

Happy New Year

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 130-NO. 52, ©DECEMBER 29, 2016

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

Basketball

HASKELL
JVG-B, VG-B vs Hawley
Tues., Jan. 3, 4 p.m.
at Hawley
PAINT CREEK
VG-VB vs Rule
Tues., Jan. 3, 6 p.m.
at Rule
RULE
VG-VB vs Paint Creek
Tues., Jan. 3, 6 p.m.
at Rule

Calendar

Vet office open

The Veterans Service office in Haskell is now open. The office, located on the first floor of the west wing of the courthouse, will be open on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. For information, call 940-256-1125 any time or email Haskell_vaso@yahoo.com.

Music Jubilee

The Haskell Country Music Jubilee will be held the second Monday of the month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Haskell. Those interested in playing and listening are encouraged to come and enjoy the fun. A practice session will be held the Thursday before the Jubilee.

Operation Recovery

Operation Recovery, a faith-based 12-step meeting, will be held Fridays at 7 p.m. at God Loves You Ministries on the west side of the square.

TeamKID

TeamKID, for children ages 4 years old to sixth grade, meets on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Haskell. If your child needs a ride, call 864-2581.

Weekly story time

The Haskell County Library, 300 N. Ave. E, will host a weekly story time every Friday from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Any age children, with parental supervision, are invited to listen and participate in stories, songs, rhymes and activities. For more information call 940-864-2747 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/HaskellCountyLibrary/>.

Fourth Sunday

The public is invited to attend a fourth Sunday celebration at Hopewell Baptist Church, 908 N. Ave. A in Haskell, featuring a special speaker each fourth Sunday of the month.

AWANA

Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church will begin the AWANA program for children age 5 through fifth grade Mon., Jan. 9. AWANA meets each Monday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., through March, except on school holidays. Call 940-864-3004 for more information.

Support group

The Jones County Alzheimer's Association Support Group meets the second Monday of the month at 4 p.m. at Country Elegance, 1700 Columbia St., Stamford. For information, contact Patsy Richards at 325-773-5511.

Al-Anon

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



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Indians, Maidens victorious over Bulldogs

Maidens pull away from Lady Bulldogs

The Haskell Maidens used a well balanced scoring attack and solid defensive play last Tuesday night in front of a great home crowd to get the 66-42 district win over the Stamford Lady Bulldogs. Haskell outscored Stamford 37-18 the second half and pulled away to secure the win. They move to 14-5 overall and (2-0) in District 8-2A.

The Maidens were led by senior Ashlyn Bevel who finished with 13 points and sophomore C'Era Taylor who got her first career double-double finishing with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Haskell had a well-balanced scoring attack that led to everyone on the team scoring. Makinzie Garvin had 8 points, Taylor Manske 8, Ariel Martinez 6, Landry Hanson 6, Jordan Garvin 6, Hollyn Hadaway 4 and Courtney Whitt 3. Leading the team in assists were Manske with 5 and Hadaway 3.

Haskell shot (23-77) for 29% from the field, (8-39) for 20% from three point land, and (12-17) for 70% from the free-throw line. "Offensively, the girls did a great job not turning the ball over and they did an excellent job passing the ball to their open teammates. Everyone on our team is fundamentally sound offensively and they can all shoot the ball. That is one of our strengths as a team and we did a good job taking advantage of that against Stamford," head coach Blake Eddleman said.

The Maidens forced the Lady Bulldogs to shoot (13-44) for 29% from the field and Haskell outrebounded Stamford 39-29. Manske had a team high 11 rebounds followed by C. Taylor with



PASS ATTEMPT—Haskell Maiden # 35 Ashlyn Bevel on the drive and looking for the inside pass.

10, Hanson 6, Whitt 5 and Bevel 3. Leading the team in steals were C. Taylor with 2, Hadaway 2, M. Garvin 2 and Hanson 1.

"Defensively, I was not too happy with our play the first half. We allowed their two best players (Beeson and Woodard) to score a combined 19 points. We did a much better job the second half holding them to just 4 points off free-throws. I was very proud of the girls the second half for stepping up and getting the job done against those two players," Eddleman said.

"Overall, I thought it was a good district win and it was such an awesome atmosphere to be a part of. We have the best student body and fans in the Big Country. We appreciate their

support and we do not take them for granted. We work hard every day at practice and throughout the entire calendar year so that we can put a successful team out on the court for them to enjoy," Eddleman added.

Haskell 11 18 13 24 = 66
Stamford 10 14 8 10 = 42

Coach Melissa Burson and the JV Maidens continued their winning ways by defeating Stamford 62-14. They remain undefeated at 17-0 overall and (2-0) in district. The Jr. High Maidens traveled to Anson last Monday evening to take on the Lady Tigers. The Mix B Team lost 26-13, the 7th A lost in overtime to 31-29, and the 8th A lost 40-18.

Indians beat Stamford 61-56
The Haskell Indians



TWO POINTS—Haskell Indian #5 Ezell Woods puts the jumper in for two points in the Indians' district opener against Stamford.

opened up district play Tuesday night, Dec. 20 with a 61-56 win over the Stamford Bulldogs.

The game was one of very contrasting styles. The Bulldogs controlled the tempo early and held the advantage after quarter number one, but Haskell and Kyler Hoover (7 first half points) would find their offensive rhythm in the second quarter and take a 2 point advantage into halftime.

The Indians defense led by Alec Roewe and Lane Burson (6 total steals) would stymie the Bulldogs offense in the third quarter and the Indians would lead by 5 points heading into the final quarter. The fourth quarter would prove to be a memorable one. The Bulldogs, trailing

by as many as 9 points, would hit five shots from long distance in the final four minutes of play to cut the Indian lead to 3 points on numerous occasions, but it simply would not be enough. Kellen Parks (7 for 8) and Aaron Skiles (8 for 8) would combine to go an astonishing 15 of 16 from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter and squash any hope of a Bulldog comeback.

The Indians were led in scoring by Kellen Parks (18), Aaron Skiles (15), Kyler Hoover (10), Alec Roewe (5), Ezell Woods (5), Rocky Haggard (4), Tanner Thomas (2) and Lane Burson (2).

Haskell will travel to the Jayton Holiday Tournament Dec. 27-28 and will resume district play Jan. 3 vs. Hawley.

Haskell 12 16 10 23 = 61
Stamford 13 13 7 23 = 56

Rolling Plains Detention Center to remain open

Haskell County has finally received the news they have waited months to hear in relation to their possible prison closing.

In an email from Gregory Anderson, an ICE Contracting Officer, Haskell County Judge David Davis was told, "This is to notify you of ICE's continued desire to house detainees at the Haskell County Detention Center. It is ICE's intention to continue to house detainees at the Haskell County Detention Center after the opening of the Prairieland Detention Center. ICE looks forward to continuing its relationship with Haskell County for the foreseeable future."

"We are thrilled to have something official from ICE. We had been hearing about verbal commitments, but had nothing in writing to verify it," said Judge Davis.

Haskell County has long held a contract with ICE-Immigration and Customs Enforcement (U.S. Department of Homeland Security; formerly Immigration & Naturalization Service) to house detainees in the Rolling Plains Detention Center (RPDC). This contract fills the 550 bed facility and guarantees 140 jobs remain in Haskell.

"Losing those jobs would have been a \$17 million dollar deficit to our local economy over the next 10 years," said Jimi Coplen, DCOH Executive Director.

In April of this year, Emerald Jail Management Company sent letters to their employees stating the RPDC would be closing its doors in 90 days due to failure to negotiate a lease. The lease problems began when a new facility, the Prairieland Detention

Center in Alvarado, was being built specifically for ICE to house detainees.

"It was originally thought that the new facility would be large enough to take care of all of ICE's needs and they would no longer need the Haskell facility," said Judge Davis. "We quickly saw there would be a need for both facilities but we had to convince ICE of this."

Upon hearing this news, Haskell County, the Development Corporation of Haskell (DCOH), Emerald, and property owners Highlands REIT got to work to find a solution.

"Since we were dealing with a federal agency, we knew we needed to work the political side of this," said Randy Hise, DCOH Board Representative. They worked with their local representative Drew Springer and Senator Charles Perry. Then later

began working with a jail consultant and knocking on doors of Senators and Congressmen in Washington, D.C. A group travelled to Washington in August of this year to meet with ICE officials.

"At that time, they could not guarantee us anymore than 30-40 overflow detainees," said County Judge David Davis. The group knew that would not be enough people to keep the facility open.

Shortly after notices were sent to employees, Highlands REIT and Emerald were able to negotiate a lease. This would give Emerald time to solicit for a new jail population. Weekly reports on this activity were shared with Haskell County and Highlands REIT.

The opening date for Prairieland Detention Center was originally August 2016. Fortunately

for Haskell, this construction project faced several delays. This gave Haskell more time to work with ICE officials. (The Prairieland Detention Center was not open at the time of this article.)

While everyone is happy with the good news, no one is resting on their laurels. The RPDC now faces a new problem-replacing employees who left when they thought the facility would close.

The prison is in need of several detention officers, a recreation specialist and an LVN. Applications can be completed at the RPDC or online at www.emeraldcompanies.com. For more information, people can call the facility at 940-864-5694. For additional information about Haskell, please call the DCOH at 940-864-3424 or visit www.haskelltx.us.

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



HOUSE FIRE—The Haskell Volunteer Fire Department responded to the call of a house fire at 1408 N. Ave. B Tuesday night, Dec. 13.

DPS launches enhanced traffic enforcement for holidays

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is urging drivers to help make the holidays safer by driving sober and using extra caution. In an effort to protect travelers on our roadways, DPS Troopers, as well as local law enforcement across the state, will conduct traffic patrols throughout the holiday weekend of

Dec. 31-Jan. 1, looking for drunk drivers, speeders, seat belt violators and other dangerous drivers.

“Impaired driving or reckless behavior on the road can turn holiday celebrations into tragedies, and these DPS patrols are designed to help save lives by identifying drivers who disregard the law and

endanger others,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “By always driving sober, obeying traffic laws, and slowing down or moving over a lane when vehicles are stopped on the side of the road, Texans can help make our roads safer for everyone.”

During the eight-day Christmas/New Year holiday enforcement effort last year, DPS troopers made 466 DWI arrests. DPS enforcement efforts also resulted in 9,174 speeding citations, 893 seat belt/child safety seat citations, 320 fugitive arrests and 286 felony arrests during the enforcement period.

DPS offers the following additional tips for safe travel during the holidays:

- Don't drink and drive. Designate a driver or take a cab.
- Slow down—especially in bad weather, construction areas and heavy traffic.
- Eliminate distractions, including the use of mobile devices.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle—it's the law.
- Slow down or move over for police, fire, EMS and Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks that are stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated—it's the law. Also, show the same courtesy to fellow drivers stopped along the road.
- Don't drive fatigued.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and check the weather forecast before your trip begins.



MAKES DONATION—The Haskell sophomore class sold pink shirts in October to donate to the American Cancer Society. Pictured at the Pink Out Pep Rally are sophomore cheerleaders, l-r, Areli Torres, Kaelyn Bevel and Allie Andress with cancer survivors, center, Kris Fouts and Laurie McBroom.



PINK OUT—Haskell Elementary staff members are pictured with colleague and cancer survivor Donna Waggoner, front and center, showing support on Pink Out Cancer day. Staff members are, l-r, Creora Scheets, Erin Watson, Deanna Jordan, Marijane Cunningham, Patsy Blakley, Allison Smith, Pam Gibson, Vanessa Shiple, Cristal Masias and Joni Bullock.



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Obituaries

Leola ‘Mutt’ Stockton



LEOLA STOCKTON
Graveside services for Leola ‘Mutt’ Stockton, 94, of Haskell were held Tues., Dec. 27 at Rochester Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes of Haskell.

Mrs. Stockton passed away Sun., Dec. 25 at Haskell Healthcare Center.

Born Aug. 19, 1922 in

Haskell County, she was the daughter of Ida Bell (McNeil) and James Thomas “Tom” Voss. She married Tramel Lee Stockton Feb. 10, 1940. She lived most of her life in Knox County and was a member of the First Baptist Church in O’Brien. She loved taking care of people. She was a loving babysitter for many years for numerous children in the area. She enjoyed family, friends, get togethers and cooking.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband; two sons, Bobby Carol Stockton and Johnny Ray Stockton; and nine brothers and sisters.

Survivors include two daughters, Cathy Ann Stockton Penman of Rule, Pamela Kay Stockton Nichols

and husband Malcom of Albuquerque, New Mexico; brother, John Voss of Florida; daughter-in-law, Patricia Metton Stockton of Wills Point; three granddaughters, Joni Penman Manske and husband Brian of Sagerton, Jodi Penman Andress of Haskell, Juli Penman of Sagerton; one grandson, Justin Lewis of Lubbock; six great-granddaughters, Leann, Lenzi and Lezli Manske, Allie and Abby Andress, Lillian Penman; two great grandsons, Adam Andress and William Penman; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Online condolences may be shared with the Stockton family at www.smithfamilyfh.com.

PD. NOTICE

Help prevent blood shortages

Every year, there's often a shortage of platelet and blood donations during the holidays. This year, a number of factors

have made the need for blood platelets especially urgent.

“One reason the supply of blood platelets has decreased is that we now have additional required testing of platelets after donation. A rare but serious complication called transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI) has been the leading cause of death due to transfusions. The new requirements save lives, but also shrinks the supply of blood platelets available for transfusions,” said medical oncologist Dr. Thomas Froehlich at UT Southwestern

Medical Center in Dallas.

Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, trauma victims, and patients whose conditions require routine transfusions rely on blood and platelet donations from local blood organizations as part of their treatment. Platelets, which are extracted from blood donations, are vital for blood clotting, which helps prevent excessive bleeding in the event of an injury.

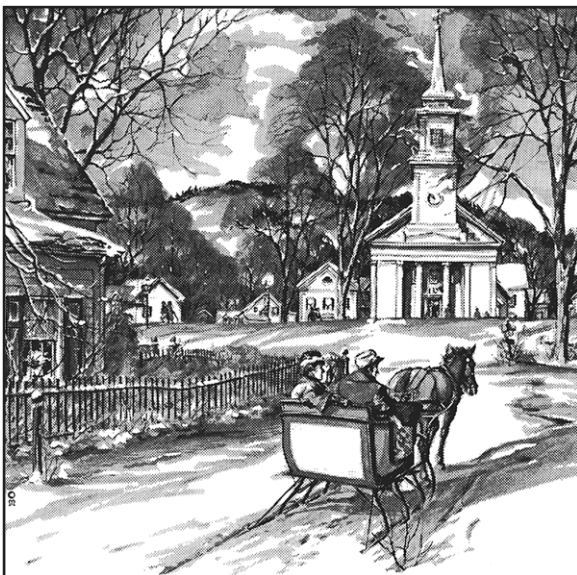
To donate your blood or platelets, you may contact a local blood center.

Weather

by Kim Hutto
National Weather Service
Volunteer Co-op Observer
Temperature

Mon., Dec. 19 13°/38°
Tues., Dec. 20 38°/60°
Wed., Dec. 21 40°/63°
Thurs., Dec. 22 33°/43°
Fri., Dec. 23 39°/64°
Sat., Dec. 24 40°/70°
Sun., Dec. 25 43°/71°

As we celebrate the New Year...



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by Darlene Hopkins, CEA-FCS, Haskell Co.

Weight loss: Answers from Cardiologist Jeff Trost

Losing weight—and then keeping it off—is never simple. To demystify the world of weight loss, a Johns Hopkins expert provides tips to transform your lifestyle. Johns Hopkins cardiologist Dr. Jeff Trost shared his weight loss journey and answered questions to help others accomplish their health goals.

How do I incorporate exercise into my busy schedule? I can certainly respect that we all have busy schedules—work, family and life! I can only share with you my experience—I am an interventional cardiologist, have a family with children and I'm on call for the hospital an average of one in every three or four nights per week. In negotiation with my wife, who has been unbelievably supportive, I take one hour every single day—usually after dinner—to go to the gym and exercise. I have known folks who prefer to go early in the morning (before work) and folks who prefer to go after their kids go to bed. I think it is vitally important for you to identify some “me” time to promote your own well-being. I should also note that some of my colleagues are big fans of using the lunch hour for daily walks; this is a GREAT way to get in 30 to 60 minutes of regular exercise. Incorporating your family in terms of exercise can work, too—a simple walk around the neighborhood or a park is a great way to involve them.

How do you handle cravings? This is a tough question, and I won't lie: I do get cravings once in a while, like all of us do. What I will tell you is that eating fewer calories—for me—has been as much a mental thing, a state of mind, as it has been a physical challenge. If I tell myself not to think about food, sometimes by focusing on work or something else to distract my feelings, [and] it usually gets me to the next meal. That being said, snacks are my worst enemy—I try to snack on healthy things, like almonds or fruit—but I always keep track of the calories that I ingest, regardless of when I ingest them.

How important are the timing and size of meals? I think regular meals at

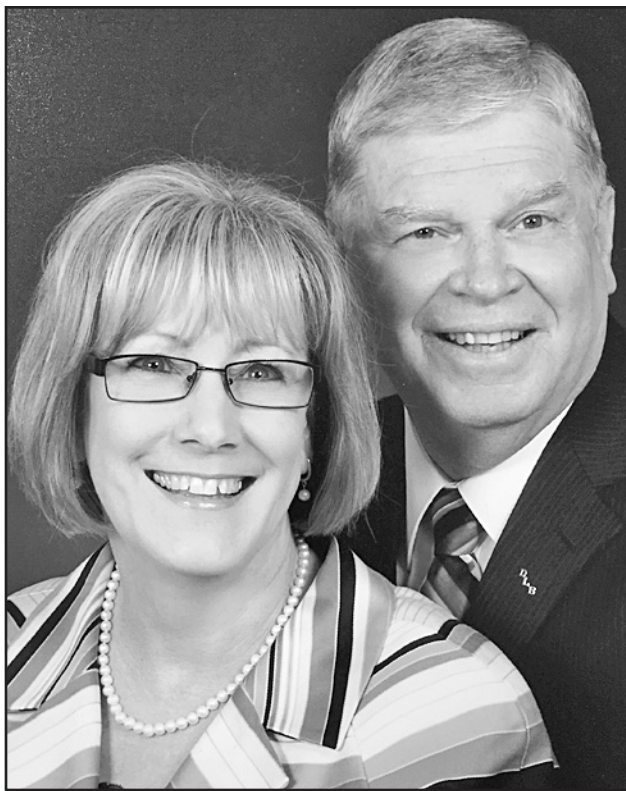
regular intervals are more important than fewer meals at widespread intervals; this has helped me to convince my body that I am full most of the time.

What is considered a “healthy size”? In terms of “healthy size” food, I'd say that it is really important for folks to pay attention to the serving size on food labels (or if eating out, the amount of calories per entree) when determining what a reasonable portion is. A key part of my success has been to identify serving sizes (i.e., a single serving of cereal), to measure these serving sizes out (i.e., measure a cup of cereal), and not go back for seconds! This also applies to meals that we make at home—many recipes contain serving sizes (i.e., a cup of pasta) and I follow the recommendations very closely.

How do I find the willpower to keep the weight off? This is an important question. My willpower—my motivation, really—comes from my family. When I was 13 years old, I asked my dad to quit smoking, and, to his credit, he promised me that he would—and he did. After I walked out of my physician's office a few years ago, frustrated about my continuing weight issue, I thought about my dad and the promise he kept for me. I then thought, What promise can I make to my children? I immediately resolved to lose the weight so that I could have the best opportunity to see my kids grow. I wanted to be a role model to them like my father has been to me.

The keys to my success in maintaining my weight loss have been:

1. I am consistent about what I eat every day, with some variation to keep things interesting. For example, I make my own lunch and generally eat one of two different types of lunch (either a sandwich or vegetarian chili) every single day. This allows me to have consistency in terms of the calories I consume. Same for breakfast.
2. Consistency in counting my calories—it holds me accountable every single day.
3. Consistency in assessing my weight—I weigh myself once a month.
4. Regular exercise, which certainly plays a role in terms of burning calories consistently as well.



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY—Don and Alice Ballard of Haskell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Tues., Dec. 20. They were married Dec. 20, 1966 at the First United Methodist Church in Cisco. Their marriage is centered around faith, love and family.

Holiday heart syndrome

The Grinch may not be the only one who has a problem with his heart during the holidays.

There's a notable December bump in the number of patients who show up in emergency rooms with what's known unofficially as holiday heart syndrome—heart rhythm problems caused by overindulging, says cardiologist Dr. Sharon Reimold of UT Southwestern Medical Center.

“It's common for people to go to multiple parties during this time of year. You go to one party and have a drink or two, go to the next party and have a couple more. It's the cumulative effect of alcohol that can put you at risk, sending your heart into atrial fibrillation,”

says Dr. Reimold, Professor of Internal Medicine.

Atrial fibrillation, or AFib, is an irregular and rapid contraction of the upper chambers of the heart. Shortness of breath, heart palpitations, and a feeling that the heart is beating much faster than normal are the primary symptoms of AFib, which is associated with an increased risk of stroke.

Excessive eating and, especially, excessive salt intake, also can cause the problem. The American Heart Association recommends no more than 1,500 mg. of sodium a day.

Her advice: While drinking in the holiday spirit, take it easy on the holiday spirits and pay attention to how much you're eating and drinking.

Haskell Co. Arrest Report

The following arrests were reported by the Haskell County Sheriff's Office during the week of Dec. 19-25:

Russell Andrew Miller, theft under \$100, Haskell Co./Colorado warrant failure to appear, possession of burglary

tools.

Travis Bryan Hicks, motion to revoke forgery.

Roger Contreras, driving while intoxicated 3rd or more.

Raul Ray Villa, disorderly conduct.

Fifty-two calls were made to 911.

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From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago December 28, 2006

District Judge Charles Chapman of Haskell, is retiring after a long career serving with the State Bar of Texas. He was appointed by Governor Mark White to the office of District Judge for the 39th Judicial District. He was then elected to that office in five elections.

Haskell Indian Josh Kimmel has been named to the Associated Press Class 2A All-State Team as an offensive lineman. Kimmel had 58 takedowns and graded at 91% as right guard for Haskell.

Recognized for a total of 145 years of volunteer service on the Haskell Volunteer Fire Department were Jessie Billington, 10 yrs.; Claude Payne and Tony Haynes, 15 yrs.; Donald Cunningham, Bill Steele and Randy Shaw, 25 yrs.; and Kenny Watson, 30 yrs.

20 Years Ago December 26, 1996

The Haskell FFA Radio Team of Vanessa Miller, Nicky McCulloch and Kaki Stapleton kept a perfect record, winning first place in district, area and state competition.

Haskell Indian Casey Burgess was named Most Valuable Player of the Double Mountain basketball tournament held in Aspermont. Matthew McCord was selected for the All-Tournament team. Haskell defeated Aspermont 90-62 to win the tourney.

30 Years Ago December 25, 1986

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Miller were honored with a reception in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Hosts were David and Sue Miller and Kenny and Sandra Miller. They have resided in Haskell County throughout their married life, living on their farm five miles west of Haskell.

Kevin Patton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Patton, took first place honors at Gymnastics Sport Center in Abilene, by completing all skills on Level I. He received four blue ribbons and a trophy for being the most improved gymnast.

Lisa Wheatley of Haskell, was elected president of the Southwestern Oklahoma State Pharmaceutical Association at the Weatherford campus.

40 Years Ago December 23, 1976

First place winners in the Home Lighting Contest, sponsored by the Business & Professional Women's Club of Haskell are Ruby Turner, window division; Mr. and Mrs. Drey Lowe, door division; and Dr. and Mrs. T.W. Williams, yard division.

Retiring District Attorney Royce Adkins was presented a plaque in recognition of his twenty-four years as District Attorney. Retired Judge Ben Charlie Chapman made the presentation.

HHS graduates Susan

Hopkins and Christie McAdams, both freshmen at Tarleton State University, are members of the TexAnns gymnastics team.

50 Years Ago December 29, 1966

Newcomers sworn in as Haskell County officials include E.C. Collins, Commissioner Pct. 4; Slover Bledsoe, Commissioner, Pct. 2; Hubert Bledsoe, Justice of Peace Pct. 1; and B.O. Roberson, County Judge.

Cmdr. J.H. Alvis, a U.S. Navy flier from Rochester, led a flight of jets on a raid which knocked out a railroad bypass in North Vietnam. He is the son of Mrs. Vestus Alvis.

Randy Wiseman and Ken Barnett, HHS band members, have been selected to perform with the UIL All-Region II band.

100 Years Ago December 23, 1916

Most of the rural schools of Haskell County will begin the enforcement of the compulsory education law immediately after the holidays. All children from eight to fourteen inclusive are required to attend school sixty consecutive days.

O.N. Simmons was in charge of the Peters Barber Shop in Weinert, while proprietor M.L. Peters was at Graham. Mr. Simmons is a congenial fellow and a good barber. He announces that they intend to put in baths and add a cleaning and pressing establishment to the shop.



COACH'S MOMENT—Haskell Indian Coach Tully Brown with the Indians in the final timeout before the Indians defeated Stamford in the district opener.

Opportunities offered to improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will offer farmers and ranchers more opportunities to participate in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The announcement includes new CRP practices to protect water quality and adds an additional 1.1 million acres targeted to benefit wildlife, pollinators and wetlands.

"The Conservation Reserve Program is an extremely popular voluntary program that offers producers and landowners a wide variety of opportunities to prevent erosion, protect wildlife habitat and reduce nutrient runoff," said Vilsack. "With the program close to the legal enrollment limit of 24 million acres, USDA

has been working to use all of the tools at our disposal to maximize benefits by combining multiple soil, water and wildlife objectives in the areas where it is needed most."

Vilsack unveiled a new conservation initiative known as Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR), which will add new tools to CRP that can help to improve water quality. CLEAR will assist landowners with the cost of building bioreactors and saturated buffers that filter nitrates and other nutrients from tile-drained cropland. Early estimates indicate that CLEAR could help to reduce nitrate runoff by as much as 40 percent over traditional conservation methods. CLEAR may cover

up to 90 percent of the cost to install these new practices through incentives and cost-share. These new methods are especially important in areas where traditional buffers have not been enough to prevent nutrients from reaching bodies of water.

USDA will also add an additional 1.1 million acres to a number of key CRP practices that are critically important to wildlife and conservation. These include 700,000 acres for State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) efforts, which restore high-priority wildlife habitat tailored to a specific state's needs. In addition to SAFE, 300,000 acres will be added to target wetlands restoration that are nature's water filters and 100,000 acres for pollinator habitat that support 30 percent of agricultural production.

The continued strong demand for CRP combined with the limited acreage available for enrollment and lower land rental rates, allows USDA to modify certain program components without affecting the integrity of the program. Signing incentives are being reduced by \$25 per acre on certain practices for fiscal year 2018 enrollments (incentives are currently between \$100 and \$150 per acre) and a cap on the maximum soil rental rate is being instituted for Continuous CRP at \$300 per acre. The savings from these changes are being reinvested back in CRP, including the additional acres for SAFE, pollinator habitat and wetlands restoration.

To learn more about FSA's conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ conservation or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Throughout the Obama Administration, USDA has generated thousands of critical partnerships to conserve and protect our natural resources on working landscapes, while enrolling a record number of acres in conservation programs. Seventy-percent of the nation's land is owned and tended to privately, and America's farmers, ranchers and landowners have willingly stepped up to address the growing impacts of a changing climate. With USDA's support, they are working to implement voluntary practices that improve air and water quality, prevent soil erosion and create and protect wildlife habitat. Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect land and water on over 400 million acres nationwide. Read more about USDA's record conservation outcomes under this Administration at Caring for our Land, Air and Water: Preserving Precious Natural Resources for Tomorrow.

Letters to the Editor

Dear editor:

I wrote an opinion about living in and the nature of people in Haskell:

"Oh, I knew your momma and dad. She was the sweetest lady and your dad one of my favorite people to talk to."

That is almost an exact quote I heard via a phone call this morning, Dec. 22, from a merchant in Haskell. And to be honest about it, her impromptu and matter-of-fact statement moved my heart to an emotional place that 'bout near brought me to tears. Like most people who have outlived loved ones, her words triggered a feeling of sadness and loss which always seems amplified at Christmas. But mixed right in there with the sad was feelings of joy too.

While I was listening to her talk business, my mind was also busy thinking about how without even realizing it, she had become an ambassador of small town life and my sadness was quickly overshadowed by joy and warm feelings, knowing

just how much my parents loved living in Haskell. Even better, those heart-stirring words were not unique just to her—that pretty much ANY Haskell area business I would have talked to this morning would likely have said something similar once they knew who I was. That's the way Haskell can be, you know? And that's why I've not mentioned by name who I talked to this morning. To list out all the people that would say something like that would pretty near fill up a white-pages directory, but she'll know if she reads this.

With that said, I would like to bring attention to Bobby and Pat Jenkins. What and how they give back to others in the Haskell area is almost hard to relate to, or even explain. They are volunteers for mowing lawns, cooking, consoling, serving, carting people around town and to Abilene, plumbing, visiting and supporting seniors, advising, making us laugh and most important—loving others, be it family

or not. What an amazing team they make. There's really no words to write that can accurately describe how much I appreciate all they have done for me and my family over the years. Bobby, Pat, who I spoke to this morning and so many other Haskell residents are examples of why small town life is so appealing.

Thank you, people of Haskell and Happy Holidays! Greg Nicholson DFW area

Dear editor,

The Haskell Goodfellows would like to thank those who helped with this year's Christmas project. The Haskell Goodfellows distributed 44 Christmas packages to needy families this year.

This year's Goodfellows project was a joint effort between the Haskell Lions Club, the Haskell County Child Welfare Board, the Haskell Volunteer Fire Department and the community.

A special thanks to Teresa and Mike New for their donation of bread.

Donnie Rieger
Haskell Lions Club
Linda Haynes
Haskell Child Welfare Board
Haskell Lions Club



by Christina Isbell Keep Haskell Beautiful president

I am following a website/blog post of two ladies, Deb Brown and Becky McCray. Their website is <http://saveyour.town.com>. The following is a blogpost that they posted (reprinted with permission). If you are interested in following them, just go to their website and sign up for emails.

It used to be, in the 50's and 60's, downtown was the hoppin' place to be. You did all your shopping there, took the kids out for entertainment, did your banking and went out to eat. Then the 70's and shopping malls came along, transportation was easier and women went to work. Downtowns were now passe—everyone went to the mall and drove further for more.

Highways are bypassing towns, or go through the edge of town. Shopping online is giving serious competition to the smaller guys.

We're not going to revert back to the past, ever. Things have changed and now we have the opportunity to provide for the citizens that are living here now. Studies

reported this year during Small Business Saturday more people were shopping in small, local stores. There's a move to supporting the stores that have unique, different, hard to find items providing serious love to the customers. More people are also working remotely. I just heard that 30% of the people who work for businesses in Washington D.C. live somewhere else in the United States. Those numbers are growing.

There are many reasons to live in a small, rural town.

Cost of living is lower.
Housing is affordable.
Generally, the town is safer.

Lower classroom sizes in the schools.

You really can be a big fish in a small pond.

Did I throw you with that last one? I simply mean that your voice matters, your opinion counts, and you are given a better chance to share it. There are advantages to that! You actually can have a say in what is happening in your community. Run for city council, school board, chamber board...you are needed in those places. You can also take your idea and run with it—gather a crowd of like-minded individuals and see what kind of things you can create.

As we approach the New Year, think about ways you can become involved in your town. It can be a small step, in fact that's a great way to start. Small steps are a great way to try out things. Have an idea about starting a business? Try a pop up first, or a business inside a business. See if it will work before you invest a lot of money and time. Talk to people, gather a crowd and start making connections. Who's got some good ideas? See if you can get together and make some magic happen!

Commissioners' Court report

The Haskell County Commissioners' Court met Tues., Dec. 13 with all members present.

Haskell County Agents Darlene Hopkins and Jason Westbrook gave reports on the 4-H groups.

Haskell County Treasurer Janis McDaniel submitted the monthly report, the County Attorney's bank reconciliation report and the ECC report.

District Attorney Mike Fouts reported that he will purchase a new pickup with forfeiture funds.

A motion to update the pricing agreement for drug testing was approved.

A motion to assist the City of Rule with street repairs passed.

A resolution in opposition of re:SearchTX passed.

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The Haskell Free Press

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This issue mailed Wed., Dec. 28, 2016



BASKETBALL '17

Indians



Haskell Indians

**JVB, VB
vs Hawley
Tues., Jan. 3
5:15 p.m.
at Hawley**



HASKELL INDIANS—Front row, l-r, Tanner Thomas, Austin Alsabrook, Kellen Parks, Ezell Woods and Caleb Wheat; back row, Aaron Skiles, Alec Roewe, Lane Burson, Kyler Hoover, RJ Chavez and Rocky Haggard.



Maidens

Haskell Maidens

**JVG, VG
vs Hawley
Tues., Jan. 3
4:00 p.m.
at Hawley**



HASKELL MAIDENS—Sitting, l-r, Landry Hanson, Courtney Whitt and Makinzie Garvin; standing, C'Era Taylor, Ariel Martinez, Ashlyn Bevel, Jordan Garvin, Hollyn Hadaway and Taylor Manske.

This Page Sponsored By The Following Indian and Maiden Boosters

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**First Bank Texas
Haskell Co-op Gin
Haskell National Bank
Haskell Free Press
Haskell Save-A-\$
Larned Sales Center
Smitty's Auto Supply
Matlock & Associates
Double A Drive Inn
Haskell Feeds**



CHRISTMAS CHOIR—Haskell Elementary Kindergarten (top photo), first (bottom photo) and second grades performed “A Place in the Christmas Choir” Thurs., Dec. 15 at the elementary cafeteria. Assisting the students were The Hound-Dog (Peggy Adams), Mrs. Santa (Christi Wheat) and Santa (Pam Gibson). Teachers are Susan Cox, Angela Mackey, Judy Washburn, Joni Bullock, Allison Smith, Peggy Darden, Rhonda Hanson, LaKay Caparoon, Donna Waggoner and Pam Gibson—music teacher.



Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service

by Jason Westbrook, CEA-Ag, Haskell Co.

Winter wheat management critical to spring production

The wheat may be planted, but there's still a lot of work to do to maximize production, whether for forage, grain or both, said Dr. Jourdan Bell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agronomist in Amarillo.

Managing irrigation, in-season fertility, diseases and weeds will be critical for wheat producers who already face low crop prices and a predicted dry spring, Bell said.

Wheat conditions across the Texas High Plains are variable going into the winter. “There is a lot of dryland wheat that is stressed right now,” she said. “We had good precipitation for early wheat in August and September to get the crop started, but we have had very little since then. We are returning to drought conditions.”

Bell said poor dryland wheat stands will not fare well moving into next spring unless the region gets good winter precipitation.

“We also have some wheat acres that are very lush due to early season precipitation, irrigation and warm fall temperatures. While the lush fall growth provided good fall forage, it may harbor insects as well as increase the risk for spring diseases, including wheat streak mosaic virus.

“Moving forward, there are things we need to do,” she said. “At this point, producers have already made their varietal selections for the year. So we need to focus on agronomic management, including irrigation and fertility. Most wheat varieties

use 22 inches of total water, with most of that water use in the spring.”

Bell said it will be important for producers to decide how they are going to allocate water to their wheat crop and consider the critical periods for crop water use, especially if the region continues moving into drought conditions.

“When we do our wheat ‘Picks’ each year, we take into consideration the whole package, which includes disease susceptibility, drought tolerance and water-use efficiency,” she said. “It is important to look to see which variety is going to perform well under drought conditions and which one is going to produce more wheat per inch of water.”

Newer varieties have the potential to yield much higher if managed well, but they still have the same critical time periods for water stress.

“Ideally under well-watered conditions, we are able to meet the crop water demand from germination through soft dough,” Bell said. “However, if well capacity or water is limited for wheat production, producers often ask, ‘When are the critical times to irrigate?’”

Germination and emergence are key to getting a good stand, she said. Tilling is key to having a good crop going into the winter—wheat planted in September tillers in October/November, which is often ideal for grazed and dual-purpose systems.

“Moving into spring, we want to maximize the number of seeds per head so it is critical to hit the jointing stage with water. If water is available, it is also very beneficial to irrigate at flowering.”

For those who plant TAM 112 for increased drought tolerance, it is still important to have water at these critical growing stages, she said. Dryland wheat must still have enough stored soil moisture at planting for fall vegetative growth.

“This year in some of the areas with limited precipitation, producers got just enough to germinate the crop, but the crop is currently in poor condition because there was not sufficient stored soil moisture to draw from.”

When discussing germination, producers need to understand the importance of seedling vigor and realize the bin-saved seed they might have opted to use due to low

prices could have resulted in poor germination and seedling vigor, Bell said. Quality seed is needed for good germination and vigor.

In-season fertility management is also important to maximize production. It is recommended that producers coordinate their fertility program to the production goal—grain only, dual purpose or grazing only, she said. Generally, the best option is to do a split application, with one in the fall planting and one in late winter.

This provides the producer the opportunity to assess field conditions prior to top-dressing and prevent overgrowth in the fall, Bell said. In addition to harboring insects, overgrown wheat will use stored soil moisture. If winter precipitation is not sufficient enough to rebuild soil moisture reserves, there could be a water deficit in the spring as the crop is transitioning into reproductive development.

She said the best time to top-dress fertilizer is at Feekes 5, around mid-February, to ensure nitrogen is available to the plant by the jointing stage or Feekes 6. Feekes 5 is when the meaningful tillers have developed and the growing point is moving above the soil surface.

Because the crop is transitioning from vegetative to reproductive development, this is also when cattle should be pulled off wheat so they don't graze off that growing point, if the wheat will be carried to grain production, Bell said.

“With no soil test, we advise applying 1.2 pounds of nitrogen per acre per bushel yield goal for grain-only production. For dual-purpose wheat, the recommendation is 3.75 pounds of nitrogen per acre per bushel yield goal—2 pounds at planting to satisfy the forage growth and 1.5 pounds top-dressing in the spring for grain production.

“If the wheat is solely for graze out, we recommend 30 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 pounds of forage. While many of our graze-out producers are cutting back on their input costs, maximum forage production is necessary to make wheat pasture profitable,” Bell said.

These application rates, however, do not account for the nitrogen in the root zone, she said.

“At the current wheat prices, do not apply nitrogen without a soil test. Soil tests account for nitrogen in the soil and could potentially save you thousands of dollars in fertilizer.”

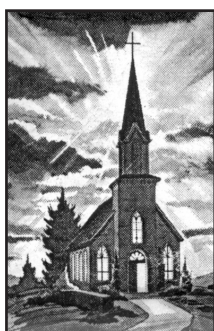
And finally, if the spring yield potential looks good, producers will need to determine if it will be economical to manage for disease, she said. There are several modes of action for fungicides, so “you need to be scouting early to determine what products you need to use.”

Bell said she conducted a fungicide trial targeting stripe rust at Booker using two application dates—April 2 at early heading to minimize damage to the flag leaf and May 6 at late-flower to address producers' concerns with saving test weight. The first application provided significant control but the second added very little.

“We estimated the first one saved about 20 bushels per acre, so it was effective and paid for itself,” she said.

Bell's final advice to producers was “weed management is critical in the spring—weeds rob the water and nutrients from your crop.”

This Week's Devotional Message:



Let the New Year introduce a whole new way of living

It's only another night, followed by a day the same length as all the others. However, December 31st is an arbitrary dividing line between one year and the next, a part of the necessity for keeping track of time along with the days, weeks and months. We have further drawn attention to it with the stroke of midnight; and for some of us, followed the next day by a state of remorse and a determination to mend our ways. We begin every new year in this manner, with a list of sweeping reforms designed to correct all our faults at once; a task usually beyond human compliance. However, if we would just be sensible about both our actions and our expectations, none of this would be necessary. In fact, a regular trip to our house of worship can be far more effective than all those futile efforts at atonement. Try it and see for yourself.

ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

- HASKELL—
- East Side Baptist Church**
Terry Bunch, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a.; 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.
600 N. 1st East, Haskell
- Christian Church**
Sun. 10:45 a.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell
- Church of God**
Bruce Ray, pastor
Sun. 10:30 a.m. Thurs. 7:00 p.m.
714 North First East, Haskell
- Trinity Lutheran Church**
Rev. David White, pastor
Sunday 9:30 a., Worship 10:30
Hwy 380 East, Haskell
- Iglesia Bautista El Calvario**
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 5 p.; Wed. 7 p.
607 S. 7th, Haskell
- First United Methodist Church**
Rev. David Johnson, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:30 a., 6 p.; Wed. 6 p.
201 N. Ave. F, Haskell
- First Assembly of God**
Rev. J.C. Amburn
Sun. 9:30 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.
1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell
- St. George Catholic Church**
Father Angelo Consemينو
Sat. Mass 7 p.m.; Sun. 9:00 a.m.
901 N. 16th, Haskell
- Church of Christ**
Philip Sims, minister
Sun. 9:30 a., 10:30 a., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.
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.; Wed. 6:30 p.
114 S. Ave. D, Haskell
- Hopewell Baptist Church**
Sun. 9:30 a., 11:00 a.; Wed. 7 p.
908 N. Ave. A, Haskell
- Greater Independent Baptist Church**
Ollie Johnson, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.
301 N. 3rd St., Haskell
940-863-4405
- New Covenant Foursquare**
Bill and Renee Glass, pastors
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p. Wed. 7 p.
200 S. Ave. F, Haskell
- First Baptist Church**
Ollie Pierson, pastor
Juddson Smith, Family Life Pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:55 a.m., 6 p.m.;
Wed. 6:30 p.m.
301 N. Ave. E, Haskell
- Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church**
Sun. 9:30 a., 10:45 a., 5 p., Wed. 6 p.
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., 11 a., 6 p., Wed. 7 p.
Weinert
- Foursquare Church**
Rev. Robert Harrison
Sunday 11 a.m.
Weinert
- ROCHESTER—
- Church of Christ**
Mitchell Greer, minister
Sun. 10 a.m., 10:45 a.m.
West on Main Street, Rochester
- First Baptist Church**
Jim McCurley, 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.; Wed. 7 p.
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**
Cory Graham, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m.
Sagerton
- Faith Lutheran Church**
Anna Robbins, pastor
Sun. 10:30 a.m.
Sagerton
- RULE—
- First Baptist Church**
Scott Hensley, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a., 5 p.; Wed. 7 p.
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**
Paul Leonard, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.
811 Union, Rule
- Primera Iglesia Bautista**
Alfa y Omegas
Manuel Marin, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.; Wed. 6 p.
500 Elm Street, Rule
- Sweet Home Baptist Church**
Russell Stanley, pastor
Sunday 10 a.m.
Gladstone Ave., Rule
940-997-2296
- West Bethal Baptist Church**
Rev. Clovis Dever
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.; Wed. 7:30 p.
300 Sunny Ave., Rule
- PAINT CREEK—
- Paint Creek Baptist Church**
Sun. 10:00 a.m., 11 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.
O'Brien

Paint Creek School Menu

- Jan. 2-6 Breakfast**
Milk, juice, graham crackers, fruit and cereal are served daily.
- Monday:** No school
- Tuesday:** Waffles, sausage
- Wednesday:** Blueberry muffins
- Thursday:** Breakfast burritos
- Friday:** Cinnamon rolls
- Lunch**
Milk, juice and fruit are served daily.
- Monday:** No school
- Tuesday:** Steak fingers, gravy, fries, salad, pears, rolls
- Wednesday:** French bread pizza, corn, carrots with ranch dressing, pineapples
- Thursday:** Chicken strips, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls, apples
- Friday:** Corn dogs, fries, ranch style beans, oranges

Rule School Menu

- Jan. 2-6 Breakfast**
Fruit, juice and milk are offered daily.
- Monday:** No school
- Tuesday:** Breakfast pizza
- Wednesday:** Cheese omelet, bacon
- Thursday:** Waffles, sausage
- Friday:** Doughnuts, sausage
- Lunch**
Milk is served daily.
- Monday:** No school
- Tuesday:** Meat and cheese tostada with rice, salsa, zesty cucumbers, refried beans, lettuce/tomato garnish, rosy applesauce
- Wednesday:** Pizza, garden salad, vegetable medley, orange smiles
- Thursday:** Frito pie, corn, baby carrots, salsa, lettuce/tomato garnish, peaches, cookie
- Friday:** Hamburger/cheeseburger with garnish, coleslaw, sweet potatoes fries, apple

Haskell School Menu

- Jan. 2-6 Breakfast**
1% milk, fat-free flavored milk, 100% fruit juice variety and fruit are available at every meal.
- Weekly:** Cereal, toast, muffin, yogurt, PBJ, animal crackers, cheese stick
- Monday:** No school
- Tuesday:** Sausage biscuit
- Wednesday:** Chicken-waffles
- Thursday:** Stuffed bagel, sausage
- Friday:** Dutch waffle, bacon
- Lunch**
Milk variety is available at every meal. Sandwich available daily at elementary.
- Monday:** No school
- Tuesday:** Taquitos, queso, charro beans, garden salad, cinnamon applesauce
- Wednesday:** Pizza, garden salad, tiny tomato cup, fruit cup
- Thursday:** Chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, savory green beans, broccoli, apple slices
- Friday:** Cheeseburger with garnish, oven fries, baby carrots with ranch, sliced peaches, crispy cereal treat

Sonic Drive-In
1402 N. Ave. E
864-8533
Randy Phelps, Manager

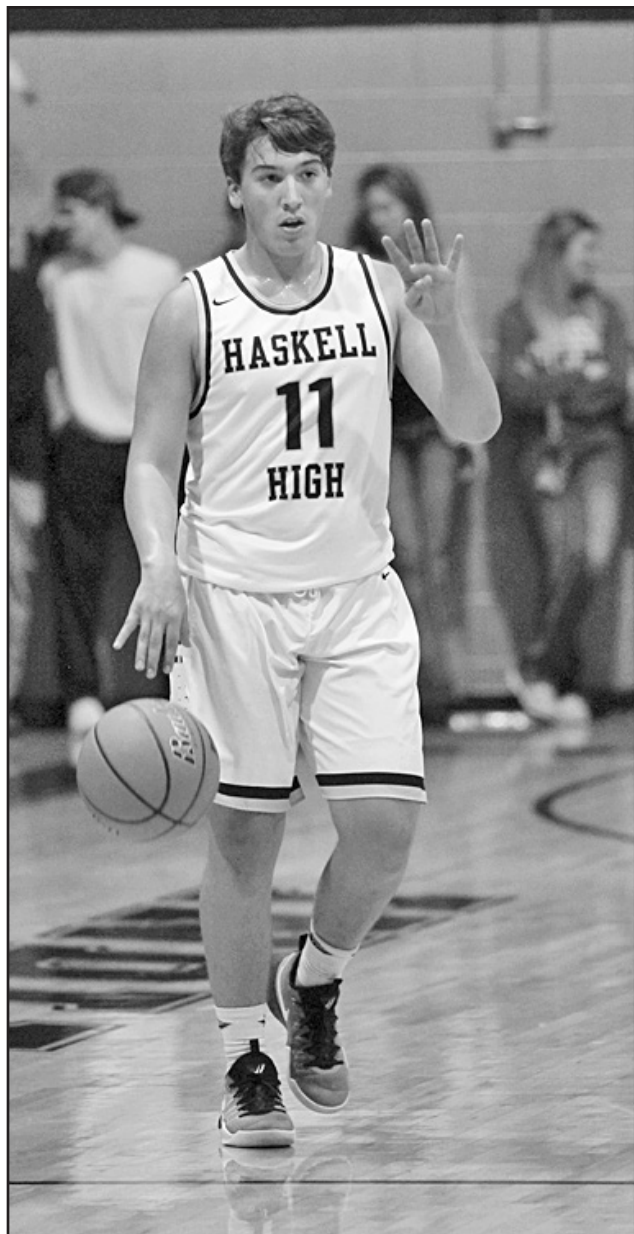
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PLAY CALLS—Haskell Indian #11 Aaron Skiles calls the play and sets up the offense for the Indians' win against Stamford.



THREE POINT ATTEMPT—Haskell Maiden #33 Makizie Garvin puts the shot up from the three point line in the Maidens 66-42 win over Stamford.



MOVES TO THE BASKET—Haskell Maiden # 25 Jordan Garvin drives past the Stamford defense to the basket.



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Public Notices
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS POLICY CHANGE
Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc./Double Mountain Coach will hold 2 public meetings. The first will be at 9:00 am, January 5, 2017 in the Haskell County Courthouse; Haskell, Texas. The second will be at 9:00 am, January 6, 2017 in the Stonewall County Courthouse in Aspermont, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the agency's plan to revise the holiday schedule for Double Mountain Coach Rural Transportation. For more information contact: Lisa Flowers, Executive Director, ASBDC, Inc., 9660 US Hwy 83 S., Aspermont, TX 79502. 940-989-3538. 52c

Help Wanted
RN: Haskell Memorial Hospital is currently seeking a full time RN for our night shift. This position is a rotation of twelvehourshifts. Qualified candidates must possess a current Texas nursing license, have previous hospital experience of at least one year in med/surg and/or ER, and prior EHR experience. Haskell Memorial Hospital has a competitive salary structure, including shift premiums, holiday premiums, paid time off, and BSN premiums. Our benefits package for full time employees includes health insurance, retirement, life insurance, and more. For the opportunity to work in the newest ER in the area providing "Home Town Health Care" alongside a dedicated and caring staff, please submit your resumes to Human Resources via email at emoore@hmmhealth.org, via fax at 940-864-5014, or call 940-864-2621 X301 if you would like an application mailed to you. EOE. 52-1c

Happy New Year!

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NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS
Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Rolling Plains Central Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Knox, Baylor, Stonewall, Throckmorton, Haskell, Young, Scurry, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens, Palo Pinto, Mitchell, Nolan, Callahan, Eastland, Brown, Comanche, Erath, and a portions of Taylor, Borden, and Archer counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 9, 2017. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

Haskell, TX Aspermont, TX

Langford

Scott Langford
(940) 256-0535
Owner

Testers & Anchors

Tim Pearson (940) 256-0874 Jason Langford (940) 864-3490 (940) 256-1741

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37 +/- AC. ON 277 BYPASS IN HASKELL -Perfect for pasture or commercial property. A must see!
5 +/- AC. -Perfect homesite just outside Haskell city limits. Great views. \$30,000.-**NEW**
445.605 +/- AC. -On Loop Rd. \$950/Ac.-**REDUCED**
412.17 +/- AC. EAST OF HASKELL -High fence. Perfect hunting property. \$1250/Ac.-**NEW**
162.9 +/- AC. NW HASKELL CO. -Ideal dryland farm on CR 188. \$900/Ac.-**REDUCED**
219.5 +/- AC. WEST OF O'BRIEN -Dryland farm amongst pivots. \$900/Ac.-**REDUCED**
158.6 +/- AC. -Irrigated farm west of O'Brien on CR 185. \$1650/Ac.-**CURRENT ACTIVE TENANT**
231.1 +/- AC. -Prime Haskell Co. dryland farm located on FM 618. \$1150/Ac.-**PENDING**
30 AC. WEST OF O'BRIEN ON 2229-\$1500/Ac.
HASKELL RESIDENTIAL
1801 N. AVE. G-3 or 4/3 on large corner lot. \$170,000-**NEW**
1410 N. AVE. L-3/2. \$69,900-**PENDING**
408 N. AVE. C-4/2 with fireplace. \$72,000-**NEW**
804 N. 9TH ST-2/2 on oversized lot. \$72,000
402 N. AVE. D-4/2. \$59,900
1206 N. 9TH-3/2. Large corner lot. \$67,000
800 N. 3RD E-3/2 on large shaded lot. \$95,000
1904 N. AVE. F-Large 3/3. \$162,500-**REDUCED**
607 N. 5TH ST.-3/2. \$109,000-**PENDING**
708 S. 7TH ST.-3/1 with new CH/A. \$44,500
1 N. AVE. P-3/2. \$57,000-**MAKE AN OFFER**
1405 N. AVE. H-2 or 3/2. \$48,500
1009 N. AVE. H-4/2. \$99,900-**REDUCED**
703 N. AVE. L-4/3. \$334,000-**REDUCED**
1407 N. AVE. E-Historic 4/2. \$160,000-**REDUCED**
1507 N. AVE. F-4/2. \$137,500-**REDUCED**
703 N. AVE. E-Large 4/3.5 with a pool. \$212,500
308 S. AVE. L-New 2/2. \$39,000-**REDUCED**
BIG COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL
811 S. 9TH, MUNDAY-2/2 on the outskirts of Munday. \$62,500-**NEW**
1002 SUNNY AVE., RULE-2 or 3/2. \$49,900-**NEW**
581 S. 12TH, MUNDAY-3/2. \$85,000-**REDUCED**
1208 N. PAWNEE, RULE-2/1. \$42,000-**NEW**
811 N. 3RD, MUNDAY-3/2. \$57,500-**NEW**
341 N. H, MUNDAY-2/1. \$42,000-**NEW**
11624 FM 617 ON 80 +/- AC.-2/2. \$175,000-**REDUCED**
500 CARDIFF AVE. RULE-3/2. \$42,000-**REDUCED**
704 SUNNY AVE., RULE-3/1. \$57,500-**NEW**
1212 ADAMS, RULE-3/2. Clean, move in ready. \$32,000-**NEW**
703 N. 16TH, RULE-3/2 on corner lot. \$62,900-**NEW**
841 S. 5TH ST., MUNDAY-3 or 4/2. \$32,000-**NEW**
1209 UNION, RULE-Cute 2/1, w/RV storage. \$42,500
220 S. 12TH AVE, MUNDAY-3/3. \$68,900-**PENDING**
530 MAIN ST., MUNDAY-3/2. \$64,000-**REDUCED**
1008 SE 5TH ST., RULE-3/2. \$59,900-**REDUCED**
COMMERCIAL
30 +/- AC. N OF HASKELL-Commercial land on the bypass at US 277. Contact for info.-**NEW**
419 S. 1ST ST. WILD HORSE TRADING POST-Prime Haskell real estate location. \$85,000.-**REDUCED**
551 US HWY 277, MACIAS BALLROOM-\$212,500
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Thanks to all of you who came and made our anniversary celebration such a success. A special thanks to Charles and Pam Gibson, Sue Reese and to all our family members. We love you and thank you all. This is why we love Haskell.
Charles and Leatrice Swinson

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BCEC announces annual Youth Tour Contest

For students to win a trip to Washington, D.C., Big Country Electric Cooperative holds a contest for high school students each year, and the winning students get to attend the Government-in-Action Youth Tour in June.

Students: Here are 10 reasons to apply today!

1. It's free. Big Country EC completely covers the cost of Youth Tour for the contest winners. That's airfare, hotel accommodation, meals and attractions—everything!

2. It's fun. You'll spend days touring the most popular

attractions in D.C., including memorials, monuments and museums. You'll go on a dinner and dancing cruise on the Potomac River, attend a performance at the Kennedy Center and explore an important city. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you don't want to miss!

3. You get to travel. You get to leave your summer job, siblings and routine behind for a 10-day trip!

4. You meet new people. More than 1,700 teens from across the nation attend Youth Tour, including about 140 from Texas, sponsored

by electric cooperatives all over the state. You'll make new friends as you travel and experience the nation's capital with your fellow students.

5. You get a classic American experience. Washington, D.C., is a place like no other. It's rich in history and heritage. That's why Youth Tour was created more than 50 years ago, inspired by then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, to give youths the opportunity to discover "what the flag stands for and represents."

6. You learn a lot. You'll

be surrounded by museums and attractions that focus on science, art, history, space, American culture and so much more. There's a lot to take in, but you'll return home with a ton of newfound knowledge.

7. You can gain leadership experience. All Youth Tour participants can apply to be on the national Youth Leadership Council. One student is selected from each state, and all members of the YLC return to D.C. in July for a leadership workshop through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

8. You can make your voice heard. During Youth Tour, you'll get to spend a day on Capitol Hill and meet with your congressional representatives and their staff members. That means you'll get face time with some of the most powerful people in the nation and an opportunity to talk about issues that are important to you and your community.

9. You can put Youth Tour on your college application and résumé. If you're planning to continue your education after high school, Youth Tour can help make you stand out. It offers experiences that can shape your college application and essays, and your career path.

10. You connect with opportunity. Youth Tour alumni get plugged into the co-op community and are in a great position to learn about scholarships, internships and jobs offered through the electric cooperative network.

Did those 10 reasons convince you? To apply, eligible entrants must:

• Be a current tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grader at a school in Big Country EC's service area (Borden, Fisher,

Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton Counties).

• Students' parents/guardians do not have to be members/customers of Big Country Electric Cooperative in order to compete in and win the Youth Tour contest.

• Submit application form to Sarah McLen via email to smclen@bigcountry.coop or fax to 325-776-2246. Application form may be downloaded online at bigcountry.coop, click on Youth Tour link.

• Once your application is received, you will receive an email with a link to the BCEC Youth Tour 2017 closed group to post your video. Videos will only be available to the group of Youth Tour participants, not the public.

• Submit a video on the topic: Does residential solar make sense for you?

We want you to put yourself in the decision-making shoes for your household and make a video about your findings and conclusion. This is a hot topic and there is a wealth of information available for you to research.

Be unique, be creative, learn something and have fun!

• Video must be posted by 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 26, 2017.

The three winning contestants will be chosen to represent BCEC on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. on June 7-16, 2017. An alternate will also be chosen in the event a winner cannot make the trip. Each winner and the runner-up will also receive a \$1,500 scholarship from Big Country Electric Cooperative!

Find your reason to compete and win!

USDA announces new cost share opportunities for organic producers and handlers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that starting March 20, 2017, organic producers and handlers will be able to visit over 2,100 USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices to apply for federal reimbursement to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic or transitional certification.

"USDA reimburses organic producers up to 75 percent of the cost of organic certification, but only about half of the nation's organic operations currently participate in the program," said FSA Administrator Val Dolcini. "Starting March 20, USDA will provide a uniform, streamlined process for organic producers and handlers to apply for organic cost share assistance either by mail or in person at USDA offices located in almost every rural county in the country."

USDA is making changes to increase participation in the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) and the Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost Share Program, and at the same time provide more opportunities for organic producers to access other USDA programs, such as disaster protection and loans for farms, facilities and marketing. Producers can also access information on nonfederal agricultural resources, and get referrals to local experts, including organic agriculture, through USDA's Bridges to Opportunity service at the local FSA office.

Historically, many state departments of agriculture have obtained grants to disburse reimbursements to those producers and handlers qualifying for cost share assistance. FSA will continue to partner with states to administer the programs. For states that want to continue to directly administer the programs, applications will be due Feb. 17, 2017.

"The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the National Organic Program look forward to this exciting opportunity to leverage the Farm Service

Agency's rural footprint to reach more organic producers and handlers," said AMS Administrator Elanor Starmer. "At the same time it is important to recognize and continue the valuable partnerships with states that remain at the core of the program."

Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic or transitional certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/ arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage are all eligible for a cost share reimbursement from USDA.

Once certified, producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 75 percent of certification costs each year up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops and handling. This announcement also adds transitional certification and state organic program fees as additional scopes.

To learn more about organic certification cost share, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic or contact a local FSA office by visiting <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA is committed to helping organic agriculture grow and thrive. USDA strongly supports the organic sector through a wide variety of programs, including conservation grants, organic crop insurance, certification cost-share, organic market news, and simplified microloans. Under the Obama administration, USDA has signed five major organic trade arrangements and has helped organic stakeholders access programs that support conservation, provide access to loans and grants, fund organic research and education and mitigate pest emergencies. To learn more about USDA support for organic agriculture, visit our updated organic portal at www.usda.gov/organic.

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Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative Inc.
Texas – Lifeline

The Federal Communications Commission has established programs to help make basic telecommunications service more affordable to eligible residential customers. The Lifeline Service program of the Federal Universal Service Fund was created to help low-income consumers obtain telecommunications service by providing limited discounts to eligible residential consumers on qualifying services. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household. Customer's eligibility to receive the discount must be renewed yearly.

Who Qualifies? To participate in the program, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),* Health benefits coverage under the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP),* Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF),* National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program.*

*These programs no longer qualify for the \$9.25 federal lifeline discount as of December 2, 2016. You may be eligible for the state discount.

Subscribers who live on Tribal lands and who qualify under one of the programs above or one of the following programs, are eligible for additional discounts under Tribal Lifeline: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Head Start Programs (only applicant or customer who satisfies the income qualifying eligibility provision), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations ("FDPIR").

What does Lifeline service include? An eligible household may receive one Lifeline benefit toward basic telecommunications service with the following functions:

Telephone Service: Voice grade access to the public switched network, Local usage at no additional charge, Access to emergency services, such as 911 and E911, Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers, Ability to report service problems seven days a week

Lifeline customers may also subscribe to optional services at the same rate offered to other customers. Customers who are eligible for the Lifeline Program are also eligible for toll blocking at no charge.

Internet Service: Effective December 2, 2016, federal Lifeline benefits are now available for households who subscribe to broadband Internet access service at minimum service standards defined in FCC rules. (The state Lifeline discount is applicable only to voice service.)

You may continue to apply your monthly Lifeline discounts to your Telephone Service or your Internet Service, but you must identify the service you wish to apply the Lifeline discount to. You can only receive a discount on one service option—telephone or internet—per household.

How to Apply for Lifeline Program? Please call the LIDA at 1 866-454-8387 or go to www.liteuptexas.org if you wish to apply for or have any questions regarding the Lifeline Service. LIDA provides self-enrollment forms by direct mail upon customer request. (This form must be renewed yearly.)

How to Apply for Telephone Service? If you do not have telephone service and wish to obtain telephone service and you are in the Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative serving areas, or if you have telephone service and you moved and you are in the Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative serving areas, please call our business office number 888-886-2217 and we will be happy to assist you.

Haskell Co. Gin Report	
Dec. 22, 2016	
Haskell	
Haskell Co. Gin.....	3,500
Haskell Co-op Gin.....	8,132
O'Brien	
O'Brien Co-op.....	8,000
Rule	
Rule Co-op Gin.....	7,372
Weinert	
Weinert Gin.....	3,610
Total bales	30,614



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