homes—many surrounded by unmanaged underbrush—didn't fare as well. At least two on her street were destroyed.

Texas Forest Service officials warned Wednesday that it could be another week before the Bastrop fire—now about 85 percent contained—is fully controlled. Firefighters have saved about 200 homes since the blaze ignited.

But the problem isn't limited to Central Texas. Just days earlier on Feb. 24, two wildfires broke out near Abilene. More than 3,000 acres were burned in Taylor County and another 700 acres were charred in neighboring Callahan County. On Wednesday, Texas Forest Service fire officials said the Taylor County fire was 95 percent contained. The Callahan County fire was contained Tuesday.

Also Wednesday, firefighters were battling a 600-acre fire south of Alpine that was burning between two subdivisions and threatening 150 homes. It was sparked by a man working with a propane burner on private property.

With much of the state still experiencing severe drought conditions, all residents are encouraged to follow Firewise principals, methods designed to help homeowners

reduce their losses by better preparing for wildland fires.

Homeowners can better protect themselves by reducing fuels—brush, grass and trees that generally burn in a wildfire—through deliberate landscaping and creation of a defensible space around their homes.

Justice Jones, mitigation and prevention coordinator for Texas Forest Service, encouraged residents to circle their homes, looking for any path that fire could follow. That includes any vegetation or flammable materials that lead directly to the house.

"It can make the difference between your home surviving a wildfire or not," Jones said. "That's the key message: 'Will a home survive or not?' is based on paying attention to those details in the landscape."

The following tips provided by Texas Forest Service can help homeowners better prepare for wildfire:

- Clear dead wood and dense, flammable vegetation that is 30 feet or closer to your home.

- Remove leaves and pine needles from gutters, roofs and underneath decks.

- Trim all tree branches overhanging your house including a radius of at least 20-feet around your chimney and 14 feet of overhead, overhang clearance in your driveway.

- Stack your firewood at least 30 feet from your home.

- Create a barrier between your home and lawn by using river rock or some other nonflammable material. Keep the lawn trimmed to create a barrier to protect your home.

- Plan an escape route and discuss it with your family. Have practice drills and include your pets.

- Check your fire extinguishers. Make sure they're charged and easy to reach in an emergency. Tell all family members where they are and teach them how to use them.

- If a wildfire does threaten your home, place a water hose on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.

IRS seeing some confusion over Recovery Rebate Credit

The Internal Revenue Service announced that an early sampling of tax returns shows about 15 percent have errors involving the Recovery Rebate Credit. Some tax returns erroneously claim the credit, do not claim the proper amount of Recovery Rebate Credit or mistakenly enter the amount of the stimulus payment they received on the Recovery Rebate Credit line.

To avoid delays in tax refunds, it is critical that taxpayers know the correct amount of the stimulus payment they received last year, if any, to help determine whether they qualify for the Recovery Rebate Credit now.

"Let me stress that last year's stimulus payment is not taxable," said Clay Sanford, Dallas IRS spokesman. "The amount of the stimulus payment will not be entered directly on the tax return."

But, Sanford added, the reason you will need to know the amount of the stimulus payment you received, if any, is so that it can be used in the process of preparing your return.

For people using a paper tax return, the stimulus payment amount will be required when completing a related worksheet. For people using tax software, the stimulus payment amount will be needed as well, but there are no pencils to sharpen. The software will figure whether you have a Recovery Rebate Credit coming

to you.

For most taxpayers, the correct entry for the recovery rebate credit will either be blank or zero.

If there is any question at all as to the amount that should be reported for the recovery rebate credit, the taxpayer or preparer should enter "RRC" on the appropriate line, and the IRS will determine from records whether a recovery rebate credit is due, and, if so, how much.

Some of the major factors that could qualify you for the recovery rebate credit include:

- Your financial situation changed dramatically from 2007 to 2008.

- You did not file a 2007 tax return.

- Your family gained an additional qualifying child in 2008.

- You were claimed as a dependent on someone else's return in 2007 but cannot be claimed as dependent by someone



THIRD PLACE WINNER—Paige Glover, second from left, took third place with this Hampshire Barrow at the San Angelo Livestock Show. Helping her with her pig are, l-r, Meghan Glover, Chad Glover and Melissa Glover.



GLOVER SHOWS DUROC—Meghan Glover placed second and won Reserve Champion with her Duroc at the San Angelo Livestock Show. Pictured are, l-r, Wes Utley, Colby Christy, Meghan Glover, Paige Glover, Chad Glover, Melissa Glover and Harvey Schwartzner, breeder.

Youth HeadQuarters' invites you to

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- Rockband
- Homework Help
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- Dance and Cheer

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Jesse Medford at (325)733-2879

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Youth HeadQuarters' presents

DANCE

Classes start Thursday March 26th!!

Middle School & High School meets: 5:00 - 6:00 pm Haskell HS Room 118

To Register and for information call Jesse Medford at (325) 733-2879

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Student visits Rotary Club

Hanna Wallace is the daughter of Mark and Tammie Wallace of Haskell. She is a Christian.

At Haskell High School, she is involved in basketball, track, Student Council and FFA. Her awards include the Junior basketball award. She was nominated to play in the FCA basketball game and serves as senior class president.

She enjoys movies and being with her friends.

She plans to attend Cisco Junior College in Abilene.



HANNA WALLACE

Cothron trades tractors for helicopters

by Caron Yates

It's a long way from driving and maintaining tractors on the farm, but Sgt. Wade Cothron is now in charge of a 23,000 pound, \$40 million Chinook helicopter. He is the primary owner and maintainer of the helicopter, and mans a machine gun in the cabin area, while monitoring flight critical systems during flight.

Cothron, a 2003 graduate of Haskell High School, is the son of Connie Cothron and the late Joe Cothron. He is a member of the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade which is based at Fort Hood, and is currently serving in Iraq. He deployed last May and is scheduled to be in Iraq for twelve to fifteen months.

Cothron began as a part of

the ground maintenance crew, moved up to a crew-level flight position, and finally advanced to Flight Engineer. This means he is the primary caretaker of this massive flying machine.

The unit is stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq which is about seven miles north of Baghdad. Their foremost purpose is to transport troops and supplies to the other bases in Iraq.

The Chinook flies with a crew of five and can carry a load of up to 50,000 pounds gross weight. Cothron has logged approximately three hundred hours in the air in the eight months he has been deployed. Each member of the crew has a specialized job, and his is to oversee the efficient working of the helicopter itself.

When Cothron arrived in Iraq last June the temperature was 140 degrees. He said, "I was there for a long time before I even saw a cloud in the sky. I was beginning to think I'd never see one again." He said the climate in Iraq is somewhat like ours, but they are plagued with fierce sandstorms. In fact, the storms can be so bad, that pilots are sometimes completely disoriented. Fortunately they are the first unit to deploy with the new CH-47F model helicopter which has highly specialized instruments.

Although he doesn't have many opportunities to interact with the local Iraqi citizens,

he has been a part of helping to train the Iraqi soldiers. Cothron says, "The soldiers are volunteers and are very proud of the progress being made. They see a future for their country."

The morale among most of the American service men and women is also positive. They consider their mission as not only helping the Iraqi people, but also as protecting the interests of the United States. When time in their busy schedules allow, soldiers do have access to communication back home in the states.

Cothron expressed his appreciation for himself and all the troops for the generous mail and care packages being sent. Although there are several good organizations, he indicated the Soldiers' Angels organization was one of the best for pairing individuals or groups with soldiers. Locally there have been school groups, Sunday School classes, clubs, families and individuals who have sent items to deployed soldiers.

As is the case with many professions, when you sign on with the military, you understand the risks involved in the job. Like others from our area who are serving overseas, Cothron is proud to be a part of the force that is not only helping others, but also protecting each of us. We, in turn, are proud of him.



SERVING IN IRAQ—Haskell native, Wade Cothron, is serving with the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, based at Fort Hood, in Iraq.

ECC Menu

Mon., March 16 cookie, tea or coffee
Lunch—Enchiladas, Spanish rice, pinto beans, garden salad, chips, salsa, Coke cake, tea or coffee

Fri., March 20
Lunch—Beef stew, tuna and pimento sandwiches, onion slice, chips, pickles, pears, cookie, tea or coffee

Wed., March 18
Lunch—Ham and beans, onions, pickles, creamy coleslaw, cornbread, jello, lunch.

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

Burn Ban in effect

This Week's Devotional Message:



The legend of St. Patrick has come down to us in such a form as to make us concentrate on its more whimsical aspects rather than its serious message. The greeting card racks sprout shamrocks and little men in green suits. Regardless of our ethnic backgrounds, we all become "Irish" on that day and don green garments. Hibernian melodies emanate from

the radio stations. With all of that, we tend to forget the story of St. Patrick's perilous journey to Ireland to persuade the people to go and worship God, and that under much safer conditions we could do the same thing. So, when you go to your House of Worship, try to bring a friend or neighbor with you, and you'll both receive the blessings that St. Patrick spoke of so long ago.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

—HASKELL—

East Side Baptist Church
Ronnie Gibson, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
600 N. 1st East, Haskell

Christian Church
Richard Barr, minister
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m.; Thurs. 7 p.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell

Church of God
Bruce Ray, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wed. 7:00 p.m.
714 North First East, Haskell

Trinity Lutheran Church
Ron Rennegarbe, pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
Hwy 380 East, Haskell

Iglesia Bautista El Calvario
Art Flores, Interim pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell

First United Methodist Church
Rev. Tom Long, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. 6 p.m.
Wed. 6 p.m.
201 N. Ave. F, Haskell

First Assembly of God
Rev. J.C. Amburn
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell

St. George Catholic Church
Father George Roney
Sat. Mass 7 p.m.; Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m.
901 N. 16th, Haskell

Church of Christ
Philip Sims, minister
Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.;
Wed. 7 p.m.
510 N. Ave. E, Haskell

First Presbyterian Church
Kelly Pigott, interim pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
306 N. Ave. E, Haskell

Trinity Baptist Church
Larry White, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6 :30 p.
114 S. Ave. D, Haskell

Hopewell Baptist Church
Sun. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
908 N. Ave. A, Haskell

Greater Independent Baptist Church
Sun. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.
301 N. 3rd St., Haskell

New Covenant Foursquare
Bill and Renee Glass, pastors
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.
200 S. Ave. F, Haskell

Mission Revival Center
Rev. William Hodge
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Tues. 6 p.m.
1600 N. Ave. B, Haskell

First Baptist Church
Greg Gasaway, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m.
301 N. Ave. E, Haskell

Church in the Wind
C.C. Curran, pastor
Sun. fellowship 5 p.m. Church 5:30 p.m.
Tues. Bible Class 7:30 p.m.
203 S. 1st East, Haskell

Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church
Morris R. Johnson, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.m.
1600 N. First St., Haskell

—WEINERT—

First Baptist Church
Dan Bullock, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
Weinert

Weinert Foursquare Church
Rev. Robert Harrison
Sunday 11 a.m
Weinert

—ROCHESTER—

Church of Christ
Steve Willis, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
West on Main Street, Rochester

First Baptist Church
Joseph Barrett, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.;
Prayer Time/Team Kids 5 p.m.;
Wed. Youth meeting 7 p.m.
500 Main, Rochester

Union Chapel Baptist Church
Clovis Dever
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Rochester

Faith Chapel of Rochester
Randy Hollingsworth, minister
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 6 p.m.
Hwy 6, Rochester

—SAGERTON—

Sagerton Methodist Church
Stephania Gilkey, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m.
Sagerton

Faith Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. Keith Palmquist, pastor
Sun. 10:30 a.m.
Sagerton

—RULE—

First Baptist Church
Russell Stanley, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
1001 Union Ave., Rule

Primitive Baptist Church
Dale Turner Jr., pastor
First & Third Sundays 10 a.m.
Corner of 8th & Robins, Rule

Church of Christ
John Greeson, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
811 Union, Rule

First United Methodist Church
Tom Long, pastor
Sun. Morn. Worship 8:30 a.m.
1000 Union Ave., Rule

Primera Iglesia Bautista
Alfa y Omegas
Manuel Marin, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
500 Elm Street, Rule

Sweet Home Baptist Church
Larry Neal, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.;
Gladstone Ave., Rule

West Bethal Baptist Church
Rev. Clovis Dever
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
300 Sunny Ave., Rule

—PAINT CREEK—

Paint Creek Baptist Church
Sun. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.
Paint Creek

—O'BRIEN—

O'Brien Baptist Church
Jim Reid, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a., 5 p., 6 p, Wed. 6 p.m.
O'Brien

IRS defines contractor or employee for taxes

The federal government reports that 70-80% of all new jobs are created by small businesses—congratulations to the nation's self-employed for being major contributors to the economy! The question is, by hiring additional workers, are micro-businesses (those with 10 or fewer employees) actually creating more paperwork for themselves?

As a firm grows, many business owners decide to begin using other workers to help manage the needs of new and existing clients. At that point, the business owner must determine the tax classification for the new position he or she just created. Many small businesses think that this distinction is a matter of choice. Not so, says the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

It is extremely important to know the classification of your workers and to make sure you pay them correctly and then report those payments correctly to the IRS at the end of the year. The IRS actually uses a multi-step checklist to evaluate whether a person is an employee or an independent contractor. If you are unsure whether to classify your newest worker as an employee or an independent contractor, here is a quick way to sort them out:

•If you control the Who, Where, When and How the work is done, then they are probably an employee. This means that you, as the business owner, must file a Form W2, withhold income and payroll tax, and potentially contribute to their retirement plans.

•If the worker controls their

own work product and even has other customers besides you, then they are most likely independent contractors. They are responsible for their own forms, including Schedule C, Profit or Loss from Business; Schedule SE, Self Employment Tax and Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number.

This is certainly a complicated issue and a very important one as small businesses continue to create jobs. For more details on how to classify a worker, visit the IRS online (www.irs.gov) where you can download Form SS-8, Determination of Worker Status for Purposes of Federal Employment Taxes and Income Tax Withholding.

The National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE) also offers free micro-business tax advice from certified public accountants through TaxTalk. Submit your question and receive an answer in about two business days at tax.NASE.org.

Haskell School Menu

March 16-20
Spring break for Haskell CISD

Paint Creek School Menu

March 16-20
Spring break for Paint Creek ISD

Sonic Drive-In
1402 N. Ave. E
864-8533
Managers: Leon & Carolyn Herring

Steele Fire Apparatus
Hwy. 380 • 864-2208

Modern Way Food Store
1202 N. Ave. E • 864-3763

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207 S. 1st • 864-3631
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Rule Co-op Gin & Elevator
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Smitty's Auto Parts
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940-864-2686

For Sale

FOR SALE: 16 ft. and 8 ft. garage doors Doors are sectional with all hardware. \$200 for both. 325-660-8011. 47tfc

FOR SALE: Motorcycle travel back pack. \$75. 325-721-0674 or 940-864-2023. 37tfc

FOR SALE: Aluminum camper shell for a short bed pickup. \$75. Call 325-721-0674 cell or 940-864-2023 after 5 p.m. 44tfc

ALL NEW king pillow top mattress and split box set. \$279. Complete 3 piece set, still wrapped. 428-9172. 10-13c

BRAND NEW QUEEN pillowtop mattress 2 piece set, in plastic. Original warranty. \$179. 325-428-9172. 10-13c

\$169 NEW FULL mattress. Orthopedic. Still in plastic. Never used. Twin \$99. 325-428-9172. 10-13c

VISCO MEMORY FOAM mattress and box. Sealed in plastic with manufacturer's warranty. Must move. \$350. 325-428-9172. 10-13c

FOR SALE: Antique solid oak rocking chair in good condition. 864-3254. 11p

Garage Sale

ASPERMONT community wide garage sale: Sat., March 14. For information, call 940-989-3197, to pick up maps come by Chamber of Commerce office at 612 Washington Street on Saturday. 11c

HUGE GARAGE SALE: Sat., March 14, 8 until ? Young Farmers Barn in Munday, 3 blocks south of Allsup's. Benefits Cancer Relay For Life. 11c

TWO FAMILY garage sale: Sat.-Sun., March 14-15. 8 to ? Clothes, different sizes; shoes, furniture, misc. 505 S. Ave. F. 11p

Miscellaneous

HOUSE LEVELLING and foundation repair. No payments until work is satisfactorily completed. David Lee & Co. 325-675-6369. 1-888-486-8588. 6tfc

SRACCESS.NET. Download, talk and surf. High speed internet. Call 863-1125. New extreme speeds. New anti-extreme rates. srcaccess.net. 33tfc

ART CLASSES with noted artist Paul Friske, third Saturday each month at Haskell ISD art building, Ave. D between N. 6th and N. 7th. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information, call Betty 940-864-3122 or Bobbie 940-658-3152. 11p

Burn Ban in effect



Photos and Photo Pin Buttons Available upon request. Sports Athletes Other Activities also. Contact Bill Blankenship 940-864-3535

For Rent

FOR RENT: Furnished rooms for rent. Nightly, weekly. Call Lone Star Lodging 864-2238 or 864-2424. 2tfc

FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT. Daily, weekly, monthly. 940-256-0384. 10-13c

HOUSES FOR RENT: Call Shane, owner/agent, at 940-256-2930. 11-14c

Help Wanted

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

GIBSON CARE Center, Aspermont needs CNAs for all shifts. Call Melissa Prew, ADON at 940-989-3526. E.O.E. 9tfc

VACANCY: The Haskell Consolidated Independent School District is seeking applications for the position of general grounds/maintenance worker with bus driving responsibilities. Applications for the position may be picked up at the HCISD Administration Office at 605 North Avenue E during regular school business hours or by logging on to the school's website at www.haskell.esc14.net and clicking on Employment Opportunities. For more information, please contact Superintendent Bill Alcorn at 940-864-2602. If you need to fax your application, the administration office's fax number is 940-864-8096. Haskell CISD is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants for all positions are considered without regard to race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, marital or veteran status, the presence of a medical condition, disability, or any other legally protected status. 10-11c

DQ CO-MANAGER. Munday Dairy Queen. Food service career with top salary and bonuses for continued growth. Responsible, honest leader with people skills. Background and drug test required; smoke free. Richeson Home Office 940-549-5041, ask for Jennifer Spurrier 9-5, M-F. Other times, leave message. 11-14c

80-BED FACILITY seeking full time LVNs and CNAs. Please send resume or request application from Gibson Care Center, Attn.: Darla Trammel, RN, DON or Melissa Smart, LVN, ADON, P.O. Box 567, Aspermont, Texas 79502. EOE. 11-12c

Real Estate

FOR SALE: 1998 Prowler New Way travel trailer, 34 footer. Set up on lot at Lake Stamford, Veda's. Water furnished. Lawn mowed. Possible one year lease on lot with purchase. Three slide-outs. Clean bed. AM-FM Stereo/TV. Full shower enclosure. Oak cabinets. \$18,000 OBO. 940-863-4680 or 325-773-2457. Shown by appointment. 10-11c

Public Notices

NOTICE Haskell County will be accepting sealed bids for the sale or lease of the former County Library Building located at 412 N. 1st, Haskell, Texas. Contact the County Judge's office at 940-864-2851, to make an appointment to see the building. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2009. Bids will be presented at the next Commissioners' Court meeting March, 23, 2009. Haskell County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. 10-11c

NOTICE TO BIDDERS The City of Haskell is accepting bids on approximately 45 blocks to be seal coated. Bids are to be opened April 10, 2009 at 12:00 noon. Bid specifications and further information may be obtained by contacting the Haskell City Hall. SEAL COAT SPECIFICATIONS APPROXIMATELY 45 CITY BLOCKS Before application of seal coat, the surface shall be broomed by contractor to remove all excess dirt and aggregate. The course shall consist of AC-5 asphaltic material evenly applied at a rate of approximately 0.30 to 0.35 gallon per square yard, completely free of streaks and Class B PB grade 4 aggregate in an amount of approximately 22 pounds per square yard of surface area. All intersections will have radius corners seal coated at the same rate. All seal coating will be done when temperature is above 75 degrees. The contractor shall notify the City of Haskell 5 working days in advance before beginning seal coat operation. Payment shall be made at the unit price bid prices per square yard for seal coated asphaltic surface. Payment shall be reimbursement in full for materials, labor, equipment, supervision, and incidentals and for applying the asphaltic seal coat surface treatment in accordance with the specifications and to the satisfaction of the City of Haskell. The City Administrator

must approve any changes or alterations to the above specifications before the work is done. Sealed bids will be opened on Friday, April 10 after receiving. Deadline is 12:00 noon on April 10. The Haskell City Council will review and award bid at their regular monthly meeting to be held April 13th 2009 at 7:00 a.m. The City of Haskell reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Call City Administrator, Brandon Anderson, with any questions at 940-864-2355. 11-12c

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT Smith Pipe of Abilene, P.O. Box 6291 Abilene, Texas 79608 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid in the Strawn Sand Formation, A.E. Fouts Lease, Well Number 3. The proposed injection well is located 5 miles South of Rule, Texas in the Sagerton, NE (Strawn) Field, in Haskell County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5280 to 5600 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792). 11c

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HASKELL By virtue of an Order of Sale issued out of the Honorable 39th Judicial District Court of Haskell County on the 5th day of March, 2009, by the Clerk thereof, in the case(s) styled as follows: Cause No. 11,381. Styling: Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v. H & J Mechanical Inc. Legal description: 1. Lots 10-13, and South 75' of Lot 8, Lot 9, Block 29, Original Town Addition to the City of Rule, Haskell County, Texas. Cause No. 11,390. Styling: Knox County Appraisal District, et al v. W.E. Smith. Legal description: 2. 100 acres more or less out of the H&TC RR Co. Survey #20, Block 14, Abstract 1092, Haskell County Texas. Cause No. 11,424. Styling: Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v. Petra Villarreal. Legal description: 3. Lot 2, Block 26, Brown and Roberts Addition to the City of Haskell, Haskell County, Texas. Cause No. 11,457. Styling: Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v Gloria Martinez Sosa. Legal description: 4. Lot 1, Block 22, A.B. Carothers Addition to the City of Rochester, Haskell County, Texas. Cause No. 11,460. Styling: Haskell County Appraisal District, et al v. George Overcash. Legal description: 5. Lot 11, and West Half of Lot 10, Block 16, Highland Addition to the City of Haskell, Haskell County, Texas. and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell, at 2:00 o'clock p.m. on the 7th day of April, 2009, which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the South door of the Courthouse of Haskell County, in the City of Haskell, Texas. Levied on the 5th day of March, 2009, as the property of said defendants, to satisfy the judgment rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest, at 12 percent per annum, and all costs of suit in favor of each jurisdiction. "All bidders must now display proof of compliance with 34.015 of Texas Tax Code." Given under my hand this 5th day of March, 2009. David Halliburton Sheriff Haskell County, Texas By: Winston Stephens Deputy. 11-13c

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON AGENCY PLANS On March 20, 2009 at 2 p.m., the Board of Commissioners for the Haskell Housing Authority will hold a public meeting to receive comments on the Housing Authority's Five-year Plan and Annual Plan. The meeting will take place in the Community Center located at the Haskell Housing Authority at 702 S. Avenue H, Haskell, Texas. The draft Plans and all supporting documentation are available to the public for viewing at the administration office of the Housing Authority located at 702 S. Avenue H, on weekdays during the hours of 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. 11c

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1002 N. 7TH. Immaculate home with two bedrooms and one bath, large living, large kitchen and separate utility room. Amenities include fresh paint, kitchen floor, good quality carpet, ceiling fans, good roof, storm cellar and carport.

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

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Haskell, TX 79521

Scott Langford
Owner
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Doug Sorrells
Supervisor
940-256-0536

Office
940-864-3490

Fax
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FEATURED LISTINGS

1201 N. AVE. L. A STORY AND A HALF! 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 1 1/2 story home, kitchen with eat in dining room, both bedrooms downstairs are nice size and the upstairs bedroom is unbelievably large, house has been well maintained, one car detached garage and house sets on two lots and it's on the corner.

202 S. AVE. G - HERE IS AN ESTATE FOR YOU! 2 bedroom, 3 bath lovely home, large guest quarters out back to include a 2 bedroom, 1 bath with sitting area, three car garage. Estate also includes a large warehouse and has two additional lots (1/2 city block). Lots can be sold separately.

1504 N. AVE. F. MOVE-IN READY. 2 bedroom, 2 full bath frame home, formal living room, with step down den, fireplace, wet bar, large kitchen, dining room, master bedroom with large walk in closet, utility room, 2 seat hot tub, all appliances and furnishings stay, fenced back yard, one car carport. Priced to sell.

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Calendar

Burn ban issued

A burn ban is in effect for Haskell County. The use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person is prohibited. Combustible materials specifically include, but are not limited to, fireworks, camp fires, welding and any other pyrotechnic material, which in the manner or means of its use could result in a wildfire. The ban will continue until conditions warrant otherwise, stated Haskell County Judge David C. Davis. A person who knowingly or intentionally violates this order commits a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

Talent show

The talent show to benefit Haskell Heroes and Autism Speaks will be held Mon., March 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Haskell High School Auditorium. Contact Melissa Burson at 256-2509 for information or to register. Registration forms are available at the Elementary, Junior High and High School offices.

Study Club

The Progressive Study Club will meet Thurs., March 12 at 7 p.m. in the Haskell National Bank Community Room for a program on International Affairs and Heifer Project International presented by Sandi Conway of Albany, second vice president of Texas Federation Women's Club.

Josselet reunion

The descendants of Victor and Catherine Josselet will gather Sat., April 11 in Haskell at the Civic Center for fellowship, fun and food.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Bring salads, vegetables or desserts to share. An Easter egg hunt will be held for the children and the famous auction for the adults. A large group picture is planned. To add changes or additions to the family, contact Julia Harrell at juwlstex@netscape.net or call 940-864-8017 by March 25. Send the number attending the reunion and the number of children hunting eggs.

Walkathon

A walkathon benefitting medical expenses for Dora and Ralph Torres will be held Fri., March 27 at the Haskell Track by Haskell CISD students. Teams of six will gather pledges and walk all day to raise money for the couple. Contact Emily Fouts at Rochester Junior High for more information.

Food distribution

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

Skywarn class

The National Weather Service will present a Skywarn class Mon., April 6 at 7 p.m. at the Haskell Fire Station. All who are interested in weather watching, including area firemen, law enforcement officials and citizens, are invited to attend.

Spaghetti lunch

A spaghetti luncheon and silent auction will be held Sun., March 22 at the Church of Christ activity building from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. to

benefit Autism Speaks and Haskell Heroes. The meal will include spaghetti, bread, salad, dessert and drink. Take outs will be available. Cost is \$7 per plate. Tickets are available from Melissa Burson, Tamara Swinney, Jennifer Bridges, church office or at the door.

Retired teachers

The Haskell Co. Retired Teachers will meet at the Red Rooster restaurant, 1006 S. Ave. E in Haskell, Wed., March 18 at 11:30 a.m. All retired school personnel are invited to attend.

Assistance

Veronica Harvey, Social Services Outreach Coordinator for the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank, will be at the Haskell Housing Authority Mon., March 23 from 3 to 5 p.m. offering application assistance for Food Stamps, Medicaid, CHIPs, and the Women's Health Program.

Book fair

Rule ISD will host an open house Tues., March 24 from 5 to 6 p.m. with an opportunity for those attending to visit with teachers and other staff members about student progress and scheduled activities. The Scholastic Book Fair will be held March 23-27 in the library. A Book Fair Family Event will be held during open house when refreshments will be served.

Cancer support

The Haskell Area Cancer Support group meets every other Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the First Assembly of God Church. The next meeting is Tues., March 24. For more information, call 940-864-5964.

Immunizations

The Texas Dept. of Health in Stamford will hold an immunization clinic Thurs., March 12 at the Haskell Hospital Education Building in Haskell. Clinic times are from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information call 325-773-5681.

Noah Project

Noah Project-North will host "Spring Fling," a fund-raiser, set Sat., April 4 at the Civic Center. The entertainment will be "A Tribute to Elvis" by Rick Campbell of Stamford. Mike Fouts will be the emcee. Auction items will be available. To make a monetary donation or to donate items, call 940-864-2551 or mail to P.O. Box 52, Haskell, Texas 79521. The doors will open at 6 p.m., the meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the show will start at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 each and may be purchased at the door, by calling the number above or from any advisory board member.

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

Veterans benefits outreach meeting to be held March 14

A Veterans benefits and health care outreach meeting to discuss eligibility for Veterans benefits and medical services will be held Sat., March 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hamlin High School Cafeteria in Hamlin.

Valuable personal assistance for questions and claims will be available from experts from the County Veterans Service Officers and Texas Veterans

Commission, VA Benefit Counselors—bring your VA correspondence, Big Spring VA Veterans Health Care System, Texas Veterans Land Board and other organizations service veterans.

The event is sponsored by the Veteran services officers of Jones, Haskell and Fisher counties, VFW Posts #6014, #8929 and #9179 and America Legion Post #661.

Smoke causes health risks

You don't have to be a pack-a-day smoker to increase your odds of illness. Even the occasional cigarette can pose a danger to your health, researchers say.

"The decline in smoking rates in this country represents a tremendous public health success story," says cardiologist Dr. Jarett Berry, an assistant professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center. "Nevertheless, the growing rates of casual or social smoking among younger adults are particularly

concerning. Research has shown consistently that even an occasional cigarette raises your risk for heart disease, stroke and cancer."

Some health risks include higher cancer rates, lung disease and heart disease.

Even people who work in places where they are exposed to secondhand smoke have a higher risk of disease.

The best way to improve your health is to steer clear of cigarettes completely and to minimize exposure to cigarette smoke.

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COMBO NO. 2 SAUSAGE/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE	\$2.09	COMBO NO. 7 2 HOT LINKS WITH BREAD & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59
COMBO NO. 3 BBQ SANDWICH & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.09	COMBO NO. 8 2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69
COMBO NO. 4 HOMESTYLE POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.79	COMBO NO. 9 CHIMICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.49
COMBO NO. 5 SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.79	COMBO NO. 10 2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69

MORE SPECIALS

CATFISH BASKET 2 PIECES OF CATFISH & POTATO WEDGES	\$2.89
BLUE BUNNY KING SIZE BAR EACH	79¢
POWERADE ASSORTED FLAVORS 32 OZ.	2 FOR \$2.50
ALLSUP'S SANDWICH BREAD 24 OZ. / 89¢ OR	2 FOR \$1.49
ALLSUP'S WHEAT BREAD 24 OZ. / 99¢ OR	2 FOR \$1.59