Basketball games

HASKELL V G-B at Vernon Tourney Dec. 8-10 JV-V G-B vs Hawley Tues., Dec. 13, 4 p.m. at Hawley **PAINT CREEK** V G-B at Rule Tourney Dec. 8-10 JH vs Guthrie Mon., Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m. at Paint Creek JV-V G, V B vs Aspermont Tues., Dec. 13, 5 p.m. at Aspermont RULE VG-VB at Rule Tourney Dec. 8-10 JH G-B vs Aspermont Mon., Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m. at Rule JV-V G-B vs Knox City Tues., Dec. 13, 4 p.m. at Rule

Calendar

Burn ban issued

A burn ban has been issued for Haskell County. The ban will continue until conditions warrant otherwise, stated an order from Haskell County Judge David C. Davis.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. til 11:30 a.m. at 206 S. 2nd (building east of Civic Center) in Haskell. Volunteers and boxes are needed. Christmas musical

The Haskell County Choir will present a Christmas musical, 'Jesus, Our Treasure,' Sun., Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Haskell First Baptist Church. A nursery will be

provided. Christmas dinner

The annual Rochester Community Christmas dinner will be served Sun., Dec. 11 in the school cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The traditional meal will include ham, turkey, dressing and all the trimmings. Carryouts will be available. The meal is served at no charge, but donations will be accepted. A special invitation is extended to all Rochester residents and neighbors in the surrounding area to join in the food and fellowship in the spirit of Christmas and in the spirit of community. GED classes

GED classes are underway at Haskell Elementary, Room 19, 306 S. Ave. G on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Testing is required to determine a student's level of knowledge. \$25 scholarships are available for as long as the money lasts. Classes are small and teaching is given on an individual basis.

Noah Project

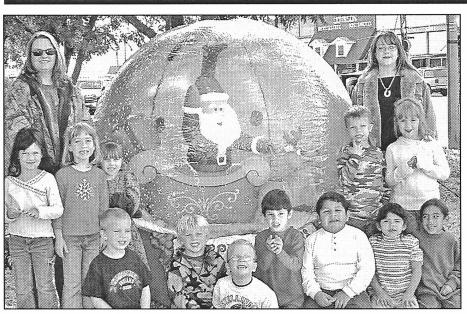
The Noah Project-North Advisory Committee will meet at the jury room of the Haskell

Light of Christmas Parade Sat. 6 p.m. S

VOL. 119-NO. 49, ©DECEMBER 8, 2005

"The People's Choice'

10 PAGES-ONE SECTION-50 CENTS



COURTHOUSE DECORATORS-Haskell Elementary students in Kristi Gibson's class joining in the fun of helping Bob and Darlene Smith with the big Christmas ornament at the courthouse recently, were: sitting, I-r, Dakota Hearn, Reed Roewe, Wyatte Hertel, Michael Benavides, David Torres, Whitney Masias and Harley Valverde. Second row, Macey Stantos, Hannah Stout, Ana Guenter, Ty Coleman and Katelyn Hudson. Standing back are Kristi Gibson and Stacy Medford.

Lights of Christmas parade to shine Sat.

With the theme of "The Light of Christmas," the Haskell Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade will be held Sat., Dec. 10, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The colorful evening event will feature entries and floats that are lighted in some manner to reflect the season.

Parade director, Lorie Rodriquez, reported Monday that about 15 parade entries have been received, and that others are expected. She urged anyone having questions or planning to participate in the parade to call her at 864-5694.

The parade route will follow the same route as last year. Entries will line up at the Haskell Civic Center grounds at South 2nd Street. From there, the parade will proceed north on Ave. B to Hwy. 380 (North 1st Street), where it will turn left (west) to Hwy. 277 (Ave. E). Turning right, it will proceed north to North 2nd Street, turning left at Ave. F. At Hwy. 380, it will turn back east to Ave. E, then turn south to South 1st, where it will turn east again ending at Ave. B.

Parade route signs will be posted at numerous locations along the parade route. The traffic will be manned at each corner of the parade by local law enforcement personnel.

Following the parade, Santa Claus will be at the courthouse gazebo for picture taking, and local choirs will sing Christmas music.

During the evening, families may stroll around the decorative Christmas holiday scenes set up on the courthouse square, where hot chocolate and coffee will be available.

Burn ban in effect; fires threaten much of Texas

Wind-driven wildfires scorched over 17,000 acres and claimed several homes in Texas over a fiveday period spanning the Thanksgiving holiday, and the wildfire threat isn't over. Fire weather forecasters predict dry weather to continue for most of the state.

West of Interstate 35 remains at very high to extreme risk of wildfires, but elevated risk also extends to the western side of the piney woods region in northeast Texas," said Tom Spencer, state fire risk assessment coordinator with the Texas Forest Service. "Grasses and weeds across the northwestern two-thirds of the state are now dormant and fire-prone. This vegetation has the potential to

fuel very dangerous, fast-moving wildfires any time dry, windy conditions occur and an ignition source is present. Large fires that occurred in Montague, Wilbarger, Parker, Eastland and Wise counties recently attest to the fire threat that exists.'

From Nov. 23-27, state and federal firefighters assisted local firefighting resources on 61 fires that scorched an estimated 16,929 acres. One of these fires, in Montague County, claimed six homes, five vehicles and a travel trailer. The largest fire during the period started in Wilbarger County. It had burned an estimated 10,000 acres.

continued on page 10

P.O. Box 555, Haskell, Texas 79521.

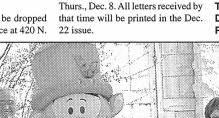
printed in the newspaper is 5 p.m.

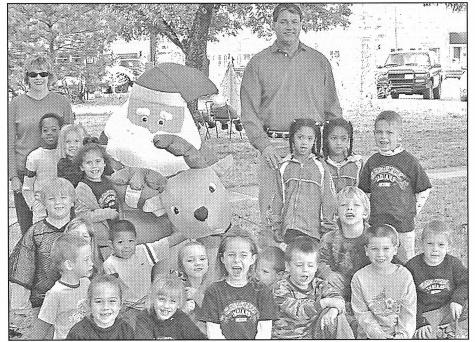
Deadline for having your letter

Santa letters due today First St. or mailed to Santa Claus at

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 N.





FUN WITH SANTA-Spending an afternoon with the courthouse decorations were members of Susan Cox's class, Haskell Elementary students, I-r, front row, Bailey Ann Toliver, Moriah Gasaway, Hollyn Hadaway, Riley Sloan, Tanner Thomas and Dalton Meinzer. 2nd row, Evan Wheatley, R.J. Chavez, Macie Biesecker, Hagen Isbell and Kyler Hoover. Standing, left side, bottom to top, Audrey Cochran, Turner Wade, Kristen Guzman, Kameryn Mathis, Ja'Vour Finley and Mrs. Cox. Standing, right side, Danay Dever, Janay Dever, Bristol Wagner and Principal Jimmy Lisle. Not pictured is James Pierce.

Goodfellows project to benefit lake's flood victims

This year, the Haskell 555, Haskell, Texas, 79521. Goodfellows Christmas program will help the approximately 51 families most devastated by the Lake Haskell Inn, Haskell National Bank, Stamford flood disaster. To assist in this, Goodfellows is asking for donations of new space heaters, new small appliances, food and toys, or cash donations with which to purchase these items. Goodfellows cash donations may be made at the Haskell Free Press or mailed to the Free Press at P.O. Box

Donated items may be delivered to the Haskell Fire Department, or to

County Courthouse Fri., Dec. 9 at noon. All members are asked to attend.

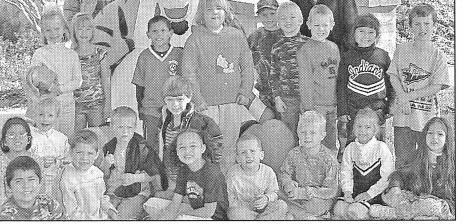
Christmas concert

The Haskell bands will present a Christmas concert Sun., Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Civic Center. Band students should arrive at 1:45 p.m. Art Association

The Brazos West Art Association will meet Mon., Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Haskell National Bank Community Room. Each member is to bring a salad dish, a handmade gift to exchange and a toy/gift for Goodfellows. Officers will serve as hostesses and volunteers.

Index

Obituaries	Page 2
Around Town	Page 3
Out of the Past	Page 4
Menus	Page 8
Classifieds	Page 9



AFTERNOON OUTING-Haskell Elementary students in Rhonda Lisle's class, recently visiting the courthouse to help Bob Smith with the Christmas decorations were: back row, I-r, Kylei Stewart, Cequin Mcllwain, Ankit Bhakta, Lori Rodgers, Tyler Johnson, John Anderson, Cody Dutton, Ariel Martinez and Chris Hall. Middle row, Britney Hawkins, Felicity Gentry, Devery Reed and Rocky Haggard. Bottom row, Juan Rodriquez, Zander Garcia, Makayla Hardeman, Crow Parham, Jayton Smith, Sarah Fouts and Jocabed Gonzalez. Standing back on the left, Bob Smith and right, Mrs. Lisle.

Sport-About, State Farm Insurance, or to any Lions Club member.

The Lions Club will be working with the Haskell County Volunteer Organization to Aid in Disasters (VOAD), to distribute Goodfellows donations to Lake Stamford residents. Goodfellows will also collect toys for the Haskell County Welfare Board.

Goodfellows Donations

The Haskell Goodfellows are accepting donations for approximately 51 families most devastated by the Lake Stamford flood disaster. Donations of new space heaters, new small appliances, food or cash will help with this project. Cash donations may be sent to The Haskell Free Press, P.O. Box 555, Haskell, Texas 79521. Donated items may be delivered to the Haskell Fire Department, Haskell Inn, Haskell National Bank, State Farm Insurance, Sport-About or to any Lions Club member. Toys will also be collected for the Haskell County Welfare Board. In memory of Sandra Wallace, Janet Thane and Austin Coker

by Dee and Ruth Larned	\$50
Total this week	\$50
Total to date	\$50

FOR NEWS ITEMS OR TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 864-2686

Obituaries

Travis Carlton Townsend



TRAVIS TOWNSEND

Funeral services for Eddie J. Sanders, 91, of Weinert was the last elected public weigher of Weinert. He were held Sat., Nov. 26 at Weinert Baptist Church in Weinert with Rev. Donny Harbors, Rev. Terry Sanders, his nephew, and Rev. J.C. Baker officiating. Services were under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

Mr. Sanders died Wed., Nov. 23 at Haskell Healthcare Center in Haskell.

Born July 2, 1914 in Haskell County, he was the son of Andrew J. and Sophronia Sanders. He lived all of his 91 years in the Weinert area where he farmed until his retirement in 1976, turning the operation over to his son Kenneth. He graduated in the first accredited graduating class of 1935 at Weinert High School as valedictorian of his class. After graduation, he married his 15 year old sweetheart, Myrnie Erma Johnson. They celebrated 62 loving years of marriage before her death in 1998. He served his community and his church. He served on the water board that brought piped water into Weinert. He

Funeral services for Travis life, he had been on dialysis the past Carlton Townsend, 70, of Rule were held Wed., Nov. 30 at First Baptist Church in Rule with Rev. Josh Stowe officiating. Burial was in Rule Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Robison Funeral Home of Rule.

Mr. Townsend died Mon., Nov. 28 at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Born Oct. 23, 1935 in Haskell County, he married Geretha 'Gerry' Barrett Franklin July 7, 1986. A cotton farmer and rancher all of his

Eddie J. Sanders

eleven years at the Abilene Dialysis Center. He was preceded in death by his father, A.V. 'Snooks' Townsend.

Survivors include his wife, Gerry of Rule; his mother, Marie Townsend of Rule; son, Timothy Townsend of Cordell, Oklahoma; step-daughters, Vicky Franklin Campbell of Knox City and Sheila Franklin Towell of Brownwood; two grandchildren and his faithful sidekick, Curley.

Memorials may be made to the donor's favorite charity. PD. NOTICE

organized the first homecoming committee which result in school homecomings every two years up to the present time. He was a member of the Weinert Baptist Church where he served as deacon for over 60 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters and one brother.

Survivors include: one son, Kenneth and wife, Brenda Sanders of Weinert; one daughter, Shirley and husband, Wayne Offutt of Wichita Falls; seven grandchildren, Keith and wife, Karrie Sanders of Gardenridge, Kregg and wife, Deanna Sanders of Munday, Kent and wife, Mary Sanders of Pearland, Kole and wife, Amanda Sanders of Keller, Marty Offutt, Tammy and husband, Brent Proffitt and Cindy Gee, all of Wichita Falls; 12 great grandchildren; and two brothers, R.S. Sanders and Alton Sanders, both of Weinert.

Grandsons were pallbearers. Harlan Weinert was honorary pallbearer. PD. NOTICE

Keep your holidays sare

According to the U.S. Fire by following some simple safety Administration, each year roughly 156,000 fires occur during the holiday season claiming nearly 63() lives, injuring 2,600 individuals and causing over \$930 million in damage. While the number of occurrences may seem astounding, what's more amazing is that most of these fires could have been prevented

measures. With the holidays fast

approaching, help ensure that this season is spent celebrating with friends and loved ones by providing these quick holiday safety tips for the home.

•Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms in the home are considered one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire. All smoke alarms should be tested once a month and their batteries replaced annually. •Keep newspapers, blankets and

all other flammable material away from floor heaters, fire places and other heating sources.

extinguisher readily available.

used on a temporary basis; unplug and safely store them after every use. •Never use indoor lights/

extension cords outside or vice versa. •Turn off all lights when going to bed or leaving the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

occurs, follow these emergency safety tips:

are still in contact with the electrical

breaker level, if possible.

electrical source, use a branch or plastic broom to push him or her off. Ensure the item isn't still conductive. •Call immediately for emergency

The holidays are a time of celebration, and preventing electrical accidents from occurring can keep families safe and holidays happy.





AG ISSUES TEAM-The Haskell FFA Ag Issues team, I-r, Maggie Teague, Amber Bingham, Ashley Foster, Lindsay Spooner, Diana Mauricio and Brittany Garison, hold the banner they were awarded in the State LDE competition in Huntsville, Sat., Dec. 3. The team took 6th place in Ag Issues.

askel teams compete

Haskell FFA has had another outstanding year in leadership competition. FFA members competed at the District LDE contest in Anson Nov. 15, Area LDE contest in Big Spring Nov. 19 and the State LDE contest in Huntsville Dec. 3. At the district contest in Anson

and Area contest in Big Spring the results were Sr. Skills: Stephanie Grand,

Kellye Tidrow, Teddye Harris, 2nd District, 2nd Area; Jr. Skills: Claire Isbell, Hanna Wallace, Kimi Hutchinson, 3rd District.

Radio: Stephanie Grand, Teddye Harris, Lindsay Pannell, 1st District, 7th Area; Sr. Creed: Lindsay Pannell, 4th District; Jr. Creed: John English, district participant.

Jr. Quiz: Paige Adams, Lauren Newton, Doug Moore, Megan Bailey, district participant; Sr. Quiz: Kristen Caparoon, Shelby Morrow, Destini Cooke, Chelsea Bullard, 4th District; Job Interview: Chambray Maggie Teague, Lindsay Spooner, Diana Mauricio, 2nd District, 2nd Area; Jr. Chapter Conducting: Faith Silvas, Paige Adams, Ashton Rutkowski, Samantha Lopez, Brittany Garison, Lauren Newton, Hope Reid, and Destini Cooke, 3rd District; Public Relations: Shelby Morrow, Faith Silvas, Leslie Tonche, 3rd District.

The Sr. Skills and Ag Issues teams both advanced to the State

Choose ingredients wisely to help control holiday diet

The holidays shouldn't be a nightmare for people watching their waistlines. Experts at UT Southwestern Medical Center offer a few tips on how to cut calories and eat sensibly.

"Place a super-sized salad bowl filled with fresh leafy greens and colorful veggies at the front of the serv-

LDE with the top 20 teams from the state competing. Both teams qualified for the finals with the Skills team placing 3rd and Ag Issues placing 6th.

In addition to competing at the state contest the Ag Issues team also toured a Biodiesel producing facility in Denton on Thursday where the team members were given the opportunity to tour the facility and gain a lot of useful information

•Substitute 1/3 cup of mayonnaise and 1/3 cup of nonfat yogurt for 2/3 cup of mayonnaise-480 calories saved.

•Use nonfat milk instead of whole milk-60 calories saved per cup.

•Use plain nonfat yogurt instead of cream-720 calories saved per cup.

Swine Show Feed 272 and 11148 in stock. Now Taking Orders for: Show Call Feeds ¥ Show Goat Feeds 37% Protein Cubes Moorglo Horse Pro-Vita-Min Tub Proud Paws Dog Food MoorMan s Shavings See us for all your flooring needs!

We can help with all your installation needs!

BERNARD E. GODLEY, INC.

TAX SERVICE AND BOOKKEEPING

Specializing in Farm, Ranch & Agri-business

Over 35 Years Experience

940-889-8809

98 Hill Drive • Seymour, Texas

Fax 940-889-4908

C&S Flooring

and Lumber Yard

105 N. 1st • Haskell • 940-864-3753 or 940-256-1902

Conrad and Sylvia Saucedo, Owners

nt, Roofing, Lumber, Insulation, Hardware, Plu

People With Medicare:

Choose The Medicare Prescription Drug Plan That's Right For You.

Choice is a liberty all Americans deserve. On January 1, 2006, the Federal Government's Medicare prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) goes into full effect and people with Medicare have until May 15. 2006 to join without penalty. You have a choice and when choosing your Medicare prescription drug plan, the folks at Community Care RxSM urge you to make an informed decision. Ask your friends, your doctor and other health care professionals you trust, like your personal pharmacist. Ask about the Community Care RxSM card*, a Medicare-approved prescription drug plan with an extensive list of drugs and a variety of plan designs.

medical aid.

•Have an operable fire

•Never install more than three strands of decorative lights to one extension cord.

•Extension cords should only be

In the event an electric shock

•Do not touch the victim if they

source. •Sever the power at the fuse or

•If someone is still attached to the

* For Community Care RxSM customer service, call 1-866-684-5353 Mon-Sat 7 a.m. 10:30 p.m. (ET). TTY users call 1-866-684-5351. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

A Community Care RX representative will be at The Drug Store each Wednesday in December to answer specific questions concerning the Medicare Part D prescription program.

THE DRUG STORE 100 S. Ave. E • Haskell • 864-2673

Medicare R

MemberHealth is contracted with the Federal Government to administer Medicare prescription drug coverage.

55803-ADV01SB_CMS Approval 09/2005



BURN

Bartley, district participant. Ag Issues: Amber Bingham, Brittany Garison, Ashley Foster,

Plan ahead for peace of mind



Texas Hermann Sons Fraternal Insurance SENIOR ADULT FINAL

EXPENSE PLANS

Immediate cash for funeral expenses

Call today for information!

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES: Elna Weise • 940-864-3564 Beunice Vahlenkamp • 940-989-3609

Serving Texas Families Since 1890 Order of the Sons of Hermann in Texas San Antonio, Texas www.texashermannsons.org



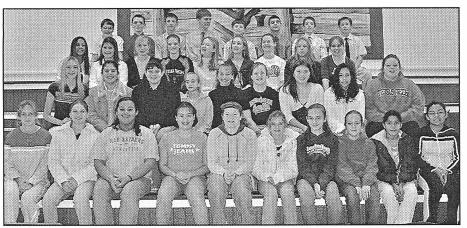
ing line," says Lona Sandon, a registered dietician at UT Southwestern. "This will encourage you and your guests to start the meal with a nice healthful, high fiber, low-calorie appetizer."

·Use broth to sauté instead of butter-104 calories saved per tablespoon.

•Eat skinless chicken-360 calories saved per whole bird.

Cooks should also experiment with sugar substitute Splenda, a nocalorie sweetener ideal for baking at up to 450 degrees Fahrenheit. Every time you use one tablespoon of Splenda rather than sugar you save 45 calories.





HASKELL UIL STUDENTS-Participating in the University Interscholastic League contests were Haskell CISD students, front row, I-r, Kathryn Grand, Brittany Baker, Shambrie Rodriguez, Jessica Rodriguez, Leslie Crosson, Meagan Kimbrough, Dawn Skinner, Jasmine Nail, Rosa Fernandez and Angelica Gonzalez. 2nd row, Lisa Rodgers, Amy Muniz, Ashlee Short, Cheslee Hearn, Codi Foster, Sara Weise, Kelsie Adams, Clarissa Walker and Ashely Bullard. 3rd row, Brie Torres, Ashley Meier, Miranda Johnson, Jordan Burson, Kavce Wilcox, Aubrey Bassett, Brooke Bullinger, Veronica Benton and Shelby Still. Top row, Nathan Meredith, Tyler Reese, Ethan Frierson, A.J. Benton, James Williams, Ricky Barrett, Gideon Carmichael and Christian Myers. Not pictured is Pamela Walker.

Jr. High takes first at UIL

Rochester Junior High competed in a UIL Academic Meet Nov. 15 and Nov.17 at Rotan Junior High. Schools competing were Hamlin, Haskell, Munday and Rotan. Teachers involved with junior high UIL are Jodi Andress, Cathy Bartley, Betsy Coleman, Jill Druesedow, Tracy Frierson, and Betsy McManamon. "About 41% of our student body competed in UIL this year. We are very proud of them, their hard work after school and on their own time definitely paid off," said Tracy Frierson, JH UIL coordinator.

Results include:

7th grade Art: Dawn Skinner, 3rd place; Ashlee Short, 1st place; Meagan Kimbrough, 4th place; Pamela Walker, 5th place; Jasmine Nail and Candice Hill. 1st place Art team.

8th grade Art: Kayce Wilcox, 4th place; Kathryn Grand, Brittany Baker, Shelby Still, Aubrey Bassett, 6th place. 3rd place Art team.

7th grade Calculator: Codi Foster, 1st place; Nathan Meredith and Jessica Rodriguez. 3rd place Calculator team.

8th grade Calculator: Shambrie Rodriguez, 2nd place; Brie Torres, 5th place; Ethan Frierson and Kayce Wilcox. 2nd place Calculator team.

7th grade Dictionary Skills: Codi Foster, 1st place; Sara Weise and Jessica Rodriguez, 4th place. 2nd place Dictionary team.

Local writer pens new novel

Hy Richards of Haskell recently had his novel, A Hanging Offense, published by PublishAmerica, of Baltimore, Maryland. The novel fictionalizes an actual

hanging which occurred near Casper, Wyoming in July, 1889. It tells the story of six wealthy ranchers who, for reasons of their own, took it upon themselves to hang a man and a woman. Suddenly, it was open season on the four witnesses to this infamous deed: after all, the big operators had

Brooke Bullinger, 3rd place; Miranda Johnson, 6th place (tie); Brittany Baker, 6th place (tie); Tyler Reese. 3rd place Dictionary team.

8th grade Editorial Writing: Brooke Bullinger, 4th place.

7th grade Impromptu Speaking: Nathan Meredith, 2nd place; Christian Myers, 5th place; Clarissa Walker and Kelsie Adams.

8th grade Impromptu Speaking: Ashley Meier, 5th place; Brie Torres, 2nd place; Lisa Rodgers,4th place, Amy Muniz.

7th grade Listening: Leslie Crosson, 2nd place; Kelsie Adams. 8th grade Listening: Miranda Johnson, 2nd place, Aubrey Bassett, 5th place; Jordan Burson and Kathryn Grand. 1st place Listening team

7th grade Maps, Graphs and Charts: Angelica Gonzalez, 1st place; Sara Weise, 2nd place; Kelsie Adams and Jessica Rodriguez. 1st place Maps, Graphs and Charts team.

8th grade Maps, Graphs and Charts: Brooke Bullinger, 1st place, Lisa Rodgers, 3rd place; Ashley Meier and Brie Torres. 1st place Maps, Graphs and Charts team.

7th grade Mathematics: Candice Hill, 6th place; Jessica Rodriguez and Rosa Fernandez.

8th grade Mathematics: Brooke Bullinger, Lisa Rodgers, Ethan Frierson and Shambrie Rodriguez 7th grade Modern Oratory: Angelica Gonzalez, 1st place;

8th grade Dictionary Skills: Cheslee Hearn, 4th place; Kelsie

to protect themselves. A book signing is planned in the future

> Around Town By Joyce Hawkins

Hyrum and Jean Richards and Lois Redwine were in Abilene last week. They visited with Billyjo Roberson and Eunice Sonnamaker

who has moved from Eldorado to Coronado Nursing Center in Abilene. DOLLAR GENERAL

Adams

8th grade Modern Oratory: Lisa Rodgers, 2nd place; Amy Muniz. 7th grade Number Sense: Codi Foster, 1st place; Jessica Rodriguez, 4th place. Nathan Meredith. 2nd place Number Sense team.

8th grade Number Sense: Brooke Bullinger, 3rd place; Shambrie Rodriguez, 6th place; Ethan Frierson. 3rd place Number Sense team.

7th grade Oral Reading: Pamela Walker, 2nd place; Codi Foster, 6th place; Ashlee Short and Angelica Gonzalez.

8th grade Oral Reading: Jordan Burson,5th place; Kayce Wilcox and Miranda Johnson.

7th grade Ready Writing: Pamela Walker, 1st place; Angelica Gonzalez, 2nd place; Codi Foster, 4th place.

8th grade Ready Writing: Aubrey Bassett, 2nd place; Brooke Bullinger, 5th place; Miranda Johnson, 6th place: Jordan Burson.

7th grade Science: Codi Foster, 1st place; Nathan Meredith, 3rd place: Angelica Gonzalez and Ricky Barrett. 2nd place Science team.

8th grade Science: Aubrey Bassett, 4th place; Brooke Bullinger, 5th place: Ethan Frierson and Shambrie Rodriguez. 2nd place Science team.

7th grade Social Studies: Angelica Gonzalez, 1st place; Codi Foster, 4th place: Jessica Rodriguez. 8th Grade Social Studies: Ethan

Frierson, 2nd place; Gideon Carmicheal, James Williams and A.J. Benton. 7th grade Spelling: Angelica

Gonzalez, 2nd place; Ashley Bullard, Pamela Walker and Sara Weise. 3rd

place Spelling team. 8th grade Spelling: Aubrey Bassett, 1st place, Veronica Benton, 6th place; Amy Muniz and Ashley Meier. 1st place Spelling team.

he facts about stroke

by Jane Rowan **CEA/FCS**, Haskell County

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States after heart disease and cancer. It is a major cause of physical and mental disabilities in older adults.

A stroke happens when blood cannot flow to a part of the brain. When the brain does not get the oxygen and nutrients it needs from the blood, its cells are damaged or begin to die. If brain cells are only damaged, they sometimes can be repaired. But brain cells that have died cannot be brought back to life. This means that the brain may stop sending signals to other parts of the body that control things like speaking, thinking and walking.

The two major types of strokes are ischemic and hemorrhagic. Ischemic stroke is the most common kind and is caused by blood clots or the narrowing of a blood vessel leading to the brain. The clot keeps blood from flowing into other regions of the brain and prevents needed oxygen and nutrients from reaching brain cells in these regions.

Hemorrhagic stroke happens when a broken blood vessel causes bleeding in the brain. This break also stops oxygen and nutrients from reaching brain cells.

Many people are familiar with the term "mini-stroke." A "mini-stroke" is technically called a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA). TIAs may occur when blockage of the blood vessel has not reached 100%. Though not as immediately harmful as a regular stroke, a TIA is still a medical emergency. The affects of the TIA may be fleeting but eventually may lead to a major, debilitating stroke.

Signs and symptoms of a stroke include but are not limited to:

 Sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg especially on one side of the body

•Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding

•Sudden problems seeing in one eye or both eyes

•Sudden dizziness, loss of balance or trouble walking The warning signs of a stroke may

last only a few minutes and then go away. Always pay attention to any stroke

symptoms, even if they are fleeting. If you suspect someone may be having a stroke, the National Stroke Association recommends you act F.A.S.T.:

•FACE: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop? •ARMS: Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift

downward? •SPEECH: Ask the person to

repeat a simple sentence (e.g. "It's sunny today."). Are the words slurred? Can the person repeat the sentence correctly?

•TIME: If the person shows any of these symptoms, time is important. Call 9-1-1 immediately!

Recovery from a stroke is most successful if treatment begins within

the first three hours after symptoms



appear. A drug that may help break down the clot, known as t-PA, can greatly lower the damage caused by a stroke; but, only patients with ischemic stroke, caused by a clot, are candidates for this treatment. A health provider will diagnose stroke based on the patient's symptoms, medical history and medical tests that look closely at the brain to see the type and location of the stroke.

Many different ways are to help people recover from a stroke. Drugs and physical therapy work to improve balance, coordination and other deficits from the stroke such as speech and language problems. Occupational therapy can make it easier to do things like bathing and cooking. Many therapies start in the hospital and continue at home. Progress is different for each person some people recover fully soon after a stroke, others take months or even years. Sometimes the damage is so serious that therapy cannot help at all.

Talk to your health provider about what you can do to lower your risk of stroke. Even if you are in perfect health, you may have some serious risks

·Control your blood pressure. Have your blood pressure checked often. Treating high blood pressure lowers the risk of both stroke and heart disease.

•Stop smoking. Smoking is linked to increased risk for stroke. Quitting smoking at any age lowers the risk for stroke as well as for a lot of other serious diseases.

•Exercise regularly. Activities such as brisk walking, riding a bicycle and yard work may lower the risk of both stroke and heart disease. Exercise may make the heart stronger and improve blood flow. Before any major change in your exercise routine, be sure to check with your

S

111

ſĵ

health provider.

The HASKELL FREE PRESS-Thursday, December 8, 2005-Page 3

•Eat healthy foods. Eat foods that are low in fats, cholesterol and saturated fatty acids. Include a variety of fruits and vegetables in your daily diet.

•Control your diabetes. Untreated diabetes can damage blood vessels and lead to a build up of fatty deposits in the arteries. This narrows arteries and blocks normal blood flow.

Stroke affects many different people in many different ways. It is an especially serious condition among women and African-Americans. However, the National Stroke Association estimates that up to 80% of strokes are preventable.

For more information, contact the Haskell County Extension office at 864-2546 or visit the National Stroke Association's website at http:// www.info.stroke.org.





Always test bath water temperature with your hand before you put your foot in. Gently dry your feet, particularly between the toes.

2. Inspect your feet daily, including the soles, heels and between the toes. You may need to use a mirror to see the bottom of your feet. Report any skin breaks, blister, cuts, or fissures to your nurse or doctor immediately.

3. Notify your nurse or doctor if you see any changes in the color, temperature or shape of your feet.

4. Look for corns, calluses and ingrown toenails. Don't treat these problems with over-the-counter remedies. See your nurse or doctor. 5. The best time to cut your toenails is after washing your feet

8-11 p.m. on December 9, 2005

Customer Appreciation Event

To show our gratitude we will be open special hours for you to shop! **SAVE 30%**

Our Customers can save 30% on Holiday Merchandise such as: Lights, Trees, Ornaments, Wrapping Paper, Holiday Cards, Toys, Bows, Kitchen Coordinates; most Clothing (including Clearance clothing and footwear); and on everyday items such as Giftware, Housewares, Domestics and Hardware!

EXCLUDED FROM DISCOUNT: All Food & Snacks, Candy, Drinks, Milk, Magazines, Phone Cards, Pre-Paid Cards, Gift Cards, Home Cleaning Chemicals, Pet, Paper Towels, Tissue Paper, Laundry, Air Fresheners, Food Storage, Trash Bags, Diapers, Health & Beauty Aids, All Underwear, Socks/Hosiery



when your nails are soft. Cut them straight across and smooth them with an emery board. If your toenails are thick and hard or if you don't see well, have your toenails cut by your foot doctor or someone who knows the proper procedure.

6. Apply lotion to your feet, but avoid putting lotion, cream or oil between the toes.

Never walk barefoot-always wear shoes or slippers. 7.

8. Always wear socks or stockings with your shoes: cotton or wool are best.

9. Check the inside of your shoes for foreign objects, worn linings or rough spots.

10. Your shoes should fit well and feel good when you wear them.

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



OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



Lawmakers focus on tax relief following court's ruling

AUSTIN-Six months are not much compared to the decades state lawmakers, courts and governors have already spent on solving or avoiding solving the riddle of school finance and property tax reform.

Nevertheless, June 1 is the Texas Supreme Court-imposed deadline for the Legislature to retool the tax system, and it isn't that far away.

Thanksgiving week, the high court upheld a lower court ruling that said the way hundreds of school districts are forced to set local property taxes at the cap of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation violates the state constitution by imposing, in effect, a statewide property tax.

Weeks earlier, Gov. Rick Perry named a tax reform commission composed mostly of business people to study taxes, with former state Comptroller John Sharp as chair.

And, after the high court spoke, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst named his own committee of senators to look for a solution.

House Speaker Tom Craddick, on the other hand, said he would not follow suit and appoint a similar committee, indicating that the Perry-Sharp effort will be enough to get the job done.

Perry, in sync with the high court, now says more money for education is not the answer. But to teachers and advocates for schoolchildren, no tax solution will be complete without addressing teacher pay and the need for more and better-equipped classrooms.

Regardless, the focus now shifts away from finding more money for teachers and classroom instruction and zeroes in on property tax relief.

Oddly, during this year's 79th Legislature (January through May) and the two 30-day special sessions that followed, there was general agreement at the Capitol that school finance could not be fixed without also fixing the state tax system.

The governor himself said he wanted a solution that would "give schoolchildren and teachers the resources they deserve and need."

Memo arouses Democrats On Dec. 2, a U.S Department of Justice office memorandum surfaced in the Washington Post and stirred up

Democrats who opposed the congressional redistricting plan passed by the Texas Legislature in 2003.

HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

The memo reveals that the plan pushed by then-House Majority Leader Tom DeLay did not win the universal approval of the staff of the Department of Justice -then run by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

More than a half-dozen staff members said the plan violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by underrepresenting minorities and rural voters. But the plan was approved anyway, and in 2004, the Republican Party picked up six seats in the U.S. House.

The U.S. Supreme Court may hear arguments on the subject.

Another hat in the ring? Add former Texas Supreme Court justice Bob Gammage of Llano to the list of possible candidates for governor.

Gammage could join fellow Democrats Chris Bell of Houston and Felix Alvarado of Fort Worth in the quest.

Laredo oil and gas tycoon Tony Sanchez, who ran against Republican Gov. Rick Perry four years ago, also is pondering the idea of running.

On the Republican side, Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn will challenge Perry in the GOP primary come March. In the latest spat between incumbent Perry and challenger Strayhorn, their camps are accusing each other of using state office equipment to send out campaign information.

And last but not least, there is Kinky Friedman, the Hill Country singer, writer and dog and cat rescuer who plans to run as an independent after the partisan primaries in March.

Laney to leave Legislature

Cotton-farming State Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, announced that he won't run for reelection.

Laney is tied for third on the House seniority list, having begun his service in 1973.

Only Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, and Craddick have served longer. Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, is tied for third.

Craddick's Laney was predecessor as speaker, having served in that high post in the 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001 sessions.



From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press 47. Sammy Baker scored 21 points

and Mark Young tossed in 15 as the

30 Years Ago

December 11, 1975

Kelliann Jennings, Kim Lanier and

were Marcy Davis, Shane Hadaway

and Lee Lane; and in third place were

Melinda Smith, Susie Blankenship

Haskell Indians George Brown,

Rex Pittman and Johnny Larned were

named to the first All-District team;

Cris Love, Randy Phemister and

Gary McAdams were named to the

first and second All-District team;

Jamie Mickler, Vonnie Hise and

Johnny Hawkins were named to the

elected as a director of the Texas

Melvin Phemister of Weinert was

and Renee Kretschmer.

second team.

First place winners in the Haskell

10 Years Ago December 14, 1995

Stanley Smith of Rule grew a Indians coasted to victory. cluster of sweet potatoes in his garden weighing 13 pounds. John B. Kirby, son of the late Children's Christmas parade were J.B. Kirby of Haskell, was selected for the position of National Adjutant General of the Military Order of the Clifton Brister; second place winners Purple Heart in Washington, D.C.

Winners at the Rolling Plains District 4-H Food Show in Vernon were Anna Rieger, second place senior bread and cereals; Brandy Gardner, third place intermediate snacks and desserts; Jessica Reiger, third place junior breads and cereals; Nisha Patel, fourth place senior fruits and vegetables; and Shannon Sanford, fourth place senior snacks and desserts

20 Years Ago

December 12, 1985

Agnes Winchester was named Haskell County's Home Demonstration Club Woman of the Year. Scott Burris, a Haskell High School junior, was winner of the

Lions Club Zone speech contest on drug abuse. Tim Johnson, Haskell High School senior, was elected FHA beau and Kelly Wallace, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Wallace of Haskell, was elected football

sweetheart. The Haskell varsity boys basketball team defeated Weinert 60-

Weather Whys

End of Hurricane Season Q: Nov. 30 was the end of hurricane season. Why were there so many hurricanes in 2005?

A: That's a question that a lot of people are asking, says John Nielsen-Gammon, professor of atmospheric Texas A&M Univ who also serves as State Climatologist.

Farm Bureau representing District III from Haskell County. Mr. and Mrs. Grady Bristow were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at the

Rule Philadelphia Clubhouse with their children and grandchildren hosting. The Food and Nutrition project group with members Shannon Lane,

April Turner, Leann Turnbow and Tina Morris selected a name for themselves, The Crazy Cooks. 40 Years Ago

December 9, 1965

"A new tropical storm developed late in the season, making it the 26th named storm, and that's the most in

at least 70 years," he explains. "A lot of fingers are being pointed at global warming for the rise in severe storms this year. There are a lot of studies being done in this area and global warming appears to be at least a strong contributing factor. We know that some areas of the oceans are warmer than in years past, and this can contribute to more intense storms. Q: What specific areas of water are warmer?

Gregg Thompson, dressed as a ilgrim and 'dragging' a small Boston Bulldog sheathed in Christmas wreath attire won first place in the Haskell Christmas pet parade.

Jennabeth Pitman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Pitman of Haskell, was chosen as Haskell High FFA sweetheart.

Linda Blair received the 4-H Gold Star award and a public speaking award and Royce Blair received an award for boys agriculture at an annual 4-H awards program. They are the grandchildren of Mrs. August Steinforth Sr. of Haskell.

Jenna Pitman scored five points in overtime to give Haskell a 47-44 edge over Munday in a championship tilt.

Jimmie G. Barrett, son of Ina Mae Allen of Haskell, was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant of the U.S. Marine Corps, stationed in Viet Nam.

50 Years Ago December 8, 1955

Army Sergeant Billy W. Peters of Rochester and Army Sergeant Cornelius Thompson Jr. of Rule participated in the largest joint Army-Air Force maneuver since World War II, Exercise Sage Brush in Louisiana.

The Mattson Pep Squad honored Gene Mapes, all-district back, as its Hero and Janis Campbell as its Sweetheart at a football banquet honoring the Mustang team.

Don Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Smith of Mattson and a student at Texas Technological College, attended the Texas Methodist Student Movement Conference.

William (Bart) Massey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Flourney of Haskell, played a stellar role in leading his Redstone Rockets grid team to a 54-0 defeat of the Robins Air Force Base team at Linton Field, Alabama.

100 Years Ago

From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Beware of Flood-Damaged Cars When you think of consumer scams related to Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, things like price gouging for fuel or home-repair fraud most likely come to mind. Yet, Texans need to be on the lookout for a more subtle and equally underhanded con that often follows big storms-selling flood-damaged cars that aren't properly marked.

Historically, flood-damaged vehicles have entered into the market in the months following a hurricane, and this time is sure to be no exception. One survey estimates 350,000 vehicles sustained damage due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many of these cars will be declared total losses; however, vehicles that meet certain requirements can be sold as flood-damaged cars.

In Texas, a seller is required by law to tell prospective buyers about damage to the vehicle. If the damage is the result of a flood, the vehicle's title must say "Flood Damage" on the document.

Most Texas businesses and people are law-abiding, but a handful of companies and individuals try to skirt these consumer laws to maximize their profits. Some car sellers clean and repair flooded vehicles and offer them for sale with the original titles, giving buyers no hint of their histories.

If you plan on buying a used vehicle, do your research and be as thorough as possible. Pull up the carpet in the vehicle's trunk or spare tire well and inspect under the dashboard and seats. Check for rust, mud, dampness or a mildewy smell. Be wary of older-model vehicles that have new upholstery or carpeting.

Have a mechanic you trust inspect the vehicle before buying. In particular, check the oil and transmission fluid. Normal fluids are semitransparent, while the fluids in a flooded vehicle will be murky and grayish.

Also, check the vehicle history with a private service that can research insurance claims. Contact the Texas Department of Transportation to see if the vehicle has been listed as flood damaged.

I will not tolerate this kind of fraud. In fact, my office and other state attorneys general entered into an agreement earlier this year with State Farm Mutual Insurance Company over this very issue.

The company, which voluntarily notified my office and other state attorneys general of the problem, had failed to identify-or "brand"-the titles of vehicles that had been salvaged or damaged when it received the titles from the original owners, as required by law. Those improperly branded vehicles were then sold to new owners, who were likely unaware the vehicles had been listed as totaled by State Farm.

As part of the settlement, State Farm agreed to pay compensation to all consumers who now own vehicles that State Farm did not properly title as "salvage." My office has been working with State Farm and the Texas Department of Transportation to determine which vehicles in Texas will be eligible for a compensation payment. State Farm sent out letters and claim forms to the owners of those vehicles in September. Only consumers who complete and return the claim form will be eligible for a compensation payment. Owners do not have to sign the claim form and can opt for their own private legal action.



BURN BAN

IN EFFECT

Established January 1, 1886 PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY 420 North First Street • P. O. Box 555 HASKELL, TEXAS 79521 Phone 940-864-2686 • Fax 940-864-2687 hfp@valornet.com

John McDougal	Publisher
Lisa Shaw	Business Manager
Mary Kaigler	Editor
Doris McDougal	Production
John McDougal Lisa Shaw Mary Kaigler Doris McDougal Bill Blankenship	Staff Photographer

Periodical Paid Haskell, Texas 79521 (USPS 237-040)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Haskell County, one year, \$20.00 Outside of Haskell County, one year, \$28.00.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC-Any erroneous re-NO IICE 10 PUBLIC-Any erroneous re-flection upon the character, reputation or standing of any firm, individual or corporation will be gladly corrected upon being called to the attention of the publisher. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Haskell Free Press, P.O. Box 555, Haskell, TX. 79521-0555.

MEMBER TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

This issue mailed Wed., Dec. 7, 2005

Texas trees in top shape

by Wesley Utley CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co. The state's Christmas tree crop was not significantly impacted by drought conditions this year. Large trees, like those sold to consumers, are not affected by drought, and most growers irrigated the smaller trees. However, some seedlings were lost.

Moisture early in the year aided the crop's overall success. Christmas tree sales are expected to be good this year due to great crop conditions. Many trees were produced in the popular 6-to-8 foot range.

The state annually produces 200,000 trees on 2,500 acres. This infuses the economy with a \$12million boost each year.

A: The Atlantic Ocean, Nielsen-Gammon says, is scientifically proven to be warmer than normal.

"Large areas of the Atlantic are at least one degree warmer than in years past, and this goes back to 1995," he points out.

"So we have had a decade of warmer water there, and that's where hurricanes form. The long-range outlook tells us that this warming trend could continue another 5 to 20 years. Since warmer water means stronger storms and hurricanes, it means that 2006 could be another very active hurricane season. There were three hurricanes in 2005 that reached category 5 status-the strongest level-and that could happen again in 2006."

December 9, 1905

J.L. Barrow and family arrived from Cooke County and have settled on the farm in the Pinkerton community purchased from W.L. Curd

C.L. Travis was on a prospecting tour and upon his return stated he purchased land here paying \$2 per acre more than his place he just sold.

J.B. Ridling of the northeast part of the county was in town and stated many farmers in that part of county are making two-thirds of a bale of cotton to the acre.

County Surveyor H.M. Rike returned from Jones County where he has been engaged in some special surveying work.

J.A. Alexander, who lives west of town, stated he has 90 acres of cotton and he has out 9 bales and thinks he will get 50 more if he can get pickers.

Jetty V. Clare of Haskell bagged a wild boar believed to be the largest ever known killed in this area, with its height at the shoulders about 32 ins. and weighing about 325-350 lbs.

To find out if State Farm ever took ownership of your vehicle due to a total loss auto insurance claim, call 1-866-858-1142.

If you believe you have purchased or were offered a flood-damaged vehicle that was not properly marked, I encourage you to file a complaint with my office. Include the vehicle identification number. You can file a complaint by calling the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 621-0508, or by visiting our website at www.oag.state.tx.us.

6

AN IDEA MAKING 'CENTS'-Haskell Elementary students, Cole Casey, left, and Meagan Gonzalez, back, read to younger children, I-r, Vanessa Trussell and Allie Andress, to help them understand the importance of helping others in their community. After reading "An Idea That Makes Cents," Haskell Elementary intermediate students planned and implemented a "Penny Harvest" to raise money for a non-profit local organization. The study was done through a K-12 SCP School Community Partnership Grant.

McKnight joins young farmers group

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has announced the appointment of 20 members to the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.

"During the many USDA Farm Bill Forums held this year, I've heard from countless people who share my concern over the need to develop opportunities for new agricultural producers," said Johanns. "Beginning farmers and ranchers are the future of this nation. I'm confident these committee members will help me find new ways to achieve prosperity for our next generation of farmers and ranchers."

The committee identifies ways to increase participation between federal and state programs to provide joint financing for beginning producers. Members also suggest other creative methods for new agricultural opportunities that will help beginning farmers and ranchers. The Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 required the formation of the committee. Members serve for two years and meet at least once a year. Meetings are open to the public.

The committee members are: •Javannah Hill-Moore of Ridgeland, Miss., an FSA outreach specialist in Mississippi.

•Ray Ellenberger of Belleville, Wisconsin. Ellenberger is FSA's farm loan chief in Wisconsin and a member of several groups that assist beginning farmers.

•Marian Beethe of Tecumseh, Nebraska, who heads a beginning farmer program for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

·Jeffrey Ward of Windsor Heights, Iowa, executive director of the Iowa Agricultural Development Authority and the president of the National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs.

•Terry Barta of Smith Center, Kansas, an employee of Smith County State Bank and Trust Company, who provides agricultural lending and farm management services in their trust division.

•Todd Lang of Strasburg, North Dakota Lang, president of Strasburg State Bank.

•Traci Bruckner of Osmond, Nebraska, Bruckner assists in directing policy at the Center for Rural Affairs and also works in farming.

Twohig of Catherine Montevideo, Minnesota, director of the Farm Beginnings Program at the

Florida A&M University. •Mary Peabody of Burlington,

Vermont, an associate professor at the University of Vermont Extension and director of the Women's Agricultural Network

•Janie Hipp of Fayetteville, Arkansas, an associate professor of agricultural law at the University of Arkansas. •Richard Cates, Jr. of Spring

Green, Wisconsin, who directs a school for beginning dairy farmers at the University of Wisconsin. •John Hays of Alexandria,

Virginia, vice president of policy analysis and development of the Farm Credit Council, an organization that works to enhance the competitive environment of the Farm Credit System.

•Omar Garza of Santa Elena, Texas, who works for the University of Texas Pan American and helps Hispanic agricultural producers obtain access to USDA programs. •Linda Prentiss of Camp Nelson, California, who owns and operates a

cattle ranch. •Trenton McKnight of

Throckmorton, Texas, a rancher and banker. •Marion Bowlan of Manheim,

Pennsylvania. Bowlan is the executive director of Pennsylvania Farm Link, a nonprofit organization working to create farming opportunities for next generation producers. She also owns and operates a farm.

•Maria Moreira of Lancaster, Massachusetts, a dairy farmer and cheese maker. She's been mentoring beginning farmers for 21 years.

•Timothy Harlow of Mylo, North Dakota, an outreach liaison for the National Tribal Development Association, an organization that promotes economic opportunities for American Indians. He also operates a fruit and vegetable farm.

•Lisa Koester of Wadesville, Indiana, part owner of Koester Bros. Farms, Inc., and is a member of the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Committee.

All members have experience in agriculture. The law requires committee members to include representatives from the following groups: state beginning farmer programs; educational institutions: lending institutions: nonprofit organizations; USDA's Farm Service Agency; USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension

Holiday fire safety plan urged by Red Cross

Last year, the American Red Cross office in Abilene responded to more than 20 house fires between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day. More than 70 people were displaced as a result of these fires, but the Red Cross was there to provide food, clothing and safe shelter. The Big Country area is urged to take precautions this year as the 2005 season is already off to a grueling start.

Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 1,300 people for injuries related to holiday lights and 6,200 people for injuries related to holiday decorations and Christmas trees. In addition, Christmas trees are involved in about 400 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 80 injuries and an average of more than \$15 million in property loss and damage each year. Below are suggestions on how to safeguard your family from fire over the holidays.

Candles are nice addition to any holiday celebration; however festivities can be cut short if candles are used improperly. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), December is the leading month for home candle fires, with twice the average number of incidents. The American Red Cross offers these candle safety tips:

*Secure candles in a sturdy holder on a flat surface that won't tip over.

*Make sure the holder is big enough to collect the dripping wax. *Keep lit candles well away from Christmas trees and other decorations.

*Don't place candles in windows where blinds or curtains can close over them.

*Do not leave a burning candle unattended.

*If you experience a power outage, use flashlights and other battery generated light sources.

*Do not carry a lit candle or use a lit candle to look for things in a closed or confined area.

*Place candles out of reach of children, and in a position where pets won't be able to knock them over. *Do not use a candle for light when fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern, as flame may ignite the vapors.

On average, more than one-third of home fire deaths in the United States occur during the winter months. Heating equipment fires are the second leading causes of fire deaths in American homes and the biggest fire culprit December through January. Here are some specific fire prevention tips to keep in mind when heating your home.

*Keep portable heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn

including furniture, bedding, clothing, pets and people. *Do not leave space heaters on

when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep.

*Do not use gasoline or other substitute fuel in a kerosene heater because the wrong fuel could burn hotter than the design limits of the equipment and cause a serous fire. *Store kerosene away from heat

or open flame in a container approved by the local fire department.

*Have your chimney inspected by a professional before the start of the heating season and cleaned if necessary.

*Use a sturdy fireplace screen when burning fires.

*Burn only wood. Never burn paper or pine bough, which can float out the chimney and ignite your roof or a neighboring home.

Christmas trees are directly responsible for around 40 fatalities every year. Follow these safety tips while decorating your home for the holidays:

*If using a live Christmas tree, keep it watered daily. *Never put a lit candle on a

Christmas tree. *Make sure your Christmas tree

is far away from any source of ignition such as a space heater or candle.

*When putting holiday lights on the tree, follow the instructions recommended by Ul Laboratories. Overloaded circuits are the cause of many home fires during the holiday season.

Home fires often start in the kitchen. With more people in the home due to holiday parties and family gatherings, it is important to follow these precautions to avoid a holiday fire:

*Never leave the kitchen area while cooking.

*Keep plenty of oven mitts on hand.

*Have a working fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.

*Keep children and pets away from the cooking areas. Falling pots can burn children.

The early warning signal of smoke detector can save lives. Be sure to install a battery powered smoke detector outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home. Use the test button to check each smoke detector once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. The Red Cross recommends you replace batteries at least once a year. Make a fire escape plan for your family and have a family meeting place outside your home. For free information visit the at

Red Cross web site www.redcross.org.



The HASKELL FREE PRESS-Thursday, December 8, 2005-Page 5



LEARNING THAT COUNTS-Rochester Jr. High Spanish student, Lonnie Alvarez, right, enjoys teaching Head Start student, Abraham Gonzalez, how to count to 10 in Spanish, during one of the K-12 SCP School Community Partnership programs that help create a richer learning environment between Haskell CISD campuses.

Tough winter ahead for cattle producers

by Wesley Utley CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co.

Cattle producers can expect to spend extra money to feed their breeding stock through winter, especially if dry weather continues. Much of the lower Gulf Coast and Southwestern and eastern regions are still facing severe drought conditions.

Hay is extremely hard to find, and available hay has been stored since last year, so nutrition content is low.

Producers are feeding range cubes, range meal, and liquid feed to livestock as sources of energy and protein.

Water levels in stock tanks are very low, and water that is available is often contaminated by bacteria, coliform, and mineralization.









Land Stewardship Project.

Florida, an extension veterinarian at ranchers.

Service; and other entities providing •Ray Mobley of Tallahassee, assistance to beginning farmers and

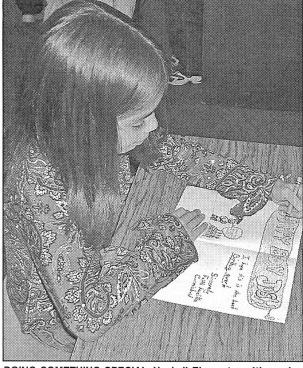


See the schedule at www.vernoncollege.edu



Prepare for the future today with help from one of our personal bankers. Come in and discuss the advantages of certificates of deposit, IRAs, and checking and money market accounts. We'll help you keep your financial matters in check.





DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL-Haskell Elementary 4th grader, Lucy Carmichael, makes a beautiful birthday card for Haskell native, Josh New, who is serving overseas with the military. Wanting to remember those serving in the military, the class made crafts for his birthday, Thanksgiving and Christmas and also sent snacks to his trained dog. The son of Mike and Teresa New of Haskell, Josh is married to J.J. Comedy New of Abilene. The K-12 SCP School Community Partnerships teaches students they can make a big difference in someone's life.

Commissioners' Court report

The Haskell County Commissioners' Court convened in a special session, Nov. 22.

Commissioner Kenny Thompson voiced appreciation to Duane Gilly, Leonard Brown and Don Wallace for their assistance in cleaning up debris at The Anchor store. He also expressed appreciation to the class from the Rule School for their assistance in cleaning up the Pinkerton Cemetery.

A discussion was held on setting the truck speed limit on CR 174 from FM 617 West and North to FM 2279 (approximately 4 miles), or from FM 2279 South and East to FM 617 (approximately 4 miles).

A motion to do time warrants for was set for Precinct 3, with \$25,000 being building.

County credited to FML and \$25,000 being credited to Road and Bridge, was approved. Thompson A motion was approved to pass a

A motion was approved to pass a resolution to add optional workers compensation coverage.

The court voted to advertise for bids to sell a 1998 770CH John Deere motor grader, and also to advertise for bids on the purchase of a new motor grader for Precinct 1.

The court approved the bid for sale of two lots in Rochester by the Appraisal District to Ray and Betty White.

A decision by the court was approved to rebuild The Anchor building. A tentative date of Dec. 1 was set for the start of repairs to the building.

Area basketball scores

Girls Rule 38, Roby 37 Scoring for Rule: Smith 20, Lisle 7, Ke. Sheets 4, Ky. Sheets 3, Lehrmann 2, Brannan 2. JV score: Roby 41, Rule 38

Stamford 65, Haskell 42 Scoring for Haskell: McKnight 19, Tribbey 6, Newton 6, Rodriquez 4, Medford 2, Pannell 2, Chavez 1. JV score: Haskell def. Stamford

ACHS 43, Rule 42 Scoring for Rule: Smith 18, Ke. Sheets 8, Lisle 8, Ky. Sheets 4, Gary 2, Lehrmann 2.

Paint Creek 12, Woodson 53 Scoring for Paint Creek: McCord 3, Blair 3, Wolsch 2, Hope 2, Barr 2. Brown 14, Pace 10, Simpson 8, Dudensing 4.

***PaintWoodson TournamentScoringRule 61, Lueders-Avoca 2416, BryantScoring for Rule: Smith 14 Ky.Rogers 4.Sheets 14, Ke. Sheets 14, Brannan11, Murray 2, Lisle 4, Lehrmann 2.

McCord 11, Daniel 8, Barr 8. *** All Tournament Keli Smith, Rule Boys

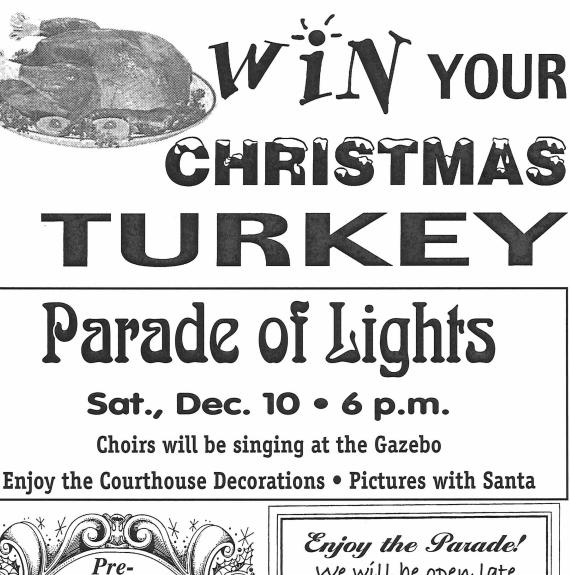
Scoring for Paint Creek: Hope 12,

Haskell 66, Stamford 53 Scoring for Haskell: McCulloch 27, Rutkowski 11, Chavez 11, Lara 9, Adams 4, Guzman 2, Castillo 2. JV score: Haskell 49, Stamford 44 ***

Woodson 60, Paint Creek 35 Scoring for Paint Creek: Bryant 13, Brown 12, Cisneros 8, Myers 2. ***

Woodson Tournament Albany 65, Rule 56 Scoring for Rule: Spitzer 20, Brown 14, Pace 10, Simpson 8, Dudensing 4. Paint Creek 53, Gordon 52 Scoring for Paint Creek: Brown 16, Bryant 15, Cisneros 11, Myers 7,

> Third Place Rule 59, Paint Creek 25

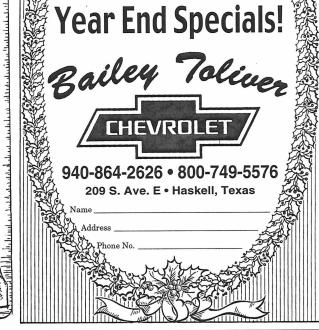




Sporting Good









- 1. Clip out the ads, fill in your name, address and telephone number.
- 2. Deposit each ad in the box at the business listed on the ad. (All entries deposited in the wrong box will be disqualified.)
- 3. Each store will award one FREE TURKEY you need not be present to win, no purchase is necessary.
- 4. Drawing will be held December 23, 2005, at noon.
- 5. Anyone over 16 years of age is eligible to enter (except employees at participating stores and this newspaper.)







LIGHTING UP THE LIBRARY–Rochester Library Aide, Janie Saucedo, left, and Haskell CISD 8th grader, Shambrie Rodriguez, decorate the Rochester campus library for Christmas.

November sales tax reported

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn has announced her unprecedented plan to help hard-hit local governments whose sales tax revenue has declined since Hurricane Rita stuck Southeast Texas Sept. 24.

"Cities, counties and other local government entities don't need a sudden drop in sales tax revenue making it harder to recover from Hurricane Rita," Strayhorn said. "Local governments can, if they wish, receive an additional sales tax allocation in November and December to make up the difference between their November and December 2005 sales tax allocations and the amount they received last November and December.

"As a former mayor, I know firsthand how much local governments rely on a predictable flow of sales tax revenue to pay for routine services like law enforcement, fire protection, healthcare, trash pickup and street maintenance," Strayhorn said. "I am offering local governments an option to help them with short-term fiscal problems until homeowners and businesses repair, replace and rebuild what they have lost, and economic activity returns to normal."

Strayhorn said local taxing entities in 22 Texas counties that were declared disaster areas can, upon request, receive additional sales tax money in November and December, if their local sales tax revenue has declined compared to November and December of 2004. Strayhorn is offering to make local governments whole by ensuring that they receive the same amount of sales tax revenue in November and December of 2005 as they received last November and December. These additional local allocations will be made from the small retained balance in the Local Sales Tax Trust Fund. Local governments that choose to accept the offer will make repayment during 2006

Though sales tax revenue is up statewide, November sales tax allocations to 73 Southeast Texas cities, counties, special purpose districts and a transit system impacted by the hurricane are down \$2.3 million, or 4 percent, compared to November 2004. For 24 of the affected local entities, sales tax revenue is off by 20 percent to 73 percent. "Our Texas economy is strong and our overall sales tax revenue is healthy," Strayhorn said. "Money is When in Doubt, available to assist our Texas communities that took a hit from Hurricane Rita." Give a Gift Certificate! Don't make SANTA do all the work!! Bring your Christmas packages to Pack & Mail inside The Drug Store. Let our packing pros pack and ship your packages by UPS. Pack & Mail also has postage stamps for your Christmas cards.

Strayhorn reported that state sales tax collections rose to \$1.36 billion in October, up 5.9 percent, compared to October 2004. The Comptroller sent \$451.4 million in November sales tax allocations to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing district, up 8 percent compared to last November.

Texas cities received \$310.9 million in sales tax allocations, up 8.6 percent compared to November 2004. Texas counties received November sales tax allocations of \$25.1 million, up 5.6 percent compared to one year ago.

October sales tax collections and November sales tax allocations to local governments represent September sales reported to the Comptroller in October by monthly tax filers and July, August and September sales reported in October by quarterly tax filers.

Haskell County had a 8.67 percent increase for August 2005 of \$39,243.57 in comparison to \$36,112.38 for November 2004. 2005 payments to date of \$364,278.32 reflect a 9.7 percent increase over 2004 payments to date of \$332,050.18.

The City of Haskell had a 9.14 percent increase for November 2005 of \$35,417.40 in comparison to \$32,450.64 for November 2004. 2005 payments to date of \$337,283.89 reflect a 10.09 percent increase over 2004 payments to date of \$306,366.38.

The City of O'Brien had a 120.22 percent increase for November 2005 of \$74.06 in comparison to \$33.63 for November 2004. 2005 payments to date of \$548.98 reflect a 33.12 percent decrease over 2004 payments to date of \$820.94.

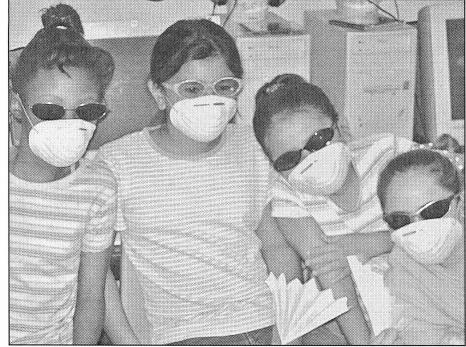
The City of Rochester had a 7.5 percent decrease for November 2005 of \$963.39 in comparison to \$1,041.53 for November 2004. 2005 payments to date of \$7,370.24 reflect a 4.34 percent decrease over 2004 payments to date of \$7,705.35.

The City of Rule had a 4.50 percent decrease for November 2005 of \$2,304.31 in comparison to \$2,413.14 for November 2004. 2005 payments to date of \$16,457.07 reflect a 3.99 percent increase over 2004 payments to date of \$15,825.42.

The City of Weinert had a 179.29

percent increase for November 2005 of \$484.41 in comparison to \$173.44 for November 2004. 2005 payments to date of \$2,618.14 reflect a 96.54 percent increase over 2004 payments to date of \$1,332.09.





SIMULATED SPACE TRAVEL-These space travelers I-r, April Brown, Jamaica Castorena, Baleigh Lopez and Emily Fouts and fellow Haskell fourth graders took a virtual field trip with Planetary Patty from Indiana through space to visit the sun and its nine satellites. The young astronauts packed sunglasses, a cooling device (fan) and a gas mask. Their solar system trip was made from the Haskell Elementary Computer Lab.

Haskell School Menu

Dec. 5-9 Breakfast Juice and milk are served daily on the breakfast menu. Monday: Breakfast bagel Tuesday: Powdered donut Wednesday: Cereal, Teddy grahams Thursday: Pig in a blanket Friday: Sausage/biscuit 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 cheese and ham.

Monday: Steak fingers, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, hot roll, peaches

Tuesday: Tacos, cheese, garden salad, pinto beans, Spanish rice, orange wedges

Wednesday: Turkey, dressing, gravy, green beans, candied sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, bread, fruit salad

Thursday: Pepperoni pizza, Ramen noodle slaw, corn, cherry shape-up Friday: Ham, cheese sandwich, lettuce, tomato, pickle, assorted chips, cookie





The word 'help' is one of the most versatile have been attending the services regularly, you ones in our language. It can mean something as will be filled with a natural desire to do whatever little as holding a door open for someone, or as much as offering your services as a full-time volunteer to help the poor. Your local painting the stripes in the parking lot or community is full of people and organizations performing some other needed job. You depend in need of your assistance, and this list includes on the Lord for many things; show Him that He your house of worship. When you think of all can depend on you to be there when you are the blessings you have received there if you needed.

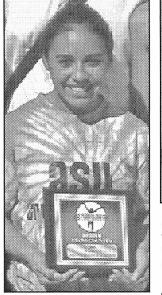
you can in return. This might involve making phone calls, typing the bulletin, baking cookies,

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

-HASKELL-East Side Baptist Church Danny Manross, pastor Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m. 600 N. 1st East, Haskell **Christian Church** Dusty Garison, 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 Dan Kinjorski, pastor 864-3465 Sun. 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. East Hwy 380, Haskell Trinity Lutheran Church Ron Rennegarbe, pastor Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 Hwy 380 East, Haskell Iglesia Bautista El Calvario Art Flores, Interim pastor Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m. 607 S. 7th, Haskell First United Methodist Church Rev. Daniel Echols, 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 Jim Yates, minister Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m. 510 N. Ave. E, Haskell First Presbyterian Church Kelly Pigott, interim pastor Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m. 306 N. Ave. E, Haskell **Trinity Baptist Church** Tony Grand, pastor Sun. Morn. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6 :30 p. 114 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

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** Greg Gasaway, 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 Fellowship Baptist Church Dr. Larry Nail, pastor Sun. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. 1600 N. First St., Haskell Cross of Christ Fellowship Joe and Loretta Stulir, pastors 864-5404 Sun. 10:30 a.m. 455 CR 410, 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 Wilis, minister Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m. West on Main Street, Rocheste First Baptist Church Jim Davis, pastor Sun. 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:00 p.m. 500 Main, Rochester Union Chapel Baptist Church Clovis Dever Sun. Morn. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m. Rochester Faith Chapel of Rochester

First United Methodist Church Rev. Daniel Echols, pastor Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Rochester -SAGERTON-Sagerton Methodist Church Terry O'Rear, pastor Sun. Morn. 9:45 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 Terry O'Rear, pastor Sun. Morn. Worship 8:30 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.11 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 5 p.m. Gladstone Ave., Rule West Bethal Baptist Church Rev. Robert Sweet Paint Creek Baptist Church Sun. Morn. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m. Paint Creek -O'BRIEN-



MELINA GARCIA Garcia runs for ASU

Angelo State University student, Melina Garcia, a graduate of Rochester CLISD, was a member of the running team that took 3rd place at the Lone Star Conference Championship held in Weatherford, Oklahoma, Oct. 22. At the contest she placed 6th out of 94 girls, with a time of 23:15.6 in the 6K (about 3.7 miles). She received the 2005 LSC Cross Country All-Conference Award, which is given to only 10 girls.

Garcia, who walked on to the college team, worked her way to the number one spot and was voted Freshman of the Year (she is a senior, but was red-shirted last year, so this is considered her first year of competition).

At the NCAA Division 11 South Central Regional Meet, Nov. 5 in Abilene, Angelo State University took 4th place out of 21 teams competing. Out of 127 girls competing, Garcia placed 5th with a time of 23:06.95 in the 6K, which automatically qualified her to run at the Nationals. She was one of 15 girls to receive All-Regional recognition.

The 2005 NCAA National Championships were held Nov. 19 in Pomona, California, hosted by the California State Polytechnic University. Garcia would be one of 187 girls from across the nation competing in cross country.

The former Rochester student is a true example of someone from a small town, who through hard work, discipline and a never-give-up attitude, has made her dreams come true.



CAYLA HENTHORNE **Students visit Rotary Club**

Cayla Henthorne is the daughter of Tammy and Jimmy Henthorne of Stamford.

She attends Central Baptist Church of Stamford.

Her activities at Paint Creek High School include cross country. softball, cheerleader, basketball and FCCLA.

Special awards or recognitions she has received include being named to the National Honor Society and Who's Who.

Among her favorite leisure time activities are reading, writing stories, watching movies and spending time with her family.

After finishing high school she plans to attend Howard College and become a dental hygienist.

Cattle Market Report

The market at the Haskell Livestock Auction was on a run of 347 head of cattle at its sale on Sat., Dec. 3, according to Gary Tate, reporter. 72 sellers and 41 buyers were present.

Packers steady \$1 lower. Feeders \$1-2 higher. Stockers steady. Stockers cows \$5-20 lower.

Cows: fat, .38-.46; cutters, .42-.51; canners, .32-.43.

Bulls: bologna, .58-.67; feeders, .80-.97; utility .54-.65.

Steers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.35-1.80; 300-400 lbs., 1.28-1.55; 400-500 lbs., 1.20-1.34; 500-600 lbs., 1.12-1.26; 600-700 lbs., 1.10-1.21; 700-800 lbs., 1.02-1.14; 800 lbs. and up, .90-

Heifers: medium and large frame No. 1 200-300 lbs., 1.30-1.60; 300-400 lbs., 1.20-1.34; 400-500 lbs., 1.10-1.25; 500-600 lbs., 1.00-1.15; 600 lbs. and up, .75-1.10.

Bred heifers medium frame, 675-900.

Bred cows young to middle aged 850-1075; aged or small, 575-780. Cows with calves: medium frame

No. 1 young and middle aged, 900-1275; aged or small, 750-985.

Paint Creek School Menu

Dec. 12-16 Breakfast Juice and milk are served daily. Monday: Biscuits and gravy Tuesday: Pancakes Wednesday: Cereal or toast Thursday: Pancakes Friday: Cereal or toast Lunch Milk is served daily.

Monday: Mac and cheese with ham, peas, salad, rolls, applesauce cake Tuesday: BBQ on bun, tator tots, pickles, salad, jello with fruit.

Wednesday: Frito chili pie, corn, salad, chocolate cake Thursday: Beef stew, salad, cornbread, peach cobbler Friday: Cook's choice



Buying a horse?

Planning to put a horse, donkey, mule or other domestic equine animal under the tree this year? Make certain you buy, trade for or are given an animal that has been tested negative for equine infectious anemia (EIA).

Texas law requires that equine animals eight months of age or older have a negative blood test for EIA, an incurable viral disease, within 12 months prior to a change of ownership. (Nursing foals, transferred with their tested dams, are exempt from the test.) The EIA test document, also known as a VS 10-11, is sufficient proof of testing.

EIA can cause equine animals to develop severe anemia. Although some infected animals exhibit no obvious clinical signs, others may become depressed, exhausted, lose weight, or be unable to exercise or work. In acute cases, the animal will die.

No EIA vaccine is approved in the U.S., so animals must be protected from exposure to the virus. The

disease is spread through blood-toblood contact, an event that can occur when biting flies feed on an infected equine animal, then move to a nearby "clean" horse. Blood transfusions or reusing contaminated needles or veterinary medical instruments also can mechanically carry the virus from infected to clean animals.

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency, requires EIApositive equine animals to be euthanized, provided to a research facility, sold only for slaughter, or maintained under quarantine for life. at least 200 yards from other horses. Increased testing, movement controls for infected equine animals, and greater disease awareness has helped control EIA in Texas. In 1997, 750 EIA-infected animals were detected in the state; in 2005, as of early December, about 40 EIA infected equine animals had been detected.



Courthouse. EOE.

bedroom, 1 bath. 1208 N. 11th. Owner/broker. 864-2238. 45tfc

I'M MAD at banks who don't give house loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland

FOR SALE: Remodeled, brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, water well, large lot. 1203 N. Ave. L. Call Jolanda, 864-2604. 49tfc

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.





Chan Guess Haskell 940-864-2665

P.S. Appointments to fit your schedule



Yersonal Financial Representatives through Allstate Financial Services offered by Broker-Dealer. Member NASD, SIPC. Main Office: 2920 South 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, 877-55727, © 2004 Allstate Insurance Commony.



donuts, sweet rolls, cookies breads, breakfast items and special orders. **Building and equipment** included.

106 N. FIRST ST. EAST. Eight lots on the southeast corner of Hwy. 277 and Hwy. 380 bypass. Property has

all utilities available. New bypass will have access to Hwy, 380 at this corner. Great location for business.

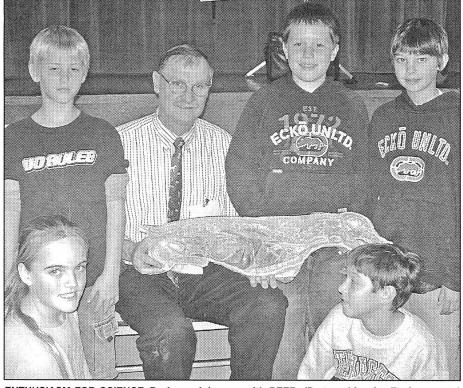
Come by Rike Real Estate for a complete list.

people from all over the area clamoring to take your unwanted items off your hands for a handsome profit. Quickly and easily. And for a very small investment. So what are you waiting for? Call now!



P. O. Box 555 420 N. First Street Haskell, Texas 79521

Serving Haskell County for over 100 years



ENTHUSIASM FOR SCIENCE-Dr. Larry Johnson, with PEER, (Partnerships for Environmental Education and Rural Health) from Texas A & M University, recently visited Haskell Elementary, Rochester Junior High and other county schools to conduct demonstrations and experiments on environmental health topics, and to increase student enthusiasm for science. He holds Shorty, the dog, one of the specimens used by the college of veterinary to demonstrate the respiratory systems of humans and animals and the effects that smoking has on the organs. Students listening, oohing, aahing and gagging over Shorty and other such specimens are, bottom, I-r, Maci Colley and Matthew Booe, and top, Trevor Reese, Drake Everett and Cannon Edwards.

Burn ban

continued from page 1 Firefighters blame a propane popgun, of the type used to scare off crows, for igniting a blaze on which a Lee County firefighter received burns on his hands, arms and face.

Local fire departments battled numerous other blazes during the period, according to the Texas Forest Service, but accurate totals on fire numbers and acreage burned weren't readily available. Many of the wildfires across the state resulted from escaped debris burning, according to TFS regional fire coordinators.

Winds fanned fires out of control

through already fire-prone, freezedried grasses and weeds in north and north central Texas. Only southeast Texas counties have received significant precipitation, said Spencer.

Strict compliance with bans on outdoor burning and postponement of campfires and household trash and brush pile burning during dry, windy conditions strongly are recommended, says Gary Bennett, chief law enforcement officer with the Texas Forest Service.

Violation of an outdoor burning ban is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a possible fine of up

to \$500, said Bennett, He also indicated that a burn ban doesn't have to be in effect for a person to be charged with a burning violation.

"Carelessly allowing your fire to escape and burn onto a neighbor's property is also a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$500, and arson is a felony offense," stated Bennett, "Arson is punishable by a prison term from two to 99 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Using proper outdoor fire safety practices can prevent unwelcome surprises like wildfires, senseless destruction and criminal violations.

Gov. orders response to wildfires

Responding to the outbreak of wildfires across the state, Gov. Rick Perry has deployed fire fighters. airpower and heavy equipment to affected areas and directed the Governor's Division of Emergency Management and the Texas Forest Service to coordinate fire suppression activities to meet this threat.

"I urge all Texans to use extreme care in outdoor activities, to be aware of burn bans in their counties, and to take precautions to protect their homes and property," Perry said. "Texans living in rural communities or in suburbs bordering rural areas should remain alert to the threat of wildfires."

Texas Forest Service fire fighters have responded to 74 fires burning across more than 17,000 acres since Nov. 23. Of those, 10 are large fires affecting nearly 11,000 acres.

Wildfires have raged in Eastland, Montague, Parker, Wichita, Wilbarger and Wise counties.

The governor has authorized deployment of the following resources:

•Three UH 60 Blackhawk helicopters and one CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the Texas Army National Guard.

•129 personnel from the Texas Forest Service

The Haskell County Choir presents

the Christmas musical

•Heavy equipment from the Texas Department of Transportation.

In addition, the governor has requested two air tactical fixed wing aircraft, two medium helicopters and two single engine air tankers from the U.S. Forest Service to assist in the state's coordinated fire response.

Persistent drought conditions since spring have left many counties vulnerable to fire. Burn bans-which are prohibitions against all outdoor burning-have been instituted in 120 counties including Haskell County. High winds, warm temperatures and unseasonably dry weather have caused severe wild fire danger in Northeast, North and Central Texas

Calendar

Memory tree

A memory tree has been

Stamford Memorial Hospital to

may be mailed to Stamford

Texas 79533. For more

represent your donation. Donations

Memorial Hospital Home Health

Hospice, P.O. Box 911, Stamford,

information, call 325-773-2725.

is collecting monetary donations

for local flood relief. Donations

may be made to P.O. Box 441,

Haskell, Texas 79521. 100% of

Storm sirens

these donations will go directly to help the local flood victims.

The City of Haskell will test the

storm sirens at noon on Fridays.

The Haskell Ministerial Alliance

Flood donations

Decorating contest The Rule Chamber of

Commerce is sponsoring the Home and Yard Lighting Contest. Prizes will be \$50 for first place; \$35 for second; and \$25 for third. Call City Hall at 996-2214 and enter by Fri., Dec. 9. Judging will be Mon., Dec. 12.

Angel tree

The Community Choir will sponsor an Angel Christmas Tree Sat., Dec. 17 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Hopewell Baptist Church, 908 N. Ave. A, in Haskell. Toys will be collected and donated to needs children in the community. New unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the church from Dec. 9-16 each day from 12 noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call Mary Johnson, choir president, at 940-864-5473.

Immunizations The Texas Dept. of Health in

Stamford will hold an immunization clinic Thurs., Dec. 15 at the Haskell National Bank Community Building in Haskell. Clinic times are from 2 to 4 p.m. Flue shots will be available for children 6 months through 35 months of age. No adult flu vaccine is available. For more information call 325-773-5681.

Story time

Story time will be held at the Haskell Co. Library each Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs, activities, crafts and story telling by Paula Rennegarbe will be featured for children.

Gin Report

Dec. 5, 2005 Haskell .2,500 Haskell County Gin ... Haskell Co-op Gin 6.343 **O'Brien** O'Brien Co-op Gin 13,349 Rule Rule Co-op Gin3.868 Sagerton Gin . . N/A Weinert Griff's Gin3.362 Weinert Gin 4.830 Total bales 34.252



Saturday only **40% OFF ANY ONE ITEM** Holiday Bonus thru December: Gift Packaging Complimentary Gift Certificates Holiday Gift Guide: Award Winning Jardine's Texas Foods: Salsas,

Relishes, Appetizers, Seasonings, Bar-B-Oue Sauces. **Good Times Specialty Coffee:** New Holiday Flavors J. Henckles Cutlery







A distinctive "rotten egg" odor added to make odorless natural gas detectable



An unusual hissing, roaring or blowing sound near gas lines or appliances



Shop Haskell First



Sunday, December 11th 7:00 p.m. **First Baptist Church**

Everyone is invited to attend this special time of worship.

A nursery will be provided

Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants



The area immediately-do not smoke, use a cell phone. turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could cause sparks

Although natural gas leaks are rare, learn to recognize the signs. If you suspect a natural gas leak, play it safe: call Atmos Energy at 1-800-817-8090 from a safe distance.



If you suspect a natural gas leak, call 1-800-817-8090. For more information on gas safety, visit atmosenergy.com.