

Happy Father's Day

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 126—NO. 24, ©JUNE 14, 2012

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES—ONE SECTION—75 CENTS

Calendar

Early deadline

Deadline for news and advertising for the Thurs., July 5 edition of the Haskell Free Press will be Thurs., June 28 at 4:30 p.m.

Library reading

The summer reading program will continue at Haskell County Library June 14 with Erlinda Mayfield and Tues., June 19 with William Overton as presenters. The event will be from 10 to 11 a.m. Ages K-fourth grade are invited for reading, crafts and cookies.

Squash cook-off

The seventh annual squash cook-off will be held June 15 at Village Primitives in Rule. To enter, bring your squash dish, with recipe, by 11:15 a.m. Judging will begin at 11:30. The meal will begin at 12 noon. Everyone is invited for fun, fellowship and good food. For more information, call 940-996-2428.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., June 16 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., June 16 from 9:30 a.m. til 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Rule. Volunteers are welcome.

Quilters to meet

The Willow Creek Quilting Guild of Haskell will meet Mon., June 18 at 6 p.m. at the Haskell Church of Christ Annex building. Jennifer Smith Brown will demonstrate pieced borders. Anyone interested in quilting is invited to attend.

KTAB on the road

Haskell has been chosen as one of the stops on the KTAB on the Road tour. KTAB will broadcast live from the square Fri., June 29 with KTAB4u 4 p.m., KTAB news at 5 p.m., KTAB news at 6 p.m. and KTAB news at 10 p.m. All kinds of activities will be available that afternoon and evening from 6:30 to 8:55 p.m. Jerrod Medulla will play beginning at 9 p.m. Sponsors will be invited to have booths from which they can hand out things or sell items. Contact the Haskell Chamber of Commerce at 864-2477 for details.

Summer lunches

Haskell CISD announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service program. Meals will be provided at Haskell Elementary School Cafeteria, 306 S. Ave. G, and will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday through July 27. No meal will be served on July 4. Anyone ages six months through 18 years of age is invited to come eat free. Adults are also invited to come and eat for the price of \$3.00 per plate.

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TOURNAMENT WINNERS—The Haskell Red Raiders won the Quad County 12U Tournament held in Haskell June 7-9. The Raiders finished the regular season 9-0. Team members, front row, l-r, are Ty Coleman, Dalton Meinzer, Riley Sloan, Tommy Gonzales and R.J. Chavez; back row, Coach Sealy Haggard, Tanner Thomas, Frankie Masias, Rocky Haggard, Kyler Hoover and Coach Tyke Meinzer. Not pictured is Brison Tullos.

Indians named to All-District teams

Although baseball district 8-1A had a really tough lineup this year, the Haskell Indians still placed several players on the all-district team.

Senior Sterling Bird and sophomore Dakota Silvas were named to the First Team-All-District list. Sophomore Matthew Martinez was voted Newcomer of the Year, while sophomore Aaron Waggoner and freshman Kade Colley made the All-District Second Team.

While the Indians fielded a relatively young team this season, the valuable experience and playing time they received, should prove very beneficial for the coming years.

Congratulations to these young men, as they represented Haskell High School so positively.

City, County post increases in sales tax receipts

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs has announced that state sales tax revenue in May was \$2.09 billion, up 7.3 percent compared to May 2011.

"This marks 26 consecutive months of sales tax growth," Combs said. "As the recovery continues, the year-to-year rate of growth

is stabilizing. Collections remain strong in the oil and natural gas-related sectors as well as other segments of the Texas economy such as the restaurant industry."

Combs sent June local sales tax allocations totaling \$514.1 million to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing

districts, up 9.7 percent compared to June 2011.

The sales tax figures represent monthly sales made in April.

Haskell County had a 5.71 percent increase for June 2012 of \$35,420.24 in comparison to \$33,504.20 for June 2011. 2012 payments to date

of \$261,572.40 reflect a 6.77 percent increase over 2011 payments to date of \$244,984.77.

The City of Haskell had a 7.07 percent increase for June 2012 of \$33,446.49 in comparison to \$31,235.21 for June 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$244,280.57 reflect an 11.54 percent increase over 2011 payments to date of \$218,994.15.

The City of O'Brien had a 10.71 percent decrease for June 2012 of \$119.57 in comparison to \$133.92 for June 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$1,426.48 reflect a 21.54 percent decrease over 2011 payments to date of \$1,818.20.

The City of Rochester had a 2.27 percent decrease

for June 2012 of \$332.97 in comparison to \$340.72 for June 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$2,912.76 reflect a 5.96 percent decrease over 2011 payments to date of \$3,097.50.

The City of Rule had a 16.09 percent decrease for June 2012 of \$1,395.15 in comparison to \$1,662.70 for June 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$11,548.57 reflect a 41.36 percent decrease over 2011 payments to date of \$19,696.58.

The City of Weinert had a 4.24 percent decrease for June 2012 of \$126.09 in comparison to \$131.65 for June 2011. 2012 payments to date of \$1,404.02 reflect a 1.86 percent increase over 2011 payments to date of \$1,378.34.

Squash Cook-Off to be held in Rule Fri., June 15

The seventh annual Rule Squash Cook-Off will be held Fri., June 15, with judging beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Judging the entries, which need to be entered by 11:15 a.m., will be Butch Brannon, head of Trama Unit at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. Last year entries were from Abilene, Hawley, Hamlin, Old Glory, Aspermont, Munday, Haskell and Rule.

The cook-off began six years ago when Bill Bowles of Rule had so much squash from his garden, the ladies talking over coffee at the Village Primitives, decided to have a Squash Cook-Off and from there the idea grew. Frances Clark has compiled a cookbook with the recipes from the previous years and a list of previous winners that will be available for sale at the cook-off.

Categories for judging

will include snacks, salads, casseroles, dressing, pickles, relishes, side dishes, meat dishes, bread, cakes and desserts.

Following the judging by Brannon and his assistant, the awards will be announced. Those attending may enjoy the various entries brought, as well as a few others. All are welcome to attend and join in the activities at the Rule Village Primitives.

Summer reading program continues at library

The Haskell County Library will conduct the annual summer reading program titled, "Summer Reading Time—Yippi!" through July 31 from 10 to 11 a.m.

The program is geared to ages Kindergarten through fourth grade. Volunteers may come help with the crafts for the kids.

Reading this summer

will be: June 14, Erlinda Mayfield; June 19, William Overton; June 21, Jay Beerley; June 26, Janis Brzozowski; June 28, Judge David Davis.

Story time will not be held the first week in July.

July 10, Susan Cockerell and Lynn Dodson; July 12, DPS Sgt. Jodie Tullos; July 17, Jane Rowan; July

19, Mike Fouts; July 24, Wes Utley; July 26, Mary Murphy; July 31, Brian Burgess.

Reading program presenters include teachers, preachers, clowns, judges, attorneys, photographers, homemakers and extension agents.

Reading time will be followed by crafts and cookies.



MVP—Winning the awards for Most Valuable Players for the Quad County 12U tournament held recently in Haskell are, l-r, Peyton Bevel of the Stamford Bulldogs team, Defensive MVP; Frankie Masias Tournament MVP and Dalton Meinzer Offensive MVP, both members of the Haskell Red Raiders team.

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

From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Happy Father's Day!
Being a father isn't always easy, but the rewards of the job make the sacrifices well worth it. There is no greater gift to children than the security that comes from knowing their dad loves them and can be relied on to put their needs first. Fathers who practice this form of sacrificial love will forever hold a special place in their children's hearts.

This Father's Day, the employees of the Child Support Division (CSD) thank Texas dads for doing the right thing by taking care of their children and giving them the love and support they deserve.

Last year, the CSD collected \$3.1 billion in child support—and most of the money came from fathers. You are the unsung heroes in your children's lives.

The CSD demonstrates its commitment to fathers by recognizing the important and irreplaceable role they play in their children's lives. Several notable resources that serve Texas fathers include:

The Paternity Opportunity Program (POP) gives unmarried fathers the opportunity to acknowledge their children's paternity at the time of birth. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) trains and certifies hospital and birthing center employees to assist parents with the Acknowledgment of Paternity process so that the child will have a legal father right from the start. Last year, POP gave more than 124,000 Texas children a good start in life by helping their fathers establish legal paternity.

Maps for New Dads: Handbook for Expectant and New Fathers is a publication designed to help expecting dads transition into fatherhood. Maps covers everything from what to expect on a prenatal visit to making homes "baby safe"—all in a manner designed to reinforce the special role fathers play. Additional resources developed by the OAG include posters recognizing the important role fathers play, a Parenting Two-gether Handbook for

New Parents and the For Our Children DVD.

Access and Visitation programs promote noncustodial parents' access to and visitation with their children, when appropriate, through a variety of shared parenting projects. Awarding grant funding to local organizations is one way the Attorney General's Office can help children whose parents are engaged in custody or visitation disputes, since federal funding to run the child support program cannot be used to handle these issues. The services provided under this grant include early intervention, co-parenting education, mediation and enforcement. The OAG also funds a toll-free assistance hotline, 866-292-4636, and provides a Web-based directory of services available in Texas communities.

The Parenting and Paternity Awareness (p.a.p.a.) program is an innovative educational curriculum designed for secondary school students and young adults. The p.a.p.a. program focuses on the "rights, responsibilities and realities of parenting." Key themes in the curriculum focus on the importance of father involvement, the value of paternity establishment, the legal realities of child support, the financial and emotional challenges of single parenting, the benefits of both parents being involved in a child's life, healthy relationship skills and relationship violence prevention.

Protecting consumers against data breaches

The possibility of the average consumer becoming a victim of a data breach grows with each new advancement in the electronic age.

A data breach occurs when sensitive or confidential information—driver's license numbers, medical records, Social Security numbers, bank or credit card account numbers—is stolen, copied or used by an unauthorized person.

As recently as 2004, only one state required businesses to alert consumers if their personal data had been stolen. Since then, legislation has passed in 45 additional states to ensure that affected consumers be contacted should their personal information be lost or stolen.

While the news media provides a welcome window for reporting the major breaches affecting millions of accounts, it's not always large companies suffering from such thefts. The perpetrator could be an employee, a partner or an external person, such as a computer hacker.

But, there are steps that can be taken at the consumer level to protect against a personal data breach.

- Take the time to review credit card and bank statements for fraudulent charges on your accounts at least monthly. With online access to accounts, it is easier than ever to check transactions and you'd be wise to check your statement

more often than monthly. Contact the financial institution immediately if there is a suspicious charge and report it.

- Request that the financial institution close any accounts that you suspect were compromised and ask for replacement cards with new account numbers and PINs.

- Determine if there have been any unusual requests such as change-of-address or attempts to secure additional or replacement credit cards.

- Instruct the card issuer not to honor any requests regarding your card without your written authorization.

- Credit card issuers offer a variety of email and/or text notices. You can ask for a notice when charges over a certain amount are made or when your balance reaches a certain level.

If you have been the victim of identity theft, contact each of the three credit reporting agencies—Equifax, TransUnion and Experian—and place a security freeze on

your account. With a freeze in place, the information in your credit report will not be released to anyone, making it almost impossible for an identity thief to open a new account in your name. If you wish to apply for a new loan or credit card, you will need to temporarily lift the freeze by providing a password.

Report the identity theft to the police, as you may need to provide a copy of the police report to your bank, creditors and credit reporting agencies. If the local police are not familiar with investigating information compromises, contact the local office of the FBI or the U.S. Secret Service.

To ensure that an identity thief has not opened a new account in your name, you should review your credit report. To obtain a free copy of the report, go to www.annualcreditreport.com. If there are any accounts on your report that you did not open, contact the credit bureau to report the fraud and dispute the charges.

Call toll-free for help with alluring but deadly poisons

So many of them are things children love—enticing colors, intriguing containers, inviting contents that look and smell like a favorite food or a familiar beverage.

To a small child, that decongestant on the nightstand looks just like red cinnamon candies, and the laxative in the bathroom cabinet is almost identical to a square of chocolate. That yellow lamp oil in the see-through bottle on the kitchen counter smells a lot like lemonade. And the cleanser in the round green can under the sink? It bears a close resemblance to a container of sprinkle-on grated Parmesan cheese.

Poison control centers know all too well about "look-alikes"—those perfectly good products that become dangerous when mistaken for something yummy by a curious crawler or climber.

According to Carolyn Insall, a public educator for the Central Texas Poison Control Center in Temple, "Among our 180,416 incoming calls about exposures and possible exposures to poisons, 96,256 (53.4 percent) involved children under 5."

This age group represents less than 10 percent of the population. Nationally, about 1 million poison-exposure incidents each year involve preschool-age children.

What makes small children especially vulnerable to accidental poisoning is that they're constantly exploring and investigating the world around them, often putting what they see and can reach into their mouths. That's why it's so important to use products with child-resistant packaging and keep medicines and chemicals locked up and out of sight.

If a suspected poisoning occurs, people have a nationwide toll-free number that connects with the nearest poison control center.

"I tell people to program it into their cell phones so they always have it available," said Insall, who works at one of the Texas' six regional Poison Control Centers. The centers are located in Amarillo, Dallas, El Paso, Galveston, San Antonio and Temple. All are equipped with telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD) and access to translation services for callers who don't

speak English.

When you call the toll-free number, you're connected to the nearest poison control center and its staff of registered nurses and pharmacists, as well as available paramedics and physicians. They're on duty 24 hours a day, and all have extensive experience and credential in dealing with poison-related emergencies, Insall noted.

"About 80 percent of the time, we're able to avoid telling callers to take the child to an emergency room or doctor's office," Insall said. "A typical call involves parents saying something like, 'I think my toddler may have swallowed some dishwashing detergent; what should I do?' We're usually able to determine that it wasn't enough to be likely to hurt the child, and tell the parents to simply give her some milk, water or juice and keep an eye on her."

"Of course, some cases truly do call for immediate medical attention, but we try to spare people that time and expense when the situation doesn't really require it."

If you believe someone in your home has been exposed to a possible poison:

- Stay calm. Not all medicines and household chemicals are poisonous, and not all exposures necessarily result in poisoning.

- Call 800-222-1222 first, unless you're in a life-threatening situation. Don't go straight to the hospital. And don't induce vomiting unless the expert tells you to.

- Have the label ready, if possible. It will provide information concerning the product's contents and advice on what immediate first aid to perform.

- Be prepared to give information to the person who answers the phone such as the victim's age and weight, any existing health conditions or problems, substance involved and how it contacted the person (swallowed, inhaled, absorbed through skin contact, splashed into the eyes), how long ago the victim swallowed or inhaled the substance, any first aid that may have been given, if the person has vomited, and your location and how long it will take you to get to the hospital.

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

Bart Spencer, MD, has joined the United Regional Physician Group, relocating his practice to 4327 Barnett Road, Wichita Falls, Texas.



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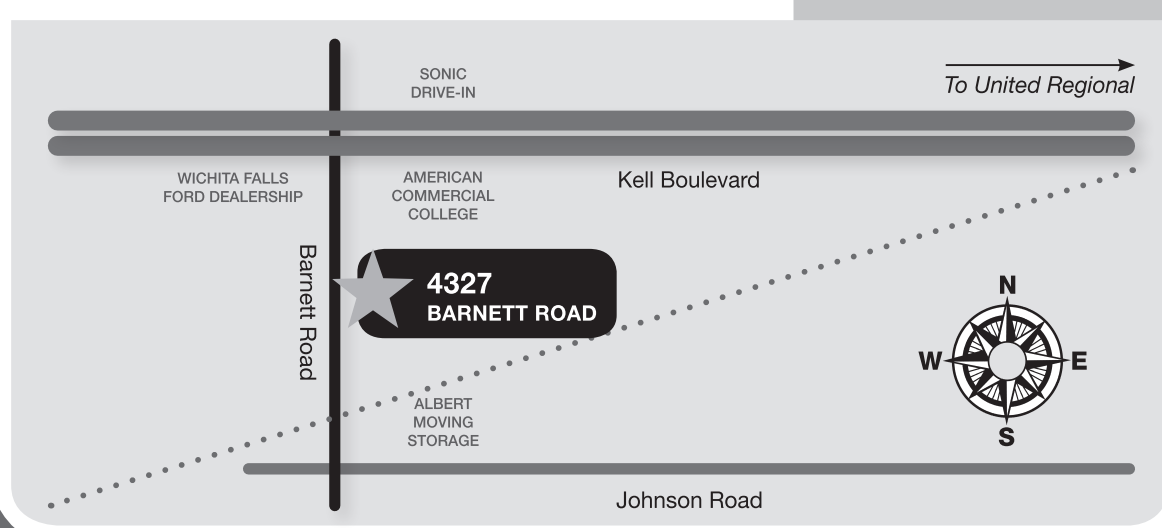
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- 404 S. AVE. E - NEWLY REMODELED! 3/1.5. \$59,900. **SOLD**
- 903 N. 3RD E - SPOTLESS THREE BEDROOM! 3/2. \$64,500.
- 1300 N. AVE. F - CHARMING AND RENOVATED! \$64,900. **UNDER CONTRACT**
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- 1004 N. AVE. L - GOT TO SEE! 2/2. \$67,500. **REDUCED**
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Ag Safety Day set June 22 in Abilene

For many children, the rural neighborhood, small town, or ranch is a home, a playground, and a place where they do chores. Teaching them to take some of the responsibility for their own safety at home and in their neighborhoods is the subject of the eighth bi-annual Big Country Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, which will be held June 22 at the Big Country Hall located on the grounds of the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene. Youth who have completed third through ninth grade are invited to participate in this day-long activity sponsored by many local organizations, businesses, and agencies in conjunction with the Progressive Agriculture Foundation. Older youth are welcome to participate and/or assist with the activities.

Progressive Agriculture Foundation is committed to providing education to help youth and their families avoid tragic accidents. At the heart of this effort is the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® program, formerly known as the Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp® program. Founded by The Progressive Farmer magazine in 1995, the program trains and provides the resources that local communities need to conduct one-day safety programs that are age-appropriate, hands-on, fun, and safe for children. Progressive Agriculture Safety Days® are conducted in the United States, Canada and the U.S. territories. 415 Progressive

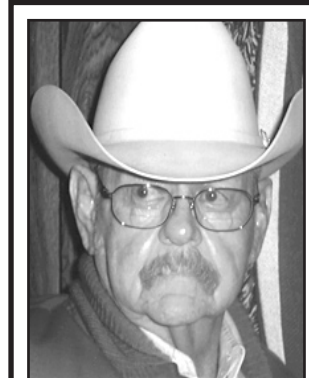
4-H Horse Show set June 20-23

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

Top young riders throughout the Rolling Plains District will match their skills June 20-23 in the 45th annual Rolling Plains District 4-H Horse Show in Vernon.

More than 150 4-Hers will compete in Showmanship, Roping, Reining, Western Pleasure, Western Riding, Western Horsemanship, Pole Bending, Barrel Racing, Stake Race and Futurity Classes. In addition to prizes and ribbons, 4-Hers from the Rolling Plains will represent the District in the State 4-H Horse Show later this summer, said Wes Utley, Haskell County Extension Agent.

Representing Haskell County will be Kaley Mathis, Kameryn Mathis, River McTasney and Zhenia McTasney. The 4-Hers will be competing in the barrels, poles, stakes race, registered



THANK YOU!

To the voters of Precinct #1, I wish to thank you for your support in the May 29th election. I look forward to your continued support in the November general election when I will face a Republican opponent. I will continue to do my best on maintaining and trying to improve the roads in Precinct #1 and support your needs in Commissioners' Court. Thank you again for your support.

Johnny Scoggins
Haskell County Commissioner
Precinct #1
Pd. Pol. Adv. Pd for by Johnny Scoggins

Commissioners' Court report

The Haskell County Commissioners' Court met in the regular meeting place Mon., May 21 with David Davis, County Judge, and Commissioners Johnny Scoggins, Tiffen Mayfield and Neal Kreger in attendance. Commissioners were

reminded to deliver voting machines to each polling place for the May 29 Primary election.

No burn ban is in effect. Loraine Johnson placed a bid of \$1,250.33 for the property at 506 N. Ave. B. The court accepted the bid.

Show steers to be validated Sat., June 16

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

The steer validation tags for 4-H/FFA steer projects are in. The Haskell County 4-H steer projects will be validated at the Haskell county Vet Clinic located on the south end of Haskell just off of Highway 277 South Sat., June 16 beginning at 8 a.m.

If you are a 4-H beef feeder and you ordered tags already for your projects you will need to bring your steer(s) and plenty of help

to get them in and out of the chutes and trailers. Each steer exhibitor and a parent/guardian will need to be present to sign important state validation forms. All steers, including those which are not yet halter broke, will need to be validated at this time and location. Hair will be pulled for DNA testing.

If you have any questions or problems with this date, call Wes Utley at the Haskell County Extension Office, at 940-864-2658.

Star gazing party to be held at Fort Griffin

Fort Griffin State Historic Site presents their monthly Star Gazing Party: Stars and Skies of Texas, scheduled for June 16 at 8:30 p.m. This event will provide education and entertainment for the entire family, no matter the age. This is the fourth of their monthly star gazing parties planned to take place through October of this year, as weather permits.

If you're wondering how the skies are at Fort Griffin, just know that they are described by many astronomers as being some of the darkest and clearest in Texas. In fact, Fort Griffin is considered one of the premiere hot spots for astronomy and is one of the 3 best public areas in Texas.

Each month, near the new moon, astronomers from all over Texas travel to Fort Griffin to take advantage of these night skies. This month, Kurt Oliver from Woodson

and other astronomers will share their telescopes, laser pointers, and knowledge of the night skies with the public. The star gazing program will begin after dark in the baseball field of the Fort Griffin campground.

For the basic cost of general admission to Fort Griffin State Historic Site, a family can create a memorable experience for both kids and adults alike. General admission to the site is \$4 for adults, \$3 for students (age 6-18), and age 5 and under are free. Discounts on admission are available to those who check-in to the event via Facebook.

For more information about this event, camping fees, facilities, or other activities Fort Griffin has to offer, visit their website at www.visitfortgriffin.com. For camping reservations call 325-762-3592.

FSA Co. Committee nominations start

Haskell County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Glenn R. Brzozowski, announced that county committee election nominations begin June 15. Farmers, ranchers and landowners are encouraged to nominate farmer and rancher candidates to serve on their local FSA county committee by the Aug. 1, 2012 deadline.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

"County Committees are unique to FSA and are a valuable resource that gives locally elected farmers and ranchers who participate in FSA programs the opportunity to impact farm programs at the local level," said Brzozowski. "I hope to see a high level of participation during the nomination and election process," he said.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations that represent minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. Nominees must participate in a program

administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee elections are available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

"In order to have fair representation of the demographics and agricultural interests in the community, I encourage all producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers to participate in the nomination and election process," said Brzozowski.

County committees are comprised of three to five members elected by local producers. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2013.

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2012.

For more information about county committees, please contact the Haskell County FSA office at 607 N. 1st East Ste. B or call 940-864-2617 ext. 2 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Please Conserve Now

The City of Rule is asking all of its water utility customers to please conserve water as much as possible due to the extreme drought conditions in our area. In order to ensure water supply until we get enough rain to replenish the reservoir, we have to enact conservation measures, therefore, the City requests a voluntary reduction in water use by all City of Rule water utility customers.

Rule City Hall

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