

Calendar

New pool hours

Due to lack of attendance and busier schedules for trained lifeguards during the month of August, the Haskell City Pool will have new hours. August hours are 1-5 p.m. every Saturday and 1:30-5 p.m. every Sunday of the month. The only weekday the pool will be open is Fri., Aug. 12 from 1-5 p.m. The pool is still available for rental for private parties. Contact Pool Manager, Lakay Caparoon at 940-256-2083.

Youth flag football

Interest in a youth flag football program is being sought for a program in Haskell. Teams would be Pre-K through sixth grades. To express your interest, call Tyke Meinzer at 325-725-3820, Roger Roewe at 325-669-8848 or Casey Larned at 325-669-0688.

Casen Riley 3-on-3

The second annual Casen Riley 3-on-3 basketball tournament to benefit the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation will be held Sat., Aug. 27 with check in at 8 a.m. at Will Hair Park, off Ambler Ave., in Abilene. The tournament will begin at 9 a.m. Registration deadline is Aug. 20. Each team is guaranteed a minimum of two games. Open adult ages 16 and over. For registration forms or more information, visit www.casenriley3on3basketball.com or call Heather Riley at 325-370-6379 or Casey Riley at 325-370-6380.

Potato luncheon

A baked potato luncheon is set Sun., Aug. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Haskell Civic Center. Tickets are \$8 per person and will be available at the door or at Citibank in Haskell. Take-outs will be available. The event will benefit the Civic Center.

Variety show

The Experienced Citizens Center of Haskell will hold a variety show and dinner fund-raiser Sat., Aug. 27 at the Haskell Civic Center. Supper will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The meal will consist of BBQ brisket, sausage link, potato salad, red beans and bread slice. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students. A choice of BBQ, tuna fish or pimento sandwich and chips will be available for \$4. Drinks will be \$1, water 50¢ and cake \$1. The variety show will start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

Girls' athletic form reminder

All girls who plan to be in athletics at Haskell High or Rochester Junior High schools need to have their physical forms and other necessary paperwork finished and turned in to the athletic office by the time school starts. If forms are needed, they can be obtained at the high school athletic office.

Homecoming

The Haskell-Mattson-Weinert-Rochester Homecoming will be held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 2011.

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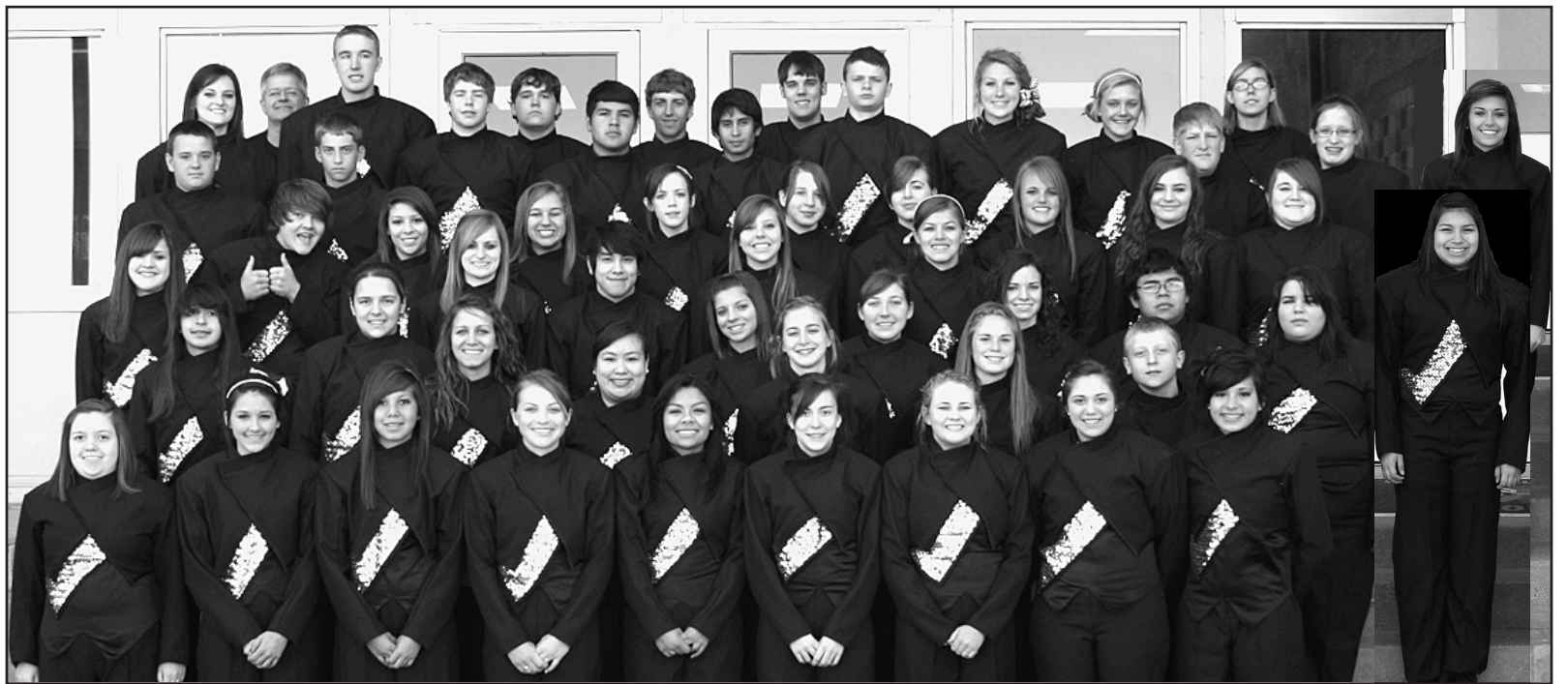
Watch for students around school zones

The Haskell Free Press

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"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS



HASKELL INDIAN BAND

Haskell Indian Band ranked fourth in state

The Haskell High School Indian Band set another first for its record books, by receiving the honor of making the top four in the State Finals of the Outstanding Performance Series in Class A.

The Association of Texas Small School Bands is the sponsor of an annual contest, the purpose of which is to recognize the most outstanding single music performances of the year, in Class C, CC for middle school, and A, AA and AAA for high school bands.

The Haskell band's performance of "Abracadabra" was ranked as the fourth best single performance by a high school band in Class A in Texas. First place went to Carlisle High, second place to Rice and third place to Ganado.

Haskell band director Mike Aston, submitted the three single performances performed this year by the Indian band in the Spring contest and sight reading contest held at Anson High School in March. The process of this contest involves each band director sending in the recordings made during UIL contest to be heard by committees of band directors from across the state.

First is the regional committee, comprised of a panel of five band directors from East Texas. This panel picks the top three to advance to the area committee. The area panel of judges listens to the top three bands from three regions and again selects the top three to advance to the state level.

At the Texas Bandmasters convention held each summer

in San Antonio, a committee of five judges listens to the top fifteen bands, three from each of the five areas, and ranks these top fifteen.

"Abracadabra" is an original piece of music scored for wind band by composer Frank Tichelli. UIL has placed this piece on the AAA list, meaning that it is of a level of difficulty that is worthy of bands the size of Abilene Wylie or Snyder. "Our Haskell kids mastered this very difficult piece and I am glad that their performance advanced to fourth best single performance in the state," Aston adds.

They are a great group of students, who deserve congratulations on another outstanding achievement.

The Indian Band is already working toward another successful year. They began

two-a-day practices with the first session beginning July 18. Session two is from Aug. 1-12,

with specific instrument group practices being scheduled throughout the day.

Sales tax holiday to be held Aug. 19-21

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs says Texas families have a big opportunity to save money when they shop. The state's annual Sales Tax Holiday is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 19-21.

"On that weekend, shoppers will pay no state or local sales tax on many school supplies, school backpacks and most children's and adults' clothing and shoes priced at less than \$100," Combs said. "The tax break helps out when the kids' back-to-school lists are long

and money is short."

This year, Combs predicts shoppers will save \$62.1 million in state and local sales taxes during the Sales Tax Holiday.

The tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999. Currently, the Tax Code sets the holiday for the third Friday, Saturday and Sunday in August.

Lists of apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax free can be found on the Comptroller's website at www.texasaxholiday.org.

It's back to school time in Haskell County

Haskell Elementary

Haskell Elementary School will hold registration for new students to the district Mon., Aug. 8, Tues., Aug. 9 and Wed., Aug. 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the elementary office. This registration is also for any students that did not pre-register in the spring for Prekindergarten or Kindergarten and for students that have attended Haskell Elementary in the past, but did not finish the 2010-11 school year at Haskell Elementary.

Parents should bring their drivers license and their child's birth certificate, immunization record, social security card and last report card.

Registration and Back to School Night for all Haskell Elementary students will be held on the following days and times:

Tues., Aug. 16, third and fourth grades at 5:30 p.m. and fifth grade at 6:30 p.m.;

Thurs., Aug. 18, Head Start, PPCD and Kindergarten at 5:30 p.m., Prekindergarten from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., first and second grades at 6:30 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to attend registration with their child/children so they can meet the teachers and

fill out necessary paperwork. Homeroom lists will be posted at the time of registration.

School begins Mon., Aug. 22. Classes will begin at 8:00 a.m. Kindergarten through fifth grade will dismiss at 3:15 p.m.

Rochester Jr. High

Registration night for Rochester Junior High will be Mon., Aug. 15 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Junior High Cafeteria. Sixth grade students will register from 5:00 to 6:00 and seventh and eighth grade students will register from 6:00 to 7:00. There will be a meeting in the auditorium at 5:45 for sixth grade students and their parents to provide information about Junior High and answer any questions you may have about the new school year.

The Junior High Student Council will be available to give tours during registration.

If you cannot attend registration night and would like to register your student at another time, please contact the Junior High office at 940-743-3260 and a time for you to register your student will be scheduled.

Students new to the district will need a birth certificate, shot records, and

driver's license to register.

If you have any questions please contact Reida Penman at 940-743-3260 or 940-742-3476.

Rule ISD

Rule ISD will hold Jr. High and High School registration Tues., Aug. 16 in the school library.

Parents or legal guardians of students in grades sixth through eighth, as well as parents of all students new to the district for the upcoming school year, are required to attend. Parents of all high school age students are also encouraged to attend. The registration schedule will be as follows: eighth grade will register at 9 a.m.; seventh at 10 a.m.; sixth at 11 a.m.; seniors at 1 p.m.; juniors at 2 p.m.; sophomores at 3 p.m.; freshmen at 4 p.m.

Registration for Elementary students will be held Wed., Aug. 17 in the classrooms of each grade level. Parents or legal guardians of students in grades Pre-K through fifth, as well as parents of all students new to the district for the upcoming school year, are required to attend.

Parents of students who are new to the district should bring the following items with them to registration:

- Proof of residency in the

Rule ISD district in the form of a water or electric bill.

•A copy of the child's Social Security card.

•A copy of the child's birth certificate.

•Current immunization records.

•Any records from the child's previous school district.

For more information about registration, call Rule ISD at 940-997-2246 or 940-997-2521.

Rule ISD will host "Meet the Teachers" and "Meet the Bobcats" night for all students and their parents Thurs., Aug. 18 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Rule will also conduct its annual Title I Parent meeting at this time. This event will give students and parents the opportunity to enjoy ice cream and meet the 2011-2012 Bobcats, returning teachers, new teachers and staff at Rule ISD.

After a short assembly in the auditorium about the upcoming school year and the Title I program, students will be able to visit their classrooms and drop off their supplies to leave before the first day of school. Teachers and staff members will be on hand to meet and greet parents and answer questions. There will be information about Booster Club and sign

up forms for Booster Club activities. Order forms for new school t-shirts will also be available along with the 2010-2011 annuals.

A few extra annuals will be in Jimmie Peter's classroom for \$35.00 each, or if you ordered one last year, come pick yours up. Come enjoy this event in preparation for an exciting 2011-2012 school year!

Paint Creek ISD

Paint Creek ISD will hold registration for all students for the 2011-2012 school year Tues., Aug. 9. Please come by the school office between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to complete needed paperwork. Schedules for high school students will be given at this time.

To attend Kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2011. To attend Pre-K, a child must be 4 on or before Sept. 1, 2011.

For all new incoming students, parents should bring their driver's license, their child's immunization record, birth certificate, and social security card to registration.

The first day of school will be Aug. 22.

If you have any questions, call the school at 940-864-2868.

FOR NEWS ITEMS OR TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 940-864-2686

Clay Shoot to be held Sept. 3-4 in Haskell

The second annual Clear Fork Clay Shoot will be held Sat., Sept. 3 and Sun., Sept. 4 outside of Haskell. Shooting times for the Modified Lewis Class Shoot will be 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

In a Modified Lewis Class Shoot participants do not have to be a top shot to win

a gun. Shoot proceeds will benefit Clear Fork Crime Stoppers and concession stand proceeds will benefit the Progressive Study Club War Memorial Project.

For more information contact Steve Alsabrook, alsabrook@srcaccess.net,

325-280-2100; Dudley Cockerell, johnnie0h@aol.com, 325-668-0302 or Billie McKeever, bmckeever@srcaccess.net, 940-864-4814.

Come on out and shoot, have lunch and enjoy a couple of great days. Dove hunters, get your limit and then come try to win a gun.

Calendar

Volleyball night

First Baptist Church in Haskell is hosting an open gym for volleyball every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. Volleyball players of all ages are welcome to come and play. There is no charge. For more information, call the church office at 864-2581.

Cancer support

The Haskell Area Cancer Support group meets every other Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Haskell Memorial Hospital Educational Building. For more information, call 940-864-5964.

Deadlines

All deadlines for issues of the Haskell Free Press are at noon on Mondays.

Donations needed

The Haskell Experienced Citizens Center is in dire need of donations. If you would like to make a donation, drop by the center at 1404 S. 1st or contact Jennabeth Kimbrough at 864-3875 for more information.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon meets Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. at the AA building across from the RV park in Haskell.

Burn ban issued

A burn ban is in effect for Haskell County. The use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person is prohibited. Combustible materials specifically include, but are not limited to, fireworks, camp fires, welding and any other pyrotechnic material, which in the manner or means of its use could result in a wildfire. A person who knowingly or intentionally violates this order commits a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

Clay Shoot

The second annual Clear Fork Clay Shoot will be held Sat., Sept. 3 and Sun., Sept. 4 outside of Haskell. For more information contact Steve Alsabrook, alsabrook@srcaccess.net, 325-280-2100; Dudley Cockerell, johnnie0h@aol.com, 325-668-0302 or Billie McKeever, bmckeever@srcaccess.net, 940-864-4814. Proceeds will benefit Clear Fork Crime Stoppers and concession stand proceeds will benefit the Progressive Study Club War Memorial Project.

Wind energy meeting

Haskell County will

host a meeting concerning the proposed wind energy project in the northeast part of Haskell County Sept. 20 7:30 p.m. in the Haskell County District Courtroom. The HCISD will hold their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Throckmorton County and Knox County, including any school districts involved, are welcome to attend and be a part of any discussion. This will be a posted meeting for Haskell County and anyone wishing to attend is welcome. John C. Rutledge and Keith Ellis of Pritchard & Abbott, Inc. will make a presentation as to what it means to have a wind energy project.

Update immunizations before school starts

The Texas Department of State Health Services reminds parents to be sure their children are current on all required immunizations before school starts. Students must be vaccinated against certain preventable diseases before the first day of school, or they may not be allowed to attend class.

"Immunizations are key to stopping the spread of disease and keeping children well," said Dr. David Lakey, DSHS commissioner. "Vaccinations are safe and have dramatically reduced the number of children who suffer and even die from serious illnesses like measles, polio or chicken pox."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced last week that deaths of young people due to chicken pox have fallen by 97 percent since the vaccine was introduced in 1995.

Texas immunization requirements for the upcoming school year can be found in the School & Childcare section of ImmunizeTexas.org. Parents can check with their child's health care provider or local health department to find out when and where immunizations are available.

Obituaries

John Ervin Camp Sr.



JOHN CAMP SR.
Graveside services for John Ervin Camp Sr., 79, of

Rule were held Sat., July 30 at Rule Cemetery in Rule. Burial and services were under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of Haskell.

Mr. Camp went to be with the Lord Wed., July 27.

A long time resident of Rule, he was born six miles from the Brazos River at Rule June 3, 1932 to Jim and Lorraine Camp. He worked in the oilfield, the U.S. Army, as a truck driver mechanic and finally built custom furniture in Rule.

He was preceded in

death by his parents, Jim and Lorraine and brother James Ray.

Survivors include one sister, Elizabeth and husband Don Foil of Rule; five sons, Tom and wife Lynn of Arizona, James of Arizona, John Jr. and wife Linda of Stamford, Jim and wife Kim of Lovington, New Mexico, Keith of Forrest City, Arkansas; two daughters, Jo Ellen and husband Royce Brown of Alvord, and Susana and husband Viggan Sarkissian of Arlington.

PD. NOTICE

Adolph Stulir

Graveside services for Adolph Stulir, 92, of Haskell were held Fri., July 29 at Weinert Cemetery with Rev. Joe Stulir officiating. Burial and services were under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of Haskell.

Mr. Stulir passed away Wed., July 27 in Haskell.

Born Nov. 11, 1918 in Weinert, he was the son of Frank Stulir and Annie Greek. He married Dorthy Evans in Haskell Dec. 10, 1945 and lived in Weinert for 50 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorthy; a son, Arch Stulir; his parents, Frank and Annie Stulir; a brother, Frank Stulir; a sister, Lilly Urban; and one grandchild, Brandon Stulir.

Survivors include his two sons, Joe and his wife, Loretta of Comanche, Oklahoma and Johny and his wife Barbara of Rule; seven grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; three great great grandchildren; and one nephew.

PD. NOTICE

Changes announced for adult cattle being sold at Texas markets

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

Effective Aug. 1, 2011 the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will no longer require brucellosis testing of adult cattle for change of ownership. TAHC will also cease to pay the \$2 per head supplement to markets for the testing. Approximately half of the markets have indicated however, that they intend to continue testing all or some of the adult cattle sold through their markets. For markets wishing to test, they will still be able to receive all the supplies currently being provided at no charge, including the brucellosis card test kits. TAHC inspectors will also be able to run the supplemental testing as usual if a card positive animal is disclosed.

TAHC officials strongly encourage voluntary testing of Texas cattle to remain vigilant in keeping Texas Brucellosis free.

It is imperative to remember that Brucellosis was found in two cattle herds in Texas earlier this year. Approximately 25 card positive (usually false positive) animals per month are detected throughout Texas markets. The secondary test run by TAHC inspectors at markets will usually clear those consignments for sale unrestricted, and only require the card positive animal to be held up.

"Even though TAHC is undergoing drastic budget reductions, the agency will continue to provide a market inspector wherever cattle are

sold to support all of the cattle programs underway," Dr. Dee Ellis, State Veterinarian, said.

A separate issue regarding the identification of cattle is also under discussion. Historically all Texas cattle leaving a market have had a USDA eartag in place because they were brucellosis tested there. The official identification of cattle (usually with a metal eartag) is not completely linked to brucellosis testing however. TAHC and USDA rules require official identification on all cattle tested, but they also require the market to record existing official IDs on any adult cattle presented for sale, all dairy cattle prior to movement, any bulls involved with the Trichomoniasis program (including virgins) and Mexican origin event cattle.

It is anticipated that the TAHC will consider a rule proposal in September that may require permanent

official identification of adult cattle sold at Texas markets. It is further anticipated that USDA will release in the near future a rule for comment that will eventually require cattle moving interstate to have permanent official identification.

"I am asking all markets for voluntary compliance to continue eartagging adult cattle (or reading existing tags) sold through their markets for the next few months, while the rule making process is in progress," Dr. Ellis stated. Local TAHC regional offices and inspectors will work with individual markets on possible exceptions for extremely weak or old cattle presented for sale in the meantime.

Founded in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock.

Golf tournament to benefit Noah Project

Noah Project, Inc., an area shelter with the mission of "Advocating for victims and working to end family violence," will be holding its first golf tournament fundraiser.

For the past several years, Noah Project benefited from the Diamondback Charity Classic golf tournament along with Hendrick Hospice Care. When the Diamondback Charity Classic decided to disband, it left a huge deficit

in the general budget of Noah Project. The Noah board this year decided to do a golf tournament on their own in an effort to replace some of the lost funds from the Charity Classic.

That tournament will be held Fri., Aug. 19 at Diamondback Golf Club. Some player spots, teams and sponsorships are still available. For more information call Noah Project at 325-676-7107.

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Because you are elderly or disabled, trying to live on a fixed income?

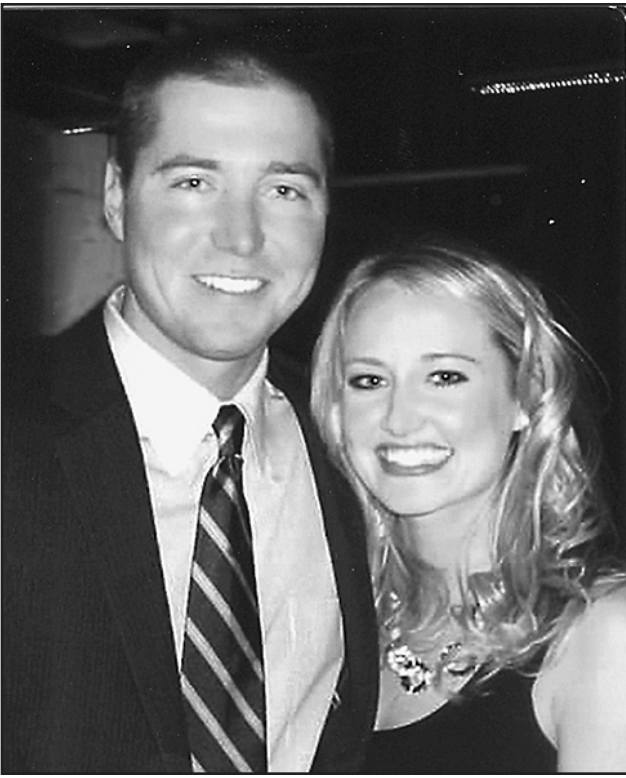
If you answered **YES** to any of the above questions and live in Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall or Throckmorton counties, you may be eligible for assistance from the **Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc.** The Community Services Block grant (CSBG) and the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) funds are used by ASBDC, Inc. to provide services to low-income households. There is an application process to determine eligibility for assistance, so call ASBDC, Inc. for more information.

940-989-3538 or 800-722-0137

¿NECESITA AYUDA . . .

Pagando una cuenta de utilidades?
Obteniendo anteojos o oyuda con los dientes?
Pagando una noticia de expulsión o desconector?
Determinando metas a realizar autosuficiencia de energia o triunfar pobreza?
Està Viejo o tiene inhabilitación, probando a vivir en unos ingresos fijados?
Si contesta si a uno de las preguntas y vive en los condados de Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall o Throckmorton, es posible usted puede elegible para ayuda del **Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc. El Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)** y los fondos del **Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)** están usado por ASBDC, INC. para suministrar servicios a las familias con ingresos bajos. Hay un proceso de aplicación a determinar elegibilidad para ayuda. Llame usted ASBDC, INC. para mas información o si tiene preguntas.

940-989-3538 o 800-722-0137



COLE EARLES - MORGAN KAHOUTEK

Kahoutek, Earles to marry Oct. 29

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Earles of Haskell are announcing the engagement of their son, Cole David Earles, to Morgan Nicole Kahoutek, daughter of Jeri Kahoutek of Houston and the late Larry Kahoutek.

Grandparents of the prospective groom are Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Lewis of Gadsden, Alabama and Mr. and Mrs. R.V. Earles of Haskell.

Grandparents of the bride-elect are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pickens and Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Kahoutek, all

of San Antonio.

The couple met while both were students at University of North Texas. She graduated with a business degree in marketing and he graduated with a degree in construction engineering. Kahoutek is employed by the Clovis, New Mexico Chamber of Commerce and Earles is employed by Hensel Phelps Construction.

The couple plans a bride-elect on October 29 wedding in San Antonio at the historic Mission Concepcion.

Support group offered to those affected by cancer

Cancer Services Network will offer a six-week educational support group for those interested in learning to live beyond a diagnosis of cancer. Sessions are set for 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Thursdays beginning Aug. 18 at the Hinds Square Classroom located at 100 Chestnut, Suite 112, in Abilene. Cancer Services Network is an agency of the United Way of Abilene.

This group is designed for patients, caregivers, family and friends affected by cancer in anyway. In a supportive and interactive environment, this group will focus on the practical, emotional and physical aspects of living with cancer. Topics will vary each week. Week 1: Telling your Story; Week 2: Dealing with Emotions, Thoughts and Feelings; Week 3: Using Spirituality to Cope with a Cancer Diagnosis; Week 4:

Communicating with your Family and Loved Ones; Week 5: Communicating with your Medical Team; and Week 6: Coping with the Side Effects of Cancer Treatment.

Aimee Colley, LMSW, social worker at Cancer Services Network, will facilitate the groups. Colley has fourteen years' experience in the area of oncology. There is no charge associated with the support groups. Register by calling 325-672-0040 or via e-mail acolley@cancerservicesnetwork.org. This program is made possible by a grant from the Discretionary Grant Cycle of the Community Foundation of Abilene.

Cancer Services Network provides emotional and financial support to underserved cancer patients and their families in a 19-county area of West Central Texas.

Clark Hitt to speak at Wichita Brazos Museum Aug. 7

Mark Sun., Aug. 7, at 2 p.m., on your calendar for a must-go visit to the Wichita Brazos Museum at Benjamin.

The museum is sponsoring a talk by Clark Hitt of Sweetwater, formerly of Crowell. The subject is the 1841 Texan-Santa Fe Expedition which came through "the Narrows" in Knox County, nearly 170 years ago to the date.

This expedition was not a success in meeting its goals of helping the finances and territorial expansion of Texas, but it contributed along with other events, to factors causing the war with Mexico.

The 1841 expedition across an almost unknown part of Texas became a battle of man against nature. The plan was to go north to the Red River, then travel west across Texas and most of New Mexico, to Santa Fe.

The caravan of around 300 merchants, accompanied by military companies, left

June 21, from Brushy Creek in Williamson County, about 15 miles north of Austin. They came through Wise and Montague Counties, then northwest into Clay and Wichita Counties. They were at the Wichita River near the future site of Wichita Falls, by Aug. 4. The Wichita River's muddy, reddish waters were mistaken for the Red River. Following the Wichita River they crossed Archer and Baylor counties entering today's Knox County where they crossed over "the Narrows," the ridge that divides the water flowing to the South Wichita from those of the Salt Fork of the Brazos.

The northwest direction of the expedition took them through many of our surrounding counties, including King, Foard, Cottle and Motley, making this an important and interesting historical topic.

This adventure, explained in more detail, will be told by Hitt.

Alzheimer's group to offer free workshop Aug. 11

by Jane Rowan
CEA/FCS, Haskell Co.

The Alzheimer's Association-North Central Texas Chapter will present a free educational program entitled "Understanding Memory Loss: When Memory Loss Is a Problem" Thurs., Aug. 11 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Anson Park Seniors, located at 2249 Vogel Street in Abilene.

If someone you know has memory loss, this free session may be helpful in better understanding the difference between normal, age-related memory changes

and Alzheimer's disease.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's research, care and support. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

Seating is limited. To reserve a seat or for more information, contact Mindy Bannister at 325-672-2907 or 1-800-272-3900.



TESSA SALES - JACE YATES

Sales, Yates plan Sept. 24 wedding

Joe and Caron Yates of Weinert are pleased to announce the engagement of their son Jace Allan, to Tessa Lynn Sales, daughter of Terry and Carol Sales of Windthorst.

The prospective bridegroom graduated from Texas A&M University with a Master's Degree in Occupational Health and is employed by Alcoa-

Howmett Corporation in Wichita Falls.

The bride-elect graduated from Midwestern State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. She is employed by United Regional Hospital, also in Wichita Falls.

The wedding is planned for Sept. 24, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Windthorst.

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Bridal Registry
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Whitney Hicks and Andrew Sammons

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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Business of Texas proceeds as national debt decision nears

AUSTIN—With Congress and the White House in a rolling boil over how to handle the nation's mountainous debt before entering default, Texas continued plowing along.

If the nation's debt ceiling is not increased to avoid default, one of many big questions is what effect, if any, a possible downgrading of the United States' credit rating might have on the Texas economy.

At any rate, Gov. Rick Perry ceremonially signed House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 2, legislation passed in the recent regular and special legislative sessions, respectively, to balance the state budget for the 2012-13 biennium:

- without raising taxes
- without tapping the state's \$6 billion Rainy Day Fund; and

•extending the small business tax exemption to 2014.

Perry also signed House Bill 274, "loser pays" lawsuit reform legislation which he said:

- allows a trial court to dismiss a frivolous lawsuit immediately if there is no basis in law or fact for the lawsuit;
- allows a trial judge to send a question of law directly to the appellate court without requiring all parties to agree to a ruling by a court of appeals could decide the case;
- allows plaintiffs seeking less than \$100,000 to request an expedited civil action;
- encourages timely settlement of disputes; and
- helps prevent a party from extending litigation by seeking a "home run" if they have already been offered a fair settlement.

In other news last week, on July 28, the governor's office reacted to the arrest of Pfc. Naser Jason Abdo, an absent-without-leave FortCampbell, Ky., soldier named as a suspect in a plot to bomb a business frequented by Fort Hood soldiers in Killeen.

Perry said after the arrest the incident "underscores the importance of citizens reporting something that doesn't seem quite right immediately to law enforcement."

Meanwhile, on the governor's calendar for Aug. 6, is an event he has publicly endorsed: The Response, a seven-hour public prayer and fasting forum to be held at Reliant Stadium in Houston.

And, the watch continues as to the extent of Gov. Perry's presidential aspirations.

TEA releases new ratings

Accountability ratings for 8,526 public schools and 1,228 districts were released by the

Texas Education Agency on July 29.

Increasing standards and the elimination of the Texas Projection Measure calculation resulted in fewer schools and districts earning the highest rating of "Exemplary" in 2011.

In fact, the number of Exemplary districts fell from 241 in 2010 to 61 this year while the number of campuses earning the highest rating dropped from 2,637 in 2010 to 1,224 today. And, the number of districts with the state's lowest rating, "Academically Unacceptable," increased from 37 in 2010 to 88 in 2011, and the number of Academically Unacceptable campuses increased from 104 to 569. However, only about 7 percent of the districts and campuses in the state received the lowest rating, according to an agency news release.

In 2013, the TEA will use a new accountability system titled "State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness" in response to House Bill 3, which passed in 2009.

Speaker pro tem to retire

State Rep. Beverly Woolley, R-Houston, last week announced she would retire at the end of her current two-year term.

Woolley, 72, is in her ninth term as a House member and currently holds the title of speaker pro tempore. She also serves on the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

When the House is in session, in the absence or inability of the speaker, the speaker pro tem may call the House to order and perform all other duties of the chair in presiding over the deliberations of the house and perform other duties and exercise other responsibilities as may be assigned by the speaker.

Fund enrollment to start

Enrollment for the Texas Tuition Promise Fund commences Sept. 1 and ends six months later, on Feb. 28, 2012.

The fund allows prepayment of all or part of undergraduate tuition and required fees at Texas public colleges or universities at today's prices.

The idea is to enroll infants and small children as early as possible to allow time to build a substantial account.

Texas public colleges and universities bill an enrollee's fund account for tuition and required fees when their child enters higher education. The plan is administered through the state comptroller's office.

10 Years Ago August 2, 2001

Members of the Haskell FFA Chapter traveled to Houston to attend the 73rd Annual State Convention. Attending were Levi Terry, B.J. Opsahl, Melissa Buerger, Ross Bullinger, Wendy Proctor, Sydney Brueggeman, Angel Pena and Chase Cockerell. Terry received the Lone Star Degree, the highest degree at the state level.

Rochester High School cheerleaders attending camp on the campus of Tarleton State University were Dana Holmes, Haley Brown, Dala Nicholson, Hayley Herode, Melina Garcia, Caleigh Beauchamp and Tamara Taylor.

Faith Lutheran Church in Sagerton, has welcomed new pastor Deborah Nissen, who will be installed to the position during a worship

service celebration.

20 Years Ago August 1, 1991

Bill Nemir began duties this week as administrator of Haskell Memorial Hospital. He succeeds Bud Comedy, who retired last month.

West Texas Utilities hosted a party in honor of Wayne Wainscott, who is retiring after forty years with the company.

Mindy Ballard of Rochester, won first place in tailored day wear at the district 4-H fashion show in Quanah. She has qualified to advance to the state fashion show.

30 Years Ago July 30, 1981

Patrick Pace has been named president of the Farmer's National Bank in Rule. He replaces Morris Neal, who is retiring.

Receiving the Best

Line Award at the Abilene Christian University Band Camp were Haskell Junior High twirlers Patricia Henry, Kelly Gilliam, Jill Jennings and Lori McGee.

Haskell Volunteer fireman attending the 52nd Annual Firemen's Training School at Texas A&M University were Chief Tom Watson, Don Comedy, Bill Lane, Phillip Cockerell and Phillip Stocks.

40 Years Ago August 5, 1971

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sanders of Weinert, were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception hosted by their children.

Nancy Toliver has completed a Master's of Education degree, with a major in the field of guidance and counseling, from Hardin-Simmons University.

The Railway Express

office in Haskell will close soon, according to agent Gene Shackelford. The Burlington Northern freight office will remain open, but the Express Service will be discontinued.

50 Years Ago August 3, 1961

Robert Starr, who began his football career at Haskell High School and earned a scholarship to Baylor University, recently signed a one-year contract to play pro football with the Baltimore Colts.

Mr. and Mrs. Vence Fitzgerald and Will Fitzgerald, members of an early day Haskell County ranching family, were here fishing and visiting with relatives and friends.

Carrol Bledsoe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Bledsoe of Haskell, who is attending a dental college in Portland, Oregon, was recently selected to do clinical work at the college. His selection was made on the basis of exceptionally high grades.

100 Years Ago August 5, 1911

Hugh Meadors showed off peaches from his orchard, one of which measured 11 inches in circumference. He stated there were 125 of the peaches on one tree.

The news came this morning that the southbound Wichita Valley passenger train was blown from the track between Stamford and Anson.

Mr. and Mrs. T.E. Bowman have returned from an extended visit to the Plains country. He says a trip to the Plains will make a man appreciate the good well water of Haskell.



Ask the Mayor

By John Gannaway, Mayor of the City of Haskell

Boy, I am pumped! I am always interested in any and all feedback that I get from those who read this column and there has been a lot of it from last week's. In the last 15 months I've been writing this column, I have never received more phone calls/comments. I am not the only one who thinks that pink jumpsuits and tents are a good idea. If it so happened that our law enforcement decided that this was the way to go, I feel certain that volunteers would provide more tents and jumpsuits than were needed. People feel very strongly about crime and the ways to control it as well as the punishment of those who do it. And they feel strongly about our community being tagged as "soft on crime."

I received a phone call from a gentleman who shall remain nameless by his request and we rode around about an hour. He's been a citizen of this city for many years, has worked hard for what he has and has taken good care of what he's earned. From this vantage point he was some suggestions. He suggested that if the parents or parent of a juvenile (his description was "hoodlum") who has been in trouble with the law more than once receive any federal subsidies such as housing where their rent is reduced that they have their monthly rent raised substantially; #2 These same parents who receive food stamps have the amount substantially decreased; #3 Since it is parental responsibility to see that your children do not commit crimes, that all parents who have children in trouble with the law should be drug tested on a regular basis. If they are found to be drug users, they should have their subsidies completely removed. As I said, these are his suggestions from his vantage point. Not to be picking on the citizens who happen to find themselves and their families in these particular situations, but he has seen that part of the story. This is what he knows and I appreciated his candor and help. His quote: "Something for nothing almost always

creates a problem." These above suggestions concern federal programs over which we have no say. However, it might merit a visit with our legislators.

I also mentioned last week that these juveniles who need to be incarcerated must be sent to either Abilene or Post at a cost of about \$90/day. There are two large vacant buildings out at the prison that could be used to house these individuals. It would take some money to get them up to speed for handling juveniles and there might even be some grant funds available for such. However, the first thing that would have to happen is that Emerald Corrections would have to agree to do this because they own the buildings. I will look into this in the next few weeks.

Another suggestion received concerned those juveniles who are given community service hours as part of their punishment. I know that Judge Linda St. John finds some fairly unpleasant things for these kids to do, but wait until you read what was suggested for them to do. Put them in the pink jumpsuits with a sign on their back saying who they are and what they did. Publish their names and their parents' names in the paper. Then have them clean up some of the lots around town that need some serious cleaning. They would have to use push type lawn mowers (no motor and no self-propelling) and yo-yos (not the toy) to clean these lots. (If you don't know what a yo-yo is just ask one of your friends who has been around awhile, they can tell you). A few hours of this in 100+ degree heat might convince some of these folks that the 'straight and narrow' is the only way to go. This activity would be supervised by individuals who had the time, desire and discipline for such. Some of these errant youth have younger siblings who need to be identified and given special help to keep them from choosing the paths that have gotten their big brothers/sisters into trouble.

The best idea that I got is the

one I've saved for last. For those of you who remember the late Sheriff Garth Garrett, you will appreciate this one. There was a young man in high school who had a penchant for getting into trouble with the law. He had been there many times. Sheriff Garrett visited with the lad one day and told him that he had four options: North, South, East or West. Garth told him, "I don't care which option you take, but you ain't staying here." The young man chose West and went to Arizona to live with his father. Like I said, this is my favorite.

We do have some drug houses; well-known to the authorities. But there are honest citizens living in these areas as well and they have requested that the city look into some guard lights or street lights feeling like mischief/crime is less likely in well-lighted areas. They deserve to feel safe.

Enough said about those who cause trouble—what we need to concentrate on are ways to keep these individuals from ever getting into trouble. We need to be proactive rather than reactive. We need to work with parents and encourage them to seek help when they see a problem arising. We need to do everything that we can to keep young people from choosing the wrong path. There are places to get help—your school, your church and your law enforcement officers. Help is available—but it only works if you ask for it.

The Park Gazebo has been painted recently (thanks to Anthony Lund who has been working here for the city for the past few years) and will soon be lighted hopefully before Homecoming on Sept. 31. Guess you could call it his "Swan Song" as Anthony and his wife, Angela, who works for the prison, will be moving to Utah. His last day at work is Aug. 3. Anthony and Angela Lund, we will miss you and wish you God speed and pray you will return some day. Your service has been beyond the call of duty especially in your love of the park, this city

and its people. It has not gone unnoticed.

Judge David Davis has asked me to contact Stacy Bridges and request a bid for lighting the Square Gazebo. If we can light it as well as the park one in white lights and keep it lighted year round, it will set a tone of elegance.

The drought has put the plans for the fountains in the spring/creek on hold. It is not forgotten just postponed. The springs that feed the creek running down by U.S. 380 are virtually dried up as it cuts through Avenue L. While the creek is low, it seems like a good time to clean; however, the city is strapped at present and they can't do it. I noted on a drive out to the Country Club that many landowners in that area are using the dry period as an opportunity to clean out their tanks.

May I encourage all owners of buildings on the square to begin preparing for Homecoming. I wanted to say, clean your windows but on second thought the school cheerleaders may want to paint your windows so maybe concentrate on the displays. Before you agree to having your windows painted, you might want to negotiate a deal that would include their cleaning them after the homecoming festivities are over. We don't want to be seeing the remnants of the celebration into December. All should be aware that there are many vacant buildings with absent landlords. In this scenario, those who paint need to remember to clean.

Other than that: It is still hot and we're hanging in there riding out one of the worst droughts we've seen in this century.

Some of you aren't watering your yards; your call because you know you have to pay the water bill. However, there are some big trees that are suffering. They are priceless! I'm told to run the price at the base of these trees slowly for a long time in order to save them. I have one big tree in my front yard that all of a sudden started dropping leaves as if it were the fall of the year. I hope it isn't too late.

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From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Buy-Back Programs: Profitable or Compromising?

With technology constantly improving, newer, faster products are always on the horizon. As a result, some retailers recently started offering buy-back programs, which allow customers to replace their old electronics with newer devices. To protect their pocketbooks, Texas customers should pay close attention to a buy-back program's details and requirements.

Whether a particular program is a good deal may depend upon each individual customer's particular circumstances. The devil is in the details. Most buy-back programs basically act as insurance against a gadget's loss of value, but a product's actual or true value can be difficult to define. Like any product intended to create revenue for the seller, buy-back programs are a profit source for retailers—so the terms typically favor the retailer.

Buy-back programs ordinarily add a small fee to the product's original purchase price, but not all

programs work the same way. As long as the original product remains in good condition, most buy-back programs will allow customers to trade in their old device for a newer model at a percentage of its current value. These programs typically involve laptops, tablet PCs and televisions.

In many cases, buy-back programs require that customers return their old devices in exchange for a gift card. As a result, a customer is obligated to buy their next purchase from the same retailer they used the first time. Texans should also take into consideration that they will end up paying triple the original sales tax when all exchanges are done. First, buyers pay sales tax when they buy the device. Sales tax is charged a second time when buyers return it under the buy-back program and then a third time when they purchase the new device with the gift card.

Buy-back programs also usually have stipulations that require customers to include all power cords, original receipts and manuals when they exchange their old products

for new ones. Anyone who participates in a buy-back program should maintain all relevant documentation and equipment to avoid any potential problems. And before locking into a buy-back program, mobile phone customers should confirm that their mobile service providers allow users to upgrade their mobile phones. Otherwise, customers could end up paying unnecessary fees and penalties.

Most importantly, customers should always erase all personal information from their devices before the device is returned. Laptops and various other electronics can hold a significant amount of personal information, so Texans should clear all devices' memory and remove personal information to ensure they protect their identities. Customers who use buy-back programs to purchase mobile phones should keep their old phone's SIM card.

Texas customers seeking more information about a retailer's buy-back program should visit the Better Business Bureau online at www.bbb.org.

Stay informed to protect your financial health

At any stage in life, it's important to stay informed about ways to protect your money and your credit. How smart of a consumer are you? Take the quiz below to see how smart you are about consumer issues and scams.

1. You receive an e-mail stating that your bank is updating security measures and your accounts will be inaccessible until you verify your account information. You should:

a. Provide the requested information immediately.

b. Check for your bank's logo in the e-mail message and if it looks familiar then provide the requested information.

c. Call your bank at a phone number listed on their website or other public source and ask if the e-mail is legitimate.

2. You co-sign a loan for a relative. If they default, can you be held responsible for the debt?

a. Yes, for 100 percent of the debt.

b. Yes, but only for part of the debt.

c. No, as a co-signer you are only a reference.

3. You receive a credit card offer that carries a rate lower than your current credit card. By signing up for the card you will:

a. Probably not save money.

b. Possibly save money.

c. Definitely save money.

4. You are buying a new

car and are tempted by ads to lease instead of buying the car. Is leasing a car always the cheapest way to go?

a. Yes, leasing is always less expensive.

b. No, leasing is not a good deal because you won't own the car.

c. Maybe. You need more info than just the monthly payment to decide.

5. You are making a major purchase and the salesman offers "zero percent financing." You buy now and pay with no interest charges for a year. Is this the best way to pay?

a. Read the contract first.

b. Of course. You have nothing to lose but an interest payment.

c. Tell the salesman that it is illegal to lend money without interest.

6. The only time you can get a copy of your credit report is when you apply for a loan. True or False?

Answers:

1. C. Call the bank at a number listed either on their website or from another public source. Don't call any phone numbers or visit any websites provided in the original email. Banks don't ask customers to verify information by e-mail. Con artists trying to steal your identity do a very good job of creating phony e-mails, and in some cases even phony websites.

2. A. As a co-signer the lender can hold you

responsible for 100% of the amount owed.

3. B. The card with the lower rate might look like a better deal, but it could also be a gimmick. Some new cards offer a lower interest rate for only a limited amount of time, and then replace it with a higher rate later. Read all disclosures before signing up.

4. C. You may want to lease, but don't base the decision on the monthly payment. There are also up-front costs, maintenance and repair costs, hidden penalties and end-of-lease costs.

5. A. No interest offers come without strings attached. There might be interest charges if you are late on one payment or don't pay the whole balance in a specified timeframe. Understand all of the terms and penalties before signing.

6. False. You can order a copy of your credit report at any time. It is a good idea to review your credit report annually to catch mistakes by creditors, and also make sure that no one is borrowing on your identity.

The number and sophistication of scams designed to separate you from your money is constantly growing. Remember that while online banking and e-commerce can be safe, it is your job, as the consumer, to stay informed and protect your financial health.

Drought taking a toll on local cattle herds

Haskell County is going on months without measurable rain and local ranchers are feeling the pain, with many selling herds to cope with the chronic drought conditions.

"The drought is forcing us to ship more and more cattle," said Farm Bureau

Cattle Committee Chair and Haskell County Farm Bureau member Todd Spitzer. "With continued drought conditions, we are feeding a lot of hay and have even started shipping some spring calves to the sale."

According to a report

from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 86 percent of pasture acres in Texas are in poor or very poor condition. More than 90 percent of the state is in the two most severe drought stages.

"Some ranchers in the county are sending cattle to other states where there is more grazing," he said. "The cattle herd in Texas is already at record low levels. It will take several good years to recover from this one."

Market prices have slipped recently from record highs, showing signs producers statewide are culling herds and digging in. Weather forecasters predict ranchers may not see rain relief in Texas until the end of September.

Orders for lamb/goat validation tags due

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

Time is near to order Lamb/Goat Validation Ear Tags.

If joining FFA or 4-H and planning to show a lamb or goat as an animal project, that lamb or goat must have a Texas Validation Ear Tag.

The Haskell County Extension Office will be taking orders for the validation ear tags until Mon., Aug. 29. The Texas Lamb/Goat Validation Tags will be received in October and then there will be a date set in October for validating.

Don't let snakes sneak up on you

Summertime is the season when the majority of snake bites occur nationwide. Most of the bites occur between April and October, when outdoor activities are popular.

The most common type of venomous snake in Texas is the pit viper. Of those, copperheads are blamed for most bites seen in emergency rooms, says Dr. Kurt Kleinschmidt, chief of medical toxicology at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Luckily, the copperhead is the least dangerous of the pit vipers because it primarily causes only pain and swelling. Most copperhead bites do not need antivenin therapy.

Snakes will strike when threatened or surprised, but most will usually avoid the encounter.

"If bitten, however, the most important thing to remember is to seek immediate medical attention at your local emergency room," Dr. Kleinschmidt says. Before you reach the ER, Dr. Kleinschmidt suggests following these first aid rules:

•Stay calm.

•If you see the snake, try to remember what it looks like or take a photo with your cellphone. Don't try to catch the reptile; it could bite again.

•Quickly remove any jewelry or tight clothing near the bite, before swelling starts.

•Wash the area with soap and water if possible.

•Do not make cuts over the snake bite or apply a tourniquet or constricting device.

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Pay attention to concussion signs

If your high-school athlete is playing in 7-on-7 summer football leagues or is heading out to the practice field this month, UT Southwestern Medical Center sports medicine doctors urge parents to take time to review the latest guidelines about concussions.

First, take time to look over the equipment and make sure it fits properly, particularly the helmet. Make sure your athlete knows how to wear it properly and does so even in practice.

"Parents, coaches and student athletes know what symptoms to pay attention to," notes Dr. Robert Dimeff, director of family sports medicine at UT

Southwestern. "The signs and symptoms can come immediately after the impact or even days later."

Athletes need to let a parent, coach or other adult know if they are feeling signs such as headache or "pressure" in their head, nausea or vomiting, balance problems or dizziness, blurry vision, sensitivity to light or noise, drowsiness or fatigue, and concentration problems

or confusion, Dr. Dimeff says.

Parents should note mood or behavioral changes, including contact sport participants appearing stunned or dazed or confused about homework, particularly work that was not difficult prior to an injury.

"Those symptoms justify a doctor's visit so a concussion isn't overlooked," Dr. Dimeff adds.

E-mail your news, photos and ads to The Haskell Free Press at hfpnews@lycos.com or hfp@valornet.com

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Mullins cousins meet for annual reunion

The grandchildren of Will and Bettie Mullins, early Haskell settlers, held the annual Mullins Cousins Reunion Sun., July 24 at the Occasions Building in Haskell. Approximately sixty Mullins relatives and guests attended.

Registering guests were Norma Dale Linton and Jennifer Linton. Giving the dinner prayer was J.R. Rodriguez.

Traveling the longest distance to attend was Michael Smith, New York City. Oldest granddaughter attending was Wanda Faye Campbell, Ralls, with Willard Mullins being the oldest grandson present. There are currently 17 living first cousins with Maple Thomas, Olney, being the eldest and Gaylon Amonett, Lubbock, the youngest.

Gaylon Amonett,

Lubbock, the family auctioneer, conducted the entertaining auction of family-donated items. Frank Clarkon, Lubbock, assisted to add to the fun. Robbie Mullins Curry, Lubbock, recorded bidding data.

Each family took a turn at the microphone to share 2010-2011 stories of family members. A barbecue dinner was catered with additional desserts brought by guests. Frank and Barbara Clarkson will chair the reunion for 2012.

Attendees included: Gwen Williams, Willard Mullins, Myrtis Mullins Ivey, Milbert Optiz, Kay Smith, all of Haskell.

Marie Atchley of Throckmorton; Doris and Richard Thames, Holman and Ruth Mullins, and Lois McDonald, all of Eastland.

Jimmy and Gayle White

of Rochester; Sarah Love of Burkburnett.

John and Jennifer Linton, Dalton and Dale Linton, all of Midland.

Marjorie Reynolds, Robbie Curry, Deborah Cole, Gaylon and Margaret Amonett, Frank and Barbara Clarkson, all of Lubbock.

Arvil Lee and Wanda Faye Campbell of Ralls; Janice Viola and Milze Meise of Irving;

J.R. and Kay Rodriguez, Donnie and Sharon Smith, Matt and Kyera Smith and Kaysalynn and Matt, Jr., R.W. and Judy Anderson, Valerie Anderson and Zachary Heard, Kristen Grand and Levi, Kathryn Grand Boland, Pam Volhs, all of Abilene;

Michael Glenn Smith of New York, Manuel Mullins of Olney; Clifton and Donna Morrison, and Jeremiah and Kim Morrison, and James Lewis, Gwen Borins, all of Anson.

Samantha Stevens and Austin and Nate of Granbury.

Avoid rabies exposure

Many Texans continue to enjoy outdoor activities into the late summer and early fall days. But Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) health officials warn that September and October often have the highest number of laboratory-confirmed rabies cases.

Last year, 114 rabies cases were reported in September, 93 of those in bats. The only month with a higher total was March with 116 cases out of 969 cases for the year. In 2006, 120 rabies cases were reported in September and another 109 cases in October, most in bats.

While these numbers can be eye-opening, DSHS health officials say there are things that you can do to keep from being exposed to the rabies virus.

"The most important thing that people can do is to have their animals vaccinated against rabies and keep those vaccinations up to date," said Dr. Tom Sidwa, DSHS veterinarian who heads the department's Zoonosis Control Branch. "State law requires that you have your dogs and cats vaccinated against rabies

by a veterinarian."

DSHS also offers this advice:

- Keep cats and ferrets indoors and keep dogs indoors or in a fenced yard.

- Spay or neuter pets to prevent unwanted animals that may not receive proper care.

- Teach children not to play with any animal that they do not know, even if the animal seems friendly.

- Avoid animals, both domestic and wild, that appear disoriented, fearless or aggressive. Nighttime animals such as bats, raccoons and skunks that are active in the daytime may be sick.

- Do not touch any wild animal that appears ill or dead. Call your local animal control or local health department for help.

- Don't attract wild animals to your yard. Avoid leaving pet food outdoors, and keep garbage in closed containers.

- Stay away from wild animals, and never keep a wild animal as a pet.

- Prevent bats from entering the home where they might come in contact with people or pets. You cannot, however, get rabies just from seeing a bat from a distance.

- If you find a bat in a room with an unattended child, a sleeping person or anyone who cannot reliably say what happened, leave the room, close the door and call your local rabies control or local health department to capture the bat and have it tested for rabies. Do not touch the bat yourself.

- Have domestic ferrets, wolf-dog hybrids and livestock, especially those that are in frequent contact with humans, vaccinated against rabies.

Rabies is a viral illness that affects the central nervous system. Once symptoms of

rabies occur, it is almost always fatal. However, a series of post-exposure shots, if given in time, can prevent rabies from developing.

Humans and all warm-blooded animals can get rabies. You can be infected with the rabies virus through the bite of an infected animal. Though rare, you also can get rabies if the saliva from an infected animal gets directly into your nose, eyes, mouth or a fresh wound.

Rabies is a medical urgency not an emergency, but decisions must not be delayed. If you or someone in your family is bitten, DSHS recommends that you:

- Wash the wound immediately and thoroughly with soap and warm water. Apply an antiseptic if available.

- Seek prompt medical care if an animal bites you or you believe that you may have been exposed to rabies.

Your health care provider will determine if a series of rabies shots is needed. Report all animal bites to your local rabies control authority as soon as possible so the animal can be quarantined or tested if needed. Be able to describe the kind of animal, its size and color as completely as possible if it has not already been captured.

High-risk animals for rabies in Texas are skunks, bats, raccoons, foxes and coyotes.

Rabbits, hares and small rodents such as squirrels, rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils and chipmunks are rarely found to be infected with rabies and have not been known to cause rabies in humans in the United States.

Dogs, cats, horses and cattle are the most frequently reported rabid domestic animals in Texas.

Clear Fork Crime Stoppers
1-800-222-TIPS

This Week's Devotional Message:

Let us hear it for all our good young people



Unfortunately, it's the boy who sets fire to the school library or the young person rushed to the hospital with a drug overdose who makes the headlines; overshadowing the vast majority of our good teenagers who just study hard, help around the house, find after-school jobs, excel at sports or win scholastic honors and stay out of trouble. This has caused many parents a great deal of needless

anxiety about the direction which their own children will take, for the evil temptations are indeed waiting out there. However, by providing a harmonious and positive home life with the right mixture of love, understanding and firm guidelines, reinforced by the teachings at our house of worship, we can be assured that our nation will be in good hands when our young generation inherits it.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

—HASKELL—

East Side Baptist Church

Jay Beerley, Senior pastor
Shawn Smith, Youth Worship pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
600 N. 1st East, Haskell

Christian Church

Frank Slayton, minister
Sun. 10:45 a.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell

Church of God

Bruce Ray, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wed. 7:00 p.m.

714 North First East, Haskell

Trinity Lutheran Church

Rev. David White, pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
Hwy 380 East, Haskell

Iglesia Bautista El Calvario

Art Flores, Interim pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell

First United Methodist Church

Rev. Dustin Wilhite, pastor
Sun. 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. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 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

Philip Sims, minister
Sun. 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

Larry White, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m.
114 S. Ave. D, Haskell

Hopewell Baptist Church

Sun. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
908 N. Ave. A, Haskell

Greater Independent Baptist Church

Sun. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.
301 N. 3rd St., Haskell

New Covenant Foursquare

Bill and Renee Glass, pastors
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.

200 S. Ave. F, Haskell

First Baptist Church

Rev. Jim McCurley
Jason Daniels, minister of Youth and Music
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m.
301 N. Ave. E, Haskell

Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church

Morris R. Johnson, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.m.

1600 N. First St., Haskell

God Loves You Ministries

Mark Wallace, pastor
Church Service 10 a.m.
West side of square, Haskell

—WEINERT—

First Baptist Church

Dan Bullock, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
Weinert

Weinert Foursquare Church

Rev. Robert Harrison
Sunday 11 a.m
Weinert

—ROCHESTER—

Church of Christ

Steve Willis, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
West on Main Street, Rochester

First Baptist Church

Joseph Barrett, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.;
Prayer Time/Team Kids 5 p.m.;
Wed. Youth meeting 7 p.m.
500 Main, Rochester

Union Chapel Baptist Church

Clovis Dever
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Rochester

Faith Chapel of Rochester

Randy Hollingsworth, minister
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 6 p.m.
Hwy 6, Rochester

—SAGERTON—

Sagerton Methodist Church

Stephania Gilkey, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m.
Sagerton

Faith Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. Keith Palmquist, pastor
Sun. 10:30 a.m.
Sagerton

—RULE—

First Baptist Church

Russell Stanley, pastor
Sun. 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. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
811 Union, Rule

Primera Iglesia Bautista

Alfa y Omegas
Manuel Marin, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
500 Elm Street, Rule

Sweet Home Baptist Church

Russell Stanley, interim pastor
Sunday 9 a.m.
Gladstone Ave., Rule

West Bethal Baptist Church

Rev. Clovis Dever
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
300 Sunny Ave., Rule

—PAINT CREEK—

Paint Creek Baptist Church

Sun. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.
Paint Creek

—O'BRIEN—

O'Brien Baptist Church

Jim Reid, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a., 5 p., 6 p., Wed. 6 p.m.
O'Brien

ECC Menu

Mon., Aug. 8

Bar-B-Q sausage, pinto beans, potato salad, garlic bread, white cake, tea or coffee

Wed., Aug. 10

Sloppy joes on bun, northern beans, onions, pickles, chips, strawberry cake, tea or

coffee

Fri., Aug. 12

Hamburger steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread slice, jello, cookie, tea or coffee

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

Call 8-1-1 before digging – It's the law

The Texas Pipeline Awareness Alliance (TPAA) encourages the public to use this date on the calendar, 8/11, as an important reminder for residents to Call 8-1-1 prior to any digging project to have underground utility lines marked.

Texas law requires a call to 8-1-1 before any excavation or digging occurs. Recognizing the potential for unintentional damage, danger and harm to persons and property, the Texas Railroad Commission, Texas pipeline regulatory body, reminds professional excavators and homeowners that a simple call to 8-1-1 in advance of any digging project saves time and money while keeping people safe and connected.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, requires a Call to 8-1-1. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that need a Call to 8-1-1 before starting.

Texas is home to over 280,000 miles of pipelines, operated by over 1,200 companies; by far the largest pipeline infrastructure in the nation. Pipelines play a significant role in the oil, gas and petrochemicals

industries contributing more than \$160 billion annually to the Texas economy. Texas is the largest producer of oil and natural gas in the United States and Texans consume the most energy in the country, both per capita and in total. Texas' pipelines are working every day to deliver that energy efficiently, safely and in an environmentally friendly way. Pipeline companies carefully build and maintain these lines and monitor their operations around-the-clock.

Pipelines are safe and serious pipeline problems are rare, and in many cases, preventable. Yet, failure to call before digging results in over 15,000 unintentional hits and damage to pipeline infrastructure annually according to the Texas Railroad Commission. Although most were minor, some did require repair and even taking the line out of service, disrupting service to consumers and businesses. A simple call to 8-1-1 to have those lines marked could have prevented damage in many cases.

The Texas Pipeline Awareness Alliance reminds excavators and homeowners throughout Texas to Call 8-1-1 before digging. Safe digging is no accident.

For more information, visit www.Pipeline-Safety.org.

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Garage Sale

MOVING SALE at the old Chevy building, 517 N. 1st St., beginning Sat., Aug. 6 at 8 a.m. Many items will be for sale including office equipment, kitchen appliances, household items and building supplies. For more information, call 940-864-2037. 31c

SIX FAMILY GARAGE SALE: Sat., Aug. 6, 8 to ? 701 N. 1st (old Video Mania). Likenew furniture, appliances, tires, tools, toys, household items, building materials, name brand clothes and shoes, jewelry. 31c

YARD SALE: Sat. 8 to 3. 1109 N. Ave. J. Computer desk, Jr. size clothes, kids' clothes, lots more. 31p

THE MUNDAY Chamber of Commerce will be holding **FUNDays** in Munday, Trade Days on August 27 and 28, September 24 and 25, and October 29 and 30. Indoor, air conditioned 10 X 10 booth spaces rent for \$10 with no electricity or \$15 with electricity. Outdoor booth spaces are also available with or without electricity. We need vendors of all types, merchandise, food, arts & crafts. Call 940-422-4540 for more information or to reserve your space. 31-32c

WEINERT CITY-WIDE garage sale, Sat., Aug. 6. 9-3. Maps available. Great assortment of items including furniture. 31p

Miscellaneous

SRACCESS.NET. High speed internet \$9.95 and up. 41tfc

HAVE OPENING for 2 year old or up. Cindy Hearn, 940-207-0431.

Jobs Wanted

GENERAL DOZER WORK. Fully insured. Ranch and oilfield. W/ D6D Cat with winch. Home 940-849-3401, Cell 940-862-3401. 25tfc

For Rent

S&S STORAGE in Haskell has storage units for rent. Call 864-2208. 31c

IN RULE! Rent or rent to own. Large 2 bedroom. \$225 monthly. 1315 Taylor. 325-829-1935. 31-32c

IN ROCHESTER! Rent or rent to own. 3 bedroom. \$300 monthly. 604 Railroad. 325-829-1935.

Wanted

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks and scrap metal. Call Joe 325-514-0427. 28-31c

HOUSEKEEPER. Must have references. Call 325-721-0441. 31c

Help Wanted

SONIC DRIVE IN in Haskell is now taking applications for all positions. Apply in person. 44tfc

PRN LVNs needed at Rolling Plains Detention Center. Education and experience: Graduation from high school or GED required. 1-2 years experience desirable, preferably in a correctional setting. Required Licensure/Certifications/Registrations: Licensure by the respective State Board of Nurse Examiners is required. Certification by the American Heart Association as Basic Life Support Provider. Come by Rolling Plains to complete the application or go online to www.emeraldcompanies.com. 30-31c

NOW HIRING: City of Haskell Public Works Department Streets/Water Laborer. High school diploma or GED. Class A Texas CDL. One year of experience in water and street maintenance (preferred). Employment application. Contact City Hall for application information at 301 S. 1st St. or call 940-864-2333. Should you have any question related to the position contact Mr. Matthew Duran, Director of Public Works at 940-864-2446. Like the City of Haskell (Public Works) on Facebook. The City of Haskell is an equal opportunity employer. 30-31c

CDL DRIVERS: Relocate for great paying Texas Frac work! Great company/ Paid benefits! Must have Bulk pneumatic trailer experience. 800-397-2338. 31c

SEYMOUR HOSPITAL has an opening for a full time insurance biller. Experience preferred. Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Insurance and PTO benefits. Please contact Jeannie Forehand at 940-889-5572 for more details. 31c

STONEWALL MEMORIAL Hospital's Alternatives Program in Aspermont, Texas, is seeking LCSWs, LMSWs, LPCs or LPCis to work in our outpatient mental health program for senior adults. Applicant is responsible for providing individual, family, and group counseling, case management, and documentation of those services. FT, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., no on call, and no weekends. Applicant must be a team player with effective time management skills, and great communication skills, oral and written. Excellent pay and benefits. For further information, please contact Pauline

Help Wanted

Velez, LCSW, at toll free 866-308-8500, 940-839-7036 or pauline.velez@sbcglobal.net. SMH is an EOE. 31-34c

Public Notices

NOTICE

To any and all relatives of Elena B. Segovia or Elena B. Zepeda, if any have claim to 408 E. Olive Street in Eastland, Texas, please call 775-671-2220. 31c

INVITATION TO BID

The City of Rochester, Texas, will receive bids for construction of the Community Development Block Grant project (TXCDBG #729689) until 4:00 pm on August 9, 2011 at the office of the Engineer at 4409 71st Street #6, Lubbock, Texas 79424, at which time and place all bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids are invited for the renovations of the existing wastewater treatment plant. Major items included, but are not limited to, the following:

New concrete Imhoff Tank (12 feet inside diameter by 15 feet sidewall depth).

Remove steel internal equipment from two existing clarifiers (10 feet diameter).

Build concrete floors on existing sludge drying beds (two each 20 ft. by 20 ft.).

New 6 inch plant piping.

Other miscellaneous items.

Contract documents, including plans and specifications, are available at the office of Carthel Engineering Solutions, 4409 71st Street #6, Lubbock, Texas 79424, phone 806-687-8322, fax 806-687-8323. Questions concerning this project should be addressed to Mr. Ricky Russell at the Rochester City Hall (phone 940-742-3411, fax 940-742-3711).

This is a lump sum contract. Method of payment to Contractor will be via check by the municipality after approved requests for payment.

A Bid Bond (issued by an acceptable security), in the amount of 5 percent of the bid, shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Rochester, or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (at par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. The successful Bidder must furnish a

Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of the contract, from a Surety Company holding a permit from the State of Texas, to act as a Surety or other Surety, or Sureties satisfactory to the Owner. If the total bid is less than \$25,000, a Payment Bond will not be required.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (i.e., Davis-Bacon) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Rural Affairs and contained in the Contract Documents must be paid on the project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The City of Rochester reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of Rochester for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to awarding of the contract.

Hon. Marvin Stegemoeller, Mayor 31c

NOTICE

Haskell County Commissioners' Court will be accepting sealed bids for a new roof structure and carport for the Sheriff's Office, 507 S. 2nd. The deadline for bids to be turned in to the County Judge's office is Friday, August 19, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. Bids will be opened in Commissioners' Court on Tuesday, August 23, 2011. For more information call 940-864-2851. 31-32c

NOTICE

Haskell County Commissioners' Court will be accepting sealed bids for 6 storm doors for offices in the County Courthouse

measuring 90" x 36." The deadline for bids to be turned in to the County Judge's office is Friday, August 19, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. Bids will be opened in Commissioners' Court on Tuesday, August 23, 2011. For more information call 940-864-2851. 31-32c

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF HASKELL, TEXAS
TDRA PROJECT
NO. 710319

Separate sealed bids for the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Irrigation Improvements will be received by the City of Haskell, Texas until, Thursday, August 18, at 10:00 a.m., at City Hall, 301 South First Street, Haskell, Texas 79521 and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of furnishing and installing a poly lined center pivot irrigation system for Haskell's wastewater effluent. The project includes one 1,250 foot radius pivot, valves, pumping facility, and controls as well as materials only for 6,800 feet of effluent piping, with associated metal tape, air valves, and fittings, according to these specifications and according to the plan sheets contained in this document. The control equipment for the pivot shall provide remote operation as noted in these specifications.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following location: Jacob & Martin, Ltd., Consulting Engineers, 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606.

Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original plans

and specifications from Jacob & Martin. Bids shall be submitted on original documents and the entire specification book must be returned with bid. No faxes or copies of bids sheets will be accepted.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained from Jacob & Martin, Ltd., 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606 (325-695-1070), upon payment of \$40.00 (non-refundable) for each set. Checks should be made to the order of Jacob & Martin, Ltd.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the City of Haskell negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

Bidder's attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing

wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Rural Affairs and as set forth in the Contract Documents, must be paid on this project, and that the Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

City of Haskell, Texas
By: John Gannaway
Mayor
Date: August 4, 2011

PUBLIC NOTICE

On June 30, 2011, Hispanic Family Christian Network, Inc. filed an application with the FCC for a new FM broadcast station to serve O'Brien, Texas. The principals of Hispanic Family Christian Network, Inc. are Maria Cristina Guel, Jenifer Juarez, and Omar Vasquez. The new station will operate on Channel 261A, 100.1 MHz, with a daytime and nighttime power of 6 kW. The station will operate from an existing tower 80 meters above ground, located on US-82, 3 miles northeast of Junction of US-82 and SR-222. A copy of the application can be examined during normal business hours at 2605 Hyacinth Dr., Mesquite, Texas 75181. 31-34c

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903 US HWY. 277 S.-BEAUTIFUL ROCK HOME W/ACREAGE, BARN & GUEST HOUSE! 4/3. \$275,000. Possible owner finance!

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905 N. AVE. F. A BRICK HOUSE located on BRICK STREET. This spacious two-bedroom (possible third), one bath home has a large living-dining room with wood floors and two built-in display cabinets. The kitchen has a new counter top and sink. Other amenities include additional wood floors, updated bathroom with tub and shower, window units for cooling and panel heat and fenced yard. There is an attached one car garage with storage which could easily become another bedroom and bath. \$38,500.

201 S. AVE. P. Immaculate three-bedroom (large master suite), two bath, brick, manufactured home on three acres. Property has a large living area with a built-in bookcase and fireplace, dining, large kitchen with small dining area. There is lots of room for automobiles with the double carport, shop or garage building, storm cellar in the fenced backyard and a water well. Property has all city conveniences and comes with approximately three acres. \$79,500.

197 CR 410. NEW FLOORING. Southside of Haskell. ACREAGE plus home, barn and livestock stalls. This one of a kind property is seldom on the market. Nice two bedroom, one bath home including a den, large kitchen with beautiful custom oak cabinets, living room, spacious bedrooms and bath, C/HA, metal roof and long front porch. There are 14 fenced acres with this property including some cultivation and sub-irrigated coastal. A well with a windmill is located near the barn. \$130,000.

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Owner
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Supervisor
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READING PROGRAM—Those participating in the summer reading program held Tues., July 26 at the Haskell County Library include, front row, l-r, Kyle Smith, Matthew Gober, Colton Gober, Colt Moore, Alyssa Hernandez, Tana Contreras, Ozzy Contreras and Madielyn Moore; back row, Arian Contreras, Austen Sanford, Brody Moore holding Evan Enriquez, Michelle Moore, J.R. Brown and Ramiro Olvera. The day's readers were Brody and Michelle Moore.

Drought decision aid for ranchers now available

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

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Oklahoma State University have developed a decision aid to help cattle producers make culling decisions due to extreme drought.

The Cow Bid Price estimate Calculator, a spreadsheet program, is available at <http://agfacts.tamu.edu/~lfalcone/newweb/droughtmgmt.htm>.

"This is the latest in a string of these types of problems due to drought, much like what we saw in the spring and summer of 1996, again in 1998 as well as 2006, 2008 and 2009," said Dr. David Anderson, AgriLife Extension livestock economist. "However, market conditions and expectations of future prices were much different than today."

Anderson said in the spring of 1996 producers were faced with the lowest cattle prices since the mid-1970s, along with grain and forage prices "that were historically very high, and set to move higher." The Cow Bid Price Estimator uses data on calf crop percentage, weaning weight, steer, heifer and cull cow price, annual operating costs per cow as well as financing information.

"Today, cull cow and calf prices are much stronger even though we face higher

grain and forage prices," Anderson said. "What is the same now as in 1996 are the economic and financial analysis tools and how they should be used to make a sound disinvestment or investment decision for breeding cattle."

Dr. Larry Falconer, AgriLife Extension economist in Corpus Christi, said beef cattle producers are facing the following decisions: 1.) Keeping or selling a cow. 2.) How much feed one can afford to buy to keep a cow or heifer in the herd.

"These decisions hinge on the expected value of each animal in a herd when compared to what the market is offering for that animal," Falconer said. "These decisions can be analyzed with this tool. Deciding on what a cow is worth in a herd is not always simple when

comparing what you have to pay for the same age and quality cow over the scale at your local auction barn."

The decision aid uses data on calf crop percentage, weaning weight, steer, heifer and cull cow price, annual operating costs per cow as well as financing information. By entering this data, a rancher can determine the expected net present value of the cow to use in making a culling decision.

"The use of these tools can provide benchmarks to calculate what might be best to do with the hand that you as a cattle producer have been dealt," Falconer said. "This analysis should be carried out for your particular situation, because the 'right' answer depends on the cost structure for your ranch and what you expect future prices to be."

4-H West Texas Fair & Rodeo entries due Aug. 10

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

The fall show season is fast approaching. If you are a 4-H member and have an animal project, your entries for the West Texas Fair and Rodeo in Abilene and the State Fair of Texas are due in the Haskell County Extension Office Wed., Aug. 10 by 4:30 p.m.

Entry forms are available

at the Haskell County Extension Office, located at 101 S. Ave. D in Haskell.

If you have any questions on animal projects, or the upcoming fairs and shows call Wes Utley, Haskell County Extension Agent-Ag at 940-864-2658 or 864-2546.

U.S. Treasury to retire paper checks by 2013

The U.S. Department of the Treasury is retiring the paper Social Security check for millions of baby boomers and others applying for federal benefits, a move that will save taxpayers \$1 billion over the next 10 years. Beginning May 1, 2011, anyone newly applying for Social Security, Veterans Affairs or other federal benefits will need to choose an electronic payment method—paper checks will no longer be an option. People currently receiving their federal benefits by paper check must switch to direct deposit by March 1, 2013.

Treasurer of the United States Rosie Rios today highlighted the savings to taxpayers by ceremonially writing a check to American taxpayers in the amount of \$1 billion. "More than 18 million baby boomers are expected to reach retirement age during the next five years, with 10,000 people a day becoming eligible for Social Security benefits," said Treasurer Rios. "It costs 92 cents more to issue a payment by paper check than by direct deposit. We are retiring the Social Security paper check option in favor of electronic payments because it is the right thing to do for benefit recipients and American taxpayers alike."

The Treasury Department published a final rule in December 2010, to gradually eliminate paper checks for federal benefit payments. In addition to the taxpayer savings, electronic payments are safer and more convenient than paper checks. Last year alone, more than 540,000 Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) paper checks were reported lost or stolen and had to be replaced.

On January 31, 1940, Ida Mae Fuller received the first monthly Social Security benefit check and, to date, about 165 million people have received Social Security benefits. The movement toward electronic payments has been steadily increasing. According to the 2010 Federal Reserve Payments Study, electronic payments now make up over three-quarters of all noncash payments nationwide. There were 5.7

billion fewer checks written in 2009 than in 2006, a decline of 6.1 percent per year—while electronic payments grew 9.3 percent during that same period. Among federal benefit recipients, approximately eight in 10 receive their Social Security or other federal benefit payment electronically.

The Treasury Department's Go Direct® public education campaign provides information to Americans about the change to how federal benefit payments are being delivered and makes it easy for current check recipients to switch online at www.GoDirect.org or by calling a toll-free helpline. The timeline for phasing out paper checks includes:

May 1, 2011: People newly applying for federal benefits on or after May 1, 2011, must choose an electronic payment option at the time they sign up for their benefits. If they wish to direct their money into a bank or credit union account, they will want to have the following information on hand at the time they apply for their

benefits:

- Financial institution's routing transit number (often found on a personal check)
- Account type—checking or saving
- Account number (often found on a personal check)

People who prefer receiving their payments on a prepaid debit card or who do not have an account at a financial institution can receive a Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card. For more information, visit www.GoDirect.org.

March 1, 2013: Current check recipients must switch to electronic payments before March 1, 2013. Switching from checks to direct deposit is fast, easy and free at www.GoDirect.org, by calling the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center's toll-free helpline at 1-800-333-1795, or by speaking with a bank or credit union representative.

Anyone already receiving federal benefit payments electronically will continue to receive their money as usual on their payment day. No action is required.



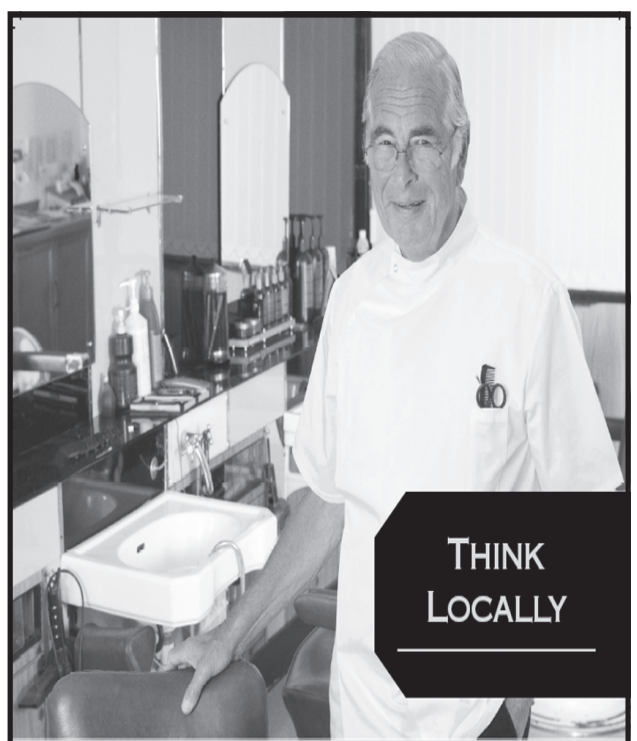
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Some questions and answers about Medicare:

Do I have to pay the Home Health-care Agency and then collect from Medicare?

No. The agency will collect directly from Medicare.

Do I have to decide between getting Home Health-care benefits under Part A or Part B of my Medicare?

No. If you have both Part A and Part B; Part A will pay for covered Home Health-care Services. If you have only Part B, it will cover those services.

How can I determine if I would qualify for Home Health-care Services?

Call your physician or Haskell Home Health Agency at 940-864-5074.

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.

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