

Happy New Year

The Haskell Free Press

VOL. 123-NO. 1, ©JANUARY 1, 2009

"The People's Choice"

8 PAGES-ONE SECTION-75 CENTS

Basketball

HASKELL
JVB-VB vs Roby
 Fri., Jan. 2, 5 & 8 p.m.
 at Roby
JVG-VG vs Rotan
 Tues., Jan. 6, 5 p.m.
 at Rotan
7-8 Girls vs Rotan
 Mon., Jan. 5, 5 p.m.
 at Rotan
7-8 Boys vs Rotan
 Mon., Jan. 5, 5 p.m.
 at Rochester
JVB-VB vs Sundown
 Tues., Jan. 6, TBA
 at Spur
PAINT CREEK
VG-VB vs Knox City
 Fri., Jan. 2, 12 noon
 at Paint Creek
VG-VB vs Lueders-Avoca
 Tues., Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.
 at Paint Creek
RULE
VG-JVB-VB vs Woodson
 Fri., Jan. 2, 5 p.m.
 at Rule
VG-VB vs Jayton
 Tues., Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.
 at Jayton

Calendar

Youth center survey available for comment

A survey in reference to the development of a teen center in Haskell is available for community response at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=doDsUpz0ywns1vM2fJzCg_3d_3d. Citizens are encouraged to log on to the link and express their thoughts on the center by filling out the survey.

Study Club to meet Jan. 8

The Progressive Study Club will meet Thurs., Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Haskell National Bank Community Room for a program on Federation and conservation. Pam Norton will present a program on the highlights of 35 years of the History and Missions of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Jr. Livestock Show and Sale set Jan. 8-10

The arrival times, show schedules and the sale date for the Haskell County Livestock Show include: steers, heifers, lambs and swine Thurs., Jan. 8 by 4 p.m.; poultry and rabbits by 5:30 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 8. Show times are: poultry and rabbits, Thurs., Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.; lambs, Fri., Jan. 9 at 8 a.m. followed by swine; steers begin at 2 p.m. followed by heifers. The sale will begin at 11 a.m. Sat., Jan. 10.

Index

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



SANTA'S HELPERS- The Haskell Goodfellows packed 50 boxes of food, toys and clothes for needy citizens of Haskell. The Haskell Lions Club and members of the community worked together to fill the boxes Tues., Dec. 23. The Haskell Volunteer Fire Department delivered the boxes Christmas Eve morning. Helping fill the boxes were, front row, l-r, Linda Haynes, Kim Hammes, and Aubrey Bassett; second row, Donnie Rieger, Jessica Rieger, Melinda Brueggeman, Melodee Christian, Kristi Christian, Jennifer Burgess, Brooke Bullinger, Ellen Rieger and Jordan Burson; back row, Brian Burgess, John Hicks and Tommy Watson.

Teenage prescription medication abuse prevention begins at home

By Caron Yates

The beginning of a new year for many is a time to reflect on our past year's failures or short comings and pledge to "get it right" in the coming year. Resolutions are made with the best of intentions. A common resolution heard is "pay more attention to my family."

With that thought in mind, Rod Pruitt, Title IV-Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Consultant for the Region 14 Educational Service Center, says we must all pay closer attention in order to help stop a very serious problem of prescription medication abuse, especially by teenagers.

According to information from Abbott and The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, every day 2,500 teenagers use a prescription drug to get high for the first time. Twelve to seventeen year olds abuse prescription drugs more than they abuse ecstasy, crack/cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine combined.

How is this possible? They are getting these drugs in the comfort of their own home, or grandparents' home, or neighbor's home or even a friend's home. It can be as easy as opening a cupboard, drawer or medicine cabinet.

Deterring illegal drug use and abuse has long been a major focus for schools and law enforcement with many programs developed and implemented toward that goal. Prescription drug abuse, however, may need to be approached in a different way. Because the prescription

drugs come from "home," home must be the first step in stopping this rapidly growing problem.

Steps we can all take to help protect the youth in our community include monitor, secure and dispose. Most of us at some time have had pain killers prescribed by a doctor. Perhaps we didn't finish taking the prescription, but put them in the medicine cabinet, just in case. How many pills were left? Would you know if some of the pills are missing? The Partnership for a Drug-Free America suggests writing down how many pills are in each prescription bottle, keeping track of refills, controlling the medications prescribed for your teens, and making friends, relatives and neighbors aware of the importance of safeguarding their medications.

Securing medications is another essential part of the plan. Prescription drugs, as well as over-the-counter drugs, should be kept in a locked cabinet in a place where others do not have access. Many kid's consider prescription medicine as a safe "good kids" high. They believe these drugs are less harmful than street drugs because they are available through a doctor or at the local drug store. Nothing could be farther from the truth, as they can be just as dangerous and even deadly as any illegal drug.

Safely disposing of expired and unused medications is another step in helping to protect your teens. Experts suggest disposing of expired

prescriptions when teens are not home. Do not flush them down the drain or toilet, but instead put them in soup or soda cans before discarding. They should not be easily retrieved from the trash. To help prevent unauthorized refills, remove any personal or identifiable information from the bottles before throwing them away.

The signs of potential prescription drug abuse are similar to that of street drugs, and can include constricted pupils, nausea, shallow breathing, anxiety, delusions or slurred speech.

It is vital for parents to talk to their children, telling them exactly what you believe and how you feel. Your silence on the subject may be misinterpreted as permission by your child.

More information or ideas for talking to your teens can be found at www.drugfree.org or by contacting your child's school. If the future of America lies in the youth of our country, then the responsibility to nurture and protect that future belongs to us all.

Perhaps we all can resolve to pay more attention.

Haskell Jr. Livestock Show set Jan. 8-10

by Wes Utley
 CEA-Ag/NR, Haskell Co.
 The annual Haskell County Junior Livestock Show and Sale will be held Jan. 8-10 at the Haskell County Show Barn.

Arrival time for entries of steers, heifers, lambs and swine is Thurs., Jan. 8 by 4 p.m. Poultry and rabbits arrival time is Thurs., Jan. 8 by 5:30 p.m.

Show time schedules are Thurs., Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. for poultry and rabbits; and Fri., Jan. 9 at 8 a.m. for lambs; followed by swine. The steer show will begin at 2 p.m. followed by heifers.

Judge for the lambs, swine, steers and heifers will be Mark Standley of Nazareth.

Judge for rabbits and chickens will be Chris Beard, AST of Albany.

Auctioneer for the sale, which begins at 11 a.m. Sat., Jan. 10 will be Rex Ford of Stamford, assisted by Mike Fouts of Sagerton.

The County Judge and County Commissioners will be serving hamburgers both Friday and Saturday. In addition, the Haskell County Extension Education Association (EEA Club) will have a concession stand set up with drinks, chips and snacks.

At last year's show, 90 participants entered their animals. The sale brought a total of \$90,500.

Brandon Anderson of Haskell is the president of the Haskell County Junior Livestock Show Association.



TOPS IN KEYBOARDING-Rochester Junior High students leading their class in keyboarding are, l-r, Meg Glover seventh grade, 60 words per minute; Shelby Dunnam eighth grade, 60 words per minute; Carson Hadaway eighth grade, 60 words per minute; and Reagan Hadaway, sixth grade, 28 words per minute. The girls designed the pictures of themselves that are attached to their Mavis Beacon certificates.

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

Remembering 'The Thang'

by Caron Yates

Remember back to 1963, when "The Thang," also known as "The Haskell County Varmint," was making its rounds? According to news articles in The Haskell Free Press, it had been seen infrequently as early as 1959, however April through September 1963 was a time of intense activity.

Reports ranged from brief sightings to livestock mutilations, and then grew into "unbelievable monster" sightings. While there was much speculation as to the authenticity of all reported sightings, there were at least fourteen livestock victims. The remains of the livestock, primarily calves plus one hog, seem to fit the same basic description, "skin and bones picked clean." The

majority of the sightings were in the eastern part of Haskell County. A fifty pound hog on the George Moeller farm near Irby was killed and numerous sightings and victims were reported near Paint Creek and Mattson.

In May of 1963, County Judge Jim Alvis put enough credence in the series of reports to contact state and federal predatory animal control. The trappers came and went, with no sign of "The Varmint."

With each new report of victims, hunters and dogs were called in to search for the "killer." So many reports were coming in that by June of that year, then County Sheriff Garth Garrett asked, "All practical jokers to desist in the prank playing about Varmint sightings. It is preventing us from investigating the real reports."

One such real report came in early June when two migrant workers on the C.C. Campbell farm northeast of the Mattson School, saw some sort of "big cat." They were so frightened they ran back to their living quarters and refused to come out. Because they spoke no English, Campbell took them to Haskell to find someone to interpret their story. They claimed they had not heard the "Varmint" stories, and were sure of what they saw.

In late June, two different sightings between Haskell and Stamford were reported by a Midland auto dealer and an Abilene man and his wife. Both described seeing something similar to a mountain lion.

July through September, brought reports of dead livestock on the Andy Josselet farm near Paint Creek, on the Raymond Liles farm east of Weinert and on the Elbert Mapes farm near Mattson. Then it seems, the killings stopped until December of

1963. However, after three small calves and a 650 pound heifer were reported killed on the Paul Fisher farm near Paint Creek, it was feared the cycle was starting over.

The sightings and stories seemed to quiet down for the next decade. In the mid-seventies, what appeared to be a mountain lion was seen on Lake Creek in the northern part of Haskell County. That sighting was confirmed a couple of days later, when two men from Munday saw the cat in the same area.

Fast forwarding to December 2006, Joe Yates reported seeing a cougar just off Highway 277 between Haskell and Weinert. Because the sighting had piqued his interest, and because there seemed to be big cats where they shouldn't be, Yates placed an ad in The Haskell Free Press requesting that anyone who had also seen a "big cat" contact him. Immediately the calls and stories began coming in. Some were grateful to share their story with someone who believed it, although others were more hesitant, making sure they weren't being set up for ridicule.

One man reported seeing a mountain lion cross the highway at Miller Creek in 1964. He said nothing about it for forty-three years, assuming no one would believe it. Among the many calls, were more recent sightings of mountain lions. A lion was reported chasing deer across the highway between Rochester and Rule. Several people in a car watched as a cougar crossed the median on Highway 277 to take refuge under a culvert as they approached. Another man reported seeing a lion jump out the window of an old abandoned house northeast of Haskell. At still a different abandoned house, four grown cats were seen exiting through a window.

Perhaps one of the most convincing calls was from a lady whose wildlife camera told the story. A group of wild hogs could be seen eating, when suddenly all heads looked up at the tree. A long "cat" tail slowly swung across the lens of the camera, as the hogs quickly ran off.

What has brought the mountain lions to this unlikely habitat? Perhaps they are following the deer that have migrated here, perhaps they are being crowded out of their more natural habitats or could it be some were brought to the area and released? Although we may not be referring to them as "The Thang" or "The Varmint," it does seem evident that the big cats are sharing our space.

Obituaries

Eureda Campbell



EUREDA CAMPBELL

Funeral services for Eureda Campbell, 89, of Haskell were

held Fri., Dec. 26 at the Haskell Church of Christ. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mrs. Campbell died Tues., Dec. 23 in Haskell.

Born Feb. 20, 1919 in Roth, Oklahoma, she was the daughter of the late Henry and Viola DeHart. She married Charlie Campbell Jan. 3, 1936 in Oklahoma. She was a seamstress and enjoyed cooking and gardening. She was a member of the Haskell Church of Christ. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in

death by her parents, her husband, and one son, Duward Campbell.

Survivors include four daughters, Janis Klose and husband Loyd of Abilene, Brenda Sanders and husband Kenneth of Weinert, Debra Engle and husband Dave of Stillwater, Oklahoma, and Reda Gay Thomas and husband Gary of Haskell; two sons, Larry Campbell of Abilene and Jerry Campbell and wife Linda of Abilene; one daughter-in-law, Gwen Campbell Williams; twenty-one grandchildren and many great and great great grandchildren. PD. NOTICE

Helen Mabel Fouts



HELEN FOUTS

Funeral services for Helen Mabel Fouts, 89, of Haskell were held Sun., Dec. 28 at First Christian Church in Haskell with Dusty Garison officiating. Burial was in Willow Cemetery under the

direction of Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mrs. Fouts died Friday morning, Dec. 26 at her home in Haskell.

Born Aug. 8, 1919 in Haskell, she was the daughter of the late Preston M. and Alica Ann Hall Baldwin. She graduated from Texas Women's University. She was a homemaker and teacher, retiring in 1975 after teaching ten years at Haskell Elementary. She was a member of the First Christian Church and the Women's Missionary Society. She was active in many family, civic and school activities including the Progressive Study Club and Retired Teachers Association.

She is preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers,

Roy and Frank Baldwin.

Survivors include her husband, George Fouts of Haskell; two sons, G. William Fouts Jr. and wife Sue of Oak Hill, Virginia and John Fouts and wife Bonnie of Haskell; one daughter, Betsy McManamon of Haskell; seven grandchildren, Nathan Fouts and wife Forteen, Allison Fouts, Sarah Oliver and husband Matt, Meg Petty and husband Lee, Lyle Fouts and wife Kelly, Dan Fouts and Tom Fouts; four great grandchildren, Nic Fouts, Tanah Petty, Ty Petty and Gage Fouts.

Memorials may be made to First Christian Church, 107 N. Ave. F, Haskell, Texas 79521 of the charity of your choice.

PD. NOTICE

USDA announces enactment of new program changes

With the publication of an interim final regulation in the Federal Register next week, the United States Department of Agriculture announced changes to both Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) qualifications, program payment limitations, and direct attribution for Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs, which became effective in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill.

Public comments on this interim final rule must be submitted to the Department within 30 days of the date of publication.

"Changes to program participation rules and qualifying income requirements will make farm program payments more defensible to America's taxpayers," Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer said. "This is a step in the right direction to ensuring that program benefits are targeted to active qualifying farmers and ranchers."

For commodity and disaster programs, the AGI limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million AGI from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and

Counter-cyclical Program.

The definition of income derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations was expanded to include, among other items, such items as the packing, storing and transporting of agricultural commodities; production of livestock products; farm-based production of renewable bio-energy; and in some instances, the providing of operational inputs to farmers, ranchers and foresters.

For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation.

States, local governments, political subdivisions, and other agencies were eligible for payments prior to enactment of the 2008 Act. The 2008 Act and this rule make such jurisdictions ineligible for payments unless such payments are earned on State-owned land and are used to support public schools. Payments under this exception are limited to \$500,000 annually; the limitation is waived for a State that has a population of less than 1.5 million.

Individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Under rules in effect since 1988, not every member of an entity had to contribute active personal labor or management. The interim final rule requires each partner, stockholder, or member with an ownership interest to make a contribution of active personal labor or active personal management. The contribution must be regular and substantial, and documented as well as separate and distinct from any other member's contribution. The rule limits the ability of passive stockholders to continue to realize benefits from the entity.

Under the interim final rule, the addition of individuals or entities to an existing operation to qualify for additional payments is more restrictive than under previous regulations. The prior rule in effect since 1988 said the acquisition of new cropland to the farming operation of at least 20 percent qualifies for the increase of an unlimited number of new persons and/or legal entities as eligible for payment.

The rule changes the 20-percent increase requirement from cropland to base acres and only allows for the addition of one new person to the operation. However, based on the magnitude and complexity of the change in the farming operation, the State FSA Office may approve additional persons or legal entities for payment in the farming operation. The change eliminates the loophole that previously allowed an unlimited increase in the number of limitations that could accompany a 20 percent increase in eligible land area that meets the definition of cropland.

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 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 16, 2009**. 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.

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Haskell Co. Gin Report

Dec. 23, 2008
Haskell

Haskell County Gin.....	5,500
Haskell Co-op Gin.....	7,910
O'Brien	
O'Brien Co-op	14,040
Rule	
Rule Co-op Gin	4,941
Weinert	
Griff's Gin.....	1,777
Weinert Gin.....	4,347
Total bales	38,515

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Close out holiday season with safety in mind

Homes have been decorated, gifts are unwrapped and New Year's resolutions are ready to fill everyone's thoughts. With the onset of post-holiday activity, it's important to keep safety at top of mind.

That's why the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL), an independent safety testing organization, are joining together this post-holiday season to remind consumers to practice safety as they put away holiday decorations.

According to the NFPA, 13 percent of the home fires attributed to Christmas trees have occurred in January. The

NFPA recommends consumers remove real trees from their home and properly dispose of them once their holiday celebration ends.

"Christmas trees—real or artificial—can be a significant fuel source if a fire occurs in your home," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications at the NFPA. "Even a well-watered tree should be taken down after four weeks. If you decorated your real tree right after Thanksgiving, it should be discarded the week after Christmas."

Christmas trees are not the only holiday decorations that need prompt attention

after the holidays. All electric decorations should also be taken down and put away.

"Holiday lights are considered seasonal and should not be up longer than 90 days," said John Drenenberg, consumer affairs manager for UL. "If you leave decorations up any longer, they will be more prone to damage, which could cause an electrical shock or fire hazard."

As you unplug and store holiday decorations, the NFPA and UL would like to remind you that practicing safety now can keep decorations in working condition and prevent potential hazards from occurring next year. Following are safety tips consumers can use any time when putting away seasonal decorations:

- To unplug electric decorations, use the gripping area provided on the plugs. Never pull the cord to unplug a device from electrical outlets. Doing so can damage the cord's wire and insulation and even lead to an electrical shock or fire.

- As you're putting away electrical light strings, take time to inspect each for flaws. Throw out light sets if they have loose connections, broken or cracked sockets or frayed or bare wires.

- Do not place a faulty set of lights back into the storage box for next year's use.

- Take the initiative now and throw out worn light strings. Shop for replacements during after-Christmas sales or add lights to your Christmas decoration list for next year.

- Be sure to pack lights appropriately. No one likes to untangle a web of lights. When preparing your holiday lights for storage, consider purchasing a holiday light storage reel, or create your own system.

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place, such as a suitcase, where they cannot be damaged

by water or dampness. Also, keep them away from children and pets to ensure that cords and wires are not damaged in storage.

Additionally, to preserve and ensure the longevity of your holiday decorations:

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags, or wrap the lights around an empty wrapping paper tube or cardboard square. If you wrap the lights around a piece of cardboard, cut a slit in one side of the square. Thread the end of a set of lights through the slit. Wrap the lights around the cardboard, threading the other end back through the slit.

- Although the box your artificial tree came in may seem like the perfect one to repack it in for storing, this isn't the wisest idea for preservation. The cardboard boxes begin to deteriorate making them more prone to insect infestation.

- Special ornaments benefit from being stored in their original packaging. If you throw out the original box, store smaller ornaments in an egg carton.

- Save yourself time next year by thoroughly labeling decorations before storing. Make a detailed inventory on the outside of each container. Number each to keep track of how many you have (for example, Box 1 of 12) and consider taping a piece of wrapping paper on the outside of each container for easy holiday storage identification.

For more information regarding holiday decorating safety, footage of how quickly a dry Christmas tree incinerates or photos related to holiday decoration safety, visit the UL Newsroom Web site at <http://www.ul.com/newsroom> or the NFPA Web site at <http://www.nfpa.org>.

When minutes count

The astonishing speed and efficiency of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) response is one of the everyday miracles of modern life. Each year, thousands saved by the routine ability to deliver well-trained and—equipped medical team to most doorsteps in the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee.

But even a 10-minute lapse between a 9-1-1 call and the arrival of an emergency team can seem like hours when you're waiting with a seriously ill or injured person. And what you do before EMS arrives can mean the difference between life and death.

Knowing what constitutes an emergency is the first step in getting help for an ill or injured person. Some situations—auto crashes, severe chest pains, broken bones and serious burns—are obvious calls. Others require a closer look and, perhaps, some quick medical consultation. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you see any of these conditions:

- Serious bleeding
- Absence of breathing
- Unconsciousness
- Apparent neck or spine injuries

- Signs of a heart attack, including uncomfortable pressure or fullness in the chest or chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating or shortness of breath

- Paralysis
- Serious burns
- Choking
- Broken bones
- Head, chest or abdominal injuries

Sometimes, what you know about the victim can also factor into a decision to call EMS. For example, does the victim have a pre-existing medical problem? Or, has he or she been under heavy physical stress or exhibited unusual behavior?

In other cases, you just have to rely on common sense and gut instinct based on what you know about the person and situation.

Once you've decided to make the 9-1-1 call, remembering a few basic rules

can make a good outcome more likely.

First, try to stay calm—and keep the ill or injured person calm—while calling. If you feel you're too distraught to think and speak clearly, ask someone else to make the call. Give the 9-1-1 dispatcher all requested information. This will always include the address or location of the emergency, your name and telephone number, the ill or injured person's name and a description of the illness or injury.

Don't hang up until you're asked. The dispatcher often will have questions beyond the basics of addresses, names and phone numbers. Then, once you're off the phone, send someone to wait near the street or nearest available parking area to guide the EMS ambulance and crew.

Finally, never move an ill or injured person unless they're in immediate danger, and don't allow them to eat, drink or smoke while waiting for the ambulance.

"While we can be proud of the emergency medical services in Texas," Perkins said, "prevention is still the best way to avoid needing help."

A few of the safe, healthy lifestyle habits include:

- Wearing seat belts and buckling children into child safety seats;
- Being sure that all children 12 and under ride in the back seat;
- Driving at safe speeds;
- Avoiding alcohol and drug use while driving;
- Keeping immunizations current;
- Eating right and exercising regularly
- Keeping guns and poisons locked in a safe place.

For more good information about how to deal with emergency medical situations, download the brochure "When Minutes Count: A Citizen's Guide to Medical Emergencies," from the Texas Department of State Health Services website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emtraumasystems/WhenWeb.PDF.

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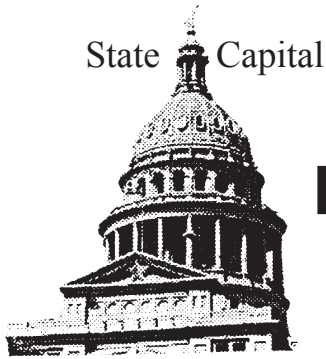
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from the staff of
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OPINION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

Governor appeals FEMA decision to deny aid
AUSTIN—Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 19 appealed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's decision to deny his request for an extension of Hurricane Ike relief.

Perry had asked for 18 more months of 100 percent reimbursement of emergency protective measures, debris removal and other relief work related to the September hurricane.

"The assistance I am requesting is similar to what Louisiana received following Hurricane Katrina and Texans deserve to be treated no less.

"The communities devastated by this storm need this funding and need it now," Perry said.

Education progress ratings are in

Seventy-five percent of Texas schools and 67 percent of Texas school districts met or exceeded the 2008 federal Adequate Yearly Progress standards, the Texas Education Agency reported Dec. 19.

Those standards measure student graduation rates for high schools and districts; attendance rates for elementary schools; and passing rates and participation rates on state reading and mathematics tests for grades 3 through 8 and grade 10.

Texas may gain seats in 2010

Texas stands to pick up as many as four seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, if population projections come true. Reallocation of the 435 U.S. House seats will be based on the 2010 decennial U.S. Census.

TxDOT asks for freight ideas

The Texas Department of Transportation says it is looking for innovative, environmentally sensitive ways to move freight across the state.

On Dec. 19, TxDOT published a "Request for Information," a document asking for suggestions on how to develop freight transport systems that minimize environmental impacts and technologies with low carbon emissions in particular.

"Potential systems could include technology involving electromagnetic propulsion where the electricity is supplied by green technology such as wind or solar generation. Such systems could potentially operate on a rail or other fixed channel," an agency release

stated. TxDOT also asked for help with developing a business model to finance, develop and operate these systems.

AG reaches 'Airborne' settlement

The state of Texas, 31 other states, and the District of Columbia on Dec. 16 resolved their enforcement action against Airborne Health Inc. and its operators, Victoria Knight-McDowell and Thomas John McDowell.

Under the multi-state agreement, Airborne is prohibited from continuing to claim that its dietary supplements cure or prevent certain diseases.

Airborne's cold prevention, sore throat and allergy remedies have not been recognized as approved drugs by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Texas Attorney General's Office stated.

Airborne marketed its products as over-the-counter remedies for illnesses.

Because the FDA has not recognized Airborne's dietary supplements as drugs, the company was charged with introducing unapproved drugs into commerce, which is a violation of the Texas Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

The state's enforcement action against Airborne involves a referral Attorney General Greg Abbott's office received from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Agency releases YFZ report

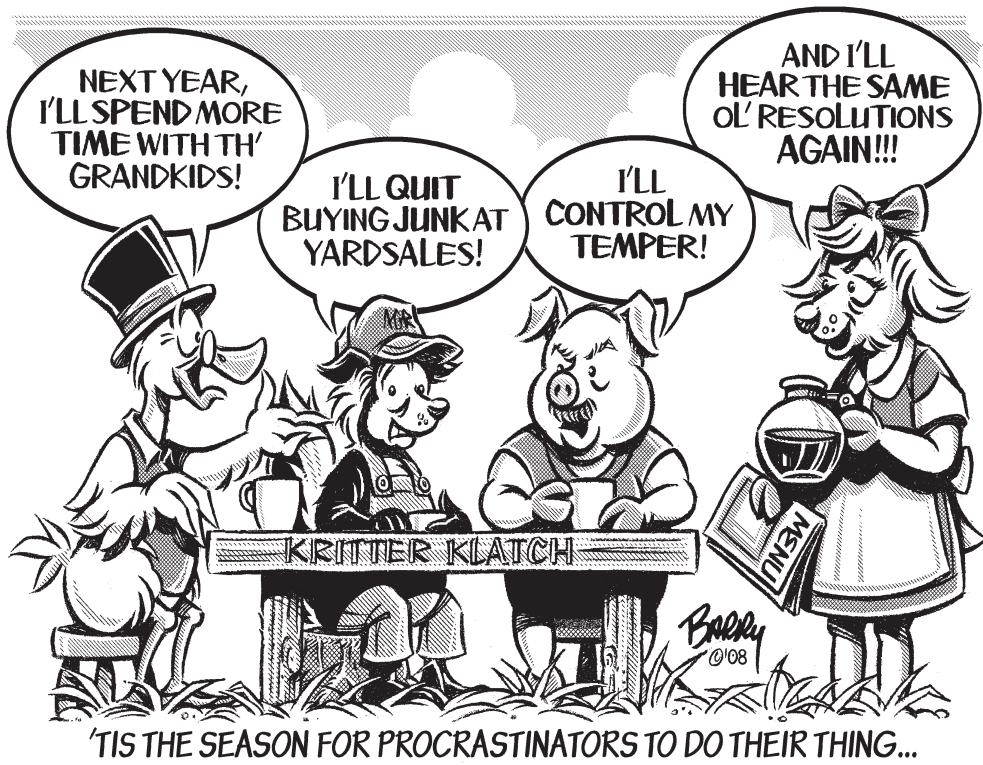
The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services on Dec. 22 released a report on its ongoing investigation of the polygamous YFZ Ranch near Eldorado.

The findings are summarized as:

"12 girls are confirmed victims of sexual abuse and neglect because they were married at ages ranging from 12 to 15. There were 43 girls removed from the ranch from the ages of 12 to 17—which means that more than one out of every four pubescent girls on the ranch was in an underage marriage."

"262 other children were subjected to neglect because parents failed to remove their child from a situation in which the child would be exposed to sexual abuse committed against another child within their families or households."

The complete 20-page report can be found at www.dfps.state.tx.us.



Senior citizens need more than just flu vaccines

Although most senior citizens are aware of the annual flu vaccine's importance, many do not know that two other immunizations are recommended for all adults over the age of 65.

Pneumonia is the leading cause of illness and death among seniors. Each year it causes more than 46,000 deaths in the U.S., more than all other vaccine-preventable diseases combined.

There are two types of pneumonia—viral and bacterial. Bacterial pneumonia is the most serious and can be caused by several types of bacteria. The pneumonia vaccine is effective against 23 types of pneumococcal bacteria, says Dr. Craig Rubin, chairman of geriatrics at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

"The vaccine is safe and effective, provides long-term protection, and can be given at any time of the year," Dr. Rubin says.

Seniors should also receive a tetanus booster once every 10 years. Although most people are immunized against tetanus as children, the protection does not last a lifetime.

The disease is caused by a common bacterium that lives in soil and dust. The bacteria typically enter the body through a deep puncture wound or cut, like those made by nails or knives. However, most cases of tetanus in older adults occur in people who don't recall a major recent injury.

The booster shot is given typically as a combined tetanus-diphtheria vaccine, which also provides protection against diphtheria, a more rare disease.

From Out of the Past

From the files of The Haskell Free Press

10 Years Ago January 7, 1999

Newly elected County and District officials taking the oath of office were County Judge, David Davis; County Commissioner, Pct. 4, Bud Turnbow; County Clerk, Rhonda Moeller; County Commissioner, Pct. 2, Tiffen Mayfield; District Clerk, Penny Young and County Treasurer, Willie Tidrow.

Andrew Ellis Martin, 1994 graduate of Haskell High School, received a bachelor of arts degree in Psychology from Midwestern State University.

Mary Belle Turner, a senior at Rochester High School, was elected senior director by the Texas Junior Hereford Association.

20 Years Ago January 5, 1989

Bo Watson and Derrick Billington were named to the Abilene Reporter-News all-area football team.

Veteran postal clerk Glenn Darden has received a special achievement award in the recognition of noble service to the U.S. Postal Service for 28 years.

Valeria Rocha Ramos of Cabatao, Sao Paulo visited in the home of Mike and Teresa New. She became acquainted with the couple last March when she served as an interpreter for delegates to the International Crusades who had gone to Brazil on a Baptist church mission.

Vivian Shaw was honored as "Texas Volunteer of the Year" for her volunteer work with residents of Haskell Nursing Center.

Shawna Welch, daughter of Laquita Kirkland of Haskell and Whitey Welch of Knox City, completed her course of study as an executive secretary from Central Texas Commercial College in Brownwood as Valedictorian of her class.

30 Years Ago January 4, 1979

Two sisters, Willie Faye Tidrow, County Treasurer and Geraldine Hise, J.P. Prec. 1, were among County and District officials who received the oaths of office.

J.E. Sanderson, formerly of Haskell, is a locomotive engineer in Brownwood with thirty-six years of service. But he is not the only Sanderson with railroad interest. His four sons, Alvin, Gary, Marc and Denis and grandson, Curtis, joined the family group.

The Drive-In Theatre in Stamford showed "The Driver," featuring Ryan O'Neal.

40 Years Ago

Clear Fork
Crime
Stoppers
1-800-222-TIPS

January 2, 1969

David M. Martindale, son of Mr. and Mrs. David F. Martindale, has been promoted to Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

Members of the Rule FFA were guests of the Rule FHA at a Christmas party in the home of Peggy Clark in Sagerton.

The following Haskell County public officials assumed office: Constable Precinct 5, J.R. Tanner; Sheriff, Garth Garrett; Constable Precinct 1, D. L. (Jack) Speer; Constable Precinct 6, L.V. (Sonny) Pittcock; County Attorney, Bill Ratliff; Tax Assessor-Collector, Jimmy Owens; Commissioner Precinct 1, Clifford A. Thomas, Jr.; Commissioner Precinct 3, R.R. (Ray) Perry; District Attorney of 39th District Judicial Court, Royce Adkins.

50 Years Ago January 1, 1959

John Kimbrough was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. "John Kimbrough Day" was proclaimed in Haskell by

Mayor, Ira Hester.

Lin Currie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wix B Currie, was named FFA Sweetheart.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Pennington of Houston visited in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Woodley Davis.

100 Years Ago January 2, 1909

J.N. Ellis returned from a trip to Austin.

R.B. Spencer of Dublin is here this week looking after his lumber yard and other interests.

Bertha Taylor of Holliday visited Mrs. Dulin Fields.

Mr. McDaniel says his new attachment of ginning bolls was working and that it was a help in ginning picked cotton. He said he was able to get a better sample from the picked cotton by running it through the huller. It seems that the process loosens up the lint so that it is not cut by the saws.

Capt. B.H. Dodson died at Del Rio and Mrs. Dodson left to attend his funeral at Fort Worth. Dodson was a Union soldier in the last war and has filled several offices.

From the AG

By Greg Abbott

Credit Fix and Debt Elimination Scams

Texans with mounting consumer debt or bad credit ratings may be tempted by quick fixes during difficult economic times. Unfortunately, there are no easy ways to remedy bad credit. So, if a credit repair or debt relief offer sounds too good to be true—it usually is just that. Rebuilding a good credit rating takes time and good financial management. Legitimate credit counseling services and debt repayment plans can offer long-term, practical solutions to debt management. It is critical, though, that debtors distinguish between lawful assistance programs and fraudulent schemes that attempt to take advantage of struggling debtors.

Unfortunately, many fraudulent "debt elimination" and "credit repair" scams charge customers hefty fees for "quick fixes" that never materialize. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has aggressively cracked down on these unlawful scams.

Last year, our Consumer Protection and Public Health Division stopped two Austin-based operations from falsely claiming they could remove "negative" items from clients' credit reports. Only inaccurate or obsolete items can be legally removed from a debtor's credit report, while items that reflect negatively on a person's credit must remain on this report until they expire with the passing of a set amount of time. The companies, Austin Credit Doctor and America's Credit Doctor, charged customers

several hundred dollars in advance fees for their unlawful "credit repair" services.

Texans with inaccurate or obsolete information on their credit reports can work directly with credit reporting companies to remove information that should not be included. They don't need to pay a "credit repair" service to remove the items for them.

A related scheme, "debt elimination" scams, falsely promise to eliminate consumer debt within just a few short months.

Frequently, these scams charge large, up-front fees and then fail to deliver any valuable services to customers. For example, the OAG stopped a fraudulent "debt elimination" operation that falsely promised to quickly and completely eliminate customers' debt.

To become enrolled in the program, customers were required to wire a one-time \$5,000 deposit to an unidentified "bank." The scam's operators claimed the bank would initiate a debt elimination process and use the deposit to defray the costs of that process. Once all the customers' cumulative debt reached \$100 million, the bank promised to make loans that would pay off individual customers' debts.

However, the \$5,000 fee was actually deposited to an account that our investigators traced to Panama. The operation's owner never offered any evidence that a "bank" even existed. In truth, the scam was simply trying to cash in on the vulnerability of overwhelmed debtors. As

a result, sadly, the already struggling customers lost their \$5,000 deposits.

Legitimate financial assistance for customers facing seemingly impossible debt is available. Texans with problems paying their debts should immediately contact their creditors and seek alternate payment arrangements. Creditors are generally willing to negotiate terms directly with customers, so a debt management company is frequently unnecessary. Debtors should ask whether alternate arrangements would affect their credit history. Even if creditors reduce the payments and give debtors more time to pay a debt, doing so may show up for several years on debtors' credit reports.

Texans seeking debt management services should do their research before hiring one of these firms. It's important to check with the Better Business Bureau—and even the OAG—to see whether other customers have filed complaints. It may also prove helpful to consult with an attorney about debt relief options. Ultimately, creditors must decide whether to accept a debtor's restructuring offer. Even if the creditor accepts the offer, the debtor may face credit and tax-related implications.

There are seldom quick fixes to a consumer's credit history if it reflects legitimate debts the consumer failed to repay. The key to rebuilding credit is to manage debt and to consistently pay bills on time.

The Haskell Free Press

Established January 1, 1886
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
420 North First Street • P. O. Box 555
HASKELL, TEXAS 79521
Phone 940-864-2686 • Fax 940-864-2687
hfp@valornet.com

John McDougalPublisher
Lisa ShawBusiness Manager
Doris McDougalProduction
Bill BlankenshipStaff Photographer

Periodical Paid Haskell, Texas 79521
(USPS 237-040)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Haskell County, one year, \$25.00.
Outside of Haskell County, one year, \$34.00.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC—Any erroneous reflection upon the character, reputation or standing of any firm, individual or corporation will be gladly corrected upon being called to the attention of the publisher.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Haskell Free Press, P.O. Box 555, Haskell, TX, 79521-0555.

This issue mailed Tues., Dec. 30, 2008

TPA 2008
TEXAS PRESS
ASSOCIATION

BASKETBALL MAIDENS INDIANS



HASKELL INDIANS—Front row, l-r, D.J. Macias, John English, Christian Myers and Austin Marshall; back row, Ross Wittenborn, Cody Wyrick, Simon Rodriguez and Tyler Rodriguez.

Photo by Bill Blankenship

GO INDIANS

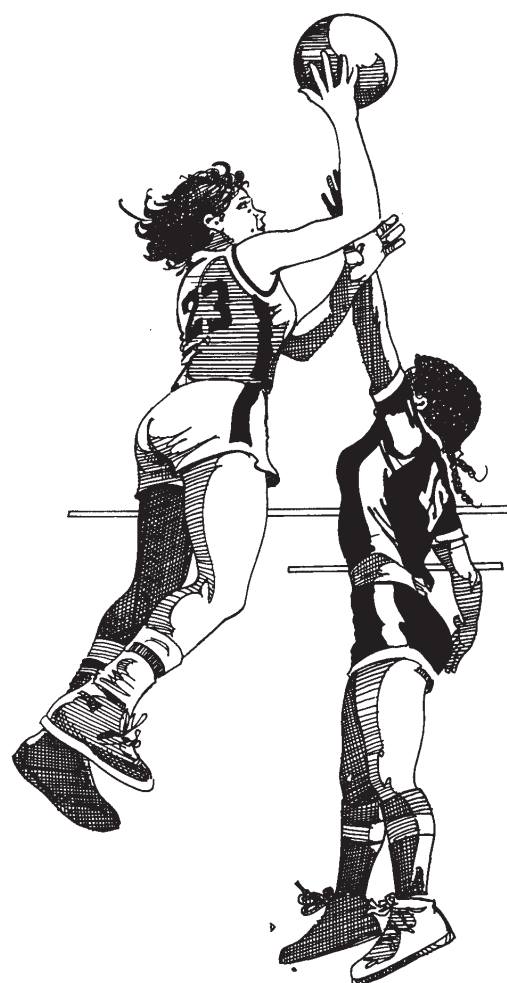
Fri., Jan. 2, 5 & 8 p.m.
JV & Varsity Boys
vs Roby
at Roby

Tues., Jan. 6 TBA
JV & Varsity Boys
vs Sundown
at Spur



HASKELL MAIDENS—Front row, l-r, Lauren Newton, Aubrey Bassett, Hope Reid, Aerial Thane and Paige Adams; back row, Briè Torres, Molly Agraz, Miranda Johnson, Lisa Rodgers, Hannah Wallace and Ashton Rutkowski.

Photo by Bill Blankenship



GO MAIDENS

Tues., Jan. 6, 5 p.m.
JV & Varsity Girls
vs Rotan at Rotan

This Page Sponsored By The Following Indian and Maiden Boosters

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- First National Bank**

- Double A Drive Inn**
- Haskell Co-op Gin**
- Haskell Free Press**
- Haskell National Bank**
- Hanson Paint and Body**
- Haskell Save-A-\$**
- Larned Sales Center**
- Smitty's Auto Supply**
- D & S Aerial**

FBI releases information about most popular scams

Robert E. Casey Jr., Special Agent in Charge, Dallas, FBI, advises due to the recent increase in frequency and variety of internet, mail, e-mail, and telephone scams, the FBI provides the following information and recommendations:

Fraudulent telemarketing scams are estimated to cost over 40 billion dollars a year. The Department of Justice estimates the number of American consumers defrauded each year by fraudulent telemarketing at one in six. Fraudulent telemarketers are continuing to target elderly citizens in disproportionate numbers.

Some of the more common scams that continue to be a concern include:

- Nigerian Letters;
 - Lottery/Sweepstakes Scams;
 - Internet Auction Fraud.
- Nigerian letters: Individuals and businesses continue to receive letters from Nigeria through the mail, over fax machines, and over e-mail. These letters appear to come from a prominent individual or company with

access to a substantial sum of money. The writer purports to need someone with a bank account outside Nigeria to facilitate recovery of this large sum of money.

These Nigerian scam letters have been going around for years and there are now numerous versions which may appear to originate from outside Nigeria.

Do not provide bank account information, or other personal information based upon these letters.

Lottery/sweepstakes scams: This scam involves the victim receiving notification, either by telephone, mail, or e-mail, that the victim has won a large sum of money, typically from Canada, although they may originate elsewhere. The victim is then convinced to pay money, under the guise of customs taxes, processing fees, or as a fee to convert the winnings to United States currency, as a prerequisite to receiving the winnings.

Do not send money as a condition of receiving lottery or sweepstakes winnings. It is a violation of Federal Trade Commission (FTC) trade

rules to require a purchase as a condition of entering a contest, sweepstakes, or other promotion.

Also, it is illegal to play a foreign lottery through the mail or on the telephone or internet (Title 18 United States Code, section 1301-1307).

Internet auction fraud: This scam involves a "buyer" expressing an interest in purchasing something, typically over the internet.

The buyer will then send a check to the victim in an amount above the purchase price. The buyer explains why the check is higher than the purchase price and asks the victim to send the balance back to the buyer.

The victim, believing the certified check is good, then forwards the excess money back to the buyer. The check sent by the buyer is counterfeit and the buyer has no interest in purchasing anything.

Sellers should be cautious of a buyer who wants to send a check for an amount above the purchase price. Sellers should be cautious of sending merchandise or money back to the buyer, without first

ensuring that the buyers form of payment is legitimate.

Red flags to watch for:

- Pressure: Scammers will often pressure the victim to act quickly. The "opportunity" is only available for a limited time, or the prize will be given to someone else if not claimed;

- Pay up front: A scam will often require the victim to pay money up front in order to take advantage of the "opportunity." No legitimate contest requires a winner to pay money up front to claim the winnings;

- Will not send written information: The scammer will rarely send written documentation to the victim, because that provides the victim time to think about the situation, as well as provides the victim the means of checking out the operation/organization;

- Excuses: The scammer will often be unable to answer legitimate questions posed by the victim. They will provide excuses rather than directly address such questions and concerns. They will even become upset because the

victim is questioning the caller by threatening to provide the opportunity to someone else if the victim is not interested.

Do's and don'ts:

- DO ask for the business/organization name and address (many will not provide this information, because it is something that may be verified);

- DO ask for written information. This gives the potential victim the opportunity to examine the offer and talk to others about the offer;

- DO talk to family and friends about the situation. A second opinion is always a good idea. Something that sounds too good to be true, normally is;

- DO call the Better Business Bureau (BBB) if you are unfamiliar with a business;

- DON'T pay to receive lottery/contest winnings;

- DON'T allow the caller to pressure you to act now!

- DON'T give out bank account numbers, credit card numbers, or other personal information to anyone you did not initiate contact with and you know is a reputable business.

Resources:

Internet Fraud: All federal internet fraud complaints are centralized through the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). Because internet fraud is not geographically limited, a centralized complaint center allows all related

complaints to be connected and referred to the appropriate agency. Report instances of internet and email fraud, i.e. international lotteries, FBI e-mails, sweepstakes, etc., to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Telemarketing fraud: Information about current telephone scams is available at www.ftc.gov/phonefraud. This web site also provides descriptions of the current types of telephone scams being used and advice on how and where to report telephone frauds and scams. Additional information is available at www.phonebusters.com. This website is sponsored by the Canadian government in response to the large number of sweepstakes/lottery scams originating in Canada over the past several years.

Identity theft: The FTC also offers a separate Identity Theft hotline, to address identity theft complaints: 1-877-ID-THEFT (877-438-4338) www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

Visit the FBI.GOV website for the latest information on e-mail scams and warnings. Within the FBI.GOV website is a section titled "Be Crime Smart." "Be Crime Smart" provides information on new e-mail scams and warnings; reporting internet crime; common fraud schemes; looks to good to be true scams; and more tips and suggestions to avoid being a victim of a scam.



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 elaborate revelry, culminating at 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

Dr. Jim Heflin, interim pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.; Wed. 7 p.m.
600 N. 1st East, Haskell

Christian Church

Richard Barr, minister
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m.; Thurs. 7 p.m.
107 N. Ave. F, Haskell

Church of God

Bruce Ray, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wed. 7:00 p.m.

714 North First East, Haskell

Trinity Lutheran Church

Ron Rennegarbe, pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30
Hwy 380 East, Haskell

Iglesia Bautista El Calvario

Art Flores, Interim pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
607 S. 7th, Haskell

First United Methodist Church

Rev. Tom Long, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. 6 p.m.
Wed. 6 p.m.

201 N. Ave. F, Haskell

First Assembly of God

Rev. J.C. Amburn
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
1500 N. Ave. E, Haskell

St. George Catholic Church

Father George Roney
Sat. Mass 7 p.m.; Sun. Morn. 9:00 a.m.
901 N. 16th, Haskell

Church of Christ

Philip Sims, minister
Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.;
Wed. 7 p.m.

510 N. Ave. E, Haskell

First Presbyterian Church

Kelly Pigott, interim pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:30 a.m.
306 N. Ave. E, Haskell

Trinity Baptist Church

Larry White, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 6 :30 p.
114 S. Ave. D, Haskell

Hopewell Baptist Church

Sun. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
908 N. Ave. A, Haskell

Greater Independent Baptist Church

Sun. 9:30 a., 11:00 a., 6:30 p.; Wed. 7 p.
301 N. 3rd St., Haskell

New Covenant Foursquare

Bill and Renee Glass, pastors
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.

200 S. Ave. F, Haskell

Mission Revival Center

Rev. William Hodge
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Tues. 6 p.m.
1600 N. Ave. B, Haskell

First Baptist Church

Greg Gasaway, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:55 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m.
301 N. Ave. E, Haskell

Church in the Wind

C.C. Curran, pastor
Sun. fellowship 5 p.m. Church 5:30 p.m.
Tues. Bible Class 7:30 p.m.

203 S. 1st East, Haskell

Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church

Morris R. Johnson, pastor
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.m.

1600 N. First St., Haskell

—WEINERT—

First Baptist Church

Dan Bullock, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.
Weinert

Weinert Foursquare Church

Rev. Robert Harrison
Sunday 11 a.m
Weinert

—ROCHESTER—

Church of Christ

Steve Willis, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
West on Main Street, Rochester

First Baptist Church

Joseph Barrett, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.;
Prayer Time/Team Kids 5 p.m.;
Wed. Youth meeting 7 p.m.
500 Main, Rochester

Union Chapel Baptist Church

Clovis Dever
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:45 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
Rochester

Faith Chapel of Rochester

Randy Hollingsworth, minister
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Wed. 6 p.m.
Hwy 6, Rochester

—SAGERTON—

Sagerton Methodist Church

Stephania Gilkey, pastor
Sun. Morn. 9:45 a.m.
Sagerton

Faith Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. Keith Palmquist, pastor
Sun. 10:30 a.m.
Sagerton

—RULE—

First Baptist Church

Russell Stanley, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
1001 Union Ave., Rule

Primitive Baptist Church

Dale Turner Jr., pastor
First & Third Sundays 10 a.m.
Corner of 8th & Robins, Rule

Church of Christ

John Greeson, minister
Sun. 9:45 a., 10:40 a., 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.
811 Union, Rule

First United Methodist Church

Tom Long, pastor
Sun. Morn. Worship 8:30 a.m.
1000 Union Ave., Rule

Primera Iglesia Bautista

Alfa y Omegas
Manuel Marin, pastor
Sun. 10 a., 11:00 a., 5 p.m.; Wed. 6 p.m.
500 Elm Street, Rule

Sweet Home Baptist Church

Larry Neal, pastor
Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.;
Gladstone Ave., Rule

West Bethal Baptist Church

Rev. Clovis Dever
Sun. 10 a., 11 a., 8 p.m.; Wed. 7:30 p.m.
300 Sunny Ave., Rule

—PAINT CREEK—

Paint Creek Baptist Church

Sun. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m.
Paint Creek

—O'BRIEN—

O'Brien Baptist Church

Jim Reid, pastor
Sun. 9:45 a., 11 a., 5 p., 6 p, Wed. 6 p.m.
O'Brien

Haskell School Menu

- Jan. 5-9 Breakfast**
Juice and milk are served daily on the breakfast menu.
Monday: Breakfast pizza
Tuesday: Glazed french toast
Wednesday: Cereal, animal crackers
Thursday: Pig in a blanket
Friday: No school
- Lunch**
Milk and iced tea are served daily at the Secondary campus. Milk is served daily at the Elementary School.
- Secondary campus: choice of entree or baked potato with cheese and ham.
Monday: Chicken spaghetti, Italian green beans, bread stick, pineapple tidits
Tuesday: Chalupas, cheese, salsa, garden salad, corn, applesauce
Wednesday: Chicken on a bun, lettuce, tomato, pickles, assorted chips, fresh fruit
Thursday: Quesadillas, pinto beans, garden salad, tortilla chips, queso, sliced peaches
Friday: No school

ECC Menu

- Mon., Jan. 5**
Lunch—Meatloaf, green beans, cream potatoes, yeast rolls, brownies, tea or coffee
Wed., Jan. 7
Lunch—Ham slice, sweet potato, English peas, cranberry, yeast rolls, jello, cookies, tea
- or coffee
Fri., Jan. 9
Lunch—Beef spaghetti, blacked eyed peas, garlic toast, onions, pickles, new potatoes, choco cake, tea or coffee
Announcements begin at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch.

Help the planet and your waist: Eat green

Looking to reduce your carbon footprint? What you eat may be just as important as what you drive.

Nutrition experts at UT Southwestern Medical Center offer tips to keep both your waistline and the environment in check.

- Buy local and seasonal. Farmers markets remain your best bet, but many grocery stores have started offering a greater selection of locally grown foods. There's no scientific proof that eating local foods is better for you, but the food is generally fresher and more nutrient-dense.
- Limit your reliance on processed and packaged foods. Fresh foods have fewer fats and refined flours than many pre-packaged foods, so they're good for both you and the planet.
- Doggy bag leftovers. Only buy and prepare what you intend to eat. If you go out or make too much at home, repurpose the leftovers for another meal later in the week. Both leftover meat and vegetables make great additions to pizzas, salads, soups, tacos or pasta dishes.
- Make friends with a cow. You don't have to become a vegetarian, but occasionally replacing beef with chicken or eggs can help reduce your carbon footprint. So does opting for grass-fed beef, because it reduces the demand for cattle feed.

Sonic Drive-In
1402 N. Ave. E
864-8533
Managers: Leon & Carolyn Herring

Steele Fire Apparatus
Hwy. 380 • 864-2208

Modern Way Food Store
1202 N. Ave. E • 864-3763

HANSON PAINT & BODY SHOP
207 S. 1st • 864-3631
Professional Auto Body Repair
Glass Installation • 24 Hour Wrecker Service

Rule Co-op Gin & Elevator
301 Adams • Rule • 996-2421

Smitty's Auto Parts
107 N. 1st East • 864-2607

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For Sale

FOR SALE: 16 ft. and 8 ft. garage doors. Doors are sectional with all hardware. \$200 for both. 3225-660-8011. 47tfc

FOR SALE: Motorcycle travel back pack. \$75 OBO. 325-721-0674 or 940-864-2023. 37tfc

FOR SALE: Aluminum camper shell for a short bed pickup. \$75. Call 325-721-0674 cell or 940-864-2023 after 5 p.m. 44tfc

BRAND NEW queen pillowtop/orthopedic mattress, 2 pc. set, in plastic. Original warranty. \$150. 325-428-9172. 50-1c

DOUBLE/FULL orthopedic mattress set. Flame resistant, warranty. \$135. 325-428-9172. 50-1c

MUST SELL brand new king pillowtop mattress and box, in plastic. \$250. 325-428-9172. 50-1c

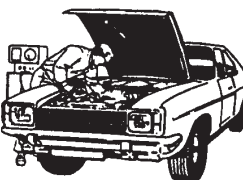
BODY CONTOURING memory foam mattress and foundation, still wrapped with warranty. \$375. 325-428-9172. 50-1c

Miscellaneous

HOUSE LEVELLING and foundation repair. No payments until work is satisfactorily completed. David Lee & Co. 325-675-6369. 1-888-486-8588. 6tfc

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THE NEW SONIC Drive In in Haskell is now taking applications for all positions. Apply in person. 44tfc

GIBSON CARE Center, Aspermont needs CNAs for all shifts. Call Melissa Prew, ADON at 940-989-3526. E.O.E. 9tfc

HELP WANTED: Busy, independent drug store has an immediate opening for an adult clerk—a motivated, energetic, dependable person to work 28 to 40 hours per week including some Saturdays. Retail experience helpful. Apply in person at 100 S. Ave. E, Haskell. Contact Linda or Lonnie at 940-864-2673. The Drug Store in Haskell. 1c

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FOR RENT: Furnished rooms for rent. Nightly, weekly. Call Lone Star Lodging 864-2424. 21tfc

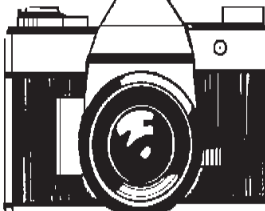
NOTICE
The deadline for Classified Advertising is 5 p.m. on Mondays.
Haskell Free Press

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FARM AND RANCH LISTINGS

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NORTHWEST HASKELL CO. 241 +/- Ac. known as Goose **SOLD** lent hunting plus farm production.

NORTH HASKELL COUNTY. 169 +/- Ac. cultivation and small pasture with excellent yield and production. Located on CR 227.

NORTHWEST HASKELL COUNTY. 60 +/- Ac. of old CRP and several varieties of grass. Possible irrigation available. Located corner of CR 183 and CR 184.

WEST OF HASKELL. 167.41 +/- Ac. of cultivation approximately one mile west of the Haskell City Limit on CR 104. On paved road and good building site.

NORTHWEST HASKELL CO. 132.2 +/- Ac. of CRP through 2010. Great for dove, and quail. Located on east side of Hwy. 6 on CR 168 south of O'Brien. Irrigation is in the area.

WESTERN HASKELL CO. 160 +/- Ac. cultivation, good yields and irrigation in the area. Located off FM 617 at intersection of CR 144 and CR 146.

NORTHWEST HASKELL CO. 375.65 +/- Ac. of grass and native pasture. Has large oak trees, a water well, electricity. Located on CR 196.

CRP FARM. 141 +/- Ac. with established grass located on Hwy. 380 west of Haskell approximately two miles. Owner will divide.

SOUTHERN KNOX CO. 80 +/- of excellent cultivated land on Knox Co. Road 4451 west of Munday. Irrigation is in the area.

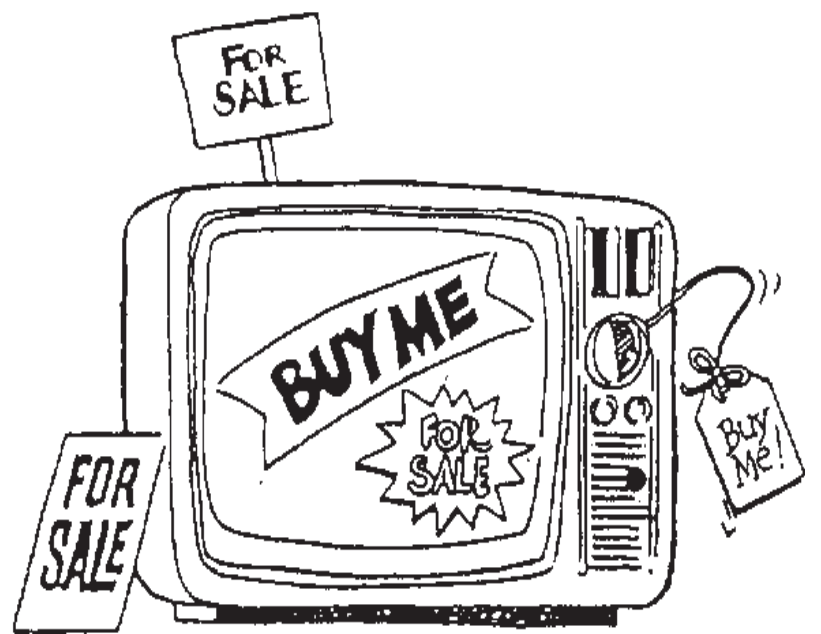
NORTHWEST HASKELL CO. 91 +/- Ac. of cultivation on FM 2279. Property has good yields and irrigation is in the area.

NORTH HASKELL CO. 207.5 +/- Ac. cultivation and pasture, two stock tanks, seasonal creek, working pens, electricity and excellent yields. Located on Hwy. 617 west of Weinert.

NORTH HASKELL CO. 171 +/- Ac. cultivation and pasture. Yields are good, electricity is available. Located north of Weinert on the east side of Hwy. 277 North.

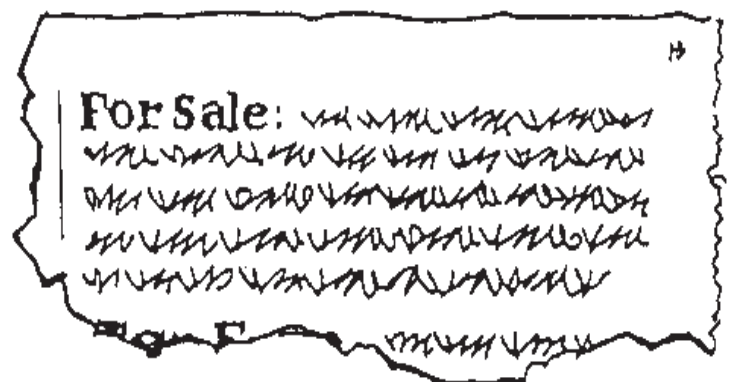
NORTH HASKELL CO. 290 +/- Ac. cultivation and pasture with good tank, seasonal creek, working pens and electricity. Located on CR 223.
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FEATURED LISTINGS

315 ADDISON DR. NICELY UPDATED IN ADDISON DR. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, brick home, unbelievably large bathroom with 360 degree mirrors, large living area open to kitchen and dining, unique fireplace, kitchen is large with an island and an awesome pot rack hanging above, it has been completely remodeled with new appliances, floors and cabinets, separate office area great to work from home, two car garage, fenced back yard, large covered patio, separate garage and storage in back.

ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS WITH ROOM TO GROW. 4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath, two story brick home, large master bedroom with master bath that has a Jacuzzi bathtub, separate shower and twin vanities, large living room, formal dining room, kitchen with surrounding bar and breakfast area, separate office, upstairs is a huge open room with complete kitchenette area and bar, game room and balcony, enclosed storm shelter off of the utility room, four car garage, house sets on two acres, over 5,000 s/f under roof. THIS IS A MUST SEE!

1005 N. 3RD ST. EAST. MUST SEE. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, frame home, entire home remodeled, beautiful kitchen with new cherry wood cabinets and tile counter tops, an island sets in the kitchen for easy entertaining, living room open to dining room, large utility room, nice storage throughout home, fenced in back yard with amazing landscaping, covered patio, two car carport.

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USDA 2009 DCP signup underway

Glenn R Brzozowski, Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Haskell County announced that enrollment for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres began Dec. 22 both online and at local USDA service centers and continues until June 1, 2009.

"I encourage all producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up for this important program," said Brzozowski. "This service makes DCP more accessible to the public, and I encourage producers with Internet access to use the system." However, producers can visit any USDA Service Center or their administratively assigned center, to complete their 2009 DCP contract.

The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept late-filed applications.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service saves producers time, reduces paperwork and speeds up contract processing at USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. It is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in the DCP Program and can be accessed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>. To access the service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 2008. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to include the ACRE program or they may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in Spring 2009.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net

based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year State price for each eligible commodity. For the 2009 crop, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2007 and 2008 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Direct payment rates and maximum counter-cyclical rates for 2009:

Wheat: Target price, \$3.92/bu.; Direct payment rate, .52; Loan rate, \$2.75; Minimum effective price, \$3.27; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, .65.

Corn: Target price, \$2.63/bu.; Direct payment rate, .28; Loan rate, \$1.95; Minimum effective price, \$2.23; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, .40.

Grain sorghum: Target price, \$2.57/bu.; Direct payment rate, .35; Loan rate, \$1.95; Minimum effective price, \$2.30; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, .27.

Barley: Target price, \$2.24/bu.; Direct payment rate, .24; Loan rate, \$1.85; Minimum effective price,

\$2.09; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, .15.

Oats: Target price, \$1.44/bu.; Direct payment rate, .024; Loan rate, \$1.33; Minimum effective price, \$1.354; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, .086.

Upland cotton: Target price, \$.7125/lb.; Direct payment rate, .0667; Loan rate, .5200; Minimum effective price, \$.5867; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, .1258.

Rice, long grain: Target price, \$10.50/cwt.; Direct payment rate, 2.35; Loan rate, \$6.50; Minimum effective price, \$8.85; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, \$1.65.

Rice, medium grain: Target price, \$10.50/cwt.; Direct payment rate, 2.35; Loan rate, \$6.50; Minimum effective price, \$8.85; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, \$1.65.

Soybeans: Target price, \$5.80/bu.; Direct payment rate, .44; Loan rate, \$5.00; Minimum effective price, \$5.44; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, .36.

Other oilseeds: Target price, \$10.10/cwt.; Direct payment rate, .80; Loan rate, \$9.30; Minimum effective price, \$10.10; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, .00.

Dry peas: Target price, \$8.32/cwt.; Direct payment rate, .00; Loan rate, \$5.40; Minimum effective price, \$5.40; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, \$2.92.

Lentils: Target price, \$12.81/cwt.; Direct payment rate, .00; Loan rate, \$11.28; Minimum effective price, \$11.28; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, \$1.53.

Small chickpeas: Target price, \$10.36/cwt.; Direct payment rate, .00; Loan rate, \$7.43; Minimum effective price, \$7.43; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, \$2.93.

Large chickpeas: Target price, \$12.81/cwt.; Direct payment rate, .00; Loan rate, \$11.28; Minimum effective price, \$11.28; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, \$1.53.

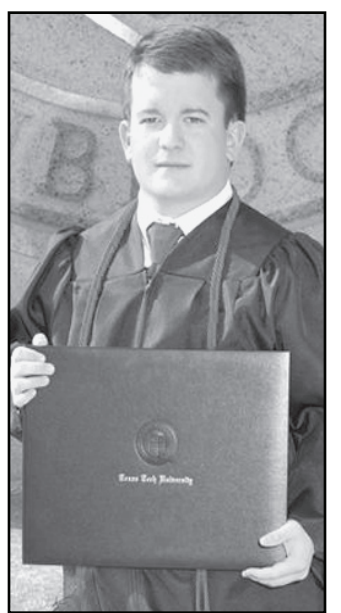
Peanuts: Target price, \$495.00/short ton; Direct payment rate, \$36.00; Loan rate, \$355.00; Minimum effective price, \$391.00; Maximum Counter-cyclical payment rate, \$104.00.

Students in the News

Ross Short graduated Sat., Dec. 13, from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude, in Interdisciplinary Agriculture.

While at Texas Tech, Short was on the Dean's List or the President's List every semester in which he was enrolled. He completed his student teaching at Stamford High School.

A 2005 graduate of Rochester High School, he is the son of Larry and Linda Short and the grandson of Warren and Jane Short, all of Rochester, and Bernice Hilliard of Haskell.



ROSS SHORT

Poinsettias to compost

Something in your holiday heart will urge you to attempt to forge a long-term relationship with your poinsettia.

But before you repot it and spend time and money trying to encourage it to produce vivid colors again, make it a martyr for your spring garden, suggests a Texas Cooperative Extension horticulturist.

"Unless you are an absolute plant nut, the most economical and reasonable thing to do is to discard it when it starts to look rough around the edges," said Dr. Don Wilkerson, Extension horticulturist and Earth-Kind advocate.

"And the best way to get rid of a poinsettia is in a sustainable manner by tossing it on a compost pile rather than in the trash. We don't need to contribute to the endless stream of yard waste that is clogging up urban landfills."

Wilkerson said poinsettias, which were brought to the U.S. more than 180 years ago, were never intended to be a perennial plant. Perhaps because they are associated with Christmas, people often try to keep the plants alive.

"But the challenge is in getting the plants to reflower. They are photoperiodic which means that they only bloom in the 'short day' times of year. If there is any interrupting of the dark cycle, they remain in the vegetative state," he said.

Though there are no hard numbers for this season yet, poinsettias seem to have been sold at low prices because supply

about matched the demand, according to Dr. Charlie Hall, holder of the Ellison Chair in International Floriculture at Texas A&M University.

Hall said there were numerous specials this season—from \$1.49 for a 6-inch pot one Friday early in the season to three for \$10 on the larger pots as Christmas neared.

But, "there's nothing more worthless than a poinsettia on Jan. 1," Hall noted.

That's where the compost pile enters.

"Toss poinsettias on a compost pile, dirt and all," Wilkerson said. "They have such a narrow carbon-to-nitrogen ratio that the plants will decompose rapidly, and the potting medium will also contribute to a richer compost material. The wider the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio, the longer it will take to break down"

Generally, the green or fleshy items are higher in nitrogen whereas the dried items are more carbon.

So, go ahead to the compost pile with the poinsettias and the grapefruit, apples, pears and other seasonal fruit that linger past being edible.

But other Christmas wastes—such as gift wrap—may not be as suitable for composting, Wilkerson said, because they are higher in carbon and thus take longer to degrade in the soil. Large pieces such as evergreen boughs or pinecones can be chipped into smaller pieces and used for mulch on a flower bed.

Commissioners' Court report

The Haskell County Commissioners' Court met in a regular session Dec. 8 with County Judge David Davis, and Commissioners Johnny Scoggins, Tiffen Mayfield, Kenny Thompson and Bobby Smith present.

A motion to pay all bills was approved.

A motion to approve the County Treasurer's monthly report was approved.

A resolution was passed supporting the Haskell Chamber of Commerce and the City of Haskell in

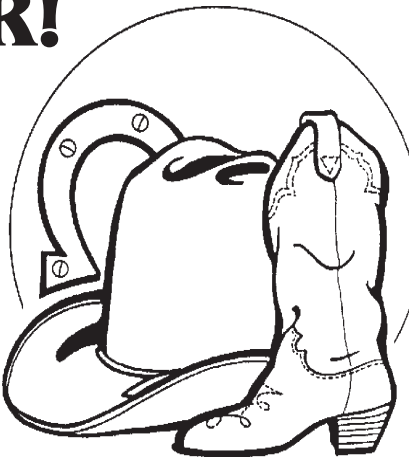
efforts to secure funding and work with TxDOT in securing permission to put Welcome signs at Haskell entrances.

A motion passed stating that part time workers must work a minimum of 35 hours per week to be eligible for the county health insurance.

A motion passed requiring a 90 day waiting period for newly hired employees to be eligible for county health insurance.

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TAX PLANNING

Written By
Rick Rodgers, CPA



NOTE THESE 2009 TAX DEADLINES ON YOUR CALENDAR

Mark these dates as red letter days on your 2009 calendar if any of the following upcoming tax deadlines apply to you or your business.

January 15: Due date for the fourth and final installment of 2008 estimated tax for individuals (unless you file your 2008 return and pay any balance due by February 2).

February 2: Employers must furnish 2008 W-2 statements to employees. 1099 information statements must be furnished to payees by payers. (Deadline for providing 1099-Bs and consolidated statements to customers is February 17.)

February 2: Employers must generally file 2008 federal unemployment tax returns and pay any tax due.

March 2: Payers must file information returns (such as 1099s) with the IRS. (March 31 is the deadline if filing electronically.)

March 2: Employers must send W-2 copies to the Social Security Administration. (March 31 is the deadline if filing electronically.)

March 2: Farmers and fishermen who did not make 2008 estimated tax payments must file 2008 tax returns and pay taxes in full.

March 16: 2008 calendar-year corporation income tax returns are due.

April 15: Individual income tax returns for 2008 are due unless you file for an automatic extension. Taxes owed are due regardless of extension.

April 15: 2008 partnership returns are due.

April 15: 2008 annual gift tax returns are due.

April 15: Deadline for making your 2008 IRA and education savings account contributions.

April 15: First installment of 2009 individual estimated tax is due.

June 15: Second installment of 2009 individual estimated tax is due.

September 15: Third installment of 2009 individual estimated tax is due.

October 15: Deadline for filing your 2008 individual tax return if you filed for an extension of the April 15 deadline.

Call our office for more information or for assistance with these and other required tax filings.

RODGERS & COMPANY
Certified Public Accountant
20 Southwest Third Street
Hamlin, Texas • 325-576-2356