

Softball

HASKELL

Maidens vs Merkel

Sat., Feb. 18, noon

at Merkel

Maidens vs Ralls (Dbl.)

Mon., Feb. 20, 4 and 6 p.m.

at Ralls

Baseball

HASKELL

Baird Scrimmage

Fri., Feb. 17, 4 p.m.

at Haskell

Indians vs Merkel

Tues., Feb. 21, 4 p.m.

at Haskell

Calendar

Bass Club

The Haskell Bass Club will hold their first meeting of the 2012 fishing season Thurs., Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at the First National Bank building in Haskell.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. til 11:30 a.m. at 206 S. 2nd (building east of Civic Center) in Haskell. Volunteers and boxes are needed.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., Feb. 18 from 9:30 a.m. til 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Rule. Volunteers are welcome.

Softball sign up

Haskell Girls Softball will be taking registration Sat., Feb. 18 at the High School Gym. Girls must be ages 5 and up as of Jan. 1, 2012. Cost is \$25 and the final deadline to register and pay is Fri., Feb. 24. No late registrations will be accepted.

Black History

Greater Independent Baptist Church, 301 N. 3rd St., Haskell, will host a Black History Program Sun., Feb. 19 beginning at 3 p.m. Theme for the program is 1 Samuel 3:1-10, A Word from the Lord. Speaker is Rev. James Anderson.

Chamber banquet

The Haskell Chamber of Commerce banquet will be held Mon., Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. This year's banquet will include a meal, entertainment provided by the Haskell Elementary fifth grade choir, the introduction of local candidates running for office, the candidates for the State Representative and door prizes. Tickets are \$10.00 each and may be purchased from the Haskell Chamber of Commerce, 510 S. 2nd or by calling 864-2477.

Quilters to meet

The Willow Creek Quilting Guild of Haskell will meet Mon., Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Haskell Church of Christ Annex building. Anyone interested in quilting is invited to attend.

Relay for Life

To sign up for a team for the Knox-Haskell Relay for Life visit www.relayforlife.org/knoxhaskelltx or call Becky or Carla at 940-864-3050.

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Congrats Indians, Maidens, Lady Pirates for making playoffs

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 126-NO. 7, ©FEBRUARY 16, 2012

"The People's Choice"

10 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS



HASKELL MAIDENS—The Haskell Maidens are third place winners in district. They faced Seymour Tues., Feb. 14. Game results were not available at press time. Team members are, 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.



HASKELL INDIANS—The Haskell Indians are third place winners in district and will be in the playoffs. Team members are, 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.

January water levels reported

Many questions are being asked about this past summer's lack of rainfall and the fall and winter precipitation and their effects on the water table levels. Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District measured water levels in late January to determine the effects from the previous years pumping and the lack of recharge.

Well levels in Baylor County had dropped -3.92 feet or -47.04 inches, since December, 2010. In the 14 years of water measurements, the average yearly decline has been -0.8 foot or -9.6 inches. Last year's decline relates to 4.91 years of average decline.

Well levels in Haskell County had dropped in a range of -1.92 feet to -4.65 feet, with an average of -3.12 feet or -37.44 inches, since December, 2010. In the 14 years of water measurements, the average yearly decline has been -1.22 foot or -14.64 inches. Last year's decline relates to 2.57 years of average decline.

Well levels in Knox County had dropped 3.29 feet or 39.48 inches, since December, 2010. In the 14 years of water measurements, the average yearly decline has been -0.25 foot or -3.0 inches. Last years decline relates to 13.15 years of average decline.

Due to the extreme variability of the Seymour Aquifer, varying rainfall, variations in recharge areas and pumping rates, water levels vary in the three counties.

More events added to March 3 celebration

It's almost that time again—time to celebrate "Texas Independence Day Haskell County Style." This year's celebration will be held Sat., March 3 around the Courthouse and city square.

All the old favorite attractions, a Native American flint knapper with his Tepee, the different forts with Calvary, the cannon and soldiers, Drummer Boy Ice Cream will be back. Also back will be Native American games, which were a big hit with the kids last year and many others.

This year some new attractions and even some contests are planned.

One new attraction is the Dig N for Gold event for kids ages 8 and under.

Coins will be scattered through a pile of sand and kids will be given 2 minutes to dig for gold. Each child will only be allowed to win one gold dollar coin but there is no limit on other coins. Haskell National Bank is sponsoring Dig N for Gold. This activity and many others will begin at 10 a.m. around the courthouse square.

The sounds of gunfire will join the cannon bursts when the Texas Gunslingers will be entertaining crowds with gun fights featuring actors and actresses in authentic western regalia. In addition to the gun fights, the group will bring a western town, stagecoach and other Old West items to the

Haskell County square. First National Bank is sponsoring this event for everyone's enjoyment.

A pie contest, sponsored by God Loves You Ministries, will be held. Entries will be due by 10 a.m. Sat., March 3 at 9

Ave. E in Haskell. Proceeds benefit the ministry. Entry information is available at the Chamber of Commerce office or by calling Susan Cockerell at 864-2851.

Applications are now being accepted for

vendor registrations for food or crafts. All food vendors must have food handler safety certificates. Applications can be picked up in the County Judge's office or by calling Susan Cockerell at 940-864-2851 or 940-256-3296.

5K run/walk held to benefit Relay for Life

The Camo Chicks Relay For Life team is having a fund-raiser 5K run/walk in conjunction with the Texas Independence Day Celebration in Haskell. The 5K run/walk will start at 8:30 a.m. on the Haskell County Courthouse square Sat., March 3.

Registration forms may

be picked up at the Haskell County Courthouse. Forms will be on a table on the first floor of the Courthouse. Pre-registration fee is \$20. Registration fee on the day of the event is \$25, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. To receive a registration form by email, contact Terri Fillmon at

940-256-0259 or Stacia Leach at 940-256-0685. First 100 participants will be guaranteed a t-shirt. A registration form may be downloaded at www.abilenerunners.com.

All proceeds of the event will go towards the Knox-Haskell County Relay for Life.

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

USDA issues additional help for beginning farmers and ranchers

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Bruce Nelson has announced that a new rule that expands loan opportunities for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, while also establishing a new Land Contract Guarantee Program. The rule provides additional flexibility allowing FSA loan officers to consider all prior farming experience, including on-the-job training and formal education, when determining eligibility for FSA for farm operating and ownership loans. It also expands a previous pilot program, the Land Contract Guarantee Program, from six states to all 50 states. This program is designed to encourage farmers and ranchers to sell their property to beginning and socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmers and ranchers through the use of seller financing.

"USDA continues to find ways to improve our services for farmers and ranchers by streamlining processes, accelerating delivery, and using innovative solutions to 21st century agricultural challenges," said Nelson. "These improvements demonstrate FSA's commitment to helping the next generation of America's

farmers and ranchers participate in our nation's agricultural economy. The new flexibility also enlarges the pool of potential farmland buyers, which is important to young, beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers who start out or operate without established credit."

The changes in eligibility announced will increase access for farmers and ranchers to FSA loans and credit assistance. The new rule enables landowners to sell their farmland to the next generation on a contract for deed with a 90-percent guarantee against losses to the seller. Alternatively, the agency can provide a guarantee of three years' amortized loan installments, plus payment of real estate taxes and hazard insurance premiums for the same three-year period.

U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing its most productive period in decades thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of America's producers. The improvements outlined will help producers and businesses maintain this competitive edge. In late 2011, FSA announced a series of additional process improvements that included quicker disaster assistance

and less reporting dates. Details follow:

USDA is reviewing comments on a proposed rule to streamline the process for its Secretarial Disaster Designation, allowing farmers and ranchers devastated by natural disasters to obtain emergency loans and other assistance faster than before. Streamlining the process from six steps to two will enable USDA to help those in need in an expedited manner. Additionally, the proposed rule can help to ensure all eligible disaster counties receive a designation.

USDA established 15 common Acreage Reporting Dates (ARDs) for farmers and ranchers participating in FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA) programs. The common reporting dates will reduce the reporting burden on producers and also help to reduce USDA operating costs by sharing similar data across participating agencies. Before the streamlining, RMA had 54 ARDs for 122 crops, and FSA had 17 ARDs for 273 crops.

More information on the new Land Contract Guarantee Program and the other changes are available at local FSA offices nationwide. Information about Farm Loan Programs and FSA loan qualifications can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>.

The Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, implement the Farm Bill, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its best years in decades thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers. Today, net farm income is at record levels while debt has been cut in half since the 1980s. Overall, American agriculture supports 1 in 12 jobs in the United States and provides American consumers with 86 percent of the food we consume, while maintaining affordability and choice. The Obama Administration has aggressively worked to expand export opportunities and reduce barriers to trade, helping to push agricultural exports to record levels in 2011 and beyond. Strong agricultural exports are a positive contribution to the U.S. trade balance, support nearly 1 million American jobs and boost economic growth.

Obituaries

Homer David Everton



DAVID EVERTON

Graveside services for Homer David Everton, 67, of Haskell were held Fri., Feb. 10 at Rochester Cemetery in Rochester with Bro. J.C. Amburn and David Washer officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of Haskell.

Mr. Everton went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Tues., Feb. 7.

Born August 30, 1944 in Hamlin, he was the son of Cyrus and Myrtle Everton. He grew up in Hamlin and later moved to Haskell with his three children in the early 80's. He enjoyed barbecuing, boating and especially fishing and spending time with his family. He was well known by many for his kindness and ability to make people laugh with his jokes.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Linda Merrell Everton; his parents, Cyrus and Myrtle Everton; three brothers, Carrol, Freddie and Clayton Everton; and his sister, Doris Davis.

Survivors include his wife, Charlotte Everton of Haskell; two daughters, Tammy

Everton McKnight and her husband Travis of Ventura, California along with their son, Gabriel Mendoza; and Schriee Everton Kushaney and her husband Chris of Cedar Park and their children, Audriana, Cortney, JonMarc and Kinley; his son, Sherwin David Everton and wife Amanda of The Woodlands and their sons, Dalton and Bryce; his step-daughters, Pam Ashbrook, and her children, Chris, Jason and Victoria; Becky Proctor and her children Kristin, Jessie, Shauntel and Joshua; Deanna Ashbrook and her children Alexi and Jeremy; Julie Ashbrook and her daughter Carissa; and 17 great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association. PD. NOTICE

Audrey Green English



AUDREY ENGLISH

Graveside services for Audrey Green English, 90, of Rochester were held Fri., Feb. 10 at Willow Cemetery in Haskell with Rev. Joseph Barrett officiating. A memorial service followed at the First Baptist Church in Rochester. Services were under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of Haskell.

Mrs. English passed from this life Tues., Feb. 7.

Audrey Gose Green was

born Sept. 5, 1921 in the Paint Creek community. She married Albert English Oct. 16, 1952. He preceded her in death Sept. 11, 1996.

Known as "Gran" by her grandchildren and most of the young people who knew her, she was a kind, compassionate and selfless person. She was a former teachers' aide with the Rochester School system and taught Sunday school at the First Baptist Church in Rochester for many years. It was her greatest joy to work with young people. She played an enormous part in raising her own grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as, many others in the area. She will leave a lasting legacy that will influence them always.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Acannus and Effie Green; brothers, Roy, Walter, Lorange, Dervin, and her twin Aubrey; and her

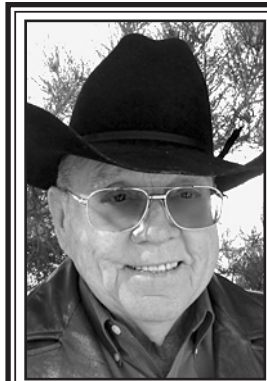
sister Zeleca Grand. Survivors include one son, Tommy English and wife Jana of Idalou; one daughter, Nancy Stewart and husband Danny of Munday; grandchildren, Angela Burson and husband Patrick of Clyde, Karmen Neal and husband Jon of Lubbock, Michael Adkins and wife Janet of Haskell; Ginger Adkins of Lubbock, John English of Lubbock, Colton English of Idalou, Heather Wilhelm and husband Coby of Stamford, Justin Stewart and wife Angela of Weatherford, and Martin Ombak of Lubbock; twelve great grandchildren and two more due in the summer.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of Rochester, P.O. Box 127, Rochester, Texas 79544 or to Komen for the Cure, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, Texas 75265 or online www.komen.org. PD. NOTICE



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Don Adkins for Haskell Co. Commissioner Precinct 1

My name is Don Adkins and I would very much appreciate your vote for County Commissioner, Precinct 1, Haskell County, Texas.

I was born and grew up in Rochester, Texas, and graduated from Rochester High School in 1961. I was first employed at Home State Bank, Rochester.

My background includes a variety of positions which have prepared me for the job as your County Commissioner:

- Worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Farmed in Haskell County
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control Construction Supt. for Howe-Baker Engineers in oil and gas plant construction; in charge of bidding and design of 18 oil and gas plants:
- Duties included job site setup, opening accounts, screening, hiring, testing and assigning workforce and foremen, acquiring machinery and tools, and also preparing final red-line drawings.
- Received numerous certifications from OSHA pertaining to safety in the workplace: to test welders and conduct non-destructive weld testing by radiograph, di-pen, magnetic, and ultra-sonic.
- Served as Consultant for the U.S. Dept. of Interior in the South Pacific where I constructed an electrical generation plant and put it on line making electricity.
- Construction Mgr./Supt. for Western Weltek, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah; served as Project & Construction Manager over all pipelines within the continental United States.
- Maintained Top-Secret security clearance while working for the U.S. Dept. of State; with the Army Corps of Engineers in 19 countries with 150 people employed under me.

With world-wide experience combined with a knowledge of Haskell County, I believe I am the best candidate for County Commissioner, Precinct 1, Haskell County, Texas

Paid Pol. Adv. Paid for by Don Adkins

Douglas Nixon Davis



DOUGLAS DAVIS

Graveside services for

Douglas Nixon Davis, 71, of Hamlin were held Fri., Feb. 10 in Hooker Cemetery in Stonewall County, directed by Adams-Foster-Ray Funeral home of Hamlin.

Mr. Davis passed away Wed., Feb. 8 in Snyder.

Born May 1, 1940 in Haskell, he was the son of the late Hollis Randall and Loudell Joy (Trice) Davis. He graduated from Rule High School and played football for Ranger Junior College before going to North Texas State and receiving his degree in accounting. He enjoyed

reading, playing solitaire on the computer, watching football and working crossword puzzles.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Leigh Ann Davis of Lubbock; one daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Jerry Slaven of San Angelo; one brother and sister-in-law, Derrel and Pam Davis of Hamlin; three grandchildren, Hannah Davis, Hunter Davis, and Jacob Slaven; one nephew, Tyler Davis; and numerous cousins.

PD. NOTICE

BCEC announces video contest for youth

Big Country Electric Cooperative (BCEC), in conjunction with Texas Co-

op Power magazine, is excited to announce the launch of the 2012 Co-op Teens Power Texas video contest. For the fourth consecutive year, BCEC and Texas Co-op Power will award up to \$4,000 in cash prizes for winners of the competition.

Students in grades 6 through 12 whose parents or legal guardians are current members of an electric cooperative in Texas can participate. This year, students are asked to create a 30- to 60-second commercial about their electric cooperative.

The grand prizewinner will receive \$1,500 and be profiled in Texas Co-op Power magazine, which has a monthly circulation of

more than 1.2 million. The school sponsoring the first-place winner will receive \$1,000. The second-place winner, determined by the most YouTube views, will receive \$500. Four runners-up will each receive \$250 for best performance in one of four judging categories: creativity, educational value, youth appeal and technical quality.

The contest opened Jan. 31 and ends April 1. Winners will be announced April 23.

For full contest rules and entry forms, go to www.TexasCoopPower.com, scroll down and click on the Co-op Teens Power Texas button on the right side of the page.

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Severe weather week is Feb. 19-25

Can you receive a Tornado Warning? Each year some Texans are surprised by tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. It is vitally important to have more than one way to receive National Weather Service warnings. NWS warnings can be received from devices such as a cell phone, smart phone, PC, radio, television and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.

Some communities, universities and private companies are capable of texting or e-mailing NWS warnings to your cell phones or telephones. Search the internet for these private companies and/or contact your university and/or local Emergency Management Office to see if those services are offered in your area.

NOAA All Hazards Radio functions like a smoke detector and warns you anywhere and anytime. This device will automatically alert you of tornadoes, flash floods and severe thunderstorms whether you are asleep or away from your favorite radio station, or TV station, or internet site. You can buy a weather radio at most businesses that sell electronic devices.

The National Weather Service (NWS) in San Angelo encourages all residents and schools across West Central Texas to practice their tornado warning drill Thurs., Feb. 23 at 9:30 a.m. The NWS in San Angelo will transmit the special message through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Because of the test format of this message, it may or may not activate certain NOAA Weather Radios.

Two safety rules that could save your life are:

- Be sure you can receive warnings from the National Weather Service.

- Don't just depend on sirens. Have more than one

way to receive your warnings like your cell phone or weather radio.

Sirens are used to warn those who are outdoors, and may not be loud enough to awaken you in the middle of the night. NOAA Weather Radio is like a smoke detector that can warn you anytime, both indoors or outdoors. This radio will produce a loud sound when a tornado warning is issued by the National Weather Service for your area.

- The safest place to survive violent, killer tornadoes is in an approved underground storm shelter or in an above ground storm shelter.

The next safest place is on the lowest floor of your home, school or business in an interior room like a closet, hallway, or bathroom. Stay low to the ground and cover yourself with blankets, pillows, and/or mattresses.

If a tornado approaches and you live in a mobile home, abandon it for a more substantial shelter. If nothing is available, lie flat in a nearby ditch covering your head and neck.

Tornado storms can also produce flash flooding. Watch out when you come to a flooded low water crossing. Always Turn Around, Don't Drown!

In 2007, about 45 Texans drowned when they tried to walk or drive into flooded areas.

When severe weather threatens West Central Texas, your National Weather Service closely coordinates with local emergency managers, volunteer fire fighters, law enforcement officials, SKYWARN storm spotters, storm chasers, and the media to help keep you safe. But you can be your best source for protection when you get a warning from the National Weather Service if you are "weather ready."

Get ready for swimsuits

One thing is certain: When diet ads start popping up, swimsuit season is right around the corner.

Rather than hiding behind a tarp all summer, how can people prepare for the onslaught of eyes without breaking the bank or their backs trying to get in shape?

Lona Sandon, assistant professor of clinical nutrition at UT Southwestern Medical Center and a spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association, says exercise has the biggest impact, but some simple substitutions like trading soda for unsweetened iced tea can help trim calories and your waist.

Some other suggestions include:

- Switch fruit juice for whole fruit.

- If you can't get going without 10 ounces of orange juice, dilute eight ounces of juice with two ounces of water.

- Top green salads with a sliced hard-cooked egg for protein that will keep you feeling full longer for only 75 calories per egg.

- Start the day with a 100 percent whole-grain breakfast - oatmeal made with skim milk.

- Keep the cheese but omit the mayo on sandwiches.

- Enjoy an open-faced sandwich with only one slice of bread to cut about 100 calories.

"Deep in the Heart" in theatres

by Jane Rowan
CEA/FCS, Haskell Co.

"Deep in the Heart" reveals the true-life story of Richard "Dick" Wallrath. No one person has ever given more financially to the Texas 4-H and Texas FFA Scholarship Programs than Dick Wallrath. He has also provided tremendous financial assistance to 4-H and FFA members through major livestock show premium auctions.

Haskell County 4-H sincerely requests that both 4-H and FFA families and friends support this emotion-packed full length feature film of Wallrath's life for two reasons. First, it could have an impact on your own life. And secondly, because of Wallrath's continued generosity, a portion of all ticket sales will go to both Texas 4-H and Texas FFA to further strengthen their much needed scholarship programs.

"Deep in the Heart" is a feature film documenting the true story of Texas entrepreneur Richard Wallrath. The movie was filmed on location outside Austin, with actors Jon Gries (Napoleon Dynamite [Uncle Rico], Taken and September Dawn), Val Kilmer (Top Gun, Batman, Tombstone),

D.B. Sweeney (Hear No Evil, Fire in the Sky and Memphis Belle) and Elaine Hendrix (Superstar, The Parent Trap, and Romy & Michelle's High School Reunion) in leading roles.

Gries plays the role of Wallrath, while Kilmer plays the pivotal role of an inspirational character known only as The "Bearded Man." Actor James Haven plays a supporting role.

Wallrath's personal demons caused him to hit rock bottom. After losing everything—jobs, hope, and his family—he found faith, picked himself up and trudged on to eventually earn back the love of his children, build a nationally successful window company and become the leading all-time individual donor to Texas 4-H and Texas FFA Association.

"Deep in the Heart" was filmed entirely in Texas. You can see more about the movie at www.deepintheheartmovie.com

The success of this opening weekend will dictate their plan for nationwide release. Of course, the more success the movie has, the more funds are contributed to Texas 4-H and Texas FFA. Check with the Abilene Cinemark 12 theater for show times.

Wichita Brazos Musuem

Approximately 300 people attended the Wichita Brazos Museum, barbeque and fund-raiser, Sun., Feb. 5 at the Benjamin Ex-students Building. The proceeds of this event are a huge help in paying for museum operations and supporting additional exhibits. It is the largest fund-raiser for the museum each year.

Throughout the meal winners names for the 105 door prizes were announced. At 1:30, those bidding on one or more of the 130 silent auction items donated by businesses and individuals, closed. There was quite a scramble to write a name and bid at the last minute. The door prizes and silent auction items are always the highlight of the evening.

After 1:00, remaining food sales began with a rush to the kitchen to take home some of the delicious barbecue,

sausage, turkey, potato salad, coleslaw, beans and those wonderful homemade pies.

Thanks go out to everyone who helped make the 2012 event a success. Everyone enjoys visiting and working together. Thanks for a job well done, to each of you.

The visitation at the museum was also successful, with many people commenting on the exhibits there, bringing back memories, finding family names and information, plus purchasing items from the sales counter.

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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Redistricting talks move toward compromise

AUSTIN – Indications that compromise might not be so far away arose last week in the redrawing of the House, Senate and U.S congressional districts of Texas.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, acting on behalf of the state, and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) released statements of commitment to the negotiation process.

The statements were made following orders by Judge Orlando Garcia, U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, in San Antonio, for plaintiffs and defendants in the redistricting lawsuits to work together to resolve matters and to appear at a Feb. 14 court hearing.

LULAC and MALDEF have petitioned for the maps to be drawn to include more minority opportunity districts allowing citizens more power in choosing who they want to represent them. The state's position has been that redistricting maps drawn by the Texas Legislature are legal and enforceable in accordance with the U.S. Voting Rights Act of 1965.

But Section 5 of the Act requires that in redrawing district boundaries, maps must be submitted to the federal government for preclearance in order to prevent discrimination against minorities. The maps enacted by the Texas Legislature last spring were not granted preclearance.

Revised sets of maps have been submitted, talks continue, and although pressure is on to resolve any outstanding matters this week, a complete resolution still could take weeks.

Abbott said he thinks compromise may be achieved in time for the Texas primaries to be conducted in April.

The original date for the Texas primaries was Super Tuesday, March 6, when 10 other states will conduct their primaries.

Legislators make pipeline plea

Last fall, the Obama administration postponed until 2013 possible approval of pipeline's permit application over unresolved environmental concerns.

On Feb. 6, five state senators and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst sent a letter to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Speaker John Boehner in hopes of urging Congress immediately to approve construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline part of which runs from Canada through the Great

Plains and East Texas to the Gulf of Mexico.

In their letter, Dewhurst and Republican Sens. Bob Deuell of Greenville, Troy Fraser of Horseshoe Bay, Joan Huffman of Houston, Mike Jackson of La Porte and Tommy Williams of The Woodlands, wrote that construction of the pipeline would "create 20,000 jobs, support 118,000 spinoff jobs for local businesses and generate more than \$20 billion in economic output."

Sales tax revenue climbs

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced last week that state sales tax revenue in January was \$2 billion, up 9.5 percent compared to January 2011.

Combs, who said collections have increased for 22 consecutive months, pointed out that the recent monthly increase was led by the oil and natural gas-related sectors, and restaurants and services sectors also showed significant gains.

Combs warns of cost of drought

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs on Feb. 8 released a 16-page document describing the effects of the 2011 drought, current and future water resources in the state and solutions to help solve the water crisis.

According to the document titled "The Impact of the 2011 Drought and Beyond" the state's current water plan predicts demand will increase by 22 percent by 2060 and should Texas experience another "mega-drought" as severe as the 1950s drought, "it could cost Texas businesses and workers nearly \$116 billion in income by 2060."

Higher speeds for some stretches

Speed limit increases for nearly 1,500 miles of interstate highways in the Lone Star State have either been posted or soon will be by TxDOT, as announced at the Texas Transportation Commission meeting on Jan. 26.

House Bill 1353 authorized the commission to increase the legal speed limit on certain portions of highway in some 60 counties to 75 miles per hour and eliminate the 65 mile per hour nighttime speed limit as appropriate.

Prior to the enactment of HB 1353 last May, Texas had 1,445 miles of 75 mph speed limits and 521 miles of 80 mph speed limits designated on certain state highways, the Texas Department of Transportation said.

The bill actually took effect on Sept. 1, 2011, but signs are being changed "as soon as practicable." The Highway Patrol enforces posted speed limits.

From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago February 14, 2002

Haskell High School seniors Cliff McGuire and Nikki Wallace, were chosen Basketball Hero and Sweetheart.

Paint Creek eight graders participated in a youth essay contest sponsored nationwide by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Local winners were Callie Thomasson, first; Adam Olson, second; and Jessica Messenger, third.

Geneva Holden of Rule celebrated her ninetieth birthday with a party at the home of her daughter, Wanda Lees of Rule. She was joined by her family and friends.

20 Years Ago February 13, 1992

Sul Ross State's Missy Davis has been named the women's basketball Player of the Week by both NAIA District VIII and the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association. The college sophomore is the daughter

of Mr. and Mrs. James Davis of Haskell.

Deputy Sheriff Martin Coleman, Game Warden Steve Barbour and DPS Trooper James Davis, were called to rescue three hunters whose car and trailer had been swept into the flooded California Creek, southeast of Haskell.

Diana Jarred Hoover received a Master's Degree in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland, Asian Division. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jarred of Haskell.

30 Years Ago February 18, 1982

Bruce Gann, eight year old Cub Scout of Rule, won the Championship Race at the Northern District Chisholm Trail Council Pinewood Derby Races.

Henriette Rueffer was crowned Valentine Sweetheart at the Irby Valentine Dance. She and

husband Gus, have been active members at Irby for many years.

The Haskell Chamber of Commerce paid tribute to the physicians and dentists practicing in Haskell. They include Dr. Frank Cadenhead, Dr. R.E. Colbert, Dr. Joe Thigpen, Dr. Wayne Cadenhead, Dr. Ed Harris, Dr. William J. Kemp and Dr. J.G. Vaughter.

40 Years Ago February 17, 1972

Keith Everett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Everett of Haskell, has been selected for membership into Phi Eta Sigma, men's honor society at Angelo State University.

Deborah Denson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Denson, has been named Rule's Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow for 1972. She was chosen on the basis of her score on a written knowledge and attitude exam taken by senior girls.

Bailey Toliver of Toliver Chevrolet Company, is proud to announce the association of Bobby Hanson with the firm. He is an experienced paint and body man. He is married to the former Leona Green of Rule. They have a three year old son.

50 Years Ago

February 15, 1962

Leading cheers at Haskell High School for the 1962-62 school year are Lowell Wallace, head leader; Bobby Zalokar, senior leader; Jan Matthews, Deanna Helweg, Vicki McClure and Wanda Nixon, co-leaders; and Sharon Robertson, junior leader.

George A Petrich, seaman USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Petrich of Rt. 1 Haskell, is serving aboard the escort destroyer USS Eaton, operating out of Norfolk, Virginia.

Fred and Hugh Smith, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith, along with Gene Leonard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Leonard, all of the Mattson community, have released a new record, "Pretty Blue Jean Baby; and "Checked Continental Pants."

100 Years Ago

February 17, 1912

Honorable Bruce W. Bryant made a professional visit to Benjamin, where he is interested in some legal matters.

Jack Simmons has sold his livery business to Mr. Weaver, and Mr. Weaver has sold his transfer business to Mr. Simmons.

A mass meeting has been called in the Howard community to consider plans for arranging for the erection of a cotton gin there.



Ask the Mayor

By John Gannaway, Mayor of the City of Haskell

It is obviously February—I'm looking out my window at snow and tomorrow the temperature is predicted to be in the 60's. Looks like a roller coaster ride to me so hang on tight.

Last week I told you about one of the five most common mistakes cities make with respect to their web sites. The first was failure of city leaders to monitor the site. The second most common mistake is to have technical people solely responsible for the content of the site. James G. Hunt, past president of the National League of Cities, wrote the article which discusses these five mistakes. I am definitely not knocking the computer gurus who help develop web sites because without them there would probably be no such things. These folks are whizzes when it comes to developing web sites. We just need to make sure the site is a reflection of the character and direction of the leadership and management of the city. Does the site truly tell the story that we want told about Haskell? If we think that one of our strong points is the life style, make sure it is included. If we think it is the people, make sure we get that point across. Just make sure our story is told the way we want it told. Haskell's web site should reflect the personality of the town which, in my humble but correct opinion, is the best of any around. Next week I will tell you about mistake number 3.

I have been noticing the major improvement that

Jacky Sanders is making on his building and property on U.S. 380 just east of the Double A Drive-In. He hasn't divulged just exactly what his plans are for that property; however, knowing Sanders and the way he does business, it will be first class. Keep up the good work Jacky because we appreciate all that you do.

Speaking of good things happening, the wife and I were on a mayoral run and noticed the new video store going in by Whorton's Bail Bond business. The door was propped open and inside was all cleaned up, spiffed up and ready for business. Congratulations to the owner and thank you for utilizing an existing building and turning it into something of which we can be proud.

Mark your calendars for Sat., March 3 for the Texas Independence Day celebration. I know of at least two new additions to this year's program—one of which is the booth that our local police department will have. They will be handing out brochures concerning programs that will help all of us make sure Haskell is a safe place to live, perhaps more information on Crime Stoppers. It will also give you an opportunity to meet and visit with our police officers and chief. Many of our antique car enthusiasts will have their cars on display. This should be a fun day for all so make your plans to attend. One thing for sure that will not happen this year is the mayor baking a pecan pie!

April 27 and 28 are also days that you will want to mark. That will be the weekend for the Wild Horse Prairie Cookoff, Motorcycle and Antique Car Show. The cookoff will be in the RV park while the motorcycle and antique car show will be in the park. Friday night the cooks will prepare ribeye steaks to see who is the best. Saturday will involve the competitive cooking of brisket, chicken, ribs, beans and cobbler. When the cooking on Saturday has been judged and winners declared, tickets will be sold to the general public so you can get a sample of each of the entrants' goodies. Shouldn't be any trouble filling your plate and your tummy.

Once you have satisfied your hunger pangs, you can proceed to the park and view the cars and motorcycles on display. Sometime that afternoon, all of the entrants will go on a 'cruise'. They will drive their vehicles from the park to our Sonic from where they will cruise over to the Sonic in Stamford and return. Upon their return will be the announcement of the winners and presentation of awards.

Sounds like a full two days but we aren't through yet. Saturday night there will be a dance at the Civic Center. That way you can work off some of those calories that you picked up while sampling all of the cooking.

Have received several comments, not necessarily complaints, about tickets being issued for not wearing your seat belt. Come

on—how long has this law been in effect? I am also hearing some talk about the movement of vehicles around the Elementary School when dropping off and picking up students. It is obviously going to be a learning experience and possibly an expensive experience if you get issued a citation. I know there are rules concerning driving in and around schools and we must all abide or pay the price. My suggestion is to make certain the item of utmost importance is the safety of our kids! Secondly, use common sense.

FYI:

In the recent tear-down of dilapidated houses, in excess of 927 tons were taken to the landfill.

Coach Jimmy Browning was surprised with an 80th birthday supper on Sat., Feb. 11. I understand 130 people attended and honored a really special man to all of us.

Thanks to Commissioner Kenny Thompson for hauling the materials donated to the Wall of Honor to Abilene.

Sun., April 1 is the Easter Cantata directed by Martha Jarred of the East Side Baptist Church. First Baptist has graciously offered their building for the program since it is larger and a big crowd is anticipated.

March 5 the Civic Center is hosting its "A Night of One-Act Plays" where Haskell and surrounding schools will be performing their UIL One-Act plays for competition later in March. Price is \$3 and concession will be open.

Sounds like a busy Spring!

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This issue mailed Wed., Feb. 15, 2012

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ASSOCIATION



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**
District 9-1A
Third Place
Congratulations
on a great
season!

**Haskell
Maidens**
District 9-1A
Third Place
Congratulations
on a great
season!

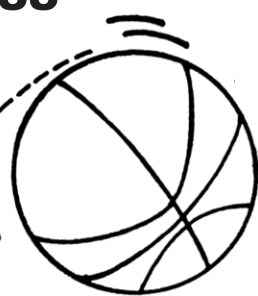


HASKELL MAIDENS—Front row, l-r, #35 Delecia Garcia, #25 Ashley Adams, #21 Myra Rodriguez, #5 Jacie Klose and #23 Sidney Cassidy; back row, #53 McKenzie Shelton, #31 Maci Colley, #33 Dana Rodriguez, #43 Caitlin Johnson, #11 Taylor Burson, #15 Reagan Hadaway and #41 Carson Hadaway.

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4-H members enjoy clothing lock-in session



SCRAPPY T-SHIRT SCARVES—Jane Rowan and Tammy Hawkins taught this session in which 4-H youth learned to make simple, casual scarves from discarded t-shirts to enhance their current wardrobe. Making scarves were, l-r, Emily Fouts, Gracie Oliver, Felicity Hannsz, Lori Rodgers and Bailey Hawkins.

by Jane Rowan
CEA/FCS, Haskell Co.
Haskell County 4-H members with an interest in Clothing & Textiles enjoyed

a six hour lock-in Saturday evening, Jan. 28. Purpose of the lock-in was to provide a variety of learning activities related to the 4-H Clothing

project. The evening began at the Rule School with a pizza party. Participants were then divided into three groups with each group rotating to a new learning station every thirty minutes.

These stations included:

•Scrappy T-Shirt Scarves—Jane Rowan and Tammy Hawkins taught the session in which youth learned to make simple, casual scarves from discarded t-shirts to enhance their current wardrobe. Later in the evening everyone enjoyed a fun video showing.

•Kool Ties—Through this simple sewing project, participants learned to make these fun ties designed to keep you cool during the upcoming months. Instructing the 4-H'ers in basic sewing procedures and operating a sewing machine were Fonda Newton and Mary Duggan. The completed Kool Ties will be sent to U.S. soldiers.

•Mod Podge—While creating their own unique "Mod Podge" creation, youth learned about this enduring and versatile project from project leader, Barbara Utley.

A long standing favorite activity of the annual lock-in was the session, "Improvement In Your Movement" which focused on modeling. Linda Lane-Bloise talked with the girls about basic modeling and poise. Participants dressed in their favorite "Retro" outfits had an opportunity to practice their modeling skills.

County Extension Agent—Jane Rowan introduced the group to the concept of "Fashion Storyboards." The 4-H Storyboard is an industry-inspired method of displaying original designs. The storyboard "tells the story" of the designer's idea. 4-H youth will have



KOOL TIES—In this simple sewing project, participants learned to make these fun ties designed to keep you cool during the upcoming months. Instructing the 4-H'ers in basic sewing procedures and operating a sewing machine were Fonda Newton and Mary Duggan. Making Kool Ties to be sent to U.S. soldiers were, l-r, Avery Tanner, Leann Manske, Allie Address, Fonda Newton, instructor, and Abby Address.



MOD PODGE—4-H'ers learned to create their own unique "Mod Podge" creation from project leader, Barbara Utley, right. Creating projects were, l-r, Kelly Tabor, Sarah Fouts, Addyson Wilhite, Kourtney Gibson and Adaline Utley.

the opportunity to develop a Fashion Storyboard for competition in March.

To round out the evening, Amy Tanner presented the session, "Daily Glow." Youth learned how to glow from the inside out through daily skin care. The hands on session included proper washing procedures and facial masks.

The weary but happy group concluded the full evening at midnight. Attending the Lock-In were Gracie Oliver, Lori Rodgers, Allie Address, Leann Manske, Abby Address, Addyson Wilhite, Kourtney Gibson, Adaline Utley, Sarah Fouts, Kelly Tabor, Emily Fouts, Avery Tanner, Bailey Hawkins and Felicity Hannsz.

Adult volunteers assisting throughout the evening were Tammi Hawkins, Fonda Newton, Kris Fouts, Mary Duggan, Barbara Utley, Linda Lane Bloise, Amy Tanner and Deborah Oliver.

4-H members will now be working on their clothing projects in preparation for the annual 4-H Fashion Show scheduled for March 25.



FACIAL MASKS—Amy Tanner presented the session, "Daily Glow." 4-H youth learned how to glow from the inside out through daily skin care. The hands on session included proper washing procedures and facial masks. Gracie Oliver, right, helps apply a mask for Bailey Hawkins.

Clip-Out

2012 INDIAN-MAIDEN TRACK SCHEDULES

Date	Event
Fri., Feb. 24	Hamlin Long Sleeve Relays
Sat., March 3	Roby Invitational
Fri., March 9	Roscoe Blackland Divide Relays
Sat., March 17	Hamlin Piper Relays
Sat., March 24	Possum Kingdom Relays
Sat., March 31	Munday Mogul Relays
Thurs., April 5	District at Munday
Thurs., April 12	Area Meet at Bryson
Fri.-Sat., April 20-21	Regional Qualifiers Meet, TBD
Fri.-Sat., April 27-28	Regional Meet at ACU, Abilene
Fri.-Sat., May 4-5	State Meet Qualifiers, TBD
Fri.-Sat., May 11-12	State Meet at Austin

JUNIOR HIGH TRACK SCHEDULE

Date	Event
Thurs., Feb. 23	Haskell
Thurs., March 1	Haskell
Thurs., March 8	Roscoe JH Blackland Divide
Thurs., March 22	Hamlin
Mon., April 2	District at Electra

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Is caffeine causing headaches?

That morning cup of coffee might clear your mental cobwebs—or cause you unwanted headaches.

Dr. James Bibb, an associate professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center, calls caffeine the oldest stimulant known to man. But he also warns that it can exacerbate medical conditions or cause headaches

through withdrawal or other effects on the brain.

"Caffeine has proven to be a useful drug," says Dr. Bibb, who holds dual appointments in psychiatry and in neurology and neurotherapeutics at UT Southwestern. "But, as with all things, moderation is required so that we receive its benefits."

Caffeine stimulates people in two ways, Dr. Bibb says. It ultimately facilitates the release of acetylcholine, a chemical compound that prevents drowsiness. Caffeine also blocks a type of adenosine receptor located in the part of the brain that controls reward-based learning. By blocking those

receptors and keeping the brain primed for rewards, caffeine keeps people alert.

Caffeine also has well-documented negative effects, Dr. Bibb says. It can raise the heart rate, cause motor or muscle tremors, increase blood pressure and act as a diuretic that reduces water content in the blood. This might affect sensory neurons in the dura, the thin envelop of tissue that surrounds the brain and may be the source of headaches.

"A small amount of caffeine can be very helpful, allowing us to work with focus and attention and stay aroused and awake," Dr. Bibb says. "But too much of it can be unhealthy."



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Friday, Feb. 24, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

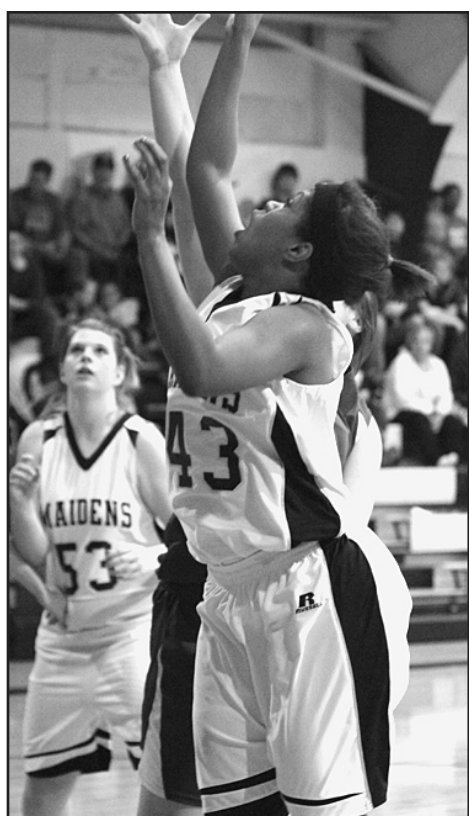
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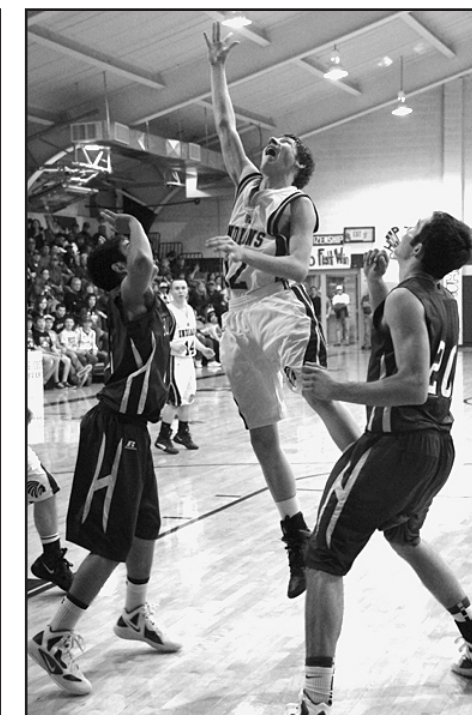
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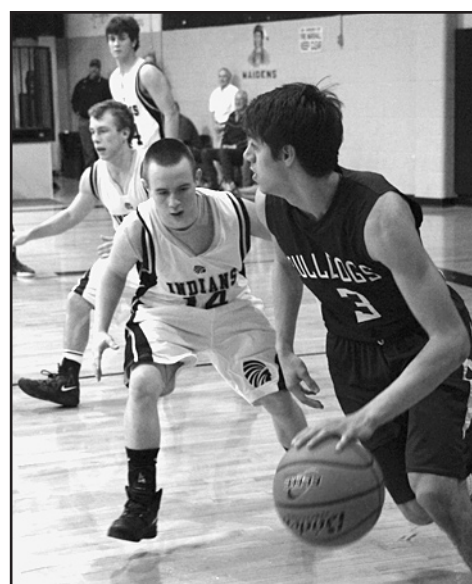
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MAIDENS PUT UP POINTS—Haskell Maidens #43 Caitlan Johnson, left, and #41 Carson Hadaway put points in the basket for the Maidens in a game against Stamford.



INDIANS VS BULLDOGS—Haskell Indian #10 Dakota Silvas moves the ball down court and Indian #12 Kelby Bell jumps for a basket during the game against the Stamford Bulldogs.



HASKELL IN ACTION—Haskell Maiden #15 Reagan Hadaway moves the ball in the Stamford game. Haskell Indian #14 Mathew Martinez plays defense during the Stamford game.



FREE THROW ATTEMPTS—Paint Creek Lady Pirates Kadie McCord, left, and Layne Petty, right, on the free throw line in the game against the Lueders-Avoca Lady Raiders.

Area Basketball scores

Girls

Haskell 64, Rotan 25
Scoring for Haskell: Cassidy 19, R. Hadaway 11, Johnson 10, C. Hadaway 9, Klose 7, Burson 3, Rodriguez 2, Shelton 2, Garcia 1.

Paint Creek 57 Lueders-Avoca 31
Scoring for Paint Creek: Buerger 23, Bosnjak 10, Trotter 10, Walker 6, Reed 2, Darnell 2, McCord 2, Oliver 2.

Boys

Haskell 48, Hamlin 38
Scoring for Haskell: Bell 22, Martinez 9, Newton 5, Leach 5, Bird 5, Silvas 2.

Haskell clinches third place.
JV: Haskell 40, Hamlin 37

Rule 45

Throckmorton 41 (OT)
Scoring for Rule: Lewis 11, Quintero 11, Hardeman 6, Rogers 6, Taylor 5, J. Perez 4, M. Perez 2.

Woodson 64, Rule 17
Scoring for Rule: Hardeman 4, Perez 4, Quintero 4, Lewis 2, Rogers 2, Taylor 1.

Lueders-Avoca 51 Paint Creek 27
Scoring for Paint Creek: Young 10, Gardner 7, McCord 4, Barnett 3, Pannell 2, Masias 1.

Alumni game set March 10

Individuals who attended Haskell High School or a consolidated school with Haskell CISD or who have a son who played baseball for the Indians are eligible to play the 2012 Haskell Indians in an Alumni game Sat., March 10 at 4 p.m. at Indian Field. Entry fee is \$20. All alumni playing will receive a t-shirt. The field will be available for practice at 1 p.m. March 10. Hamburger meals will be available throughout the game. All proceeds go towards scholarship money for Haskell High School student athletes. Registration will begin at 3 p.m. before the game. For more information, contact Josh Damron at 903-267-2129.



PIRATE REBOUND—Paint Creek Pirate Cheyenne Buerger goes up for a rebound during the game against Lueders-Avoca.



Michelle Johnson
RN

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2012 INDIAN BASEBALL SCHEDULES

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Feb. 13	Jim Ned (Scrimmage)	Haskell	4 p.m.
Feb. 17	Baird (Scrimmage)	Haskell	4 p.m.
Feb. 21	Merkel	Haskell	4 p.m.
Feb. 23	Lead-Off Classic (Albany)	Albany	9 a.m.
Feb. 24	Lead-Off Classic (Miles)	Albany	3 p.m.
Feb. 25	Lead-Off Classic (Cisco)	Albany	9 a.m.
March 1	Rock Field Classic (Early)	Hamlin	1:30 p.m.
March 1	Rock Field Classic (Hermleigh)	Hamlin	3:45 p.m.
March 3	Rock Field Classic (Merkel)	Hamlin	9 a.m.
March 5	Winters	Haskell	4 p.m.
March 9	Ballinger	Ballinger	4 p.m.
March 10	Alumni Game	Haskell	4 p.m.
March 12	Quanah	Haskell	4 p.m.
March 20	Rotan*	Rotan	5 p.m.
March 23	Roby*	Haskell	5 p.m.
March 30	Hamlin*	Haskell	4 p.m.
April 3	Seymour*	Seymour	5 p.m.
April 6	Stamford*	Stamford	5 p.m.
April 10	Rotan*	Haskell	5 p.m.
April 13	Roby*	Roby	5 p.m.
April 17	Hamlin*	Hamlin	5 p.m.
April 20	Seymour*	Haskell	5 p.m.
April 27	Stamford*	Haskell	5 p.m.

2012 JV INDIAN BASEBALL SCHEDULES

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Feb. 27	Jim Ned	Haskell	4 p.m.
March 5	Jim Ned	Jim Ned	6:30 p.m.
March 9	Ballinger	Ballinger	6 p.m.
March 12	Albany	Haskell	11 a.m.
March 19	Winters	Haskell	5 p.m.
March 30	Hamlin	Hamlin	6:30 p.m.
April 3	Seymour	Seymour	7 p.m.
April 6	Stamford	Stamford	7:30 p.m.
April 14	Hamlin/Stamford	Hamlin	TBA
April 17	Hamlin	Hamlin	7 p.m.
April 20	Seymour	Haskell	6:30 p.m.
April 27	Stamford	Haskell	7:30 p.m.

*District Game

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Kent Colley
VARSITY HEAD COACH: Josh Damron VARSITY ASST. COACH: Chad Copeland
JV COACH: Chad Copeland
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Jeff York SUPT.: Bill Alcorn

2012 MAIDEN SOFTBALL SCHEDULES

Sat., Feb. 18	Merkel	Merkel	12 noon
Mon., Feb. 20	Ralls	Double Header Ralls	4, 6 p.m.
Thurs.-Sat. Feb. 23-25	Windthorst Trojan Tourney	TBA	
Tues., Feb. 28	Seymour	Double Header Seymour	4:30, 6:30 p.m.
Thurs.-Sat. March 1-3	Wichita Falls Varsity Tourney	TBA	
Thurs.-Sat. March 8-10	Snyder Varsity Tourney	TBA	
Mon.-Fri. March 12-16	Spring Break		
Mon., Mar. 5	Hamlin	*Varsity Haskell	5 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 16	Stamford	*Varsity Stamford	5 p.m.
Mon., Mar. 19	Albany	*Varsity Albany	5 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 23	Baird	*Varsity Haskell	5 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 30	Eula	*Varsity Haskell	5 p.m.
Fri., Apr. 6	Hamlin	*Varsity Hamlin	5 p.m.
Tues., Apr. 10	Stamford	*Varsity Haskell	5 p.m.
Fri., Apr. 13	Albany	*Varsity Haskell	5 p.m.
Tues., Apr. 17	Baird	*Varsity Baird	5 p.m.
Fri., Apr. 20	Eula	*Varsity Eula	5 p.m.

*District Game

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Kent Colley
HEAD COACH: John Foster ASST. COACH: Kassi Meacham
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Jeff York SUPT.: Bill Alcorn

Harris is leading scorer at WTAMU

Kenisha Harris hit a seventeen foot jump shot with three minutes left at Angelo State Saturday night to give West Texas A&M a one point lead. After trading buckets and stifling defense by both squads, WTAMU found themselves down one with 20 seconds left.

Harris inbounded the ball to Ashley Leveen and she hit a shot to get back the one point lead. Casey Land then tacked on two free throws.

Angelo made a two point bucket at the buzzer but was uncontested as West Texas knew a two would do them no good. West Texas picked up a hard fought 54-53 victory on the road. With that win WTAMU stretched their winning streak to five games and a 14-8 record,

12-4 conference.

The Lady Buffs had already secured a berth in the conference tournament to be held in Allen this year. With four games remaining in conference play, they are working hard to make a strong push for a conference tournament championship. The national tournament is a possibility depending on how they do at the conference tournament.

Harris has come on and had a great second half of the season. Since taking a starting position five games into the season, Harris is now the leading scorer on the team and the second leading scorer in the conference with 17.4 points per game avg. She has a .492 field goal shooting percentage

which ranks her sixth in the conference and is also ranked top ten in offensive rebounds and assists.

Harris got her first double double hitting 26 points and ten rebounds against Texas Womens University. The team has won several close games in the second half of the season, and the young team is learning how to win the close ones. Harris and all her teammates are excited and anxious to get the post season started.

Harris is the daughter of Jim and Evett Harris, formerly of Rule.



KENISHA HARRIS

Rule ISD Employee Spotlight



SANDY FLORES

Sandy Flores of Rule has been employed by Rule ISD for 16 years.

Her husband, Robert, is self-employed. They have been married 29 years and have three grown children, Bobby, Austin and Cory; and one granddaughter, Emma. She is expecting another grandchild.

She enjoys crocheting and sewing.

Her favorite quote is, "Treat others like you would want to be treated."

Book fair to be held Feb. 20-24

A Scholastic Book Fair will be held at Haskell Elementary School beginning Mon., Feb. 20 through Fri., Feb. 24. The book fair, for students from prekindergarten through eighth grade, will be in the Haskell Elementary library each day from 8:00 until 4:30 and until noon on Friday. This year's theme is "Book Fair Luau, It's a Reading Celebration!" and there will be a large variety of great books for all ages.

Everyone is invited to the Family Event Thurs. evening,

Feb. 23, from 4:30 until 6:00. Families will have an opportunity to shop together and enjoy refreshments, and there will be student drawings for book fair merchandise. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Scholastic Book Fair helps promote literacy by giving kids access to good books and motivating them to read more.

For more information call 940-864-2654, extension 309.

Haskell School Menu

Feb. 20-24 Breakfast
Milk is offered daily.
Monday: Biscuits with sausage gravy or Berry Puffs cereal, strawberry applesauce, apple juice
Tuesday: Cinnamon toast with sausage or Lucky Charms cereal, majestic pears, orange juice
Wednesday: Scrambled eggs with sausage or Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, sour cinnamon apple slices, fruit punch juice
Thursday: Pancakes with syrup or Cocoa Puffs cereal, majestic pears, apple juice
Friday: Cinnamon roll with sausage or Trix cereal, peaches, 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: Classic Italian lasagna with roll or Italian antipasto salad with salami or energy meal

with bologna and cheese; choice of up to three: green peas, sweet corn, apple, strawberry applesauce, green slushy
Tuesday: Choice of one: Chicken fried steak with gravy and roll or fajita chicken salad or energy meal with turkey and cheese; choice of up to three: scalloped potatoes, green beans, whole wheat crackers, mixed fruit, green slushy
Wednesday: Choice of one: Soft chicken fajita tacos or garden pasta salad or energy meal with ham and cheese; choice of up to three: Mexicali corn, charro beans, fresh orange, lettuce and cheese, green slushy
Thursday: Choice of one: Cheeseburger or zesty tuna salad or energy meal with tuna salad; choice of up to three: glazed carrots, whole wheat crackers, mixed fruit, lettuce and cheese, green slushy
Friday: Ham and cheese sandwich, assorted chips, fresh fruit, green slushy

Rule School Menu

Feb. 20-24 Breakfast
Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Sausage, biscuits, Berry Puffs cereal, mixed fruit
Tuesday: Biscuits with sausage, gravy, Lucky Charms cereal, peaches
Wednesday: Breakfast taco, Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, cinnamon apple slices
Thursday: Waffles with syrup, Cocoa Puff cereal, pears
Friday: Breakfast biscuit, Trix cereal, strawberry applesauce

Lunch
Milk and slushy served daily.
Monday: Spaghetti with roll, sweet corn, green beans, applesauce
Tuesday: Corn dog, glazed carrots, pork and beans, fresh fruit, crackers
Wednesday: Crispy beef tacos, corn, refried beans, cinnamon apple slices, lettuce and cheese
Thursday: Chicken strips with gravy and roll, mashed potatoes, crackers, fresh fruit, peaches
Friday: Pizza, tater tots, baked beans, red applesauce, chocolate chip cookie

Paint Creek School Menu

Feb. 20-24 Breakfast
Juice and milk are served daily.
Monday: Pancakes
Tuesday: Breakfast bagels
Wednesday: Biscuits, sausage, gravy
Thursday: Waffles
Friday: Cinnamon rolls
Lunch
Milk is served daily.
Monday: Meat loaf, mashed

potatoes, corn, salad, bread, pineapples
Tuesday: Stew, cornbread, salad, cobbler
Wednesday: Fish sticks coleslaw, beans, hushpuppies, apples
Thursday: Chicken Alfredo, green beans, garlic bread, salad, peaches
Friday: Ham or tuna sandwiches, salad, cheese, chips, ice cream

ECC Menu

Mon., Feb. 20
Crispy chicken, tossed salad, Italian green beans, garlic (wheat) toast, misc. dessert, tea or coffee
Wed., Feb. 22
Salmon patty, pork n beans, new potatoes, cornbread, apple crisp, tea or coffee

Fri., Feb. 24
Sloppy Joe's country potato salad, carrots, zucchini, pumpkin buckle, tea or coffee
Announcements begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch.



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

This Week's Devotional Message:

Brighten your life with the Golden Rule



Do unto others, the Bible has said.
As you'd have others do unto you;
And if you will follow this passage you've read.
You will find it is certainly true
That in business, your home life or simply with friends.
It is easier getting along
If you'll never be forced into making amends,
Just because you have done someone wrong.
So to learn more about this unfailing advice
That will frequently serve as a warning.
You should go to your church, where it's only the price
Of an hour on next Sunday morning.

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.
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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Tax filing tips and what you should know about tax refund loans

It's that time again: the time of year we all dread. No, not just the end of the football season. It's tax filing time. Throughout the month of January your employer, bank and other financial entities have supplied you with all of the necessary documents that you'll need to knock out your 2011 tax return and put the IRS in your rear view mirror for another year.

Before you get started putting all of the numbers in each of the little boxes, or running out to the pop up tax preparing business down the street, make sure you follow these surefire tips for a safe, secure and accurate return.

Don't Get Ripped Off: Tax filing season is like Christmas for cyber criminals. They often set up dummy websites and send official looking

emails hoping that you'll fall into their web. The IRS will never ask for detailed financial information like PIN numbers, passwords or secret information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. In fact, the IRS never initiates contact with taxpayers via email to request any kind of personal information. Any emails that look like they come from the IRS, should be forwarded to phishing@irs.gov, then deleted. Do not respond!

Keep More of Your Refund: Many tax preparers offer tax refund loans or other immediate refund programs. Each of these offers comes with a cost, as the tax preparer takes a percentage of your return off the top for the convenience of getting your refund faster. These offers play upon the

assumption that the IRS is slow in issuing returns, but that's not necessarily the case. Most returns can be accepted by the IRS electronically via the e-file program, which enables your full refund to be deposited directly into your bank account within 7-14 days.

You Can File For Free: Nearly 70 percent of Americans qualify for free tax filing using software or forms provided by the IRS. If you earned less than \$57,000 in 2011, find out which free options are available to you by visiting www.irs.gov/freefile.

Get IRS Assistance in Spanish: The tax filing process doesn't have to be extra burdensome for Spanish speaking Americans. The IRS offers many resources in Spanish via www.irs.gov/espanol. Assistance in Spanish is also available via phone at 800-829-1040, and then pressing the number 8.

Don't Forget Your Kids At Tax Time: Having kids makes you eligible for many special tax considerations beyond the \$1,000 tax credit per child. The money that you spend for someone to take care of your children in order for you to work or look for work (day care, afterschool care, nanny) is often tax deductible. Also, make sure that your tax preparer knows if you've gone through the process of adopting a child in 2011, as many of those expenses can help decrease your tax liability as well.

Report Those Tips: Although tips might feel like "free money," they are, in fact taxable. The IRS is on the lookout for people working in service industry jobs—where tips are common—who fail to report their tips. Your tax return should include a total of all cash tips you receive directly from customers, or a reasonable estimation of how much you received in the past year. For future

years, try keeping a daily log of your tip income to make sure that you don't over or under estimate.

Since April 15 is on a Sunday this year, Uncle Sam has extended the 2012 tax filing deadline by two days to Tues., April 17.

Haskell Elementary is collecting box tops

The Haskell Elementary PTO and students are collecting Box Tops for Education. Box Tops for Education are found on many grocery and other items. Each box top turned in equals 10 cents for our school.

Over \$500 in box tops for the fall semester were turned in.

Box tops from anyone will

be accepted to help us beat the amount collected in the fall semester.

If any businesses would like a collection jar for Box Tops, one can be provided.

For more information, email haskellelementarypto@gmail.com or leave a message with the elementary school secretary.



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For Rent

REMODELED. Rule, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, sunroom, covered parking, storm cellar, all appliances, good area. \$345. 325-692-7015. 6-7c

S&S STORAGE in Haskell has storage units for rent. Call 864-2208. 7c

Real Estate

FOR SALE: 4 bedroom, 2 bath. 1004 N. Ave. D. Possible financing available. 817-894-0950. 5tfc

HOUSE FOR SALE by owner: 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1850 sq. ft. Corner lot. Sprinkler system. 1303 N. Ave. H. 940-256-0247 or 940-256-2161. 6-7c

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: Perform installation, maintenance, repair and replacement of major brand diesel engine and transmission systems for fleet busses and vehicles. Troubleshoot engine or transmission performance and provide recommendations for problem resolution. Some heavy lifting, climbing, carrying required in performance of job. Education and experience requirements: High school diploma or equivalent. 3 years or equivalent with accredited training school. Certification with ASE/CAT/CUMMINGS preferred. Strong working

Help Wanted

knowledge of major brand diesel engine and transmission/powertrain systems. Current CDL license preferred. For application go online to www.emeraldcompanies.com or come by Rolling Plains Detention Center for application. 7-8c

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

AGILITY is looking for experienced forklift operators in the Crowland Haskell areas. Candidate must be certified to operate a 15k lb forklift. Job entails loading/unloading trucks using above referenced equip. Positions are FT with benefits. Candidates will be expected to work overtime. 2+ years of related experience and/or

Help Wanted

training preferred. EOE. Email resumes to: dbyers@agilitylogistics.com or fax to 281-582-3067. 7c

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. 7-8c

\$5,000 Sign-on bonus! Tons of runs! Frac sand hauling. Owner operators need tractor, pneumatic trailer, blower. 800-397-2338. 7c

Public Notices

CAUSE NO. 4,450 Estate of Jeffrey Newton Monroe, Deceased

Public Notices

In the County Court of Haskell County, Texas NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original "Letters of Administration" for the Estate of Jeffrey Newton Monroe, Deceased were issued on May 6, 2011, in Docket No. 4450, pending in the county court of Haskell County, Texas to: Dorothea R. Monroe, 3 Avenue K, Haskell, Texas 79521.

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in manner prescribed by law. All persons having claims should address them in care of the representative at the address stated above. Dated the 31st day of January, 2012.

Public Notices

Respectfully submitted, The Law Office of Ronald L. Clower By Ronald L. Clower P.O. Box 162537 Fort Worth, Texas 76161 Phone: 817-847-9249 Fax: 817-847-9261 04415000 Attorney for Estate 7p

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT Wilcox Petroleum Operating, LLC, P.O. Box 580, Rule, Texas 79547 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Sojourner Formation, Teague Lease, Well Number 3. The proposed injection

well is located 3 miles SW of Haskell in the Sojourner Field, in Haskell County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5172 to 5212 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within

fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792). 7c

NOTICE

The City of Rule will be accepting bids from now until 02/29/12 for the maintenance and upkeep of the Rule Cemetery. Submit all bids to the Rule City Hall at 701 Union Ave, Rule, Texas during regular business hours or mail them to P.O. Box 607, Rule, Texas 79547. Please call 940-996-2214 for all questions regarding contract. 7-8c

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Doug Sorrells
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940-256-0536

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Chan Guess - agent
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FEATURED LISTINGS

- 1506 N. AVE. E- FOR RENT or SALE!! 2/2, 1.5 ACRES.
- 1002 N. 6TH-MOVE IN READY! 3/1. \$24,900. **SOLD**
- 101 N. AVE. F-UNBELIEVABLY AWESOME! 8/2.5. \$29,900.
- 1207 N. AVE. K-IMMACULATE HOME! 3/1. \$32,900. **UNDER CONTRACT**
- 404 S. AVE. E-NEWLY REMODELED! 3/1.5. \$59,900. **REDUCED**
- 1004 N. AVE. L-GOT TO SEE! 2/2. \$72,500.
- 911 N. AVE. L-INVITING & WELL MAINTAINED! 3/1.5. \$73,900. **NEW**
- 1106 N. AVE. H-FAMILY FRIENDLY! 3/2. \$75,000. **NEW**
- 701 N. AVE. E-SPACIOUS HOME WITH CHARACTER. 3/3. \$76,500. **REDUCED**
- 907 N. AVE. E-IDEAL LOCATION AND OPEN CONCEPT. 3/2. \$99,000. **NEW**
- 1507 N. AVE. E-BEAUTIFUL RESTORED HISTORIC HOME! 4/3. \$165,000.
- 500 BLOCK N. AVE. A-4 LOTS-BY PASS FRONTAGE! \$17,900. **REDUCED**
- 408 N. AVE. E-OFFICE SPACE & APARTMENT! \$25,000. **UNDER CONTRACT**
- 507 N. 1ST EAST-COMMERCIAL PROPERTY! \$49,900.

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NEW 1206 NORTH AVENUE J-3/2 home perfect for entertaining. Open living, dining and updated kitchen. Updated paint colors, new tiled walk in shower and new vanities. New French doors that open out to a covered patio and fenced back yard. Corner lot with mature trees, sprinkler system and water well. \$79,900

NEW 503 N AVE. E-3/2 with many updates. Kitchen-den area, living-dining room with gas logs, refinished wood floors in several rooms and hallway, new windows and fresh paint. Other amenities include Central H/A, attached carport at the side entrance, fenced yard and ample storage. \$57,900

1208 N. FIRST-NEW CONSTRUCTION-2 bedroom one bath home on corner lot has neutral color scheme, great natural light, upgraded carpet, dual pedestal sinks as well as vanity in bathroom. Home also has large utility room and dining area. This property would make a perfect home for any buyer. \$59,900.

209 NORTH AVE. H-Historic 3/2 home with hardwood floors. \$69,900

703 NORTH AVE. E-4/3.5 home perfect for entertaining! \$192,000

1503 SOUTH FIRST-Move in ready 3/2. \$64,000

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February sales tax receipts up slightly

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced that state sales tax revenue in January was \$2 billion, up 9.5 percent compared to January 2011. "Sales tax revenue continues to grow in almost all major economic categories and revenue has now increased for 22 consecutive months," Combs said. "The

recent monthly increase was led by the oil and natural gas-related sectors. Restaurants and services sectors also showed significant gains." Combs sent February local sales tax allocations totaling \$708.5 million to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 8.2 percent

compared to February 2011. The sales tax figures represent monthly sales made in December as well as sales by businesses that report tax on a quarterly or annual basis. Haskell County had a 4.51 percent increase for February 2012 of \$62,657.38 in comparison to \$59,953.43

for February 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$99,008.11 reflect a 6.19 percent increase over 2011 payments to date of \$93,233.16. The City of Haskell had a 21.54 percent increase for February 2012 of \$58,539.85 in comparison to \$48,161.44 for February 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$93,133.15 reflect a 17.74 percent increase over 2011 payments to date of \$79,098.05.

The City of O'Brien had a 47.08 percent decrease for February 2012 of \$471.31 in comparison to \$890.71 for February 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$608.64 reflect a 37.89 percent decrease over 2011 payments to date of \$979.95.

The City of Rochester had a 9.86 percent decrease for February 2012 of \$750.69 in comparison to \$832.87 for February 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$1,069.55 reflect a 2.30 percent decrease over 2011 payments to date of \$1,094.81.

The City of Rule had a 73.01 percent decrease for February 2012 of \$2,628.65 in comparison to \$9,740.76 for February 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$3,765.94 reflect a 67.53 percent decrease over 2011 payments to date of \$11,599.32.

The City of Weinert had an 18.54 percent decrease for February 2012 of \$266.88 in comparison to \$327.65 for February 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$430.83 reflect a 6.55 percent decrease over 2011 payments to date of \$461.03.



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Commissioners' Court report

The Haskell County Commissioners' Court met in a regular meeting Tues., Jan 24 with all commissioners and the county judge present.

All bills including three additional bills and an almost due lease payment were paid.

Kris Fouts, County Attorney, reported that Exergy wanted to know about abatement of taxes or payment in lieu of taxes. Bob Bass will draft a letter telling Exergy what the County's expectations are of Exergy. Exergy will basically have to file an application before the court can make any decisions.

Johna Messenger has been hired at the Experienced Citizens Center.

All precincts have been working on tearing down houses.

The Deputy County Clerk Carla West reported that the Clerk's office will remain open during the lunch hour on a trial basis. The Clerk's office is also looking into the Remote Birth Access System that should bring more revenue to the County.

No burn ban is in effect.

A motion to adopt the amended Personnel Policy Manual passed.

Veterans officer Charles Lankford stated he would not come to Haskell and work for \$75 a day, but would for \$150. Commissioner Kenny Thompson stated that Franciene Johnson would be willing to be VA officer

if no other was found. Judge David Davis mentioned Woody Turnbow would also be willing to serve as VA officer. A motion to continue to look for a local veteran and not use Lankford; and speak with Turnbow first before asking Johnson to become VA officer passed.

A motion to approve the resolution for the Hog Out Grant Program was approved.

A motion to accept the resolution opposing the proposed closure of Post Offices in O'Brien, Rochester and Weinert passed.

Three line item transfers were approved.

A budget amendment for the purchase of a new dozer was approved.

Calendar

Donations

Noah Project-North is now accepting donations for the dinner/silent auction to be held at the Haskell Civic Center Sat., April 21. All monetary and item donations are appreciated. Call 940-864-2551 if you have questions or need someone to pick up an auction item. You may mail your monetary donations to the Noah Project-North, P. O. Box 52, Haskell, Texas 79521. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Fish fry

A fish fry will be hosted Sun., Feb. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Haskell Civic Center by the Trinity Lutheran Church. The meal of fish, hush puppies, French fries, coleslaw, drink and dessert will be \$8 per plate. Praise and worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. All are welcome. Proceeds benefit the youth going to church camp.

Youth baseball

The Haskell Youth Baseball Association will hold a sign-up Feb. 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 in the Haskell Elementary School cafeteria. There will be a new age group this year for T-Ball. This will be for 4-6 year olds. Coach Pitch ages are 7-8. Minor League will be 9-10 year olds, while the Major League will be 11-12 year olds. A player must be 4 by April 1, 2012 to be eligible. All players "League Age" will be determined by the child's age as of April 1, 2012.

Quilt show

The Cotton Pickin' quilt and food show will be held Sat., Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the old gym at Goree. The cafe will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call 940-422-5360 or 940-422-4540.

Concert

Tribute will be in concert Sun., March 4 at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 220 S. 5th Ave., Munday. For more information, call 940-422-4559.

Alumni game

Individuals who attended Haskell High School or a consolidated

school with Haskell CISD or who have a son who played baseball for the Indians are eligible to play the 2012 Haskell Indians in an Alumni game Sat., March 10 at 4 p.m. at Indian Field. Entry fee is \$20. All alumni playing will receive a t-shirt. The field will be available for practice at 1 p.m. March 10. Hamburger meals will be available throughout the game. All proceeds go towards scholarship money for Haskell High School student athletes. Registration will begin at 3 p.m. before the game. For more information, contact Josh Damron at 903-267-2129.

Cantata rehearsals

Community wide Easter cantata rehearsals will be held Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. at the East Side Baptist Church. Child care is provided. For more information, call 864-2738.

Texas celebration

The Texas Independence Day Haskell County Style celebration will be held Sat., March 3 around the Courthouse and city square. Applications for food vendor and craft booth registration may be made by visiting the County Judge's office or by calling Susan Cockerell at 940-864-2851 or 940-256-3296.

Texas flags

Citizens are invited to sponsor a Texas flag for the Celebrate Texas Independence Day-Haskell County Style. The Committee to Help Haskell County needs sponsors for 40 flags which will be flown March 2, Texas Independence Day and March 3. Flags may also be used on other special days like Wild Horse Prairie Days and 4th of July. For more information contact Susan Cockerell at 864-2851 or Billie McKeever at 864-4814 or any committee member.

Relay for Life

To sign up for a team for the Knox-Haskell Relay for

Life visit www.relayforlife.org/knoxhaskelltx or call Becky or Carla at 940-864-3050.

40 Days

40 Days of Purpose Campaign has begun at First Baptist Church in Haskell. The campaign will be held through Sun., March 25. Call 864-2581 for details.

Volleyball night

First Baptist Church in Haskell is hosting an open gym for volleyball every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. Adult and high school volleyball players are welcome to come and play. There is no charge. Parents who bring their children must supervise them at all times. For more information, call the church office at 864-2581.

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.

Deadlines

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

Al-Anon

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

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.

Join Booster Club

To become a member of the Haskell Athletic Booster Club call Barbara Utley 940-256-0972 or Billie Lindsey at 864-2602. The club dues benefit all athletes in all sports. Dues are \$15.

Clear Fork Crime Stoppers
1-800-222-TIPS

CUSTOMER NOTICE INCORPORATED AREAS OF THE MID-TEX DIVISION

On January 31, 2012, Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division ("Atmos" or "the Company"), filed a Statement of Intent with each City served by the Mid-Tex Division (hereafter "Affected Cities") with the exception of the City of Dallas. The Company's Statement of Intent proposes to increase its gas rates and implement a new schedule of rates and riders applicable to all customers within the Affected Cities. The proposed effective date of the requested rate changes is March 6, 2012. If approved, the proposed changes will affect approximately 1,194,420 residential, 100,461 commercial, and 705 industrial & transportation customers.

If approved, the proposed rates will increase the Company's annual revenues by \$49,080,069 or 4.36%, including gas costs, or 11.94% excluding gas cost. The proposed change in rates constitutes a "major change" as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. In addition to the rate changes, other proposed tariff changes include revision of the Company's residential and commercial rate schedules (Rates R and C), as well as its Rider WNA and Rider GCR to change the current billing rate basis from Mcf to Ccf. The Company further proposes to revise the Rider GCR to: (1) remove the 2009 interest rate reference, (2) clarify that the calculation of (b) Pipeline Cost is inclusive of interest, and (3) update the Upstream Pipeline Charge Allocation (Factor D). Atmos also proposes to modify its Rider WNA to update the heat load and base load factors. The Company further seeks to implement a new Rate Review Mechanism ("RRM") tariff, as well as a new conservation and energy efficiency tariff ("Rider CEE"). In addition, the Company seeks to recover all of its rate case expenses and all city rate case expenses as allowed by law. The exact amount will not be known until the case is completed.

Based on the proposed rate design, the average monthly bill for each customer class within the Affected Cities will change by the amount and percent shown in the table below:

Customer Class	Current Bill **	Proposed Bill**	Difference	Percentage Change with Gas Cost	Percentage Change without Gas Cost
Residential *	\$48.51	\$51.21	\$2.70	5.57%	13.60%
Commercial *	\$241.15	\$246.50	\$5.35	2.22%	9.69%
Industrial *	\$3,703.47	\$3,499.26	\$(204.21)	-5.51%	-14.22%
Transportation	\$1,754.60	\$1,550.39	\$(204.21)	-11.64%	-14.22%

***Includes Rider GCR Part A cost of \$4,5750 per Mcf.**
****The calculation of bill impacts assumes average monthly consumption of 4.4 Mcf for residential, 34.2 Mcf for commercial, and 3,897 MMBtu for industrial and transportation customers.**

Persons with specific questions or desiring additional information about this filing may contact Atmos Energy Corporation at 1-888-286-6700. Complete copies of the filed Statement of Intent, including all proposed rates and schedule changes, are available for inspection at Atmos' offices located at 5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75240 or on our website www.atmosenergy.com/mtx-soi. In addition, customers can contact their City for additional information regarding this rate request.

Éste es un aviso a los clientes de Mid-Tex División de Atmos Energy Corporation, (la "Compañía"), que la Compañía está solicitando un aumento en la tarifa del gas. Este aumento afecta a todos los clientes de la Compañía excepto en la ciudad de Dallas y las áreas no incorporadas. Aquellas personas que deseen comunicarse con la autoridad reguladora que tiene jurisdicción sobre esta solicitud deben ponerse en contacto con su ciudad. Si usted tiene preguntas con respecto a este aumento, por favor llame a Atmos Energy Corporation al 1-888-286-6700.