

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. to 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 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.

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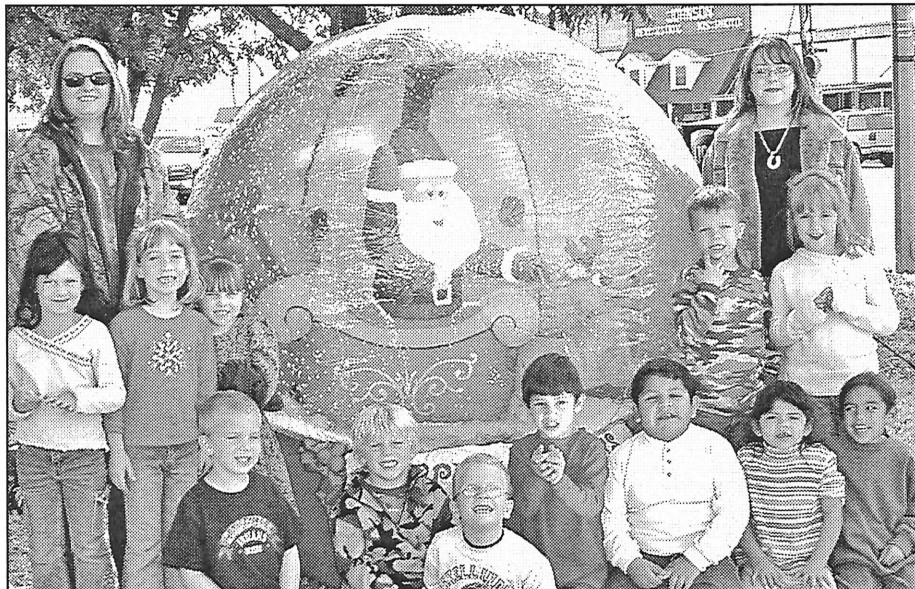
Light of Christmas Parade Sat. 6 p.m.

The Haskell Free Press

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, l-r, Dakota Hearn, Reed Roewe, Wyatt 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.

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 five-day 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.

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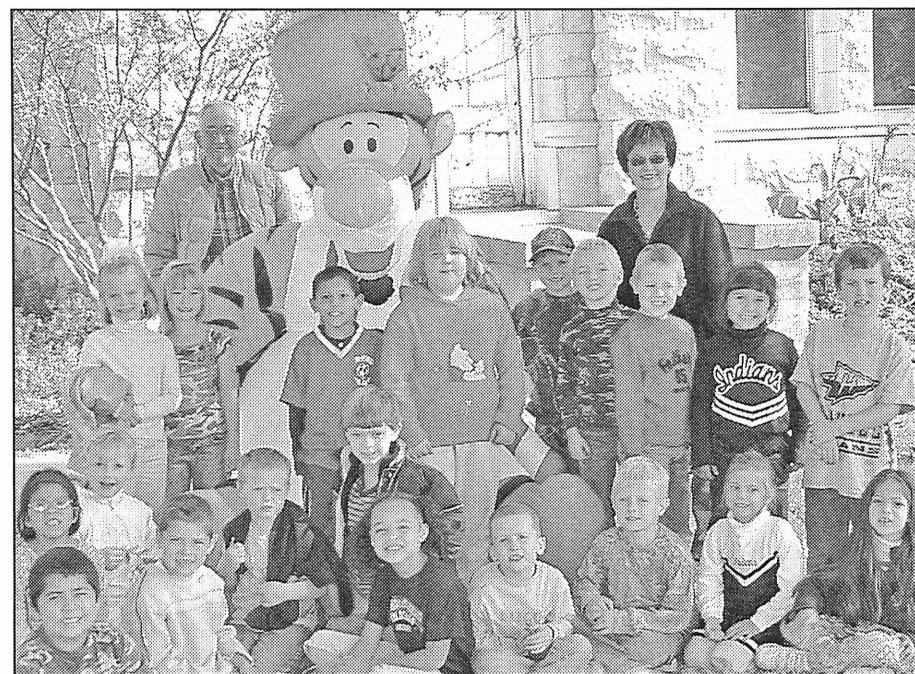
Santa letters due today

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.

First St. or mailed to Santa Claus at P.O. Box 555, Haskell, Texas 79521.

Deadline for having your letter printed in the newspaper is 5 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 8. All letters received by that time will be printed in the Dec. 22 issue.



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, l-r, Kylei Stewart, Cequin McIlwain, 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 Rodriguez, Zander Garcia, Makayla Hardeman, Crow Parham, Jayton Smith, Sarah Fouts and Jocabed Gonzalez. Standing back on the left, Bob Smith and right, Mrs. Lisle.

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 Rodriguez, 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.



FUN WITH SANTA—Spending an afternoon with the courthouse decorations were members of Susan Cox's class, Haskell Elementary students, l-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 Goodfellows Christmas program will help the approximately 51 families most devastated by the Lake 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

555, Haskell, Texas, 79521.

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

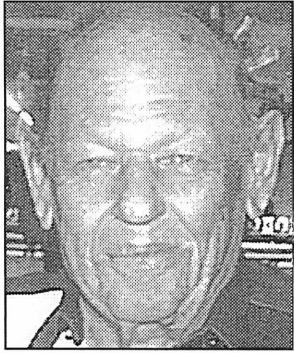
The Haskell Goodfellows are accepting donations for approximately 51 families most devastated by the Lake Stamford flood disaster. Donations of new space heaters, new small appliances, food or cash will help with this project. Cash donations may be sent to The Haskell Free Press, P.O. Box 555, Haskell, 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 Travis 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

life, he had been on dialysis the past 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 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

Eddie J. Sanders

Funeral services for Eddie J. Sanders, 91, of Weinert 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

was the last elected public weigher of Weinert. He 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 safe

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, each year roughly 156,000 fires occur during the holiday season claiming nearly 630 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

by following some simple safety 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.

•Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.

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

•Extension cords should only be 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.

In the event an electric shock occurs, follow these emergency safety tips:

•Do not touch the victim if they are still in contact with the electrical source.

•Sever the power at the fuse or breaker level, if possible.

•If someone is still attached to the 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 medical aid.

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



SENIOR SKILLS TEAM—Holding the banner they won for taking 3rd place in the State LDE contest held in Huntsville, Dec. 3, are the Haskell FFA Senior Skills team members, I-r, advisor Kenny Cockerell, and students, Teddye Harris, Kellye Tidrow and Stephanie Grand.



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.

Haskell FFA 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 Bartley, district participant.

Ag Issues: Amber Bingham, Brittany Garison, Ashley Foster,

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

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.

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 serving 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.

•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.

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

Cooks should also experiment with sugar substitute Splenda, a no-calorie 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.

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* 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.

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

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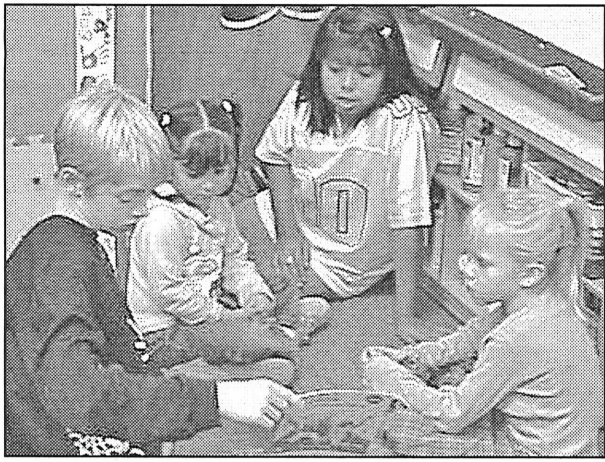
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AN IDEA MAKING 'CENTS'—Haskell Elementary students, Cole Casey, left, and Meagan Gonzalez, back, read to younger children, I-r, Vanessa Trussell and Allie Adress, to help them understand the importance of helping others in their community. After reading "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:

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 Service; and other entities providing assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers.

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 serious 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:

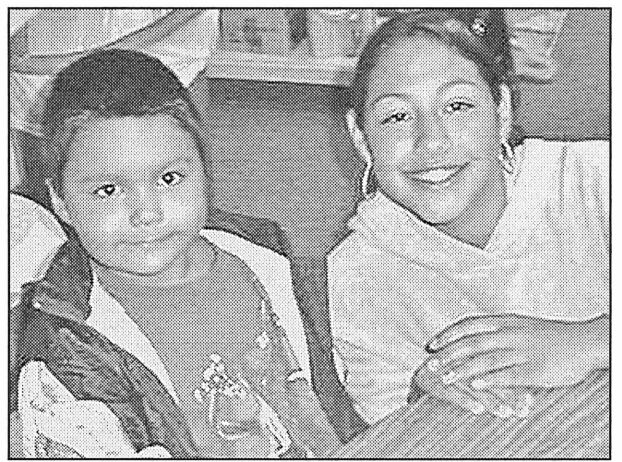
*Never leave the kitchen area while cooking.

*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 Red Cross web site at www.redcross.org.



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.

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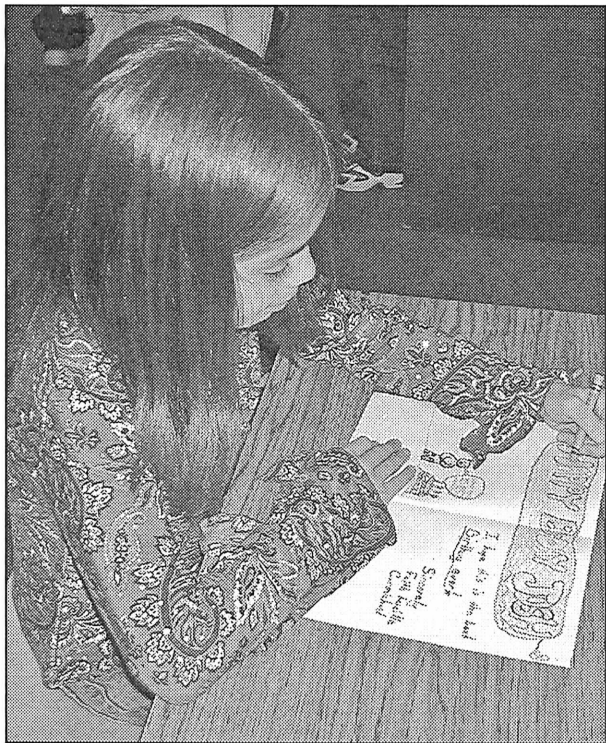
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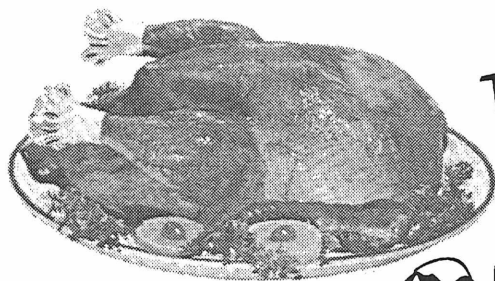
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940.696.8752 940.552.6291
Register for Spring I semester while registering for Spring or Spring I.
For more information on classes, see schedule on VC Web site.
Classes begin January 17
Register for Continuing Education classes at anytime.
See the 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.
Please ask us about our new Debit Cards!
First National Bank Haskell
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LUMBER
2" x 4" x 8' SPF #2 or better **\$279**
2" x 4" x 12' SPF #2 or better **\$439**
2"x4"x16' SPF #2 or better **\$649**
2"x6"x8' SPF #2 or better **\$464**
2"x6"x12' SPF #2 or better **\$699**
2"x6"x16' SPF #2 or better **\$949**
1"x4"x8' SPF #2 or better **\$259**
1"x6"x8' SPF #2 or better **\$489**
4'x8'x1/2" Drywall \$6⁵⁹ each
Sheetrock
4'x8'x1/2" 'Green' Moisture Resistant \$8⁹⁹ each
USG All Purpose Joint Compound 48# Box #382788 \$5⁹⁹ each
Railroad Ties #2 used \$8⁹⁴ each
Landscape Timber 8' \$3⁶⁹ each
Whiskey Barrel Planter \$17⁹⁹ each
Prices good 12/8/05-12/14/05 While Supply Lasts!
Richardson's
FARM • RANCH • HOME • AUTO
Hwy. 277 North • Haskell, Texas • Phone 940-864-8551
Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 to 5:30; Sat. 7:30 to 5



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.



WIN YOUR CHRISTMAS TURKEY

Parade of Lights

Sat., Dec. 10 • 6 p.m.

Choirs will be singing at the Gazebo

Enjoy the Courthouse Decorations • Pictures with Santa

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 Precinct 3, with \$25,000 being

credited to FML and \$25,000 being credited to Road and Bridge, was approved.

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

Boys

Stamford 65, Haskell 42

Scoring for Haskell: McKnight 19, Tribbey 6, Newton 6, Rodriguez 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.

Boys

Paint Creek 12, Woodson 53

Scoring for Paint Creek: McCord 3, Blair 3, Wolsch 2, Hope 2, Barr 2.

Boys

Woodson Tournament

Rule 61, Lueders-Avoca 24

Scoring for Rule: Smith 14, Ky. Sheets 14, Ke. Sheets 14, Brannan 11, Murray 2, Lisle 4, Lehrmann 2.

Gordon 61, Paint Creek 14

Scoring for Paint Creek: Blair 5, Hope 4, Daniel 2, Blair 2, McCord 1.

Rule 47, Gordon 44

Scoring for Rule: Smith 19, Ky. Sheets 10, Ke. Sheets 8, Lisle 7, Gary 1, Lehrmann 1.

Paint Creek 39, Lueders-Avoca 36

Scoring for Paint Creek: Hope 12, McCord 11, Daniel 8, Barr 8.

All Tournament

Keli Smith, Rule

Boys

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, Rogers 4.

Third Place

Rule 59, Paint Creek 25

Scoring for Rule: Pace 14, Brown 11, Spitzer 8, Flores 7, Dudensing 8, Simpson 7, Kittley 4.

Scoring for Paint Creek: Bryant 10, Brown 6, Cisneros 6, Rodgers 3.

All Tournament

J. Todd Spitzer, Rule

Tully Brown, Rule

Pre-Christmas Sale

20% off
Winter Coats & Jackets

30% to 50% off
Select Fall Clothes

1/2 Price Shoes
Select Group

We will be **OPEN** until 7 p.m. Sat.,
Dec. 10 for your shopping convenience!
Refreshments served.

Personality-Slipper Shoppe
940/864-2501 • 864-3051
South Side of Square • Haskell, Texas

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Enjoy the Parade!
We will be open late
Saturday night!
Aspen Mulling Spice and Coffee
will be simmering!

**Turritella Fossil Rock
Crosses and Angels**

20% off

Plush Toys 20% off

Name _____
Address _____
Phone No. _____

The Carousel Gift Shop
Erlinda Mayfield
Open M-F 10 to 5:30. Sat. 10 to 4
Shop with us through lunch!
Southside of the square in Haskell
864-2069

SHOP HERE for EVERY ONE!

Christmas Delights!

We at Sport-About strive to be your Best Sports Store in the Area. No matter if you are a spectator or participant we have the perfect Christmas Gift.

Footwear

- Walking Shoes
- Jogging Shoes
- Tennis Shoes
- Athletic Socks
- Redwing Boots

Sport Apparel

- Sweats-Multicolors
- Warm-ups - Jogging Suits
- Jackets
- Sweaters
- NFL Caps
- Head & Wrist Bands
- Children's Football uniforms
- Gift Certificates

Sporting Goods

- Footballs
- Basketballs
- Leg Weights
- Billiard Supplies
- Gym bags
- Back Paks
- Golf Supplies
- Hunting Supplies
- Guns
- Archery Sets
- Binoculars
- Camouflage
- Other**
- Telephones
- Pocket Knives
- BB Guns

Where Winners Shop

Sport-About of Haskell 940-864-3891
402 N. 1st

We accept Discover, VISA, AMEX, MasterCard

Name _____
Address _____
Phone No. _____

Come see our

HUGE

Year End Specials!

Bailey Toliver

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209 S. Ave. E • Haskell, Texas

Name _____
Address _____
Phone No. _____

This is National Tire Pressure Check Week

Come in and have your
Tire Pressure Checked

Free!

Haskell Tire & Appliance

206 S. Ave. E • 864-2900



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.)



STAR STOP
706 N. 1st • Haskell
864-2062

Hamburger Baskets
with fries or tots and
24 oz fountain drink
~OR~
**Steakfinger or
Chicken Strip
Baskets**
with fries, gravy, Texas toast,
and 24 oz fountain drink
\$1.00 off

Name _____
Address _____
Phone No. _____



Shop early
for best
selection!

Lowest Prices Ever on
**Front Load
Washers & Dryers!**
Haskell Tire & Appliance
206 S. Ave. E • 864-2900

Name _____
Address _____
Phone No. _____

Come in to receive your **FREE**
2006 CARDUI CALENDAR
and Ladies' Birthday Almanac

Give a Gift of Fragrance
Choose from our Large Selection of
Men's and Ladies'
Fragrances
including Gift Sets

Christmas Ornaments Buy one ornament at regular price, buy a second, of equal or lesser value for 1/2 Price	Neck and Shoulder Massager with Heat \$19⁹⁹
Counselor Bath Scale \$7⁹⁹	New Shipment of John Deere Toys

**Leather Rhinestone Belts
John Deere Gift Items
Coca Cola Gift Items**
25% off reg. price

Christmas Light Sets 1/2 price

Selected Boxed Christmas Cards \$3⁰⁰	Christmas Gift Bags or Wrapping Paper 25% off reg. price
----------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Name _____
Address _____
Phone No. _____

Prices good December 8, 9 & 10.
Discount taken off regular price. All Sales Cash and Final.
Limited to stock on hand. Some restrictions apply.

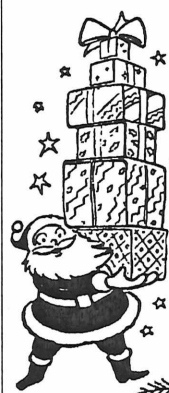
THE DRUG STORE
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*Open extended hours
on Saturdays through
December 17!*

Gift Boxes White or Printed. Package	99¢
Aspen Mulling Spice	\$2⁷⁹
Chocolate Covered Cherries 8 oz	99¢
Chocolate Covered Thin Mints 5 oz.	79¢
Kisses or Asst. Miniatures Hershey's 12-13 oz.	\$2⁵⁰

Give a delicious gift:
Russell Stover Candy
We have a large selection including
Millionaires and Sugar-free Millionaires.

*When in Doubt,
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.



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 struck 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 available to assist our Texas communities that took a hit from Hurricane Rita."

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 Weirton 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.



HO! HO! HO!

**Cecil's County Meat
Market and Grocery**
will **CLOSE** at noon
Fri., Dec. 16.
We will **OPEN** as usual on
Mon., Dec. 19.
We are going to enjoy and share
Christmas with our children.
Thanks for understanding.
We appreciate your business.
Cecil and Sue



Shop The Haskell Free Press CLASSIFIEDS



864-2686

ALL DEADLINES MONDAY 5 P.M.

864-2686

For Sale

FOR SALE: 1982 Honda CB900F Super Sport. Runs great. \$1500 obo. 325-437-1665. 45tfc

CUSTOM PECAN cracking and blowing. James Dunlap, 1506 S. 7th. 864-6130. 48-52p

FREE: Three kittens. Have had first shots. 864-8120. 49p

Miscellaneous

HOUSE LEVELLING and foundation repair. No payments until work is satisfactorily completed. David Lee & Co. 325-675-6369. 1-888-486-8588. 6tfc

WILD HORSE Trading Post is your RADA Cutlery dealer. We're a cut above the rest! Come see our selection! 41-51c

Jobs Wanted

ATTENTION: Gardener available. Leaf mulching and removal, mowing, weedeating, tree and hedge trimming, flower beds and Christmas lights. Dax Pueschel 940-256-2971. References available upon request. 49p

Wanted

WANTED: Long term hunting lease. 817-907-8774. 48-5p

Help Wanted

NOW TAKING applications for all positions at Sonic Drive In, Haskell. Apply in person. 25tfc

RICE SPRINGS Care Home is making a difference. We are taking applications for LVNs and CNAs. Contact Shandra at 864-2652. 49c

LVN or nurses aide. Full time. Hospital Clinic, 1400 S. 1st, Haskell, Texas 79521. 940-864-8513. 46tfc

NURSES UNLIMITED, INC. needs attendants to assist with personal care, meal preparation and light housekeeping in Haskell and Knox City areas. Part time basis. Please call, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. til 5 p.m. E.O.E. 1-888-859-0640. 48-49c

AMERISTAY INN and Suites is now accepting applications for front desk help and housekeeping. Apply at 108 N. First St. or call 864-2424. 48tfc

GIBSON CARE CENTER Aspermont needs 11-7 full time/part time cook. Call Melva 940-989-3526. E.O.E. 49-50c

GIBSON CARE CENTER Aspermont needs weekend RN. Call Monte Hill, D.O.N. 940-989-3526 E.O.E. 49-50c

GIBSON CARE CENTER, Aspermont needs full time housekeeper. Call Mike at 940-989-3526. E.O.E. 49-50

THE 39TH JUDICIAL District Community Supervision and Corrections Department is seeking a part-time Community Service Restitution Coordinator, will require Saturday work. Please apply in person, at the Probation Office in the Haskell County Courthouse. EOE. 49c

Real Estate

FOR SALE OR LEASE: 3 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 Mortgages, 254-947-4475. 49p

FOR SALE: Remodeled, brick 3 bedroom, 2bath, 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.

Public Notices

NOTICE
Haskell County Commissioners' Court will be accepting sealed bids until 10:00 a.m. on December 15, 2005 at the office of the County Judge in Haskell County Courthouse for the purchase of one (1) new Motor Graders for Precinct #1. Specifications can be picked up at the office of the County Judge. Haskell County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

David C. Davis
County Judge 48-49c

NOTICE
Haskell County Commissioners' Court voted to change the speed limit on a section of CR 174. The speed limit will be 45 MPH 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) to 45 miles per hour. 48-49c

NOTICE
Haskell County Commissioners' Court will be accepting sealed bids until 10:00 a.m. on December 15, 2005 at the office of the County Judge in Haskell County Courthouse to sell a 1998 John Deere 770CH Motor Grader. Haskell County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

David C. Davis
County Judge 48-49c

ZERO DOWN
Land-Home with low interest rate.
NO CREDIT NECESSARY
325-673-8488

For Rent

FOR RENT: Furnished rooms for rent. Nightly, weekly. Call Lone Star Lodging 864-2238. 21tfc

HOUSE FOR RENT: 3/2, C/HA, workshop, carport. \$450 per month. 1405 N. Ave. H. 254-559-7117. 43tfc

FOR RENT: 1107 N. 10th. 2 bedroom apartment. CH/A. 864-3762. 49c

RENT TO OWN. No credit check! Possible 3 bedroom. 303 N. 11th. \$250 monthly. 325-480-0678, 325-721-1906. 49c

RENT TO OWN in Stamford. No credit check! 2 bedroom. \$270 monthly. 518 Yale. 325-480-0678, 325-721-1906. 49c

An elephant is a mouse-built to government specifications. Save on Ashley furniture during our factory cooperation sale. Kinney Furniture in Stamford. 325-773-2232. 49c

CUTE LITTLE HOUSE
Very affordable. Call 325-673-7353

HASKELL 2 BR OWNER FINANCE
Fenced yard with trees, garage, carports, spacious home. See at 1403 Ave. K. Easy terms.
Call Jim at 325-518-8128

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

Dodson Concrete Construction
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David Dodson
704 N. Ave. F • Haskell
940-864-2038
Over 20 Years in the Business
FREE ESTIMATES

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Quick cash and closing on homes \$25,000 or less.
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EXPERT AUTO WORK
REASONABLE RATES
See us for all your auto mechanic needs. 20 years experience. We do it right the first time. 305 South Ave. E • Haskell

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Specializing In:
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EXCAVATOR AND TRACKHOE
Tree Grubbing and Land Clearing Specialist
Call Mike Oliver 940-256-1393

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504 N. First St. (Hwy 380 East) Well established convenience store with ready-made clientele. Business has excellent sales from grocery, meat market and gasoline. All amenities in excellent condition and ready for new owner.

507 N. Ave. E (Hwy 277 N.) Great established business featuring baked items such as pies, cakes, 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.

Nanny Plumbing, Inc.
301 S. Ave. E • Haskell
940-864-3043
Sales and Service for Residential Plumbing and Heating/Cooling, Pump Installer and Sprinkler Systems.
License numbers available upon request.

RULE 2 BR RENT TO OWN
Corner lot with trees. Needs TLC.
Call Jim at 325-518-8128

WILD HORSE TRADING POST
Haskell's General Store and RadioShack.
Be sure to check with us for Radio Controlled Toys! Check for special prices! Don't forget-We also have guns and ammo, gifts, musical instruments and ladies clothing!
419 S. 1st, Haskell • 864-2200
Hours: M-F 9-6; Sat. 9-3

For Your Sheet Metal Work
Water Storage Tanks
All Kinds of Metal Duct Work
See or call:
Guinn Sheet Metal & Plumbing
940-658-3341 L.C. Guinn Knox City, TX

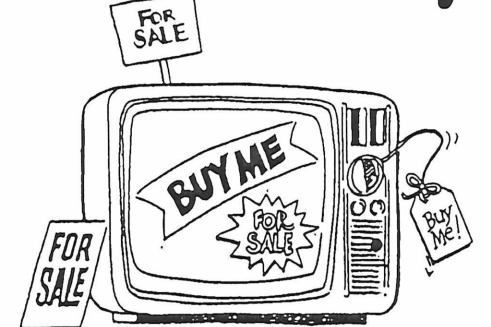
DANCE at Rhineland K-MAC
9 to 1 Sat., Dec. 10 \$5.00

Haskell Volunteer Fire Dept.
is accepting donations to build Fire Station #2 at 300 S. 1st

to house donated Texas Forest Service firefighting equipment and provide a larger training facility. If you would like information on making a donation or how you can help contact Fire Chief Bill Steele 940-864-2208; Randy Shaw 940-864-2023; Jerry Stocks 940-864-3455 or ask any Haskell fireman for details.

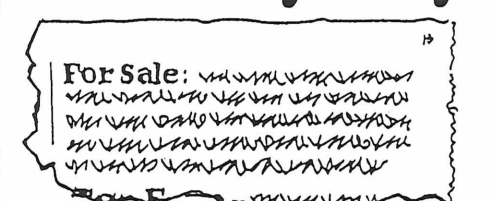
Donations may be mailed to:
Haskell Volunteer Fire Dept.
301 N. First St., Haskell, TX 79521

The Hard Way.



Sure, you can stand in the street in the middle of a major intersection every day for a week with an item you want to sell, put a couple of huge signs on it, and hope someone takes you up on the offer. It might just get the job done. Or you might just end up looking foolish.

The Easy Way.

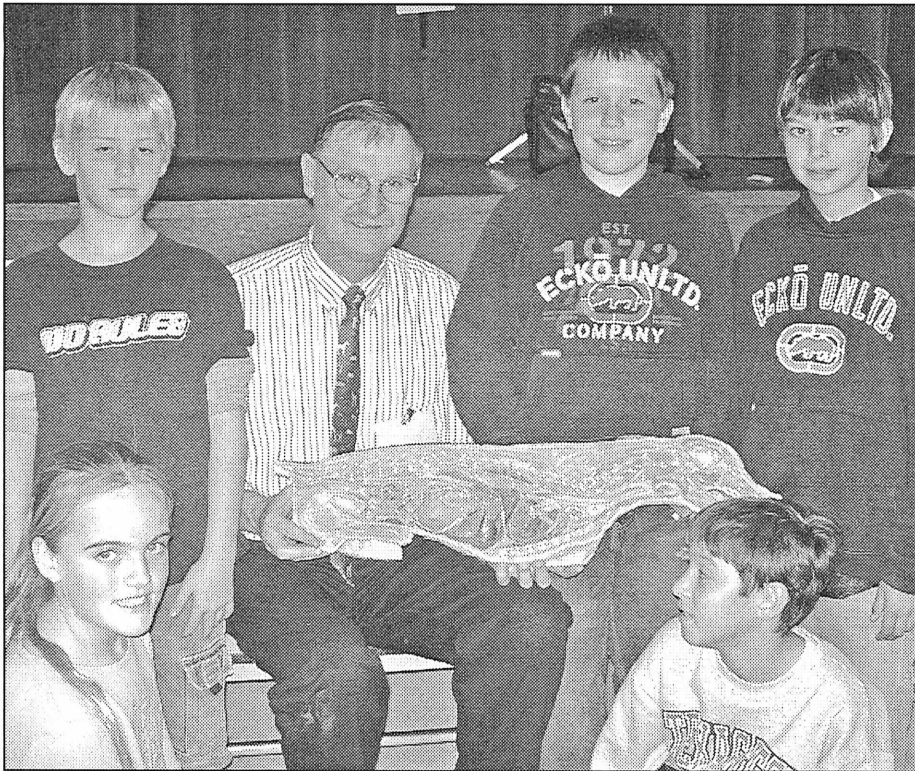


Or, you can place a Classified Ad with us and have people from all over the area clamoring to take your unwanted items off your hands for a handsome profit. Quickly and easily. And for a very small investment. So what are you waiting for? Call now!

The Haskell Free Press
P. O. Box 555
420 N. First Street
Haskell, Texas 79521
Serving Haskell County for over 100 years

Haskell County REALTY
1104 N. 8TH ST.: Newly remodeled, 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Beautiful brick home. Large open living area. Enclosed sunroom. Fenced backyard with water well. Many more amenities.
1401 N. AVE. I: 3 or 4 bedroom, 2 bath brick home. Large open living area. Fenced yard with pecan trees. Priced to sell.
ROCHESTER: 4 bedroom, 2 bath lovely brick home. Sets on four lots. Large living area. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout house.
1602 DERRICK DR. Beautiful brick home. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Newly updated interior. 2 car garage. Privacy fence. Great price. UNDER CONTRACT.
103 N. AVE. M: Clean, newly remodeled 4 bedroom, 2 bath. One car garage, fenced yard, cellar. UNDER CONTRACT.
13 AVE. K EAST: Immaculate home. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Large living area. 75 ACRES approximately 7 miles from Haskell off of FM 618 South in southeast Haskell County, 25 acres cultivated. 50 acres pastureland. One tank. City water availability.
103 N. Ave. E 940-864-2665 1-800-658-6342 or call Bridget or Chan Guess 864-6142 Hess Hartsfield, Broker 864-2004

"AM I SAVING ENOUGH FOR RETIREMENT?"
I'LL HELP YOU SELECT THE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS THAT ARE RIGHT FOR YOU. GIVE ME A CALL TODAY.
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Haskell
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P.S. Appointments to fit your schedule
Allstate.
You're in good hands.
Allstate Life Insurance Company, Home Office, Northbrook, IL. Securities offered by Personal Financial Representatives through Allstate Financial Services, LLC. Registered Broker-Dealer. Member NASD, SIPC. Main Office: 2920 South 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506. 877-525-5727. © 2004 Allstate Insurance Company.



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, freeze-dried 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 are strongly 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.

•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.

The Haskell County Choir presents
the Christmas musical

*Jesus,
Our Treasure*

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

Calendar

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. Flu 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 Renegarbe will be featured for children.

Gin Report

Dec. 5, 2005	
Haskell	
Haskell County Gin	2,500
Haskell Co-op Gin	6,343
O'Brien	
O'Brien Co-op Gin	13,349
Rule	
Rule Co-op Gin	3,868
Sagerton Gin	N/A
Weinert	
Griff's Gin	3,362
Weinert Gin	4,830
Total bales	34,252

Memory tree

A memory tree has been established by Stamford Memorial Hospital Home Health Hospice for those wishing to memorialize a friend or loved one with a gift of \$5 or more. A dove will be placed on the memory tree in the foyer of Stamford Memorial Hospital to represent your donation. Donations may be mailed to Stamford Memorial Hospital Home Health Hospice, P.O. Box 911, Stamford, Texas 79533. For more information, call 325-773-2725.

Flood donations

The Haskell Ministerial Alliance is collecting monetary donations for local flood relief. Donations may be made to P.O. Box 441, Haskell, Texas 79521. 100% of these donations will go directly to help the local flood victims.

Storm sirens

The City of Haskell will test the storm sirens at noon on Fridays.

Shop Haskell First

Open daily
Mon. thru Sat.

Special late hours
Sat., Dec. 10

PARADE SPECIAL
Saturday only
40% OFF ANY ONE ITEM
Holiday Bonus thru December:
Gift Packaging Complimentary
Gift Certificates
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J. Henckles Cutlery

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information, call 1-866-478-9026**

SMELL

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

LISTEN

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

LOOK

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

LEAVE

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.