



Happy New Year

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 113-NO. 52, ©DECEMBER 30, 1999

"The People's Choice"

10 PAGES-ONE SECTION-50 CENTS

Basketball games

Haskell
JV-B, VB vs. Wylie
Tues., Jan. 4, 5 p.m.
at Haskell

JV-G, VG vs. Throckmorton
Tues., Jan. 4, 4 p.m.
at Throckmorton

Paint Creek vs. Moran
Tues., Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m.
at Moran

Calendar

Y2K emergency services available

For emergency utility or communication needs in the event of a Y2K glitch, contact the following emergency centers:
In O'Brien contact the Knox Co. Hospital; in Rochester contact the Rochester Fire Dept.; in Weinert contact the Weinert Fire Dept.; in Rule contact the Rule City Hall; in Sagerton contact the Sagerton Fire Station; in Paint Creek contact the Paint Creek Fire Station and in Haskell contact the Haskell Fire Dept.
Someone will be at each location to help you with your emergency needs from 10 p.m. on Dec. 31 to 3 a.m. on Jan. 1.

Reception to honor Dr. J. F. Cadenhead

Dr. J. F. 'Frank' Cadenhead will be honored by the employees of the Cadenhead Rural Health Clinic with an informal come and go reception Fri., Dec. 31 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the clinic. Dr. Cadenhead will be retiring after 52 years of service in Haskell and the surrounding area. No gifts please.

Jingle Bell kitchen

Lunch will be served at the Haskell Elementary cafeteria, Dec. 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. There is no charge for the lunch, but donations will be accepted.

Holiday mail service

The Haskell Post Office will deliver mail New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. The window section of the post office will close at noon on New Year's Eve. No mail will be delivered on New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

Medical fund established

A medical expense fund has been established at Haskell National Bank for the infant son of Jimmy and Jamie Johnston. Jimmy is a 1991 graduate of HHS and the son of Jim and Ann Johnston, former Haskell residents.

Lodge meeting

The Sons of Hermann Lodge meeting will be held Sun., Jan. 2 at the Irby Hall. The meeting begins at 3 p.m. The meal will be stew, chili and desserts.

Social Security

A representative from the Social Security Administration will be in Haskell at the old City Hall annex, 305 N. 1st, Thurs., Jan. 6 at 9:30 a.m.

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LAST CHANCE FOR THE JACKPOT-Numbers of area shoppers were on hand for the last Giant Jackpot drawings Wed., Dec. 22.

Twelve names were drawn to share in the thousand dollar jackpot on tickets they received when shopping at local businesses.

Winners announced in last jackpot drawing

Twelve Haskell area shoppers were lucky winners Wed., Dec. 22, in the last of four Giant Jackpot Drawings held during the month of December by Haskell merchants and Chamber of Commerce.

B. Munsell of Knox City was not present, winning \$50.00, one half of a \$100.00 jackpot on a ticket from Boggs and Johnson. In a drawing for the other half, Dana West was present to win a \$50.00 jackpot on a ticket from Modern Way Food Store.

W. W. Farrell of Weinert was present to win a \$100.00 jackpot on a ticket from Modern Way Food Store.

John Smajstria of Seymour was not present, winning \$50.00, one half of a \$100.00 jackpot on a ticket from Heads or Tails Western Wear. In a second drawing for the other half, Frances Bowen of Rule won a \$50.00 jackpot on a ticket from Bill Wilson Motor Co.

Wes or Laura Alsbrook were

not present, winning \$50.00, one half of a \$100.00 jackpot on a ticket from Cecil's Country Meat Market and Grocery. In a second drawing for the other half, Leatha Newton won a \$50.00 jackpot from The Drug Store.

Maria Alvarez was not present,

winning \$50.00, one half of a \$100.00 jackpot on a ticket from Modern Way Food Store. In a second drawing for the other half, Jeri Burke won a \$50.00 jackpot on a ticket from Bassing Jewelry.

Flossie Garvin was present to win a \$200.00 jackpot on a ticket

from Modern Way Food Store.

Krystal Cleveland of Rule was not present, winning \$150.00, one half of a \$300.00 jackpot on a ticket from Modern Way Food Store. In a second drawing for the other half, Bill Comedy won a \$150.00 jackpot on a ticket from Haskell Tire and Appliance.

Blake Liles has cooked up a sweet career

By Mary Kaigler

Haskell native Blake Liles, Executive Chef at the Sheraton Tower Hotel in Tyler until his move in October to the Kiepersol Estates, is no novice to the culinary world in which he chose to make his career.

In July he was named Chef of the Month by the Texas Chefs Association, and recently he was named Chef of the Year by the East Texas Chapter of the Association.

In August, as chef de cuisine for each event, Liles was responsible for preparing meals for 300 of his peers during the Texas Chef's 41st annual convention in Tyler.

The son of Estalynn and Howard Liles of Haskell, Blake said he has always had an interest in cooking and the culinary arts. As far back as 1981 he won Best of Show in the Baked Goods Youth Division at the Haskell County Fair.

A 1987 graduate of Paint Creek, where his mother was a teacher, Blake started cooking for friends at Tareleton State University. Whether from procrastination, or for education, he says his favorite pastime in high school and college was watching the Great Chefs series on the Discovery Channel.

As his interest grew, he began to realize he could make a career out of his hobby. Deciding to give it a try, Blake says it has proved to be

very rewarding and satisfying as a career.

Working as a prep cook at the Petroleum Club in Abilene inspired him to take a course in cake decorating. Promoted to pastry chef, he was solely responsible for all baked goods and pastries. Later on he returned to the Petroleum Club as Executive Chef, a position that enabled him to create original dinner specials and banquet items.

After taking a year off from the kitchen to work as a farmer back home in Haskell, he spent a working vacation in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to learn new techniques and styles to enhance his cooking repertoire.

Before coming in October to the Kiepersol Estates, a fine dining restaurant which has connections with four or five bed and breakfasts, he has been Executive Chef at the Petroleum Club in Abilene, the Roy H Laird Country Club, Kilgore, and The Sheraton Hotel, Tyler.

A member of the American Culinary Federation and the Texas Chefs Association, Blake won a gold medal in June at the Texas Restaurant Association Signature Cook-off.

Married to the former Deanna Scheets, daughter of Howard and Frances Sheets of Haskell, Blake says he loves to cook at home, and is proud to say Deanna is delighted to help out in the "test kitchen". His personal favorite food is Mexican Brown Shrimp, cooked any way.

In the July edition of the *Lone Star Chef*, he was quoted as saying that if he ever slows down, his fast paced life, he would like to own a small, intimate, bistro-style restaurant with a display kitchen to

Area athletes named to Big Country Team

Four Haskell County athletes have been named to the All-Big Country Six-Man Football Team; Brian Lehmann and Cody Harvey of the Rule Bobcats team that went all the way to Semifinals playoff, and Cody Ray Byrd and Manuel Gonzales of the Rochester Steers.

Lehmann, a 5' 8", 145 pound senior, led the Big Country with 17 interceptions from his safety position. He also had 41 solo tackles and 72 assists with four fumble recoveries. Offensively, he caught 29 passes for 580 yards with 11 touchdowns, and also rushed for 868 yards and 17 touchdowns on 132 carries.

Harvey, a 5' 9", 165 pound senior, rushed for 1,332 yards and 21 touchdowns on 153 carries, completed 17 of 30 passes for 355 yards and six touchdowns, and caught 12 passes for 184 yards and four scores. Defensively, he had 52 solo tackles, 78 assists, six fumble recoveries and two interceptions.

Byrd, a 5' 10", 140 pound senior, passed for 1,557 yards and 22 touchdowns, completing 65 of 126. At safety, he collected 79 tackles and five interceptions.

Gonzales, a 5' 9", 155 pound senior, caught 31 passes for 922 yards and 17 touchdowns. On defense, he had 47 tackles, two interceptions and five fumble recoveries.



CHEF OF THE YEAR-Blake Liles, formerly of Haskell, has developed his love and talent for cooking into a successful career as a prize-winning chef in the culinary world of fine dining.

FOR NEWS ITEMS OR TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 864-2686

Gin Report

December 26, 1999
Haskell

Haskell Co-op Gin	4,830
O'Brien	
O'Brien Gin	17,034
Rochester	
Rochester Co-op Gin	1,480
Rule	
Rule Co-op Gin	2,803
Sagerton	
Sagerton Gin	1,050
Weinert	
Griff's Gin	2,890
Weinert Gin	5,013
Total Bales	35,100


Area basketball scores

BOYS

Rule 85, Roby 73
Scoring for Rule: Lehrmann 24, Harvey 19, Smith 16, Hisey 12, Hertel 9, Coker 5.

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2- 3x5
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Obituaries

Frank Smith

Funeral services for Frank Smith, 60, of Roswell, N.M. were held Tues., Dec. 21 at LaGrone Funeral Chapel with Danny Sons of Midway Assembly of God officiating. Burial was in South Park Cemetery.
Mr. Smith died Sat., Dec. 18 at Eastern New Mexico Medical Center.
Born May 12, 1939 in Haskell, he was the son of Howard James and Mae Dell Harvey Smith. He was employed by Transwestern Pipeline Co. and retired after 26 years of service. He was then employed by New Mexico Department of Health where he was an administrator. He had lived in Roswell for 42 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents.
Survivors include his wife, Marcia Smith, of Roswell; two daughters, Candy Smith of Roswell and Michelle Reyna and her husband, Rusty, of Fort Worth; one brother, James Smith and his wife, Sharon, of Wichita, Kan.; an aunt, Katherine Bartley of Haskell; two grandchildren, Ashleigh and Cody Reyna; numerous cousins, nephews and nieces.
Pallbearers were Rusty Nasta, Uvaldo Quintana, Phillip Quintana, Francis Cox, Rusty Reyna and Omer Parker.
Memorials may be made to the Fraternal Order of the Eagles and St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

Doyle Dean Johnson

Memorial services for Doyle Dean (West Texas Slim) Johnson will be held Mon., Jan. 3 at Abundant Life United Methodist Church in Houston with Rev. Dennis Oetting officiating. Masonic tribute will be by the Pasadena Masonic Lodge #1155 A.F. & A.M.
Born Oct. 29, 1926 in Munday, he was the son of Wylie and Dorothy Johnson. He served in the Navy during World War II on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. He worked for many years in the oil fields of West Texas and spent over 20 years working for Brown and Root offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Pacific Ocean, the North Sea and the Bay of Campeche. He operated a heavy duty crane and enjoyed working on the water and traveling the world.
He was a member of the Haskell Masonic Lodge in Haskell for 40 years and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 35 years. He served as Worthy Patron

for the Order of the Eastern Star in Eliasville and most recently for the Pasadena Chapter #711 during 1989-90. He was a member of Richey Street Baptist Church in Pasadena.
He was preceded in death by his parents, stepmother Daisy Johnson; his brothers, Delbert Beauchamp, Don Wylie Johnson and Burl Johnson.
Survivors include Patsy Johnson of Pasadena; Dennis and Michelle Johnson of Houston; Mark and Elizabeth Ann Johnson of Waukesha, Wisconsin; Doylena and Mike Kent of Friendswood; seven grandchildren, Aethena, Charlie, Andrea, Joshua, Adam, Allison and Sarah; his brother, Ellis Johnson of Belton; his sisters, Betty John Chandler of Santee, Calif. and Sybil Chandler of Cromwell; and many other relatives and friends.
Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or the donor's favorite charity.

Sagerton News

By Dorothy M. Clark

As we bring you this article we bid farewell to 1999 and make plans for the upcoming 2000 and a new millennium as well. All the residents of Sagerton wish our readers good health, much happiness and all our best wishes for the upcoming year. May we keep the Spirit of Christmas in our hearts and lives and share it with our families and neighbors.
Speaking of the Spirit of the Christmas, we have a special note to pass along to everyone. Last Thursday night a group of young people from the community went around to sixteen homes in the area to sing Christmas songs. They reported a good time and the recipients were most thankful to them for bringing the Christmas cheer. It was a most welcome sight as we opened the door and saw our young friends singing for us. Making Christmas a bit more special for a lot of people were Jill, Kinsey, Tully and Cade Brown, Clayton, Paula, Stephanie and Michelle Stegemoeller, Matt Dudensing, Laci Standifer, Tami and Kami Baitz, Steven, Karen, Brian, M'Lynn and Joanna Lehmann. Thanks everyone!

Congratulations are in order for Brian Lehrmann for being selected to be on the All Big Country Six-man football team. He led the Big Country with 17 interceptions from his safety position. He also had 41 solo tackles and 72 assists with four fumble recoveries. Offensively, he caught 29 passes for 580 yards with 11 touchdowns and also rushed for 868 yards with 17 touchdowns on 132 carries. "Good goin', Brian!"
Charles and Dorothy Clark had their children and grandchildren visiting them during the Christmas holiday including Bob and Tommye Jo Clark of Mission; Steve, Donna and Shawn Clark of Webster; Kyle and Jennifer Clark of Navato, Calif. and Judson and Laura Clark of Ft. Worth. On Sunday, Pastor Daniel and Robin Ramey and sons of

Zephyr visited in the Clark home. Daniel is a former pastor of the Sagerton and Rule Methodist churches and currently serves two churches at Brownwood.
Leon and Mae Stegemoeller hosted a family Christmas gathering in their home during the holiday with all their children and grandchildren present along with visitors that included: Mitchel Payne of Haskell, Matt Dudensing of Paris, Tex., Calvin, Cherri Lynn, Ross, Eric and Christi of Hewitt, Clyde of Richardson, Carl, Beth, Mindi, Jonathan and Maegan of Hobbs, N. M., Clifford, Theresa, Brannon and Bailey of Houston and Clayton, Paula, Stephanie and Michelle of Sagerton.
Kay, Brian and Chelsea Tonnann of Wylie spent Christmas with their grandmother, Frances Clark. The younger Tonnans had been here for several days prior to enjoy their break from school.
Family members visiting in the home of Joe and Dorothy Clark during the holiday included Patsy and Don Bivins of Valley View, Ray and Nancy Clark of Stamford and Emmalee Bivins and Rick Phemister of Haskell. On Christmas Eve, the Clarks and the Bivins attended the midnight worship service at Bethel Lutheran Church of Ericksdahl.
J. B. and Dorothy Toney and their family had their Christmas reunion with their family on Thursday before Christmas in the home of Bruce and Michelle Toney of Ft. Worth. John and Renee McAden and little daughter visited with the Toneys on Christmas Day and attended worship services at Faith Lutheran. The McAdens are from Abilene.
More Christmas activities will follow in next week's news since my writing time was limited due to Joe's hospitalization. Hopefully he will be home in a few days and I will be able to talk to more of you.
Happy New Year to all from some of the best people in Texas...Sagertonites!!!

Snoring is no joke

The buzz-saw sound of snoring is funny in cartoons, but it's no joke in the medical community.
Forty-five percent of adults snore at least occasionally and for some snoring may be a serious medical problem. If the snoring is severe enough to disturb others or cause daytime sleepiness, the snorer should seek medical evaluation, suggests Dr. John Truelson, associate professor of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.
"In addition to being tired and awakening others, snorers may

have sleep apnea," he says. "Apnea is a serious condition that causes people to decrease or stop breathing until the amount of oxygen in their blood is lowered to a dangerous level."
There are several ways to treat snoring or apnea. Patients with severe problems may need to use a type of ventilator applied with an external mask. For moderate cases, avoiding alcohol, sleeping pills, tranquilizers or antihistamines can ease snoring. Weight loss is also helpful and outpatient surgery can alleviate the problem for many patients.

Time to check the medicine cabinet?

Have you looked in your medicine cabinet lately? Chances are it may be stocked improperly.
Here are some items to have on hand: first aid supplies such as bandages, antiseptic ointment, tape and gauze; acetaminophen for pain and fever relief; a small pair of scissors and tweezers; a thermometer; a spoon or oral liquid syringe for medicines; topical ointment for insect bites or rashes; sunscreen; and ipecac syrup. (Call your local poison control center

before using.)
"Remove all medications and store them in a cool, dry place that is not accessible to children," said Dr. Pam Bailey, an emergency-room physician at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. "Discard expired medicines by flushing them down the toilet."
Keep a copy of important phone numbers, such as your local poison control center or child's pediatrician, in or near your medicine cabinet.



SPRING, 2000

Classes begin Jan. 18 and end May 10.

Stamford Center

College Classes Close to Home

From WTC's Distance Learning (ITV) Classroom:

ECON 2301-0790	PRINC/ECO	M	7:00-10:00 p.m.	SMITH, N	
GOVT 2306-0794	US/ST/LOC GOV	MWF	9:00-9:50 a.m.	PRICE, J	
HIST 1302-0795	US HIST 1865-	MWF	10:00-10:50 a.m.	ADAMS, R	
MATH 1314-0796	COLL ALGEBRA	W	6:00-9:00 p.m.	DUCHENEAX, S	\$8 lab fee
SOCI 1301-0798	INTRO/SOCI	MWF	12:00-12:50 p.m.	DURHAM, J	
SPCH 1315-0799	FUND/PUB SPEAK	MWF	11:00-11:50 a.m.	COGAN, H	

Each student is assessed a one-time \$10 distance learning fee for these classes.

Taught on Stamford Campus:

ENGL 1302-0791	COMP II	MWF	12:30-1:24 p.m.	RISTER, M	\$8 lab fee
ENGL 1302-0792	COMP II	M	6:30-9:20 p.m.	RISTER, M	\$8 lab fee
ENGL 2322-0793	ENGLISH LIT	MWF	9:00-9:50 a.m.	RISTER, M	

Registration: Thursday, Jan. 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
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Cost: 1 class - \$120.00
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Haskell

Social Security benefit statement available

by Lou Gilly
Haskell Co. Extension Agent
Thanks to Dorcus Hardy, who served as the Commissioner of Social Security during the 1980's, you can obtain a record of the Social Security taxes you have paid as well as an estimate of the Social Security benefits you are expected to be eligible to receive. To check on your Social Security account, obtain "Request for Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statements" for SSA-7004-SM, you can phone (800) 772-1213 to receive a copy of the form, or go to the Social Security Web site, <http://www.ssa.gov> to process the form.

After you complete the form, you will receive your "Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimated Statement." Your "Statement" has two parts.

Social Security Earnings Record
You should receive a chart that

shows your earnings from the first year that you were employed. Your statement will not show any earnings from this year and may not yet show your earnings from last year. If your earnings records do not agree with what is printed on your statement, contact the Social Security Administration at (800) 537-7005. However, you can only make corrections on your earning records for the last three years.

Estimated Social Security Benefits
The Social Security Administration has estimated three types of benefits for you: disability, survivor and future retirement benefits. Estimated benefits are a function of the amount of taxes you pay each year, the number of years you have paid taxes and the number of dependents you have. In calculating estimated

retirement benefits, Social Security personnel assume that your future earning's record will be similar to your income history. These estimates are in today's dollars. For example, Luise is 40 years old, Social Security estimates that when Luise turns 62 and is eligible for reduced retirement benefits, he should receive \$650 a month were he to retire then. However, because of inflation, by Luise's 62nd birthday, his actual monthly payments are likely to be more than twice as much as today's \$650 estimate.

Retirement
Benefits are defined for three retirement options:
A. If you retire at age 62 (lowest benefit)
B. If you retire at the earliest age you can receive maximum benefits (somewhere between your 65th and 67th birthday).

C. At a retirement age you select.

If married at retirement your spouse has a choice of benefits:

A. He or she can receive 50 percent of your benefit or
B. 100 percent of his or her own benefit
(You select the larger of A. or B.).

Divorced? If you were married a minimum of 10 years before your divorce, you should be eligible to receive retirement benefits which are 50 percent of your divorced spouse's benefits or 100 percent of your own, whichever is larger.

Disability
To qualify for disability benefits, your disability must be expected to last at least one year or result in your death. A disabled person must wait six months before benefits start. However, most disabled individuals apply two or three times before Social Security agrees to pay disability benefits. Many disabled persons have found it necessary to hire attorneys to appeal Social Security's rejection of their claim in order to receive benefits.

Checkpoint
Disability benefits provided by your employer are probably merged with Social Security. For example, Loraine's employer's disability insurance policy promises to pay her \$1,600 a month. If Social Security were to pay \$1,200 a month, her employer's policy would only pay Loraine \$400 (the difference between the \$1,200 paid by Social Security and the \$1,600 promised by the insurance policy).

Survivors
Benefits are a function of the number of dependents you leave at your death. Children receive benefits until they graduate from high school or have their 19th birthday, whichever occurs first. A surviving spouse will receive benefits if his or her wages are less than \$10,000 and one dependent child is younger than 16. For every \$2 that the spouse earns above \$10,000 (\$9,600 in 1999), his or her Social Security benefits will be reduced by one dollar. When the youngest child turns 16, spousal benefits stop until the spouse turns 60.

Y2K food supply system is OK

by Lou Gilly
Haskell Co. Extension Agent
The U. S. food supply system

is in good shape for the year 2000 transition. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman says the USDA has

worked with other government agencies and industry officials as part of a national Food Supply Working Group. The group studied the Y2K readiness of the food supply to continue producing and moving food efficiently from the farm to grocery shelves. The group determined that the risk of serious disruptions is slight.

Industry experts estimate that wholesalers and retailers carry a 30 to 60 day supply of non-perishable food. Even in the event of disruptions lasting several days, the food supply system could absorb the impact with little ill effect.

Chairman of the Council on Y2K Conversion John Koskinen urged Americans to approach the transition weekend as if it were any other long holiday weekend and prepare accordingly. This means having a few days' supply of food and water in the pantry. He says as long as traditional shopping patterns continue, food shortages are unlikely. However, there may be isolated locations where minor disruptions may occur. Koskinen says it would be similar to a winter snow storm in one section of the country.

Count your drinks

Holidays are merry, but be frugal with your alcohol consumption to make them even more joyful. Teetotaling not only prevents traffic accidents, it may safeguard your heart.

"Too much alcohol is one of the factors, along with fatty diets, that cause blood vessels to narrow. The alcohol acts like a poison," says Dr. Richard Lange, a cardiologist at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. "In addition, alcohol can directly damage the heart muscle, a

condition called cardiomyopathy."

Once the heart is injured this way, it may beat dangerously fast and can cause a heart attack or heart failure. Lange says.

A recent study reported that deaths from heart disease rise dramatically after Thanksgiving and peak around New Year's Day. Researchers believe that this may be at least partially due to overindulgence in all the holiday goodies, including alcoholic beverages.

Dark days can lead to dark moods

For some people, autumn's palette isn't all reds, oranges and golds. It is blue.

Dr. Madhukar Trivedi, associate professor of psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, says the loss of light that comes with the passing of long summer days and Daylight Savings Time can give some people the blues.

Seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, is a depression related to exposure to certain frequencies of light. Although more needs to be learned about SAD, Trivedi says many therapists recommend light therapy using special light bulbs in light boxes, fluorescent lights or lamps designed for therapeutic purposes.

Consult a physician or therapist if you experience a persistent change in sleeping or eating habits; feel irritable, nervous or fatigued; lose an interest in hobbies or withdraw from friends and family; or have thoughts of death. Those are the signs of depression.

Cold, or sinus infection?

If that nasty winter cold just won't go away, it might be because it has turned into a sinus infection.

"A sinus infection can make someone feel sick for a number of days," said Dr. Holly Birdsall, an associate professor of otorhinolaryngology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "Symptoms might include fatigue and headache."

Decongestant nose drops often provide relief, as do home remedies, like soup and spicy foods. The key is to flush out the sinuses and get the bacteria out before they accumulate and cause sinusitis. If none of these measures cure the problem, see a doctor to determine if an antibiotic is necessary.

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* = Benefit Wildlife			
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ENGL 1302 Composition and Literature, Mon. - Fri., 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. (high school students only)
GOVT 2302 American Political System II, Tuesday, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
PSYC 2301 General Psychology, Thursday, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
SPAN 1412 Beginning Spanish II, Wednesday, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
SOCI 1301 Introductory Sociology, Monday, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Workforce Courses
CJSA 1359 Police Systems and Practices, Thursday, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
MCOT 2412 Principles of Database, Monday, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Registration
Tuesday, January 4
2:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Classes begin week of January 10, 2000

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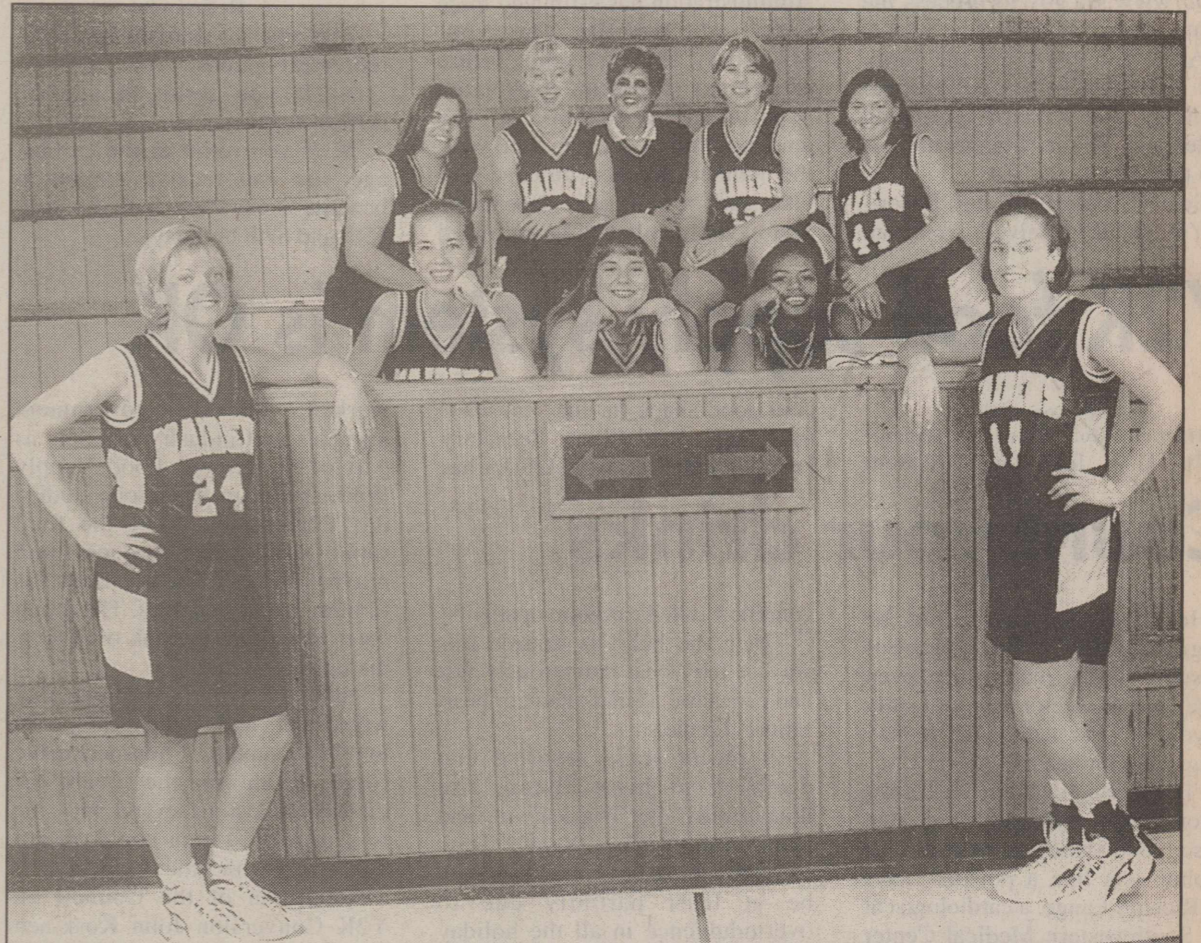
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JV & Varsity vs. Wylie
Tues., Jan. 4 at Haskell

MAIDENS

JV & Varsity vs. Throckmorton
Tues., Jan. 4 at Throckmorton

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Ask the AG

By John Cornyn, Attorney General

Q: I heard on the news that you have filed some sort of suit against a sweepstakes company. Is this true? If so, how can I join in the suit?

A: My office receives hundreds of letters each year from consumers who are concerned about the marketing activities of sweepstakes companies.

All too often, their letters asking for assistance are too late. They have already sent hundreds or thousands of dollars to these companies in the hopes of winning a huge cash prize. In many cases, those victimized are elderly citizens who live on a fixed income. These seniors are often looking for a way to supplement their incomes and these sweepstakes offers seem like an easy way to get more money.

Many times, consumers purchase products or magazines that they do not need and cannot afford in the mistaken belief that these purchases will increase their odds of winning. Sweepstakes companies are not eager

to dispel that notion.

After consumers enter the sweepstakes by placing orders for magazines or other merchandise, their mailboxes are flooded with additional solicitations. Each one promises that the consumer is closer to the grand prize. The notices also suggest that additional orders will help move consumers to the next level in the contest.

We have heard stories of entrants who, upon receiving an announcement that they are in the final running for the grand prize, invite their family and friends over for a celebration when the prize is delivered. Of course, there is never a delivery. Others have traveled hundreds of miles to collect prizes that they have not won.

Because of the number of complaints my office has received, I recently filed a lawsuit against Publishers Clearing House for violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA). This

suit alleges that the sweepstakes company made a variety of misleading representations through mail-order solicitations to obtain money primarily from elderly citizens.

This lawsuit is brought in the public interest, not on behalf of named individuals or a class. Therefore, private individuals cannot join this legal action. However, they can file complaints against a sweepstakes company. These complaints help my office investigate and stop deceptive sweepstakes practices.

As I have said many times before, elder Texans need and deserve protection from those who would try to take advantage of them. By taking legal action, I hope to bring to an end the clearly illegal practices of Publishers Clearing House.

The lawsuit cites multiple violations of the DTPA, all of which allege that Publishers Clearing House misled consumers about their odds of winning a sweepstakes in order to sell a wide assortment of merchandise.

My office, through the lawsuit, has asked the court for a permanent injunction that will require Publishers Clearing House to discontinue several marketing practices in Texas. We are also asking for civil penalties of up to \$10,000 for each violation to be paid to the state.

If you have a complaint against a sweepstakes company, you can file a complaint with the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General. To request a complaint form, call us at (800) 621-0508. Complaint forms are also available on the Office of the Attorney General Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us.

Finally, anyone who enters a sweepstakes should be aware that, by law, you do not have to purchase anything to enter and that buying merchandise will not increase your chances of winning. Whether you buy or not, the odds against winning a sweepstakes are tremendous.

Breeders optimize profit and strive for desired beef traits

by Brandon Anderson
Haskell Co. Extension Agent
Tender steaks start with cattle breeders. Their goal is to breed the best animals - with the best combination of desired traits. However, USDA geneticist Michael MacNeil says the term "best" is a subjective and inconsistent measure. He says it has slowed producers' ability to breed improved animals. However, new research can help breeders refine their decision-making process by focusing on profitability.

To assess their animals, breeders keep track of growth and carcass traits. Breed associations take the information and combine it with each animal's genetic tree. They run it through a computer program to develop an expected progeny

difference, or EPD. That lets breeders compare individual animals for individual traits. But the process is not complete. Producers are left with the difficult task of combining the EPDs in an efficient manner. So MacNeil is improving the performance testing process by using the EPDs to predict genetic potential for profit. With his system, breeders will be able to know how to trade off changes in fat thickness and marbling most profitably. Breeders would also be able to rank animals more effectively.

The complicated calculations are not yet available in a simple computer program for individuals to use. Until then, producers will most likely get the information through Extension specialists or breed associations.

Inhalant abuse is silent epidemic

Inhalant abuse is a silent epidemic on the rise in Texas.

A recent Texas School Survey of Substance Use indicated that about 15 percent of all elementary students in fourth through sixth grades had used inhalants. In addition, over the last three years, inhalants are the only substances that have increased in usage among Texas school-age children.

"Although these numbers don't translate into large numbers of children who may be abusing substances, they present an opportunity to take action at a time when prevention and intervention efforts are most effective," said Dr. Joan Shook, chief of emergency medicine at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

"Huffing" is a form of inhalant abuse in which vapors or fumes are inhaled through the mouth to

obtain a quick high. Also known as "sniffing" or "solvent abuse," this harmful activity can cause short- and long-term health problems, including brain damage.

"Although inhalants rank fourth behind alcohol, marijuana and cigarettes in usage, they are the most dangerous in regard to risk of death in the short term," said Dr. Todd Vedder, inhalant abuse expert at Texas Children's Hospital.

A child can die from using inhalants only once. Common household products like spray paint, cooking sprays, air freshener and butane can be sprayed into cans and small plastic bags or onto clothing so the concentrated vapors can be inhaled. Ten to 15 seconds of huffing might produce a high that lasts 10 to 15 minutes.

Texas Children's physicians encourage parents and teachers to

look for clues that a child might be huffing or abusing other inhalants.

These signs include:
• Unusual breath odor or clothing that smells like chemicals
• Slurred or disoriented speech
• Spots or sores around the mouth
• Chronic runny nose and red eyes
• Paint or stains on body or clothing
• Drunken, dazed or glassy-eyed look

There are many reasons why children find inhalant abuse appealing. These products are cheap, accessible and legal.

"Any experimentation with drugs is potentially harmful and the danger of inhalants coupled with the ease of abusing them make this an urgent fight for our kids' futures," said Shook.

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The Haskell Free Press reserves the right to edit and/or delete all news stories and locals for length and liability and to refuse to print anything deemed not newsworthy.

Help Wanted
RN/LVN NEEDED. Contact LaJoyce Bailey, Business Office Manager. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 940-864-2652. 48tfc

Jobs Wanted
HOUSE LEVELING. Floor bracing, slab, pier and beam. Insurance claims, free estimates. References. No payment until work satisfactorily completed. David Lee & Company, 915-675-6369 50tfc

Call Dana Winn For All Your **Mary Kay Cosmetic Needs**
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POL CALENDAR
The Haskell Free Press is authorized to make the following announcement for the political office in Haskell County, subject to the action of the 2000 Primaries.
Unless otherwise specified the candidates listed paid for the announcement, and have designated themselves as campaign treasurer.
All political advertising and announcements are cash in advance.

A man's idea of doing housework is lifting his legs so the wife can vacuum. The easiest way to lift your legs is in a La-Z-Boy recliner. We have lots of La-Z-Boy recliners and they are on sale right now at Kinney Furniture in Stamford. Nobody beats our prices. 53.

He's happy with **COMPUTER SOLUTIONS!**
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For Sale
FOR SALE: Sears treadmill. Call 9:55 p.m., 864-8926. 46tfc

RN either one weekend day per week or 2 weekend days every other week. Long term care experience preferred. References required. Contact Vickie Wilhelm in person at Teakwood Manor, 1003 Columbia, Stamford. 49tfc

Real Estate
FOR SALE BY OWNER: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, spacious living room, finished basement, 2 car garage, water well on two large lots, 301 Addison Drive. Call 940-864-2424 or 940-864-2718. 27tfc

FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS
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INTERIM HEALTH CARE needs part time personal care attendants in the Haskell and surrounding area. Please call Susan at 1-800-671-2369. 51-52c

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CARE FOLKS! Tired of expensive inhalers for breathing problems? Medicare has alternatives. Call toll free 1-800-54-9223. No HMO's please. 45-8p

AIDES to assist with in home care of two people. Must be able to make patient transfers or willing to learn. If interested, pick up application at The Hospital Clinic, Haskell. 51-52c

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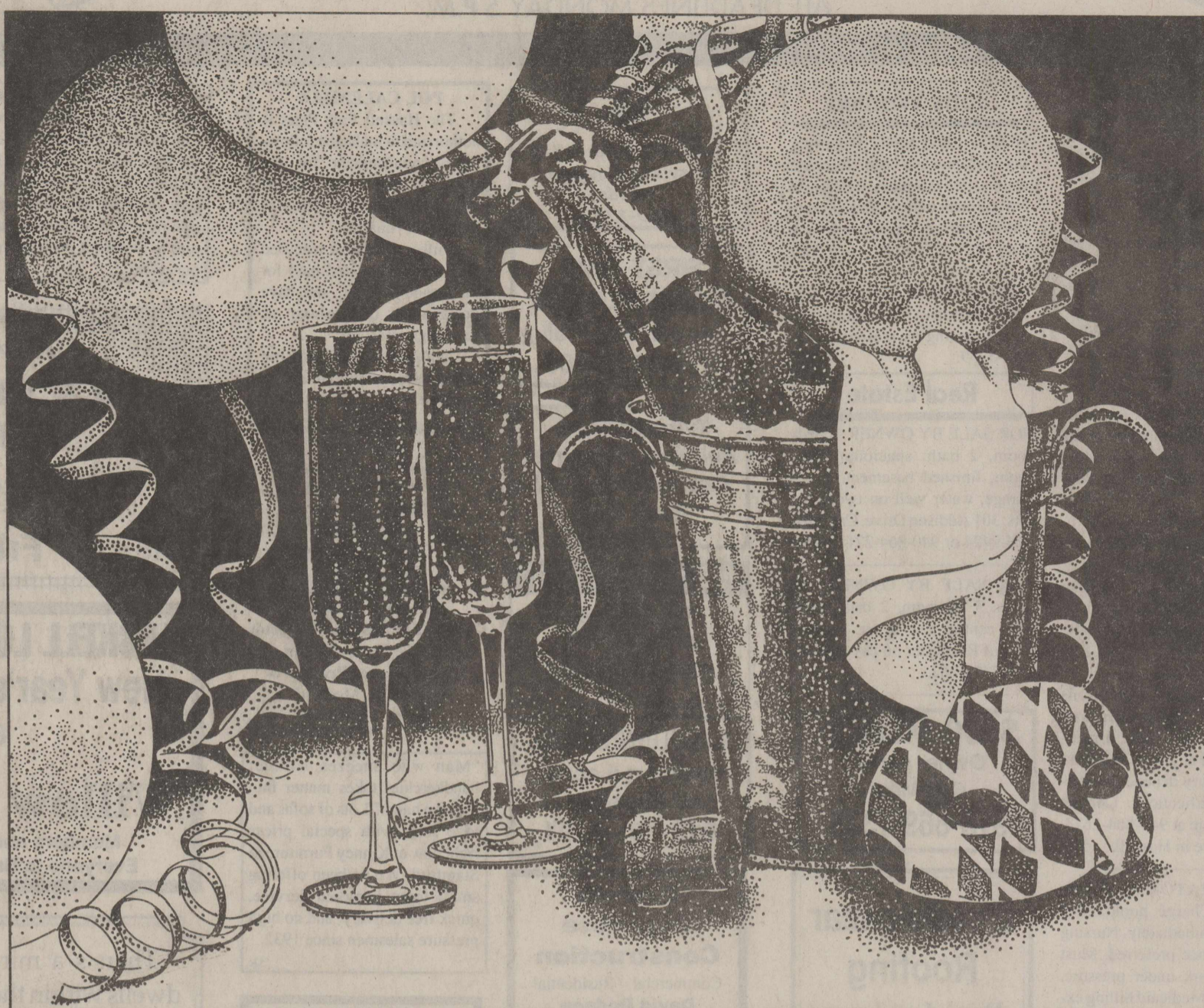
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