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Jr. Livestock Show and Sale this weekend

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 118-NO. 3, ©JANUARY 15, 2004

"The People's Choice"

12 PAGES-ONE SECTION-50 CENTS

Local man dies in accident

Late in the evening, Thurs., Jan. 8, Haskell Police Chief, Tom Bassett and Police Officers, Steve Grand, Bill Glass and Mathew Cunningham, responded to a call that a carport in east Haskell had fallen on two subjects. Also responding was Sheriff's Deputy, Winston Stephens.

Upon arrival, officers were contacted by Billy Joe Reynolds, who told the officers that Johnny Pedroza and Donaciano Tonche were cutting down the carport and it had fallen on them. Reynolds told the officers that Pedroza was under the fallen carport.

The other man, Tonche, was found on the northeast corner of the structure.

Upon arrival of Haskell EMS, members of the Haskell Fire Department and Police Department lifted one side of the structure and braced it for removal of the trapped man.

Both men were transported to the Haskell Memorial Hospital, where Pedroza was pronounced dead on arrival. Tonche was treated for minor injuries and released.

Candidates file

Rhonda Moeller, Haskell County Clerk, has released the following list of candidates filing for office on the ballot of the March 9 election.

Sheriff: James David Halliburton; William A. (Bill) Glass; Jack A. Whorton.

Haskell County Commissioner, Precinct 1: Johnny Scoggins.

Haskell County Commissioner, Precinct 3: Kenny Thompson.

Haskell County Attorney: Jerry S. Hadaway.

Haskell County Tax Assessor: Bobbye (Guffey) Collins.

Haskell County Constable: Kimberlee G. Bassett.

Basketball games

HASKELL
7th-8th Boys & Girls
Haskell J.H. Tournament
Jan. 15-17

JVG-B, VG-B vs Eula
Fri., Jan. 16, 4 p.m.
at Eula

Girls 7th-8th-9th B vs Hawley
Mon., Jan. 19, 5 p.m.
at Haskell

Boys 7th-8th-9th vs Eastland
Mon., Jan. 19, 5 p.m.
at Hawley

JVG-B, VG-B vs Eastland
Tues., Jan. 20, 4 p.m.
at Eastland

PAINT CREEK
Paint Creek vs Jayton
Fri., Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m.
at Jayton

Paint Creek JH vs Rule
Mon., Jan. 19, 5:30 p.m.
at Paint Creek

Paint Creek vs Aspermont
Tues., Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m.
at Paint Creek

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LAST YEAR'S WINNER-Rusty Howard, center, proudly posed with his winning entry in the 2003 Haskell County Jr. Livestock

Show. With him were steer superintendent, Dennis Poole and his sister, Mindy Howard, holding his awards.

County Jr. Livestock Show set this weekend

The annual Haskell County Junior Livestock Show and Sale will be held Friday and Saturday at the Haskell County Show Barn.

Arrival time for entries of steers, heifers, lambs and swine is by 4:00 p.m., Thurs., Jan. 15.

Poultry and rabbit entry time is by 7:30 a.m., Fri., Jan. 16.

Show time schedules on Friday begin at 8:00 a.m. for poultry and rabbits, followed by lambs and then by swine. Show time for steers is 3:00 p.m., followed by heifers.

Judge for the steers and heifers will be Brian Reynolds, Lynn County Extension agent. Judging swine will be Galen McCune of Mooreland, Oklahoma. Judging rabbits, chickens and lambs will be Kenneth Dudensing, Agriculture Science teacher at Sweetwater High School.

Auctioneer for the sale, which begins at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday will be Mike Fouts.

Haskell County Judge David Davis and Haskell County Commissioners will be serving barbecue sandwiches both Friday and Saturday.

The Haskell County Extension Education Association (EEA Club) will have a concession stand with drinks, chips and snacks.

Last year's show brought out 104 participants entering their animals. The sale totaled \$70,400.

Jeff Teague of Haskell is the president of the Haskell County Junior Livestock Show Association.

Jail population continues to grow

By James Elam

The Development Corporation of Haskell announced Jan. 12 that the population at the Rolling Plains Regional Jail & Detention Center has continued to grow during the last quarter of 2003. According to Emerald Correctional Management, the population averaged 71 percent of capacity in October, 95 percent in November and 100 percent in December.

The number of inmates and detainees varies frequently, and on any given day there could be space available for additional population.

On Jan. 12, the Warden reported that approximately 50 beds were available.

Seven counties, including Haskell County, contract to house some or all of their inmates in the County Jail.

The number of employees is above the amount projected when the facility was in the planning stage. It was projected that 125-130 employees would be employed at the Jail and Detention Center. However, at the end of December, the number of employees stood at 143.

It is interesting to note that 75 of the employees live in Haskell and 69

live in surrounding communities. This facility is a benefit to the region in addition to providing employment for Haskell citizens.

Sales tax revenue for the City of Haskell has increased 13.1 percent during the first three months of fiscal year 2004. The additional economic activity created by the employees at the prison is a factor contributing to this increase. Local property taxes have not been affected by the construction and operation of the facility.

One merchant reported that his business is benefiting from the employees shopping in his store. He further stated that some of the employees who live outside Haskell are shopping for their neighbors and

friends from their hometown.

The City and County of Haskell and the Development Corporation will continue to work with Emerald Correction Management to insure the success of the facility in 2004.

College hotline open

The 19th Annual College Information Hotline will be available Jan. 17 and 18, co-sponsored by the Texas Association for College Admission Counseling and LoanStar Educational Loans as a public service for students and parents.

The toll-free hotline may be contacted on those days from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 1-877-275-7007.

Information will be available regarding the application process, college majors, entrance requirements, financial aid, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and deadlines.

Rule School Counselor, Leslie Kupatt, encourages Rule students and parents to utilize this available resource.

January is time to recognize school board members

January has been designated School Board Recognition Month in Texas. During this time, the staff and students of Haskell County Independent School District are asking all local citizens to take a moment to tell a school board member "Thanks for caring about our children."

Being an effective school board member is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of change and challenge. Our school board members must be knowledgeable about many complex educational and social issues, and carry out initiatives and directives from both federal and state governments. To face these demands of governing Haskell CISD, they must give countless hours of personal time. Their public service is an excellent example of the tradition of volunteerism that is a hallmark of American society.

The Haskell CISD school board, one of 1,042 such boards in Texas,

enables us to have local control of our district, and is charged with making decisions to ensure our district meets the need of our students and community. With the advice and counsel of the educational professionals they hire, our school board has an effect on virtually every aspect of our district. It's a huge responsibility, one which should not be taken lightly.

The Haskell CISD school board members are: Mike Jordan, president; Joe Yates, vice-president; Donnie Rieger, secretary; Steven Foster; Steve McGuire; Felix Rodriguez and Mynea Short.

The dedication and hard work of these who serve as advocates for our district often goes unrecognized.

Let's salute these volunteers who participate in what is perhaps the purest form of grassroots democratic principles on which our country was founded.



HELP FOR THE LIBRARY-Haskell County Librarian, Joan Frazier, center, holds the check for \$1,600.00 given to the library by the Haskell Rotary Club. Club president, Nelda Lane and Bill Markunas, chairman of the grant committee, presented the check, which was made possible by the club and a matching grant from the Rotary District. Frazier said the funds will be used to purchase items that are above the budget allotment provided by the county.

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Cattle Market Report

The market at the Haskell Livestock Auction was on a run of 355 head of cattle at its sale on Mon., Jan. 12, according to Gary Tate, reporter. 57 sellers and 24 buyers were present.

Packers steady to \$1 lower, stockers and feeders steady.

Cows: fat, 44-48; cutters, 42-52; canners, 25-37.

Bulls: bologna, 55-60; feeders, 75-83; utility, 50-56.

Steers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.15-1.60; 300-400 lbs., 1.05-1.25; 400-500 lbs., .94-1.20; 500-600 lbs., .88-1.00; 600-700 lbs., .84-.95; 700-800 lbs., .80-.88; 800-up lbs., .72-.82.

Heifers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., .95-1.30; 300-400 lbs., .90-1.10; 400-500 lbs., .83-.96; 500-600 lbs., .79-.89; 600-up lbs., .65-.85.

Bred heifers medium frame, 500-600.

Bred Cows: young to middle aged, 630-725; aged or small, 450-560.

Cows with calves: medium frame No. 1 young and middle aged, 740-850; aged or small, 575-650.

Leadership teams installed

Officers from eight Sweetwater area Hermann Sons lodges were installed during the Order of the Sons in Texas investment activities in Sweetwater, Sat., Jan. 10.

Included in leadership teams installed were those from Haskell Lodge No. 241 and Old Glory Lodge No. 228.

A not-for-profit fraternal insurance society, Hermann Sons is widely known for its volunteerism. First organized in San Antonio in 1861 by two German immigrants from New York, the Grand Lodge was formed in 1890.

Today, the more than 76,000 members belong to one of 149 local lodges across Texas and have access to a wide range of fraternal benefits.

Obituaries

Leona Carter

Funeral services for Leona Carter, 86, of Haskell were held Sat., Jan. 10 at First Baptist Church in Haskell with Jimmy Griffith and Dr. Troy Culpepper officiating. Burial was in Willow cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home.

Mrs. Carter died Thurs., Jan. 8 at an Abilene hospital. Born March 4, 1917, she was the daughter of Jack and Minnie Rutledge Carter. She was an LVN and a member of the First Baptist Church in Haskell.

John R. Nail

John R. Nail, 80, of Haskell died Jan. 9 at a nursing home in Haskell. A retired builder, he was born Feb. 5, 1923 in Stamford. He served in the Air Transport Command of the Air Force in the CBI Theater during World War II as an on-board aerial engineer. He received numerous awards including two Bronze Battle Stars, two air medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He married Ruth Gilstrap of Haskell June 2, 1943 and they spent many years as residents of Stamford, Abilene and in Mineral Wells. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and a member of the Central Presbyterian Church

Doris Marie Martin

Graveside services for Doris Marie Martin, 65, of Haskell were held Sun., Jan. 11 at Rochester Cemetery with Rev. Kathrine Byrd officiating. Services were under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home.

Mrs. Martin died Fri., Jan. 9 at a local nursing home. Born May 14, 1938 in Rochester, she was the daughter of I. T. 'Red' and Thular Collins McGee. Her husband, Wayne Jackson Martin, preceded her in death Aug. 1,

Survivors include her nieces and nephews, Deann Carter of Merkel, Billy Carter of Snyder, Jean Medford of Odessa, Mary Sorrells of Abilene, Bobby Sutterfield of Abilene, Sue McGee of Haskell, Linda Newbern of Corpus Christi, Dona Sassee and Ann Barler, both of San Angelo, Ruth Salazar of Big Spring, John White of Farmington, N.M., Truman White of Albuquerque, N.M., Gracie Lyon and Curtis Joe Carter, both of Houston, and Delores Barlow of Waco. PD NOTICE

Survivors include his wife, Ruth; son, Ronald Nail and wife, Deborah of Haskell; daughter, Janice Nail and grandson, Travis Mathe of Fort Worth; grandson James Nail and wife, Debra; three great grandchildren, Brittany, Jared and Josh of Lubbock; two sisters, Doris Mooty of Longview and Lois Mohat of Denton.

Memorials may be made to the National Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association or the Alzheimer's Association. PD NOTICE

Survivors include her daughter, Debbie Holder of Odessa; two sisters, Letha Isbell and Mary Westerman, both of Haskell; two brothers, Alfred McGee of Highlands and Leroy McGee of Quanah; three grandchildren, Jacquelyn Brown and Tandra Linden, both of Odessa and Jessie Dunn of San Antonio; and eight great grandchildren. PD NOTICE

Commissioner's Court report

At the Haskell County Commissioners' Court special meeting, Dec. 23, members accepted the resignation of Janet Stephens as kitchen supervisor as of Dec. 31, and the promotion of Kelli Faulkner to that position starting Jan. 1, at the probationary rate of \$648.20 per month for six months.

Upon the recommendation of Lynn Dodson, Linda Lacy was taken off probationary salary and put on regular salary as of Dec. 16.

A bid was accepted from Warren Cat on two used motor graders in the amount of \$142,000.00 and \$144,000.00. A bid from B & R was withdrawn.

A motion was accepted to purchase two new 140H Caterpillar motor graders for Precinct 3 in the amount of \$173,157.00, each with a guaranteed repurchase price of \$110,000.00 in 5 years, up to 5000 hours with extended warranty at no extra cost.

Authority was given to Judge David Davis to request \$200,000.00 worth of assistance from the Texas

Dept. of Transportation. The burn ban for Haskell county was reinstated.

A bid was accepted from Robert Tribbey (Top Flight Roofing) in the amount of \$3,395.00 on removing and replacing shingles on the gazebo roof, with the work being done sometime after May 1.

In a special called meeting of the Court, Jan. 5, approval was given for the first reading of the Commissioners' Court Order establishing a County Emergency Management Program. When established, the program will provide comprehensive emergency management; acknowledging the office of emergency director; authorizing the appointment of an emergency management coordinator; providing for the duties and responsibilities of those officers; identifying an operational organization; granting necessary powers to cope with all phases of emergency management which threaten life and property in the

County of Haskell, authorizing cooperative and mutual aid agreements for relief work between this and other cities or counties and for related purposes; and making violations a misdemeanor punishable by fine not to exceed \$500.00. Authority was given to Judge Davis to send a letter to West Texas Internet requesting removal of any equipment or objects belonging to them from the Haskell County Courthouse and tower on the roof that is not required to operate the community network, including an antenna.

Haskell Co. Gin Report

Jan. 12, 2004

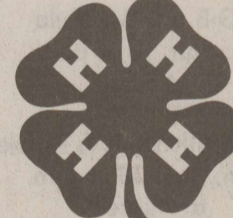
Haskell Co-op Gin	9,409 ¹
Haskell County Gin	4,066
O'Brien	
O'Brien Co-op Gin	14,000 ^M
Rule	
Rule Co-op Gin	9,836 ^B
Sagerton Gin	1,800 ^B
Weinert	
Griff's Gin	5,613 ¹
Weinert Gin	6,827 ^B
Total Bales	51,551 ¹

Haskell Co. Jr. Livestock Show & Sale Jan. 15-17

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MR. AND MRS. DONNIE EARL McNEFF

Fry, McNeff wed in Oklahoma

Traci Renee Fry and Donnie Earl McNeff were married Sat., Dec. 6th on the Washita River in Grady County, Oklahoma.

The bride is the daughter of Keith and Sandra Fry of Rochester. Her grandparents are the late Ira and Thelma Grinstead of Rochester and Dr. and Mrs. Polk Fry of Frederick, Oklahoma.

The bridegroom is the son of George and Lou McNeff of Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Judge Richard Van Dyck performed the ceremony on the banks of the river in the presence of Dayla Morris, sister of the groom; Trina Watson, sister of the bride; Jerome

Doss, friend of the groom; and Philip West, friend of the groom.

Following the ceremony, the wedding party enjoyed dining at Roy's Barbecue in Chickasha.

The bride attended Abilene Christian University and is teaching high school in Iowa Park.

The bridegroom attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Northwestern Oklahoma State University. He is a self-employed dairyman for McNeff Dairy.

The couple plans a reception/renewal in March in Chickasha. They live outside Chickasha.

Valentine cards sought to be sent to troops

Rebekah Murphy, wife of a Marine deployed in the Persian Gulf, and daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Allen Brooks, is on a personal mission to gather five thousand Valentines for the troops deployed abroad the U.S.S. Peleliu. She is asking for help in gathering Valentines so that each person will receive at least one Valentine.

Valentines may be purchased or handmade, and then signed.

Donations are also being accepted to help defray shipping costs.

Valentines may be dropped in the box located in the foyer of the First United Methodist Church or by 604 N. 2nd St. Valentines will be shipped Feb. 1.

Births

Darren and Deneice Wright of Abilene announce the birth of their son, Ethan Thomas Wright, born Dec. 15 at 7:26 a.m. in Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. He weighed 9 lbs. 1 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Ethan is welcomed home by his big sister, Katelyn.

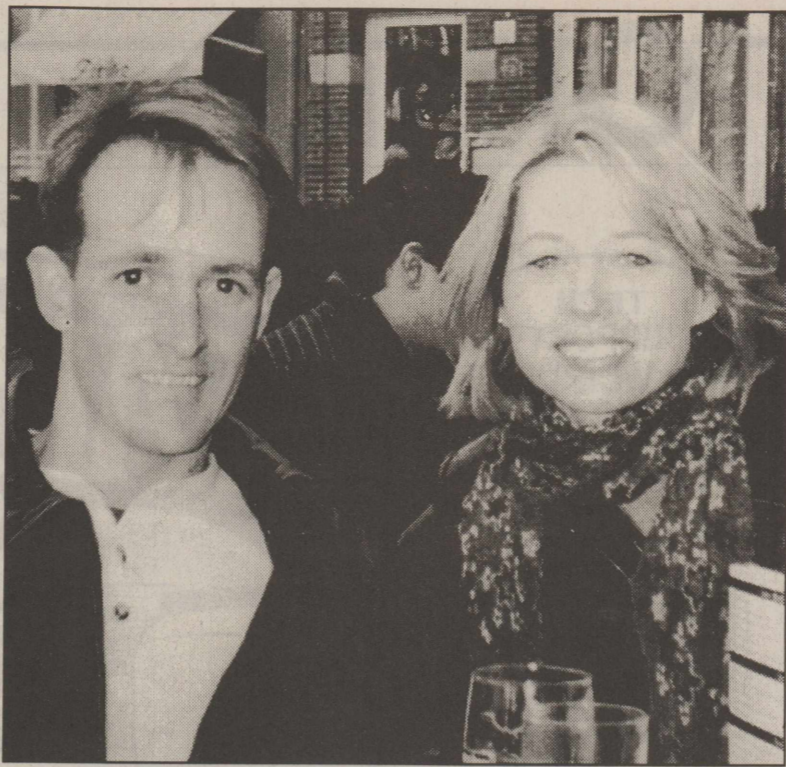
Grandparents are Floyd and Ella Rogers of Nugent and Evelyn and the late Vernon Wright of Haskell.



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MR. AND MRS. GREGORY THOMAS GUNTHER

Croft, Gunther united Dec. 22

Kelly Diane Croft and Gregory Thomas Gunther were married Dec. 22 in Dallas.

The bride is the daughter of Kay Croft and the late Harvey Croft of Haskell. She is employed as a teacher.

The bridegroom is the son of Richard and Windy Gunther of Saginaw, Michigan. He is employed in the construction business.

Following a trip to Toulouse, France, the couple is residing in Dallas.

Roberson celebrates 95th birthday

Vivian Curtis Roberson of Haskell celebrated her 95th birthday with a party on Sun., Jan. 11.

Born in 1909 on a farm west of Haskell, she is the daughter of the late Mary Frances Curry and William P. Curtis.

She attended Cook Springs Rural School and graduated from Rule High School in 1928 and Simmons College. In 1930 she began a 36 year career teaching school.

Her first teaching job was at Idella, north of Jud, where she met her husband, Thomas B. Roberson who was the school principal. Following that, she taught many years at O'Brien and Haskell.

The Roberson's had twin daughters, Robbie Lee and Sarah Sue.

Proud of her students, Roberson says it is unknown how many children she taught to be useful

citizens of Haskell County. One of her pleasures is to have some tall man or woman walk up to her and say, "Remember me? I was one of your pupils."

Now residing in Haskell Healthcare Center, Roberson loves to read her newspaper every day, take rides to greet friends and travel with friends to surrounding areas. Every afternoon, she enjoys having her caretaker, Faye Simpson, drive her back to her house in Haskell for a little visit in her old neighborhood. She attends all of the Rule Homecomings, and says the only other living person from her graduating class is 'Toad' Leon of Abilene.

She also enjoys grandchildren, David and Stephen Drinnon and Lisa Jones and great granddaughter, Lauren Whitely.

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Around Town

By Joyce Hawkins

Amber Conn celebrated her fifth birthday Saturday with a party and hamburger supper at her home. Those attending were her parents, David and Denice Conn; sister, Sabrina; grandparents, Dale and Doris Carroll of Weinert and Darlene Conn of Stamford; great grandmother, Joyce Hawkins; aunts and uncles, Julie Cochran and Daniel Conn, both of Stamford; Doug Carroll of Weinert; Casey and Dian Reed and children of Haskell; Audree and Dalton, Glendon and Donna Hawkins.

Shawnee Hill celebrated a belated 8th birthday Sunday. Attending were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hawkins; grandmothers, Vickie Hawkins and Daisy Horan; father, Ray Hill; Ashley Flannery, Alice Blair, Ariel Blair, Billy and Sharon Walton, Lisa Frame and son Josh, Ann Horan, Penny Kay and son, Dalton, and Nathan Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Glendon Hawkins of Stamford visited his mother, Joyce Hawkins and Margaret Tatum Saturday evening.

BIG SALE

New fashions have arrived from Austin Taylor in Lubbock!

30 to 50% off
on Selected Items

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at the Mini Mall in Knox City

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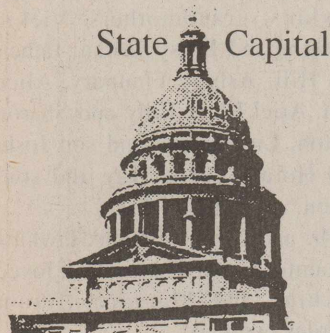
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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



HIGHLIGHTS

By Mike Cox

Comptroller says economic turnaround under way

AUSTIN—Happy days are here again, according to the comptroller's office.

Texas took in \$1.25 billion in sales tax revenue in December. That's a lot of money, but the better news is that the monthly income to the state represented an 8.7 percent increase over the amount of sales tax collected the previous December.

That 8.7 percent jump in revenue was the biggest since January 2001—35 months ago.

"An economic turnaround is now under way, and Texas has seen four consecutive months of sales tax growth," Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said.

Because of the overall increase, sales tax allocations to the state's cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts also are up. That money, funneled through the comptroller's office, was up 7.1 percent compared with January 2003 payments. (In real numbers, local government got \$303.2 million in funds sent out earlier this month.)

The second implication of the figures is obvious enough, but needs saying: More revenue to the state and local governments means less strain on future state and local budgets. That means that Texas, for once, won't be following trends set in California, where the Golden State is in constant financial turmoil.

More good economic news...

The fact that a three-judge federal panel blessed the Republican's congressional redistricting plan last week seems like political news, but it's also happy news for businesses that produce political signs, bumper stickers, buttons and all the other components of what is still referred to in the civics books as the democratic process.

With all the district lines and

colors stamped on the map for a long while, considering that this plan is based on 2000 Census data, those affected by the new boundaries are already doing some serious campaigning.

One of the biggest changes, of course, was the creation of Congressional District 25, which stretches from the southern part of the Capital City Austin to McAllen, a city where palms rustle in the Gulf breeze.

The primary is March 9, but Texans can start expressing their political views sooner than that. As early as Jan. 24, county voting officials can mail ballots to any qualified voter who has requested one. Early voting begins Feb. 23.

DPS gets a new responsibility...

The 78th Legislature merged a little-known state agency into the Department of Public Safety, folding the Texas Commission on Private Security into the law enforcement agency.

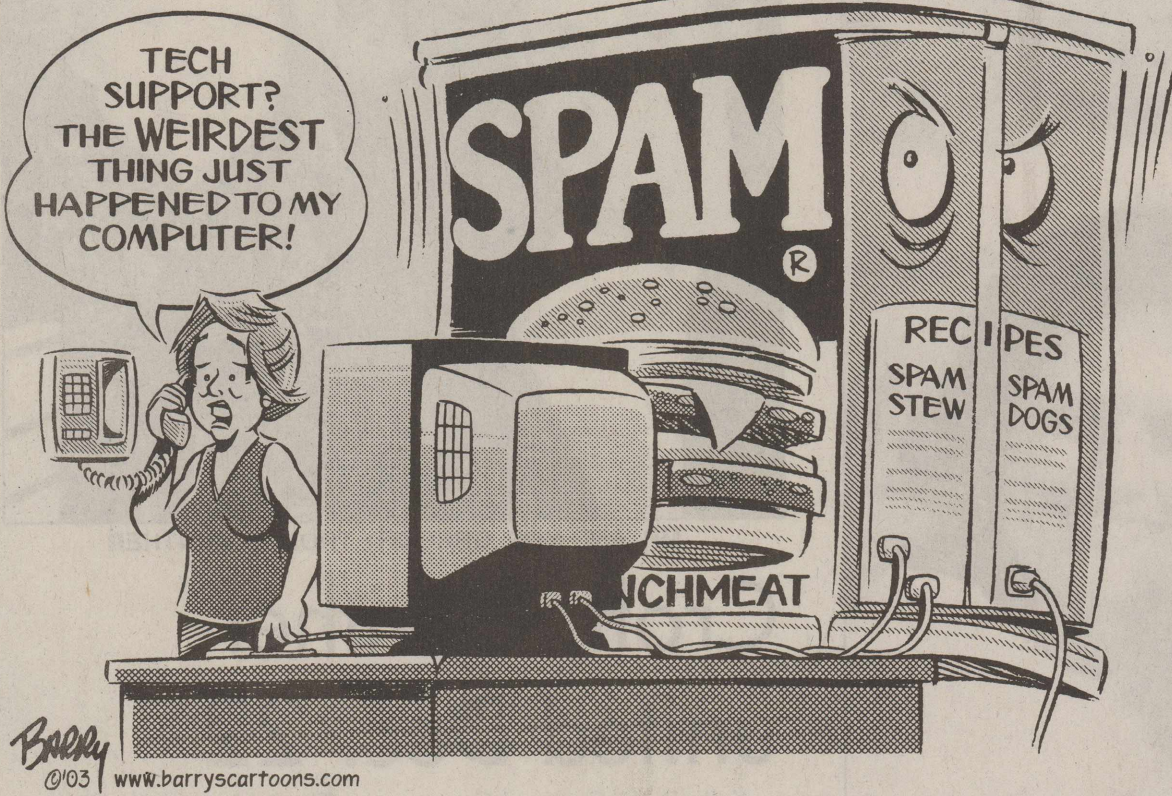
Unchanged is the former commission's function, which is to regulate the security industry in Texas.

When it merged with the DPS, the commission had some 130,000 people either under license or registration. That includes 19,000 armed guards and 60,000 security guards not authorized to carry firearms on the job.

The commission also regulates various security-related companies in the state, including alarm companies, armored car operators and video surveillance firms.

The move meant 14 new employees for the DPS, six of them commissioned law enforcement officers.

Starting in September, locksmiths and companies that handle products such as plastic hotel room key cards will come under regulation by the DPS.



Barry ©03 www.barrycartoons.com



From The Inside Out

By Mary Kaigler

When you consider the many traditions that mark and flavor the way we celebrate Christmas, you have to realize how very much alike and yet how varied we are as we add new ways to old customs in forming our own individual traditions.

Built around one blessed, historical event, the celebration of Christmas has evolved into as many different interpretations as there are different cultures, races of people and geographical locations. Even in West Texas, where we are much alike in many ways, traditions vary from family to family and become entrenched and honored through generations.

Shared stories and memories of sweet, meaningful ways of celebrating often bring us to a nostalgic desire to recapture and relive the feeling of "Christmas past." The way we decorate, the way we cook, eat and serve, the way and time we open our gifts, even the way and time we put away the decorations are part of our own unique traditions.

For instance, in my family, Mother began dismantling the tree of decorations on Christmas afternoon, as soon as dinner was over. Having put all the decorations around the house and on the tree the day after Thanksgiving, she was ready to clear it all up and get things back to normal. As her grandchildren came along, they loved joining in the removing of each bauble and piece of tinsel from the tree and helping to pack them away. The ritual became a part of their family tradition when they spent Christmas with Granny, and some of the little ones could hardly wait for dinner to be over so they could start "undoing Granny's tree."

To the other extreme of timing in the tradition of putting away the Christmas decor, my Midland friend, Sandra, always left her live

Christmas tree set up, decorated and lighted, from Thanksgiving until after Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

We like our traditions. They are an important part of our human experience. At their best they serve as links to the past, reminding us of where we have been as well as setting foundations for the future. Traditions can transcend time and places and give meaning and purpose to our existence. They can foster a sense of community and family.

Yet, traditions can also miss the mark, becoming meaningless rituals.

The story is told about a Christian man and his cat. Each day the man read scripture and devotional books, followed by a period of silent meditation and prayer. As time went on his prayers became longer and longer and quite intense. He came to cherish that quiet time in his bedroom. But, his cat came to like it too. She would cozy up to him, purr and rub her furry body against him. This bothered the man, interrupting his prayer time. So, he came up with the idea of putting a collar around her neck and tying her to the bedpost whenever he wanted to be undisturbed while praying.

Now, it turned out that the cat didn't mind this at all, and the man could continue his prayer and meditation without any interruption from the cat.

Over the years the daughter of the devout man had noticed how much help and strength his devotional time had given to him. So, she began to establish some routines and patterns for her own devotional life. Dutifully, as she prayed, she too tied her cat to the bedpost in her bedroom. But time moved faster for her generation and she was not able to spend quite as much time in prayer as her father.

Now, the day came when her son grew up and made sure that he

preserved some of the family traditions that had meant so much to his mother and to his grandfather.

But, the pace of life for the son and grandson had quickened all that much more, and there simply was not all that much time for meditation, prayer and Bible reading. But, in order to carry on the religious tradition, each day, while dressing, he tied the family cat to the bedpost.

As we put our beloved Christmas traditions away for another year, we have to wonder how well they have served us. Did we really hear the story in our hearts, make it our story and determine in this New Year to live the good news of it in our actions and attitudes, sharing it with those who haven't heard its meaning in their lives?

In her verses, "Boxed," Ann Reems writes that it need not be packed away in a box like the treasured creches, only to be unwrapped and remembered next December. "As the entrusted storytellers of this greatest story ever told, like those shepherds so long ago, let us go to the modern Bethlehem, wherever they are in this world, where hope and peace are strangers," she says.

As we carefully wrap up and pack away the 'pretties' of the Christmas celebration for another year, we should be careful not to wrap up and pack away the living 'presence' of the story.

Facts about the Haskell CISD Rochester CLISD Consolidation

Part I: Students

Students in grades pre-K through 6th and 9th through 12th would initially be on the current Haskell CISD campus.

All students in grades 7 and 8 in the consolidated district would be served at the current Rochester CLISD campus.

For the first two years following the consolidation, the consolidated district would 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 would be recognized.

Student diplomas in May 2003 for Rochester CLISD would still be from Rochester CLISD. After that, diplomas for all students would be from the consolidated district, Haskell CISD.

The consolidation would not affect students' UIL eligibility.

The Haskell CISD Board would consider adding other classes to the Rochester campus, including early childhood programs, based on need and feasibility.

Next week: Facts about the Rochester campus.

From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago January 20, 1994

Haskell firemen took over the Hatahoo Drive-In and cooked and served hamburgers to the public. All proceeds went to the fire department, courtesy of Hatahoo owner, Doug Browning.

Mart Guess carved his name in the Haskell Indian record book when he connected on eight 3-pointers to bring his season total to an even 100.

Maggie Brzozowski grabbed \$27 in the Student Council "Money Grab" fund-raiser during halftime of the Haskell-Hamlin game.

Darla Griffiths-Lane of Weinert earned her master's degree in Social Work from Our Lady of the Lake University.

20 Years Ago January 19, 1984

Renae M. McBroom received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Education from Texas A&M University. She received a certificate for Distinguished Student and was named to the Dean's List.

E. W. Pruett, communications technician in Haskell was honored for his 35 years of service for Mid-Texas Division, General Telephone Company of Southwest.

30 Years Ago January 17, 1974

Steve Munday, of Haskell, was named information director of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association.

Pat Everett of Haskell High School was named to the All-Region Band at Vernon and played in the concert in Wilbar Auditorium.

Olivia Amburn of Haskell was named to the Jr. College Dean's List at Southwestern Assemblies of God College. Bobby Cobb was named to the President's List at Western Texas College. Pam Colbert McDonald and Barry Keith McDonald both attained the academic status of the Midwestern University's Honor Roll.

40 Years Ago January 16, 1964

Andy Gannaway, 11-year-old of Haskell, showed a 910-pound steer judged the grand champion of the 21st annual Haskell County 4-H Steer Show.

Howard Perry, owner-operator of an automobile dealership in Haskell, and a dedicated worker in the Boy Scout movement was presented a trophy on his retirement as assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 36.

Charles Bates (Tex) Thornton, a native of Haskell and one of the nation's most successful industrial tycoons, received the Texas Press Association's "Texan of the Year" award.

Louise C. Herren, junior at McMurry College, was initiated into Eta Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an educational honorary fraternity.

50 Years Ago January 21, 1954

Sammy Baugh, associate football coach at Hardin-Simmons University and outstanding All-American gridiron hero, honored members of the Indian squad and their coaches with his speech at the annual Haskell High School football banquet. Manuel Mullins, co-captain of the Indian squad was presented the Quarterback Club's Most Conscientious Player award.

M. C. Josselet, young Weinert farmer, was among eleven Texas farmers honored at a banquet in Dallas. He was presented the Master Farmer's Award given by The Progressive Farmer magazine.

100 Years Ago January 23, 1904

Mrs. H. G. McConnell and two small children left for Austin where she visited her parents while Judge McConnell was in Fort Worth on legal business.

L. P. Osburn, one of the enterprising citizens of the southwest part of the country was here stocking up on supplies from our merchants. He said everything is looking good in his part of the country.

Charles Witaker, left for Dallas to undergo an examination and enlist in the U. S. Navy if passed. He will sign up for four years duty. He is one of our bright young men who will be missed by a large circle of friends.

Letters to the Editor

Dear editor,

The Haskell Goodfellows would like to express sincere thanks to those who helped with our 2003 project. The donations of money, food, toys,

Immunizations

The Texas Dept. of Health in Stamford will hold an immunization clinic Thurs., Jan. 22 at the Haskell National Bank Community Building in Haskell. Clinic times are from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information call 325-773-5681.

time and clothes are appreciated. A total of 40 packages were distributed to needy families.

This year's Goodfellows project was a community effort, which was spearheaded by the Haskell Lions Club, the Haskell County Child Welfare Board and the Haskell Fire Department. Also assisting in this endeavor was the Haskell Free Press.

Sincerely,

Donnie Rieger

Haskell Lions Club

and Linda Haynes

Haskell Co. Child Welfare Board

The Haskell Free Press

Established January 1, 1886
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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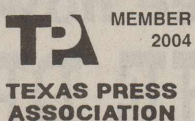
Haskell County, one year, \$20.00.

Outside of Haskell County, one year, \$28.00.

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This issue mailed Wed., Jan. 14, 2004



Weather Whys

Blizzards

Q: How strong does a snowstorm have to be before it's called a blizzard?

A: There are some specifics regarding blizzards, says Andrew Odins of Texas A&M University. "In meteorological terms, a blizzard is a severe storm that has below freezing temperatures, winds of at least 35 miles per hour and heavy snowfall, with visibility reduced to just 1/4 of a mile and all of these conditions have to last at least three hours," he explains. "So just a heavy snowfall is not always a blizzard. Blizzard conditions occur most often in the Great Plains, North Central United

States and parts of the Northeast."

Q: What are some of the country's worst blizzards?

A: In recent years, Buffalo had a blizzard that paralyzed the city for days in 1999. Colorado had a similar situation in 1997 and Boston suffered terrible blizzard conditions in 1978, Odins says. "Chicago had devastating blizzards in 1979 and one in 1967," Odins adds. "The '67 blizzard totaled 23 inches of snow with drifts up to 9 feet and the city was virtually shut down for days, with the Department of Streets and Sanitation estimating that at about 75 million tons of snow fell. At least 60 people died, many of them from heart attacks while shoveling snow.

Although records tend to be sketchy, perhaps the country's worst blizzard occurred in 1888. In parts of the Midwest, the temperature fell from 74 degrees to minus 28 within hours, and the Colorado River froze solid throughout much of Texas. That blizzard claimed 235 lives."

Jr. Livestock Show & Sale
Jan. 15-17

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



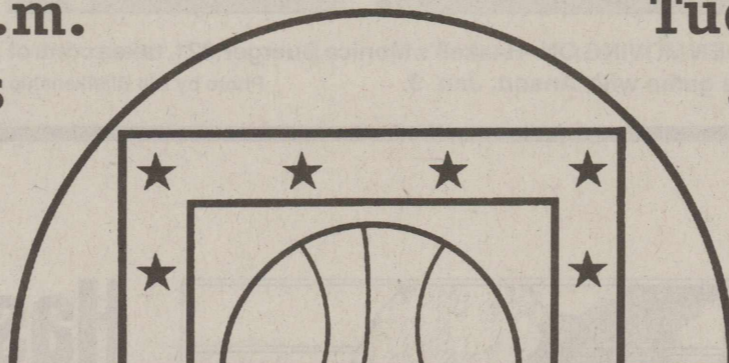
Front, l-r: Callie Thomasson, Meagan Wallace, Kerri Newton, Consuelo Gonzalez, Mollie McKnight, Morgan Acosta. Back: Brittany Rutkowski, Lindsay Pannell, Brittany Bird, Melody Kennedy, Monica Buerger, Lynzie Harlan and Calina Kendall. Photo by KIS

Haskell MAIDENS



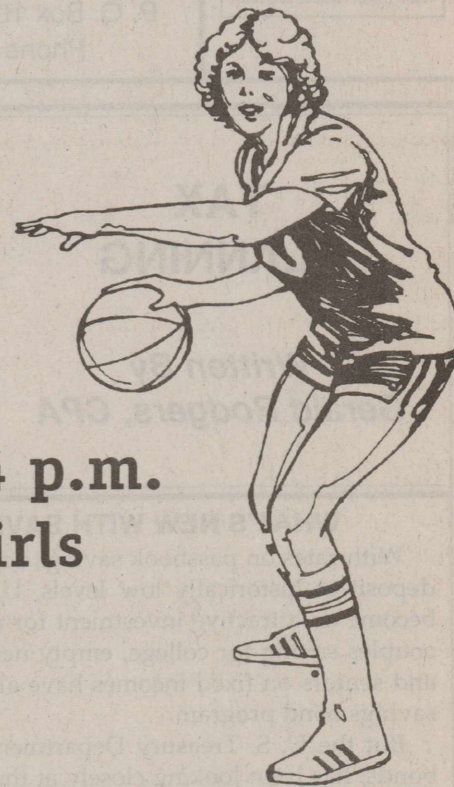
Fri., Jan. 16 • 4 p.m.
JV & Varsity Boys
vs Eula
at Eula

Tues., Jan. 20 • 4 p.m.
JV & Varsity Boys
vs Eastland
at Eastland



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Haskell Co. Jr. Livestock Show & Sale Jan. 15-17



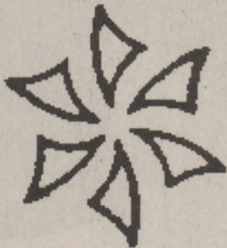
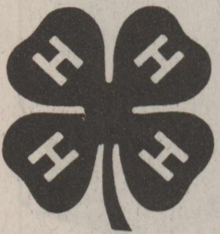
Hard Work, Long Hours and Lots of Love!

These three ingredients are what the Haskell County Junior Livestock Show, all its participants and sponsors are made of. We applaud your outstanding accomplishments and urge everyone to support this year's show and sale.

January 15-16-17

SMITTY'S AUTO SUPPLY
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Three Big Reasons why the Haskell County Junior Livestock Show is so successful:



We at Rule Banking Center take great pride in having played an active role for many years in making the Haskell County Junior Livestock Show one of the best such shows in Texas. It is rewarding to work with these young people and the many adults who make this a great show!

Rule Banking Center
A Branch of Hamlin National Bank

P. O. Box 10 • Rule, Texas 79547
Phone (940) 997-2216

TAX PLANNING

Written By
Gerald Rodgers, CPA



WHAT'S NEW WITH SAVINGS BONDS?

With rates on passbook savings accounts and certificates of deposit at historically low levels, U. S. savings bonds have become an attractive investment for many Americans. Young couples saving for college, empty nesters nearing retirement, and seniors on fixed incomes have all invested heavily in the savings bond program.

But the U. S. Treasury Department, which issues savings bonds, has been looking closely at the cost of maintaining the program. This year it's estimated that the savings bond program will cost the Treasury about \$154 million to maintain. That's in contrast to only \$50 million for running a much larger program for Treasury bills, notes, and bonds. As a result, many in Congress and the government are looking for ways to reduce expenses in the savings bond program.

For example, the Treasury Department recently increased the minimum holding period for EE and I Bonds from six months to one year. For HH Bonds, interest rates have been lowered from 4% to 1.5%, and in mid-2004 the government will stop issuing HH Bonds entirely. In addition, fixed rates on inflation-adjusted I Bonds have been cut from 2% to 1.1%. Lower interest rates mean less cost to the government.

Further changes are expected. Since 1986, Treasury bills, notes, and bonds have been available in an electronic format. Not so for savings bonds. Because a significant cost of the savings bond program is keeping track of over \$700 million in paper bond certificates, the Treasury plans to eliminate these paper certificates completely. In the future, possibly as early as 2005, you can expect all savings bonds to be stored and tracked electronically. No more paper certificates in the mail.

Will these changes significantly impact sales of U. S. savings bonds—either positively or negatively? The next few years will tell.

RODGERS & COMPANY

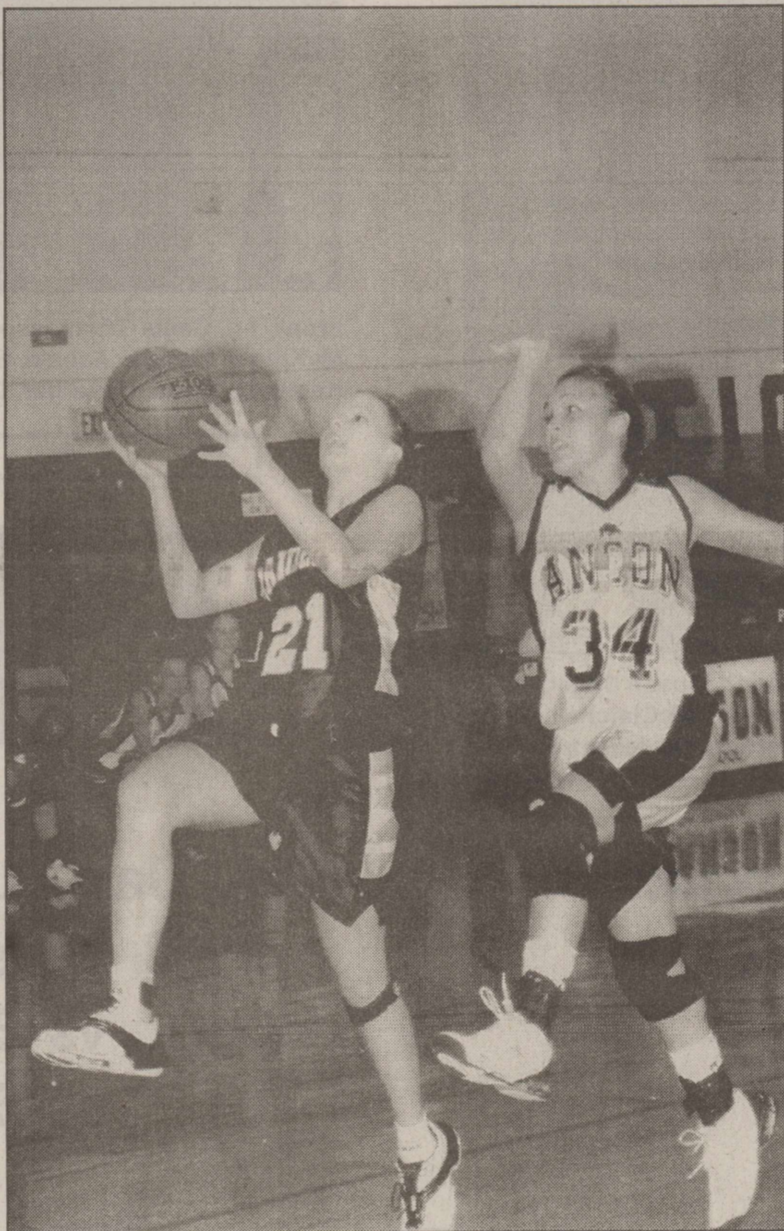
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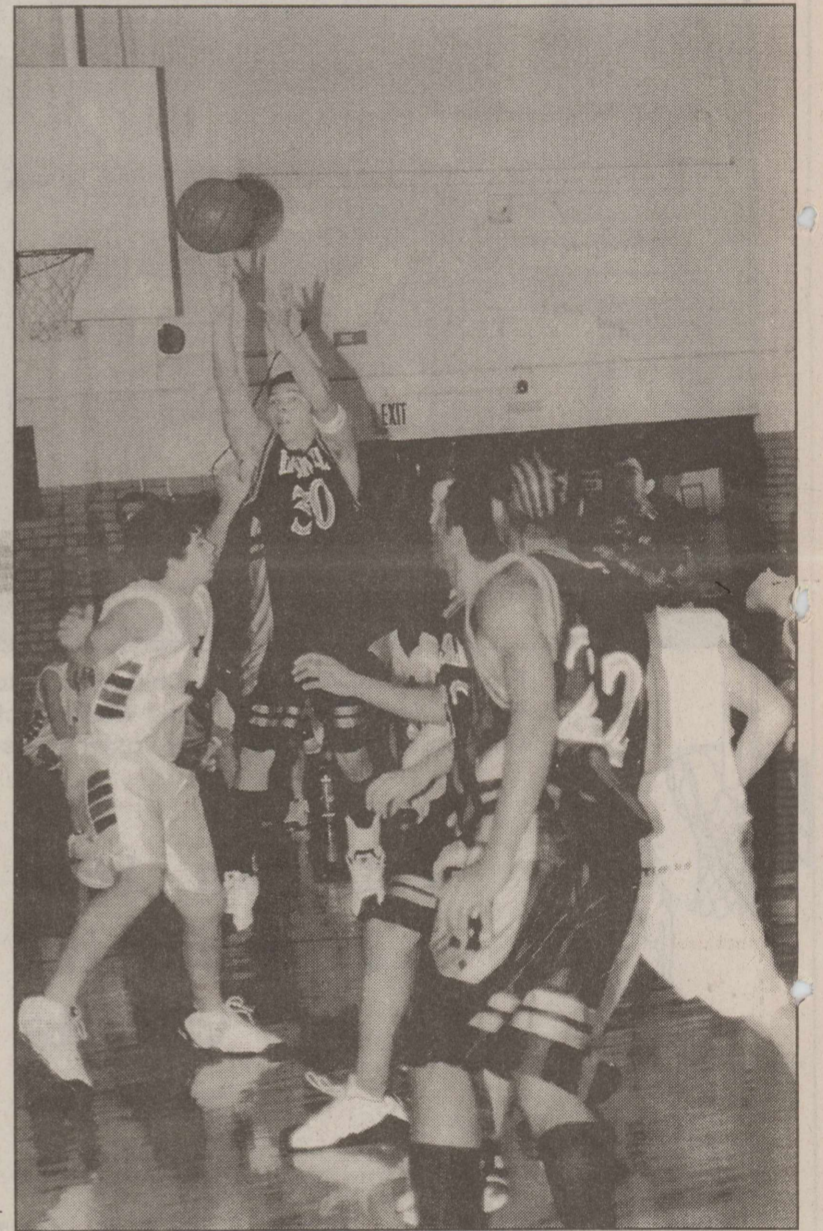
REACHING UP—Haskell Maiden, Consuelo Gonzalez tips one for a basket in the game with Anson, Jan. 9. Photo by Bill Blankenship



ABOVE THE CROWD—Haskell's Nate Webb, #34, rises to the occasion in the game with Anson, Jan. 9. Photo by Bill Blankenship



MAIDEN MOVING ON—Haskell's Monica Buerger, #21, takes control in the game with Anson, Jan. 9. Photo by Bill Blankenship



UP FOR SCORE—Haskell Indian Osiel Garcia, #30, soars to score in the close game with Anson, Jan. 9. Photo by Bill Blankenship



Welcome to the Haskell County Junior Livestock Show & Sale January 15-16-17

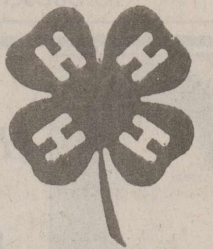


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IT'S SHOW TIME!



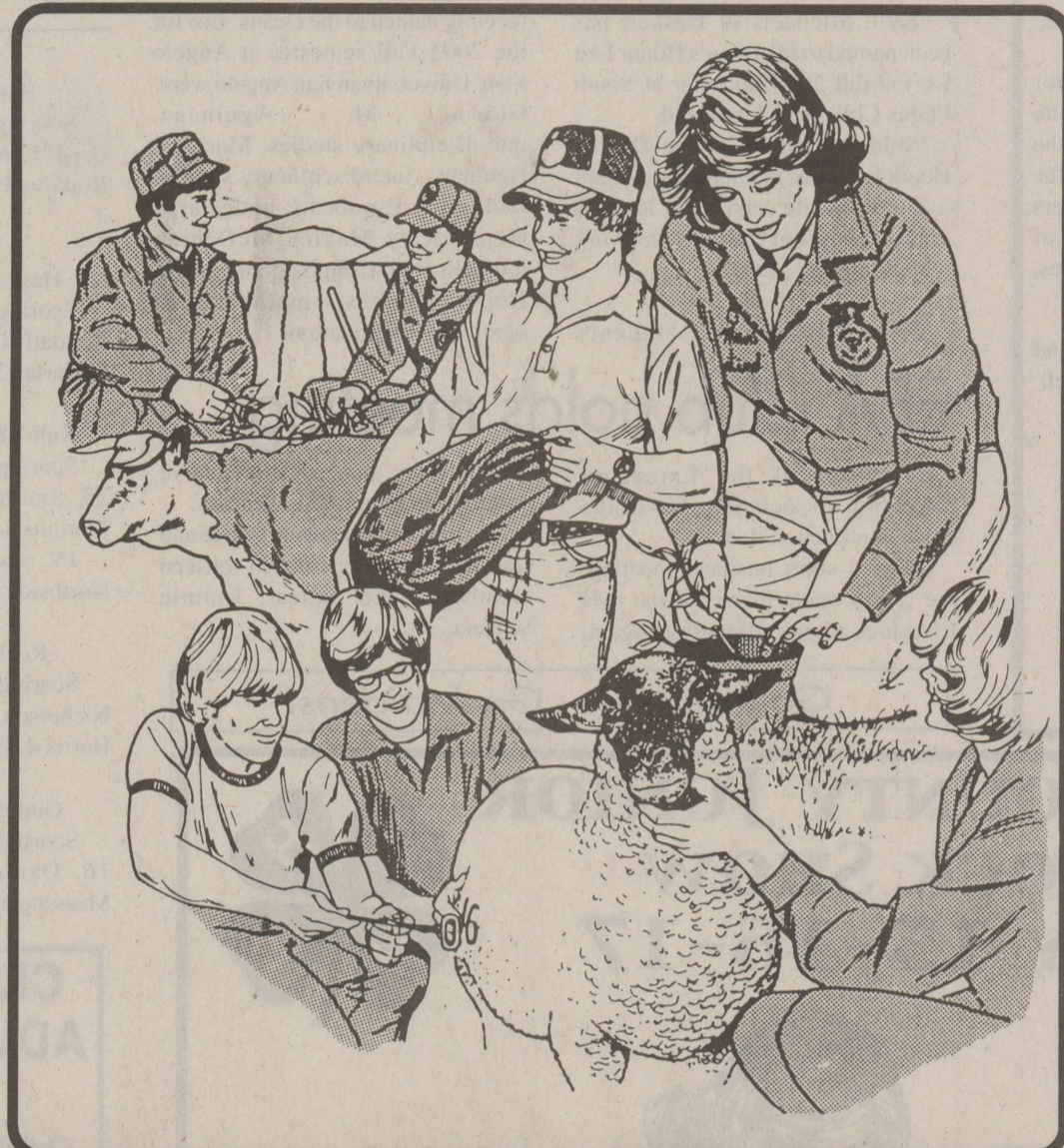
Be Sure You Attend and Support the Annual

Haskell County Junior Livestock Show

Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Jan. 15-16-17

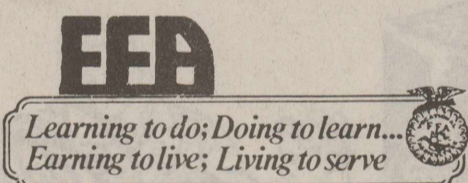
**Haskell County
Show Barn
at the Fairgrounds**

We extend a warm and hearty welcome to the visitors attending Haskell County's Annual Junior Livestock Show and Sale!



~ Premium Sale ~
Saturday 11 a.m.
at the Show Barn

The youth representing the 4-H and FFA Clubs of Haskell County are very enthusiastic about this year's show, and thank you for supporting them as they build for the future.



SHOW SCHEDULE

THURS., JAN. 15 by 4 p.m. Arrival of Steers, Heifers Lambs, Swine	FRI., JAN. 16 by 7:30 a.m. Arrival of Poultry & Rabbits 8 a.m. Poultry & Rabbit Show; followed by Lamb Show; followed by Swine Show 3 p.m. Steer Show followed by Heifer Show	SAT., JAN. 17 11:00 a.m. PREMIUM SALE
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The following firms and businesses salute the boys and girls of the Haskell County FFA and 4-H Clubs for their participation in this annual event!



Hanson Paint and Body <i>Professional Auto Body Repair</i> Bobby Hanson 207 S. First • Haskell 864-3631	Haskell Co-Op Gin 864-2046 Leon Jones, Manager Haskell, Texas	 The Lumberyard 105 N. 1st Haskell 864-3552	FLATLANDS "essential elements for the way we live" Located on the west side of the square in Haskell 940.864.5777	Personality-Slipper Shoppe South Side of Square • Haskell 864-3051 or 864-2501
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HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH... AT HOME!

Brought to You By:

Haskell Home Health Agency

Misty McMeans
RN, BSN

Most people are surprised to learn they have **hypertension** (high blood pressure). "But I feel just fine!" they say, and often think that it can't be very serious as long as they don't have symptoms. Unfortunately—you can have it for years without knowing it, but all the time it is making your heart work hard and raising your chances of heart attack and stroke. For this reason, high blood pressure has earned the title of "The Silent Killer."

What is blood pressure?

Every time your heart beats, it pumps out about 5 ounces of blood, less than a cup. But because the blood must travel through about 12,400 miles of blood vessels, the heart pumps with a great deal of force. This produces a high-pressure wave of blood through your arteries. Normally, the arteries are elastic and expand with each heart beat. When the heart relaxes between beats, the arteries also relax, and the pressure is lower.

What do the numbers mean?

Blood pressure readings are always given as two numbers, for example, 120 over 82 (written as 120/82). The first number (systolic blood pressure) is always higher and measures the pressure during the heart beat. The lower second number (diastolic blood pressure) is the pressure in the arteries while the heart is relaxed. These two numbers tell much about how hard your heart is working and the condition of your blood vessels. The harder it is for blood to flow through your arteries, the higher both the systolic and the diastolic readings will be.

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

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



Home Care: Keeping Texans Proud & Independent

Nomination period set for G/T program

In addition to the regular education programming, Haskell CISD offers a Gifted and Talented (G/T) Program designed to meet the needs of students demonstrating exceptional skills in academic and creative areas.

Anyone interested in nominating their child for screening for the program may come by the offices of either Haskell Elementary or Haskell Secondary School, Wed., Jan. 14 to Thurs., Jan 22, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and pick up

a G/T nomination packet.

Information about the G/T Program and the screening process are included in the nomination packet. Nominations will be accepted until 3:30 p.m. Jan. 23.

Parents of Kindergarten children will need to get their nomination forms in by Mon., Jan 19.

For further information on students, contact Cindy McCulloch at the elementary school (864-8007) or Jamie Davis (864-8123) at the secondary campus.

Students in the News

Kyle Michaels of Haskell has been named to the Dean's Honor List for the fall 2003 semester at South Plains College in Levelland.

Students named to the Dean's Honor List must maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA while carrying at least 12 semester hours of college-level work with no failing grades.

Five Haskell area students

recently named to the Deans' List for the 2003 Fall semester at Angelo State University in San Angelo were: Gloria M. Aguinaga, interdisciplinary studies; Maria D. Aguinaga, interdisciplinary studies; Jacklyn I. Escobedo, undeclared major; Katy Maxine McDaniel, journalism and English; and Jillian Hope Thomas, mathematics/secondary certification.

EEA Club holds meeting

Members of the Extension Education Association met in the extension kitchen, Jan. 8.

After a short business meeting, the group made plans for the 4-H Livestock Show. Extension Agent,

Jane Rowan, gave an informative program on personality profiles.

Hostess served hot chocolate and German chocolate cake to thirteen members and guest, Jimmie Schaake.

Go Indians! Go Maidens!

Law enforcement report

The following arrests and offenses were reported by Haskell County law enforcement offices as of December 2003.

- 1-Assault causing bodily injury
- 3-Assault FV
- 1-Burglary of a building
- 1-Theft over \$500, but less than \$1,500
- 2-Theft over \$1,500, but less than \$20,000
- 7-Theft by check, over \$20, but less than \$500
- 2-Possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces
- 1-Manufacture and delivery of controlled substance, over 4 grams, but less than 200 grams
- 2-Possession of controlled

- substance less than 1 gram
- 1-Possession and transportation of chemicals with the intent to manufacture controlled substance
- 1-Evading arrest detention with vehicle
- 1-Burglary of vehicle
- 2-Driving while intoxicated
- 1-Driving while intoxicated, second offense
- 1-Disorderly conduct
- 1-No Driver's License
- 1-Possession Drug paraphernalia
- 5-Public intoxication
- 4-Surety withdraw
- 2-Driving under influence
- 3-Traffic warrants
- 1-Violation of parole
- 190 calls were made to 911.

Area Basketball scores

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Girls</p> <p>Hamlin 58, Haskell 25</p> <p>Scoring for Haskell: Buerger 5, Bird 5, McKnight 4, Harlan 4, Rutkowski 3, Thomasson 2, Pannell 2.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Haskell 45, Anson 42 (OT)</p> <p>Scoring for Haskell: Buerger 14, Kendall 10, McKnight 8, Rutkowski 5, Harlan 5, Newton 1.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Rule 68, Vernon Northside 34</p> <p>Scoring for Rule: M. Lehrmann 25, Smith 14, Lisle 10, Hertel 9, Marquis 4, Brown 4, J. Lehrmann 2.</p> <p>JV score: Rule 44, Vernon Northside 8.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Rochester 80, Moran 23</p> <p>Scoring for Rochester: Turner, 24, Nicholson 23, Brown 12, Martip 11, Harris 4, Fernandez 4, McGhee 2.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Guthrie 64, Paint Creek 32</p> <p>Scoring for Paint Creek: Woodall 16, Daniel 6, Barr 3, Hope 2, Messenger 2, Daniel 2, Duniwen 1.</p> | <p>Boys</p> <p>Haskell 61, Hamlin 38</p> <p>Scoring for Haskell: Hairgrove 17, Mitchell 13, Webb 11, McClatchey 7, Foster 6, Hodge 4, Garcia 2, Chavez 1.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Anson 47, Haskell 44</p> <p>Scoring for Haskell: Mitchell 12, Webb 10, Hodge 7, Garcia 5, Hairgrove 4, Chavez 4, Collins 2, McCulloch 2.</p> <p>JV score: Anson 39, Haskell 35.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Rule 54, Vernon Northside 42</p> <p>Scoring for Rule: Kyle Kittley 18, Brown 11, S. Turner 11, Carrion 6, Ko. Kittley 3, M. Turner 2, Dudensing 2, Menchaca 1.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Rule 65, Rochester 51</p> <p>Scoring for Rule: Kyle Kittley 22, Brown 13, Dudensing 7, Turner 6, Hatley 6, Carrion 6, Menchaca 3, Kittley 2.</p> <p>Scoring for Rochester: McGhee 24, Saucedo 17, Self 10.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Rochester 80, Moran 28</p> <p>Scoring for Rochester: McGhee 35, Saucedo 19, Self 13, Pittman 8, Torres, 3 Hall 2.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Paint Creek 61, Guthrie 59</p> <p>Scoring for Paint Creek: Bryant 24, J. Loyd 19, Acosta 9, Cisneros 4, Medford 5.</p> |
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Attend the **Haskell County Junior Livestock Show**

January 15-16-17



Quality Implement Co.



Hwy. 277 South of Town
Phone 422-4534 Toll Free 1-800-722-0056
Stamford • Munday • Seymour



HASKELL PEEPERS—Members of Kristi Gibson's Haskell Elementary class wear some of the used eye glasses collected during Sight Night activities. Back row, l-r, are William Cruz, Vicky Hertel, Colton Wright, Melissa Rock and Richard Rodriguez. Middle, Payton Thomas, Alec Roewe, Macey Coker and Chase Gibson. Front row, Jacee Guess, Jonathan Primm, Sam Fouts and Braydon Smith.



LITTLE EYES HELPING—Wearing some of the used eye glasses collected for Sight Night at Haskell Elementary are students of Susan Cox's class. Back row, l-r, are Byron Cleveland, Kourtney Howard, Toby Salazar, Kyle Glass, Isaac Flores. Middle row, Celicia Rodriguez, Marc Guzman, Davis Benevides, Mykal Abila, Travon Dessivia. Front, Aubrie Tatum, Chris Wilson, Kaylee Walker, Abby Masias, Andy Anderson.



LITTLE PEEPERS—Students of Rhonda Lisle's class wear some of the glasses collected for Sight Night at Haskell Elementary. Back, l-r, are Destiny Benavides, Morgan Nava-Munoz, Jordan Ortiz, Dylan Hanson and Hannah Foster. Middle, Anthony Lerma, Garret Tatum, Hayden Hudson and Sierra Jouett. Front, Bobby De Los Santos, Trey Lira, Adam Andress, Brady Villarreal and Sabrina Conn. Not pictured is Isaiah Alvarez.

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.

1. The term of this agreement shall be five (5) years from the effective date of consolidation.
2. 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.
3. The consolidated independent school district shall operate grades K-12 and may operate other educational programs, as appropriate.
4. The name of the consolidated district shall be Haskell Consolidated Independent School District.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. "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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. All current Rochester CLISD non-certified/support employees will be offered at-will positions with the consolidated school district.
 - d. 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.
 - e. Rochester CLISD certified employees who are not hired by Haskell CISD, if they apply for future vacancies, will be given priority consideration.
 - f. At least one administrator and one PEIMS support person will be assigned to the campus operated within the boundaries of the current Rochester CLISD.
 - g. The superintendent of the consolidated school district shall be the current superintendent of Haskell CISD.
12. 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.
13. The consolidated district will retire any bonded indebtedness currently attributable to Rochester CLISD.
14. 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.
15. This agreement may not be amended for five (5) years from the date of consolidation.
16. 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.

HASKELL CISD

ROCHESTER CISD

Michelle Lopez
President, Board of Trustees

Larry Short
President, Board of Trustees

Ray De
Vice President, Board of Trustees

Darryl Fugitt
Vice President, Board of Trustees

Donna Lee
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Chad Brown
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Steve McAnis
Member, Board of Trustees

[Signature]
Member, Board of Trustees

Felix Rodriguez
Member, Board of Trustees

Susan Gurner
Member, Board of Trustees

Mircea Fild
Member, Board of Trustees

Randy Wilches
Member, Board of Trustees

STEVEN FOSTER
Absent

[Signature]
Member, Board of Trustees

[Signature]
Member, Board of Trustees

[Signature]
Superintendent

[Signature]
Superintendent

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Paid for by Haskell CISD



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Haskell School Menu

Jan. 19-23
Breakfast

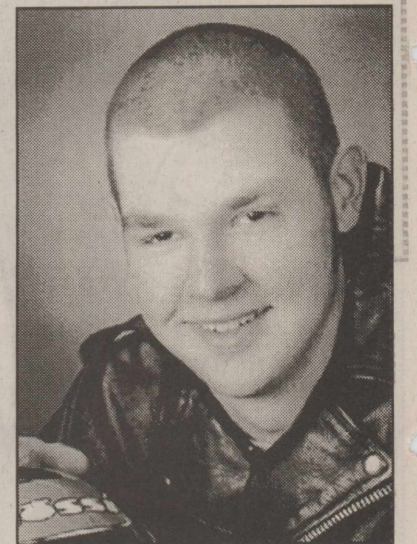
Juice and milk are served daily on the breakfast menu.
Monday: Breakfast bagel
Tuesday: Pig in a blanket
Wednesday: Cereal, toast
Thursday: Sausage/biscuit
Friday: Bean/cheese burrito

Lunch

Milk and iced tea are served daily at the Secondary campus. Milk is served daily at the Elementary School. Secondary campus: Choice of entree or baked potato with ham and cheese.
Monday: Chicken fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, hot rolls, Mandarin fruit salad
Tuesday: Crisпитos, Spanish rice, garden salad, pinto beans with salsa, sliced peaches
Wednesday: Corn dogs, baby carrots with ranch dressing, pork and beans, pineapple tidbits
Thursday: Chicken spaghetti, fried okra, green beans, breadstick, yogurt
Friday: Pork on a bun, lettuce, tomato, pickle, curly fries, orange wedges

Students visit Rotary Club

A. J. Shaw is the son of Randy and Lisa Shaw of Haskell. He attends First Christian Church of Olney.



A. J. SHAW

His school activities at Paint Creek School include: Annual staff, Jr. year: One Act Play, Sr. year: Sr. Class reporter; Soph. Class treasurer; National Honor Society; FFA member; Campus Computer Technician for Region 14 Service Center; Honor Roll.

Special awards and recognitions for him are: 2nd place winner of Voice of Democracy Essay Contest; named to Who's Who in Sophomore, Junior and Senior years; President's Education Award of Excellence, Freshman year; All-American Scholar, Freshman year; National Leadership and Science Award, Freshman year.

His hobbies and leisure-time activities include helping with Fire Department Car Show; working with Skywarn team; automotive restoration; motorcycle restoration, motorcycle riding; working at Smitty's and working at Haskell Free Press.

After finishing high school he

plans to continue "backyard" restoration projects to help learn and practice skills in custom painting and graphics; pursuing a career in automotive repair and painting while increasing skills for restoration and custom painting and graphics.

He has been accepted to Texas State Technical College at Sweetwater where he will pursue a double major in Auto Collision Repair and Technology Programs.

Paint Creek School Menu

January 19-22
Breakfast

Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Toast, cereal
Tuesday: Pancakes
Wednesday: Biscuits/gravy
Thursday: Donuts

Lunch

Milk is served daily.

Monday: Enchilada casserole, beans, corn, chips, jello
Tuesday: Stew, cornbread, peach cobbler

Wednesday: Chicken spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, peas, fruit cups
Thursday: Tacos, cheese, salad, cake

This Week's Devotional Message:

FAITH SUSTAINED OUR LEADERS IN THEIR DARKEST HOURS



Our founding fathers had to face a full range of problems resulting from the birth pangs of a young nation, including war and a great deal of internal dissension. Yet even in the depths of despair they refused to give up until the battles were won and the problems resolved. What sustained them during those dark hours was their unwavering faith in the Almighty, to whom they turned for inspiration

when forced to make a major decision; and they freely admitted that they could have done nothing without this divine guidance. Thus their own greatness was underscored by their very denial of it. Perhaps we are not all born leaders, but all of us—and certainly those who have been chosen to lead us today—would do well to follow the example of those revered statesmen.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

- HASKELL**
- East Side Baptist Church**
 Dr. Jim Helfin, interim pastor
 Sun. 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 600 N. 1st East, Haskell
 - Christian Church**
 Dusty Garrison, minister
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 107 N. Ave. F, Haskell
 - New Vision Family Worship Center**
 James Rincker, pastor • 864-5438
 Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m.
 East Hwy 380, Haskell
 - Trinity Lutheran Church**
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
 Hwy 380 East, Haskell
 - Iglesia Bautista El Calvario**
 Art Flores, Interim pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 607 S. 7th, Haskell
 - First United Methodist Church**
 Allen Brooks, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
 201 N. Ave. F, Haskell
 - First Assembly of God**
 Rev. J.C. Amburn
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell
 - St. George Catholic Church**
 Father George Roney
 Sat. Mass 7 p.m.; Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m.
 901 N. 16th, Haskell
 - Church of Christ**
 Brett Anderson, minister
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 10:30 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
 510 N. Ave. E, Haskell
 - First Presbyterian Church**
 Steve Beatty, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
 306 N. Ave. E, Haskell
 - Trinity Baptist Church**
 Tony Grand, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.
 401 S. Ave. D, Haskell
 - Hopewell Baptist Church**
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 908 N. Ave. A, Haskell

- Greater Independent Baptist Church**
 Rev. Tom Collins, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.
 301 N. 3rd St., Haskell
 - New Covenant Foursquare**
 Bill and Renee Glass, pastors
 Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.
 200 S. Ave. F, Haskell
 - Mission Revival Center**
 Rev. William Hodge
 Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Tues. 6 p.m.
 1600 N. Ave. B, Haskell
 - First Baptist Church**
 Kevin Hall, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 301 N. Ave. E, Haskell
 - Church in the Park**
 Rev. Tim and Suzann Townsend
 Sun. Morn. 10:30 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.
 Gazebo or Pavillion
 - Cornerstone Baptist Fellowship**
 Dr. Gibbie McMillan, Interim pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.
 1303 N. Ave. I, Haskell
- WEINERT**
- First Baptist Church**
 J. C. Baker, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
 Weinert
 - Weinert Foursquare Church**
 Rev. Robert Harrison
 Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.
 Weinert
- ROCHESTER**
- Church of Christ**
 Steve Willis, minister
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
 West on Main Street, Rochester
 - First Baptist Church**
 Jackie Brem, pastor
 Sun. 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7:00 p.m.
 500 Main, Rochester
 - Union Chapel Baptist Church**
 Rev. Clarence Walker
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 Rochester
 - Faith Chapel of Rochester**
 Katherine Byrd, minister
 Sun. Morn. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.
 Hwy 6, Rochester

- First United Methodist Church**
 Dolan Brinson, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
 Rochester
- SAGERTON**
- Sagerton Methodist Church**
 Melissa Bemis, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
 Sagerton
 - Faith Lutheran Church**
 Deborah Nissen, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 Sagerton
- RULE**
- First Baptist Church**
 Josh Stowe, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 1001 Union Ave., Rule
 - Primitive Baptist Church**
 Dale Turner Jr., pastor
 First & Third Sundays 10 a.m.
 Corner of 8th & Robins, Rule
 - Church of Christ**
 John Greeson, minister
 Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 811 Union, Rule
 - First United Methodist Church**
 Wendall Ferguson, pastor
 Sun. Morn. Worship 10 a.m.
 1000 Union Ave., Rule
 - Primera Iglesia Bautista**
 Alfa y Omegs
 Manuel Marin, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
 500 Elm Street, Rule
 - Sweet Home Baptist Church**
 Bill Trice, pastor
 Sun. Morn. 10:00 a., 11:00 a., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
 Gladstone Ave., Rule
 - West Bethal Baptist Church**
 Rev. Robert Sweet
 Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
 300 Sunny Ave., Rule
- PAINT CREEK**
- Paint Creek Baptist Church**
 Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.
 Paint Creek
- O'BRIEN**
- O'Brien Baptist Church**
 Milton McManus, pastor
 Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a., 5 p., 6 p. Wed. 6 p.m.
 O'Brien

ECC Calendar and Menu

Mon., Jan. 19

Lunch—Chili con carne with beans, potato salad; sliced onions/pickles, tomato wedges, cornbread; cobbler, milk, tea, or coffee

Wed., Jan. 21

10:30 a.m. Bingo
 11:00 a.m. Blood pressure check
 Lunch—Swiss steak/gravy, Texas

Potatoes, green beans, garlic toast, peaches/cookies, milk, tea, or coffee

Fri., Jan. 23
 Lunch—Ham and beans, yellow squash, turnip greens, cornbread, apple crisp, milk, tea, or coffee

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

All deadlines are 5 p.m. Monday.

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That's how many Haskell County youths have entered this year's show – 230 head of livestock have been entered.

We urge you to attend this year's show. If you haven't been contacted for a contribution, be sure to attend the sale Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the Haskell County Show Barn. Good kids need support too! And these kids and their families are some of the cream of the crop. Come out Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 15-16-17.

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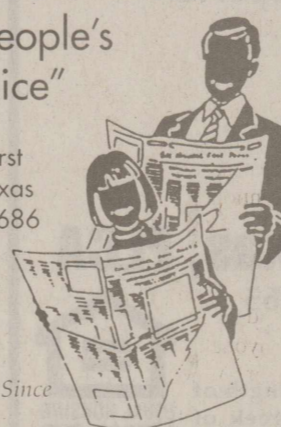
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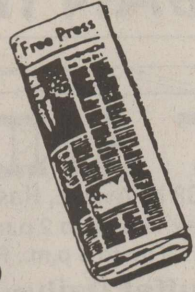
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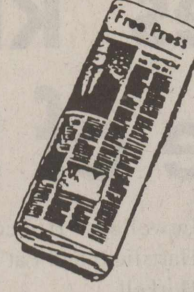
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Jobs Wanted

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EVENING CHILD CARE: Call 864-5066. 3-4p

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RICE SPRINGS Care Home is making a difference. We are looking for: Weekend RN. Call Shandra at 864-2652 for information. 3c

POLICE OFFICER POSITION. Knox City, Texas. The City of Knox City is seeking to fill the position of Police Officer. Applicant must be TCLOSE certified. Position will remain open until filled. For application contact: City Hall, P.O. Box 128, Knox City, TX 79529. 940-658-3313 or fax 940-658-5135 EOE. 2-3c

NEEDED: Someone to sit with elderly man at night. Send resume and references to: Needed, 1603 N. Ave. E, Haskell, TX 79521. 2-3p


WANTED: Part-time help. Wooten's, 864-3696. 3c

NOTICE
The deadline for Classified Advertising is 5 p.m. on Mondays.
Haskell Free Press

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
Haskell CISD will hold a public meeting Thursday, January 22, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Haskell High School auditorium.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Proposed Local Consolidation Agreement between Haskell CISD and Rochester CLISD.

ATENCIÓN PÚBLICA
El Haskell CISD sostendrá un público que se encuentra el jueves, 22 de enero de 2004 en 7:00 de la tarde en el auditorio de Escuela Secundaria Haskell.

El objetivo de la reunión es hablar del Acuerdo de Consolidación Propuesto Local entre Haskell CISD y Rochester CLISD. 3-4c

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Proposed local consolidation agreement between Haskell CISD and Rochester CLISD is available for public review during regular business hours at the Haskell CISD central administration office, 605 N. Ave. E, Haskell, TX.

ATENCIÓN PÚBLICA
El acuerdo de consolidación Propuesto local entre Haskell CISD y Rochester CLISD está disponible para la revisión pública durante horas de oficina regulares en el Haskell CISD la oficina de administración central, 605 N. Avenida E, Haskell, TX. 3-5c

For Rent

FOR RENT: Furnished rooms for rent. Nightly, weekly, monthly. Call Lone Star Lodging 864-2238. 52tfc

FOR RENT: 1206 N. Ave. M, Haskell, 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, kitchen, dining, living room, laundry room, 2 storage buildings, fence, carport, well/sprinkler system, big trees. \$500 per month. References required. 325-548-2568. 2tfc

FOR RENT: 1107 N. 10th. 2 bedroom apartment. 864-3762

FOR LEASE: 901 S. 1st East. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 864-3762. 3c

Real Estate

FOR SALE: 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Possible owner financing. 864-2238. 2tfc

FOR SALE: Lake cabin at Veda's Camp. Possible owner financing. 864-2238. 2tfc

HOUSE FOR SALE: Brick, 3 bedroom. Large living and dining room. Large kitchen with beautiful wood cabinets. New carpet. Small shop. Patio and carport. No money down with good credit may take over loan. 940-658-3629 or 940-658-3342.

HOUSE FOR SALE in Rochester: Brick 3 bedroom. Carport, fenced backyard. Excellent location. 806-839-2688, 806-839-2569. 3-4p

Garage Sales

INSIDE SALE: Friday afternoon only. 306 S. Ave. C. Women's clothing. 3p

Miscellaneous

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

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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 2004 Primaries.

Unless otherwise specified the candidates listed paid for the announcement, and have designated themselves as campaign treasurer.

All political advertising, announcements, and printing is cash in advance.

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Bill Glass
(Pl. by James Bevel, Campgn. Treas.)
David Halliburton
Jack Whorton
(Pl. by Ella Days Whorton, Campgn. Treas.)

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Thank you very much for the many acts of kindness shown us during the loss of our loved one. Our many thanks to Rice Springs, Dr. McSmith, Dr. Cadenhead, and Holden-McCauley Funeral Home for everything that was done for her.

The family of Faye Wright
David and Claire Halliburton

LANGFORD ROUSTABOUT SERVICE

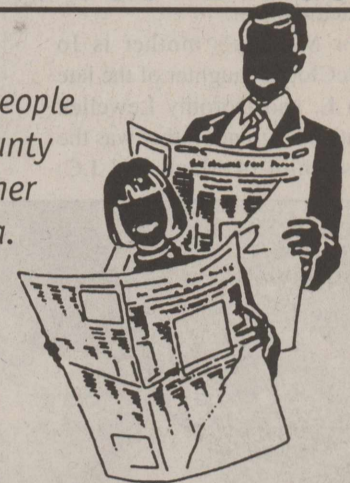
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NOTICE
The Haskell Free Press reserves the right to edit and/or delete all news stories and locals for length and liability and to refuse to print anything deemed not newsworthy.

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503 N. AVE. F. 2-1. Great for couple or single. Has original woodwork, hardwood floors, mantel with built-in stove and well.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED REHABILITATION OF US 277 AND US 380 IN HASKELL

The Abilene District of the Texas Department of Transportation will conduct a Public Meeting on January 29, 2004. The meeting will be held in the Haskell High School auditorium at 600 North Ave. D. in Haskell. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will present the proposed rehabilitation of US 277 from south city limit to north city limit and US 380 from east city limit to west city limit in Haskell.

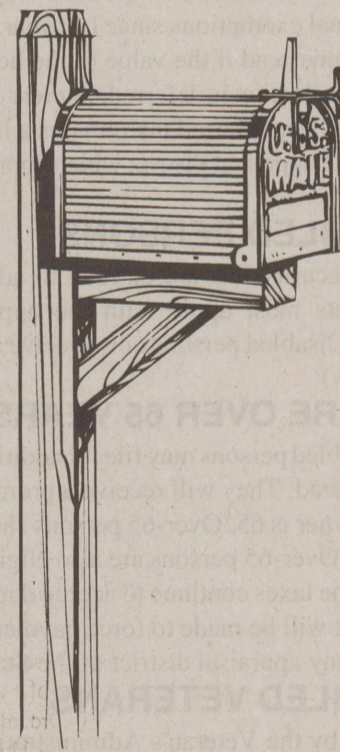
The proposed project would consist of rehabilitating the surface of US 277 and US 380, the reconstruction of existing concrete curb and gutter and installation of new curb and gutter in selected locations. Also proposed is reconstruction existing and construction of new Americans with Disability (ADA) compliant sidewalks. The project would not require any additionally right-of-way. The purpose of the project is to improve the ride and service life of the two roadways as well as provide pedestrian facilities within the community of Haskell. Exhibits showing the proposed project location and limits will be available for public viewing at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to gather input from the community based on the plans prepared thus far in project development presented at the meeting.

There will be an opportunity at the conclusion of the proposed project presentation by Texas Department of Transportation personnel, for the public to ask questions and make oral comments. Written comments will also be accepted at the meeting and for ten days following the meeting date. Citizens not able to attend the public meeting may submit comments to the Texas Department of Transportation, P. O. Box 637, Hamlin, Texas 79520. Attention Joe Higgins, P.E.

If there are any questions concerning the meeting location and time please contact Joe Higgins, P.E. at (325) 576-2765.

All interested citizens are invited and encouraged to attend the Public Meeting. The meeting room is handicap accessible. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting with special needs please contact Joe Higgins, P. E. at the number above at least five days prior to the meeting date. 52c

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Haskellites' kin aides in capture of Saddam

By Mary Kaigler

Major Stan Murphy, head of intelligence for the U.S. 4th Infantry Division's First Brigade in Tikrit, led the team that put together information about the whereabouts of Saddam Hussein, leading to his ultimate capture. Through his teams tireless efforts, he became a hero for the entire country, and has been featured in numerous interviews and articles in leading publications since the capture.

He is also a hero in the heart of some very proud family members, including his parents, of Mineral Wells, Jo Ellen and Captain John Murphy, Ret., former MIA and POW of the Vietnam war.

Major Murphy's mother is Jo Ellen McCloud, daughter of the late Dr. Ben L. and Dorothy Lewellen McCloud. His grandmother was the youngest child of Maud and J.C.

Lewellen. His cousins, Dorothy Hartsfield and Pat Sammons live in Haskell.

Of the events leading up to Saddam's capture, after escaping three raids in the first week of December, Major Murphy said that Saddam was betrayed by a top aide who helped the former Iraqi president during eight months as a fugitive.

"He was someone I'd call his right arm. He was a bad man and deserves to rot in jail," the major said.

In addition to helping the fallen dictator elude the Americans for eight months, the aide, along with four or five other Iraqis, formed the inner circle that helped hide Saddam, implement his orders to the resistance for attacks, finance the insurgency and provide combatants with weaponry, Murphy said.

The middle-aged man, who

Murphy refused to name or disclose his job in the old regime, had started serving Saddam in his late teens or early twenties and had risen to become one of Saddam's most valued sidekicks. Fitting a stock profile of many of the men who served under Saddam, he was balding, heavily overweight, with an almost 50 inch waistline and "loved women." Murphy said.

However, although the man had been considered important since July, the Americans did not realize how crucial the lieutenant was until the end of November when information about his involvement in resistance activities emerged. The aide, along with all but one of Saddam's four or five most trusted aides, did not even appear on the U.S. government's blacklist of the top 200 most wanted from Saddam's ousted regime.

After escaping three raids in Tikrit, Samarra and Baiji, he was captured in Baghdad. Brought to Tikrit, under interrogation, he confessed Saddam was hiding at one of two locations in AdDawr, a small farming community down the road from Tikrit. As U.S. special forces searched the palm groves, Saddam's most-trusted aide pointed to the secret underground room where the former Iraqi president was hiding, Murphy said.

Since the capture, a 16-member intelligence team managed by Murphy, works seven days a week, updating the latest information from Iraqi informants, creating a "living, breathing document" that every day brings into finer focus the complex series of family, tribal and government connections that Saddam used to help him stay in power and, apparently, help direct the insurgency, Murphy said.

The troops of the 4th Infantry Division didn't get to topple the dictator's statue, but in the end, with the help of Major Stan Murphy and his team, they got the man.



OUT OF THE 'SPIDER HOLE'—Maj. Stan Murphy of Mineral Wells, intelligence officer with the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, climbs out of Saddam Hussein's hiding place after his intelligence work led to the capture of the deposed dictator. Murphy's family connections in Haskell go back to his maternal grandmother.

Martin Luther King Service set Jan. 19

The Greater Independent Baptist Church of Haskell will host the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, Mon., Jan. 19.

"The Dreamers—So let us keep the dream alive," will be the theme of the service. Theme song will be "We Shall Overcome."

Speaker at the 10:30 a.m. service will be Rev. C. Wade of West Buelah Church, Munday. The alternate speaker will be Rev. C. Dever of West Bethel Church, Rule.

Speaking at 2:30 p.m. will be Elder Jean Ward, Liberty COGIC, Knox City. Alternate speaker will be Rev. Paul Lewis of Hopewell Baptist Church, Haskell.

Officiating churches will be West Buelah, West Bethel, New Macedonia, Whirlwind, St. Paul, Union Chapel, Hopewell and Greater Independent.

Guest churches will be East Side Baptist, New Vision Family Center, First Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, Trinity Baptist, Church of Christ, Church in the Park, Cornerstone Baptist, New Covenant Foursquare, Iglesia Bautista el Calvaria, St. George Catholic Church, First Baptist, Trinity Lutheran, First Assembly of God, First Presbyterian and Faith Chapel of Rochester.

A covered dish luncheon will be shared.

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ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS!

Property owners have certain rights that may reduce their property tax burden.

HOMEOWNERS

Persons who own their residence on January 1, 2004, may claim their home as a residential homestead. The filling of this document is only necessary if the homeowner has changed homesteads since January 1, 2003, or has become eligible for additional exemptions since last year. Homeowners may also defer the portion of the tax on their residence homestead if the value of the home was raised more than 5% above the previous year. Although the tax collection is deferred, interest continues to run on the unpaid portion of tax at a rate of 8% per annum and the deferred tax remains a lien on the property. To apply for the deferral, the owner should contact the appraisal district which appraised the property in question and complete an application.

DISABLED PERSONS

Persons who are disabled under Social Security law are entitled to additional exemptions on their residential homestead. Disabled applicants must apply with the appraisal district and furnish a determination letter from Social Security. Disabled persons now receive all benefits on their home that are available to over 65 persons (see below).

PERSONS WHO ARE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE

Persons who are over 65 years of age or disabled persons may file for additional exemptions and a ceiling on school taxes for their residential homestead. They will receive a prorated amount of the exemption amounts for the part of the year that any owner is 65. Over-65 persons should apply for this exemption at the appraisal district office in their area. Over-65 persons are also eligible to defer paying the tax on their residential homestead as they wish. The taxes continue to accrue during the deferral along with an interest rate of 8% annually, but no attempt will be made to force payment during the deferral. Details and an application may be obtained from any appraisal district of the State Comptroller.

DISABLED VETERANS

Persons who have been declared disabled by the Veteran's Administration are eligible for additional exemptions on property they own. The declaration letter from VA is mailed annually, but the appraisal district only needs a copy in the first year of eligibility or if the percentage of disability changes.

FARM AND RANCH OWNERS

Farmers and ranchers may be entitled to receive an alternate method of appraisal determined by the farm income to the property. This method is available to farms and ranches commercially raising crops or livestock or which are used as a wildlife habitat under State guidelines. An application for agricultural use value and additional information is available from your appraisal district. Re-filing is only necessary if requested to do so by the Chief Appraiser.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Exemption applications for all property tax exemptions including total exemptions for charitable, religious, and other total exemptions may be obtained from an appraisal district nearest you or through the State Comptroller's Office at 1/800-252-9121.

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS

State law now requires the filing of a rendition declaring what types of business personal property that a person or company owns. Failure to file the rendition will result in a 10% penalty. If a fraudulent rendition is filed, a 50% penalty is mandated. A rendition can be obtained from the appraisal district office where the property is located. A 30 day filing extension is available by written request.

This is a public service announcement by the following appraisal district:

Haskell CAD

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