

Basketball

HASKELL
JVB-VB vs Albany
Fri., Jan. 6, 5 p.m.
at Haskell
JVG-VG vs Hamlin
Fri., Jan. 6, 5 p.m.
at Hamlin
JHG-JHB vs Roscoe
Mon., Jan. 9, 5 p.m.
at Roscoe
JVG-B, VG-B vs Roscoe
Tues., Jan. 10, 4 p.m.
at Haskell
PAINT CREEK
VG vs Throckmorton
Fri., Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.
at Throckmorton
JH vs Throckmorton
Thurs., Jan. 5, 6 p.m.
at Paint Creek
VG-VB vs Rule
Tues., Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
at Rule
RULE
JH vs Woodson
Thurs., Jan. 5, 6 p.m.
at Rule
VG vs Woodson
Fri., Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.
at Woodson
JVB-VB vs Rotan
Fri., Jan. 6, 5 p.m.
at Rotan
JH vs Paint Creek
Mon., Jan. 9, 6 p.m.
at Paint Creek
VG-VB vs Paint Creek
Tues., Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
at Rule

Calendar

Art Association

The Brazos West Art Association will meet Mon., Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ annex. Paul Friske, a well-known Abilene artist, will present an art demonstration using pastels or oils. Everyone is invited.

Library Board

The Haskell County Library Board will meet Mon., Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the library meeting room located at 300 N. Ave. E. Guests are welcome.

Garden Club

Members of Haskell Garden Club will meet Tues., Jan. 10, at 2 p.m. in the Haskell County Library located at 300 N. Ave. E. for a program on Vines, to be presented by Martha Hertel. Guests are always welcome.

Study Club

The Progressive Study Club will meet Thurs., Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Haskell County Library meeting room, 300 N. Ave. E, for a book review of "The Help" to be presented by Billie McKeever. Following the program, a business meeting will be held and reports of various committees will be given.

Cancer support

The Haskell Area Cancer Support group meets the last Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Haskell Memorial Hospital Educational Building. For more information, call 325-864-4466.

Teamkid

Teamkid "Jumping the Hurdles" meets on Wednesdays from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at the Family Activity Center of the First Baptist Church in Haskell for students ages 4 years through the sixth grade. Parents may call the church office at 864-2581, if their child needs a ride.

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Go Indians ~ Go Maidens

The Haskell Free Press

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"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

Haskell natives teaching English in Mexico

by Caron Yates

For Caleb Hudgens, what began as part of a college class, in which he had the opportunity to travel to Mexico to study Spanish for five weeks, evolved into quite an adventure. In fact, it all sounded so exciting, that friend Erin Hise, decided to join in as well.

Hudgens is the son of Jerry Don and Donita Hudgens and graduated from Haskell High School in 2006. He earned a bachelor's degree from Texas State University in 2010 with a double major in Public Relations and English. While in Mexico studying, Hudgens visited a bilingual elementary school. Before the end of the five weeks, he had been hired to teach at that particular school.

Unfortunately as he was preparing to graduate from college, laws changed in the school system in Mexico and they could no longer hire Americans. Although disappointed, Hudgens knew he still wanted to experience other cultures. With the help of a college professor, he was put in contact with a private language institute named Cuauhnahuac. He was soon hired as an English teacher. He has since been promoted to Director of Language for the English Department at the school.

Cuernavaca, Morelos, which is the capital of the state where the school is located, has a population of approximately 1 million people. It also is known as the hub for language institutes. There are many schools teaching English, as well as other languages from around the world. The school Hudgens is associated with is set apart from the other language schools, because all of the teachers are native English speakers. Presently there are twelve American teachers from across the U.S. and one British teacher.

One of those American teachers is Hise. She is the daughter of Vonnie Hise and Jerri Sue Grand. A 2007 graduate of Haskell High School, she earned her degree in Psychology from Midwestern State University in 2011. In fact, she graduated Aug. 4th and was on her way to Mexico by Aug. 23rd.

Hise says she decided to go to Mexico to improve on the very little Spanish she knew, but most of all she wanted to learn the culture. She is teaching three adult classes and one children's class of English as a second language.

Most of the adult students at the school are studying English to advance in their jobs. The classes are made up primarily of lawyers, architects, teachers, doctors, nurses and other professionals. Still others are studying to pass the TOEFL, or Test of English as a Foreign Language exam.



LANGUAGE TEACHERS—Caleb Hudgens and Erin Hise, both of Haskell, are living in Cuernavaca, Morelos in Mexico working at a private language institute named Cuauhnahuac. Hudgens is the

Director of Language for the English Department and Hise teaches English for three adult classes and one children's class. Both are enjoying learning the culture offered by being in Mexico.

While Hudgens and Hise are comfortable with the work assignments, immersing themselves into the culture has been more challenging. Simple things like getting around in the city on the buses, grocery shopping, living in houses with no glass in the windows, and other everyday activities have forced them to truly be a part of the culture. That is exactly what they were both hoping to do.

Unlike the violent and dangerous conditions we see and hear about in the news, Hise says the area of Mexico where they are located is absolutely beautiful, with flowers in bloom all year long, and temperatures ranging from 55 to 85 degrees. There is always something going on in the huge downtown market area, as well as many historical places to visit.

Hise finds it very satisfying to see people improve, learn and grow in something she is teaching. She adds, "The most rewarding part of the job is the people that I am meeting. I have always had a desire to travel. I have learned many life lessons and have grown up a lot mentally and spiritually in the last four months while here. I have met many amazing people that will be lifelong friends and always have a special place in my heart."

Hise plans to eventually go back to school and complete a Master's Degree in Psychology, but she sees more travel, meeting new

people, and engaging in new cultures as a big part of her future.

Hudgens is excited about his present opportunity to work in Mexico and says he originally sought the job to learn Spanish and the culture as he prepares for law school. His ultimate goal is to become a lawyer and work for the State Department in the Embassy in Mexico or South America.

"I want to be more of a world citizen," Hudgens says. "We have all these preconceived ideas about other cultures, but living there has helped me understand and change my entire attitude toward that culture. It also helps us appreciate our own values, culture and upbringing."

Kory Foster, another former Haskell student, plans to join them at the language

institute in January. The son of Steven and Gina Foster, he recently graduated from Texas State University.

Life can be full of adventures. We just have to recognize and be willing to experience them, even if it requires stepping out of our comfort zones. That is exactly what these young people have done, and hope to continue doing in the future.



HALLOWEEN DISPLAY—Erin Hise, center, along with students studying English at the Cuauhnahuac language institute in Cuernavaca, Morelos, are pictured at a display at Halloween proclaiming, "We're dying to learn English!!"

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

Art Club holds December meeting

The December meeting of The Brazos West Art Club was held Dec. 12. Members got into the Christmas spirit with food, fellowship and fun. Gifts were exchanged as well as memories, stories and recipes. A nice assortment of

toys for needy children was collected.

The meeting was held at the Haskell Church of Christ Annex.

Those attending were: Betty Hook, Elaine Reed, Joyce Ivey, Barbara Fouts, Pansy Harris, Nelwyn Beakley, Gary Conn, Jessie Hill and Betty Berry.

Officers were hostesses.

The next club meeting will be Jan. 9, with Abilene artist, Paul Friske as guest. Visitors are always welcome.

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Haskell Home Health Agency

Michelle Johnson
 RN

Dear Michelle,
 I'm having severe pain in my knees and my doctor is suggesting total knee replacements. Can you tell me about this surgery?

Pain as a result of destructive deterioration from osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis is the primary indication for a total knee replacement. Either all or part of the knee joint is replaced with a metal and plastic prosthetic device.

After surgery, the knee is held in a position of maximum extension. Within two to five days, exercises are begun to promote joint mobility and a shorter hospitalization. This may be done through use of a passive motion machine.

These postoperative exercise programs are extremely important and require a high degree of motivation on your part because of the pain involved. Weight bearing is begun when you can use a walker or crutches.

Possible complications from this surgery include infection, loosening of the prosthesis and contractures.

After a recuperative period, patients experience a newfound freedom with pain-free ambulation often for the first time in years.

Haskell Home Health can provide physical therapy, skilled nursing and personal care needs in your home.

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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Home Care: Keeping Texans Proud & Independent

Cotton, Crops Conference set Jan. 17

by Wes Utley
CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co.
 The Rolling Plains Cotton/Crops Conference will be held Tues., Jan. 17.

The conference will take place at the Stamford Bunk House in Stamford. Registration for the event will begin at 8:30 a.m. Five CEU's will be offered at the conference. A lunch will be served.

For more information, contact the Haskell County Extension office at 940-864-2658.

You will not be guaranteed a lunch unless you RSVP by Jan. 13.

Clear Fork Crime Stoppers

1-800-222-TIPS

NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Rolling Plains Central Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Knox, Baylor, Stonewall, Throckmorton, Haskell, Young, Scurry, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens, Palo Pinto, Mitchell, Nolan, Callahan, Eastland, Brown, Comanche, Erath, and a portions of Taylor, Borden, and Archer counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning **January 16, 2012**. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.



MAKE DONATIONS—AEP Texas, the AEP Foundation along with the State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association presented checks in the amount of \$1,000 to each of the volunteer fire departments in Haskell County in appreciation for the service these departments provided and continue to provide. A presentation was made earlier to Haskell Volunteer Fire Department. Present were, I-r, Larry Nehring of AEP, Clifford Short of AEP, Neal Kreger of Rule VFD, Terry Joe Brueggeman of Paint Creek VFD, Roy Bell of Sagerton VFD, Peter Trevino of Weinert VFD, Wade Raynes of Weinert VFD, Mark Thane of AEP and Rochester VFD, not pictured.

Obituaries

Leonard Menchaca, Sr.



LEONARD MENCHACA, SR.

Funeral services for Leonard Menchaca, Sr., 76, of Rule were held Tues., Jan. 3 at St. George Catholic Church in Haskell with Fr. George Roney officiating. Burial was in Rule Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of

Haskell.
 Mr. Menchaca passed away Sat., Dec. 31 at his home in Rule.
 Born Aug. 21, 1935 in Del-Valle, he was the son of Soledad and Manuel Menchaca. He married Mary Hazo in Austin Aug. 4, 1957 at the First Mexican Baptist Church. He and Mary have resided in Rule for 46 years. He was a well known carpenter of the area and very respected in his field. He was also a member of the American Sportsman.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Soledad and Manuel Menchaca; daughter, Jessica Menchaca; two brothers, Manuel and Rufus Menchaca; and sisters, Mary Hatley and Esther

Crawford.
 Survivors include his wife, Mary Menchaca of Rule; sons, John Menchaca and wife Tina of Princeton, Texas and Leonard Menchaca, Jr. of Rule; daughters, Cindy Campbell and husband Doug of Abilene, and Betty Menchaca of Rule; grandchildren, Rhonda Ross, Stephanie Menchaca, Nina Young, Felix Menchaca, Tiffany Campbell and Julian Menchaca; great grandchildren, Luke, Caiton, Lyric, Lyla, Aubree and Maricia; brother Paul Menchaca and wife Lorine of Austin; a sister, Petra Moreno and husband Hygrio of San Antonio; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. PD. NOTICE

New property tax exemptions for Veterans' surviving spouses

Texas continues to do its part to keep helping military veterans and their families. A full homestead property tax exemption that began in 2009 to help totally disabled military veterans will extend to their surviving spouses after Jan. 1.

"This new provision will help families who have been a part of the tremendous sacrifice that veterans have given our country," said Texas Comptroller Susan Combs. "Texas voters overwhelmingly passed a constitutional amendment that will allow surviving spouses of totally disabled veterans to continue to claim a full homestead exemption and not pay property taxes on their home."

In 2009, veterans began receiving an exemption for the total appraised value of their residential homesteads if they have received 100 percent disability rating or are considered unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Based on information provided by

appraisal districts, about 35,300 veterans currently receive that exemption.

The homestead exemption for surviving spouses of veterans who received the exemption begins Jan. 1. Senate Bill 516 allows the total homestead exemption if a surviving spouse does not remarry after a disabled veteran passes away and the property remains the homestead of the surviving spouse.

Surviving spouses would have to apply for the tax exemption through their county appraisal district. The application form containing property tax exemptions has been updated for residents and appraisal districts to use. It can be found at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/50-114.pdf>.

TAX PLANNING

Written By
Rick Rodgers, CPA



CONGRESS EXTENDS PAYROLL TAX CUT FOR EMPLOYEES

In the end, the Democrats and Republicans in Congress agreed to disagree. Before adjourning for the year, the feuding factions were finally able to set aside their differences to temporarily extend the "payroll tax holiday" for two months. The aptly named Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act was promptly signed into law by the President on December 23, 2011.

If legislation had not been enacted, a 2% tax break for payroll taxes paid by employees would have expired on December 31, 2011. The new law also extends unemployment benefits for two million out-of-work Americans and prevents a scheduled cut in Medicare reimbursements to physicians.

Quick recap: Normally, the tax rate for the social security portion of FICA is set at a 6.2% rate on wages up to an annual "wage base." The wage base is \$110,100 for 2012. The Medicare portion of FICA, taxed at a 1.45% rate, applies to all wages. Both employees and employers must pay these payroll taxes. Self-employed taxpayers essentially pay both shares, but they can deduct 50% of the payments.

A 2010 tax law reduced the usual 6.2% social security tax rate by 2%—to an effective rate of 4.2%—but only for 2011 and only for the employee side.

Now the new law extends the 2% payroll tax reduction for the employee side through February 29, 2012. Had Congress not extended this 2% tax cut beyond 2011, workers would have seen smaller paychecks starting January 2012. Congress has agreed to revisit an extension for the entire year in its next session. Both political parties say they want a year-long extension of the payroll tax cut, but finding a way to pay for the extension is the issue on which they seem unable to agree.

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Turning the 'stop smoking' resolution into a reality

If you're among the 18 percent of adult Texans who smoke, odds are good that "stop smoking" appears high on your list of New Year's resolutions. The Department of State Health Services has some tips for turning that resolution into a reality.

"Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death in our state," says Dr. David Lakey, the state's health commissioner. "A person under 50 who stops smoking today cuts their risk of dying in the next 15 years in half. No one thinks it's easy to quit smoking, but the health benefits will make that effort worthwhile."

Dr. Lakey advises smokers to set a date and develop a plan to stop smoking.

"Nicotine is a powerfully addictive drug so you should think about how you're going to cope with withdrawal symptoms," Dr. Lakey says. "Different strategies work for different people. The important thing is to have options that will help you get over the craving to smoke."

Many people benefit from using medications or nicotine replacement products, such as a nicotine patch or gum. Studies have found that smokers who use prescription medications or nicotine replacement products when they try to stop smoking double their chances of success.

The Department of State Health Services offers these tips for dealing with the side effects of nicotine withdrawal:

- Irritability or anxiety: Cut down on caffeine. Take deep breaths. Go for a stroll.
- Trouble sleeping: Take a warm bath. Drink herbal tea

or warm milk. Read.

- Trouble concentrating: Simplify your schedule for a few days. Make a "to do" list. Take a break.

- Increased appetite: Drink more water, especially out of a sip bottle. Eat slowly. Snack on carrots, pickles, grapes or rice cakes.

- Constipation: Eat more fresh fruit, vegetables and whole grains. Drink 6 to 8 glasses of water a day.

- Sore throat: Sip ice water. Suck on sugarless hard candy or lozenges.

- Fatigue: Take a nap. Go to bed early. Try not to push yourself for two to four weeks.

"Remember that a withdrawal symptom or craving usually only lasts for a short time," Dr. Lakey says. "That feeling is going to pass in about 20 minutes whether you smoke or not."

It's also good to know what triggers your desire for a cigarette. For some people it's drinking coffee, driving or watching television. Try avoiding the activities or places that trigger your desire to smoke.

You can also replace your smoking habit with a healthy alternative, such as walking, drinking more water or eating more vegetables. The healthy activities will help you cope with nicotine withdrawal in addition to providing other benefits.

"One of the most important things to remember is to be patient," Dr. Lakey says. "Most people make several attempts to stop smoking before they are successful."

Dr. Lakey also recommends finding a supportive friend or family member who can help you through the cravings.

Resolutions often fall by the wayside

Each year, millions of Americans make New Year's resolutions to exercise more, lose weight or work on their personal relationships. By February, many of those resolutions have become distant memories.

Why are New Year's resolutions so hard to keep?

Dr. Timothy Wolff, a psychiatrist at UT Southwestern Medical Center, says people often aren't successful because they either set their goals too high or because they subconsciously can't accept change.

"Change is often difficult, due to people being unaware

of how ingrained certain behaviors are," Dr. Wolff says. "In addition, people don't like looking at their negative parts. They don't want to feel badly about themselves."

To help resolutions become new habits, Wolff suggests setting small goals, finding activities you enjoy that can help in attaining these goals and communicating your objectives to others, so as to be more accountable.

"As the proverb goes: the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step," Dr. Wolff says. "So, make sure the first step is doable."



MR. AND MRS. GASTON TIDROW

Tidrows celebrate 50th anniversary

Gaston and Willie Faye Tidrow of Haskell recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

The celebration started in September, going on an Alaskan cruise with friends and culminated on Thanksgiving Day when their children and grandchildren surprised them with a Dallas Cowboys game against the Miami Dolphins. Game day was special as the entire family was gathered in the Dallas area to commemorate the occasion.

The couple was married Nov. 14, 1961 in Wichita Falls. He attended Haskell High School and has worn several hats during their marriage including ten years

with the Postal Service, McTid's Lumber Yard owner/building contractor, farming and for the past 18 years as a crop adjuster. He is the son of the late Alf and Delia Mae Tidrow. She attended school at Paint Creek and served Haskell County for 40 years mainly as County Treasurer. Her parents are the late Bill and Lena Petrich. They are members of East Side Baptist Church.

They have two children, Sonja Crisp of Allen and Barry Tidrow and wife Stacy of Lubbock; six grandchildren: Brandon, Blane and Callie Faye Tidrow, all of Lubbock, Conner and Kendall Crisp, both of Allen and Dustin Whitley of Lubbock.

Prepare for winter

Hard freezes and icy conditions can strike suddenly and with little warning. That's why officials with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service urge Texans to prepare their cars and homes now for dangerous winter weather.

The following simple steps are recommended: Insulate outside faucets and pipes near outer walls to prevent them from freezing and bursting.

- Make sure that furnaces, heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves are clean, well-ventilated and in good working condition. Stock up on firewood and supplies, including canned goods and bottled water.

- If you will be away from home for a long period of time, set your thermostat to 55 degrees or higher and open cabinets under sinks.

- Winterize your vehicle by checking the battery, windshield wipers, tire

pressure and fluid levels, and lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent freezing.

- Prepare an emergency supply kit for your car or truck, containing food, drinking water, blankets, rain gear, extra clothing, flashlights with extra batteries, jumper cables and a first aid kit.

- Avoid traveling when sleet, freezing rain or snow is predicted.

- Check on friends and family members whose health or age may put them at greater risk from cold weather. Make arrangements for proper shelter and an emergency supply of food and water for your pets and livestock. Monitor weather reports regularly for the latest information on storms and changes in weather conditions.

By winterizing your home and vehicle now, and paying careful attention to weather and road conditions, Texans can enjoy a safe winter.

Help support the **Wall of Honor Project** by donating your aluminum cans/scrap metal!

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25% off entire store
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It's been a blast!
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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Jan. 1 is opening day for list of new laws

AUSTIN—One way to kick off the year 2012 is to look at all, or in this case just a few, of the bills that contain language taking effect as new state laws on Jan. 1.

Thanks to the website legis.state.tx.us, Internet-using citizens have easy access to a list of 21 such bills. Here are brief statements on a random handful of them:

•HB 843 by Geren/Davis, amends the Tax Code to require the assessor for a taxing unit to deliver a property tax bill by electronic means, if on or before Sept. 15 the individual or entity entitled to receive a tax bill and the assessor enter into an agreement to have it delivered that way.

•HB 1111 by Hartnett/Harris, amends the Property Code to require a justice court, if a tenant files a sworn pauper's affidavit, to provide to the tenant with a written notice containing certain information relating to the initial deposit of rent the tenant must pay. The new law also specifies that a tenant's failure to pay rent during an appeal of an eviction case for nonpayment of rent when it becomes due is the failure to pay such rent under the rental agreement.

•HB 1127 by Gutierrez/Van de Putte, amends the Property Code to require the following notices to contain a prescribed statement regarding the rights or relief that may be available to a tenant, debtor, or owner, as applicable, who is serving on active military duty: a notice to a defendant in a citation for a suit filed by a landlord seeking to recover possession of the premises, a notice in regard to the sale of real property under a deed of trust or other contract lien served on a debtor in default under that trust or lien, and the notice required to be given to a property owner by a property owners' association before the association is authorized to take certain enforcement action against the owner.

•HB 1456 by Orr/Deuell, amends the Property Code to include a contractor or subcontractor of a property owner or property owner's agent among the parties entitled to a mechanic's, contractor's, or materialman's lien on the property based on the contractor or subcontractor providing labor and supplies for the installation of landscaping for a house, building, or improvement under a written contract with the owner or

owner's agent.

•HB 2510 by Lavender et al./Eltife, amends the Business & Commerce Code to specify that an incandescent light bulb that is manufactured in Texas and remains in Texas is not subject to federal law or federal regulation under the authority of the United States Congress to regulate interstate commerce. Among the bill's requirements is that an incandescent light bulb manufactured and sold in Texas must have the words "Made in Texas" clearly stamped on it.

•SB 14 by Fraser et al. and coauthored or cosponsored by all Senate and House Republicans, amends the Election Code relating to requirements to vote, including presenting proof of identification and provides criminal penalties.

•SB 265 by Zaffirini/Carter, amends the Human Resources Code by requiring child-care employees and operators to receive the required training only from knowledgeable individuals with relevant expertise. And, the training must be targeted and relevant to the age of the children who will receive care from the individual receiving training.

•SB 516 by Patrick/Carona/Uresti/Fletcher, amends the Tax Code relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the appraised value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran. State Comptroller Susan Combs said the surviving spouses would have to apply for the tax exemption through their county appraisal district.

Redistricting legal brief posted

In a Dec. 29 legal brief to the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. solicitor general said the Texas Legislature's House and Congressional redistricting maps are discriminatory and in violation of the Voting Rights Act. It was the latest in a series of legal briefs by interested parties in the redistricting case, Perry, et al. v. Perez, et al.

On Jan. 9, the high court will hear arguments on merits from the plaintiffs and defendants.

Tree death count is estimated

The Texas Forest Service reported last month that 100 million to 500 million trees across the state died as a result of unrelenting drought. That is 2 to 10 percent of Texas' estimated 4.9 billion trees.

10 Years Ago January 3, 2002

Jennabeth Kimbrough was hired by Haskell County Commissioners' Court to succeed Florence Alexander as director of the Experienced Citizens Center.

The Haskell girls' basketball team won the Hawley Hoops Classic Championship by defeating Hamlin 48-46. Selected to the all-tournament team were Katie Thompson and Nikki Wallace.

About sixty family members and many more friends joined in the celebration of Lottie Cook's 90th birthday held at the First United Methodist Church.

20 Years Ago January 2, 1992

Haskell native Steven Turnbow, who served in U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm's 17th district office as an intern in 1987, attended a Congressional Intern Alumni banquet hosted by the congressman. The banquet honored interns who served during their political science studies as college students.

The Haskell Indians Varsity basketball team took first place in the Booster Club's annual tournament. Chris Tanner was named "Most Valuable Player" and Mart Guess was named to the All-tournament team.

Regina Gail Gibson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weldon R. Gibson of Haskell, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

30 Years Ago January 7, 1982

The first baby of the new

year born at the Haskell Memorial Hospital was Brian Lehrmann, checking in at 9 lbs. 1 1/2 oz. and 22 inches long. He is the son of Steve and Karen Lehrmann of Sagerton.

Wanda Dulaney, a Haskell native, has been named manager of the Haskell Chamber of Commerce. She comes to the Chamber with almost thirty years experience in Chamber related fields.

Sammy Larned of Bill Wilson Motor Co., has been recognized by Ford Division of Ford Motor Co. for his excellent sales accomplishments. As a Master Sales Counselor, he ranks among the top ten percent of Ford salespeople.

40 Years Ago January 6, 1972

Delegates from Haskell County to the State Farmers Union convention held in San Antonio were Cliff Dunnam,

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Perry, Willard Mullins and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Brown.

Susan Mullino was a contestant in the Abilene Reporter-News Most Typical Cowgirl or Cowboy Contest. She is the fourteen year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Mullino of Rochester.

Securing places on the All-Big Country football team, picked by the Abilene Reporter-News, were Haskell Indians Jackie Young and Bob Shea. They were both chosen for the first team defense.

50 Years Ago January 4, 1962

Mr. and Mrs. George Darnell of this city observed their 60th wedding anniversary with an open house hosted by their children and grandchildren.

Pvt. Raymond Boykin, who is stationed at Fort Polk,

Louisiana, spent several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Boykin of Weinert.

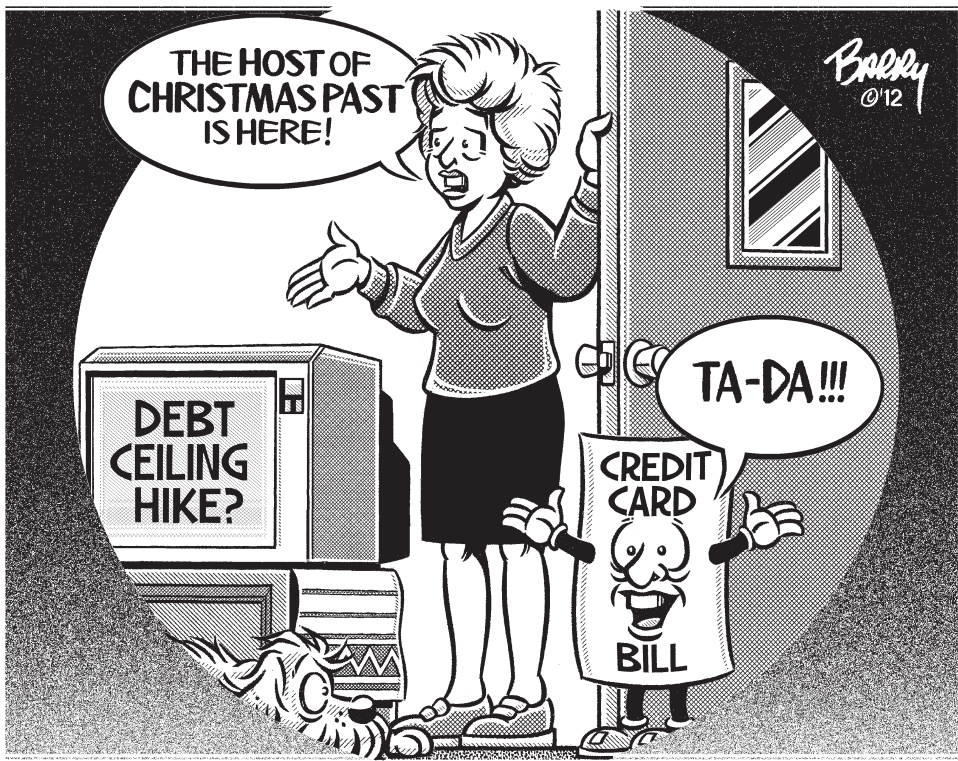
New manager of Perry Bros. store in this city is Jimmy Wyatt, who was assistant manager of the Perry Bros. store in Lamesa. He succeeds Robert Barth who is transferring to the Tulia store.

100 Years Ago January 6, 1912

Cal Wilfong, who has been living in South Dakota the past few years, spent the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Wilfong of this place.

C.D. Long has sold his stock in the Haskell Lumber Company to John Russell formerly with the R.B. Spencer Lumber Company.

O.E. Patterson, who has been at Lubbock for the past two years, has accepted the position of assistant cashier at the Farmers National Bank.



Ask the Mayor

By John Gannaway, Mayor of the City of Haskell

As I get up in years it seems that the years keep coming and going faster and faster. I suppose that means I am having a really good time 'cause when I'm bored, time seems to move ever so slowly. I was just beginning to get used to 2011 and now it is already 2012. Speaking of 2012, I hope that it is a much better year than the last. I hope this year brings enough rain that our farmers have a bountiful harvest and the streams, rivers and lakes are flowing and full. This would bring much needed relief to many of our friends and neighbors who live in towns where the water supply is literally drying up. Adequate rainfall would result in gardens supplying food to many homeowners, yards that would need mowing more than just once and flower-beds that would need weeding. Since the economy of our town is agriculturally based, timely rainfall would keep our local businesses thriving. Rain tends to put a bigger smile on our faces, a little more bounce in our step—seems to just make everything better.

Christmas has come and gone and all the "little angels" have gone home. We've just about finished cleaning the house and assessing collateral damage. Our mantra all the time they were here was: "Don't run in the house!" Didn't do any more good coming from the wife's mouth than it did her mother's many years ago. Are children born with hearing deficits these days? Computers have been re-set to their normal geriatric mode; TV remote controls have been found; all items left behind have been rounded up and ready to be mailed and the dogs have been rehabbed

from the trauma. All to be replayed next month (or so it seems). One of our favorite people of yore, Mrs. Hubert (Margie) Bell, used to say of the grandchildren: "I can't wait for the little angels to arrive—or the little devils to leave."

I hope you didn't overdo as you celebrated the onset of the New Year. My overdoing didn't involve the liquid intake and it wasn't just the overdoing of food intake during this past holiday season—I have overdone all through 2011 concerning eating. I hope that I have enough intestinal fortitude to get some of these excess pounds off—my knees and hips are telling me that the time has come.

I keep getting more and more complaints concerning stray dogs. Do we have people that are driving through town and dumping dogs—what is going on? The Animal Control agent from Stamford comes over at least once a week to pick up stray dogs and I know that he always takes some back with him but the problem seems to be getting worse rather than better. As the wife and I were leaving a local convenience store this past week, we noticed a female dog that had just recently had puppies walking around the parking lot, obviously looking for food. We noticed a young couple trying to get her attention so they could feed her. Once they succeeded in giving this hungry, starving dog some dry food, we asked them if she were their dog. They said no that they were just traveling through and noticed this animal and wanted to feed it. We introduced ourselves and told them how much we appreciated their kindness.

They were on their way from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma to visit their parents for Christmas.

I just don't understand folks who dump animals. One of the things that really bothers me is when people dump an animal because they can't afford to feed it; yet they have enough money to buy their cigarettes and beer. I wonder if there is a special place in Hell for these people. Then there are the people who profess to love their animals yet do not follow the rules to protect "the ones they love." We used to tell our son who occasionally would take off his dog's collar, "Don't forget to put it on before you let her outside...You're the animal with the brain."

As the wife and I are out making my daily mayoral run, I keep thinking of things that we can do to make Haskell a better place. When I see all of our empty buildings around the square, I keep trying to come up with ideas to somehow occupy them. One way would be to leave the facade and build apartments or townhouses inside them. Most of the sidewalks are in good shape and hopefully the roofs which would help reduce the construction costs. The length of the buildings could be shortened slightly so there would be covered parking at the back. This would help alleviate our shortage of housing problem, fill some of our vacant buildings and increase our downtown activity. Now we just need an entrepreneur to take on this project.

So glad the announcement was made last week of the publishing company that chose to make Haskell their home. I'd been aware of all

the dealings and was about to burst having to keep everything so hush-hush. This company is powered by young people so we have an opportunity for fresh young blood, ideas, etc. We're hoping they'll energize us and that we can meet their expectations as their company headquarters. Welcome Jackey Lackey, Inc.

There is never a shortage of complaints concerning our streets. This is a chicken and egg type problem. We have infrastructure problems such as water, gas and sewer lines that need replacing. This is where it becomes very frustrating for all of us. We repair a street and get it in good shape, then we have to tear parts of it up to repair failing water, gas and sewer lines. So you see that we have a real problem. Can it be fixed? Yes. How? By raising our taxes. And who does that make happy? Nobody. All of your city employees and officials are diligently looking for ways to solve this problem that is only going to get worse.

As we enter into 2012, change is in the wind. You will begin to notice some changes in and around town. I will be the first to admit I don't like change just for the sake of change. However, if we are making changes that are making things better, then I am all for it. I hope you will keep an open mind as we make some changes that are designed to make Haskell a better place. If you have ideas as how to make us a better place, don't keep them to yourself—please share them with me.

How that 2012 is upon us, let's do all we can to make it the best year yet. And let the dieting commence!

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This issue mailed Wed., Jan. 4, 2012



Haskell Indians ★ Maidens Basketball



HASKELL INDIANS—Front row, l-r, #20 David Newton, #32 Gabriel Torres, #14 Mathew Martinez and #12 Kelby Bell; back row, #34 Sterling Bird, #30 Brett Shelton, #22 Brady Leach, #24 Isaiah Llewellyn and Coach Tate Thompson.

Haskell Indians

JVB-VB vs Albany
Fri., Jan. 6, 5 p.m.
at Haskell

JVB-VB vs Roscoe
Tues., Jan. 10, 4 p.m.
at Haskell

Haskell Maidens

JVG-VG vs Hamlin
Fri., Jan. 6, 5 p.m.
at Hamlin

JVG-VG vs Roscoe
Tues., Jan. 10, 4 p.m.
at Haskell

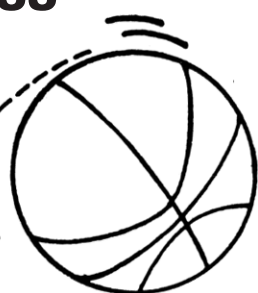


HASKELL MAIDENS—Front row, l-r, #35 Delecia Garcia, #25 Ashley Adams, #21 Myra Rodriguez, #5 Jacie Klose and #23 Sidney Cassidy; back row, #53 McKenzie Shelton, #31 Maci Colley, #33 Dana Rodriguez, #43 Caitlin Johnson, #11 Taylor Burson, #15 Reagan Hadaway and #41 Carson Hadaway.

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Haskell Free Press

Personality-Slipper Shoppe
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Haskell Co-op Gin
Haskell National Bank
Hanson Paint and Body
Haskell Save-A-\$
Larned Sales Center
Smitty's Auto Supply
Matlock & Associates
West Electric



Rule School Menu

Jan. 9-13 Breakfast
Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Pork sausage, biscuits, Berry Puffs cereal, mixed fruit.
Tuesday: Pork sausage, biscuits, Berry Puffs cereal, mixed fruit.
Wednesday: Breakfast taco, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, applesauce.
Thursday: Waffles with syrup, Cocoa Puffs cereal, pears.
Friday: Biscuit with egg, Trix cereal, applesauce.

Lunch
Milk is served daily.
Monday: Ravioli with roll, bologna and cheese

sandwich, sweet corn, green beans, mixed fruit, peaches, red slushy
Tuesday: Frito chili pie, turkey and cheese sandwich, glazed carrots, crackers, fresh fruit, lettuce and cheese, red slushy
Wednesday: Beef and bean burrito, ham and cheese sandwich, Mexicali corn, refried beans, fresh fruit, lettuce and cheese, red slushy
Thursday: Steakfinger with gravy and roll, tuna sandwich, scalloped potatoes, green beans, fresh fruit, crackers, red slushy
Friday: Pizza, po-boy sandwich, tater tots, baked beans, applesauce, chocolate chip cookie, red slushy

Haskell School Menu

Jan. 9-13 Breakfast
Milk is offered daily.
Monday: Biscuits with sausage gravy or Berry Puffs cereal, peaches, apple juice
Tuesday: Cinnamon toast or Lucky Charms cereal, majestic pears, orange juice
Wednesday: Scrambled eggs with sausage or Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, mixed fruit, fruit punch juice
Thursday: Pancakes with syrup or Cocoa Puffs cereal, sour green applesauce, apple juice
Friday: Cinnamon roll or Trix cereal, majestic pears, orange juice

Lunch
Milk is offered daily at all cafeterias. Iced tea is offered at the high school cafeteria only. An energy meal includes a sandwich and a cookie.
Monday: Choice of one: Italian beefy macaroni with

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roll or Italian antipasto salad with salami or energy meal with bologna and cheese; Choice of up to three: glazed carrots, sweet corn, fresh kiwi, cinnamon apple slices, white slushy
Tuesday: Choice of one: Chicken nuggets with gravy and roll or fajita chicken salad or energy meal with turkey and cheese; Choice of up to three: mashed potatoes, green beans, whole wheat crackers, majestic pears, white slushy
Wednesday: Choice of one: Chicken fajita enchiladas or garden pasta salad or energy meal with ham and cheese; Choice of up to three: Mexicali corn, charro beans, fresh orange, mixed fruit, white slushy
Thursday: Choice of one: Baseball Park hot dog or zesty tuna salad or energy meal with tuna salad; Choice of up to three: Scalloped potatoes, whole wheat crackers, sour green applesauce, peaches, white slushy
Friday: Ham and cheese sandwich, assorted chips, fresh grapes, chocolate chip cookie, white slushy

Rule ISD Employee Spotlight

Kelli Falkner works in the cafeteria at Rule ISD.

She and husband Rick reside in Rule. They have been married 33 years and have two children Kyle and wife Janae, and Taylor. They have one grandchild, one month old Knox.

They have a dog and cat, Honda and Mo.

She enjoys crafts of all types.

Her favorite quote is "If life throws you lemons, make lemonade."



KELLI FALKNER

Paint Creek School Menu

Jan. 9-13 Breakfast
Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Pig n blanket
Tuesday: French toast
Wednesday: Biscuits, gravy
Thursday: Breakfast bagels
Friday: No school

Milk is served daily.
Monday: Tacos, refried beans, salad, oranges
Tuesday: Stew, cornbread, salad, cobbler
Wednesday: Baked potato, ham, salad, pudding
Thursday: Hot dogs, chili, cheese, chips, Rice Krispies
Friday: No school

ECC Menu

Mon., Jan. 9
Porkie meatballs, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, peach cobbler, tea or coffee
Wed., Jan. 11
Baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, English peas, toast, strawberry cake, tea or coffee

Fri., Jan. 13
Creamy mushroom steak, cream potatoes, blackeyed peas, cornbread, jello, sugar cookie, tea or coffee

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

Be informed when chartering a bus

Recent events involving charter bus safety may leave group organizers and travel planners wondering how to make an informed decision when selecting a charter bus company. In an effort to help you make an informed decision, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) recommend the following six tips for contracting chartered bus service.

Ask if your bus will be subcontracted. It is not uncommon for bus companies to hire a bus (and driver) from another company to serve you. If your bus will be leased or subcontracted from another company, you may want to review that company's safety and insurance information as well. If any company is reluctant to provide this information, that may be a red flag.

Check the company's safety rating. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has online searchable databases available for the public to either examine the safety history of a single carrier or to narrow down possible companies from a list of many serving your area. The FMCSA search options may be accessed by visiting <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety-security/sites/company-safety.htm>.

DPS also maintains records on motor carriers, including bus companies, relating to intrastate safety ratings (if applicable), compliance reviews and enforcement history, along with roadside inspection reports. E-mail MCB.openrecords@txdps.state.tx.us to request information about a specific motor carrier.

TxDOT has an online searchable database available that provides information on whether a carrier has active motor carrier registration and insurance on file with the state. This database does

not reflect a carrier's state or federal safety rating and may still not reflect whether a carrier has operating authority, so make sure to check multiple sources for information. The TxDOT online search feature can be accessed at http://www.dot.state.tx.us/apps/mccs/mccs_search.asp.

Contact your local Better Business Bureau (BBB). The BBB keeps record of complaints lodged by other consumers, and these complaints may be helpful in making your final decision.

Request proof of current insurance coverage. All charter bus companies are required by law to carry \$5 million in insurance coverage. It is not uncommon for potential customers to request proof, and most will be more than happy to fax it to you. You can also check a company's insurance history using the FMCSA online database tools.

Ask to visit their facility. Touring the buses, seeing the garage and hearing about the company's maintenance program can help give you a better sense of a company's commitment to safety. Just as you'd kick the tires on a new car before making your purchase decision, it can be wise to do the same when chartering bus services.

Inquire about your driver. There are many regulations affecting drug and alcohol testing of your bus driver, the amount of time a driver may drive before taking a mandated break and the frequency with which a driver's health must be certified. Additionally, all charter bus drivers must hold a current commercial driver license (CDL). Make sure the company you're considering is aware of the legal requirements and follows them to the letter. You can also run a criminal conviction check on the driver if you have their information, which may include past DWI convictions, at <https://records.txdps.state.tx.us>.

This Week's Devotional Message:



Let faith consolidate your New Year's resolutions

As the season of fun and festivity draws to a close, let us give some serious thought to a worthwhile task which most of us have undertaken rather half-heartedly at this time every year, despite our good intentions. Driven by a natural impulse to turn over a new leaf in our lives as well as on the calendar, we compile our annual list of personal reforms and even try to

follow it for a few days before consigning it to limbo along with its predecessors. This year for a change, try simplifying it into one all-encompassing resolution: to attend the church of your choice regularly throughout the coming year. If you will do so and try to live by the lessons you learn there, this will be the only New Year's resolution you'll ever need.

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
Phillip 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

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45tfc

WINDBREAK TREES (evergreens and hardwoods), grass seed (home, farm, ranch and wildlife) and equipment rental (Brillion drill, broadcast seeder, and packer): It's time to start placing orders. Deadline to order trees is February 10. For information on availability and varieties please call the Haskell Soil and Water Conservation District 940-864-8516 ext. 4.

1c

Jobs Wanted

JP HOUSEKEEPING. Looking good and smelling fresh. Jama Park and Doris Brock. 325-933-8807. 1p

1-2c

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of Gertrude S. Hopkins, deceased, were issued on December 27, 2011 in Cause No. 4,469, pending in the County Court of Haskell County, Texas, to: Carl Hopkins, Susan Cox, Howard James Hopkins, Jr.

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Kristen L. Fouts Attorney at Law P.O. Box 206 Haskell, Texas 79521 Dated the 30th day of December, 2011.

Kristen L. Fouts Attorney for Carl Hopkins State Bar No. 00786434 The Fouts Law Firm, P.C.

1 Avenue D Post Office Box 206 Haskell, Texas 79521 Tel: 940-864-2066 Fax: 940-864-5616 1p

PUBLIC HEARING

The Paint Creek Independent School District will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the "Academic Excellence Indicator System" at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 9th, 2012 at the Superintendent's Office, 4485 FM 600, Haskell Texas.

1c

Help Wanted

CLASS A or BCDL drivers. Apply in person only at 175 U.S. Hwy. 277 South. Strickland Concrete & Materials. 52-2c

O/O's \$5,000 Sign-On bonus! Tons of warm, prosperous South TX runs! Frac sand hauling. Must have tractor, pneumatic trailer, blower. 800-397-2338. 1c

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1-2c

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS needed. Responsible for the custody and discipline of inmates assigned to the unit. High school diploma or equivalent required. Applications can be picked up at Rolling Plains Detention Center or online at www.emeraldcompanies.com.

COOK SPECIALIST needed. Responsible for the preparation of all facility meals in accordance with pre-planned menus. High school diploma or equivalent required. Applications can be picked up at Rolling Plains Detention Center

Help Wanted

or online at www.emeraldcompanies.com. SONIC DRIVE IN in Haskell is now taking applications for all positions. Apply in person. 44tfc

LVNs: Full time for 2nd shift. Requires State license. We offer competitive salary and benefits available for full time employees. EOE. For more information, please call 940-864-8537, or apply in person Haskell Healthcare Center, 1504 N. First St., Haskell. 1-2c

Lost and Found

FOUND: Nice blue fleece jacket at 900 block N. 5th St. on Dec. 14. 940-864-3948. 1p

1p

Miscellaneous

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

41tfc

For Rent

S&S STORAGE in Haskell has storage units for rent. Call 864-2208. 1c

1c

Real Estate

HOUSE FOR SALE by owner: 911 N. Ave. L in Haskell. Brick 3 bedroom, 2 living areas. \$75,000. Call Shirley Hill, 325-529-5124. 1-5p

1-5p

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HASKELL HEALTHCARE CENTER U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/ AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT January 1, 2012

It is the policy of Senior Living Properties, LLC to ensure that all employees, and candidates for employment, are considered for all positions on the basis of their qualifications and abilities, without regard to race, color, gender, religion, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, sexual orientation or disability. We shall recruit, hire, upgrade, train and promote all employees in all job classifications and ensure that all personnel actions such as compensation, benefits, and company-sponsored training are administered without regard to these differences. We will provide a work environment free from discrimination and harassment of any kind.

Moreover, we are committed to valuing diversity because it is our firm conviction that an environment that embraces differences is critical to each employee's ability to succeed, and to the success of this Company.

In addition, we shall take affirmative action to ensure that all minorities, women, Vietnam Era Veterans, disabled persons and disabled veterans are introduced into the work force and are considered for promotional opportunities as they arise.

The Senior Living Properties, LLC will ensure that the intent and practice of this policy is carried out. However, we expect every Manager, Supervisor, Lead People and employee to take an active part in putting these principles into practice with each other and in our relationships with customers, business partners, investors, suppliers, and in our community.

Signed, Steven Moncrief Administrator

Langford Roustabout Services, LLC 8348 U.S Hwy 277 N. Haskell, TX 79521

Scott Langford Owner 940-256-0535

Doug Sorrells Supervisor 940-256-0536

Office 940-864-3490

Fax 940-864-3491



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Haskell County REALTY 103 N. Ave. E Haskell, TX 79521 940-864-2665 1-800-658-6342

www.haskellcountyrealty.com

Chan Guess - agent Rhonda Lisle, Accredited Staging Professional - agent, Bridget Guess - broker

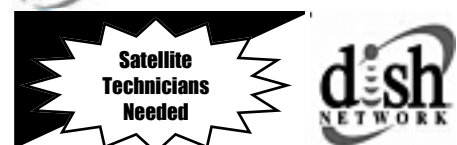
FEATURED LISTINGS

- 1506 N. AVE. E- FOR RENT!! 2/2, 1.5 ACRES. \$750 P/MO.
- 1002 N. 6TH-MOVE IN READY! 3/1. \$24,900. UNDER CONTRACT
- 101N. AVE. F-UNBELIEVABLY AWESOME! 8/2.5. \$29,900.
- 1207 N. AVE. K-IMMACULATE HOME! 3/1. \$32,900. UNDER CONTRACT
- 606 N. 17TH-CUTE COTTAGE STYLE! 2/2. \$49,000. SOLD
- 801 S. 1ST EAST-CORNER LOT! 2/2. \$59,900. SOLD
- 404 S. AVE. F-NEWLY REMODELED! 3/1.5. \$59,900. REDUCED
- 1101 N. 9TH-FAMILY READY! 3/2. \$69,900. (W/ALLOWANCES). UNDER CONTRACT
- 1004 N. AVE. L-GOT TO SEE! 2/2. \$72,500.
- 1106 N. AVE. H-SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM. 3/2. \$75,000. NEW
- 701 N. AVE. E-SPACIOUS HOME WITH CHARACTER. 3/3. \$76,500. REDUCED
- 1507 N. AVE. E-BEAUTIFUL RESTORED HISTORIC HOME! 4/3. \$165,000.
- 500 BLOCK N. AVE. A-4 LOTS-BY PASS FRONTAGE! \$19,900.
- 507 N. 1ST EAST-COMMERCIAL PROPERTY! \$49,900.

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940-864-2411 325-370-6572

www.rikerealestate.com



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.

304 S. Leavitt WEINERT-Owner moving and ready to sell! There are many improvements in this two-bedroom, one bath home including updated cabinets, tile flooring, and new heating unit. The open concept of living, dining, kitchen is perfect for entertaining and family gatherings. All built-in appliances will stay with the property. There is a lot of storage, large utility room and a metal cover for the patio and carport. \$27,500



604 8th ROCHESTER-This two bedroom one bath manufactured home has a wonderful kitchen with custom cabinets, a large deck for entertaining and storage throughout the home. The home would make a great second home or hunting lodge. \$7,900



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Haskell Co. Junior Livestock Show and Sale set Jan. 12-14

by Wes Utley
CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co.
The annual Haskell County Junior Livestock Show and Sale will be held Jan. 12-14 at the Haskell County Show Barn. Arrival and weigh in time for entries of steers, heifers, lambs and swine is Thurs., Jan. 12 by 4:00 p.m. Poultry and rabbits arrival time is Thurs., Jan. 12 by 5:30 p.m.

Show time schedules are Thurs., Jan. 12 at 7:00 p.m. for poultry and rabbits; and Fri., Jan. 13 at 8:00 a.m. for lambs followed by swine. Then, beginning at 2:00 p.m. for steers followed by heifers.

Judge for the lambs, swine, steers and heifers will be Bill Binder of Abilene.

Judge for rabbits and chickens will be Chris Beard,

AST of Albany. Auctioneer and announcer for the sale, which begins at 11:00 a.m. Sat., Jan. 14 will be announced at a later date.

The County Judge and County Commissioners will be serving hamburgers both Friday and Saturday. In addition, the Haskell County Extension Education Association (EEA Club) will

have a concession stand set up serving food and drinks on Thursday. On Friday and Saturday they will serve only drinks, chips and snacks.

At last year's show, 91 participants entered their animals. The sale brought a total of \$83,000.

Kenny Buerger of Avoca is the president of the Haskell County Junior Livestock Show Association.

11.1 percent of all income comes from Social Security in Haskell Co.

By Bill Bishop and Roberto Gallardo
The Daily Yonder

If Haskell County residents didn't receive their monthly payments from the Social Security Administration, 11.1 percent of total personal income in the county would be lost, a total of \$19,552,487 in 2009.

Haskell County is more dependent on Social Security payments than is the rest of the country. Nationally, 5.5 percent of total personal income in 2009 came from Social Security payments. In Texas, 4.3 percent of all

income comes from these payments.

In Haskell County, 1,645 people receive some form of Social Security payment, either an old age pension, a survivor benefit or a disability check, according to the Social Security Administration and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Social Security beneficiaries represent 32.9 percent of the total county population.

In rural counties such as Haskell and counties with smaller cities, Social Security payments constitute a much larger chunk of the local

economy than in urban areas. A greater percentage of people in rural America receive these payments than in urban counties, and so rural counties have higher average payments per resident.

"In many rural places, Social Security is a very critical element of the local economic base," said Peter Nelson, a geographer at Middlebury College in Vermont. "It's less important to a place like Los Angeles because there is so much additional economic activity going on there."

Total Social Security payments in Haskell County amounted to \$3,909 per person in 2009. The national average was \$2,199 per person, and in Texas it was \$1,694.

Social Security payments in Haskell County have been changing as a proportion of total income. These payments amounted to 6.0 percent of total income in 1970, 10.1 percent in 1980, 10.3 percent in 1990, 12.4 percent in 2000 and 11.1 percent in 2009.

Social Security payments are particularly important to rural counties and small cities because the money is largely spent in the community. "The seniors who get these payments are primarily going to spend their money locally," said Mark Partridge, a rural economist at Ohio State University. "And they are a key reason why some communities are still viable. If this money dried up, there wouldn't be a lot of these small towns."

Social Security payments amount to 5 percent of the total income in urban counties. In counties with small cities, these payments amount to 8.2 percent of

total income, and in rural counties such as Haskell County, Social Security totals 9.3 percent of all personal income. More than one out of five Americans living in small cities and rural counties received some kind of Social Security check in 2009.

Judith Stallmann, an economist at the University of Missouri, explained that Social Security payments help generate the sales that keep a rural business afloat.

"We find that Social Security income can be the difference between success and failure for some local businesses," Stallmann said. "If you took away, say, 10 percent of the demand, would that local business be able to remain open? Often it's that 10 percent that keeps them going. Social Security is providing that margin."

Social Security payments go to those over the age of 62 who have filed for benefits, to survivors of insured workers and to those with disabilities. The program is mainly funded by payroll taxes. In Haskell County, 71.4 percent of recipients were retirees in 2009, 15.5 percent were survivors and 13.1 percent were disabled.

Changes to Social Security are being discussed in Congress, which is looking for ways to balance the larger federal budget. If benefits are cut—or if the eligibility age is increased—rural counties and small cities would be disproportionately affected, according to Peter Nelson.

"Cuts would have a bigger negative impact on rural places, absolutely," Middlebury's Professor Nelson said. "They are more dependent on Social Security."

HNB receives 79th listing as 5-Star bank

Bauer Financial, Inc., Coral Gables, Florida, the nation's leading bank rating and research firm, recognizes Haskell National Bank as a Superior 5-Star rated bank. A 5-Star rating denotes that Haskell National Bank is one of the best in the nation in terms of its overall financial performance. In fact, Haskell National Bank has earned this 5-Star Superior rating for the last 79 consecutive

quarters putting it in an even more elite group of "Sustained Superiority Banks." Only seven percent of the nation's banks can claim this distinction.

"The recent uproar against Big Banks has shed a whole new light on community banks, and for good reason," observes Karen L. Dorway, president of Bauer Financial. "While the primary focus of the big banks is dividend payments, smaller banks tend to be locals and therefore more in tune with the communities they serve. This community focus has paid off as Haskell National Bank has earned Bauer's highest 5-Star rating for strength and stability."

Established in 1890, Haskell National Bank had proudly served its local communities for 121 years. It currently operates through conveniently located offices in Abilene and Haskell.

Haskell Co. Gin Report

December 28, 2011	
Haskell	
Haskell County Gin.....	67
O'Brien	
O'Brien Co-op.....	6,650
Rule	
Rule Co-op Gin.....	1,635
Weinert	
Griff's Gin.....	305
Weinert Gin.....	219
Total bales.....	8,876

Area basketball scores

Girls	Boys
Eula Holiday Classic	Hadaway 13.
Clyde 65, Haskell 28	Eula Holiday Classic
Scoring for Haskell: C. Hadaway 13, R. Hadaway 8.	Eastland 47, Haskell 43
Haskell 54, Zephyr 27	Scoring for Haskell: Llewellyn 15, Bell 11.
Scoring for Haskell: Johnson 19, Hadaway 16.	Haskell 47, Wylie JV 37
Abilene Lady Hawks 38, Haskell 34	Scoring for Haskell: Llewellyn 19.
Scoring for Haskell: R. Hadaway 13.	Hawley 42, Haskell 39
	Scoring for Haskell: Bell 14.

The Haskell Free Press

Faithfully covering the news and events of Haskell County since 1886.

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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.

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Si contesta si a uno de las preguntas y vive en los condados de Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Stonewall o Throckmorton, es possible 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.

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