

Happy New Year

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 123-NO. 53, ©DECEMBER 31, 2009

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

Basketball

HASKELL
JVG-VG VS Rotan
Tues., Jan. 5, 5 p.m.
at Haskell
PAINT CREEK
VG-B vs Knox City
Sat., Jan. 2, 10 a.m.
at Knox City
VG-B vs Lueders-Avoca
Tues., Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m.
at Lueders-Avoca
RULE
VG-VB vs Jayton
Tues., Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m.
at Rule

Calendar

Art Association

The Brazos West Art Association will meet Mon., Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Haskell National Bank Community Room with Paul Friske of Abilene, well-known artist, presenting the program. Hostesses will be Nelwyn Beakley and Marsha Whittemore. All guests are welcome.

Fire victim help

A fund to assist Damien Winterstein, son of Dana and Chad Pannell of Haskell, has been established at Citibank in Haskell. Winterstein lost everything in a bedroom fire at his home on Christmas Day.

Cookbooks

The Committee to Help Haskell County's cookbook, comprised of recipes from Haskell County cooks, is available at the Tax Assessor/Collector's office and at Susan Cockerell's office in the courthouse for \$15. This is one of CHHC's major fund-raisers for providing an academic award for a graduating senior at each of our three county high schools.

Volleyball night

First Baptist Church in Haskell is hosting an open gym for volleyball every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. Volleyball players of all ages are welcome to come and play. There is no charge. For more information, call the church office at 864-2581.

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. For more information, call 940-864-5964.

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WHITE CHRISTMAS—Haskell and the surrounding area found itself in almost unheard of blizzard conditions on Christmas Eve. Approximately 5.25 inches of snow fell and strong winds blew causing hazardous drifts on area roads. Travelers and emergency workers alike found themselves in the grip of the storm battling very low visibility and slick roadways. Many county and farm roads were almost impassable with drifts as tall as some vehicles. Christmas Day travel was improved, but the temperatures didn't rise enough to melt the snow as the white stuff was still evident on Tuesday. If you didn't have to work or travel, the snow was indeed a Christmas blessing.

Anderson is new prison warden

by Caron Yates

The Rolling Plains Regional Jail and Detention Center has a new man in charge. Arthur Anderson, who began work for Emerald in October, has had a long, successful career with the Texas Department of Corrections.

After graduating from Harlingen High School, he earned two associate degrees. One was in corrections, and the other in police administration and law enforcement. Armed with an education and a desire to work for the law, Anderson began his career as a correctional officer.

His almost thirty-one year career with the Criminal Justice System, saw him advance from correctional officer to senior warden, while serving at eleven different facilities. Although most of his appointments were in Central Texas, he has also worked in Brazoria County, Anderson County, Dawson County, Bee County where he was an assistant warden, and Childress County where he first served as warden.

While he has the manner of a quiet, respectful, reserved man, his record proves he

can handle even the most difficult of situations. It was after a deadly riot situation at a prison in Lamesa, he was sent to "solve the problems." That is exactly what he did, and within a year the prison was brought back into compliance, passed audit with a high score, and the issues with inmates resolved. Anderson was honored as Warden of the Year in 2004.

For now Anderson's wife Tandra, will remain in West Columbia, near Houston to care for her parents. They have a son and two daughters and are proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

After retiring as a senior warden from the Criminal Justice System in 2005, he accepted a job with GEO, which runs several private prisons. While employed with GEO, he worked in San Antonio, Littlefield and Newton County as deputy warden and then as senior warden.

Anderson says that when the opportunity to work for Emerald presented itself, he decided to sign on. Although he has lived in the Houston area, he considers himself a small town guy. He enjoys hunting and fishing, and finds great pleasure in the

peace and quiet of country living.

He looks forward to the challenges of running a facility with more than five hundred detainees and a working staff of one hundred

forty. Anderson says that while every facility has some issues to address, he is focused on keeping the detention center in compliance and working toward readiness for upcoming audits.

Fireworks display set tonight

The eleventh annual W.E. Hollingsworth Memorial Fireworks display, sponsored by the Haskell County Historical Commission, will be held Thurs., Dec. 31, beginning at 9 p.m.

Jim Hollingsworth, chairman of the commission, and his family will set off another large load of fireworks on their farm between Rule and Rochester, located five miles west of Hwy. 6 at the intersection of FM 617 and County Road 146. The fireworks will be on the west side of County Road 146 on thirty acres of land especially prepared for the event due to dry weather conditions. Parking along FM 617 for a mile east of County Road 146 will

provide a prime view of the fireworks display.

About this time in 1999 a local article was published about Jim and his grandfather William Edward Hollingsworth's discussion in 1944 about the change of the century. A five year old boy was heartbroken that his beloved granddad would not be with him to witness the new century on New Year's Eve.

Hollingsworth vowed to celebrate in honor of his grandfather nevertheless. News wires picked up the story for Abilene, Wichita Falls, Amarillo and Lubbock newspapers.

That article triggered an overwhelming response among area grandparents.

Filing time for March primary ends Jan. 4

The March primary is just a few months away. Anyone planning to run for local office in that election, must file with the county clerk's office by January 4.

According to Rhonda Moeller, county clerk, completion of the forms and payment of filing fees to the party chairman are required by this deadline.

Several four-year term county and district positions will be up for election this year. They include District Judge, County Judge, District Clerk, County Clerk, Tax Assessor-Collector, County Treasurer, Justice of the Peace and Commissioners for precinct two and four.

Voter registration cards are now being mailed. If you are a registered voter, and have not received your card by the end of this month, you can contact the tax assessor-collector's office. Any card received where the person no longer lives at that address, can either be brought to the tax assessor's office, or put back in the mail with a note indicating they are deceased or have moved.

Haskell Jr. Livestock Show set Jan. 14-16

by Wes Utley

CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co. The annual Haskell County Junior Livestock Show and Sale will be held January 14-16 at the Haskell County Show Barn.

Arrival time for entries of steers, heifers, lambs and swine is Thurs., Jan. 14 by 4 p.m. Poultry and rabbits arrival time is Thurs., Jan. 14 by 6:30 p.m.

Show time schedules are

Thurs., Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. for poultry and rabbits; and Fri., Jan. 15 at 8 a.m. for lambs; followed by swine. Beginning at 2 p.m. for steers followed by heifers will show.

Judge for the lambs, swine, steers and heifers will be Mark Standley of Nazareth.

Judge for rabbits and chickens will be Chris Beard, AST-Albany.

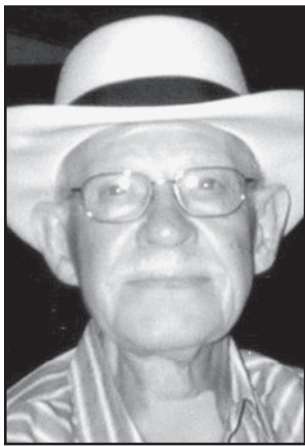


GOODFELLOWS BOXES—Haskell Lions Club members and community volunteers met Wed., Dec. 23 at the Haskell Fire Dept. to prepare 50 boxes to be delivered to needy families. Members of the Haskell Volunteer Fire Dept. and Lions Club delivered the boxes on Christmas Eve. Preparing the boxes were, l-r, Donnie Rieger, Ellen Rieger, Anna Rieger Doan, Doug King, Nathan Meredith, Garrett Brueggeman, Sara Weise, Tom Bassett, Jennifer Burgess, Brian Burgess, Jacie Klose, Crissy Bassett and Linda Haynes.

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Obituaries

Dyrell Davis



DYRELL DAVIS
Funeral services for Dyrell Davis, 74, of Haskell were held Mon., Dec. 28

at Trinity Baptist Church in Haskell with Bro. Tony Grand and Bro. Larry White officiating. Burial was in Howard Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mr. Davis died Thurs., Dec. 24.

Born Jan. 20, 1935 in Haskell County, he was the son of the late Mitchell Davis and Thelma Decker. He married Judy McGary Feb. 10, 2005 in Haskell. He was a member of the Trinity

Baptist Church and a square dancing group.

Survivors include his wife, Judy Davis of Haskell; a son, Dyrell Franklin Davis Jr. and wife Brenda of Glen Rose; two stepsons, Mike Peters of Bridgeport and Kenneth Peters of Haskell; two stepdaughters, Darla Davis and husband James of Lake Stamford and Beverly Watson of Haskell; one sister, Barbara Rodgers of San Gabriel, California; nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

PD. NOTICE

New year means new regulation for Texas cattle

Thinking about selling, leasing, bartering or even giving away a breeding bull? On Jan. 1, Texas bulls that undergo a change of ownership (except to slaughter) must be either certified as a virgin bull or be tested first for cattle trichomoniasis, a protozoal disease that can cause cows to abort very early in pregnancy. Infected bulls carry the microscopic "bug" that causes trichomoniasis without any signs and can transmit the single-celled protozoa to cows during breeding.

"There is no effective treatment for bulls, and once infected, they can continue to spread trichomoniasis when they breed," said Dr. Dee Ellis, who, on Jan. 1, will be Texas' new state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "Infected cows may clear the infection, but only if they are given rest from breeding for 120-150 days—an expensive option, as a calf crop will be missed. A vaccine also is available to help in the management of infected cows, but it will not prevent infection."

The country's western states have long-standing cattle trichomoniasis regulations. About two years ago, the Texas ranching industry requested similar regulations, to protect against the introduction and the spread of cattle trichomoniasis, or "trich." For months, representatives from the state's ranching, marketing and veterinary industries worked with the TAHC to develop effective regulations to control the disease, which affects herd productivity and an operation's bottom line. In April 2009, the TAHC enacted requirements for bulls entering Texas. In-state regulations were delayed until Jan. 1, 2010.

"For months, we have worked with the Texas cattle industry to inform producers and have participated in many meetings about cattle trichomoniasis and the regulations. More than 600 accredited private veterinarians in Texas have been certified to collect samples for trichomoniasis

testing, and we are ready to implement the intrastate regulations for bulls undergoing a change of ownership in Texas," said Dr. Ellis.

Dr. Ellis said the regulations will apply to bulls being sold, traded, leased or undergoing any change of ownership (except for slaughter). The regulations include three basic steps:

- Identify the bull. Identification is essential for matching animals with virgin bull certificates or test documents. One form of identification is needed, and it may be an official USDA ear tag, breed registry brand or tattoo, an 840 flap, bangle or an 840 radio frequency identification device. If the bull originated from another state, it may have that state's official state of origin trichomoniasis ear tag (Texas does not have an official trich ear tag). An accredited veterinarian can apply an official USDA ear tag.

- Certify virgin bulls. A breeder can certify the bull as a virgin, if the animal was raised away from cows after weaning, and the bull is 24 months of age or younger. A Texas-origin bull's virgin status may be extended to 30 months, if the virgin certificate is signed also by the breeder's accredited veterinarian. Virgin bulls are not required to have a trichomoniasis test prior to change of ownership. Virgin bull certificates are available at no cost on the TAHC web page at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us>.

- Test older or non-virgin bulls. Bulls older than 30 months or bulls that were maintained with cows after weaning must have a negative trichomoniasis test within 30 days prior to change of ownership. A certified, accredited veterinarian must collect the sample for testing at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. While awaiting test results, which usually takes about a week, the bulls must be kept away from cows. Upon receipt of the negative test results, the animal is ready for change of ownership.

"Breeding bulls that haven't been certified as virgins or tested are considered to be slaughter-only bulls," said Dr. Ellis. "In some cases, however, buyers may want an untested bull, although they may be buying trouble. We have provisions under the regulations for untested bulls to be identified and moved under a TAHC-issued hold order and movement permit. The animal must be isolated from female cattle, and cannot be moved until it is tested within 30 days of purchase at the owner's

expense."

"In Texas, two tests are accepted. One is the Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction test, or PCR, which looks for the DNA of the protozoa. Because only one PCR test is needed to detect infection, this may become the preferred method for producers who want to move cattle more quickly. The second acceptable test is the culture test, and it involves looking for the protozoa under a microscope. A series of three culture tests is needed, each conducted at least seven days apart," said Dr. Ellis.

"Because cattle trichomoniasis is a reportable disease, we will be notified regarding test-positive animals," explained Dr. Ellis. "Test-positive bulls may undergo a confirmation test, provided the owner or the accredited, certified veterinarian makes the request within five days of the positive results."

Because there is no effective treatment, infected bulls must go to slaughter within 30 days of confirmation. The remaining bulls in the herd will be held, isolated from female cattle, until they undergo two consecutive negative RT-PCR tests, each conducted at least seven days apart, or three consecutive negative culture tests, with each of the tests conducted at least seven days apart. When they are confirmed negative for trichomoniasis, the bulls remaining in the herd are free to be moved or to be commingled with cows.

"The cattle trichomoniasis regulations can save cattle producers a lot of money in the long run, because this disease greatly affects calf production. If you are obtaining a breeding bull, make sure the animal has been certified as a virgin or was tested—for your herd's sake," said Dr. Ellis. "We will be reviewing the regulations on a yearly basis with an industry working group, to ensure that the rules remain timely and effective."

Texas' trichomoniasis entry requirements for breeding bulls is similar to the intrastate regulations, but allows out-of-state bulls to be certified as virgins only until 24 months of age. Exhibition or competition bulls may enter Texas without a trichomoniasis test, but must be kept away from female cattle. The TAHC must be contacted in advance of entry for a waiver of the test requirement to be issued on exhibition bulls.

The TAHC's cattle trichomoniasis regulations and additional information are available on the TAHC web site at: <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us>.

Everyone should keep vaccinations up to date

When you're rolling a sleeve up to get the flu shot this year, you might take a minute and ask whether any other immunizations are due, or overdue.

Dr. R. Doug Hardy, an infectious disease specialist at UT Southwestern Medical Center, says that while immunizations are one of the 10 greatest American achievements of the past century, only children's vaccines are well utilized.

"People need to be more aware of the value of adult vaccines," Dr. Hardy says.

He said the numbers are low partly because many adults incorrectly assume that the vaccines they received as children will last

a lifetime. Still others weren't immunized as children.

Dr. Hardy says adults should discuss the recommended vaccination schedule with their doctor and determine whether they should be immunized against any of the following conditions:

- Influenza
- Pneumococcal (polysaccharide)
- Hepatitis A/B
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Td/Tdap)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Varicella
- Meningococcal

Students in the News

Midwestern State University recognized honor students for the fall 2009 semester.

Cindy Guess of Weinert was listed on the Dean's Honor Roll. To be listed on the Dean's Honor Roll, a student must complete a semester schedule of at least 12 semester hours in one semester with a grade point average of 3.50 to 3.74 and no grade lower than C.

Shannon Sanford of Weinert was listed on the Provost's Honor Roll. To be named on the Provost's Honor Roll, a student must complete a semester schedule of at least 12 semester hours in one semester with a grade point average of 3.75 to 3.99 and no grade lower than C.

Jerri J. Grimsley Buerger, of Haskell graduated with honors and a HM degree from Midwestern State University during graduation ceremonies held in December.

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KATHRYN WEST - STEVEN CRAIN

West, Crain plan January wedding

Steven Wayne Crain and Kathryn Marie West, both of Haskell, are announcing their engagement and upcoming wedding.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Lonnie and the late Kathy Crowley of Haskell. The prospective bridegroom is the son of Robert and Anita Crain of Haskell.

The couple plans a Jan. 9 wedding.

Study Club tours Munday shops

The Haskell Progressive Study Club journeyed to Munday Thurs., Dec. 10 for a delightful evening. Touring the Casa Blanca Bed and Breakfast and Boutique first, the group then adjourned to Bud's For You where Christmas "Decorations Galore" were viewed by members. Dinner was served with Linda Lane-Blaise giving the prayer. Entertainment followed with dance students of Cori Corcoran of Munday presenting the program.

A business meeting followed with president Dorothy Hartsfield presiding. Visitors and members were welcomed and thanked for bringing their unwrapped toys for a boy or girl which was donated to Haskell Goodfellows. Pocket change was donated for the on-going project of Heifer Program.

A report was given on the Progressive Study Club members meeting with the Commissioners' Court on the proposed "Wall of Honor" project, with approval being given to build a monument to veterans on the courthouse square. Danny Vestal, who has supervised such projects in Weatherford and Rochester, proposed

a black stone from a quarry in India at a cost of \$36,170 with \$3 additional for engraving per name. Veterans across Haskell County will be included. At this time there are 2,500 known names. \$5000 is needed to secure procurement of the stone and commitment to the project. Lonnie Meredith of The Drug Store has donated \$1000 and other contributions are \$125. Public advertisement is planned to promote the project which will expand the existing veterans memorial on the courthouse square.

Twenty members attended with six guests including Sally Rueffer, Gayla Nanny, Barbara Jenkins, Betty Sue McDermett, Darlene Bellinghausen and Pam Burson.

Members were reminded of the Jan. 14 meeting at the Haskell National Bank Community Room at which time new officers will be elected and Clubwoman Volunteer of the Year will be selected.

Laura Burnett, Texas Commission of Environmental Quality of Houston will be guest speaker. Members are asked to bring toiletries for the Noah Project.

Most poinsettias die from neglect

After East Texas growers take great pains to produce beautiful poinsettias, plants free of diseases and pests that could live for years, most consumers will take the plants home and kill them within a couple of weeks due to improper care, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service experts.

"Poinsettias are not poisonous. That's an urban myth," said Dr. Karl Steddom, AgriLife Extension plant pathologist. "But from a poinsettia's viewpoint, most consumers are lethal. Consumers don't mean to kill the plants. They just don't know how to take care of them."

Each year, East Texas plant nurseries will produce several million poinsettias in 6-inch pots for the holiday season, according to Steddom.

"Color Spot Nurseries in Troup alone will market more than a million poinsettias this year," said Dr. Scott Ludwig, AgriLife Extension integrated plant management specialist. "And that's only one of many nurseries in Cherokee County."

Both Ludwig and Steddom, who are based at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton, work closely with the ornamental plant growers in northeast Texas, whose sales total more than \$500 million annually, they said.

East Texas growers may start work with holiday season poinsettias as early as June or as late as August, Ludwig said.

"It's complicated, as some may start with pre-rooted cuttings, others may purchase unrooted cuttings and root their own, and still others may grow their own poinsettia root stock plants and take cuttings from them to root," he said.

Because of labor costs and the need of dedicated facilities, the more common method is to start with cuttings which are usually imported. The cuttings usually come pre-rooted in "Oasis Cubes," a small block of foam similar to that used by floral designers to hold flower arrangements. The cubes are sterile and can be saturated with water, but drain well.

Keeping the growth medium as clean as possible is important, because

poinsettias can be host to a multitude of plant diseases, including molds, foliar diseases, blights and root rot. None of the diseases are of any risk to human health, but they can reduce the attractiveness of the plant, Steddom said.

The cubes are planted into growth medium, most commonly in 6-inch pots. Again, to limit soil-borne diseases, clean potting soil is used.

Insects can be a problem, particularly whiteflies, but not if growers keep a close eye on their crop and take prophylactic measures, Ludwig said.

Another growing demand involves "black-clothing." The time which poinsettias bloom is determined by daylight hours. Poinsettias are native to Mexico, where changes in daylight cause them to turn from green to bright red right before Christmas, Ludwig said.

"We say 'bloom' but that's actually a misnomer, because it's the leaves that change color, not the bloom," Ludwig said. "But in most of the U.S., growers have to cover their greenhouses in light opaque shrouding to cause the plants to change color in time for the holiday season."

Growers will typically black cloth in stages, timing the operation so that some poinsettias change color by November for Thanksgiving, then at other times for various shipping periods up to Christmas, Ludwig said.

Of all the plant diseases to which poinsettias are susceptible, pythium root rot is probably the most common, Steddom said.

"Every year, some producers have at least small losses to pythium root rot," Steddom said. "The pythium organism can be found everywhere, but it is encouraged by over-watering and poor drainage," Steddom said.

Proper watering methods are essential. And as the disease is water borne, so growers have to take precautions about the disease being transmitted from one pot to the other by drainage.

Pythium root rot is also the most common scourge of poinsettias in the home, Steddom said. The slick holiday paper wrapped

around pots prevents drainage. On top of that, consumers are prone to over-watering the plants.

"If they want to keep their poinsettias alive, remove the wrapper as soon as possible," Steddom said. "And don't over-water. Simply stick your finger in the soil and if it feels damp, don't water it. If you let the pot sit in standing water for any length of time, you'll probably kill the plant."

Steddom said they can put the holiday wrapper back on after they let the pot drain.

"Except in South Texas, where poinsettias might survive in an outdoor landscape, to keep the plants alive, consumers are going to have to give them lots of light and keep a close eye

on soil moisture levels," Ludwig said.

Poinsettias can be made to re-bloom for the next Christmas season, but it's an arduous chore, Ludwig said.

The plants need about 14 hours of darkness alternated with 10 hours of bright light for eight to 10 weeks, he said. Even a few hours of too much light will scuttle the process. The temperature has to be regulated too.

"Most people will kill the plant trying to get it to re-bloom," Ludwig said. "Considering all the work that goes into commercially grown poinsettias and the low cost consumers pay for them, it's easier to just compost them and buy a new plant the next holiday season."

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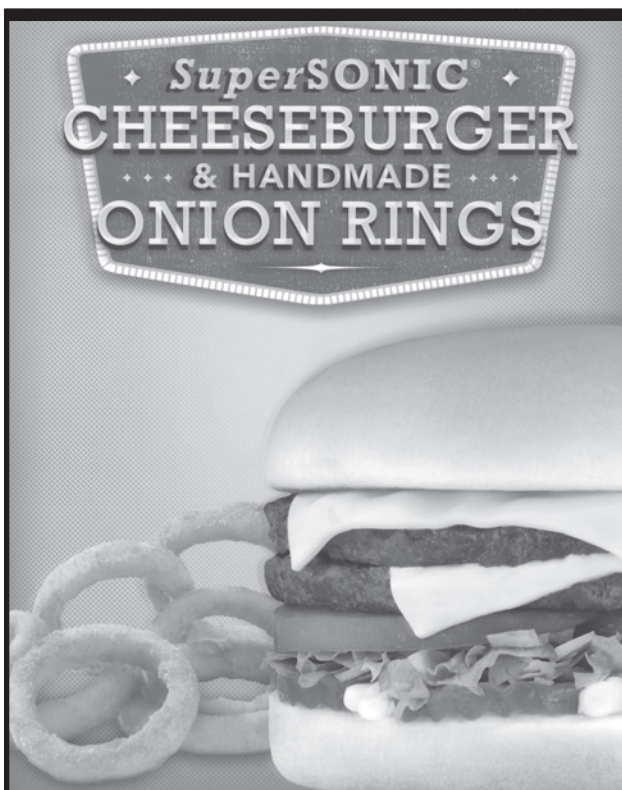
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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

State to destroy blood samples to end suit

AUSTIN—To settle a lawsuit, the Texas Department of State Health Services will destroy more than 5 million blood samples taken from newborns without the parents' consent and stored for research.

Four parents sued the department, saying that taking and storing the samples was unlawful and violated the privacy rights of the parents and children. The Texas Civil Rights Project sued in U.S. District Court in San Antonio earlier this year.

The state began collecting blood samples from newborns in 2002 and halted the process in May when a new state law banned it. Under the settlement, the state has until April 13 to destroy 5.3 million samples stored at Texas A&M University.

Health department officials began collecting the blood samples for medical research. Although the blood spots did not identify the children, parents were never notified that their newborns' blood would be stored indefinitely. The Legislature this year passed a law requiring parents to consent to their babies' blood being collected and stored.

Texas gains most people

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Texas added more people than any other state in the 12-month period that ended last July 1.

The bureau said Texas gained 478,000 new residents, an increase of 1.97 percent, bringing the state's population to 24.8 million. California had the second highest growth, adding 381,000 residents, and remained the most populous state at 37 million. Michigan, Maine and Rhode Island were the only states to lose population. The United States grew by 0.86 percent to 307 million people.

The report is the final estimate before the bureau releases its official 2010 census in December. The numbers are used to determine the distribution of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Food stamp audit sought

Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Tom Suels has asked State Auditor John Keel to audit the state's lagging food stamp application process.

Earlier this month, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid sued to force the state to meet the 30-day requirement for food stamp processing.

Keel said some eligible families have waited for months to receive food stamps. In requesting the audit, Suels blamed the delays on high

staff turnover, staff shortages, natural disasters and increasing applications.

He told Keel that the department's process is "too time consuming and not very productive."

Suels asked for Keel's help identifying waste and finding ways to improve processing applications. Keel said his office is postponing other audits to make the food stamp issue a priority.

New UT license plates possible

University of Texas fans may have a new Bevo-centric license plate available to them soon. The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles asked the public for comments on a new plate that features a large Texas Longhorn logo in burnt orange on a white background.

If approved, the new tag will sell for \$55 and be available to the public on Jan. 7. That's also the day Texas plays Alabama in the national championship game at the Rose Bowl. The UT athletic department will receive between \$5 and \$20 for each plate sold.

Death sentences decline

Capital punishment sentences have declined significantly in Texas over the past few years, according to a study by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. The newspaper said death sentences are at a 35-year low.

Prosecutors are seeking fewer death sentences and juries are more reluctant to sentence a defendant to death by lethal injection.

Also, since 2005 a sentence of life in prison without parole has been available to juries. Previously, juries had to choose between death and life with a possibility of parole.

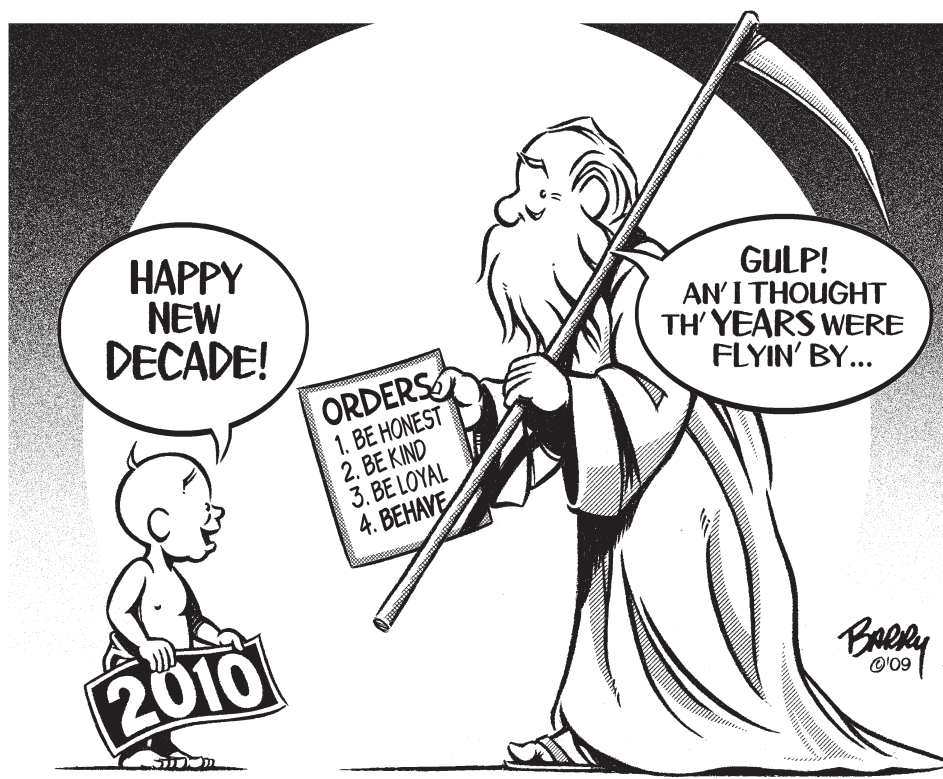
Since the change, capital punishment sentences have dropped by 40 percent. Texas had 13 death sentences in 2008 and nine so far this year, compared to 47 death sentences in 1999.

State Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., D-Brownsville, the author of the life-without-parole law, said, "It isn't life without parole that has weakened the death penalty. It is a growing lack of belief that our system is fair."

Shapleigh won't run

State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, has pulled out of the 2010 governor's race. Shapleigh said in October he would not seek reelection to the state Senate and was considering a run for statewide office.

Shapleigh, 57, said he changed his mind about seeking the Governor's Mansion after Houston Mayor Bill White announced he would seek the Democratic Party nomination for governor.



From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago December 30, 1999

Blake Liles, formerly of Haskell, has developed his love and talent for cooking into a successful career as a prize-winning chef.

The Rule Bobcats defeated Roby 85 to 73. Scoring for Rule were Lehmann 24 pts., Harvey 19 pts., Smith 16 pts., Hisey 12 pts., Hertel 9 pts. and Coker 5 pts.

A number of area shoppers were on hand for the last giant jackpot drawing. Twelve names were drawn to share in the thousand dollar jackpot offered by local businesses.

20 Years Ago December 28, 1989

Jill Jennings of Haskell was among fifty students who received their bachelor degrees during ceremonies at Lubbock Christian University.

A centennial birthday was observed by Haskell Masons' Lodge 682. Past Masters recognized were Harvey Simmons, Woody Frazier, Dr. J.G. Vaughtner, Pete Mullins, Wallar Overton, Fred Brown, Gene Overton and H.B. Berry.

Congratulations to Tiffany Welborn Glenn, Nikki Jenkins Kittley and Zachary Wilcox, all of Rule, upon their graduation from college.

30 Years Ago December 27, 1979

Filing to run in the upcoming election will be Garth Garrett and Ricki Russell for Sheriff; Bobby Collins and Charlene Brothers for County Tax Assessor-Collector; and Jack Speer and Bill Hendrix for Constable.

Receiving service badges at the annual fireman's banquet were J.C. Short, 10 years; Wilbert Klose, 15 years; John Watson and Bob Dumas, 20 years; and Satch Lusk, 35 years.

The Goodfellows have collected a total of \$635.00 and delivered forty boxes to families for Christmas.

40 Years Ago December 25, 1969

Students home for the holidays from Texas Tech University include Kathy Hager, Larry Sanders and Jan Sanders.

District Attorney, Royce Adkins, was the speaker for the Haskell Fire Department's Christmas dinner. Firemen recognized at the meeting included Wilbert Klose, Chester Hodgin, Desmond Dulaney, Olen King and Ray Lusk.

New officers for the Haskell County Home Demonstration Club will be Mrs. Glenn Caddell, Mrs. Raymond Davis, Mrs. John Paul Perrin, Mrs. C.C. Campbell and Mrs. A.R. Hannsz.

50 Years Ago December 24, 1959

Tax tips for holiday charitable giving

The spirit of giving seems to grow during this time of the year when many donations are made to charitable causes. The IRS reminded taxpayers today to keep some important points in mind when making donations with the expectation of deducting them on a federal tax return.

You can deduct donations only if you make them to a qualified organization. Most organizations other than churches and governments must apply to the IRS to become qualified.

"Search for many charitable organizations online at IRS.gov with Publication 78," said Clay Sanford, an IRS spokesman in Dallas. "Otherwise, a contributor can ask the organization for a copy of its exemption letter, which states the Code section that describes the organization and whether contributions made to the organization are deductible."

Qualified organizations include nonprofit groups that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or

literary in purpose, or that work to prevent cruelty to children or animals.

Sanford added that it is necessary to file Form 1040 and itemize deductions on Schedule A.

This deduction is not available to people who choose the standard deduction, including anyone who files a short form (1040A or 1040EZ).

A taxpayer will have a tax savings only if the total itemized deductions (mortgage interest, charitable contributions, state and

The Haskell Garden Club staged its annual Christmas pilgrimage as they toured the beautifully decorated homes of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Richey, Mr. and Mrs. K.H. Thornton, Mayor and Mrs. Ira Hester, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Burkett, Mr. and Mrs. Buford Cox, as well as Conner Nursery.

The Haskell County Home Demonstration Club held its annual Christmas party and installation of officers, conducted by Mrs. J.L. Mullins. A gift wrapping demonstration was given by Mrs. Clovis Winchester.

Indian gridders named to the All-Area football team were Gary Anthony, first team guard; Tom Anderson, second team back; Jimmy Long and O.V. Turner, honorable mention tackles; Don Urban, honorable mention center; and C.O. Holt, Jr., honorable mention back.

100 Years Ago December 24, 1909

Lois McConnell has returned from Kidd-Key College at Sherman, to spend the Christmas holidays with her parents Judge and Mrs. H.G. McConnell.

There was a good four inch snow here last week, thawing slowly and putting a good season in the ground.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Dennington of Stamford are spending Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. McKey.

local taxes, etc.) exceeds the standard deduction.

Be sure to keep good records, too.

"There are recordkeeping requirements for cash contributions regardless of the amount," Sanford noted. "Remember to keep a written communication from the charity with the name of the charity, date and amount of the contribution or a bank record—canceled checks will work, or bank statements containing the name of the charity, the date and amount."

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor,
The Haskell Goodfellows would like to express sincere thanks to those who helped with our 2009 project. The donations of money, food, toys and time are appreciated.

A total of 50 packages were distributed to needy families.

This year's Goodfellows project was a community effort, which was

spearheaded by the Haskell Lions Club, the Haskell County Child Welfare Board and the Haskell Fire Department. Also assisting in this endeavor was the Haskell Free Press.

Sincerely,
Donnie Rieger
Haskell Lions Club
and Linda Haynes
Haskell Co.
Child Welfare Board

December sales tax reported

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said the state collected \$1.70 billion in sales tax in November, down 14.4 percent compared to November 2008.

"Sales tax collections, declining since February 2009, continued to be weak in November," Combs said. "Compared to a year ago, sales tax collections were down across all major sectors of the Texas economy, including oil and natural gas production, construction, manufacturing and retail trade."

The Comptroller sent cities, counties, special purpose districts and transit systems \$417.1 million in December sales tax allocations, down 14.6 percent compared to last December. The final sales tax allocation of 2009 brings local sales tax revenue for the year to \$5.6 billion, 5.1 percent less than in 2008.

Combs sent Texas cities December sales tax allocations of \$279.6 million, down 14.9 percent compared to December 2008. Counties' December sales tax allocations totaled \$24.6 million, down 20.2 percent compared to December 2008.

Ten local transit systems received December sales tax allocations of \$96.5 million, a 12.1 percent decline compared to December 2008. November state sales tax collections and December sales tax allocations to local governments represent sales that occurred in October.

The next local sales tax allocation will be made on Fri., Jan. 8.

Haskell County had a 13.02 percent decrease for December 2009 of \$30,071.38 in comparison to \$34,574.28 for December 2008. 2009 payments to date of \$411,564.68 reflect a 6.5 percent decrease over 2008 payments to date of \$440,185.45.

The City of Haskell had a 13.28 percent decrease for December 2009 of \$27,954.96 in comparison to \$32,239.12 for December 2008. 2009 payments to date of \$377,629.27 reflect a 7.39 percent decrease over 2008 payments to date of \$407,778.24.

The City of O'Brien had a 4.40 percent increase for December 2009 of \$70.36 in comparison to \$67.39 for December 2008. 2009 payments to date of \$1,371.15 reflect a 25.31 percent increase over 2008 payments to date of \$1,094.20.

The City of Rochester had a 28.97 percent decrease for December 2009 of \$378.14 in comparison to \$532.40 for December 2008. 2009 payments to date of \$6,796.75 reflect a 2.61 percent decrease over 2008 payments to date of \$6,979.10.

The City of Rule had a 8.02 percent increase for December 2009 of \$1,536.85 in comparison to \$1,422.74 for December 2008. 2009 payments to date of \$22,527.43 reflect a 9.51 percent increase over 2008 payments to date of \$20,571.03.

The City of Weinert had a 58.07 percent decrease for December 2009 of \$131.07 in comparison to \$312.63 for December 2008. 2009 payments to date of \$3,240.08 reflect a 13.89 percent decrease over 2008 payments to date of \$3,762.88.

The Haskell Free Press

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This issue mailed Wed., Dec. 30, 2009

TA 2009
TEXAS PRESS
ASSOCIATION

BASKETBALL '09

Indians

**Haskell
Indians**



HASKELL INDIANS—Front row, l-r, Tyrone Neskorik, Christian Myers, Austin Marshall, Kelson Aguero and Clint Howard; back row, Austin Nanny, Ross Wittenborn, Kosta Mahlelis, Simon Rodriguez and Sterling Bird.

Photo by Bill Blankenship

Maidens



HASKELL MAIDENS—Front row, l-r, Marissa McGhee, Aubrey Bassett, Briè Torres, Kayce Wilcox, Cheslee Hearn; back row, Jordan Burson, Ashley Short, Lisa Rodgers, Miranda Johnson, Harley James and Lonnie Alvarez.

Photo by Bill Blankenship

**Haskell
Maidens
JVG, VG
vs
Rotan
Tues., Jan. 5,
5 p.m.
at Haskell**

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Haskell National Bank
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Haskell Save-A-\$
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Matlock & Associates**



CLASS OFFICERS—Rochester Junior High eighth grade class officers are, l-r, Aaron Urich, secretary; Kyle Kimbrough, president; and Colton English, vice president.



STUDENT COUNCIL REPS—Rochester Junior High eighth grade class student council representatives are, l-r, Colton English, Aaron Waggoner and Lucy Carmichael.

Haskell School Menu

Jan. 4-8
Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily on the breakfast menu.
Monday: Breakfast pizza
Tuesday: Chocolate muffin, Cheez-It
Wednesday: Cereal sandwich, animal crackers
Thursday: Pig in a blanket
Friday: Breakfast pocket
Lunch
 Milk and iced tea are served daily at the Secondary campus. Milk is served daily at the Elementary School. Junior High campus: Choice of entrée or baked potato with cheese and ham. High School campus: Choice of entrée or chef salad with crackers.
Monday: Steak fingers, gravy, mashed potatoes, English peas, hot roll, peaches
Tuesday: Chili cheese hot dog, pickle spears, tater tots, apple crisp
Wednesday: Ham and cheese sandwich, lettuce, tomato slices, assorted chips, fresh fruit
Thursday: Chicken spaghetti, green beans, garden salad, breadstick, pineapple tidbits
Friday: Hamburger, lettuce, tomato slices, french fries, Gogurt



FIRST DEER—Angelle Maynard, age 9, of Haskell killed her first deer, a nine point buck, on Christmas Eve at the Bird Ranch in Reagan County on a hunting trip with her uncle Jerry Lewis Jr. and Debbie Canady.

Paint Creek School Menu

Jan. 4-8
Breakfast
 Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Toast or cereal
Tuesday: Waffles
Wednesday: Biscuits, gravy
Thursday: Breakfast burritos
Friday: Donuts
Lunch
 Milk is served daily.
Monday: Burritos, corn, salad, fruit
Tuesday: Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, peas, gravy, bread, apple crisp
Wednesday: Stew, cornbread, salad, cake
Thursday: Tacos, refried beans, salad, jello
Friday: Hamburgers, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, chips, rice krispies

Smart grid grant awarded to Golden Spread Electric Co-op

The Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded Golden Spread Electric Cooperative a "smart" grid grant of \$20 million to help 11 member distribution cooperatives increase their reliability of service and lower the cost of electricity. The grant was part of \$3.4 billion in stimulus grants awarded nationally by the DOE on October 27. Five generating utilities in Texas received grants. Golden Spread EC will match its \$20 million—actually \$19,995,000—with an additional \$30 million for the smart grid project. The cooperative and its affiliates will use the money for advanced hardware and software capable of providing cooperatives with real-time information on the status of the electric system. In addition, upgraded two-way communication between each distribution co-op and each retail member consumer will create the opportunity to implement "demand response" programs. That means that the electricity usage information in the meter will be accessible in time for member consumers to adjust for savings. Member consumers will not have to wait until the end of the month to learn how much electricity they have used. The participating Texas cooperative members are: Bailey County Electric Cooperative Association; Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Lighthouse Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Lyntegar Electric Cooperative, Inc.; North Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative, Inc.; South Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc.; and Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc. The Texas members serve retail member consumers in the Panhandle, South Plains and Edwards Plateau

regions. Tri County Electric Cooperative, Inc., which serves retail member consumers in the Panhandle of Oklahoma and parts of southwestern Kansas, also participated in the grant application. "Almost all of the smart grid funds will go to the electric distribution systems owned by the participating members," said Mark W. Schwartz, president and general manager of Golden Spread EC. "Golden Spread does not operate distribution facilities, and its focus will be on upgrading its control systems to make use of the additional information and capabilities from the smart grid upgrades that its members will make to their distribution systems." "Golden Spread is looking forward to entering into negotiations with DOE to finalize the terms of the grant, and then working with its participating members to deploy the smart grid technology," Schwartz said. Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a tax-exempt, consumer-owned public utility, organized in 1984 to provide low-cost, reliable electric service for its 16 rural distribution cooperative members. Golden Spread's member systems serve approximately 208,000 retail consumers located in the Panhandle, South Plains and Edwards Plateau regions of Texas, an area covering 24 percent of the state, and in the Panhandle of Oklahoma and in Southwestern Kansas. Golden Spread owns directly or through its affiliates 550 megawatts of generating capacity and controls the output of 240 megawatts of additional capacity under a power purchase agreement. In addition, Golden Spread purchases up to 705 megawatts of capacity and energy from various suppliers.

This Week's Devotional Message:



It's about time – for faith to make your life count

How soon the days and years will pass
 We know beyond a doubt;
 Like sand within the hourglass,
 The time is running out.
 Of course we can't reduce its speed,
 But to a great extent,
 By doing any kindly deed
 It can be wisely spent.

In church, your faith will show you how
 To make each moment last
 Enough to do some good right now,
 Before it joins the past.
 You'll learn you have so much to give,
 As time alone will tell;
 And so, it's not how long you live;
 What matters is, how well!

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

- HASKELL—
- East Side Baptist Church**
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
600 N. 1st East, Haskell
- Christian Church**
Jim McCurley, pastor
Sun. 10:45 a.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell
- Church of God**
Bruce Ray, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wed. 7:00 p.m.
714 North First East, Haskell
- Trinity Lutheran Church**
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
Hwy 380 East, Haskell
- Iglesia Bautista El Calvario**
Art Flores, Interim pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell
- First United Methodist Church**
Rev. 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., 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**
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
- God Loves You Ministries**
Mark Wallace, pastor
Sun. School 10 a.m.; Church 10:45 a.m.
West side of square, Haskell
- WEINERT—
- First Baptist Church**
Dan Bullock, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
Weinert
- Weinert Foursquare Church**
Rev. Robert Harrison
Sunday 11 a.m
Weinert
- ROCHESTER—
- Church of Christ**
Steve Willis, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
West on Main Street, Rochester
- First Baptist Church**
Joseph Barrett, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.;
Prayer Time/Team Kids 5 p.m.;
Wed. Youth meeting 7 p.m.
500 Main, Rochester

- Union Chapel Baptist Church**
Clovis Dever
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Rochester
- Faith Chapel of Rochester**
Randy Hollingsworth, minister
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 6 p.m.
Hwy 6, Rochester
- SAGERTON—
- Sagerton Methodist Church**
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
- 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

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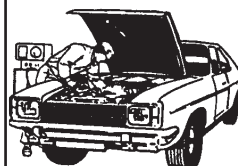
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1557 US HWY. 380 WEST. COUNTRY LIVING WITH ACREAGE. 4 bedrooms, 2 bath, brick home, living room, large kitchen open to nice size dining room, great for entertaining. Wonderful storage throughout house, utility room. Patio area. 2 car carport, beautiful yard, shop with attached carport. Property sits on approximately 9 acres of cultivated land. **REDUCED.**

4677 FM 617 E-ROCHESTER. LAND, HOUSE AND FULL WORKING CATTLE FACILITY. 2 or 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, newly remodeled brick home, living area and dining area with hard wood flooring, kitchen with new stainless range, utility room, one car garage, nice patio area with semi in ground swimming pool and surrounding deck. Brand new full working cattle facility to include barn, cattle chutes, feeders. Property sits on approximately 50 acres.

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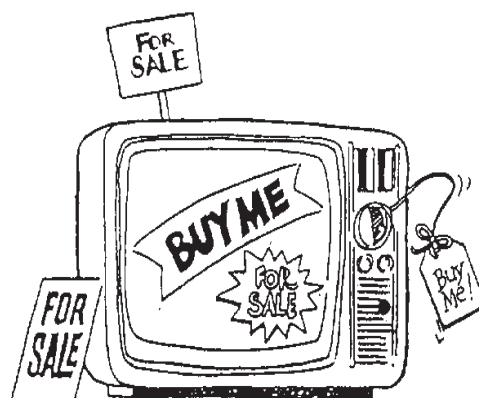
AVE. 1 EAST (S. FIRST EAST). Don't miss this beautiful interior! This property is a CLASSIC with everything new. Windows, roof, doors, carpet, kitchen cabinets, dishwasher, light fixtures and fans, and sewer line are a great addition to this 1910 vintage home. Wood floors have been refinished and antique mock fireplace mantel with a brick insert added to the large living. Other amenities include a dining room with bar open to the kitchen, C/HA, utility connections, carport, outside storage, well and storm cellar. Location is isolated like country living.

907 N. AVE. E. REMODELED with beautiful décor and new appliances. This three bedroom, one and one-half bath home is on a corner lot and has carpeted and laminated floors, beautiful cabinets with built-in corner cabinet, counter tops, large utility room, dining-living room. Amenities include a new roof, C/HA, new plumbing and wiring, porches, decorative bathroom cabinet and flooring.

508 S. 12TH. Two bedroom, two bath home with living, dining (opens to patio), large utility room, C/HA, built-in appliances, two storage buildings and all in great condition. Water well for yard and garden.

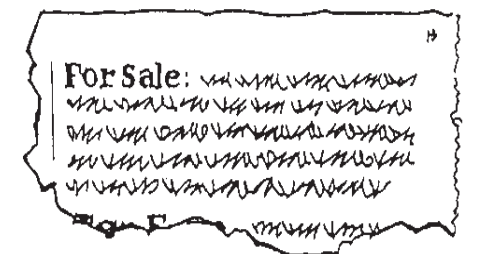
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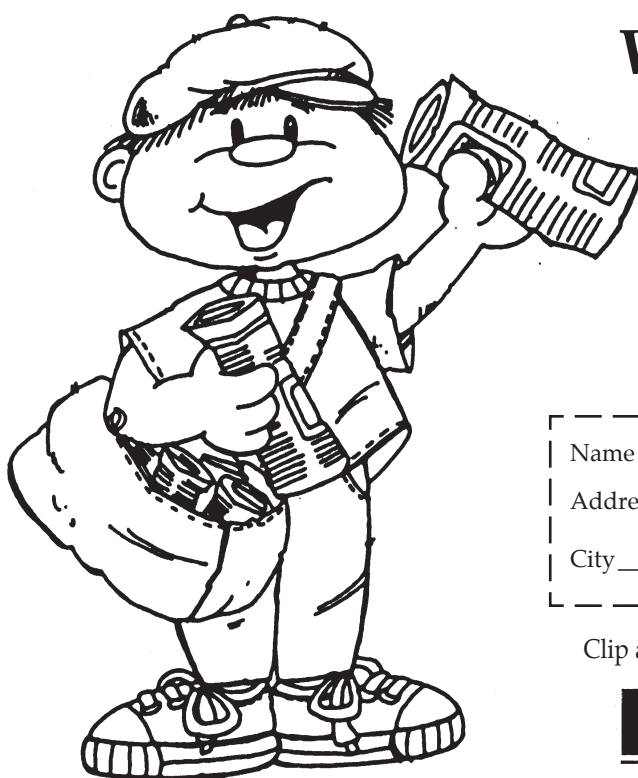
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INDIANS AT ALBANY TOURNAMENT—Haskell Indian #40 Ross Wittenborn, left, plays defense and Indian #24 Christian Myers inbound the ball during the Albany tournament.



ALBANY TOURNAMENT—Haskell Maidens #25 Harley James, left, and #11 Aubrey Bassett set up plays for the Maidens during the Albany tournament.

Applications for USDA SURE program begin Jan. 4

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA has implemented the new Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill. Vilsack also encouraged producers to visit their USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office beginning on Jan. 4, 2010, to participate in the program if they suffered crop production losses during the 2008 crop year.

“This program is an important component of the farm safety net and will provide financial assistance to producers who have suffered crop losses due to natural disasters,” said Vilsack. “Producers will receive payments beginning in January, in time to help them with planning for next year’s crop.”

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have

suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

In addition to meeting the risk management purchase requirement, a producer must have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Regardless of a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit your local FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Basketball scores

Girls

Rule 37, Woodson 32
Scoring for Rule: Polk 15, Rowan 9, Muniz 5, Petty 3, Benavides 3, Lyon 2.

Boys

Woodson 70, Rule 40
Scoring for Rule: Short 12, Large 12, Brown 5, Turner 4, Reece 4, Shelton 3.

Commissioner's Court report

The Haskell Co. Commissioners' Court met in a special meeting Dec. 22 with all members of the court present.

A motion to pay all bills passed.

A motion to approve the petition to vacate County Road 474 in Precinct 4 of Haskell County beginning at the point where County Road 474 intersects with County Road 473 and continues in a westerly direction for a distance of 1.2 miles ending at the point where County Road 474 turns north passed.

A motion to approve a petition to vacate County Road 494 in Precinct 4 of Haskell County at the point of the beginning of County Road 494 where the western boundary line of Haskell County meets the eastern boundary line of Stonewall County and continuing in a northeasterly direction for a distance of .6 miles ending at the point where County Road 494 turns east passed.

A motion to use Karen Allison with West Texas Grant Consultants to apply for the HOMES grant was approved.



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TOURNAMENT PLAY—Haskell Maiden Lonnie Alvarez works under the basket during the Albany tournament.

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