

Basketball games

HASKELL
VG-B in Haskell Tournament
Dec. 4-6

JVG-B in Hawley Tournament
Dec. 4-6

Boys 7th-8th-9th vs Anson
Mon., Dec. 8, 5 p.m.
at Haskell

Girls 7th-8th vs Anson
Mon., Dec. 8, 5 p.m.
at Anson

Girls 9th vs Clyde
Mon., Dec. 8, 6 p.m.
at Clyde

JVG-B, VG-B vs Roby
Tues., Dec. 9, 4 p.m.
at Roby

PAINT CREEK
Paint Creek in
Woodson Tournament
Dec. 4-6

Paint Creek JH vs Rochester
Mon., Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m.
at Paint Creek

Paint Creek vs Moran
Tues., Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.
at Paint Creek

Calendar

Office to close early

The offices of The Haskell Free Press will close at 11 a.m. Thurs., Dec. 11.

Christmas program

The Haskell Chamber of Commerce will hold Christmas on the square Sat., Dec. 6. Pictures with Santa, story time with Mrs. Claus, sleigh rides with Santa and Christmas tattoos will be among the day's events.

Krispy Kreme donuts

The Haskell Chapter of the National Honor Society will sell Krispy Kreme doughnuts Sat., Dec. 6 from 6:30 a.m. on the square in Haskell during the Chamber of Commerce's Christmas on the Square. The group will also sell Christmas tattoos from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sat. Tattoos are 50 cents each. Tattoos will also be available Dec. 16 at the Maiden's home basketball game.

Christmas in Rule

The Rule Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a living nativity scene at the Slim Sorrells Park Sun., Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Carols will be sung and refreshments will be served. Santa will make a visit.

Lighting contest

The Rule Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a home and yard lighting contest. Judging date is Sat., Dec. 13. To enter call City Hall at 996-2214 before 4 p.m. Fri., Dec. 12. Prizes will be awarded.

Santa letters

Deadline for Santa letters is Mon., Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. Santa letters will be published in the Christmas edition of the Haskell Free Press, Thurs., Dec. 25.

Benefit concert

The Weinert Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring a family style country music concert Sun., Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. at the Weinert School. Funds will help support the Weinert Volunteer Fire Department. For tickets call 940-886-7870.

Art Association

The Brazos West Art Association will meet Mon., Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Haskell National Bank Community Room for their annual Christmas party. Those attending should bring a salad, handmade gift to exchange and a toy or gift for the Goodfellows.

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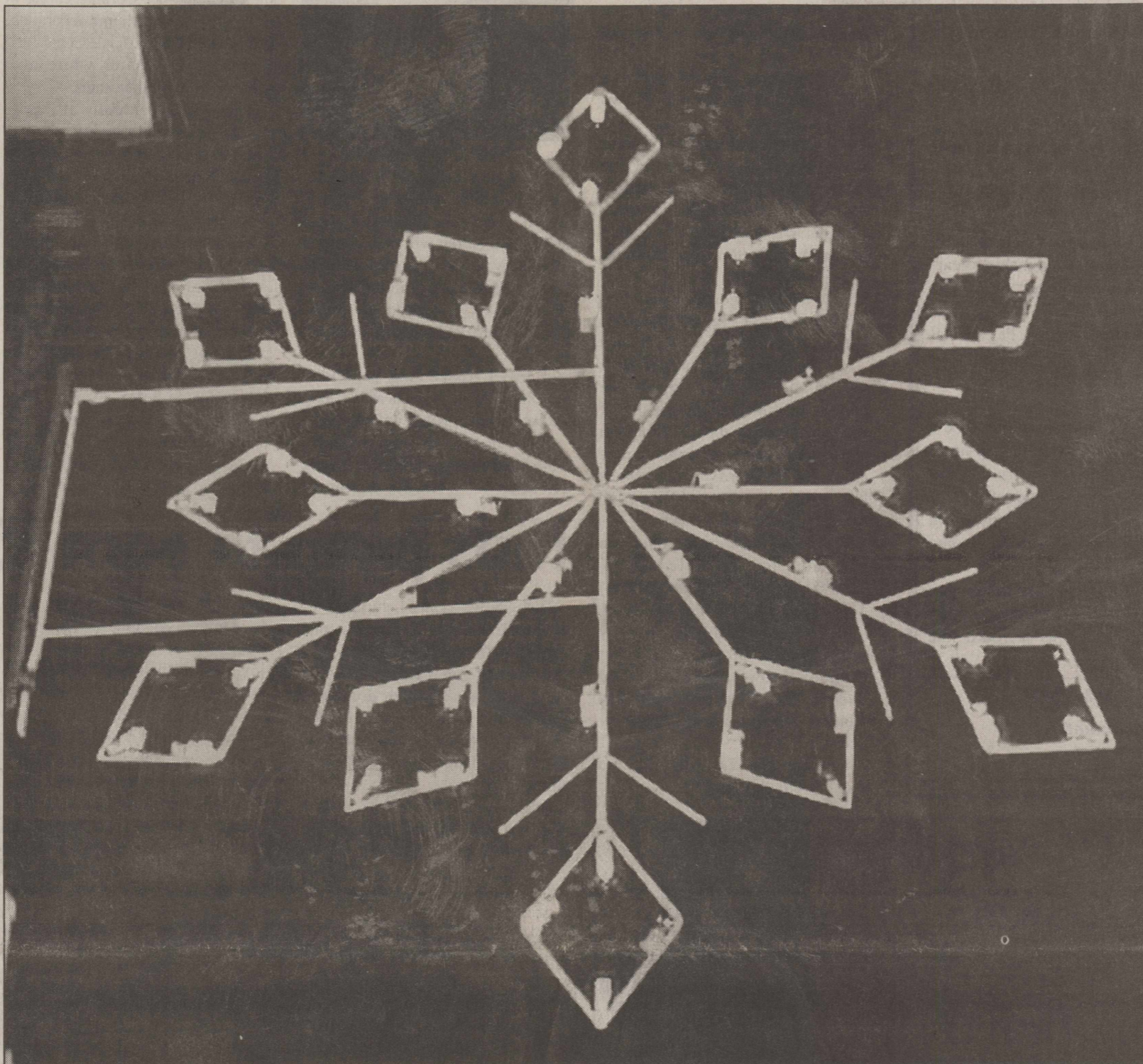
Shop Haskell during Saturday on the Square

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 117-NO. 49, ©DECEMBER 4, 2003

"The People's Choice"

12 PAGES-ONE SECTION-50 CENTS



NEW HOLIDAY DECOR SHINES IN CITY—A sparkling snowflake is one of eight new decorations lighting up the night sky on poles around the Haskell County Courthouse this week. The new decorations, bought on sale for \$208.00 each, were purchased

with donations made to the Christmas Decorations Fund, and from the city parks funds. Donations for the purchase of additional new Christmas decorations for the city in the future may be included with the payment of monthly city water bills.

School consolidation agreement approved

The Haskell CISD and Rochester CLISD held a joint school board meeting Tues., Nov. 25 to finalize a local consolidation agreement. Both boards unanimously approved the agreement.

The consolidation agreement is the product of months of discussions and negotiations. The terms and conditions of the proposed consolidation between Haskell CISD and Rochester CLISD are spelled out in this agreement.

The next step will be for both school boards to call consolidation elections in their respective communities. The election date will be Sat., Feb. 7, 2004. The consolidation of two or more school districts cannot occur without voter approval in each of the communities

involved.

Both school districts have been struggling with declining enrollment and reduced funding. The two school

boards have agreed that a consolidation agreement between the two districts will be an effective means for both districts to deal with these issues.

A copy of the proposed agreement is published elsewhere in this edition of the newspaper.

Goodfellows program seeks donations

The Haskell Goodfellows will distribute Christmas packages to needy families again this year. The project will be conducted as it has been in previous years, with a sincere effort being made to provide a Christmas package of useful items to those who might not otherwise have provisions for Christmas.

On Sat., Dec 6 and Sat., Dec. 13, the names of those who qualify for the Goodfellows project may be

placed by application at the Haskell City Hall between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

This year's Goodfellows project will be a joint effort between the Haskell Lion's Club, the Haskell County Child Welfare Board and the Haskell Volunteer Fire Department. The Lions Club will take care of the food portion of the project; the Child Welfare Board will handle the toys and clothes, and the Fire Department will handle delivery of the packages.

placed by application at the Haskell City Hall between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

This year's Goodfellows project will be a joint effort between the Haskell Lion's Club, the Haskell County Child Welfare Board and the Haskell Volunteer Fire Department. The Lions Club will take care of the food portion of the project; the Child Welfare Board will handle the toys and clothes, and the Fire Department will handle delivery of the packages.

Anyone wishing to help with this community project by donating food, toys or clothes, is asked to contact any member of the Lion's Club for more information. All cash donations may be made at the Haskell Free Press office at 420 N. First Street, or mailed to the Free Press at P. O. Box 555, Haskell, Texas 79521.

Merchants to host Christmas on the square Saturday

Beginning early Sat., Dec. 6, the Christmas on the Square activities planned by participating merchants and the Haskell Chamber of Commerce will feature a variety of fun opportunities for Haskell families.

From 6:30 to 11:30 a.m., the National Honor society will sell Krispy Kreme Donuts.

Christmas tattoos will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Santa train rides around the square will be a treat, brought by the Haskell Fire Department, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00.

A Story Time with Mrs. Claus will be held at Henderson Bookstore at 3:00 p.m.

Kids may have pictures made with Santa Claus from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Flatlands.

Drawings for Christmas bucks and gift certificates will be held at 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. Tickets for the drawings are being given by participating merchants.

As shoppers visit participating merchants they can get a card and on Sat., Dec. 6, have it stamped at five participating merchants to qualify for winning double Santa bucks at the 4:00 p.m. drawing. You must be present at the drawings to win.

Christmas Home Tour

The Noah Project-North's annual Christmas Tour of Homes will be held Sun., Dec. 7 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The five homes on this year's tour include those of Bob and Darlene Smith, Misty McMeans, Lance and Rhonda Hanson, Daniel Riley, and John and Glenda Gayle Rutkowski.

Tickets for the tour will be \$5.00 and may be purchased from any Advisory Committee member, at the Noah Project office or at the door of any of the homes the day of the tour.

The Noah Project-North holds the annual tour to help support their local program. All proceeds benefit victims of family violence.

For more information call Donna Sue Anders at 940-864-2551.

Letters to Santa due Dec. 8

Hey Kids! Santa is getting ready to make his trip to Haskell on Christmas Eve. It's time to get your Christmas letters written and sent to him.

Letters to Santa may be dropped off at the Free Press office at 420 North First Street or mailed to Santa Claus at P. O. Box 555, Haskell, Texas 79521.

The deadline for having the letter printed in the newspaper is 5:00 p.m. Mon., Dec. 8. All letters received by that time will be printed in the Dec. 25 edition.

Physician receives special Hope Award

Haskell physician, Dr. William (Bill) McSmith, was recently awarded the prestigious Hope Award given by the Noah Project each year for someone who has "gone above and beyond" by providing services directly to a victim of family violence.

The award was made during the Domestic Violence Seminar held at the Abilene Civic Center by the Noah Project, Inc., along with the Abilene Police Department and Taylor County Sheriff's Office for all law enforcement and health care personnel and others who are interested.

Dr. McSmith was nominated for the Hope Award by Haskell Noah

Project-North director, Donna Sue Anders, who said that, "On several occasions through the years, he has donated office calls, lab work and X-rays for some of our clients. He always treats our clients with compassion and understanding."

Anders added that Dr. McSmith has donated to the Noah Project-North both materially and financially, often providing free care.

"He also helps provide musical entertainment at our annual variety shows with his drum playing and singing and is a supporter of our program year after year. These are the reasons why we think he deserves the Hope Award."



DOCTOR AWARDED—Haskell's Dr. Bill McSmith accepts the Noah Project's Hope Award, given for going Above and Beyond, presented to him by Dee Wilson, Executive Director of Noah Project, Inc. of Abilene, during the Domestic Violence Seminar.

FOR NEWS ITEMS OR TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 864-2686

Back the Indians and Maidens!

TAX PLANNING

Written By
Gerald Rodgers, CPA



MAKE TAX-FREE GIFTS

The IRS allows you to give away up to \$11,000 each year to as many people as you want, without triggering gift tax. If you and your spouse "split" your gifts, you can double this \$11,000 gift-tax exclusion and give \$22,000 recipient.

If you're thinking of sharing your wealth, here are some important gift-giving considerations.

- All gifts during the year, including birthday and holiday presents, count toward the \$11,000 (or \$22,000) annual gift tax exclusion. For example, say you give a \$500 birthday present to your grandchild. You may give another \$10,500 to that grandchild during the year without triggering the need for a gift tax return.

- A gift made by check isn't complete until the recipient actually deposits or cashes the check. Plan accordingly when making year-end gifts, especially if you want such gifts to be counted toward this year's gift-tax exclusion.

- For a gift to be valid, you must part with ownership. Pay special attention to gifts of stock in the family business or gifts of your personal residence.

- Carefully consider the type of asset before you give it away. Property that has substantially appreciated in value may not be a good candidate for giving. Keeping it may allow for a step-up in basis in your estate. If you own stock or other property that has declined in value since you acquired it, you may be better off selling the property and giving away the proceeds. Giving away a life insurance policy can be an excellent strategy, but it's subject to some tricky rules.

Of course, you should never make a substantial gift unless you can afford to part with the property. And any gift-giving program should be part of an overall estate plan. Call us if you'd like assistance with your gift and estate planning.

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Test your deer IQ

by Brandon Anderson
Haskell Co. Extension Agent

With deer season fast approaching, consider what you really know about deer. See how you fare with the following quiz. Answers are at the end (but, don't peek!).

1. How many permanent teeth should an adult deer have? (a) 24 (b) 32 (c) 36 (d) 38

2. Where would you look on a buck to find its vomeronasal organ? (a) base of eye (b) between its hooves (c) scrotum (d) roof of its mouth

3. White-tailed and mule deer will interbreed, and the resulting cross is fertile. True or False

4. How many teats does a doe have? (a) none (b) two (c) four (d) six

5. How many parts are there to a deer's stomach? (a) just one (b) two (c) three (d) four

6. Which of the following structures is responsible for the "eyeshine" of a deer when a spotlight illuminates a deer at night? (a) fovea centralis (b) pineal gland (c) tapetum (d) glandula reflectorica (e) Q-beamus detectus

7. What is the gestation period in white-tailed deer? (a) 205 days (b) 240 days (c) 280 days (d) 310 days

8. The metatarsal gland in deer is located about midway between the hoof and the hock on the outside of the leg. What is its function? (a) alarm notification (b) signals deer's status in the herd (c) produces pheromones involved with the "rut" (d) the function is unknown

9. About how many deer are estimated to live in Texas? (a) 200,000 head (b) 800,000 head (c) 1.8 million head (d) 4 million head

10. Which of the following woody plant species provides the most desirable browse for white-tailed deer in Texas? (a) hackberry (b) shinoak (c) liveoak (d) blueberry cedar

Answers: 1.b 2.d 3.True 4.c 5.d 6.c 7.a 8.d 9.d 10.a

Obituaries

Bobbie M. Brewick



BOBBIE M. BREWICK

Funeral services for Bobbie M. Brewick will be held Thurs., Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Haskell. Burial will be in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home. Memorial services were held Mon., Dec. 4 at Scofield Memorial Church in Dallas.

Brewick passed away peacefully at her home Fri., Nov. 28 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Haskell, she graduated from Haskell High School and later attended Hardin-Simmons

University. She had an extraordinary love of people, loved variety and creative challenges.

She had a diverse career in a number of different industries, serving as Supervisor of Housekeeping at Stamford Hospital, copywriter at KTXS, and secretary to the head of the English department of Hardin-Simmons University. She later moved to Dallas and while at Reserve Life Insurance Company as a personnel director, she met her husband, Dennis. For some 30 years, she expanded her working career to include fashion and home decorating, in the Apparel Mart, Trade Center, and World Trade Center while also working in real estate sales.

She worked faithfully at raising money and helping in any way she could to make a difference and help people. Since the early 70's, she has worked tirelessly as a volunteer, coordinating and assuming leadership roles for various causes. She staffed a newly created office for fund-raising to benefit Hardin-Simmons University. In 1995, she served as event coordinator for World AIDS Day quilt display. In 2000, she personally secured thousands of dollars for an AIDS auction. Since 1992, she had worked diligently with White Rock Friends AIDS Ministry, White Rock Friends dedicated a cookbook to her for her guidance,

ideas, hard work and enthusiasm. Her faith, family and friends sustained her through her long illness. She attended Scofield Memorial Church.

Preceding her in death were her father, Ralph W. Merchant of Haskell and one son, Robert Bruce Baize.

Survivors include her husband of 25 years, Dennis M. Brewick; one son, Russ Baize of Stamford; her mother, Helen Tanner of Aledo; two sisters, Donna Osment of Aledo and Mrs. Charles (Jeanne M.) Alexander of Tallahassee, Florida; three grandchildren, Chad Baize of Stamford, Casey Baize of Big Lake and Samantha Baize of Wall; one niece, Lisa Propst; one nephew, Brad Alexander of Bentonville, Arkansas; one great niece and three great nephews.

Pallbearers will be Van Baize, Rocky Moore, Dale Dixon, Billy Davis, Mabry Brock and Bo (Borden) Worsham. Honorary pallbearers will be Euclid Appling, Billy Joe McKeever, Buddy Mueller, Dr. Warren Dozier, Jimmy White, Squee Kimbrough, Kipp Milliron, Jimmy Joy and Jerry Gholson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Scofield Memorial Church, 7730 Abrams, Dallas, Texas 75231 or Dallas Theological Seminary, 3909 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75204. PD. NOTICE

Kids jump to earn \$5,706.40

Fri., Nov. 21, 151 students of Haskell Elementary School's second through fifth grades participated in their annual Jump Rope For Heart jump-a-thon. Through donations collected by the event, students raised \$5,706.40 for the American Heart Association to help fight heart disease and stroke.

"This year's event was a great success," said Tiffany Thomas, P.E. teacher/Jump Rope For Heart coordinator. "I am very proud of all the jumpers and we all had a lot of

fun."

Thomas said this was the second year for the third graders to be involved in the event and that they answered the challenge by collecting almost half of the total money themselves. They, along with their teachers will receive a pizza party before the Christmas break.

Each student participating in the event received a certificate and bookmark. Students collecting donations will receive prizes from the American Heart Association for

their efforts. The top collectors in each grade will also receive extra incentives from some of the local merchants.

Top collectors were: Shelton Toliver, second grade; Cole Ray Hutchinson, third grade; Felysha Walker, fourth grade and overall top collector; Nathan Meredith, fifth grade.

Jump Rope For Heart is a program designed to promote physical fitness and health through the fun activity of jumping rope. It is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

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Santa and Christmas is Coming to Haskell! Spend Saturday on the Square December 6

Attend the Santa Buck Drawings Saturday, December 6 at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Northeast Corner of the square at the Gazebo

YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Sales *Shopping *Special events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📅 Santa Train Rides 10 a.m. to noon 📅 Krispy Creme Donut Sale 6:30-11:30 a.m. 📅 Christmas Tattoos 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 📅 Pictures with Santa 1 to 4 p.m. 📅 Storytime with Mrs. Claus 3 p.m.
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SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING MERCHANTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bailey Toliver Chevrolet Co. Bassing Jewelry Beyers House Bed & Breakfast Boggs & Johnson Furniture Brian Burgess Insurance Busy Hands & Feet Computer Solutions Conner Nursery & Lanco Insurance Easterling's Pit & Grill First National Bank Flatlands Federal Land Bank Good Times Hanson's Paint & Body Shop H & R Block Haskell County Insurance Agency Haskell National Bank Haskell Tire & Appliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haskell Veterinary Clinic Holden-McCauley Funeral Directors KP'S Mesquite Grill Kay's Cleaners and Laundry KVRP Radio AM/FM Larned Sales Center Levis and Lace Sandwich Shop Medford Buick-Pontiac-GMC Trucks Modern Way Food Store Nanny Plumbing Personality/Slipper Shoppe Richardson's/True Value Smitty's Auto Supply Sport About of Haskell The Carousel The Drug Store The Haskell Free Press The Lumberyard Wild Horse Trading Post
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Value Latex Interior Paint

- High hiding formula
- Dries quickly
- Easy soap and water cleanup

8⁹⁹ Gal. Flat
K 353 862 F4

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K 485 733 F4

11⁹⁹ Gal. Semi-Gloss
K 556 241 F4

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Value 3-Pc. Paint Tray Set

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Robertson honored as 60 year TEEA member



MILDRED ROBERTSON
Mildred Robertson of Haskell was honored Sept. 27, by the local

Texas Extension Education Association (TEEA) for her sixty years of membership and service to the club.

The special recognition was made during the club's annual Information Day meeting held at Levis and Lace in Haskell. Seventeen members attended.

Starting her club career in 1943, when the organization for women was known as the Home Demonstration Club, Robertson has served in every office in the club, and has taken an active part in programs and projects through out the years.

Former Haskell County Agent, Lou Gilly said, "Not many get to be a part for 60 years. We are honored to have her as a part of all of us."

Holiday arranging is topic of Progressive Study Club program

The Progressive Study of Haskell met in the Haskell National Bank Community Room, Thurs., Nov. 13 for a program on holiday arrangements.

Following the welcome to members and guests by club president, Julia Harrell, guest speaker, Shirley Welch of Conner Floral was introduced by Oleta Cornelius.

Raised in Rochester, Welch graduated from high school and raised her family in Munday. The owner of Plants Etc. for 10 years, she purchased Conner Floral two years ago. Together, she and her floral designer, Claudia Bryant of O'Brien, have over 25 years of experience in the floral business.

Displaying numerous wreaths for the holiday season, Welch demonstrated the making of a holiday wreath, followed by a question and answer session. A gift of appreciation from the club was presented to her by Eva Dunnam.

Refreshments were served by hostesses Lois Redwine, Jill Druessedow, Ruby Smith and Jeannie

Richards.

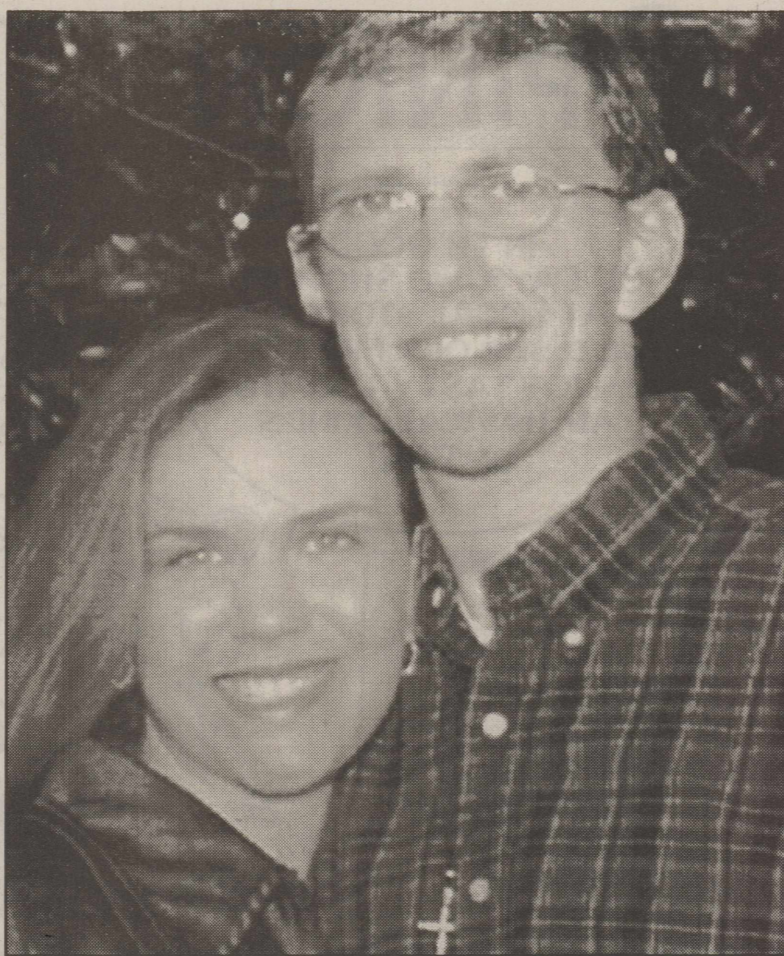
In a business meeting, a report of the Chicken Spaghetti Supper was given by second vice-president, Kathryn Schonperstedt and treasurer, Bettie Wainscott. Approximately 480 meals were served at the annual supper in October.

The Constitution of the Study Club was reviewed and presented to members and guests with a skit.

Four new members welcomed into the club and presented year-books by first vice-president, Joe Ann Thane were Alice Ballard, Lynn Dodson, Pam Terry and Fonda Newton.

In her Federation Counselor's report, Frances Lane reported that club member, Mary Kaigler, was recognized in the GFWC Texas Clubwoman Magazine's fall issue, for her state chairman's report on conservation special projects. Also, Lane reported that TFWC is placing extra emphasis on clubs assisting libraries.

To conclude the program, Bettie Wainscott led the group in the reading of the Club Collect.



LAUREN HUTCHINSON - RUSSELL STANLEY

Hutchinson, Stanley plan Dec. wedding

Dieter and Leisa Hutchinson of Haskell are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Lauren Hutchinson, to Russell Stanley.

The prospective bridegroom is the son of Dr. Richard and Linda Stanley of Abilene. His grandparents are Frances Stanley of Abilene and J. L.

and Joy Smith of San Augustine.

Grandparents of the bride-elect are Sonny and Carolyn Reynolds of Haskell and Lester Hutchinson of Weinert.

The engaged couple are both attending Baylor University.

A December wedding is planned in Abilene.

Food manager's course to be offered Jan. 26

by Jane Rowan
Haskell Co. Extension Agent

Statistics indicate that food-borne illness continues to be a health issue in the United States. Each year, one in four Americans will become sick, one in 1,000 will become hospitalized and 5,000 will die due to a food-borne illness.

During the past legislative session, a statute was amended that allowed the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to require each food establishment to have one certified food manager.

Recently, the Texas Board of Health adopted rules to implement this statute. Many food service establishments have already received a letter from the Texas Department of Health regarding this. Under these new rules, each food establishment permitted by the TDH must have one certified food manager. New food manager certificates will be valid for five years.

Texas Cooperative Extension, Haskell and Kent counties, is offering a Food Manager Certification course, in Haskell Jan. 26.

This program is designed to not only prepare food-service managers to pass the certification examination; it will provide valuable education regarding the safe handling of food.

Almost 50 cents of every dollar Americans spend on food is spent on meals prepared away from home. Therefore, careful attention to food

safety will help keep customers safe and satisfied.

Food-borne illnesses are estimated to cost thousands of dollars in lost wages, insurance, and medical bills. With these statistics, knowledge of how to prevent food-borne illness is essential. The benefits of improved food safety include:

- Increased customer satisfaction
- Improved relationships with health officials.
- Prevention of bad publicity and law suits due to food-borne illness
- By attending the course, food-service managers will learn about:
 - Identifying potentially hazardous foods and common errors in food handling.
 - Preventing contamination and cross-contamination of food.
 - Teaching and encouraging personal hygiene for employees.
 - Complying with government regulations.
 - Maintaining clean utensils, equipment, and surroundings.
 - Controlling pests.

Food-borne illness can be prevented by following simple food safety practices. For more information about the Food Manager Certification Training course of Texas Cooperative Extension, called "Food Safety: It's Our Business," call Jane Rowan at the Haskell County Extension Office at (940) 864-2546 or Shirley Long, Kent County Extension Office at (806) 237-3345.

Around Town

By Joyce Hawkins

Erna and Helmut Quiram of Duncanville; Richard and Verlene Whiteley, Robby and Emilie Hughes and Kody and Madison, all of Alvin visited last week in the home of Meta and Carl Rueffer.

Suzanne Wollard of Bryan and Debbie, Rickey, Todd and Kaylee of Lubbock were in Haskell over the Thanksgiving holidays visiting their parents and grandparents, Lewis and Joyce Thomas.

Joyce Hawkins spent the Thanksgiving holidays in Temple with daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Cockerell and boys.

Jonathan and Candis Tatum were in Texhoma visiting her mom. They

brought back their household and are getting settled in.

Faye Gray and son, Lynn of Grapeland, visited with Judy Hicks in Abilene for Thanksgiving. Judy brought Faye home in Friday and Lynn returned home.

Visiting Charlene Hawkins during Thanksgiving were Jake and Katy Roysdon of Mansfield, Gary and Letha Walters of Abilene, and Clarence and Bo Tatum and Rylie, Brian and Tamara Hearn and children, all of Haskell.

Visiting with Bernice Hilliard during the Thanksgiving holidays was her son, Kenneth Hilliard of Waco.

Happy Birthday
Sakes Alive—
She's
65!
Dec. 4, 2003
Love, Your Family

Open House

Thurs., Dec. 4 • 4 to 7 p.m.

Refreshments!

Register for these **Holiday Treats**

- *30 Minute Massage
- *Manicure
- *Plum Cute Gift Certificate
- *Merchandise Gift Certificate
- *Tanning
- *Body Sugaring

40% off
1 Item of Choice

25% off
Remaining purchases exceeding \$25.

Good Through Sat., Dec. 6

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864-6133

Nutrition linked to eye health

USDA scientists found eating antioxidant-rich foods could be the cheapest and easiest way to delay cataracts. Fruits, vegetables, and certain grains lessen oxidative damage to proteins and other compounds in the eye. These cause the lens to change from transparent to opaque.

In a study, 478 women, aged 53-73, who had neither cataracts nor diabetes, were tracked. Food intake was assessed from questionnaires completed over 15 years.

Women with higher intake of antioxidants, had lower amounts of cloudiness in certain lens areas than women with lower nutrient intake.

Stamford Floral, Etc.
on the square
102 S. Swenson • Stamford
325-773-2005
Grand Opening
Thurs., Dec. 4 ~ All Day!
Kay Perry ~ Sharla Smith

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First and Second Saturdays of the month

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~ Hours ~
Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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Sat 6 (10-7) - Sun 7 (1-4) - Mon 8 (10-2) - Tues 9 (3-7)
Wed 10 (10-2) - Thu 11 (3-7) - Fri 12 (10-2)

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH... AT HOME!
Brought to You By:
Haskell Home Health Agency

Dear Misty,
What are the symptoms of **hyperglycemia** (High Blood Sugar) and **hypoglycemia** (Low Blood Glucose)?

Hyperglycemia (High Blood Glucose) Symptoms	Hypoglycemia (Low Blood Glucose) Symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Extreme Thirst •Frequent Urination •Dry Skin •Hunger •Blurred Vision •Drowsiness •Nausea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Shaking •Fast Heartbeat •Sweating •Anxious •Dizziness •Hunger •Impaired Vision •Weakness Fatigue •Headache •Irritable

What Can You Do?
•Test Blood Glucose
•If over 250 mg/dL for several tests, CALL YOUR DOCTOR.

For more diabetic information, contact Haskell Home Health Agency, 417 S. First, Haskell, TX 79521 or call 940-864-5074 or 1-877-864-5074.

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

Home Care: Keeping Texans Proud & Independent

Haskell INDIANS

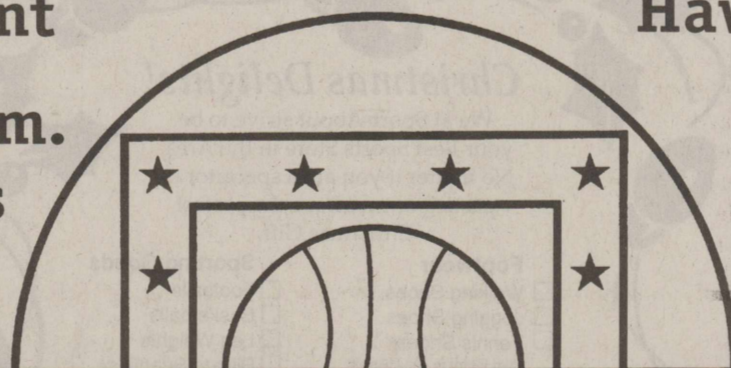


Front, l-r: Nate Webb, Philip Collins, L. J. McCullouch, Austin Coker, Osiel Garcia, Kendall Mitchell, Jared Webb. Back: Brandon McClatchey, Drew Garison, Miguel Chavez, Kory Foster, Ross Hairgrove and Jakaan Hodge.
Photo by KIS

Dec. 4-6
Varsity Boys in
Haskell Tournament

Dec. 4-6
JV Boys in
Hawley Tournament

Tues., Dec. 9 • 4 p.m.
JV & Varsity Boys
vs Roby at Roby



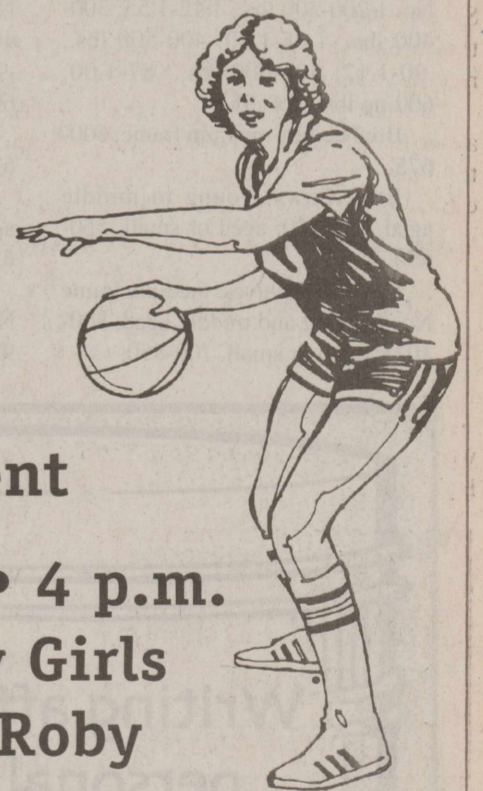
Front, l-r: Callie Thomasson, Meagan Wallace, Kerri Newton, Consuelo Gonzalez, Mollie McKnight, Morgan Acosta. Back: Brittany Rutkowski, Lindsay Pannell, Brittany Bird, Melody Kennedy, Monica Buerger, Lynzie Harlan and Calina Kendall.
Photo by KIS

Haskell MAIDENS

Dec. 4-6
Varsity Girls in
Haskell Tournament

Dec. 4-6
JV Girls in
Hawley Tournament

Tues., Dec. 9 • 4 p.m.
JV & Varsity Girls
vs Roby at Roby

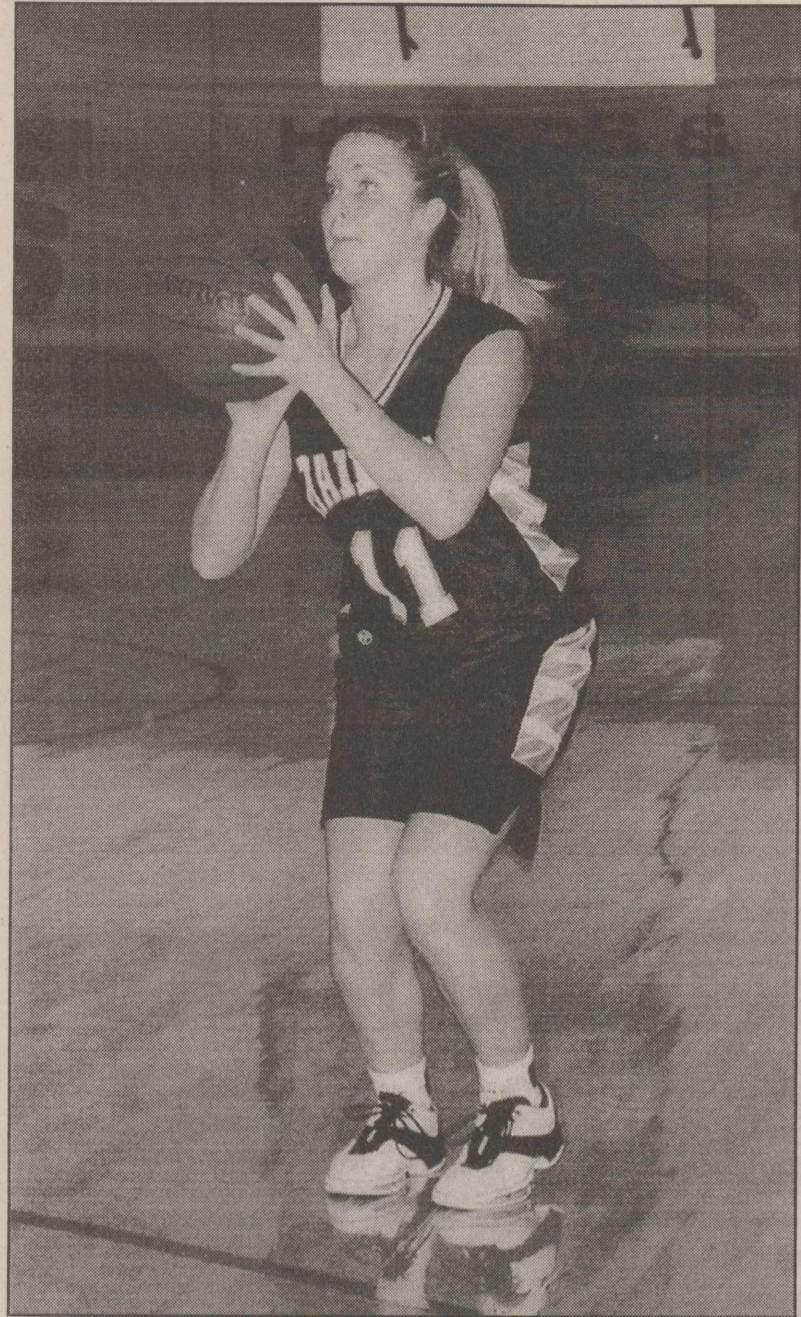


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MAIDEN WITH A MISSION—Haskell Varsity Maiden, Brittany Rutkowski, gets set to launch a three-pointer in the Maidens' 47 to 46 win over Throckmorton, Nov. 18. Photo by Bill Blankenship

Cattle Market Report

The market at the Haskell Livestock Auction was on a run of 502 head of cattle at its sale on Mon., Nov. 24, according to Gary Tate, reporter. 56 sellers were present.

Packers \$2 to \$3 higher, stockers \$2 to \$4 higher, feeders \$1 to \$3 higher.

Cows: fat, .42-.54; cutters, .45-.57; canners, .25-.38.

Bulls: bologna, .58-.64; feeders, .75-.89; utility, .50-.60.

Steers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.30-1.70; 300-400 lbs., 1.15-1.29; 400-500 lbs., 1.05-1.23; 500-600 lbs., .95-1.10; 600-700 lbs., .90-1.05; 700-800 lbs., .85-.98; 800-up lbs., .77-.93.

Heifers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.12-1.55; 300-400 lbs., 1.05-1.20; 400-500 lbs., .90-1.12; 500-600 lbs., .87-1.00; 600-up lbs., .74-.95.

Bred heifers medium frame, 600-675.

Bred Cows: young to middle aged, 725-850; aged or small, 550-650.

Cows with calves: medium frame No. 1 young and middle aged, 800-1025; aged or small, 700-850.

The market at the Haskell Livestock Auction was on a run of 224 head of cattle at its sale on Mon., Dec. 1, according to Gary Tate, reporter. 46 sellers and 23 buyers were present.

Steady on all cows, short run due to holidays.

Cows: fat, .44-.52; cutters, .45-.55; canners, .30-.40.

Bulls: bologna, .53-.64; feeders, .78-.90; utility, .45-.55.

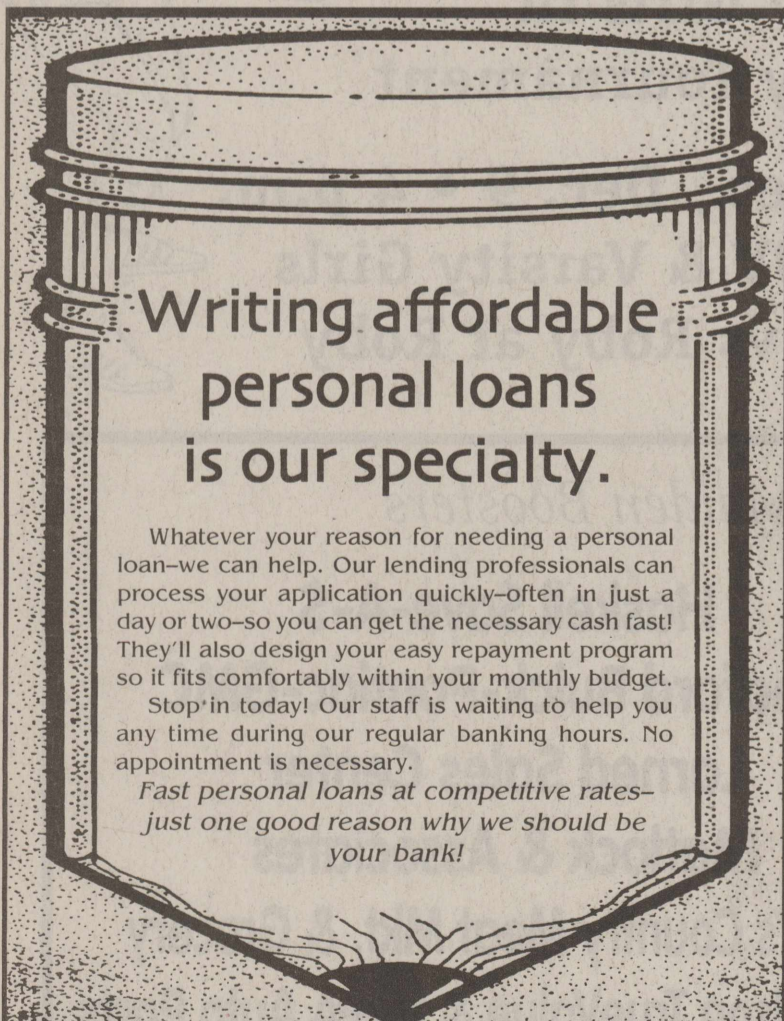
Steers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.30-1.70; 300-400 lbs., 1.20-1.38; 400-500 lbs., 1.05-1.30; 500-600 lbs., .95-1.15; 600-700 lbs., .90-1.08; 700-800 lbs., .87-1.00; 800-up lbs., .78-.90.

Heifers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.15-1.55; 300-400 lbs., 1.05-1.28; 400-500 lbs., .95-1.12; 500-600 lbs., .85-1.00; 600-up lbs., .75-.94.

Bred heifers medium frame, 550-675.

Bred Cows: young to middle aged, 725-845; aged or small, 475-650.

Cows with calves: medium frame No. 1 young and middle aged, 850-975; aged or small, 675-800.



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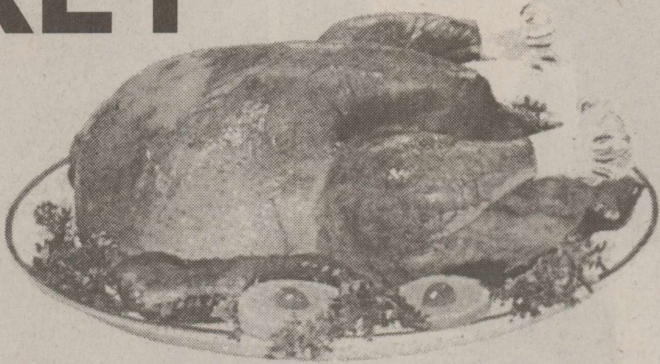
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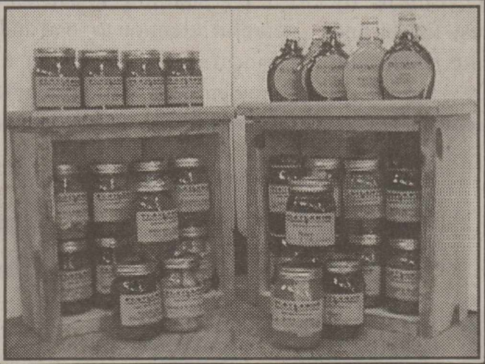
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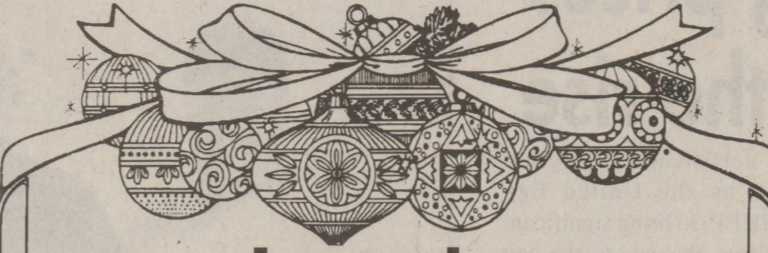


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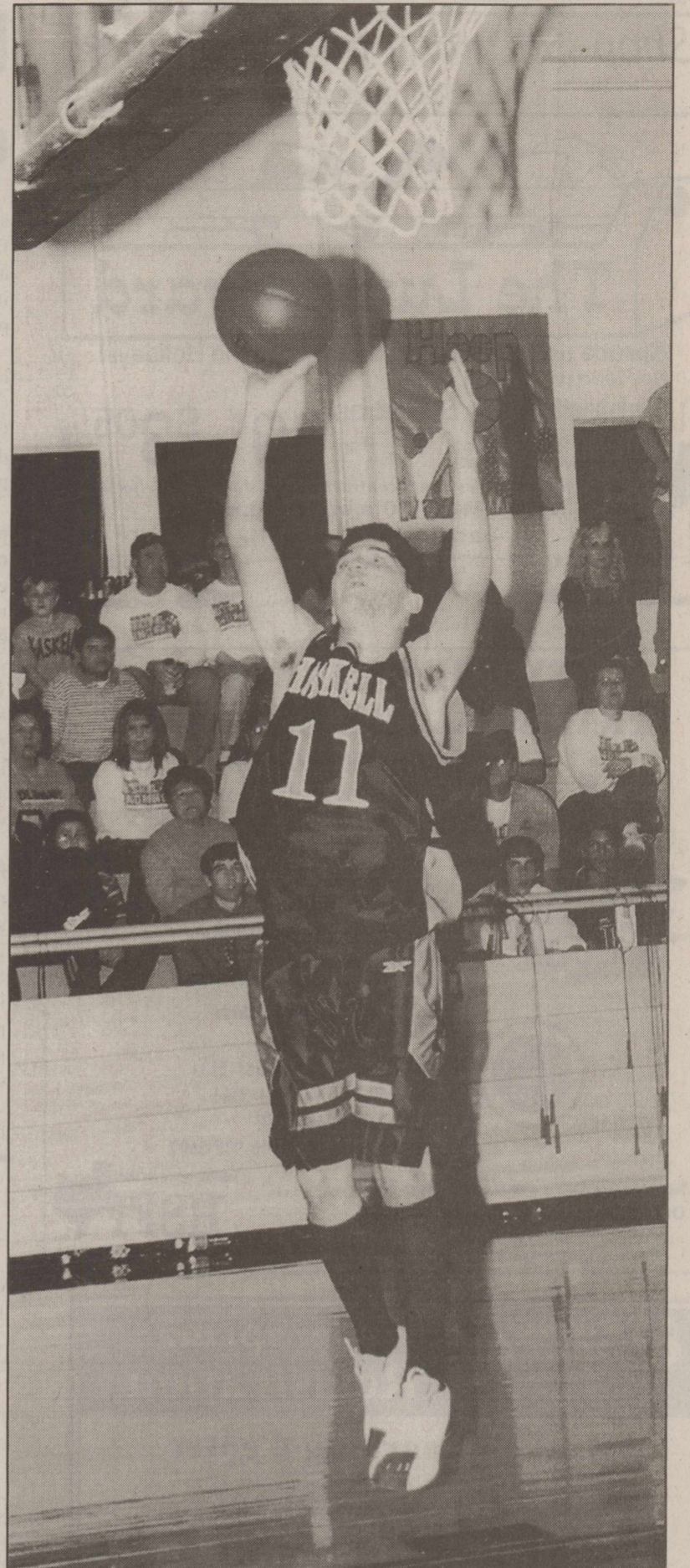
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INDIAN SOARS TO SCORE—Haskell Indian, Brandon McClatchey, goes up for a basket in the Varsity Indian's 83 to 38 winning game with Throckmorton, Tues., Nov. 18. Photo by Bill Blankenship

Area Basketball scores

<p>Girls Haskell 62, Seymour 36 Scoring for Haskell: Buerger 14, McKnight 11, Kendall 10, Bird 9, Harlan 9, Gonzalez 5, Rutkowski 3, Newton 1. JV score: Haskell 36, Seymour 34.</p> <p>*** Woodson 54, Rule 52 Scoring for Rule: Brown 16, Smith 12, Marquis 11, Hertel 6, M. Lehrmann 5, J. Lehrmann 2. JV score: Woodson 30, Rule 24.</p> <p>*** Trent 63, Rochester 61 Scoring for Rochester: Nicholson</p>	<p>21, Saucedo 14, Martin 13, Turner 9, Brown 2, McGee 2.</p> <p>Boys Haskell 49, Seymour 45 Scoring for Haskell: Hairgrove 13, Hodge 8, Foster 6, Mitchell 4, Garcia 4, Webb 4, Chavez 4, Collins 2, McCulloch 2, McClatchey 2.</p> <p>*** Rule 49, Woodson 46 Scoring for Rule: Kyle Kitley 16, Dudensing 9, Turner 8, Brown 8, Kolt Kitley 6, Kade Kitley 2.</p> <p>*** Trent 72, Rochester 41 Scoring for Rochester: McGee 14, Saucedo 13, Self 11, Hall 3.</p>
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Registration**

December 8-15, see schedule for restrictions

Intro. to Ed/Schools & Society	N	6:00-9:00	W
Fundamentals of Math II	N	6:30-9:30	M
Beginning Spanish II	N	6:00-9:00	T
Lab		TBA	

Regular Registration, January 8
Osborne Administration Building, see schedule for times

940.552.6291 Classes begin January 12
See class schedules www.vernoncollege.edu

Egg prices on the rise

A new certification program announced by the United Egg Producers (UEP) to bring significant animal welfare changes to the egg industry, will also bring a raise in the price of eggs.

The guidelines were announced by the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and the National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR) as part of a comprehensive animal welfare program.

The new guidelines place top priority on comfort, health and safety of the chickens, including increased cage space per hen, standards for molting procedures, trimming of chicks beaks, maintaining a constant supply of fresh food, water and air, ventilation, daily inspection of each bird, proper handling and transportation of birds and training instruction to avoid injury to the animals. All certified egg producers will be audited yearly.

To date, 95% of the egg producers in the United States have adopted the recommended certification standards. There are an estimated 292 million laying hens in the United States, and a mandatory 5% capacity loss has been enforced in the first phase. With 14 million hens being pulled out of the egg laying process, egg supplies are tight, leading to an expected climb in egg prices during the peak holiday seasons.

Births

Jaron Benjamin Langford, son of Brandon and Heidi Langford of Haskell, was born at 9:22 p.m., Oct. 23. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 inches long.

His grandparents are Danny and Gaynell Langford of Rule and Danny and Donna Myers of Haskell.

Dawn and Paul Cox of Madrid, Spain, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Samuel Wallace Cox, born Nov. 18, at the Baylor Health Care System in Grapevine.

Maternal grandparents are Nita and Bill Isler of Eagle Lake, and great grandmother, Pearl Isler of Brownsville.

Paternal grandparents are Jo and Wallace Cox of Haskell and great grandmother, Alice Cherry of Normal, Illinois.

All deadlines are
5 p.m. Monday



RODEO FINALISTS—Bobby Howard, left, and Joe Swinney, center, of the Abilene District's Haskell County maintenance section, finalists in the section's Truck Rodeo, represented Haskell County in the district-wide rodeo in Abilene, where they competed against 34 other drivers for the honor of representing the district in the state event. With them is Jonnie Hise, Haskell County maintenance section supervisor. The event is sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation as part of the fleet safety training. Drivers are tested on vehicle inspection, stop line, alley dock and straight line.

Library Notes

By Joan Frazier

By Joan Frazier
With the help of the Friends of the Library group, the Haskell County Library received a grant from the Libri Foundation's Books for Children grant program. The Friends provided the "seed" money of \$350.00, and the Libri Foundation matched it at a 2 to 1 ratio.

From a list sent by the Foundation of 171 titles of award-winning books, the library staff selected the books we would like to have in the library collection. Haskell received 64 books valued at \$1,068.03. These books are the "best of the best," and will make a tremendous difference to the children and young adult sections of the library.

Each book came with a bookplate stating, "This book is donated to the Haskell County Library by the Haskell Friends of the Library and the Libri Foundation." The quality of these books is amazing. They should last the library for years, and many youngsters will have the privilege of reading award-winning books that we would have been unable to purchase with our regular book budget.

The Libri Foundation provides

assistance to small rural libraries throughout the country. Each year this grant comes available to libraries with limited funds. A library is eligible to apply for this grant every three or four years, if an organization is willing to raise "seed money" needed to apply for the grant.

"Loan Star Libraries" is a new program that was developed a couple of years ago by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to assist small rural libraries in purchasing supplies, materials or furniture that they would be unable to purchase under normal budget conditions. This is direct aid to libraries from the State of Texas. This year we received \$1,665.00 from the plan and with it we have purchased the entire "Hank the Cowdog" books and tapes, a child's computer desk, beanbags for the children's section, and book-racks. In order to receive this money, each year the library has to send a plan of service to the state.

We have also received a grant from the Tocker Foundation to purchase Texas books. This grant amount was \$1,500.00. Darrell Tocker heads up this Foundation

whose main goal is to aid small rural libraries that have small budgets.

Most of all, these grants are based on the budgeted amount that these small libraries receive from local funds. These grants are very important to small rural libraries with funding availabilities being as they are in these difficult times.

Recent gifts to the library include:
Audiotapes in memory of R. D. "Sonny" Tanner.

Donation in honor of Frances Lane's 90th birthday.

Memorials to Friends of the Library: Mattie Felker English, Royce Adkins, Giles M. Kemp, Ozelle Frierson and Nellie Kate Frazier. Edna Callaway, Raja Hassen, Fadwa Hassen, Weldon Norman, Albert Barnett, Annie Marshall, Bennie Ammons, Ella Bell Burson and Darel Anderson.

Books in memory of Nadine Wyrick.

Donation by Wal-Mart, \$600.00 for children's books.

Donation in lieu of Christmas cards: Joan Frazier.

See you at the Library.

Get ready for winter weather

Winter weather in Texas can be treacherous, with temperatures falling suddenly as storms blow in from the north.

Designating Dec. 2 as Winter Awareness Day, The Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety and the National Weather Service joined together to urge Texans to prepare their homes and cars for severe winter weather.

"Roads can become treacherous in icy weather. Severe ice storms can knock out power, making it important to have emergency supplies on hand in your home," said DPS State Coordinator Jack Colley.

He recommends taking the following preparedness steps:

*Winterize your home by insulating pipes near outside walls and by sealing leaks that might expose pipes to cold air.

*Always have a way to receive winter weather forecasts and warnings because weather can change rapidly.

*Make sure that heating systems, fireplaces and wood stoves are clean, well ventilated and in good working condition.

*Be sure to place your electrical heating source in a safe place away from curtains and combustible materials. If you have a gas furnace, be sure to install carbon monoxide detectors. Always install smoke detectors, they could save your life this winter.

*Winterize your vehicle by checking wipers, tires, lights and fluid levels. Lubricate doors and trunk locks to avoid freezing.

*Prepare a travel disaster supply kit containing food, drinking water, blankets, rain gear, extra clothing, flashlights with extra batteries, jumper cables and a first aid kit.

*Travelers should keep their gas tank at least half full and should make alternative travel plans in case bad weather forces trip delays. Do not travel when such conditions threaten.

*Patchy freezing drizzle can kill. When the temperature falls below 32 degrees, even a little mist, drizzle or frost can create slick bridges and roads. Slow down, especially on overpasses and bridges.

*Check on friends and family members whose health or age—especially the very young and very old—may put them at greater risk from cold weather or freezing temperatures.

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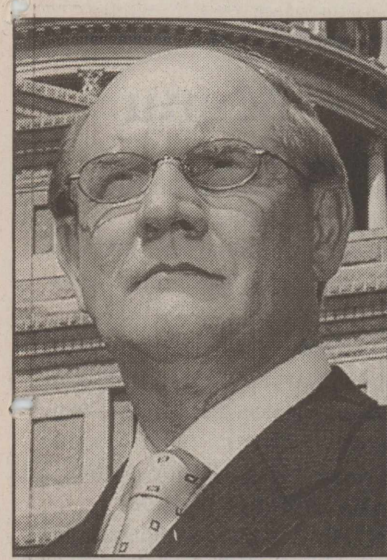
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RON JOSSELET

Josselet named top manager

The State Office of Risk Management (SORM) Executive Director, Ron Josselet, was named Risk Manager of the Year by the Texas Public Risk Manager Association (Texas PRIMA) during the group's annual conference in Houston in November.

Texas PRIMA also selected SORM's Safety Puzzle as the recipient of a Risk Management Achievement Award.

A 1966 graduate of Haskell High School, Josselet was chosen as the state's top risk manager from the group's more than 500 members for his outstanding leadership ability and accomplishments. He also serves as Texas PRIMA's president-elect.

In addition to a plaque and statuette, Josselet was present letters of congratulations from Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Speaker of the House Tom Craddick.

Also during the luncheon, members of SORM's Agency Outreach and Training and Risk Assessment and Loss Prevention divisions accepted an achievement award for their work on SORM's Safety Puzzle.

The puzzle is an online tool for helping State of Texas agencies solve the sometimes puzzling issues of safety. The puzzle includes information and important links in the areas of slips, trips, and falls, management commitment, and notary public.

SORM was created by the 75th Texas Legislature to provide risk management services to State of Texas agencies and to administer worker's compensation claims for State of Texas employees.

Texas PRIMA is a state chapter of the National Public Risk Management Association, and serves the interests of its member entities, their designated representatives and the general public, by promoting and encouraging effective risk management in public agencies and by promoting and advancing the profession of risk management as an integral part of public administration.

Glaucoma can cause blindness

Glaucoma is a leading eye disease that causes blindness. The most notable symptom of glaucoma is loss of peripheral vision. However, most patients don't notice the problem until it is revealed in an eye exam. This is why it is so important to have regular eye checkups.

According to Dr. George Chiou, professor at The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine, high eye pressure is one of the major factors to induce glaucoma. The disease also results from reduced blood flow in the eye or inflammation of nerve tissues causing degeneration of retina neurons and the eye nerve head.

Therefore, the medical treatment of glaucoma is grouped into three categories: (1) drugs to reduce eye pressure (these drugs can also be used to treat eye hypertension); (2) drugs to improve/facilitate eye blood flow so that the nutrients can be delivered efficiently to the nerve tissues of the eye; and (3) drugs to prevent degeneration of eye neurons, which are called neuroprotection agents.

However, if medication does not work well, particularly in narrow angle glaucoma, surgery and/or laser treatment may be necessary.

Haskell students do well in UIL competition

Haskell Elementary grades 2-5 recently won first, and sixth graders placed second in the Middle School Division of the District Academic Meet.

On Tues., Nov. 11, thirty nine students participating in various University Interscholastic League (UIL) events, left Haskell to attend the District Academic Meet in Eula. The following Monday, Nov. 17, students and their teacher/coaches returned to finish competition at Eula Elementary and Eula Middle School.

Competing in the district meet were Anson, Cisco, Eastland, Eula, Haskell, Hawley and Stamford.

Trish Johnson coached the fifth grade Art contest, which is a team event. Team members included Ashlee Short, Megan Kimbrough, Dawn Skinner and Brooke Hall, who produced a perfect paper. This team placed second in the district.

Second grade Creative Writing participants, coached by Michelle Dunnam, were Dana Rodriguez, who placed third, Kaley Mathis, Shelton Toliver and Emily Fouts.

Tonya Cypert coached the fifth grade Dictionary Skills students, Sara Weise, Ashlee Short, Jessica Rodriguez and Codi Beth Foster, who placed first in the district.

The fifth grade Listening students, coached by Debbie Earles, were Cody Benson, Angelica Gonzales, Nathan Meredith and Clarissa Walker.

Kelsie Adams represented Haskell Elementary fifth graders in the Maps, Graphs, and Charts contest, coached by LaKay Gibbs.

Melodee Christian's third grade Music Memory team, made up of Maci Colley, Carson Hadaway, David Newton and Brett Shelton placed first in the district. Christian's fourth grade Music Memory team also placed first. The fourth graders were Carley Calhoun, Cailey Foster, Garrett Brueggeman and Felysha Walker.

Fourth graders, coached by Paula Everett, did an outstanding job in the event of Number Sense. Placing fourth was Ryan Anderson, placing second was Casey Calhoun and placing first was Garrett Brueggeman.

Three Haskell fifth graders participating in Number Sense were Jessica Rodriguez, Nathan Meredith, who placed fourth and Codi Beth Foster, who placed second. Cody Benson was the substitute. Everett was their coach.

Caron Yates coached the fourth grade Oral Readers, Felysha Walker, Casey Calhoun, Laycee Tullos, who placed sixth and Ryan Anderson, who placed third.

Fifth grade Oral Readers included Sara Weise, Dawn Skinner, Codi Foster and Ashlee Short, who placed sixth in the district. They were coached by Trish Johnson.

Brett Shelton, Cailey Foster, Maci Colley and Ashlee Adams were coached in third grade Ready Writing by Melodee Christian. Winning third in the district was Cailey Foster. First

place winner was Ashley Adams.

JoNell Roberts coached the fourth grade Ready Writing students, Ryan Anderson, Garrett Brueggeman, who placed third, and Lisa Hibbits, who placed first in the district.

Fifth grade students competing in Ready Writing were Ashley Bullard, and Angelica Gonzales, who placed third in the district. They were coached by Tonya Cypert.

Participating in the third grade Spelling contest were Carson Hadaway, who placed sixth in district, Ashley Adams, Madison Mayfield and Kalyn Wheatley. Donna Waggoner coached the event.

Two fourth graders participating in the Spelling contest were Lynna Billington and Garrett Brueggeman, who placed first in the district. They were coached by JoNell Roberts.

Fifth graders participating in Spelling, coached by Sherry Adams, were Leslie Crosson, Angelica Gonzales, who placed fifth, Kayce Strickland, who placed fourth, and Brooke Hall, who placed first.

Second graders participating in Oral Reading were Jessica Boggs, Micah Thomas, Kaley Mathis, who placed second in district and Hunter Hall, who placed first in the district. Rhonda Hanson was their coach.

Coached by Caron Yates, third grade Oral Readers participating were Caleb Thomasson, Cailey Foster, Gabriel Torres and Maci Colley, who placed fourth in the district.

Haskell Elementary sixth graders were considered middle school students by the six other schools in the district, and their scores were recorded with the middle school division of the UIL academic contests. The middle school placed second overall in the district. The following students and their teachers/coaches participated in the meet.

Instructed by Bonnie Fouts, the sixth grade Calculator students were Ethan Frierson, who placed fifth, Tyler Reese, Shambrie Rodriguez and Kayce Wilcox. This team of students also placed second overall in the district as a team.

Breanna Villa, substitute, Tyler Reese, Miranda Johnson and Brooke Bullinger, who placed fourth in district, competed in Dictionary Skills. They were coached by Tonya Cypert.

Participating in the Listening event were sixth graders, Kayce Wilcox, Jordan Burson, Aubrey Bassett, who placed fifth and Miranda Johnson, who placed first. They were coached by Debbie Earles.

Sixth grade participants in the Maps, Graphs, and Charts events included McKenzie Barrington, Katie Grand and Derrick Coleman. They were coached by LaKay Gibbs.

Coached by Debbie Earles, sixth grade students participating in the Mathematics events were Breanna Villa, Ethan Frierson, Brooke Bullinger and Aubrey Bassett, who placed fourth in the district.

Coached by Bonnie Fouts, sixth

graders entering in the Number Sense event were Shambrie Rodriguez, Ethan Frierson, James Williams and Brooke Bullinger, who placed first in the district.

Sixth graders entering in Oral Reading included Lauren Lampe, Shambrie Rodriguez, Brie Torres and Kayce Wilcox. They were coached by Caron Yates.

In Ready Writing, sixth graders entering were Aubrey Bassett, Brooke Bullinger, who placed first in the district, Miranda Johnson and Jordan Burson. Tonya Cypert was their coach.

In Spelling, coached by Sherry Adams, sixth graders Derrick Coleman placed sixth, Veronica Benton placed fifth and Aubrey Bassett placed second.

In announcing the results of the District Academic Meet, Debbie Earles, Haskell Elementary UIL Director, said that first, second and third place winners at the district level will receive gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively. Fourth through sixth place winners receive ribbons. These should be delivered

Haskell Co. Gin Report

Dec. 1, 2003
Haskell

Haskell Co-op Gin	725
Haskell County Gin	1,197
O'Brien	
O'Brien Co-op Gin	5,362
Rule	
Rule Co-op Gin	1,622
Sagerton Gin	650
Weinert	
Griff's Gin	500
Weinert Gin	1,382
Total Bales	11,438

Be safe during the holidays

by Jane Rowan

Haskell Co. Extension Agent

Safety should not be forgotten during the holiday. Dry Christmas trees can become a fire hazard. A fresh tree will have a sticky trunk and needles that do not bend, break, or fall off easily.

Faulty lights and cords are the leading cause of Christmas tree fires. Be sure and inspect strings of lights, and discard any cords that are damaged.

Use flame resistant decorations as an added precaution. Also, make sure candles are never left unattended.

soon from the host schools Eula Elementary and Eula Middle School.

Haskell Elementary School Principle, Jim Lisle, congratulated all students who tried out for the different events, all students who were chosen to attend the district

meet, and all the students and their teachers who worked so hard and invested so much time towards becoming excellent in their events.

"The Haskell students represented their school and their hometown extremely well," he said.

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ATTENDING STATE MEETING—Haskell members of Texas Extension Education Association who attended the State TEEA meeting held in Plano were: back, l-r, Geraldine Baker, Mary Lou Gilleland, Mildred Robertson, Lena Tidwell and Sue McGee. Front, Flossie Bates and Alice Yates. Not pictured are Dolores Medford and Lou Gilly, former Haskell County Extension Agent.

Producers wanting advance payments need to sign up now

Producers wanting to receive advance direct payments in December under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) must sign their 2004 DCP contracts before the end of the year, according to the head of the Haskell County Farm Service Agency.

"The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 introduced the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, which requires producers to sign a new contract every year," said Glenn R. Brzozowski, executive director of the Haskell County FSA. "This is a change from the old Production Flexibility Contracts, which were good for seven years."

The Direct and Counter-cyclical Program offers eligible farmers and ranchers direct cash payments based on acres and yields established for each farm. Producers can elect to receive their direct payments as a lump sum in October or as two partial payments—an advance payment of up to 50 percent of the total and a final payment for the remainder.

When electing to receive two partial payments, Brzozowski said, "the producer also selects the month in which to receive the advance payment—that's where timing is critical," he said.

"Producers who, for tax or other purposes, want to receive an advance payment this month, have to sign

their 2004 DCP contracts in the next few weeks so the advance direct payments can be issued by Dec. 31," he said.

Regardless of which month a producer selects for the advance direct payment, final payments are made in October, following the end of the fiscal year.

The Direct and Counter-cyclical Program is designed to help stabilize U. S. agriculture by providing payments to eligible producers who enroll their farms each fiscal year during the life of the current farm bill.

Both direct payments and counter-cyclical payments are calculated

using base acres and payment yields established for each individual farm. Direct payment rates are constant. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary with the average price of program commodities each marketing year. When crop values are high, counter-cyclical payments are zero.

Producers wanting more income in 2003 are encouraged to call the Haskell County Farm Service Agency office to book an appointment.

For more information regarding DCP and other FSA programs, contact the Haskell County FSA office at 940-864-2617.

Bank receives top honors

Haskell National Bank has earned top honors—a 5-Star rating—from BauerFinancial Inc. Coral Gables, Florida, the nation's leading independent bank rating firm.

Institutions consistently maintaining a 5-star in each quarter for at least the past ten years, like Haskell National Bank, also earn the distinction of "Exceptional Performance Banks." This marks the 46th consecutive quarter that Haskell

National Bank has earned the 5-star designation. The award is based on an analysis of current financial data as supplied by federal regulators, supplemented by historical data.

"Not only is Haskell National Bank a testament to sound banking and stellar performance, it embraces the values and work ethic that have made this country great," reports Karen Dorway, president of the research firm.

Proposed Local Consolidation Agreement between Rochester CLISD/Haskell CISD

In accordance with Chapter 13 of the Texas Education Code, which allows independent school district boards of trustees to enter into Local Consolidation Agreements, as authorized by Texas Education Code Sections 13.158 and 13.159, the Boards of Trustees of Haskell Consolidated Independent School District (Haskell CISD) and Rochester County Line Independent School District (Rochester CLISD) agree to the terms and conditions contained in this local consolidation agreement.

- The term of this agreement shall be five (5) years from the effective date of consolidation.
- The effective date of the consolidation between Rochester CLISD and Haskell CISD will be June 1, 2004. Title to all property and all indebtedness shall transfer on the effective date of the consolidation; provided, however, Rochester CLISD agrees not to take on any new indebtedness in excess of currently budgeted expenditures, after the date of the Rochester CLISD Board meeting approving this Agreement.
- The consolidated independent school district shall operate grades K-12 and may operate other educational programs, as appropriate.
- The name of the consolidated district shall be Haskell Consolidated Independent School District.
- The consolidated district will operate at least one campus within the boundaries of what is currently Rochester CLISD, with said campus serving all students in grades 7 and 8. The consolidated district's board of trustees, during the term of this agreement, will annually evaluate the feasibility of operating other grades and programs such as early childhood programs at the campus located within the boundaries of what is currently Rochester CLISD.

- The campus located within the boundaries of the current Rochester CLISD will be named Rochester Jr. High, or another name selected by the Board of Trustees of the current Rochester CLISD, prior to the effective date of consolidation. The current Rochester CLISD Board of Trustees shall choose the mascot and colors for the campus located within the boundaries of the current Rochester CLISD.
- "Home" athletic events for students in grades 7 and 8 will be held at the campus located within the boundaries of what is currently Rochester CLISD.
- The consolidated district will maintain the grounds of the campus located within the boundaries of the current Rochester CLISD at the same level of care that is currently provided.

- The Haskell CISD Board of Trustees members are elected from seven (7) single member districts. The consolidated board shall consist of seven (7) members selected from single member districts. The current seven districts will be redrawn for the consolidated district and will be subject to approval from the United States Department of Justice. The consolidated school district will endeavor to obtain approval for one of the new single member districts to include substantially all of the currently existing area of Rochester CLISD. Trustees of each single member district shall be elected by receiving the highest number of votes for that position. Trustees shall not be required to reside within the districts that they represent. The first trustee election utilizing the newly-created single member districts will be conducted on the uniform election date in May 2005.

- The consolidated district will be governed by a transition board of trustees, from the effective date of the consolidation until the May 2005 board of trustee election has been canvassed and the new board of trustees members have taken the oath of office and been sworn in. This transition board of trustees will consist of the seven (7) trustees from the current Haskell CISD and two (2) trustees from the current Rochester CLISD. The current Rochester CLISD board of trustees will appoint the two (2) members to the transition board of the consolidated district.
- Subject to the limitations below, faculty and staff currently employed by Rochester CLISD will have assurance of employment for the 2004-2005 school year under the following guidelines; provided, however, nothing in this Agreement will limit the authority of the consolidated district administration and board to make employment decisions in the best interest of the consolidated district and in accordance with all legal requirements, nor shall anything in this agreement guarantee any contract employee continued employment for more than one school year following consolidation, except as provided otherwise by individual employment contracts.

- By the end of March 2004, Rochester CLISD will conduct a reduction in force contract termination or nonrenewal of all its probationary and term contract employees and will incur all costs for same.
- For the 2004-2005 school year, the consolidated district will make a total salary commitment of \$405,000 to \$465,000 to employ current Rochester CLISD employees, both non-certified and certified. In succeeding years, the consolidated district will honor the then-existing legal rights of all hired employees.
- All current Rochester CLISD non-certified/support employees will be offered at-will positions with the consolidated school district.

- After the total salary commitment to Rochester CLISD non-certified/support employees has been determined, the funds remaining in the consolidated district's gross salary commitment will be utilized to employ current Rochester CLISD certified professional employees, under term contracts if entitled under board policy, or probationary contracts.
- Rochester CLISD certified employees who are not hired by Haskell CISD, if they apply for future vacancies, will be given priority consideration.
- At least one administrator and one PEIMS support person will be assigned to the campus operated within the boundaries of the current Rochester CLISD.
- The superintendent of the consolidated school district shall be the current superintendent of Haskell CISD.

- All funds spent by the consolidated district from the Rochester CLISD's existing \$1.2 million bond fund will be expended for improvements to the campus located within the boundaries of the current Rochester CLISD. Rochester CLISD agrees that it will not expend bond funds prior to the consolidation's effective date. The consolidated school district shall commit at least \$750,000 of the bond funds to upgrade the existing campus within the Rochester CLISD, so that the campus will be educationally appropriate for 7th and 8th grade students and their extracurricular activities.

- The consolidated district will retire any bonded indebtedness currently attributable to Rochester CLISD.

- During the first two (2) years of the consolidation agreement, the consolidated district will recognize co-valedictorians and co-salutatorians. One valedictorian and one salutatorian from the current Rochester CLISD, and one valedictorian and one salutatorian from the current Haskell CISD will be recognized.

- This agreement may not be amended for five (5) years from the date of consolidation.

- Should any provision of this agreement be ruled illegal or unenforceable in any manner, the remainder of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect, as if such illegal or unenforceable language were stricken from this agreement.

Agreed: This 25th day of November, 2003.

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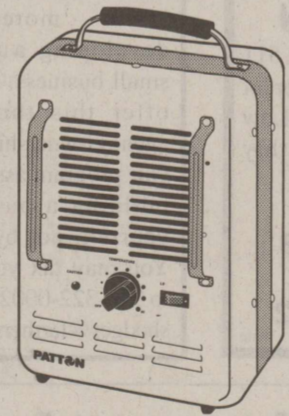
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