

Football games

RULE

Bobcats vs Happy
Thurs., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m.
at Floydada

Basketball games

HASKELL

7th-8th G vs Albany
Mon., Nov. 27, 5 p.m.
at Albany

JV-V G-B vs Munday
Tues., Nov. 28, 4 p.m.
at Haskell

PAINT CREEK

JH vs Roby
Mon., Nov. 27, 5:30 p.m.
at Paint Creek

VG-VB vs Moran
Wed., Nov. 29, 6:30 p.m.
at Moran

RULE

JH G-B vs Lueders-Avoca
Mon., Nov. 27, 6 p.m.
at Lueders-Avoca

JV-VG, VB vs Jayton
Tues., Nov. 28, 5 p.m.
at Jayton

Calendar

Concert

Tim Thompson of Kaufman will conduct a free concert at First Christian Church at 107 N. Ave. F in Haskell Sat., Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. Thompson is worship and music leader at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Athens and will bring his message through songs with a mix of country, gospel and contemporary Christian music. His 7 year old son, Tyler, will accompany him on some selections. A love offering will be accepted.

Tour of Homes

The Noah Project-North will host their annual Christmas Tour of Home Sun., Dec. 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each or 2 for \$15. The beautifully decorated homes on the tour include Michael and Debra Bartley, 706 S. Ave. J East; Debbie Maines, 1507 N. Ave. E; Tyke and Gina Meinzer, 219 Addison Dr.; Mike Price, 304 S. Ave. H; and the Bevers House, 311 N. Ave. F where refreshments will be served.

Christmas parade

The Haskell Chamber of Commerce's Christmas parade will be held Sat., Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. Entries must include lights on their float. Santa will be present for pictures with the children at no cost. Local choirs are encouraged to perform on the night of the parade for additional entertainment. All inquiries must call Lori Rodriguez at Rolling Plains Correctional Facility Monday through Friday at 864-5694.

Lighting contest

The Rule Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Home and Yard Lighting Contest. Prizes are \$50 for first place, \$35 for second place and \$25 for third place. Call Rule City Hall at 996-2214 to enter. Entry deadline is Fri., Dec. 8. No entry fee will be charged. Judging will be held Sun., Dec. 10.

Santa letters to be printed

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. 7. All letters received by that time will be printed in the Dec. 21 issue.

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Happy Thanksgiving

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 120-NO. 47, ©NOVEMBER 23, 2006

"The People's Choice"

12 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

Lealonnie Alvarez named Miss Merry Christmas



LEALONNIE ALVAREZ
Miss Merry Christmas

The second annual Miss Merry Christmas Pageant was held Nov. 18-19 at Rochester in the school auditorium.

The weekend began with interviews for the Jr. High and High School contestants and a luncheon for the judges and all contestants. This year's judges were Susan Graham, Betty Murphree and Kay Sprayberry.

Brandon Anderson served as Master of Ceremonies. Miss Merry Christmas 2005 Kristen Martinez and Junior Miss Merry Christmas 2005 Laycee Tullos crowned this year's winners.

The 8th Grade Spanish class girls sang Christmas carols in Spanish, C.J. Saucedo sang and Susan Turner played the piano for entertainment.

This year's winners are Santa's Littlest Elf, Creed Williams; Little Miss Snowflake, Madilyn Grace Moore; Little Miss Merry Christmas, Adaline Utley; Young Miss Merry Christmas, Lucy Carmichael; Junior Miss Merry Christmas, Sydney Saucedo; and Miss Merry Christmas is Lealonnie Alvarez. The Mr. and Miss Christmas Spirit awards went to Travis Smith and Beth Foley

Forty contestants participated in the pageant, sponsored by the Committee to Help Haskell County.

Other participants were Amber Merrick, Samantha Gonzales, Haylee Wood, J'Lynn Llewellyn, Jacey Rodriguez, Harley Brown, Clyne Williams, Abbigale Croke, Madison Saucedo, Landon Wood, Garet Smith, K'Lee Lampe, Kourtney Gibson, Felicity Gentry, Vanessa Gonzales, Tayleigh Johnson, Heavenly Perez, Ariana Garcia, Cequin McIlwain, Cheyenne Short, Meghan Glover, Pamela Walker, Claire Carmichael, Valeria Gonzales, Kymbre Kupatt, Toni Brown, Mandy Wilcher, Michaela Hernandez, Diana Mauricio, Natalie Lopez, Pagie Wheatley, and Laura Gonzales.

All participants were given a Christmas bag filled with goodies donated by local merchants.

More pictures on page 8

Goodfellows

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

On Sat., Dec. 2 and Sat., Dec. 9, the names of those who qualify for the Goodfellows project may be placed by application at the Haskell City Hall between 1 and 3 p.m.

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

If you would like to help with this project by donating food, toys, money or clothes, contact any member of the Lions Club for more information. All cash donations may be made at the Haskell Free Press office at 420 N. First, or mailed to the Free Press at P.O. Box 555, Haskell, Texas 79521.



BAND SWEETHEARTS-The Haskell Indian Band named all the senior girl band members as band sweethearts during the Nov. 3 half-time football festivities. Sweethearts are, I-r, Ashley Foster, Jerrica Escobedo, Maggie Teague, Brittany Jordan, Kristen Martinez, Natalie Lopez, Diana Mauricio, Sarah Garcia and Kayla Fernandez.

Photo by Bill Blankenship

FOR NEWS ITEMS OR TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 864-2686

Go Texan

By George Ayres, Texas Department of Agriculture

Have a Happy, Healthy and Hearty Holiday Cactus

The clocks have been changed. Cooler breezes have prevailed, and the buzz of holiday shopping is right around the corner.

The Texas Department of Agriculture is gearing up for a cheerful holiday season with an added twist in the plant-giving category—the holiday cactus.

While the poinsettia remains the most popular of the holiday gift plants, a healthy, full-blooming holiday cactus, sometimes called a Christmas cactus, makes a beautiful gift for friends or family.

Blooming from mid November to mid December, the holiday cactus has glossy, flat, chain-like segments and forms a flower that can be a variety of colors. Texas produces approximately 500,000 holiday cacti per year.

"Not only are they beautiful plants but they're also great for customers who are looking for something different," said Patrick Berry of Vickery Wholesale Greenhouse. "They're also very easy to care for."

For years, the holiday cactus has been a favorite houseplant for many. It's easy to grow and it's not unusual for a single plant to be passed down from generation to generation.

The holiday cactus has the ability to rebloom if provided 12 hours of light and 12 hours of complete darkness every day between Labor Day and Oct. 15.

We've added some tips for the long life of your healthy holiday

cactus:

- When the flowering period is finished, an active growth period will commence. Keep the plant in a sheltered place until danger of freezing is over.

- Water carefully, keeping in mind that overwatering is the major cause of failure with holiday cactus. Soak the potting medium when watering, then allow the plant to become almost dry before watering again.

- Fertilize with a water-soluble 20-20-20 fertilizer with trace elements while in an active growth stage.

- Reduce water and fertilizer in August in preparation for the beginning of bud development, which is regulated by the shortening of fall days, along with cooler night temperatures. By late October and early November buds should be evident.

- Remember: The keys to getting holiday cactus to flower during the holiday season are proper light exposure, correct temperatures and limited watering. So, during the fall months, place your holiday cactus in a spot where it receives bright, indirect indoor light during the daylight hours and total darkness at night.

To learn more about where to find Texas-grown holiday cactus and an incredible array of other Texas-grown plants, or to order TDA's horticulture publications, visit the GO TEXAN Web site at www.gotexan.org or call 877-99GO-TEX.

Surviving the holidays with diabetes

Pecan pie? Anyone want seconds? Having diabetes can prove challenging any time of the year, and the holiday months can add additional stress, inches to our waistline and, unfortunately, high blood sugars.

Managing diabetes during these hectic times may seem impossible, but remembering the basics of meal planning and the importance of staying active will enable you to sail your way through the new year, said Rachel Villarreal, R.D., L.D., health educator in the Diabetes Education Program in the Texas A&M Health Science Center Coastal Bend Health Education Center at Corpus Christi.

For starters, watch portion sizes. Do not skip your favorite foods; instead, limit your portions and stay within your allowable servings. Identifying holiday foods that contain carbohydrates can help you better manage blood sugars. Some holiday foods that can affect blood sugar levels are dressing (stuffing), rolls, sweet potatoes, corn, tamales and seasonal desserts.

Next, maintain consistency, which is vital to maintaining desirable blood sugars, Villarreal said. Eat your meals generally at the

same time each day. If a holiday dinner will be delayed, have a small snack at the time of your normal meal to avoid low blood sugar levels and prevent overeating.

The holidays also are a perfect time to exercise while doing things that you and your family enjoy. Stroll around the neighborhood and admire the decorations. Organize a family outdoor game like touch football or tag to keep things fun. Anything that will get you moving is well worth the effort to maintain your blood sugar levels within target range, Villarreal said.

Finally, don't forget to monitor your blood sugar daily. It may prove handy to increase your blood sugar monitoring during the holiday season, and such a proactive approach will keep your blood sugar levels on target.

"Healthy living does not have to be a battle during the holidays," Villarreal said. "By remembering to follow your basic plan of watching your portion size, maintaining consistency, staying active and monitoring your blood sugars levels, you can have a healthy holiday season."

Haskell National Bank receives top bank rating

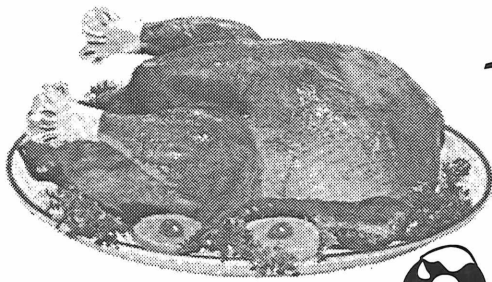
BauerFinancial, Inc., the nation's leading independent bank rating and research firm, has announced that Haskell National Bank, Haskell, has been awarded its highest rating (5-Stars) for strength and stability. By achieving this rating for 58 consecutive quarters, there can be no dispute that Haskell National Bank is one of the safest banks in the country. Having earned this distinction for ten years or more, Haskell National Bank has earned a post in an even more exclusive category of Exceptional Performance Banks.

"It is always heartening to see a

community bank that practices true relationship banking come out on top," proclaims Karen Dorway, president of the research firm. "Through unwavering commitment to its customers and personal one-to-one banking, Haskell National Bank has distinguished itself from the big banks and come out ahead of the pack."

Haskell National Bank has been dedicated to meeting the financial needs of its customers since 1890 and operates two conveniently located offices in Abilene and Haskell.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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Sun., Dec. 9, 6 p.m.

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2. Deposit each ad in the box *each week* at the business listed on the ad. (All entries deposited in the wrong box will be disqualified.)
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4. Drawing will be held Friday, December 22, 2006, at noon.
5. Anyone over 16 years of age is eligible to enter (except employees at participating stores and this newspaper.)

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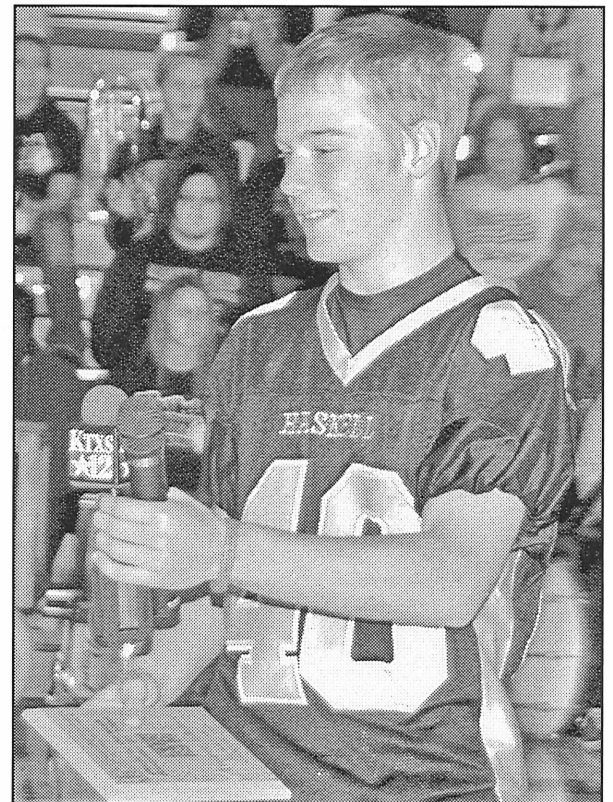
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PLAYER OF THE WEEK—Haskell Indian Travis Adams was named the Player of the Week by KTXS television station at the pep rally held Fri., Nov. 17 in Indian gym. Photo by Bill Blankenship

Indians lose to Coleman Bluecats in three overtimes

For many fans, who have never witnessed a football game going into 3 overtimes, Friday night was a night to remember.

The undefeated Haskell Indians lost to the Coleman Bluecats 42 to 48. It was a thrilling, exciting football contest between two good teams. The only thing wrong, one will not be advancing to the next level of play.

Coleman scored once in the first quarter of play, and once in the second quarter. Haskell answered one of the challenges at the 3:17 mark of the second quarter when running back, Travis Adams hit paydirt on an 11-yard run. Gerrardo Torres added the extra point on a perfect kick. It was 14 to 7 at the intermission in favor of Coleman.

By the end of the third quarter of play, the Indians held the lead at 21 to 14. Brown would score on a one-yard run, and running back Gregg Guzman would add another "touch" on a 13-yard run. Torres would kick for PATs. The Bluecats would score on a 46-yard pass completion to tie the score at 21 all.

Rodriguez for the Indians put the Tribe ahead 28-21 on a 11-yard TD run at the 4:15 mark of the fourth and final quarter. On the ensuing kick off, Coleman ran it back 85 yards to tie the score at 28 apiece. Haskell's kicker, Torres added all of the extra points whenever Haskell scored. All total, Torres had 6 points via his kicking, a good night for a kicker!

The game was close, and the pressure was really on to maintain intensity by the players. The Indians would take the lead of 35 to 28, with only 1:04 to play.

Rodriguez would carry the mail to the end zone on a 21-yard run. Coleman, not to be outdone, tied the game at 35 with only 15 seconds to play in regulation.

In the first overtime period, Coleman scored first, and added the extra point. Haskell came right back with a score when Brown got a 3-yard TD run. Torres added one of his six points on top of the TD to send the game into its second overtime. Neither team could score in this overtime, so "bring on the third overtime."

Coleman scored first, missed the 2 point conversion attempt. The Indians, behind 6 points, could not score in the third and final overtime, and brought their fine season to a close. Haskell finished the second year at 10-1. Congratulations go to the Coach Brad Brunson, his staff and the extra Indian team. You made us proud!

Haskell had 74 rushes for 436 yards. Brown had 180 yards on 26 carries and 2 TDs. Adams had 23 rushes for 78 yards and one TD. Guzman had 49 yards on 8 carries and one TD, and Rodriguez had 17 carries for 129 yards and 2 TDs. QB Brown was one for one in the passing department, for 11 yards. The completion was to Adams.

Wash your hands

At work, school or home, it's a microscopic jungle out there.

Surfaces where the most germs and bacteria are expected—like toilets and door handles—have less because they are disinfected and cleaned regularly. At the same time, other surfaces—like water fountains, telephones and desks—are often overlooked and acquire more microorganisms.

But, people are the biggest culprit.

"Most contagious germs are transmitted between people, not from computer keyboards or doorknobs," said Philip Cain, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine in the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine and associate chairman in the Department of Medicine and vice chair for Clinical Affairs at Scott & White Hospital in Temple.

"Germs usually survive better in a warm, moist environment. You can culture bacteria off almost any object—especially in an area like a hospital where they are concentrated. Even physicians' ties have been shown to have a high bacteria count."

Of course, not all germs are bad. However, they could indicate the presence of viruses that can lead to the common cold and flu, or even serious foodborne illnesses such as E. coli and Salmonella.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate 164 million days of school are lost each year due to illness. And, a 2002 study in the Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine by Applied Health Outcomes and the Tufts University School of Medicine showed the economic cost of lost productivity due to the common cold was nearly \$25 billion.

These figures can be cut significantly with frequent, thorough handwashing. Also, be careful in crowded public spaces, especially the elderly and those with certain diseases like asthma and emphysema that make them more susceptible to infections, Dr. Cain said.

"People who have respiratory infections like colds and flu should take precautions not to expose other people as much as possible," Dr. Cain said. "People should also have flu shots and keep their immunizations up to date."



LITTLE MISS SNOWFLAKE
Madilyn Grace Moore

Winners of the Second Annual Miss Merry Christmas Pageant



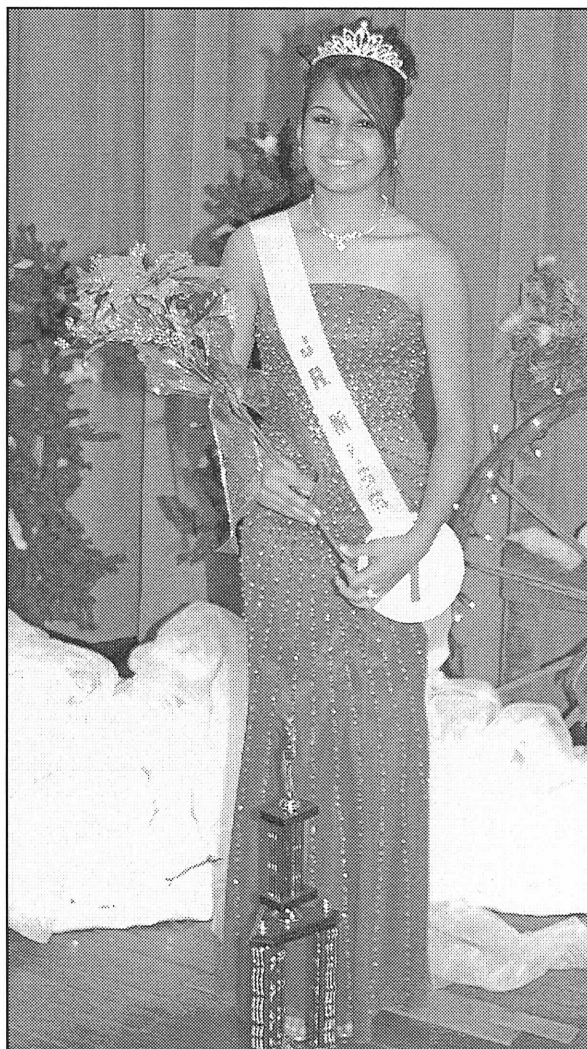
LITTLE MISS MERRY CHRISTMAS
Adaline Utley



YOUNG MISS MERRY CHRISTMAS
Lucy Carmichael

Thanks!

The Committee to Help Haskell County would like to thank The Carousel, Santa Rosa Communications, Federal Land Bank, Bailey Toliver Chevrolet, Classic Cuts, Movie Gallery, The Doll House, Sharon's Rag Doll, Penman's Farm Supply, Sonic, The Drug Store, Star Stop, The Hair Place, Richardson's TrueValue, Personality Slipper Shoppe, City Grocery, Delight Jones, The Art Stall, Hers Steak House, First National Bank, Rolling Plains Correctional Facility, Haskell C.I.S.D. and Rochester Jr. High for all their donations that made the Miss Merry Christmas pageant possible.

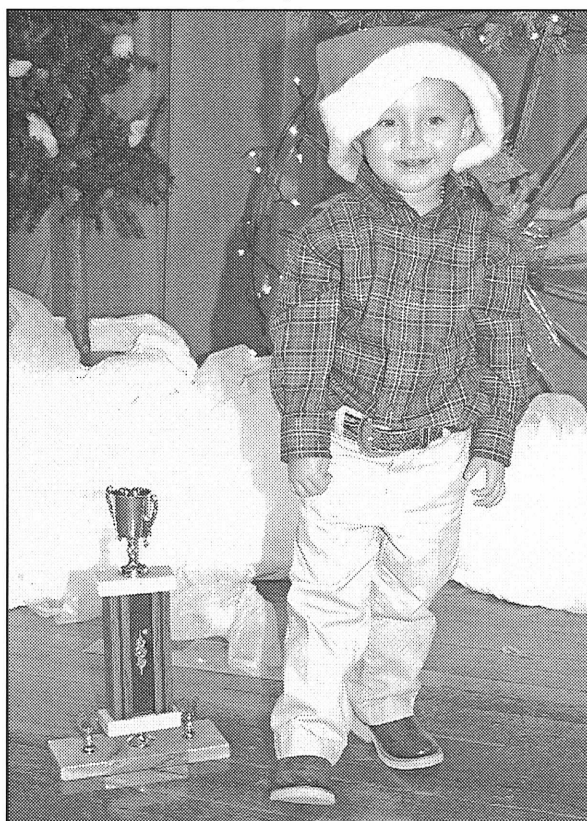


JUNIOR MISS MERRY CHRISTMAS
Sydney Saucedo



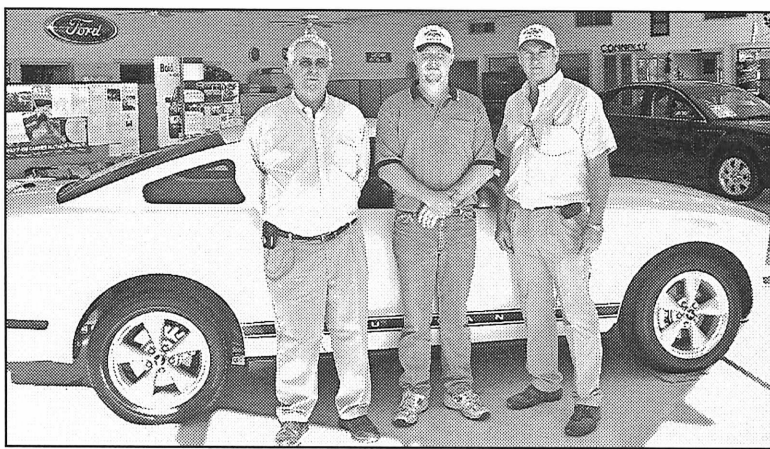
MISS CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
Beth Foley

Not pictured
MR. CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
Travis Smith



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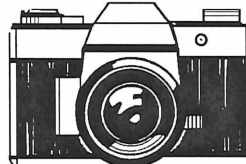
Real Estate

FOR SALE: Large brick, 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Spacious living, fireplace, workshop and in great condition. New CH/A, roof, water well pump, water heater and much more. Offered at only \$65,000. Call Sally Barnes for more information. 325-338-9157 or 325-691-1300. Dalzell Realtors. 42-49c

FOR SALE: Recently remodeled. 904 N. 3rd E. 4 bedroom, 2 1/4 bath, 2 car garage, central AC/heat, fireplace, storage building, custom shutters. 325-370-3946.

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.

Politics is the only profession for which no preparation is necessary. Right now get two great La-Z-Boy recliners starting at \$499 per pair. Kinney Furniture in Stamford. 325-773-2232. 47c



Photos and Photo Pin Buttons
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Sports Athletes
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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
Haskell Consolidated Independent School District is seeking bid proposals for a video surveillance system for the high school and field house. Bid proposal specifications may be obtained from the Haskell Consolidated Independent School District Technology Office at 600 North Avenue E, Haskell, Texas. Haskell C.I.S.D., P.O. Box 937, Haskell, Texas 79521. 940-864-2602 #215.

All bid proposals must be received on or before 1:00 p.m. December 6, 2006. Haskell CISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. 47-49c

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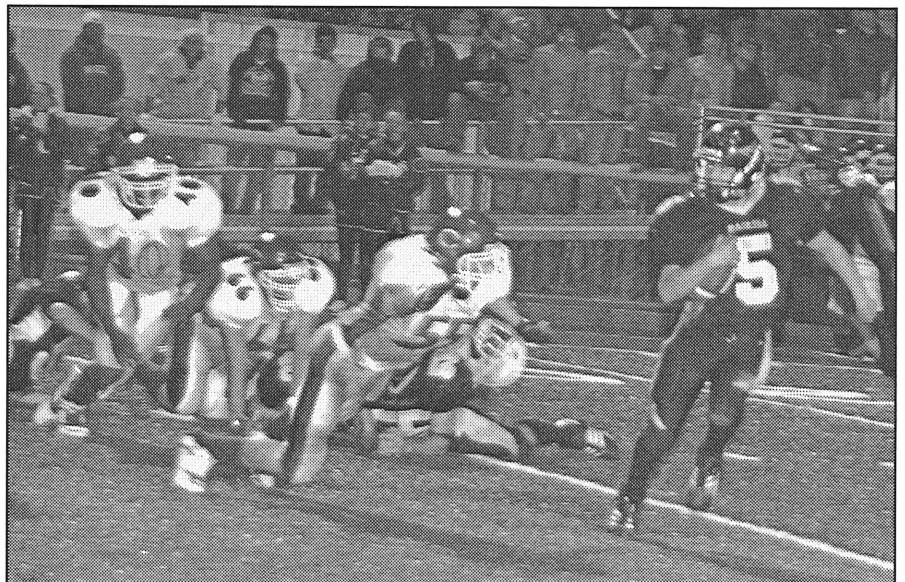
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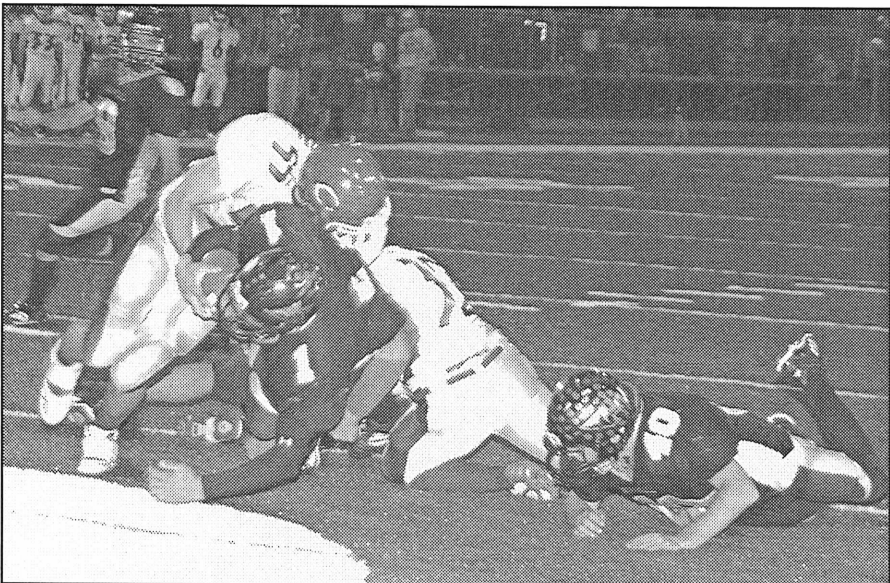
Indians in action against Coleman Bluecats



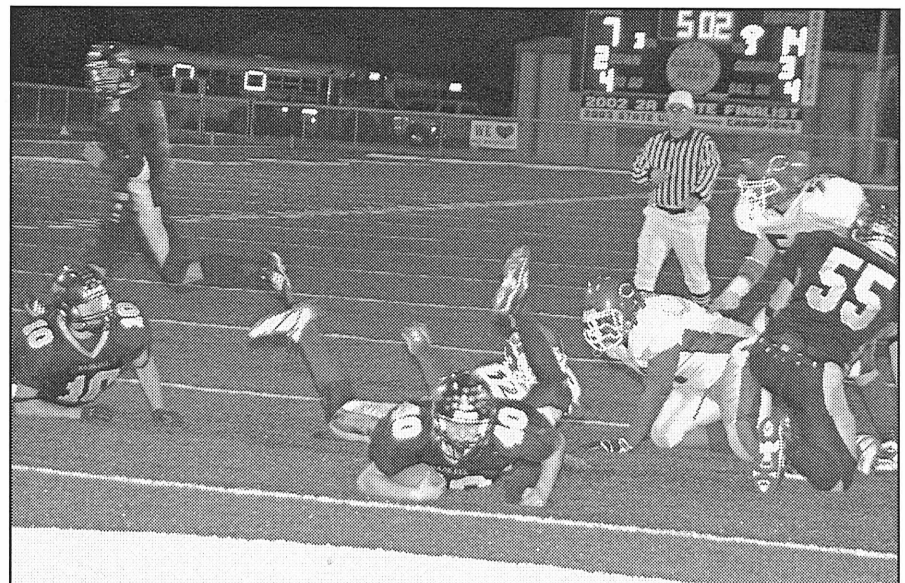
FINAL QUARTER SCORING—Justin Rodriguez, #8, carries the ball on a 21-yard run to put the Indians ahead 28 to 21 at the 4:17 mark of the fourth quarter in the bi-district game with the Coleman Bluecats, Fri., Nov. 17. The game ended after 3 overtimes. Photo by Bill Blankenship



CARRYING IN A CLOSE ONE—Adding another touch down, Gregg Guzman, #5, scores for the Indians on a 13-yard run in the third quarter of play in the game with the Coleman Bluecats, which ended after 3 overtimes with Coleman ahead 48 to 42. Photo by Bill Blankenship



MAKING INDIAN YARDAGE—Haskell Indian, Matt Brown, #1, who had 180 yards on 26 carries and two touch downs, scores on a 3-yard run in the first of three overtimes in the game with the Coleman Bluecats, Fri., Nov. 17. Photo by Bill Blankenship



ADAMS ANSWERS CHALLENGE—Haskell's Travis Adams hits paydirt on an 11-yard run, after Coleman scored once in the first and second quarters of the bi-district game. Adams had 23 rushes for 78 yards and one TD in the game. Photo by Bill Blankenship



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