

## Calendar

### Vendor applications

If you are planning to have a vendor booth for Wild Horse Prairie Days, spots are filling up fast. The show starts Fri., June 1 and continues through Sat., June 2 at the Civic Center in Haskell. The show is western theme and/or decor. Booths are 10x12 for \$50. Tables and chairs are available. Food booth vendors must have a Texas Department of State Health license. Contact Jennabeth Kimbrough at 940-256-2163.

### WHPD parade set June 1

Wild Horse Prairie Days are just around the corner and the parade committee would like to encourage businesses, clubs and individuals to participate in the 2012 WHPD parade set June 1. The parade will start at 5:00 p.m. from the Civic Center. Plaques will be given to first, second and third place float winners. Applications are available at the Chamber of Commerce office at 510 S. 2nd or in the County Judge's office in the County Courthouse. For more information call 940-864-2851.

### Haskell pool

The Haskell City Pool will open June 2 for Splash Day from 1 to 5 p.m. For more details on the pool contact the Duty Manager, Kelsie Adams at 940-864-8185 or Director of Public Safety/ Works, Matthew Duran at 940-256-0774. The hours of service will be Tuesday through Thursday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. and will be closed Sunday and Monday. Reservations will be allowed on the days the pool is closed and after closing on other days.

### Bible school

Haskell Church of Christ will hold a Babylon themed Vacation Bible School Sun., June 3 through Wed., June 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. Busses will run. Contact the church for a registration form or to ride the bus. Those children completing 4 year old pre-k through 6th grade are invited to attend. Volunteers are needed. Contact the Haskell Church of Christ at 940-864-3101 for more information.

### Bible school

Haskell First United Methodist Church will hold their Vacation Bible School Tues., June 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A light lunch will be served. Following the evening activities there will be a hamburger meal followed by ice cream for dessert. Volunteers are needed to help with the day's activities. Those wishing to help may contact Amy Sloan.

### 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.

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# Welcome to Wild Horse Prairie Days

# The Haskell Free Press

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"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

## Brueggeman places first at state UIL meet

Haskell High School advanced seven students to the 2012 State UIL Academic Meet held at the University of Texas May 21-22. They brought home eight state medals, including one gold, five silver and two bronze.

On Mon., May 21, the Calculator Applications team consisting of Garrett Brueggeman, Maci Colley, Cailey Foster and Madison Homeyer won second place team, with Brueggeman winning second place individual and Colley winning sixth place individual. Ashley Adams won fourth place individual in Feature Writing.

On Tues., May 22, the Mathematics team consisting of Brueggeman, Madison Mayfield, Kalyn Wheatley and Colley won third place team, with Brueggeman winning first place individual.



**HASKELL UIL STATE HONORS**—Haskell students advancing to the State UIL Academic Meet in Austin May 21-22 were, front row, l-r, Cailey Foster, Ashley Adams, Garrett Brueggeman and Madison Homeyer; back row, Maci Colley, Kalyn Wheatley and Madison Mayfield.

## Wild Horse Prairie Days set this weekend

by Caron Yates

Seventeen years ago, after much planning and significant hours of labor from many different people, the first Wild Horse Prairie Days was deemed a huge success. It has continued each year since, even growing as new activities have been added.

The weekend of June 1-2 will be filled with activity, beginning with the Sam "Snakey" Graves Memorial Cutting at 9 a.m. on Friday. At 5 p.m., everyone is encouraged to gather around the square for the WHPD parade. Pictures of each entry and plaques for first, second and third places will be awarded. Anyone interested

in having an entry should contact Susan Cockerell at 864-2851.

On both Friday and Saturday, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., inside the Civic Center, a Craft and Trade Show will be held. A chuck wagon meal will be served from 5-7 p.m. each night, inside the Civic Center for more comfortable dining.

The main event, the rodeo, will begin at 7 p.m. both nights. Teams scheduled to compete on Friday night are returning teams from the Flowers Ranch, Hager Ranch, Nail/Bar D Ranch, Sandhill Cattle Co., Spires Ranch, Veale Ranch/Clark Cattle and WT Waggoner Estate. New teams

competing on Friday night will be Lazy 8 Ranch from Coleman, Prothro/Britten Ranch from Kerrick and X CrossX/Adams Ranch located in Pampa.

Saturday's roster lists LaMejor/Tubhandle, Myers/Mimms, Rocker B, Swenson Ranch, Thompson Ranch, Pitchfork Ranch, Tongue River, NT/Hunter Ranch, Circle Bar and Crutch Ranch. Winning ranch for the 2011 Wild Horse Prairie Days rodeo was the Sandhill Cattle Co.

Several of these teams are from local and area ranches, so you probably know some of these cowboys. Five of the competing teams, Hager Ranch, Prothro/Britten

Ranch, Sandhill Cattle Co., Swenson Ranch and Crutch Ranch made it to the World Finals last year. On the average four or five teams which compete in the WHPD, qualify for the finals each year in November. Consequently, competition will be stiff again this year.

A ranch horse competition will be held at 9 a.m. on Sat., and the always exciting Jr. Ranch Rodeo with "Pokey" the clown will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday's activities will conclude with a dance from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. featuring the Jim Sadler Band.

It takes many hands to put on a successful event of this magnitude. Any and all volunteers are needed and

appreciated. Contact Sammy Larned for more information or to volunteer your services at 864-2749.

On Sunday, popular cowboy preacher Jeff Gore will conduct church services beginning at 10 a.m. at the God Loves You Ministries building on the west side of the square.

A new event will also take place in connection with the WHPD. On Sunday, June 3, beginning at 1 p.m. a WTBRA Barrel Race competition will be held.

You won't want to miss any of these activities. So round up your family and friends and come be a part of the fun at the seventeenth annual Wild Horse Prairie Days.

## Jr. ranch rodeo set

Ranches, horse clubs, families and anyone who enjoys learning about the skills used by working cowboys on ranches, or just likes fun competition, is invited to come be a part of the Junior Ranch Rodeo with "Pokey" the Clown.

The fun begins at 11 a.m. on Sat., June 2 in the grassy area by the Howard Hopkins Rodeo Arena. Spectators are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and enjoy a ringside seat as young competitors from age 3 to 16, show off their skills.

The Junior Ranch Rodeo is designed for the entertainment of children

and also to enable them to experience some of the skills used by real working ranch cowboys. The activities are designed to encourage the youngsters to work together in teams to accomplish competitive goals.

Teams will consist of four members and will be divided into four age groups. They include Super Peewee, ages 3-5; Peewee, ages 4-7; Junior, ages 8-11; and Senior, ages 12-16. An entry fee of \$20 is charged for each team, with each member receiving a t-shirt.

Events for the junior rodeo include a Pony Express Race, Steer Doctoring, Wild Cow Milking and Calf Branding. All events will involve the use of custom made wooden 'livestock,' and all will compete on beautiful, handmade stickhorses.

Medals will be awarded to the winning team in each age division, along with an invitation to compete in the National WRCA Junior Rodeo in Amarillo next November.

For more information, entry blank and copy of the rules, call Larned Sales Center at 864-2749.



**NEW FFA OFFICERS**—Haskell FFA installed new officers at the annual FFA awards program held Tues., May 22. New officers are, front row, l-r, Makenzie Gass—historian, Meghan Glover—vice president, Lucy Carmichael—secretary and Emily Fouts—reporter; back row, Crissy Bassett—student advisor, Reagan Hadaway—chaplain, Shelby Dunnam—treasurer, Carson Hadaway—president and Kaley Mathis—sentinel. Not pictured is Madison Mayfield, parliamentarian.

## FFA installs new officers

Over 85 members and guests were present at the annual Haskell FFA awards program held Tues., May 22 at the Haskell auditorium.

FFA members that advanced to various state contests and placed at major stock shows were awarded State Qualifier and Top Hand Jackets. Greenhand and Chapter Degree recipients were also recognized.

Seniors Kymbre Kupatt and Krista McLemore were recognized for advancing to

the final round of the Texas FFA Scholarship process. These young ladies will be competing for scholarships in the amount of \$16,000 each. McLemore was also recognized for winning the National FFA Ford scholarship for \$1000 and Kupatt was awarded the National FFA Cargill Scholarship for \$1,000.

Kenny Cockerell announced that Haskell FFA members had brought home more than \$128,000 in prize

money and scholarships from major stock shows this year.

The 2012-13 officers were installed and are Carson Hadaway, president; Meghan Glover, vice president; Lucy Carmichael, secretary; Shelby Dunnam, treasurer; Emily Fouts, reporter; Kaley Mathis, sentinel; Crissy Bassett, student advisor; Makenzie Gass, historian; Madison Mayfield, parliamentarian; and Reagan Hadaway, chaplain.



**POKEY THE CLOWN**

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

# No magic wand can be used when it comes to debt management

Millions of Americans are struggling to pay their bills in this very difficult economy. If you are, know that you are not alone. You may find yourself searching for answers to your problem after seeing ads from lenders, debt counselors and debt settlement companies. So which alternative is best? In reality, there is no magic wand that is going to work for everyone in every situation.

**Debt Consolidation**  
This option typically involves a lender who is willing to make you a new loan to pay off several other loans or debts you have. This allows you to consolidate the money you owe into a single payment and perhaps extend the repayment period or lower the interest rate. A carefully crafted debt consolidation loan typically allows you to reduce your payments and to avoid late fees and extra charges. Lenders usually require additional collateral (think car or home) so you may have converted unsecured debt to debt secured by your home or auto and that may

pose additional problems if you can't make your loan payments. The bottom line is that you still end up owing the same amount of money, you just have longer to pay it off and usually at a lower rate.


**Debt Settlement**  
This option involves negotiating with your creditors to reduce the amount you owe, your interest rate, or both. In short, the creditor is going to accept less than what you owe them in hopes of getting at least a portion of that debt paid back. This usually works best if you have a lump sum to offer. You can work with your creditors on your own but if you don't have a lump sum you are probably going to have to work with an attorney or with a debt settlement company. The pros of a debt settlement is that you can satisfy the debt in full for less than what you owe and you are done with it. The cons are that it will appear on your credit report as a settled debt and you may have to pay taxes on any forgiven debt. You also need to make sure you are dealing with a reputable company so be sure to contact the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org or 703-276-0100) and check them out before you sign anything. Keep in mind that a debt settlement does not provide instant relief, can be expensive, and if you are not careful who you work with, may not be a solution at all and could make things worse... much worse.

**Debt Counseling**  
There are reputable organizations like the Consumer Credit Counseling Service (www.cccs.net or

214-638-2227) that work to provide financial literacy education, help in managing budgets and also can help with a debt management plan that is essentially a debt settlement. Fees with a debt counseling service are usually much lower than a debt settlement company because most are non-profit. In some cases they may waive their fee if you can't afford to pay anything. Debt counselors work with you to get to the root of the problem, which is often inadequate budgeting skills and insufficient financial information. To find the nearest nonprofit counseling service, contact the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (www.nfcc.org 1-800-388-2227).

There is no magic wand to get you out of debt. The real solution is changing your spending habits. That means reducing your expenses and or increasing your income and getting educated on handling your finances.

Here are a few other tips to help you stay out of trouble: 1) If possible, always pay more than is required. Paying the minimum amount due on a credit card will keep you in debt and making payments for more than 30 years. 2) Don't be late—if you are, even one time, you may get hit with a high penalty rate. 3) Use debit instead of credit—debit cards draw the money out of your checking account so they don't allow you to overspend as easily as a credit card does. 4) Make saving a habit. Find a way to start saving something every month. If you can, establish an automatic or direct transfer to savings so you can start to establish a good habit and an emergency fund. 5) Remember, you did not get into debt overnight and you will not get out overnight either—it will take time and hard work!



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**ECC Menu**  
Mon., June 4  
Meatballs with tomato gravy, mashed potatoes, turnip greens, rolls, peach cobbler, tea or coffee  
Wed., June 6  
Beef enchiladas, Spanish rice, pinto beans, salsa, chips, strawberry cake, tea or coffee  
Fri., June 8  
Creamy mushroom steak, cream potatoes, blackeyed peas, cornbread, jello, brownie, tea or coffee  
Announcements begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch.

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# Obituaries

## Julie 'Judy' Gordy



**JUDY GORDY**

Graveside services were held Thurs., May 24 at Willow Cemetery in Haskell for Julie 'Judy' Gordy, 97, of Haskell with Rev. Jay Bearley officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of Haskell.

Gordy passed away peacefully at home, of congestive heart failure, surrounded by family, Mon., May 21. She lived her life as a true Texan woman, living all across the state; having success in whatever business she put her hands too, all while raising four generations of children and maintaining a nearly perfect bill of health and self-sufficiency.

She was born in Cleburne Feb. 7, 1915, the daughter of James and Hollan Harris. Her formative years were

spent on a farm near Haskell, where she woke up nearly every day to make breakfast for her parents and seven siblings, before going out in the fields to work along side the men. At night she would help her mother with dinner and stay up late taking care of the household chores. During this time she also cared for her eldest brother Lester, afflicted with epilepsy, and her three younger siblings, showing tenderness to those that needed her, despite the harshness of farm life in the early 20th century.

In 1933, she married Quannah Gordy, a rodeo worker, and traveled all over the state of Texas with him, bearing two children in the process, Kenneth (Leander) and Barbara (Dallas). She opened her own short-order restaurant, Mom's Cafe, in 1952, putting her cooking skills to use to great success. After two years, she sold the restaurant and decided to seek her fortune in the big city. Settling in Dallas, she worked a series of odd jobs to make ends meet. Eventually she earned a name for herself in Dallas's Garment District as a seamstress, pattern maker, and finally, designer. She remarried in 1956 to

Reuban Macdonald Magee and, in the 60's, began caring for her youngest grandchild, Tina Ann Coffey and later her great grandson, Patrick Duvall. As a caregiver, she was generous with her time and with her food (particularly her made-to-order chocolate pies), and found joy in remaking expensive designer clothes to perfection for those she was close to.

While she moved frequently, Gordy always considered Haskell her home. For many years she lived in the town, actively participating in the church and making a number of friends. In her spare time, she loved caring for animals, reading her bible, and was always willing to share stories from her nearly ten decades on this earth.

Having outlived parents, two husbands, seven siblings, and their spouses, Gordy is survived by her daughter, Barbara Coffey of Dallas; son, Kenneth of Leander; granddaughter, Christina Haley of Plano; grandson, David Gordy of Leander; great grandson Patrick Duvall of Chicago; and four other great grandchildren.

PD. NOTICE

## Allen 'Wayne' Worley

Funeral services for Allen 'Wayne' Worley, 82, of Brownwood were held Thurs., May 24 at First Baptist Church in Brownwood under the direction of Heartland Funeral Home of Early.

Mr. Worley passed away Tues., May 22 in Brownwood.

Born Dec. 2, 1929 in Haskell County, he was the son of Benjamin Franklin Worley and Bertha Elizabeth Allen Worley. He graduated from Rule High School in 1947. As a young man, he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and strived to live a faithful life of service to the Lord.

He married Vera Sue Couch June 8, 1952. They moved to Brownwood in 1963. Together, they raised three children. A devoted family man, his first priority was always his wife and family. His quiet strength resounded in wisdom and served as an example to his

children and grandchildren. Professionally, he served his community and state for 35 years as a District Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture ASCS, and he served as Brown County Commissioner of Precinct 2 from 1992-98. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Brownwood since 1963, serving as a deacon for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and three sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Sue; his children, Gary Worley and wife Donna, Carla Lehrmann and husband Rick, Sara Killian and husband Ken; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren; three sisters, Geraldine Triplett of Longview, Christine Hatfield of Sayre, Oklahoma and Fay McBroom of Fort Worth; and many nieces and nephews.

PD. NOTICE

# Experience Works helps older workers with employment

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has announced that Experience Works has been selected to operate the state's portion of the federally funded Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) in Texas from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. The program enables low-income senior Texans to gain competitive job skills, acquire unsubsidized jobs and remain financially independent. Experience Works will operate SCSEP in 90 mostly rural counties.

SCSEP participants nationwide earn minimum wage while training and contribute millions of community service hours each year through assignments

with non-profit organizations and governmental entities. To qualify for SCSEP, job seekers must be aged 55 or older, unemployed, eligible to work in the U.S. and earn 125 percent or less than the federal poverty level annually. Since 2006, more than 3,260 low-income senior Texans have been served by TWC's SCSEP and about 1,350 seniors have obtained unsubsidized jobs.

In addition to on-the-job training, SCSEP offers:

- Assessment and development of Individual Employment Plans;
- Supportive services to enable participants to overcome barriers to employment;
- Health screenings;
- Basic skills training, such as English as a Second Language, reading and math skills, and General Educational Development classes;
- Targeted occupational skills training such as keyboarding, computer and home health aide skills; and
- Job search assistance and job retention support.

SCSEP addresses needs

of an increasing number of older job seekers desiring to remain in the labor force. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), workers aged 55 or older increased from 24.2 percent of Texas' civilian labor force in 2001 to 27.8 percent in 2011 and is the fastest growing age group in the workforce. Nationally, BLS predicts that the number of workers in this age group will increase 43 percent between 2008 and 2018.

In addition to the TWC-administered SCSEP, Experience Works also provides workforce development services to older Texans in other mostly rural areas of the state. Four other organizations also offer federally funded SCSEP programs in Texas: AARP Foundation, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, SER-Jobs for Progress National and Senior Service America. Visit [www.texasworkforce.org/svcs/scsep/scsep.html](http://www.texasworkforce.org/svcs/scsep/scsep.html) for more information on SCSEP, or [www.texasworkforce.org/svcs/scsep/scsepcontact.html](http://www.texasworkforce.org/svcs/scsep/scsepcontact.html) to find the SCSEP contact person by county.

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

# Nancy Stewart to begin new chapter in her life

by Caron Yates

With the ringing of the last bell on May 25th, Haskell High School English teacher Nancy Stewart, will embark on the next chapter in her life.

Although Haskell County schools have seen sixteen school personnel retire in the past two years, Stewart is the only one choosing to conclude her teaching career at the end of this school year.

Stewart has spent twenty-one years in the teaching profession. At Rochester ISD, she taught Special Education for 4 1/2 years, Family and Consumer Science for 6 1/2 years, and English and Consumer Science for 3 years. After the Rochester and Haskell school districts consolidated, she continued as an English teacher for seven years.

While she has many cherished memories from her years of teaching, Stewart says seeing students who previously did not like to read, become avid and enthusiastic readers is at the top of the list.

There are of course, difficulties in any profession, but she feels budget cuts have certainly hurt our schools. She also stated that the No Child Left Behind Act, which plays a significant role in Title I schools, has hurt some students. "Trying to teach a student what they need to live productively in the world, but being required to teach them how to pass a state mandated test, is a very difficult part of teaching," says Stewart.

While she is open to whatever the future holds, she does have definite plans to spend more time with family. She and husband Danny, have six children. They are Angela and Patrick Burson of Clyde, Heather and Coby Wilhelm from Stamford, Karmen and Jon Neal in Lubbock, Angela and Justin Stewart from Weatherford, Janet and Michael Adkins of Haskell and Ginger Adkins in Lubbock.

Stewart says, "By the end of the summer, we will have fourteen grandchildren



NANCY STEWERT

and I plan to spend a lot of time at their sporting events, recitals and plays."

For most teachers, the motivation to keep coming back year after year, is the students. Teachers have a unique opportunity to touch the lives of their students. Stewart has, for the past twenty-one years, taken advantage of that opportunity by having a positive impact on the lives of many Haskell and Rochester students. Although it is a little sad, and maybe even a little scary, she looks forward to this next chapter in her life.

# Burson shares prison ministry with TRTA

The Haskell County Chapter of Texas Retired Teachers Association met Wed., May 16 at the Pit & Grill, with twenty members and one guest in attendance.

Minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given. Treasurer Nancy Toliver reported that it is very important that dues be paid before June, so members will receive all communications and benefits from the state level of the organization.

A memorial to the Haskell County Library was given in memory of Vivian Roberson, a long time educator and member of TRTA.

Toliver presented the "medical minute," which encouraged members to be aware of the sodium in their daily diets. Eating fruits and vegetables, rather than processed foods, is a good way to control salt intake.

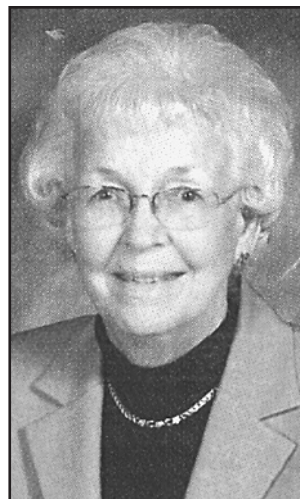
Joyce Ivy introduced speaker Linda Burson of Treasures of Grace Ministry. She, along with several others, are involved in a prison ministry at the Rolling Plains Regional Jail. Burson leads a weekly bible study, while Carolyn Herring shares her musical talent through songs. Yuvi Cadenhead serves as a translator.

Burson says, "We have shared the word with inmates for almost nine years. Foreign missions have come to us through this ministry. We also pass

out free bibles to inmates." That has led to a secondary ministry. As inmates are moved to other facilities or released, they are sharing their hearts and bibles. Consequently Treasures of Grace has received hundreds of letters requesting bibles. They are being sent free of charge, with an insert of bible verses and a little about the ministry. Every letter is read and responded to.

The ministry is supported through donations from individuals and some of the local churches. Prayer support, as well as financial support is always appreciated.

The door prize went to Vida White. President Tommy Jo Clark adjourned the group, which will meet again in September.



DOROTHY MYERS

# Myers to be honored

The children of Dorothy Myers of Munday will host her 85th birthday party Sat., June 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Munday.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend. Allow your attendance to be your only gift.

# Weinert VBS set June 3-6

First Baptist Church of Weinert will hold a four-day Vacation Bible School beginning Sun., June 3 through Wed., June 6 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. each evening for children age 3 through those who have finished sixth grade.

At Amazing Wonders

Aviation, Encountering God's Awesome Power, we are cleared for takeoff as we fly around the world from the Worship Rally Hangar to Bible Study at Victoria Falls, refreshments at Paricutin Volcano, missions under the Northern Lights, music at the Matterhorn, recreation at the

Grand Canyon and crafts at the Great Barrier Reef.

Parent night will begin at 7:00 p.m. Wed., June 6 where everyone is invited to see what the kids have learned and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

For more information, call Mary Murphy at 940-673-8269 or Bro. Dan Bullock at 940-673-8310.

# 'Base Tan' will not protect skin from sun damage

Those tempted to kick off summer by getting a "base tan" should be aware that there is no such thing as a safe, healthy or protective tan. The misconception that a base tan will protect the skin is dangerous; even for those who never burn, prolonged exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation can lead to skin aging (including wrinkles, lines and age spots) as well as skin cancer. In fact, about 65 percent of melanomas and 90 percent of nonmelanoma skin cancers are associated with sun exposure.

"Whether obtained by lying out in the sun or using a tanning bed, a tan damages your skin," says Perry Robins, MD, President of The Skin Cancer Foundation. "A tan is the body's response to damaged DNA in the skin cells—the skin darkens in order to prevent more damage but the person's risk of skin cancer is already increased."

Since sunburns are also associated with higher risks of skin cancer, especially melanoma (the most dangerous form of skin cancer), it's important to avoid both tans and

sunburns. This summer and all year long, The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends the following skin cancer prevention strategies:

- Seek the shade, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Do not burn.
- Avoid tanning and UV tanning booths.
- Cover up with clothing, including a broad-brimmed hat and UV-blocking sunglasses.
- Use a broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher every day. For extended outdoor activity, use a water-resistant, broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.
- Apply 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every two hours or immediately after swimming or excessive sweating.
- Keep newborns out of the sun. Sunscreens should be used on babies over the age of six months.
- Examine your skin head-to-toe every month.
- See your doctor every year for a professional skin exam.

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# USDA celebrates 150 years

On May 15, 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commemorated the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1862, when President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an act of Congress establishing the United States Department of Agriculture. President Lincoln established the USDA because he recognized the potential of America's farmers to find new ways to cultivate the land with advances in research and technology, allowing them to provide a safe, ample food supply for our nation and the world.

In one of President Lincoln's only speeches on agriculture at the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society in 1859, he said, "...no other human occupation opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought, as agriculture." Two years later, in what would be his final annual message to the Congress; Lincoln called USDA "The People's Department." At that time, the population of the United States was about 31.4 million, and about half of all Americans lived on farms. Today, with a population of almost 313 million people, 2.1 million farms are operating in the U.S.

Over the past 150 years, USDA's work with food science, agriculture, economic development, science and research, natural resource conservation, community development and alternative energy sources fulfills Lincoln's vision "to touch the lives of every American, every day." The success of the agency can be shown daily as Americans benefit from the safety, security and maintenance of our food and water supply, land and forest resources, advancing school systems, and continually evolving rural communities. Twenty million Americans are employed through our food, fuel and fiber industries,

## Please don't eat the azaleas

Few things are as aesthetically pleasing as a beautiful garden. But many flowers commonly used for their beauty are toxic if eaten and could pose a threat to young children.

"Choose those beautiful yard plants carefully because some of them can be toxic if ingested. The joy of watching junior beginning to walk could be offset by a medical crisis if he eats those previously unreachable flowers," says Dr. Kurt Kleinschmidt, a medical toxicologist and emergency medicine physician at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Azaleas, caladiums, chrysanthemums, daffodils, hyacinth, hydrangea, iris, jonquils, morning glories, mums and periwinkles are all potentially harmful flowers. So stick with begonias, crape myrtles, gardenias, geraniums, honeysuckle, impatiens, marigolds, petunias, roses and zinnia, all of which are considered safe.

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and almost 1 million jobs have been created through agricultural exports. USDA maintains a strong farm safety net to help keep American agriculture secure from the market and weather, and is leading the way on renewable energy projects, implementing funding for energy-saving technologies to farms, ranches and businesses.

In Texas, the mission of the USDA is upheld through the work of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD).

In 2011 alone, NRCS worked with Texas farmers and ranchers to invest \$121.4 million in conservation programs authorized through the federal Farm Bill, to help protect water, soil and air resources, wildlife, forests and rangelands throughout the state. NRCS has provided conservation-related products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands since 1935.

"The USDA-Natural Resources Service (NRCS) in Texas continues its commitment and work in protecting Texas' natural resources by working one on one with private landowners to resolve their natural resource issues," said Salvador Salinas, NRCS Texas state conservationist. "In a state where more than 90 percent of the land is privately owned, our farmers and ranchers are the leading stewards of the land and water, and USDA supports their work through technical assistance and conservation programs—applying the most effective programs in the best places to achieve the best possible result. The NRCS mission remains Helping People Help the Land, as we celebrate this historic anniversary."

Throughout Texas, Rural Development provided over \$1.55 billion in funding to recipients in 2011 through programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural areas. Rural Development administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs

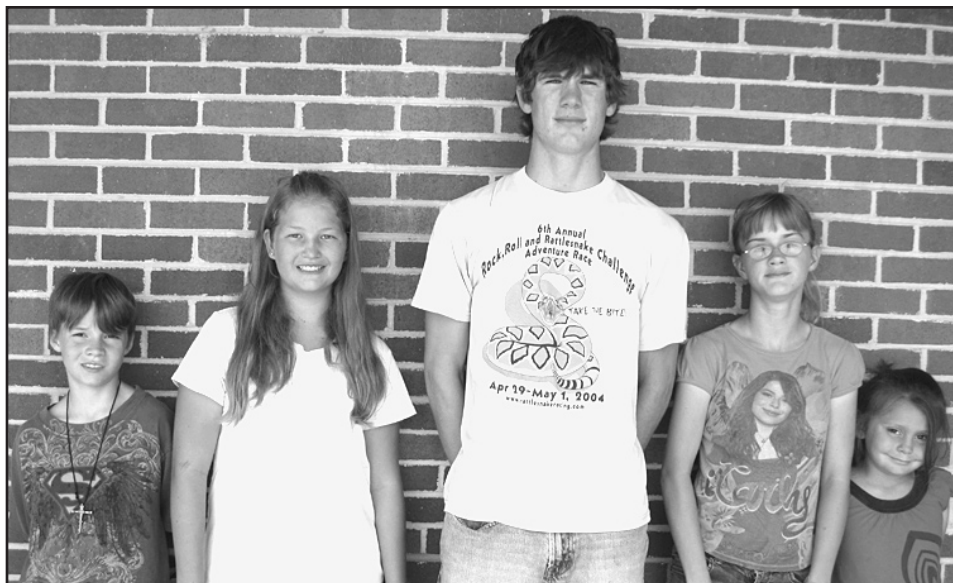
through a national network of state and local offices.

"We are pleased to be an agency within the USDA that has provided assistance to the heart of America; our rural communities, farmers and residents, for 150 years," said Rural Development Texas State Director Paco Valentin. "Rural Development offers over 40 programs that provide the resources and assistance needed to essentially build an entire rural community from the ground up, and we will continue to provide support to thousands of rural Texas residents and communities in the coming years."

Texas FSA promoted American agriculture by delivering nearly \$1.4 billion in federal farm program payments and loans to Texas farmers and ranchers during fiscal year 2011. FSA farm programs include price support, commodity operations, conservation and disaster programs that provide assistance and relief for producers. FSA also helps family farmers and ranchers by offering direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans as well as emergency loans to producers who cannot obtain commercial financing from a traditional lender.

"USDA agencies realize farmers and ranchers work hard year-round in a risky, sometimes unforgiving industry; but, for the most part, the rewards outweigh the risks. FSA considers it an honor and a privilege to work with Texas producers and we look forward to working to meet the changing needs of agriculture and rural America for many years to come," said James Douglass, Acting FSA Texas state director.

As we commemorate 150 years of accomplishments, USDA is learning from past experiences while looking to the future. In the years to come, there may be challenges for the economy, agriculture and the Department. However, the USDA will remain focused on the mission to strengthen Americans rural communities, continue to help create jobs, and build on the success of America's farmers, ranchers and small businesses. For more information on the 150th anniversary of the USDA or programs and services offered through the agency, visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome>.



**ATTENDANCE WINNERS**—73 students at Paint Creek School received Sonic gift cards for having perfect attendance during the sixth six-weeks grading period. The big winners of an iPod touch or iPod nano for having perfect or near perfect attendance were, l-r, Caedyn Proctor, Catherine Lemond, River McTasney, Brittany Melton and Alysha Mitchell. Not pictured is Cheyenne Buerger.

## Buckling up: The simple choice that can save your life

All of us are faced with hundreds, if not thousands, of decisions every day. Most don't involve life or death matters, but there is one simple decision that does have life-altering consequences. Choosing to wear a seat belt every time you're in a vehicle is one of those decisions. It's one act that can save your life or the life of someone you love. And it's also the law.

Whether you're the driver or a passenger sitting in the front seat or the back, Texas law now requires everyone in a vehicle to be secured by a seat belt. Children under the age of 8 must be in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches.

Most Texans are buckling up, thanks to the Texas Department of Transportation's annual Click It or Ticket safety campaign. Every May, thousands of local law enforcement agencies join the Texas Department of Public Safety to ticket anyone who isn't wearing a seat belt or whose children aren't properly secured.

The threat of getting an expensive citation has been a powerful motivator to get more drivers and passengers to buckle up. Since the Click It or Ticket campaign began eleven years ago, the state's seat belt use rate has steadily climbed, and now almost 94 percent of motorists in Texas buckle up. The net effect is fewer deaths and injuries. TxDOT's crash statistics indicate that 95 percent of the 778,448 Texans involved

in crashes in 2010 where there were no injuries were wearing seat belts.

Texas now ranks seventh in the nation for seat belt use. In spite of all the progress we've made, one group of motorists remains significantly less likely to buckle up. That group is pickup truck drivers and passengers. Since roughly one out of every four vehicles registered in Texas is a pickup truck and pickups are twice as likely as passenger vehicles to roll over in a crash, that's cause for concern.

According to a recent study by the Texas Transportation Institute, only 80 percent of pickup truck passengers buckle up. Compare that to the more than 90 percent of passengers in all other types of vehicles who regularly put on their seat belts. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that half of pickup drivers who died in traffic crashes in 2010 were not wearing a seat belt.

Not buckling up doesn't make sense—financial or otherwise. While a ticket for not wearing a seat belt can cost anywhere from \$25 to \$250 plus court costs that

drive up the expense even more, drivers and passengers who do not wear seat belts put themselves at risk for the greatest cost of all—serious injury or death. Depending on the type of vehicle, wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of fatal injury by up to 60 percent.

For motorists who need the extra incentive to buckle up, law enforcement will be out in force on Texas streets and highways between May 21 and June 3 looking for and issuing a citation to drivers and passengers who aren't wearing seat belts. It comes down to this: if you're not buckled up, expect to pay up.

It doesn't matter what kind of vehicle you're in. It doesn't matter where you're sitting. It doesn't matter if it's day or night. The smart choice is to buckle up, every time, everywhere, and to make sure everyone in your vehicle does the same. Buckling up is the one simple decision that all of us can make every day to save not only our own lives but also those of our loved ones.

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### Public Notices

NOTICE  
Haskell County is now accepting applications for assistant librarian. The starting salary will be \$17,500.00. Applications may be picked up in the County Treasurer's office and are to be turned in to the County Judge's office by June 6, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

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May 1, 2012, was the day that our loved one, Rudy Casey, was welcomed home by His Lord into Heaven. We can only imagine what beauty his eyes behold...  
We were totally amazed how this community wrapped their loving arms around our family with each and every act of compassion throughout his illness and passing.  
There is absolutely no way to mention each and every gesture, but you will truly remain in our hearts forever, your every phone call, visit, gift of food, beautiful flowers, cards and messages.  
To Brother Russell and Brother John, his service was so personal and so heartfelt, the beautiful words spoken by men that really knew him, the angelic songs from the heart, the slideshow, and the wonderful meal prepared by the church ladies.  
Words are inadequate to express what you mean to us and your love and kindness will never be forgotten.  
We have no doubt that Rudy would want us to love life, live it to the fullest, love the Lord and tell others about Him. Love your family and friends and tell them often that you do.  
Today, we are comforted by the fact that he is cancer free, but understandably, at the same time, we are heartbroken from his absence. Thank you all for comforting us during this difficult time.  
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**LIBRARY CHANGES**—Haskell County Librarian Joan Frazier, left, will be retiring July 31. Assistant librarian Marilyn Griffith will take over the duties of librarian.

## Joan Frazier retires as Haskell County Librarian

by Caron Yates

The Haskell County Library will be overseen by only its third librarian in over seventy years, with the retirement of county librarian Joan Frazier.

Frazier took over the job of librarian in August 1989, succeeding Mrs. Elsie McGee, who had served in the position for forty-eight years. After twenty-three years, the changes that have come about for the Haskell County Library have been astounding. "In the beginning," Frazier says, "everything was done with paper and pencil, including writing by hand the cards in every new book that was received."

Frazier, hired by the Commissioners' Court, was one of several who applied for the job. In addition to having college hours, she had gained experience as librarian for the Rochester ISD.

The organization of the library changed over the years, as new programs became available, and Frazier was quick to embrace this progress. The first two computers, received from the Bill Gates Foundation, were very popular and remain in use. Of course, many more have been added. In fact, everything concerning library check out and check in, reports, ordering, reference materials and a multitude of other areas are now done through the latest technology.

About twenty years ago, it became obvious to many that the county library was in need of a new building. Frazier, along with many Friends of the Library and other individuals, began the huge undertaking of raising money to build a new library. Through her leadership, grant writing, and willingness to "ask" for donations, the new Haskell County Library became a reality in July 2008.

Libraries of old, were places to go to check out a book to read. Today's libraries are able to offer so much more. Frazier states, "People still check out books, but we also help them use the computers for reference information, filling out Texas Work Force information, State certification testing and licenses, just to name a few." They also have a big interest in the genealogy department, and a very inviting children's section. In addition, the library offers videos, audios and CDs. Their annual Summer Reading Program is also about to kick off.

Frazier says that after complete cuts in funding on the state and federal level, the library is solely funded by the county now. She has appreciated the Commissioners' Court and County Judge who have been so supportive of her efforts to improve and make the library the best one around. The Friends of the Library also help supplement programs

of the library.

The importance and use of the public library is evident in the statistics Frazier recently put together for her annual report. For last year, the library inventoried 15,000 books, had 12,290 reference inquiries, recorded 8,120 pieces of children's material, had 50,480 people use the library, and issued 3,000 library cards.

Frazier is looking forward to her retirement at the end of July, and has complete confidence in Marilyn Griffith, who will become the next librarian for the Haskell County Library. Griffith began working for the library part-time in May 1998, and became a full-time assistant librarian in October 2001. Frazier says, "She is experienced and very capable, and will be wonderful at the job."

When asked what has been the most challenging part of the job, Frazier replied, "Getting the books returned. Also books are so expensive now, it a challenge to keep up with the new material and stay within the budget." She also says it requires many hours of previewing books, to be sure they are appropriate for the intended age group.

The best part of being the librarian? "Meeting people and seeing the kids eyes light up when they experience a new book," says Frazier.

After July, she plans to enjoy more time with her family, including her dad, Woody Frazier and children Amanda and Ronny Tekell, Emily and Justin; Brandy and Randy Huckabee, Koby, Rachell and Kevin Eldridge

and Harley; and James Loyd Strickland, Laken, Madison and Briar.

Frazier says you will find her working in her yard, or dabbling in her antiques and collectibles business. While she is sure she will miss it, she is looking forward to having time to actually come to the library and read. A fitting retirement for one who has spent many years advancing the the Haskell County Library.

## Recognize stroke symptoms quickly

A stroke's typical warning signs often are so subtle that its victims don't seek medical attention soon enough to receive effective treatment, a UT Southwestern Medical Center neurologist says.

Dr. Mark Goldberg, chairman of neurology and neurotherapeutics at UT Southwestern, says too few people recognize the symptoms of a stroke. As a result, just 5 percent of stroke victims receive an effective clot-busting drug called tPA, which the Food and Drug Administration recommends be administered within three hours of a stroke. Stroke is the fourth-leading cause of death in the U.S., killing more than 133,000 people annually. There are about 795,000 strokes reported nationally each year, and about 53 percent of those affected (425,000) are women.

"People must become more aware of the clinical symptoms of stroke so that they can seek treatment," Dr. Goldberg says. "Educating Americans about strokes and stroke care is so important."

Sudden problems with

## Rule ISD awarded TASB loss prevention grant

Rule ISD has been awarded a loss prevention grant of \$4,000 for the fifth consecutive year from the Texas Association of School Boards' (TASB) Risk Management Fund. Grant monies help implement loss prevention and safety initiatives to raise awareness of safety issues and reduce the potential for property losses and on-the-job injuries. This award is part of \$550,000 in grants the fund gave this year to 242 Texas school districts and education entities. Since 1998, the Fund's Loss Prevention Grant Program has distributed 2,230 total grants of more than \$5.62 million to fund members in the workers' compensation and property and auto programs.

"More than ever, the need to prevent losses and protect employees is critical because the fund's members are facing many challenges and making difficult choices," said Clem Zabalza, director of TASB Loss Prevention Services. "Vigilant of changing member needs, we have been successful in protecting valuable

resources through education and providing monies for identified exposures. The fund remains steadfast in its commitment to continue giving back to its members, especially in these uncertain financial times," he said.

The 2012 grants were awarded to 227 school districts, five regional education service centers, two county appraisal districts, seven community colleges, and one shared service arrangement. Workers' compensation grants focused on fall prevention, personal lifting devices, and personal protective equipment. Facilities security initiatives, driver improvement, and vehicle safety were the primary areas receiving grants under the property and auto programs.

"This year's program was highly competitive, and the selection is always a hard task because applicants closely examine their exposures and who to best address their needs," Zabalza said.

"For the past 15 years, the fund board has made this program possible by its commitment to provide

resources that put priority on preventing losses and elevating safety in the workplace. The Loss Prevention Grant Program has been vital in raising awareness and reducing injuries and losses. We will continue to champion the needs of our members so they can educate their staffs about workplace safety and resource protection. The fund is dedicated to a strong partnership with our members to support their loss prevention and safety initiatives," he said.

The TASB Risk Management Fund is the premier provider of risk management services for school districts and education entities in Texas. With more than 1,100 members, the fund is one of the oldest, largest and financially strongest risk pools in the nation. The fund provides coverage through its unemployment compensation, workers' compensation and property, liability and auto programs. In addition, it offers a wide range of services and member benefits, such as loss prevention, free member training, online claim forms and resources and grant programs.

TASB is a voluntary nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve more than 4.9 million public school students.

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vision, walking, and speaking are stroke indicators, Dr. Goldberg says. So is sudden paralysis, droopiness, or numbness on one side of the face or body. Another potential symptom is a sudden, severe headache that can be accompanied by vomiting or dizziness.

The neurologist says most strokes don't immediately render people unconscious, so many victims simply think they are tired and in need of a nap.

Stroke-victim advocates have developed the acronym

FAST to describe both what should be done and the pace at which it should be undertaken. FAST stands for:

- Face: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- Arms: Ask the person to raise their arms parallel to the ground. Does one arm drift down?
- Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is the speech slurred or gibberish?
- Time: If any of these symptoms are present, call 911 immediately.

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