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The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 130-NO. 46, ©NOVEMBER 17, 2016

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

Basketball

HASKELL

JVG vs Spur Tournament

Thurs., Nov. 17 &
Sat., Nov. 19 at Spur
7G vs Hamlin

Mon., Nov. 21, 5:30 p.m.
at Haskell
7-BB vs Hamlin

Mon., Nov. 21, 5:30 p.m.
at Hamlin

JVB-G, VG-B vs Spur
Tues., Nov. 22, 2:30 p.m.
at Spur

PAINT CREEK

VG-VB vs Rule

Fri., Nov. 18, 6 p.m.
at Paint Creek

JH G-B vs Newcastle

Mon., Nov. 21, 6 p.m.
at Paint Creek

Calendar

Early deadline

Deadline for news and advertising for the Thanksgiving edition, Thurs., Nov. 24 of the Haskell Free Press will be Thurs., Nov. 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. til 11:30 a.m. at 206 S. 2nd (building east of Civic Center) in Haskell.

Food distribution

The Haskell County Ministerial Alliance Food Distribution Center will distribute food Sat., Nov. 19 from 9:30 a.m. til 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Rule.

4-H meeting

Haskell County 4-H will meet Sun., Nov. 20 at 4:00 p.m. at the Extension Office.

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.

Lighting contest

Dec. 5 is the deadline to enter your house for the 2nd Annual Residential Lighting Contest, in Haskell. Call the chamber at 940-864-2477 to enter your house. Winners will be announced after the Lighted Christmas Parade Sat., Dec. 10. The winners will receive: first place \$500, second place \$300 and third place \$200, all in Haskell Dollars.

Window contest

Dec. 5 is the deadline to enter your business for the 2nd Annual Window Contest in Haskell. To enter your business you can call the chamber at 940-864-2477. One winner will be announced after the parade. The business will claim the trophy for one year at their business and receive a free one year business membership from the chamber.

Christmas parade

This year's Haskell Lighted Christmas Parade theme is "A Farm Town Christmas." The parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Sat., Dec. 10 and line up at 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center/Expo parking lot. Entry forms must be filled out by coming by the chamber office or when entries come to line up for the parade. Prizes for winners are first place \$75, second place \$50 and third place \$25, all in Haskell Dollars.



Index

Weather Page 2
Out of the Past.... Page 4
Menus Page 6
Classifieds..... Page 7



INDIAN BAND SWEETHEART-KYLIE ADAMS
INDIAN BAND BEAU-COLTON WRIGHT

Chase Gibson Best of the Big Country

A compelling force on the playing field, Chase Gibson is just as impressive in other areas of his life. The Haskell High School senior was named one of the Abilene Reporter-News Best of the Big Country student athletes this week.

To be eligible for the award, student athletes must be nominated by their coaches and then selected by local experts. They represent the best of the best in terms of character, leadership, teamwork and performance.

Gibson, the son of Chad and Kristi Gibson, played center and defensive tackle for the Indians. Coach Grady Benton says, "He puts the team first and is respected by his teammates, evidenced by his selection as a varsity team captain for three straight years." He had 119 career cockroaches and loves working and hanging out with his buddies in football, even while sidelined with a broken arm. Gibson was an unanimous All-District First Team selection as a junior and was an All-Big Country Second Team pick on the offensive line.

Benton continues, "As coaches, we're always looking for athletes that meet the standards that we have set for our programs. Chase Gibson exceeds those standards, not only on the field, but also in the classroom and the community as well."

When not on the football

field, Gibson serves as president of the Haskell Chapter of the National Honor Society, is involved with student council, shows steers, competes in FFA speaking events and meat judging, and competes in UIL academic events. He

has been on the FFA Meat Judging team, which has qualified for state the past three years. He is currently ranked second in his class and scored a 31 on the ACT college entrance test.

Gibson is a member of the First United Methodist

Church in Haskell. He has plans to attend Texas Tech University next fall, and perhaps someday be able to settle back in Haskell, the community he loves and is so proud to be a part of.

We congratulate Chase on this most worthy award.



BEST OF THE BIG COUNTRY-Number 55, Chase Gibson, Haskell Indian team captain, has been named one of the Abilene Reporter-News Best of the Big Country student athletes.

Election results

by Caron Yates

1,770 Haskell County voters turned out to cast their vote and have their voice heard in the recent general election. That amounts to 52.15% of the 3,394 registered voters in the county.

Local voters were right in step with other voters across the state. In fact, Haskell County chose, or at least voted for, all candidates that got the nod statewide.

Secretary of State Carlos Cascos said Texas has reached a record number of registered voters. 15,101,087 Texans registered to vote in this election, the highest number in state history. Of that number, 59.13% actually turned out to vote.

While Texans voted 52% to 43% for Trump/Pence over Clinton/Kaine, Haskell County chose the republicans with a 79% to 18% vote. Nationwide voters also chose the republican candidates.

Haskell County is represented by District 19 in the United States House of Representatives. Republican Jodey Arrington will serve the district after receiving 87% of the vote across the district. 90% of the votes were cast for him in Haskell County.

Wayne Christian, republican, was elected as Railroad Commissioner, garnering 71% of the county vote and 53% of the state vote. Justice for the Supreme Court, places 3, 5, and 9 went to Debra Lehrmann, Paul Green and Eva Guzman, all three incumbents.

Elected as judges to the Court of Criminal Appeals were Scott Walker, Michael Keasler and Mary Lou Keel. Representing our area on the State Board of Education, District 15, will be Marty Rowley.

On the ballot, but not drawing an opponent, were several offices. Haskell County endorsed Charles Perry, District 28; Drew Springer, State Representative District 68; Mike Fouts, District Attorney; Kris Fouts, County Attorney; Debbie Gressett, District Clerk; Connie Benton, County Tax Assessor-Collector; Bill Hester, County Commissioner Pct. 1; Kenny Thompson, Commissioner Pct. 3; and Kim Bassett, Constable.

There were only two contested races in Haskell County. Sheriff Winston Stephens will continue in that capacity, receiving 914 votes to challenger Chris Rogers' 810 votes. In the County Commissioner Pct. 2 race Elmer Adams received 286 votes, while Scott Langford collected 176 votes.

From the presidential race on down to the local races, regardless of whether your candidate won or lost, it is now time for everyone to unite as Americans and support those elected through our democratic process. We are fortunate to live in a country where we still get to choose those who lead us, something we must never take for granted.

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HONORS MOM—Haskell Elementary fifth grader Myra Cobb with her Navy Veteran mother Dianna Flores at the breakfast to honor her and other veterans at the Haskell Elementary.



PRESENTS FLAG—Haskell Elementary fourth grader Joshua Gonzales hands a flag to Veteran John Sam Rike during the Veterans' breakfast at Haskell Elementary.

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Haskell Co. Arrest Report

The following arrests were reported by the Haskell County Sheriff's Office during the week of Nov. 7-13:

Ana Lisa Benavides, theft of service.

Kriselle Maria Martinez, driving while license invalid.

Marcus Lee Kimmel, aggravated assault with deadly weapon and burglary of habitation.

Jennifer Marie Davis, driving while intoxicated 1st.

Cody James Dutton, probation violation Cotton Co., Oklahoma, possession of methamphetamine.

Alma Silvas, theft by check.

Justin Dewayne Meier, driving while license invalid with prior convictions and warrant for assault family violence.

Grady Vasquez III, theft of property over \$1500 less than \$20,000 and driving while license invalid.

Twenty-eight calls were made to 911.



HONORS PARENTS—Haskell Elementary fourth grader Ezra Anderson is pictured with his parents Veronica and David, who are both veterans, at the elementary Veterans' breakfast Friday morning.



SPECIAL MUSIC—Haskell Elementary fourth graders performed for our Veterans at the annual Veterans' breakfast put on by Haskell Elementary. Thank you to all our Veterans for their service to our country.

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Weather

by Kim Hutto
National Weather Service
Volunteer Co-op Observer

Temperature

Mon., Nov. 7 53°/64°
Tues., Nov. 8 53°/63°
Wed., Nov. 9 48°/57°
Thurs., Nov. 10 49°/65°
Fri., Nov. 11 37°/70°
Sat., Nov. 12 37°/71°
Sun., Nov. 13 41°/71°

Retirement party

An open house will be held Fri., Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Haskell County Farm Bureau, located at 508 N. 1st in Haskell. Snacks, cookies, coffee and fellowship will be enjoyed. From 4 to 6 p.m., a special retirement party will be held for Agency Manager Kenny Tanner.

Special speaker

Regina Billington will be the special speaker Sun., Dec. 4 at Hopewell Baptist Church, 908 N. Ave. A in Haskell.

Maidens' basketball

Maidens fall in tough season opener

The Haskell girls' basketball team kicked off their 2016-2017 basketball season with a tough loss to Irion County 61-46 on Sat., Nov. 5. The Lady Hornets outscored the Maidens 27-17 the first half and continued to be the better team in the second half to get the win.

Haskell was 16-67 (23%) from the field, 3-27 11% for threes, and 11-19 (57%) from the free-throw line. Senior Ashlyn Bevel scored 11 points followed by C'Era Taylor with 9, Jordan Garvin 7, Taylor Manske 7, Landry Hanson 5, Courtney Whitt 5 and Makinzie Garvin 2.

"Offensively, we definitely need to be more patient and make better shot selections. We shot too many three pointers and we took too many bad shots," head coach Blake Eddleman said. Bevel had a team high 2 assists followed by Garvin, Hadaway, Hanson, Manske and C. Taylor with 1 each.

Irion County was 15-52 (28%) from the field, 3-17 (17%) for threes, and 28-34 (82%) from the free-throw line. "Defensively, it was a very poor performance on our part and something we need to learn from moving forward. You cannot send a team to the free-throw line 34 times and expect to win. We were very undisciplined and they made us pay for it. Hopefully, we learned our lesson moving forward," Eddleman said.

Leading the team in rebounds was Manske with 8, C. Taylor 5, Bevel 4, Hadaway 4, Hanson 4 and Whitt 3. Hadaway had a team high 3 steals followed by Garvin and Manske with 2 each.

"Overall, we just did not

play good enough to beat one of the best 2A schools in Region One. This is the toughest non-district schedule that we have played in the past five years and I am hoping it will pay off down the road. We will all learn from this tough season opener and it definitely made us all better. Sometimes you've got to get out of your comfort zone in order to grow as a player, team, and coach. I believe we all did that against a tough Irion County team," Eddleman added.

Haskell 4 13 6 23 = 46
Irion Co. 10 17 13 21 = 61

JV Maidens beat Irion County 40-19

Lady Mustangs hold off the Maidens

The Maidens traveled to Sweetwater to take on the 4A Lady Mustangs last Saturday. Sweetwater outscored Haskell 18-14 the second half to get the 44-41 win over the Maidens. Haskell falls to 0-2 on the season.

Senior Courtney Whitt led all scorers with 9 points followed by Ashlyn Bevel with 7, C'Era Taylor 6, Landry Hanson 6, Taylor Manske 6, Jordan Garvin 5, and Makinzie Garvin 2. Leading the team in assists was Bevel with 3 followed by J. Garvin with 2 and Hanson 1.

Haskell was 17-57 (29%) from the field, 2-28 (7%) for threes, and 5-14 (35%) from the free-throw line. "Offensively, we picked up right where we left off against Irion County. Once again, we were not patient and our shot selection was very poor. For the second game in a row, we shot too many three pointers and took too many bad shots. It has been addressed and I

expect it to be much better moving forward," head coach Blake Eddleman said.

Sweetwater was 16-46 (34%) from the field, 3-12 (25%) for threes, and 9-15 (60%) from the free-throw line. Baylie Linsey led the Lady Mustangs with a game high 22 points. "Defensively, I thought we played much better than we did against Irion County. We did a great job of not fouling in both halves and I thought our man to man defense was real solid in the second half. We held them to 18 points the second half and I was very pleased with that," Eddleman said.

Manske had a team high 7 rebounds followed by C. Taylor with 5, and Bevel 2. Leading the team in steals was Bevel and Manske with 3 each followed by J. Garvin with 2.

"Overall, I thought our defense was good enough to get the win especially in the second half. Unfortunately, we just did not get the job done offensively. We had a poor night shooting from the field and from the free-throw line. I know we are capable of doing better and I expect us to be moving forward," Eddleman added.

Haskell 12 15 3 11 = 41
Sweetwater 15 11 7 11 = 44

JV Maiden results at the Haskell JV Tournament

JV Maidens beat Baird 52-10
JV Maidens beat Sweetwater 35-12
JV Maidens beat Olney 42-16
JV Maidens beat Seymour 41-24 in the Championship game
Jr. High Maiden results against Albany
Mix B won 21-15
7th A won 36-8
8th A lost 25-17

Applications for Financial Assistance from Operation Round Up Accepted Now through November 17

The Operation Round Up program, administered by volunteers on the Big Country Electric Cooperative trust board of directors, allows the cooperative and its members to partner together to provide financial assistance to those in need locally. This program is supported by co-op members whose electric bills are "Rounded Up" to the nearest dollar. The "Round Up" amount goes into the Operation Round Up fund for distribution to individuals and organizations with demonstrated financial need in the counties we serve: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton. Applications are evaluated with the utmost confidence and funding decisions made by the trust's board of directors—your peers and neighbors—who volunteer their time, hearts and consideration to make decisions that will positively impact lives in our communities. Food needs and food banks, shelter, medical bills and health needs, rescue organizations, educational projects, child care programs and other special needs are just a few of the ways this fund helps families and groups in our local communities. Every penny stays right here at home, in the counties we serve.

Applications for assistance will be accepted now through November 17 at 5:00 p.m. Applications, instructions and FAQs are available at bigcountry.coop, just look for the Operation Round Up name or logo. Please contact Sarah McLen at (325) 776-3803 or at smclen@bigcountry.coop with any questions about Operation Roundup.

Big Country Electric Cooperative
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OPERATION ROUND UP



Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service

by Darlene Hopkins, CEA-FCS, Haskell Co.



FOOD SHOW—District 4-H Food Show participants are, l-r, Codie Rae Salinas, Madysen Salinas, Evan Enriquez, Colton Hopkins, Madilyn Moore and Bailey Hawkins.

Haskell Co. 4-H'ers participate in County & District Food Show and Nutrition Quiz Bowl

Haskell County 4-H members participated in the Rolling Plains District 4-H Food Show. It was held Sat., Nov. 5 at the Wilbarger Auditorium in Vernon. The County 4-H Food Show was held Oct. 18 at the First United Methodist Church in Haskell.

In the Food & Nutrition Project, 4-H'ers learn the importance of including foods from each of the basic food groups of My Plate in the daily diet. They learn the principles of nutrition as they relate to health, physical fitness and appearance as well as acquiring and demonstrating skills in planning, purchasing, preparing, and serving tasty, attractive, and nutritious meals and snacks. Four-H is the youth development and leadership program of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Approximately 150 4-H'ers from 24 counties in the Rolling Plains District competed in the District 4-H Food Show. Entrants competed in Senior, Intermediate and Junior Divisions. Each division has four food classes: Protein, Fruit and Vegetable, Grains, and Dairy. Contestants in the district event are all winners of their County Food Show. Senior Division winners in each category of the District Food Show will advance to the State 4-H Food Show next June in College Station.

Contestants reported to the Wilbarger Auditorium in Vernon beginning at 9:00 a.m., Nov. 5. Judging began at 10:00 a.m. Special Beef Awards were given by the Santa Rosa Cattle Women and Wichita Area Cattle Women. Ribbons and awards

are sponsored by the Vernon Chamber of Commerce and AEP Texas and were presented during an awards ceremony at 12:30 p.m. The District 4-H Nutrition Quiz Bowl competition followed immediately after the awards ceremony.

The results are as follows: Senior Fruits and Vegetables, Bailey Hawkins, first place County and District, state qualifier;

Intermediate Grains, Madilyn Moore, first place County and District participation;

Shalee Dunnam, Intermediate Protein, first place County.

Madysen Salinas, Intermediate Fruits and Vegetables, first place County and District participation.

Evan Enriquez, Junior Dairy, first place County and third place District.

Colton Hopkins, Junior Protein, first place County and District;

Codie Rae Salinas, Junior Fruits and Vegetables, first place County and District participation.

Colt Moore, Junior Grains, first place County.

Several Haskell County 4-H'ers also participated and received certificates in the Educational Display and News writing categories. Participating in the

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/>.

Educational Display division were Riley Sloan, Hadley Sloan, Colton Hopkins, Shalee Dunnam, Bailey Hawkins, Madilyn Moore and Colt Moore; News writing: Bailey Hawkins, Shalee Dunnam and Colton Hopkins; Nutrition Quiz Bowl: Madysen Salinas, Colton Hopkins, Evan Enriquez, Codie Rae Salinas and Coach Bette Enriquez.

DSHS offices consolidate

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is consolidating offices in Jones County.

Effective Nov. 29, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) office in Stamford will move to Anson.

The new location is 1301 Commercial Avenue, P.O. Box 31, Anson, Texas 79501. The phone number is 325-823-3285. The fax number is 325-823-3537.

The DSHS Anson office will continue to provide public health services to

Haskell Co. EEA Club news

The Haskell County EEA Club met Thurs., Nov. 10, at the extension office kitchen with six members in attendance. Chairman Kathryn Schonerstedt called the meeting to order. Roll call was answered to "How soon do you put up your Christmas tree?"

County Agent Darlene Hopkins was attending a training meeting, so no 4-H reports were given. Thank you notes were read by secretary Sue McGee. Geraldine Baker, treasurer, gave the financial reports.

Upcoming events were discussed, including the fall training to be held in Seymour Thurs., Nov. 17. Four members plan to attend and Haskell will be responsible for providing hospitality items for the morning brunch.

Christmas party plans were discussed and a committee was appointed to secure a location for this event.

Kathryn Medford presented a very informative program entitled "Dementia and the Caregiver." Topics included were risk factors such as genetics; types and

symptoms; lifestyle factors contributing to the illness; and diagnosis and treatment. The importance of caring for the caregiver and providing outlets and time away was stressed. It was reported that medications can manage and help control progression of the disease, so early diagnosis and intervention is crucial.

Hostesses for the meeting were Geraldine Baker and Sue McGee.

The December Christmas party is scheduled for Dec. 8 at a location to be determined. Anyone is welcome to attend and may call the local extension office or any member for more information.

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Happy Thanksgiving
from the staff of
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Shelley Myers, RN
Jeryl Anne Cooper, LVN
Vicky Cochran, LVN
Jalenn Coleman, Secretary
Patricia Hemphill, HHA
Charles Townsend, PT
Haskell Home Health Agency
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From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago

November 16, 2006

Chosen as Football Sweetheart and Hero for Haskell High School were Ashton Rutkowski and Gary Frierson.

Bill Taylor of Arlington, was presented an honorary diploma from Rochester High School, during the Veterans' Day program. Taylor volunteered for World War II prior to his senior year at Rochester.

Mildred Robertson celebrated her 90th birthday with a party at the First Baptist Church Activity Center. The party was hosted by her four daughters Jeanette Curry, Patsy Blakley, Sharon Isbell and Deanna Robertson.

20 Years Ago

November 14, 1996



by Jimi Coplen, DCOH Resources for Small Business
There are many resources available to help small businesses in Haskell. Organizations like the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Workforce Solutions in Abilene cover Haskell County. Texas State Technical College (TSTC) also has programs to help small businesses in Haskell. These organizations want to connect with your business and get their services out to you.

The SBDC exists to help small business owners and entrepreneurs like you to increase sales, expand your business, start a new business, manage human resource issues and run your business better. They have a powerful online database as well as one-on-one counseling, workshops, seminars and training to provide you with information and assistance to help any situation. This includes things like creating a business plan, market and research analysis, pursuing government contracts, financial planning, marketing and even international trade. They can help you with any of these things.

Workforce Solutions is another organization that

Correction

On the Veterans' Day page that appeared in the Thurs., Nov. 10 issue of the Haskell Free Press, the man identified as O.T. Johnson is not Mr. Johnson. The family did not know the identity of the man whose picture was submitted as Johnson.

Junior High band students making the district band include Nathan Long, trombone; Jessica Rieger, French horn; and Trisha Horan, clarinet. Selected for the High School district band was Cody Caraway, trumpet, with Chris McSmith and Josh Roysdon as alternates.

Wendy Gray and Chancey Pogue were named Football Sweetheart and Hero, during the pep rally held for the Indians vs. Archer City game.

The Haskell Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting during the grand opening of Kids Kottage. John Trammell, grandson of E.J. and Elizabeth Stewart of Haskell, is the owner.

30 Years Ago

November 13, 1986

New officers for the

Haskell Kiwanis Club are Abe Turner, president; Robert Baker, vice president; Joe Cortez, secretary; and Darold Roberson, treasurer.

Boy Scout Troop 148 of Paint Creek, has reorganized. The troop folded in the early 70s. Waller Overton will serve as scout master. New members include Hans Overton, Shawn Barbour, Geovanny Mayer, Roman and Dane Morgan.

Darla Kaye Griffis has been inducted into the Psi Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Western Texas College in Snyder. The daughter of Donald and Gracie Griffis of Weinert, she is a psychology major.

40 Years Ago

November 11, 1976

Debbie Stubblefield was crowned as the Haskell High School Band Sweetheart by band president John Cox, during the pep rally. She was escorted by David Gray.

The end of an era was witnessed by onlookers this week as the sign from Oates Drug Store was removed from the "same old corner." The store has operated under the name Oates Drug Store since 1915. Owner Doyle High has opened a new store on the southwest corner of the square.

The Indian twirlers, as well as the Haskell Indian Band received superior ratings at the UIL Marching Contest in Abilene. Twirlers are Kim Drinnon, Jill Adkins, Cindy Ivey, Patricia Arredondo, Sarah Cortez, Karon Gray, Vicki Bledsoe and Sonya Tidow.

50 Years Ago

November 17, 1966

Mattson High School held its annual Harvest Festival with games and activities for all ages. Candidates for Harvest Festival Queen and King were freshmen Debbie Campbell and Mike Guess, sophomores Susan Weise and Robert Warner, juniors Janice Moeller and Jerry O'Keefe, and seniors Diana Davis and Frankie Don White.

Rochester native Pfc Horace Hatfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Hatfield of Rochester, participated in "Operation Seward," with the 10th Aviation Battalion. This mission which flew over 12,000 "sorties" insuring the Vietnamese protection as they reaped their crops, while denying the rice to the Viet Cong.

100 Years Ago

November 11, 1916

Some much needed furniture for the high school is expected this week. The record shows that the present attendance at Haskell High School is larger than ever before. The superintendent has been forced to discourage non-residents from coming to Haskell High.

The Rabbit Hunters Association of Haskell County was organized this week in the office of Justice of the Peace S.A. Hughes. It is the intention of the association to help exterminate the pest.

Cotton reached the 19 cent mark here on Monday, and several bales were sold on our streets at that price.

Bobcats fall to Crowell

The Rule Bobcats fell to the Crowell Wildcats 68-20 in a game played Thurs., Nov. 10.

Bobcat Chase Thompson completed 12 passes for 128 yards and had a total of 42 yards rushing in 16 attempts for one touchdown.

Bobcat Mason Helms caught two passes for 75 yards and two touchdowns. Rule's Adolfo Gonzalez

Rule Chamber sponsors Veterans' Day program

The Rule Chamber of Commerce hosted a Veterans' Day Program at the Slim Sorrells' Memorial Park Fri., Nov. 11. Members of the Rule Volunteer Fire Department raised the American flag.

Fourteen veterans, in attendance, were recognized. The veterans honored for their service were Bob Clark, Phil Little, Terry McKennon, Donnis Nicholson, Tim Holt, Chris Davis, Cliff Morris, Scott Burgess, Curtis Darden, Wade Gomillion, Bobby Robinson, Jim Kowalski, John Rike and W.L. Wolf.

Also recognized were men and women, from Rule, currently serving in the military: D.J. and Stephanie Hall, Darryl Williams, Steven Anderson, Cole Rutherford, Jonah Caddell, Jacob Navarrette and Jessica Gutierrez.

The firing detail, all



GUEST SPEAKER—Lt. Col. W.L. Wolf (Ret.) was the guest speaker at the Rule Veterans' Day program held in Slim Sorrells' Park.

veterans, consisted of Wade Gomillion, Bobby Robinson, Curtis Darden, Cliff Morris, Chris Davis and Scott Burgess.

Students in pre-k through

fifth grades, directed by Ellen Rieger, sang Military Anthem Medleys.

Guest speaker Lt. Col. W.L. Wolf (Ret.) gave a very inspirational message.



VETERANS—Veterans attending the Veterans' Day program, sponsored by the Rule Chamber of Commerce, were front row, l-r, Bobby Robinson, Jim Kowalski, W.L. Wolf, Chris Davis and Terry McKennon; back row, Bob Clark, John Rike, Phil Little, Donnis Nicholson, Wade Gomillion, Jacob Navarrette, Curtis Darden, Tim Holt, Cliff Morris and Scott Burgess.



ELEMENTARY SINGERS—The Rule Elementary pre-k through fifth grade students, directed by Ellen Rieger, sang Military Anthem Medleys during the Veterans' Day program in Rule.

Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service

by Jason Westbrook, CEA-Ag, Haskell Co.

Stink Bug Outbreak in Texas High Plains Cotton: What Can We Do Better Next Season?
by Suhas Vyavhare and Katelyn Kowles

This season we experienced unusually high numbers of conchuela stink bugs in Texas High Plains cotton (parts of eastern Lubbock and Crosby counties in particular). Stink bug numbers peaked during August-September when plants were loaded with tender bolls that stink bugs feed on with their piercing-sucking mouthparts.

Farmers who spotted stink bugs early and took timely action are now reaping the benefits. However, those who missed an insecticide application in infested fields are seeing severe stink bug damage now that bolls have opened. A few infested fields we visited last week have very little to harvest due to the extent of boll damage by

stink bugs.

During August-September, stink bug numbers were overwhelmingly high in spots—in some fields numbers were over 2-3 stink bugs per boll. When stink bugs feed on tender bolls, it can result in lint staining or allow pathogens to enter and cause boll rot; smaller bolls may be aborted altogether. As we are now towards the end of the growing season, there are many who want to know what can be done differently for the next season.

The fact is there is not much we can do beforehand when it comes to stink bugs as there are no specific effective cultural practices or resistant varieties available. The best thing farmers can

do is regular field scouting. Bolls that have been fed on by stink bugs will typically have a black mark on the outside. It is critical to scout fields for stink bugs especially in areas with the known history of this pest.

Our field observations indicate that stink bug population build-up started on grain sorghum and as the grain became too hard for the bugs to pierce with their mouthparts, they moved to adjacent cotton.

We will provide more information on stink bug scouting and management when we approach the next growing season. Meanwhile, as we wrap up the current season, the best thing we can do is learn from our experience and scout better next time.

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor:

The 2016 High School Girls' Basketball Scrimmage and the JV Girls' Basketball Tournament was a huge success! The JV and varsity Maidens got to play against some good teams at the scrimmage. And, the JV Maidens went undefeated at the JV Girls' Tournament and won the championship.

The girls and I would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time in the concession stand, score table, ticket gate, and the coaches for helping referee the JV

tournament.

We would also like to say a special thank you to Shane Hadaway for being the JV Girls' Basketball Tournament Director for the second year in a row! In addition, we would like to thank all of our wonderful fans who showed up to support these two basketball events.

We greatly appreciate everyone's support and commitment to the Maiden basketball program!

Blake Eddleman
Head Girls' Basketball Coach

The Haskell Free Press

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This issue mailed Wed., Nov. 16, 2016



Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service

by Jason Westbrook, CEA-Ag, Haskell Co.

Cattle Trails Cow-Calf Conference set Dec. 1 in Lawton

Writer: Kay Ledbetter, 806-677-5608, skledbetter@ag.tamu.edu
Contacts: Dr. Emi Kimura, 940-552-9941 ext. 233, emi.kimura@ag.tamu.edu
Marty New, 580-255-0546, marty.new@okstate.edu
For ranchers in Texas and Oklahoma, tough marketing times with low cattle prices make it more critical than ever for their operations to become more efficient productively and financially, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialist said.

Experts and the latest information can be found at the annual Cattle Trails Cow-Calf Conference—Driving Your Cattle to Profit, to be held Dec. 1 at the Comanche County Fairgrounds Annex Building, 920 S.W. Sheridan Road, Lawton, Oklahoma.

The conference is a joint effort between the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

This annual conference provides up-to-date information on topics that will influence cattle profits, said Dr. Emi Kimura, AgriLife Extension agronomist in

Vernon. Registration is \$25 and includes educational materials, a noon meal and refreshments. For purposes of meal planning, preregistration is encouraged. To preregister, contact your local county Extension office in Texas or Oklahoma, or contact Marty New at 580-255-0546 or marty.new@okstate.edu. A registration form can be found at http://bit.ly/2eWLSwZ.

Kimura said the expected audience is cattle operators from the Texas Rolling Plains, North Texas and southern Oklahoma. The conference alternates between Texas and Oklahoma, where two of the more famous cattle trails—Chisholm and Great Western—crossed.

“We have discussed the Veterinary Feed Directive in the past conferences,” she said. “We will once again provide a last-minute opportunity to ask questions, learn and prepare for this important topic in the upcoming conference. Each of these speakers is known on the local, state and national scale.”

The program will include the following topics and speakers:

•Beef Cattle Market Outlook and Update, Dr.

Derrell Peel, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service livestock economist, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

•Beef Cow and Resource Utilization, Dr. Ted McCollum, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist, Amarillo.

•Maximizing Forage Resources and Cow-calf Operations, Dr. Ryan Reuter, Oklahoma State University associate professor in the department of animal science, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

•Weather Outlook, Gary McManus, Oklahoma State University state climatologist, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

•Evaluating Cover Crops for Forage Production, Dr. Jason Warren, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service soil and water conservation/management specialist, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

•Last Minute Preparations for the Veterinary Feed Directive, Dr. Barry Whitworth, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service food/animal quality and health—Southeast area veterinarian, Ada, Oklahoma.

Industry sponsors also will have their products on display during the event.

Paint Creek honor rolls listed

Paint Creek ISD has released the names of students appearing on the A and A-B honor rolls for the second six weeks of school.

First grade: A honor roll, Brianna Clary and Kamryn Delmasso; A-B honor roll, Lukas Jones, Kaelem Nystrom and Jenna Scheets.

Second grade: A honor roll, Brycen Reyna; A-B honor roll, Colton Blair, Adrian Castorena, Carissa Elkin, Urijah Livingston, Adrianna Ramos and Cort Rogers.

Third grade: A-B honor roll, Alyssa Anguiano, Harry Boyd, Aaron Gonzales, Zak Jones and Maddy Tucker.

Fourth grade: A honor roll, Melanie Clary and Katie Perez; A-B honor roll, Andrew Castorena, Eden Graham, Natalya Mays, Cayden Rogers, Audie Shaw and Alisa Walburg.

Fifth grade: A honor roll, Adrian Anguiano, Sirena Baiza, Stetson Blair, Mark Hall, Cowan Rogers and Phaiden Spikes; A-B honor roll, Roland Cisneros.

Sixth grade: A-B honor roll, Levi Rhoads.

Seventh grade: A-B honor roll, Ana Hall, Ethan Jenkins and Dylan Souther.

Eighth grade: A honor roll, Zak Elkins; A-B honor roll, Haylee Garcia, Ashton

Grand and Eric Perkins.

Ninth grade: A honor roll, Desiree Acosta, Jaclyn Snelling and Bailee Thomas; A-B honor roll, Madilyn Davis.

Tenth grade: A-B honor roll, Manuel Acosta, George Bogle, Bailey Hawkins and Angelique Steele.

Eleventh grade: A honor roll, Felicity Hannsz.

Twelfth grade: A honor roll, Devon Benitez, Catherine Lemond, Corey Mengwasser and Buddy Trotter; A-B honor roll, Angel Chavez, Sabrina Conn, Sara Edwards, Hannah Grand and Aaron Wolf.



Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service

by Darlene Hopkins, CEA-FCS, Haskell Co.

Tailgating and picnicking safely this football season

With fall weather and football season, “tailgating” and picnicking become popular activities. Tailgate parties and picnics can be lots of fun, with good friends and good food. Do not let your fun be spoiled by foodborne illness.

Foodborne illness, with its stomach cramps, diarrhea, nausea, headaches, and maybe even vomiting, can result from the improper handling of foods. The pathogens that cause foodborne illness grow at temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees F. This is called the “danger zone.” Foods prepared for outdoor eating can enter into the danger zone even when the weather is cool.

What foods are risky? Almost any food can be a source of hazardous bacteria, but most hazardous foods are moist and contain protein, these are known as “Time Control for Safety (TCS) Foods.” This includes meats, poultry, fish, seafood, eggs and dairy products (cream pies, custards and pastries that have cream fillings). Do not leave these foods in danger zone temperatures for more than two hours. Perishable foods or dishes containing

perishable foods should be kept either hot (at or above 140 degrees F) or cold (40 degrees F or below). How do you do this?

Hot foods such as chili, soups, stews and dips can be transported safely in a thermos if it has no cracks or leaks. Check the seal of the thermos for a tight fit. Keep the thermos clean, then right before use, rinse it with boiling water. Bring food to a boil before pouring it in the thermos. Try to prepare just enough to serve your guests without having leftovers. Discard leftovers if you cannot store them properly.

Wrap hot casseroles in several layers of aluminum foil, followed by newspapers and a towel. Or, use insulated containers. Hot casseroles should be served within two hours.

Cold foods can be transported in an ice chest with ice or cold packs to keep the foods below 40 degrees F. Pack the food in shallow containers and pre-chill them before placing them in the ice chest. Keep sandwiches cold or eat them within two hours.

Watch the clock on ready-to-eat and fast food, too. Fried chicken, deli foods, pizza and hamburgers, for example, should be purchased just before the party and eaten within two

hours. Or, purchase these foods in advance, refrigerate them until party time, and then reheat them.

When you don't have time to take proper precautions, serve only non-perishable foods. Try canned meats, dried or cured meats, some hard cheeses, peanut butter, dried fruits, breads, cereal mixes, nuts and popcorn.

Once the party starts, follow through with safe food handling practices. Keep hands, utensils and dinnerware clean (disposables make that easier to do). Spread a clean table cloth on the tailgate or picnic table and enjoy.

To enjoy a tailgate party or picnic without later distress:

•Plan your menu to fit the situation.

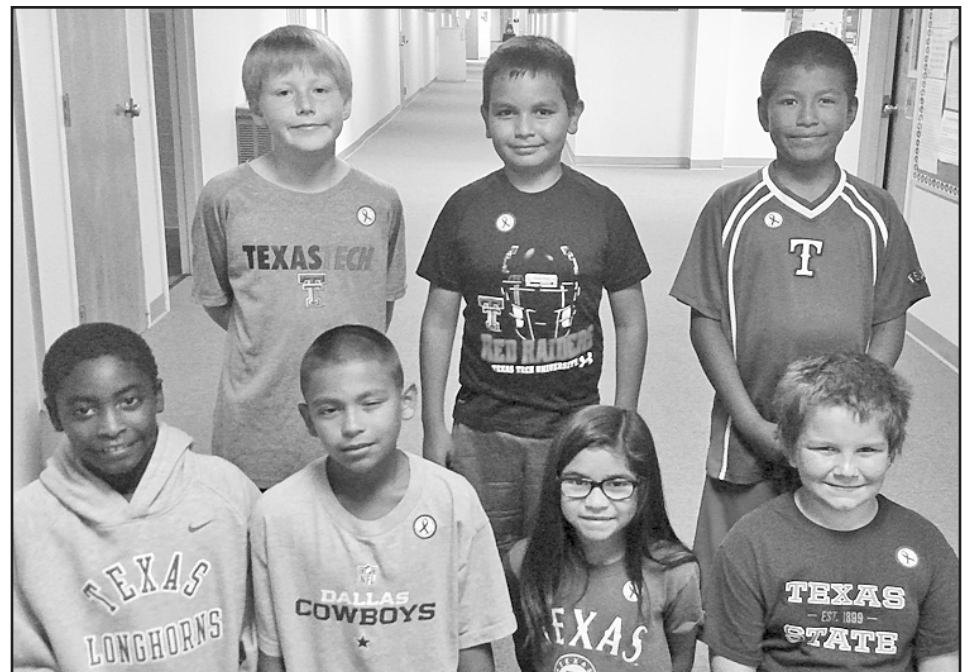
•Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold.

•Don't let perishable foods stay in the “danger zone” (40 to 140 degrees F) for more than two hours.

•Keep everything clean to avoid contamination.

•Take proper care of leftovers, or throw them away.

For more information on food safety tailgating or picnicking, contact your local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences—Darlene Hopkins at 940-864-2658.



TEAM UP AGAINST DRUGS—The Rule Elementary fourth grade students teamed up against drugs. Students are, front row, l-r, Kyleik Mason, Tristan Watson, Jelena Alvarez and Junior Green; back row, Kyle Adkins, Juan Hernandez and Julio Tapia.

Rule ISD releases honor rolls

Rule ISD has released the names of students appearing on the A and A-B honor rolls and the perfect attendance roll for the second six weeks of school.

Pre-K: Perfect attendance, Amanie Graciano, Coral Hernandez, Achilles Martinez and Brayden Vance.

Kindergarten: Perfect attendance, Justin Caldwell, Layne Hertel, Rylan Johnson, Elijah Nicholson, Jordan Olivera, Lucas Pippin and Callie Sorley.

First grade: A honor roll, Jazmin Amaya, Savannah Farquhar and Lezli Manske; A-B honor roll, Cheyenne Guzman, Hannah Hertel, Bradley Parnell, K.K. Vasquez; perfect attendance, Jazmin Amaya, Cheyenne Guzman, Hannah Hertel, Kynzleah Hertel, Lezli Manske, Emma Vance, Tyreike Vanderbilt and K.K. Vasquez.

Second grade: A honor roll, Madisyn Hollabaugh, Jayde Leek, Natalie Murray and Conner Russell; A-B honor roll, Arena Caldwell, Leslie Caldwell, Lillian Penman, Haylee Stone and Ryleigh Thompson; perfect attendance, Leslie Caldwell, Madisyn Hollabaugh and Jayde Leek.

Third grade: A honor roll, Jason Hernandez and Kaitlyn Saffel; A-B honor roll, Waylynn Caldwell, Dylan Campbell, Samantha Farquhar, Nevaeh Frazier, Octavious Guzman, Skylor Kreger, Skylar Leek, Lacoste Navarrette, Leland Short, Kaylee Silvas and Abigail Watson; perfect attendance, Waylynn Caldwell, Octavious Guzman, Jason Hernandez, Skylor Kreger, Skylar Leek, Kaylee Silvas and Abby Watson.

Fourth grade: A-B honor roll, Kyle Adkins, Diego Amaya, Hailey Garcia, Juan Hernandez, Jelena Alvarez and Alanna Parnell; perfect attendance, Diego Amaya, Hailey Garcia, Juan Hernandez, Jelena Alvarez, Frankie Olivera, Julio Tapia and Tristan Watson.

Fifth grade: A honor roll, Shelby Saffel; A-B honor roll, Astrid Guzman; perfect

attendance, Astrid Guzman, Geneva Pauley and Shelby Saffel.

Sixth grade: A-B honor roll, Karleigh Hertel, Karcin Smith and Trinity Whorton; perfect attendance, Karleigh Hertel, Patrick Lightfoot, Ragen Thompson and Julian Trevino.

Seventh grade: A honor roll, Lenzi Manske and Abigail Ortiz; A-B honor roll, Jaella Alvarez, Macy Rogers and Jaci Watson; perfect attendance, Kurt Leek, Lenzi Manske, Jaella Alvarez, Marissa Mora, Abigail Ortiz, Macy Rogers and Jaci Watson.

Eighth grade: A honor roll, Jysela Alvarez and Christian Speck; A-B honor roll, Kayla Hollingsworth and Taylor Silvas; perfect attendance, Kayla Hollingsworth, Dean Kreger, Jysela Alvarez and Michael Medford.

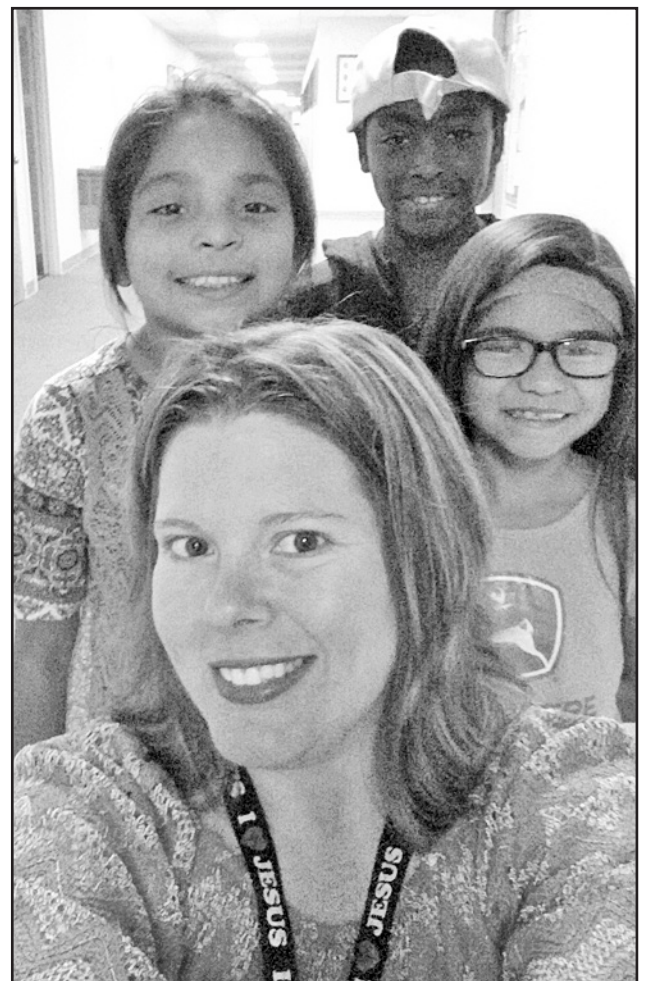
Ninth grade: A honor roll, Danny Kreger and Ian Sotelo; A-B honor roll, Kennedy Fritzler, Cheyenne Kreger and Madalyn Navarrette;

perfect attendance, Kennedy Fritzler, Danny Kreger, Madalyn Navarrette, Bobby Nieto and Ian Sotelo.

Tenth grade: A honor roll, Del Fritzler, McKenzie Gray and Kourtney Hertel; A-B honor roll, Leann Manske and Angel Navarrette; perfect attendance, Isaiah Castillo, Del Fritzler and Chase Thompson.

Eleventh grade: A honor roll, Christina Moore; A-B honor roll, Kaysen Barnett, Mason Helms, Brandon Mitchell, Thomas Short, Samantha Snell, Emily Speck and J.J. Walters; perfect attendance, Adolfo Gonzalez, Brandon Mitchell, Christina Moore, Thomas Short and Samantha Snell.

Twelfth grade: A honor roll, Alyssa Hollabaugh and Austin Redden; A-B honor roll, Chase Helms, Devin Martinez, Ron Mitchell, Cole Tabb and Hunter Threet; perfect attendance, Ron Mitchell, Jacob Navarrette, Austin Redden and Cole Tabb.



RULE PINK OUT—Rule Elementary students participated in pink out against drugs recently. Pictured, front, Amanda Baker-Adkins, teacher; back, l-r, Haley Garcia, Kyleik Mason and Jelena Alvarez.

Haskell Goodfellows now accepting donations

The Haskell Goodfellows will distribute Christmas packages to needy families again this year. The project will be conducted as it has in previous years and a sincere effort will be made to provide a Christmas package of useful items to those who might not otherwise have provisions for Christmas.

On Sat., Dec. 3 and Sat., Dec. 10, the names of those who qualify for the Goodfellows project may be placed by application at Haskell City Hall between 1 and 3 p.m.

This year's Goodfellows project will be a joint effort between the Haskell Lions Club, the Haskell County Child Welfare Board and the Haskell Volunteer Fire Department. The Lions Club will take care of the food portion of the project; the Child Welfare Board will handle the toys and clothes and the Fire Department will handle delivery.

Haskell Lions Club officers are John Hicks, president; Tom Bassett, vice-president; and Donnie Rieger, secretary-treasurer.

If you would like to

help with this project by donating food, toys, money or clothes, contact any member of the Lions Club for more information.

All cash donations may be mailed to the Haskell Goodfellows, P.O. Box 555, Haskell, Texas 79521.

Aggie Moms

The Abilene Area Aggie Moms' Club will meet Mon., Nov. 21 at 6:45 p.m. at the Coldwell Banker Panian & Mash building, 2500 S. Willis, Abilene. A light supper will be served. For more information, contact Risha Sanders at 325-725-4041.



TEACHER HONORED—Patsy Blakley, center, was selected as the October elementary teacher of the month award winner, sponsored by Spring Market. The award was presented by her principal, Jimmy Lisle, left, and Dale VanHooser, right, representing the Haskell Spring Market. Lisle stated that Blakley, a RTI and dyslexia coordinator that teaches balance literacy at Haskell Elementary, wears many hats. She is a reading specialist, serves on the LPac and 504 committees. She previously served on the site base committee and has served the school district for 43 years. She received a gift basket, gift certificate and a plaque from Spring Market. VanHooser said that the new program recognizes teachers that go above and beyond, shaping the youth of Haskell in positive ways.



TEACHER HONORED—Tara Hollingsworth, center, was selected as the October junior high school teacher of the month award winner, sponsored by Spring Market. The award was presented by her principal, Kent Colley, left, and Dale VanHooser, right, representing the Haskell Spring Market. Colley stated that Hollingsworth has served students at Haskell CISD for eleven years. Hollingsworth has been the junior high and high school Special Ed director for five years. She is instrumental in taking care of the students and all the red tape paperwork that goes along with this position. She has a heart for helping students that is easily seen amongst her peers, her students and administration alike. Hollingsworth received a gift basket, gift certificate and a plaque from Spring Market. VanHooser said that the new program recognizes teachers that go above and beyond, shaping the youth of Haskell in positive ways.

Carbon monoxide season is here

Fall weather brings a sharp increase in carbon monoxide poisonings. As people turn on heating systems and light up fireplaces for the first time in months, the potential for carbon monoxide buildup in homes rises.

“Hundreds of people die every year of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning, which is particularly sad because it’s so easily preventable,” says Dr. Deborah Diercks, Chairman of Emergency Medicine at

UT Southwestern Medical Center. “Carbon monoxide is produced any time you burn fuel in cars, trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, or furnaces.” Carbon monoxide exposure causes nausea,

headache, sleepiness and, ultimately, death. You can’t rely on your nose to detect carbon monoxide, since it’s odorless, so a working carbon monoxide detector in your home is important. To help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Have your heating system checked once a year by a qualified technician.
- Have your chimney cleaned annually to be sure it’s clear of debris and vents properly.
- Don’t use a gas range or oven to heat your home.

- Don’t use charcoal grills or camp stoves indoors.
- Don’t use a gas generator inside your home or garage.
- Don’t use homemade patches, such as duct tape, to repair a vent pipe.



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Public Notices
 more or less, out of the J. Pointevent Survey No. 5; 3.25 acres, more or less, out of the Thomas B. Starkey Survey No. 4; and All of Lots Nos. 1, 2, and 3, Block 24, Original Town of Sagerton, Haskell County, Texas. You may respond to Petitioner at the following address: c/o L.W. (Bill) Jones, III, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 1085, Haskell, TX 79521. 44-47c

Public Notices
 Accountability Rating Paint Creek ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on December 15th in the Board Room at the Paint Creek School, 4485 FM 600, Haskell, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Paint Creek ISD’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system.46c



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 UNKNOWN HEIRS OF H.G. HANSON, DECEASED DEMAND FOR REIMBURSEMENT
 In compliance with Chapter 29 of the Texas Property Code, Susan Black and the Heirs of Wayne Winfred Kitley, Deceased, (Petitioner) hereby makes demand on the Unknown Heirs of H.G. Hanson, Deceased, (Defendant) for reimbursement of Defendant’s share of ad valorem taxes (covering an undivided 0.0712 interest) heretofore paid by Petitioner on the following described real property located in Haskell County, Texas: Being 217.67 acres,

Public Notices
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PAINT CREEK ISD’S State Financial

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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—**REDUCED**
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811 N. 3RD, MUNDAY—3/2. \$57,500—**NEW**
341 N. H, MUNDAY—2/1. \$42,000—**NEW**
1041 W. CISCO, MUNDAY—2/1. \$39,000—**PENDING**
11624 FM 617 ON 80 +/- AC.—2/2. \$180,000—**NEW**
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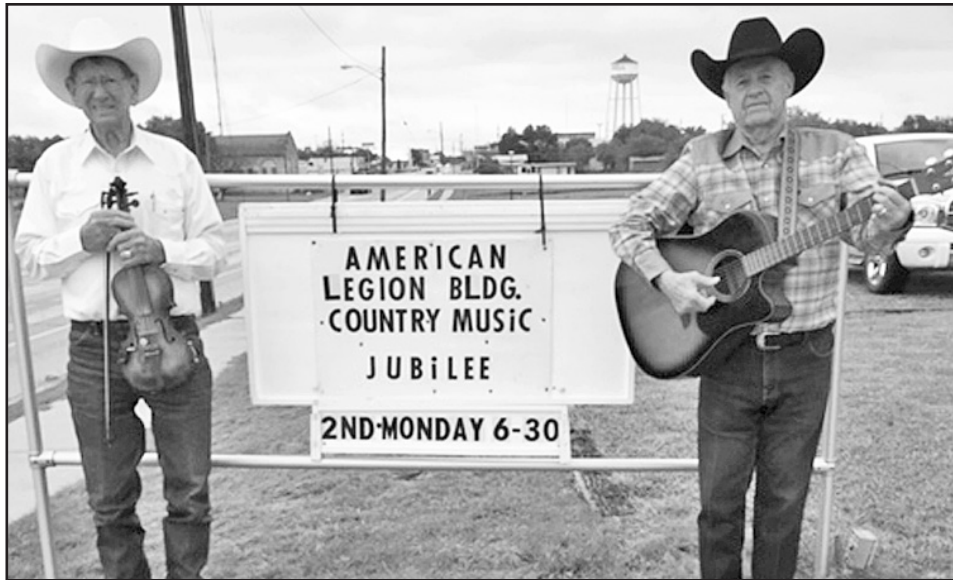
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MUSIC JUBILEE—The Haskell Country Music Jubilee is held the second Monday of the month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Haskell. Jack Drury, left, and Cliff Morris, right invite those interested in playing and listening to come and enjoy the fun.

USDA helps farmers protect sensitive lands through CRP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will issue nearly \$1.7 billion in payments to more than half of a million Americans who have contracts with the government to protect sensitive agricultural lands. The investment, part of the voluntary USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), will allow producers to protect almost 24 million acres of wetlands, grasslands and wildlife habitat in 2016.

CRP provides financial assistance to farmers and ranchers who remove environmentally sensitive land from production to be planted with certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and increase wildlife habitat. In return for enrolling in CRP, USDA, through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Landowners enter into contracts that last between 10 and 15 years.

"We have seen record demand to participate in this important program," said Vilsack. "Despite the current enrollment limit of 24 million acres, USDA is committed to continuing our important partnerships with farmers, ranchers, state and local governments and sportsmen to maintain the environmental benefits provided by the Conservation Reserve Program."

More than 1.3 million acres were newly enrolled in CRP in fiscal year 2016 using the continuous enrollment authority, double the pace of the previous year. In fiscal year 2016, FSA also accepted 411,000 acres through its general enrollment authority, plus 101,000 acres in the new CRP-Grasslands program, which balances conservation with working lands. More than 70 percent of the acres enrolled in CRP-Grasslands are diverse native grasslands under threat of conversion, with more than 97 percent of the acres having a new, veteran or underserved farmer or rancher as a primary producer.

During its 30-year history, CRP has reduced nitrogen and phosphorous runoff by 95 and 85 percent, respectively, and restored 2.7 million acres of wetlands. It has also protected more than 170,000 stream miles with riparian buffers, enough to go around the world seven times. The program provides 15 million acres that are beneficial to pollinators, and hundreds of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat that has resurrected waterfowl and gamebird populations, like pheasants, quail and prairie chicken.

CRP has sequestered an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking nine million cars off the road, and prevented nine billion tons of soil from erosion, enough to fill 600 million dump trucks.

For more information about CRP, contact your local FSA office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crpis30 or follower Twitter at #CRPi30 for program anniversary background and success stories. To locate your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA works to strengthen and support American agriculture, an

industry that supports one in 11 American jobs, provides American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food we consume, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials. Since 2009, USDA has provided \$5.6 billion in disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; expanded risk management tools with products like Whole Farm Revenue Protection; and helped farm businesses grow with \$36 billion in farm credit. The Department has engaged its resources to support a strong next generation of farmers and ranchers by improving access to land and capital; building new markets and market opportunities; and extending new conservation opportunities. USDA has developed new markets for rural-made products, including more than 2,700 biobased products through USDA's BioPreferred program; and invested \$64 billion in infrastructure and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/results.

Calendar

75th anniversary

Charles and Leatrice Swinson of Haskell are celebrating their seventy-fifth wedding anniversary with a come-and-go party at Haskell Healthcare Center, 1501 N. First in Haskell Sat., Dec. 17 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. No gifts, please.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon meets Thursday evenings at 8

p.m. at the AA building across from the RV park in Haskell.

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.

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



ATTEND FCCLA MEETING—Rule FCCLA members who attended the fall leadership meeting were Kaysen Barnett, Samantha Snell, Chase Thompson, Alysia Hollabaugh, Rinaldo Chavez, Joseph Chavez, Kennedy Fritzler, Lauryn Crane, Del Fritzler, McKenzie Gray, Kourtney Hertel, Brandon Mitchell, Leann Manske, Mason Helms, Madalyn Navarrette, Christina Moore, Michael Medford, Jacob Navarrette, Emily Speck, J.W. Eppler and Fabian Hollingsworth.



Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service

by Darlene Hopkins, CEA-FCS, Haskell Co.

Safe handling of wild game this hunting season

It is that time of year, hunting season! For many, it is considered the best time of year. The majority of individuals who hunt do so to provide food for their families. Many prefer the taste of venison over other choices of meat. Venison is high in many vitamins and minerals our bodies need, such as thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, iron and calcium. Venison is traditionally lower in cholesterol than many other meats, thus making it a more desirable product.

To have a quality, safe meal this hunting season, there are several things you must do to ensure your kill is safe to consume. Follow these tips from field to plate this hunting season.

- Never handle or consume wild animals that appear sick or that were acting abnormally.
- Practice good personal hygiene in the field by packing disposable gloves and sanitizer wipes.
- Have clean knives/tools to use while field dressing.
- Carry a tarp or something to place between the carcass/tools and the ground to help prevent contamination.
- Pay attention to the weather. Field dress as soon as possible to help reduce body heat. When temperatures are above 40°F, pathogens

have the opportunity to grow more rapidly, potentially causing a health risk.

• Never wrap the carcass in plastic or a tarp to "keep clean" during transport. This does not allow the carcass to start cooling properly; it only traps the heat, keeping the meat at temperatures in the danger zone (40°F-140°F). Packing ice in the carcass will help keep meat cool during transport.

• Be sure the internal temperature is cold prior to placing cuts of meat in insulated coolers. Always use ice or blocks of ice to keep cool during transport.

• Do not hold/store carcasses outdoors in warm temperatures. Process the carcass as soon as possible.

• Do not handle or eat brain, spinal cord, spleen or lymph nodes of game.

• Use a meat thermometer to cook meat to proper internal temperatures

(minimum 160°F for all types of meat from ground or fresh venison; 165°F for the breast of game birds, waterfowl, and whole birds), as this will help ensure harmful bacteria are killed and meat is not overcooked. The color of meat is an unreliable indicator of proper cooking.

The next time you go hunting, plan ahead for your safety and the safety of the meat you are harvesting.

Hunting takes time, hard work, dedication and patience to be successful. The last thing you want to do is to mishandle the carcass/meat, which could possibly lead to foodborne illness.

For more information on food safety while hunting, contact your local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Haskell County: Darlene Hopkins—Family & Consumer Science (FCS) County Extension Agent, 940-864-2658.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the voters of Precinct 2 for supporting and electing me to be your commissioner. I look forward to serving not only you, but all the citizens of Haskell County. I am here for you, so please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns that you might have.

Once again, thank you for your vote and support.

Elmer Adams

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Elmer Adams



Helping Young Farmers Grow

Young farmers and ranchers, and those just starting out, face special challenges in the Ag business. So we offer an extra hand.

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