



Young Inventors ...

Tahoka High School senior physics students (from left) Kyle Bueermann, Casey Jones, Clay Pittman and Jhonathan Knox put together their Rube Goldberg machine which will, at the end of a 10-step process, pour a Coke into a glass containing ice cream to make a Coke Float. Class members, under the tutelage of Betty Stennett, created unique machines which make simple tasks more complex by involving a series of different steps to accomplish their goals, such as pouring coke into a glass, or placing a birthday candle on a cake. See story, page three.

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6 PAGES PLUS INSERT

Playoff Action Friday:

New Home Boys Reach Sectionals

New Home boys beat Loop 61-49 in bi-district at the Texan Dome in Levelland Tuesday to advance to the sectional tournament in Class A Division II. Jason Reyes scored 29 big points for the Leopards and Matt Cramble had 15 for the winners, now 26-4 for the year. Shaun Wied also scored 10 for New Home.

The Leopards will play Whitharral at 8 p.m. Friday at Can-

yon High School. Whitharral advanced by beating Motley County 56-49.

New Home girls lost to Whitharral 42-35 in the girls sectional tournament at Canyon this week, ending the Lady Leopards' run after a sparkling season.

O'Donnell boys also bowed out in the playoffs this week, losing to Bronte 44-36 in bi-district play.



A WOMAN I know recently observed her 40th birthday by buying herself a brand new SUV, complete with leather and fancy accessories, big wheels, big sound with seven speakers, big engine and big payments. She's very proud of it, and I don't blame her, so I refrained from suggesting SUV stands for "sort of unstable vehicle".

Anyway, in connection with her buying the new vehicle, I thought of how car makers used to stress a break-in period, in which you didn't drive over 50 or 60 mph for the first several hundred miles, you started out with lightweight oil and had to change it to something heavier after the break-in, and you weren't supposed to drive for more than a few minutes at any constant speed.

Now when you buy a new car (truck, whatever) the auto makers claim they already have the engine broken in properly, and you can drive it anyway you want to. Get out on the highway, set the cruise control on 95, and just go until you either reach your destination or get a ticket about a foot long. You can go all the way to Timbuktu at a constant speed if you like.

Saying that moves us to an entirely new subject, like where in the world is Timbuktu?

My mother used to say things like "Pick up your things! You've got stuff scattered from here to Timbuktu!"

When I was a kid, I never thought much about where that was; we lived in Jacksboro, and I figured it must be somewhere close to Fort Worth, 60 miles away and the only big city in the world that I knew about.

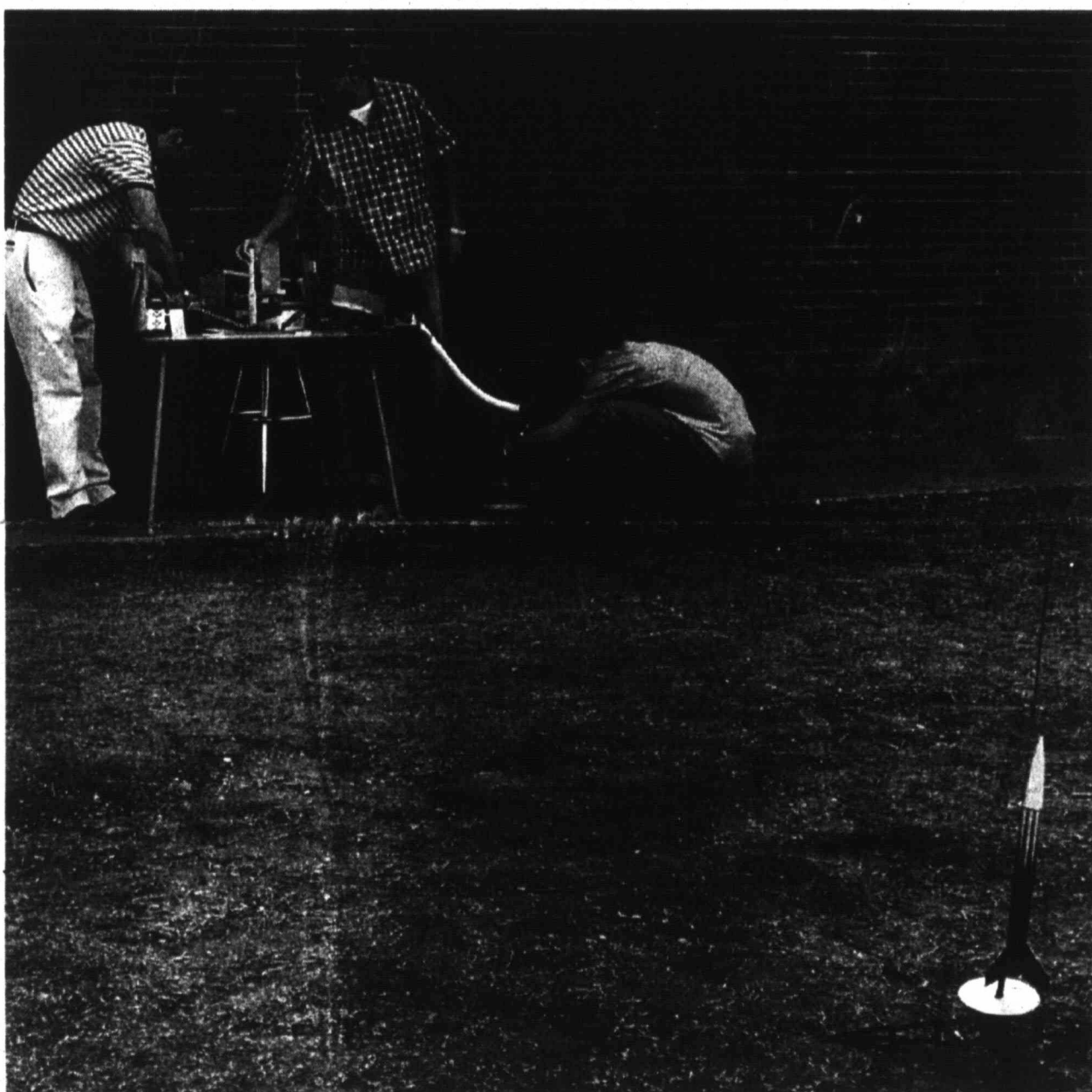
Later I remember reading in a comic strip called Felix the Cat where one character asked the other, "Where is Timbuktu?" and the answer was "Between Timbuck One and Timbuck Three."

That's the only time I remember ever wondering where it really was. I didn't know if it was a city, state, nation or what. I figured that some day I would look it up.

This week, about 60 years later, I got around to checking the encyclopedia, and learned that it is a city of about 32,000 people, in a republic called Mali in West Africa, bordering on several other countries nobody ever heard of. Once controlled by France, Timbuktu was founded in the 11th century by a warlike tribe called Tuaregs (Tough Eggs?).

It is on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert, with temperatures often above 100 degrees, and only 8 inches of rain a year. Some Lynn County residents ought to feel right at home there.

Anyway, it is a long way off, and I suspect my mother was exaggerating. I never had enough stuff to scatter that far.



ROCKET BOYS - The equipment on the card table, designed and created by THS physics students Ryan Curry, Justin Antu and Matt Sanders, will set off the model rocket in the foreground, if all goes according to plan. The project is a Rube Goldberg machine, and is part of a class taught by Betty Stennett.

Filing Opens This Week For City, School Elections

The filing period opened Monday for candidates interested in running for seats on city and school boards in Lynn County, with six incumbents filing as of Tuesday afternoon in the Tahoka and O'Donnell city and school elections. The filing period runs through March 21 for the May 5 election, with applicants filing at the respective city/school offices.

In Tahoka, incumbents Leighton Knox Jr. (Precinct 1), Joe Calvillo (Precinct 2) and Carmen Chapa (Precinct 3) have filed for re-election in their respective districts for Tahoka Independent School District, and in the Tahoka City election Mayor Mike Mensch has filed for re-election. City council members John Chapa Jr. and Amy Prestof will have terms expiring in their respective precincts, District 1 and 3. No candidates have filed for the council seats to date. The school board terms are for three years, and city terms are two years.

O'Donnell Independent School District has three trustee positions up for grabs this year, all three-year terms, with one incumbent already filing this week. Kenneth Dan Vestal has filed for re-election to the school board, and the terms of Manuel

Gutierrez and Travis Mires are also expiring. In the O'Donnell City election, Max Mendieta is seeking re-election to the city council, and terms are also expiring for Rex Little and Larry Pyron. All three council seats are two-year terms.

No candidates have filed this week in the Wilson and New Home city and school elections. Three trustees' terms expire in the Wilson Independent School District election, including Lonnie Paul Donald, who served a three-year term, and Mike Taylor and Roy Isham, who each filled an unexpired term due to resignations. The three seats on the school board will all be three-year terms in the May 5 election. In the Wilson City election, four seats will be placed on the ballot, three of which are two-year terms and a one-year unexpired term. Council members whose terms expire are Lupe Guzman, Janie Zavala and Victor Steinhauer, in the two-year terms, and Mark Holeman for the unexpired term.

Three school board members have terms expiring in the New Home Independent School District election, including Kelly Kieth, Michael

White and Andy Maeker. All are three-year terms. And in the New Home City election, terms are expiring for Mayor Don Sharp and council members Leroy Nettles and Kyle Johnston, all two-year terms.

Car Stolen In County Recovered

A 1999 Pontiac stolen north of Tahoka on Feb. 5 was recovered in Amarillo and later returned to the owner, Vickie Riddle. Sheriff Jake Diggs reported this week. A 17-year-old black male driving the car was arrested, but has not been questioned by Lynn County authorities, who learned Feb. 15 that the vehicle was impounded in Amarillo.

Tahoka Police Dept. investigated a report of disorderly conduct during the week. A young woman from Wilson reported an incident in Tahoka last Thursday in which a man allegedly made obscene remarks and gestures to her and her mother.

Five persons were jailed during the last week. Charges involved included driving while intoxicated, driving while license suspended, invalid drivers license, disregarding warning sign, no drivers license and parole violation.

Weather

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Feb. 14	60	52	.06"
Feb. 15	56	36	Trace
Feb. 16	50	34	
Feb. 17	53	22	
Feb. 18	58	22	
Feb. 19	78	33	
Feb. 20	80	35	

Total Precip. for February: 0.17"
Total Precip. to date this year: 1.17"
Precip. this time last year: 1.13"



MIRACLE MILE TOUR - Zac Castillo, a Texas Tech student, was in Tahoka Tuesday night and Wednesday morning in a stopover during his 430-mile Miracle Mile Tour, raising funds for the Children's Miracle Network. He is shown here with Lynn County Treasurer Janet Porterfield and County Judge J.F. Brandon. Castillo left Lubbock Tuesday evening and arrived in Tahoka at approximately 10 p.m., leaving Wednesday morning for Post, Ralls and Floydada. He was to ride to 11 cities during the Wednesday-Saturday tour. Lynn County residents can help support the Children's Miracle Network by purchasing \$5 raffle tickets for a chance to win a 2001 Ford Taurus, donated by Smith Ford Mercury in Slaton. The tickets are available at the Lynn County Treasurer's Office through Friday.

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Pet Show Slated At Tahoka Middle School

Tahoka Middle School students may participate in a pet show this Friday, Feb. 23, to be held on the school's practice field from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Area residents are invited to come watch the proceedings.

Organized by student Anna Hawthorne, the pet show will have five categories: cutest, smartest, smallest, largest and trickiest, with prizes to be offered to the winners. Prizes will be gift certificates donated by Jolly Time, PJ's, George's, Dixie Dog and Subway.

Senior Citizens MENU

Feb. 26-Mar. 2
Monday: Baked Potato Stuffed w/ BBQ Beef or Broccoli & Cheese, Pears, Hot Roll, Peanut Butter Cookies. **GAME NIGHT**—6 p.m.
Tuesday: Beef & Peppers, Rice, Chinese or Mixed Vegetables, Wheat Roll, Gingerbread.
Wednesday: Salisbury Steak, Green Peas, Cauliflower, Biscuit or Cornbread, Peach Pie or Cobbler.
Thursday: Chicken Strips or Liver & Onions, Potatoes, Green Beans, Wheat Roll, Fruit Salad, Cookies
Friday: Roast Beef, Roasted Potatoes, Carrots, Tossed Salad/Ranch Dressing, Cinnamon Roll or Cake.

The International Red Cross organization was founded in Switzerland in 1863 by the philanthropist Jean Henri Durant.

It's said early Americans referred to the blackberry as a brambleberry.

Obituaries

Henry Trevino Jr.

Rosary for Henry Trevino Jr., 21, of Lubbock was said at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at St. Pius X Catholic Church in O'Donnell.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, in the same church.

Burial was in O'Donnell Cemetery.

He died Monday, Feb. 12, 2001 in Lubbock.

He was born Jan. 18, 1980 in Lamesa. He had lived in Dilworth, Minn., before moving to Lubbock four months ago.

Survivors include his mother, Lilly of Dilworth; his father, Enrique Sr. of Lubbock; two brothers, Daniel and Michael, both of Dilworth; his grandfather, Manuel Jr. of Lamesa; his grandmother, Elvita Sanchez of O'Donnell; and his great-grandmother, Carolina Trevino of Plainview.

Baseball Game Here Moved To Thursday

Baseball fans need to reschedule their calendars this week, as the Tahoka High School Baseball Team's match against Lamesa is being moved up one day.

Originally scheduled to be held at 7 p.m. Friday, the game has been moved to 4:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at the THS Baseball field in south Tahoka, according to Coach Brent John, who invites area residents to come support the hosting Bulldogs.



SWEET AS A ROSE - Homer Hancock of O'Donnell is shown here presenting his wife, Hazel a red rose for Valentine's Day. The couple has been married for 77 years and both now reside at Tahoka Care Center.

Refund Deadline Approaching For 1997 Tax Returns

Time is running out for 123,600 Texans to file their 1997 tax returns and claim \$145 million in refunds. Nationally, \$2.4 billion awaits about 1.6 million people, the Internal Revenue Service announced recently.

To collect the money, a federal tax return must be filed with the IRS no later than April 16, 2001.

"I strongly urge these individuals to take steps to claim this money," said IRS Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti. "Money that is not refunded within three years generally becomes the property of the U.S. Treasury," he said.

The IRS estimates that about half of those who could claim refund would receive less than \$464. Some individuals had too little income to require filing a tax return, but may have had taxes withheld from their wages. Others may not have had any tax withheld, but would be eligible

for the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit.

In cases where a return was not filed, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund. For 1997 returns, the window closes on April 15, 2001. However, because that day is a Sunday, taxpayers have until the next day to file their returns and claim their refunds. The law requires that these returns be properly addressed, postmarked, and mailed by that date (April 16, 2001). There is no penalty assessed by the IRS for filing a late return qualifying for a refund.

The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 1997 refund that their checks will be held if they have not filed tax returns for 1998 or 1999. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS and may be used to satisfy unpaid child support or past due federal debts such as student loans.

By failing to file a return, individuals stand to lose more than refunds of taxes withheld or paid during 1997. Many low-income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Although eligible taxpayers may get a refund when their EITC is more than their tax, those who file returns more than three years late would be able only to offset their tax. They would not be able to receive refunds if the credit exceeded their tax.

For 1997, individuals qualified for the EITC if they earned less than \$29,290 and had more than one qualifying child living with them; less than \$25,760 with one qualifying child or less than \$9,770 and had no qualifying child.

Current and prior year tax forms are available on the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov) or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). Taxpayers who need help preparing prior year tax returns or gathering income records may call the IRS help line at 1-800-829-1040. To allow time for processing, forms and/or tax help should be requested by mid-March.

News from the Tahoka Care Center

by Beverly Zuniga
 What a great party the Phebe K. Warner Club hosted on Valentine's Day! Refreshments were served as Dalton Wood and Marvin Gregory performed beautifully while playing the saxophone, trumpet and piano. Guest included residents, family of residents, staff, Phebe K. Warner Club members and friends.

Resident Homer Hancock presented his wife of 77 years, Hazel, a red rose for Valentine's. Hazel and Homer married Aug. 11, 1923. They both said they would marry each other all over again.

Thank you to all the friends and family that helped fill the Valentine sacks with lots of cards and goodies.

Last Thursday, seven residents were present at our computer class as FCCLA students from Tahoka High School demonstrated the computers in detail. Residents will now be able to personalize cards and send them to family and friends. Thank you to Clayton Chancy and Amada Aguilar from Patti Rambo's class for helping us all to learn about computers.

Thank you to Patricia Hogg, Wilma Gerner and Dana McKay for being such great volunteers. We appreciate you love and the time you give of yourself on a volunteer basis.

If you would like to volunteer to call bingo, play cards or dominoes, or read current events from the newspaper to residents, please call Beverly at 998-5018 and we will find a time to fit into your schedule.

Thank you to Reno Riddle for the handmade lap covers and to Pat Hogg, B.L. and Pam Miller, and Dee Dee Harper for bingo prizes.

We would like to welcome our newest resident, Hazel Ford. Come by and visit her.

Daron Norwood will provide entertainment for the residents at tonight's (Thursday) Family Night, beginning at 6:30 p.m. We are pleased to have Daron come and sing, and invite anyone to come for the evening's entertainment.

Wilson Students Named To Dean's List At SPC

Wilson residents Charitie Delgado and Juan Perez have been named to the Dean's Honor List at South Plains College for the 2000 fall semester.

"It is always a pleasure each semester to recognize those students who have been named to the college's honor lists," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president. "They have set high standards for themselves academically, and we appreciate and applaud their efforts."

Students named to the Dean's Honor List must maintain a minimum 3.25 grade point average while carrying at least 12 semester hours of college-level work with no failing grades.

The NEW HOME News by Karon Durham 924-7448

The Mobile Mammography Unit will be in New Home on Monday, April 9. There are still a few appointments left if you will call Karon Durham at 924-7524.

Mammography candidates are: *women 40 or over; *does not have a palpable lump; *have not had a mastectomy; *does not have implants; *has not had breast surgery within the year; *has not had a mammogram within the last year.

There will be a blood drive from 1-5 p.m. in the school cafeteria on Thursday, April 26. You can call Karon Durham at 924-7524 if you are in good general health and have not donated blood since Jan. 26.

For every person that donates blood, three persons benefit from that donation.

New Home School Menu

Feb. 26-Mar. 2 Breakfast
Monday: French Toast, Milk.
Tuesday: Cereal, Cinnamon Toast, Milk.
Wednesday: Biscuit, Sausage, Eggs, Milk.
Thursday: Pancake Pup w/Syrup, Milk.
Friday: Biscuit, Sausage, Eggs, Milk.

Lunch
Monday: Beefy Nachos, Lettuce, Tomato, Pinto Beans, Pineapple Tidbits, Cornbread, Milk.
Tuesday: Bean & Cheese Burrito, Lettuce, Tomato, Carrot, Celery, Orange Half, Milk.
Wednesday: Sandwich Bar, Pickle Spears, Carrot, Celery, Peach Cup, Apples, Chips, Frozen Yogurt, Milk.
Thursday: Enchilada Casserole, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice, Lettuce, Tomato, Tortilla Chips, Milk.
Friday: Chili Cheese Dog, Tator Tots, Chili Beans, Peach Cup.

In 1860 tomatoes were still regarded so suspiciously that magazines recommended they be cooked for at least three hours.

To be classified as brilliant, a diamond is cut so as to have 58 facets.

Moore Graduates From Texas Tech

Sha'Lyn Anderson Moore of New Home earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Multi-Disciplinary Studies from Texas Tech University during the 2000 fall commencement ceremonies.

She is the daughter of Johnny and Janney Anderson of O'Donnell.

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Cost: \$10 per child

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The Lynn County News
 Tahoka, Texas 79373

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Congratulations to the NEW HOME LEOPARDS

Bi-District Champions

and Good Luck in the Sectional Semifinals

8:00 p.m. Friday vs Whitharral in the Canyon High School Gym

We're proud of the Lady Leopards great effort in Sectional Semifinals

You had a great season!

New Home/Lakeview Elevator
 New Home Co-Op Gin
 B & B Fertilizer
 John Edwards Shop
 The Lynn County News

Go Leopards!



AND THIS GOES AND MICKEY DELEON

THIS PROJECT MACHINE

by CASEY JONES
 THS Journalism Study

The senior phy Tahoka High School Rube Goldberg machine simple everyday tasks complicated — in el young inventors wh laws of physics to n cesses.

The "inventions" tasks more complex series of different step duties such as putting a toothbrush or sharp

The teacher of the Betty Stennett, asked complete a project of Goldberg machine th or more steps. The cl time period of about comple the assignm dents split into groups to design and build machines.

Each group had to simple machines in the The machines involve incline plane, and a p chine could be started tion but it had to be the machine to compl

The project could things as ramps, pendu electric motors, projec candles, and any other sary to build the mach

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The class was divi groups for their partic The group of Mickey rie Gregory, Amada

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AND THIS GOES HERE - THS physics students Amy Stroope, Amada Aguilar (kneeling), Carrie Gregory and Mickey DeLeon put the finishing touches on their Rube Goldberg machine which will pour ice into a cup.

THS Physics Students Create Unique Machines To Perform Simple Tasks

by CASEY JONES
THS Journalism Student

The senior physics class at Tahoka High School created four Rube Goldberg machines that make simple everyday tasks even more complicated — in effect becoming young inventors while applying the laws of physics to real-world processes.

The "inventions" make simple tasks more complex by involving a series of different steps to accomplish duties such as putting toothpaste on a toothbrush or sharpening a pencil. The teacher of the physics class, Betty Stennett, asked the students to complete a project of making a Rube Goldberg machine that involves ten or more steps. The class was given a time period of about three weeks to complete the assignment, and students split into groups of three or four to design and build the Goldberg machines.

Each group had to include three simple machines in their final design. The machines involved were a lever, incline plane, and a pulley. The machine could be started with one action but it had to be continuous for the machine to complete its process.

The project could involve such things as ramps, pendulums, wheels, electric motors, projectile launchers, candles, and any other means necessary to build the machine.

The students used normal ordinary object such as marbles, wood blocks, plastic tubes, dominoes, cups, weights, and other materials to build their machines. The machine itself required basic engineering and intuitive skills in order to be completed properly.

The class was divided into four groups for their particular projects. The group of Mickey DeLeon, Carrie Gregory, Amada Aguilar, and

Amy Stroope put together a machine that would pour ice into a cup of Coke.

Ryan Curry, Matt Sanders, and Justin Antu made a machine that launched a model rocket outdoors.

Another group that included Jhonathan Knox, Clay Pittman, Casey Jones, and Kyle Bueermann, produced a machine that poured Coke into ice cream to make a Coke float.

One other group of students involving Michelle Martin, Klyssa Kelln, Lezli Gandy, and Shea Pridmore completed the project by making their machine put a candle into a birthday cake.

The students used scientific laws and principles they had learned throughout the year to make their machine work. They used Newton's three laws of motion, the law of conservation of momentum, and other concepts such as gravity, friction, elastic collisions, and more.

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, the students displayed the final outcomes of their projects to the entire class. All of the machines ended up working successfully before the day was over, much to the relief of the hard-working students.

"We do this activity each year to complete the study of mechanics. This allows the students to bring together all they have learned so far this year," said Mrs. Stennett.

Rube Goldberg (1883-1970) was a Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist, sculptor, and author. He illustrated these types of "inventions" while drawing cartoons for the *Evening Mail* newspaper while working in New York.

Goldberg was sometimes skeptical of modern technology during his life. He said that his cartoons were

"symbols of man's capacity for exerting maximum effort to accomplish minimal results." Goldberg wanted his inventions to discover "harder ways to achieve easier results."

There is a National Rube Goldberg Contest held at Purdue University in Indiana that has been held annually since 1987. Recent past challenges have ranged from sealing a time capsule to making a cup of coffee.

GED Exam To Change Format

The General Education Development (GED) exam, designed for persons without a high school diploma, will change after Dec. 31.

"The test is being redeveloped to reflect the broader, more technologically-oriented skills of today's society," said Lisa Sharp, coordinator of testing at South Plains College in Levelland, a GED testing center.

The test will feature the most up-to-date, widely used secondary school curriculum standards, including use of a calculator for the mathematics portion of the exam, noted Sharp.

The test covers writing skills, social studies, literature/arts and mathematics.

People who have not passed all parts of the high school equivalency exam have until Dec. 31 to pass the remainder of their tests under the current system.

"If they wait until the first of 2002, they will need to retake the entire exam under the new system," said Sharp.

Cost for the exam is \$10 each for partial GED exams or \$50 for the entire battery of tests. SPC offers the test and partial exams on a monthly basis. Students who pass the exam will receive a GED certificate, the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Persons often take the GED test to help in future employment and as means to pursuing higher education, noted Sharp. "Since SPC is a GED testing center, we see a number of students who attend college after passing their GED. They come back for assistance, and we can help them make that transition into college," she explained.

Tahoka School Menu

Feb. 26-Mar. 2
Breakfast
Monday: No School.
Tuesday: Donuts or Cereal & Toast, Apple Juice, Milk.
Wednesday: Cinnamon Rolls or Cereal & Toast, Peach Cups, Milk.
Thursday: Sausage & Biscuit or Cereal & Biscuit, Fruit Punch Juice, Milk.
Friday: Sausage & Pancake Stick or Cereal & Toast, Orange Juice, Milk.
Lunch
Monday: No School.
Tuesday: Chicken Patties, Cream Potatoes, Green Beans, Sliced Apples, Hot Rolls, Milk.
Wednesday: Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza, Mixed Salad, Apple, Cherry Shape-Ups, Milk.
Thursday: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tossed Salad, Vegetable Soup, Orange Halves, Milk.
Friday: Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Lettuce, Onion, Pickles, French Fries, Apple Cobbler, Milk.

Wilson School Menu

Feb. 26-Mar. 2
Breakfast
Monday: Oatmeal, Toast, Juice, Milk.
Tuesday: Cinnamon Rolls, Juice, Milk.
Wednesday: Pancake & Sausage Sticks, Juice, Milk.
Thursday: Sausage & Biscuits, Juice, Milk.
Friday: Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrowns, Toast, Juice, Milk.
Lunch
Monday: Cheeseburger, Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Fruit, Milk.
Tuesday: Delux Nachos w/Chips, Meat, Beans, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato; Fruit; (HS-Sandwich Bar), Milk.
Wednesday: Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Toast, Milk.
Thursday: Corn Dogs, Chips, Pork & Beans, Pears, (HS Alt-Burritos), Milk.
Friday: Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Salad, Crackers, Apples, Milk.

Help Available To Pay Energy Bills

Texas Consumer Guidance has established a grant fund to help people who are having financial problems because of high energy costs. This grant program is funded by private donations from corporations and private citizens who receive a tax exemption because of the organizations 501 (c) 3 non-profit status granted by the Internal Revenue Service.

"Many people who are struggling with energy bills do not know that financial assistance is available from non-profit organizations and from the government," says Jim Surasak, national spokesman for Consumer Guidance. "We have established the Energy Help Grant Program and also publish a number of booklets to help consumers who are struggling with rising energy costs."

Consumer Guidance Corporation is an organization established by volunteers dedicated to assisting individuals of all ages who need financial assistance to help pay for consumer debts, energy bills, prescription drugs and medical care. The primary purpose of Consumer Guidance Corporation is to educate and assist consumers with all consumer debt issues.

Consumers can receive a free grant application and more information about other financial help by calling 202-595-1035 or by visiting Consumer Guidance's Internet site, www.ConsumerGuidance.org.

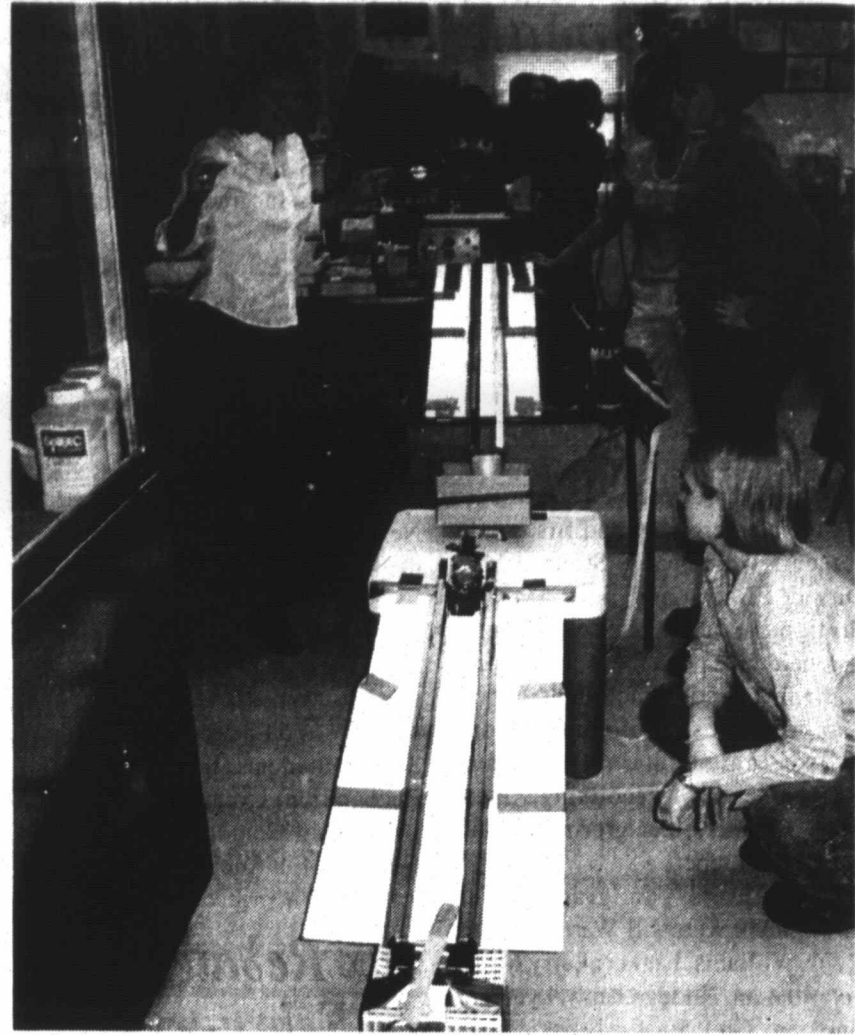
Corporations or individuals who wish to contribute to Consumer Guidance's Energy Help Grant Program can send tax deductible contributions to: TX Consumer Guidance, P.O. Box 96051, Washington, DC 20090-6051.



Salted-in-the-shell peanuts are soaked in brine to get the salt flavor before they are roasted.



In Wales, hazel twigs were once woven into a wishing cap which, it was believed, would grant the wearer's desire.



TESTING THE EQUIPMENT - Shea Pridmore starts the process on her group's Rube Goldberg machine, which includes a miniature car rolling down a ramp towards the ultimate goal of placing a birthday candle on a cake. She and Klyssa Kelln, Lezli Gandy and (in foreground) Michelle Martin are physics students at Tahoka High School.

Weather Warmer, Wetter Than Normal

Tahoka's average temperature and precipitation for the month of January was warmer and wetter than normal, according to the National Weather Service in Lubbock.

Tahoka's monthly average temperature was 39.3 degrees with an average high of 49.8 degrees and an average low of 28.7. Normal temperature for Jan. is 38.6 degrees.

Normal precipitation for Jan. is .54 inches. Tahoka had .86 inches of total precipitation with 4 inches of snowfall.

Wedding Announcement Policy

The Lynn County News accepts wedding announcements at no charge if run within 8 weeks following the event. A \$35 fee will be assessed if run after that time.

All information is subject to editing. Wedding and Engagement forms are available at the Lynn County News Office, 1617 Main, P.O. Box 1170, Tahoka, TX 79373, (806) 998-4888, Fax 998-6308.

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HOURS:
Monday & Wednesday 9 am-5:30 pm
(Closed for Lunch 12:30-1:30 pm)
Tuesday & Thursday 2 pm-7 pm
Saturday 10 am-1 pm

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OPEN: Friday & Saturday 10 am-2 pm

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Come share the Spirit!
St. John Lutheran Church, Wilson
(Block S. of 211, next to school) 628-6573
Sunday School 9:30; Worship 10:45

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Locals Speak To Students At Elementary Career Day

Tahoka High School Family, Career and Community (FCCLA) members sponsored an Elementary Career Day on Friday, Feb. 9 with presenters from various careers speaking to grades K-6 and bringing visual demonstrations for the students. The theme of the day was "When I Grow Up, I Want To Be..."

The career presenters were divided into three groups. The presenters for Kindergarten and first grade students were Jeanie Stone, EMS; David Ehlers and Jeff Martin, firefighters; and Frank McLelland, rancher. The presenters for second and third grades included: Byron Norwood, cosmetologist; Sandra Brown, nail technician; Sharon Barrientez, cake decorating; Charlotte Summers, pet grooming; and Pam Miller, chef.

Presenters for grades four through six were Jill Warren, artist; Keith Williams, banker; Larry Mills, veterinarian; Roddy Gandy, Lyntegar lineman; Gail Stark, florist; Bryan Gerlich, teacher/coach; Steve Sanders, grocery store manager; and Juanell Jones, newspaper editor. Tahoka ISD Policeman Abraham Vega; Jay Druessedow, DPS; Larry Dodd, Tahoka Police Department; Steve Cartner, Lynn County Sheriff's Department; Jennifer Kemp, Texas Parks and Wildlife; Mark White, Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission; and Gilbert Arrendondo,

Texas DPS Narcotics Service spoke to students in grades Kindergarten through six.

Karla Leslie, Channel 28/13 News Anchor was also present and spoke to all students in grades Kindergarten through six. Ms. Leslie spoke of her duties as a news anchor and asked many students, "When I Grow Up, I Want to Be..." Highlights of the career day will be aired on News 28 in the near future as part of the Partners in Education series.

FCCLA members Haleigh Ross, Kim Vega and Diana Pena coordinated the event. These students will present, "When I Grow Up, I Want to Be..." as a Focus on the Children, STAR (Students Taking Action for Recognition) Event, at the Region I Leadership Conference, to be held Feb. 23-24 in Lubbock.



EXCITING CAREERS - Law enforcement officers spoke to Tahoka Elementary students in grades K-6 on Feb. 9 during the FCCLA-sponsored Career Day, along with many other local and area business men and women. Shown here are Larry Dodd of the Tahoka Police Department, Mark White of the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission, Jay Druessedow of the Texas Department of Public Safety, and in front, Jennifer Kemp of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Tax Rebates Up In February

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander has delivered \$335.3 million in monthly sales tax payments to 1,108 Texas cities and 119 counties, a 5.8 percent increase compared to the \$316.7 million allocated to cities and counties in February 2000. So far this year, sales tax rebates to cities and counties are up 5.4 percent compared to the first two months of 2000.

This month's sales tax allocations include sales taxes collected by monthly filers in December, and reported to the Comptroller in January, plus quarterly returns for sales in October, November, and December and returns from annual filers for the entire year 2000.

Tahoka showed the largest increase from last year (54.79%), receiving \$9,064.91 this year versus \$5,856.08 for the same period last year. O'Donnell showed an increase of 9.47 percent, receiving \$1876.67 this year as opposed to \$1,714.26 last year. Wilson only received \$965.57 this year versus \$1,132.32 last year for a decrease in their rebate of 14.72 percent for February.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be delivered on Friday, March 9.

Texans May Submit Comments For Natural Gas Hearing

Chairman Michael L. Williams, Commissioner Charles R. Matthews, and Commissioner Tony Garza today invited Texans to use the Internet to submit their comments for a daylong hearing focusing on natural gas utility issues. The hearing, which is set for Monday, Feb. 26 is being held in response to the rising cost of natural gas faced by consumers.

Texans are invited to comment on a variety of natural gas issues including: incentives for utilities to minimize the gas costs passed onto consumers; how to better notify consumers on anticipated price fluctuations; and the impact of severe price fluctuations on industries such as agriculture. An online comment form can be found at the Railroad Commission of Texas website (www.rrc.state.tx.us).

"The Internet provides an opportunity for all Texans to be part of this very important process," Williams said. "Comments from consumers who have been impacted the most by recent natural gas price fluctuations are not only welcomed, they're encouraged."

"If we are to help the Legislature develop some real solutions, we must hear from all sides," Matthews said. "By providing an opportunity to comment via the Internet, the Railroad Commission of Texas is working to ensure all voices are heard."

"With Texans facing some of the highest natural gas bills in recent memory, who better to ask for suggestions than consumers?," added Garza. "Through use of the Internet, everyone can offer suggestions that will ultimately lead to real reform."

Williams, Matthews and Garza noted all comments submitted via the Internet will become part of the official hearing record. Online comments must be submitted by Feb. 26.

The daylong conference on natural gas issues is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 26 in room 1-111 of the Railroad Commission of Texas, 1701 North Congress in Austin, beginning at 10 a.m.

The goal of the hearing is to develop specific short-term recommendations to be shared with the 77th Texas Legislature. Recommendations formulated from invited testimony at the hearing and Internet comments will be passed onto the House Committee on Energy Resources and the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Established in 1891, the Railroad Commission of Texas is the state's chief energy agency. Through its Gas Services Division, the Commission works to ensure a continuous safe supply of natural gas is available to Texas consumers at the lowest, reasonable price.

Scholarships Offered To Children Of Rangers

For 178 years, the Texas Rangers have been linked to the history of the Old West with an uncommon commitment of bravery and a level of protection that is second to none. Now, Texas Tech University is honoring that historic commitment with scholarships for children of active Texas Rangers.

Texas Tech is offering a matching scholarship of \$1,500 to children of active rangers who choose to attend Texas Tech. The scholarship money will match a Texas Rangers Foundation Association scholarship in the amount of \$1,500, for a total of \$3,000 in scholarship money.

"The Texas Rangers have given so much to the State of Texas that we want to honor them with a scholarship for their children," said Texas Tech Chancellor John T. Montford.

Texas Tech is the first major university to offer this matching scholarship. Lee and Edith Kidd of Denver City have donated \$20,000 toward establishing this scholarship fund.

"This scholarship endeavor is a great example of how donors can work with Texas Tech to assist students financially in the pursuit of their education," said William G. Wehner, Texas Tech vice chancellor for institutional advancement.

On Friday, Feb. 23, the biannual meeting of the Texas Rangers Foundation Association will be held at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion on the Tech campus.

Texas Tech, the largest research university system in West Texas, provides education and support to approximately 25,000 students. Texas Tech is the only university system in the state with a comprehensive academic campus, law school and medical center on the same campus. The university's research programs, in areas such as wind engineering, agriculture, and environmental and human health, impact the lives of all Texans.

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at First National Bank of Tahoka, Wilson State Bank or at The First National Bank of O'Donnell

Pages From The Past ...

by Vondell Elliott
The following excerpts were taken from past issues of The Lynn County News.

Gerald Wayne Tippit Leaves TV Show For Other Work

Gerald Wayne Tippit, Tahoka native doing television acting in New York City for several years, has asked to be replaced in his role as Jerry Ames in "The Secret Storm" show of CBS. His last appearance will be on September 29th.

In a personal letter to The News editor, Wayne says the show is conflicting with his other professional activities and something had to go. He does not, however, intend to leave the television acting field.

"I'm writing this letter to thank everyone for their kind words and letters. They have meant a lot to me.

"And to tell you the truth, I'm a little tired of crying for six years. I'd like to laugh a little more in the future.

"I sincerely hope to be seeing you again soon through the TV tube. Thanks again for everything."

Gerald Wayne and family live just across the Hudson River from his work in the big city ... in Wyckoff, New Jersey.

- Sept. 10, 1965

Former Tahoka Man's Book To Be Made Into Movie

Harvey Smith of Odessa, a postal employee there who was born in Tahoka and attended the New Home schools, has completed another book which is being filmed in Dallas.

"Comanche Crossing" is the title of the publication about Indians and their lives in West Texas. Another book he has published is "Buried Colts."

Harlyv is the son of Mr. and Mrs. O.S. Smith, who are now living at Petty in Lynn county. Mrs. Smith is operating the Petty Gin Cafe on route 5 and Mr. Smith is driving a seed truck. Their permanent address, however, is route 1, Cross Plains.

The new book and manuscript was suggested by Harley's friend, Marshall Jones, who stars in the film and also appeared in the "Alamo," "Two Rode Together," and "Cheyenne Autumn."

Most of the filming will be done in the Davis Mountains and Big Bend country by Byrd Productions Inc. of Dallas in color for wide screen viewing.

Smith has been writing, since 1959 and has another book coming out next month. He became interested when reading Western magazines and noting various phases of Western and Indian life misrepresented.

He told an American Staff writer, "I get my information for the articles from old newspapers, libraries and from talking to old people that knew."

- Oct. 29, 1965

Free Income Tax Help is Available

Free tax form preparation is as close as a community center, local library or senior citizens center for thousands of Texans this year. There are 561 locations across the state where low and middle-income taxpayers can get tax help.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs provide free tax help every year to people who cannot afford a paid tax preparer. Both programs give free tax help to disadvantaged people and many locations offer help for people who do not understand the English language.

Anyone who wants help from VITA/TCE volunteers are asked to bring all income information, includ-

ing forms W-2 and 1099; social security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers for themselves and all dependents; and any other useful documents and forms. Those items could include: lists, receipts, bills or statements of medical, taxes, home mortgage interest, contributions and miscellaneous expenses and a copy of last year's tax return.

To find the nearest location for free tax help site and hours of operation, call the VITA program at 214-767-1428 or TCE toll-free at 1-888-227-7669. Information is also available on the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) internet homepage at www.aarp.org/taxaide/

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HOUSE FOR SALE by owner. 4+/- place, central heat & a/c. New plumbing and paint. Cellar in backyard, extra storage in the street from school. 2122 Call (806) 759-5509.
FOR SALE by owner. 4+/- approx. 4,000 square feet. Living room, dining area, kitchen, office. Chainlink dog kennel approx. 20x30 with RV or boat, swimming pool with bar, covered cooking area. Sprinkle pointment only; call 806-998-4549.
JUST REDUCED! 2000 1 1/2 room brick home. One bath - completely remodeled. fenced yard. 745-2906 or 85
REPOSSESSED HOUSE! on one acre. Call Chad from 6 p.m. at 1-800-944-1559.
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contact City Administrator...
phone (806) 998-4211.
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Proposal, which exceeds \$...
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Real Estate

HOUSE FOR SALE by owner: 2/2/2, fireplace, central heat & a/c. New water heater, plumbing and paint. Cellar and storage shed in backyard, extra storage in garage. Across the street from school. 2122 North 4th Street. Call (806) 759-5509. 28-tfc

FOR SALE by owner. 4-2-2 brick home, approx. 4,000 square feet. Den, living room, office, dining area, kitchen, utility and game room. Chainlink dog kennels. Work shop approx. 20x30 with RV or boat overhang. Cellar, swimming pool with bath house and covered cooking area. Sprinkler system. By appointment only; call 806-996-5448 or 806-998-4549. 38-tfc

JUST REDUCED! 2000 N. 7th. Two bedroom brick home. One bath, one car garage — completely remodeled. Storage in back, fenced yard. 745-2906 or 893-7389. 6-tfc

REPOSSESSED HOUSE for sale in Tahoka on one acre. Call Chad from 8-10 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. at 1-800-944-1559. 3-tfc

Real Estate

PRICE REDUCED! Two bedroom, 2 bath, breakfast nook, dining room, large living room, garage, storage, central heat & air. Seller will include new carpet of your choice. 2121 Main Street, Tahoka. Call 915-235-1119. 7-7c

FOR SALE: Approximately 1,830 sq. ft. home. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car detached garage, office, new paint, new A/C, sprinkler system, circle drive. Three blocks from school, 1724 N. 4th. Call 327-5694. 4-

SMALL 2 BR house for sale on 100' x 200' lot. Low down payment, will carry papers. Call 998-4132. 8-2tc

HOUSE FOR SALE by owner: 2 bedroom, 1 bath on 1 1/2 lots on corner in Wilson. Call 806-828-4633. 8-4tc

I'M MAD... at banks who don't give real estate loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254) 947-4475. 8-1tp

Notice

STONE, PRIDMORE YARD CARE: Call us for anything you need. Any kind of yard work — mowing, pruning trees, picking up leaves, etc. We do it all. Call 998-5161 or 998-5454. 8-1tp

CHILDCARE OFFERED in my home. Drop-ins welcome. Kathy Long, 998-4954. 8-1tc

Garage Sales

PHASE 4 inside sale! Many new items added each week. Saturday, Feb. 24th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3200 North 4th Street. 8-1tp

For Sale

COMPLETE DDS satellite systems as low as \$49.95. Installation is free, programming starts at \$21.99 per month. Ray's TV & Appliance, 795-5566. 7-2tc

55 GALLON barrels for sale — \$3 without lids. Also, will pick up old appliances in Tahoka vicinity. Call 998-4865.

STEEL BUILDINGS, new, must sell: 40x60x12 was \$17,500 now \$10,971; 50x100x16 was \$27,850 now \$19,990; 80x135x16 was \$79,850 now \$44,990; 100x175x20 was \$129,650 now \$84,990. 1-800-406-5126. 8-1tp

TWO STEEL BUILDINGS, Engineer certified. 40x40 was \$8,680 now \$4,580; 50x100 was \$17,940 now \$11,935; Must sell, can deliver. 800-292-0111. 8-1tc

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—James Branch Cabell

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NOTICE OF ACCEPTING BIDS

The City of Tahoka is accepting bids for the sale of a 1990 Chevrolet Pickup, to be sold as is. The pickup may be seen at the City Warehouse, 1400 N. 5th, in Tahoka. Bids will be accepted at Tahoka City Hall, 1612 Lockwood, Tahoka, TX, phone (806) 998-4211, until 5 p.m. Friday, March 2, 2001. The City reserves the right to reject or accept any/all bids. 8-2tc

NOTICE OF ACCEPTING BIDS

The City of Tahoka is accepting bids for cemetery grounds maintenance. For specifications, contact City Administrator Jerry Webster at Tahoka City Hall, 1612 Lockwood, Tahoka, TX, phone (806) 998-4211. Bids will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, March 2, 2001. The City reserves the right to reject/accept any/all bids. 6-4tc

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. Jimmy Parker, Superintendent, Tahoka Independent School District, P.O. Box 1230, Tahoka, Texas, 79373, hereinafter called "Owner" for: **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS** for **TAHOKA I.S.D.**

Tahoka Independent School District, Tahoka, Texas, in accordance with plans, specifications and contract documents which were prepared and may be obtained from the Architect, will be received in the office of the Superintendent, until 3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 8, 2001, and then publicly opened and read aloud in the Superintendent's Office. Any bid received after the 3:00 p.m. closing time will be returned unopened. Bids shall be enclosed in a sealed opaque envelope addressed to the Owner and shall be identified with the Project Name, the Bidder's name and address and the designated portion of the Work for which the Bid is submitted.

Bids will be received for the General Construction, floor coverings, acoustical ceilings, lighting, and all normal heating, ventilating, air conditioning, plumbing and electrical requirements.

In case of ambiguity or lack of clarity in stating prices on the Proposal, the Owner reserves the right to adopt prices written in words or to reject the Proposal. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any and all formalities.

A five percent (5%) Bid Bond, Certified Check or Cashier's Check must accompany each Proposal, which exceeds \$25,000. No Bidder may withdraw his bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of opening thereof.

The bid package including Plans, Specifications and related documents may be examined and acquired from the school and the office of the Architect, MBA Architects, Inc., 6777 Camp Bowie Blvd., Suite 223, Fort Worth, Texas 76116, (800) 763-5046. Plans may be examined without charge at the Architect's office, and may be procured from the Architect upon deposit of \$150.00 per set which is refundable upon the return of the plans and specifications in good condition. No refund on contract documents and plans returned later than ten (10) days after the award of the contract will be obligatory.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Site on Thursday, March 1, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. Bidders will be given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed project. Attendance at this Pre-Bid Conference is a prerequisite for bidding the Project. At the Owner's discretion, this requirement may be waived. 7-2tc

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TAHOKA SPORTS NEWS
by the THS Growl Staff

Powerlifting
by Kalah Bartley

The THS Powerlifting team competed in Clarenton on Saturday, Feb. 17. Stephen Solorzano lifted 1055 lbs. for first place in the 148 lb. class. He is fourth in the region with three consecutive first place wins. The team will lift in the Regional meet in Levelland at South Plains College on March 3.

Varsity Basketball
by Cory Gardner

The Dogs ended their season 4-26 and 4-6 in district where they ended up fourth in district. Adrian Moore was the teams' leading scorer with 248 points, followed by Cory Gardner with 231 points and Ren Ellis with 213 points. "It was a tough season and we never gave up," said Ellis. "Next year will hopefully be a different story."

JV Basketball
by Carrie Gregory

The J.V. Bulldogs dominated Ralls 43-35 in their final game on Tuesday, Feb. 13. The top scorers included Leslie White and Shannon Cowley with 11 points each. Not far behind was Kellen Flowers with 8. The J.V. Dogs finished 11-13 for the season.



MOTORCYCLE MATT—Matt Taylor of Tahoka competed in the NMA Fall Nationals at Oak Hill MX Park in Decatur Feb. 10-11, placing 2nd overall in the 50 cc race and 7th overall in the 65 cc race. He competed in the 7-8 year old division. Matt is the son of Toby and Dana Taylor of Tahoka.

Rylander Urges Families To File For Tax Credits

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander this week said the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can put more money in the pockets of hard working Texans.

"This year, nearly two million Texas families will qualify for more than \$3 billion in EITC refunds. I urge every working family to see if they qualify," Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said.

"In 2000, the average EITC refund to Texas families was almost \$1,800. Families used this money to pay bills and buy household goods and school clothes for their children," Comptroller Rylander said. "The EITC is one of the quickest ways I know to inject more than \$3 billion into the Texas economy, and it benefits the hard-working families who need it the most."

To claim the credit, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires families to meet specific income levels and have a valid social security number for every family member. A family that earned less than \$27,413 in 2000, with one qualifying child,

can get a tax refund of up to \$2,353. A family that has more than one qualifying child and earned less than \$31,152 in 2000 can get a refund of up to \$3,888. A refund of up to \$353 is available to families or individuals without children, who meet age requirements and earned less than \$10,380 in 2000.

Taxpayers who expect to qualify for the EITC in 2001 and have at least one qualifying child may sign up for the Advanced Earned Income Tax Credit (AEITC) at work, to receive part of the credit in each paycheck throughout the year, instead of waiting for a tax refund.

"For minimum wage families, the AEITC is like getting up to a \$2 per hour pay raise," Comptroller Rylander said. "It's money they can use immediately to help make ends meet."

The Comptroller's office conducts an annual EITC awareness campaign to help bring more federal tax dollars home to Texans. In 1991, just over one million Texas families received refunds totaling \$748,000.

Since then, almost 14 million working Texas families have brought home a total of more than \$21 billion.

Through April 16, families that need help preparing their income tax returns can receive free help at the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and at American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Tax Aid sites located throughout the state.

For more details about the EITC, along with helpful links to IRS tax forms and publications and a list of locations where taxpayers can obtain voluntary income tax assistance, visit the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us, call the IRS toll free at 1-800-829-1040 or call the Comptroller's toll free EITC information line at 1-800-277-8383.

Nature is full of genius, full of the divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning hand.

—Henry David Thoreau

When we have accepted the worst, we have nothing more to lose. And that automatically means we have everything to gain.

—Dale Carnegie

FROM THE MUSEUM FILES

(Editors Note: Stories of pioneers of Lynn County are available for perusal at the Tahoka Pioneer Museum. The following series is taken from museum files, reprinted with permission. The article is titled simply, "Aunt Gabby" with a handwritten note. "Aunt Tabby Doe — Draw Community" at the beginning. It is believed to have been written in 1968.)

Third in a series titled "Aunt Gabby"
Tahoka people have always been lovers of candy and have had many pranks in that connection.

One day when Judge Truett Smith was much younger and was county clerk, some pranksters offered him some chocolate candy. He chose a piece that was covered with chocolate and nuts. He immediately knew it was soap covered. He tried his best to eat it all but couldn't. He dashed out of the county clerk's office and to Judge Grider's office whom he asked for a chew of tobacco. All in all it was a bad day for Truett with soap candy and Judge Grider's tobacco. From that start, Truett still takes a chew occasionally to get rid of that soapy taste.

Then there was the time that Dude McCoy (Holland) along with others, put castor oil in chocolate candy and passed them around at the dance in the Frank Larkin building. Among others heading for the court house were Virginia Sanford, Summer Clayton and the rest of the kids at the dance. Needless to say, the dance was broken up.

There are many tales on the Edwards family — there were so many of them.

Once when the Burton Edwards family had moved back to Temple, the kids had every kind of sickness in the world. Temple was the home of Ma and Pa Ferguson and Ma was running for governor. The doctor was called to treat the Edwards children and he asked Wilson Edwards what he thought of politics. He said, "I don't know we haven't had them yet."

One time Jack Edwards was in Lubbock at the cotton office. He had parked his car somewhere in the vicinity. When he finished with his business he happened to meet Marcus. Marcus said let's go to Tahoka and Jack said he was ready. They talked seriously and engagingly all the way to Tahoka and when they stopped in town and Jack got out he looked up at Marcus and said sheepishly with a grin, "You know, I left my car parked up there at Lubbock."

Back in the days when the old tabernacle arbor was where the City Hall is now and that was a park with rows of Elm trees, J.H., Marcus and Jack Edwards were visiting there late one night. A local citizen passed there about one o'clock that night and said to them, "What on earth are you fellows doing here at this time of night?"

Jack said, "What time is it?" Our citizen said it was one o'clock. Jack said, "Now it's not one o'clock at night."

Charles Townes tells this one on our former post master, Hap Smith.

Right after the war many items were packaged in paper cartons. One day Hap noticed that a package of pepper had burst and some of it was spilling out on the floor. Our enterprising and conscientious post master got down on his knees with a broom and carefully swept up the pepper and put it back in the box. Charles said he didn't know whether the box had all the pepper or whether it had more after Hap cleaned it up.

Thirty to forty years ago, every business in town sent out collectors. You had to collect in self-defense.

Borden Davis had been collecting from the County Attorney Truitt Smith and the District Attorney G.H. Nelson. One day they told him not to come collecting anymore, to just mail them a bill and they would mail in a check.

Well, Borden went back several times and one time Truett and G.H. took Borden's pants off and told him to "get out and collect his bills." This made Borden mad, so one day when Nelson was in Jim Dye's Barber Shop, he took a hand full of cow itch and raked it across the back of Nelson's neck and left. In a little while, Nelson was screaming bloody murder and accusing Borden of using Hi Life. He called for water and soap and cold towels and lots of sympathy. He finally got easy but the feud didn't end. A few years later, Nelson moved to Lubbock and Borden says he helped him get away.

Once the attorneys fixed up their offices in the court house and ordered shades from Borden. Borden put them up and Truett said, "Make a ticket." Borden didn't say a word, just

got his ladder and began taking the shades down. Truett said, "What are you doing?" Borden said, "I'm taking these cotton picking shades down." Truett paid off and kept the shades. His credit has never been good with Borden.

Mrs. Stokes wanted to do something real mean to Truett. She asked Borden to think of something. Borden had a still born pig that morning so he thought of that. They had the dead pig gift wrapped and put it on Truett's desk. He unwrapped it and immediately tried to find out who was doing illegal abortion. He never did have to find out who did that. He could smell it.

When Pete Hegi moved out to the Davis house on the highway, he began to put down some irrigation wells. Howard Wheeler, sensing a chance to play a prank on Pete, put some live goldfish in the irrigation ditch. Pete gathered some of the fish and rushed into town to show the fish that had come out of his irrigation well. He took it seriously until Truett told him better.

Pete and Truett used to court together. Truett was looking for that perfect girl and it took a little longer. Pete had confidence that Truett could find one for him too, so he never looked much.

One night Truett and Pete were dating Juanell Windham and Fern Aycok. The party was going good, lots of talking and laughter, when Fern noticed that Pete was sound asleep. They let up on the noise for a while so Pete could sleep and then asked Truett to take them home. They just left Pete sound asleep in the big chair. There never was a better boy than Pete.

Later, Truett met Madeline Cornelia Cox, who was Home Demonstration Agent for Dawson County. He knew this vivacious personality could keep Pete awake. Pete and Madeline soon got married. A smart woman is one who can keep a man pursuing here even after she lets him catch her.

Ramond Weathers and Truett used to live around the corner from each other. Ramond had a windmill and a tank of water. One time when he was gone, his good friend Truett Smith ran a hose to his neighbor's tank and drained all the water out on his own yard. You know all the crimes have not been prosecuted.

Pranks are not a much a part of Truett's life now as they used to be. He has said, "Old age used to affect just the aged, the stooped and gray headed or bald. But have you noticed now how old age is hitting us young folk?"

One time Walter May and Claude Wells had attended a whiteface bull sale in Big Spring. Later they met and were talking about one fine bull that sold.

Claude said, "Walter, you should have bought that bull, he was a real fine animal."

Walter said, "Right you are, he were a fine, fine bull. He was built like my cattle — full in the hips, flat back, etc. He were a fine bull."

They talked on and on for ten minutes or more about that fine animal and Mr. May concluded that he should have bought that fine bull. As they parted, Mr. May turned and said, "You know Claude, I'm glad though I didn't buy that bull."

Claude asked, "Why wouldn't you want that fine bull?"

Mr. May said, "Well he died the next day!"

Bud Milliken was telling one of his windy one time and Mrs. Milliken said, "Bud you know that's not true. You've got it all wrong — that's the time you deserted me and all the kids and left us without a horse and no groceries and no way to get to town. You had gone out to the T-Bar and was cooking for their round up or doing something else you liked to do. You've got it all mixed up."

When Sam Sanford was sheriff, Uncle Ben Rogers used to go to the jail on Sunday afternoons and preach to the inmates.

Uncle Ben didn't vote for sheriff Sam Sanford and Sam found it out and stopped Uncle Ben from using his jail. Uncle Ben went to the county attorney and complained about it. The county attorney went to Sam and asked him about it and to see if he wouldn't let Uncle Ben preach in the jail again. Sam said, "Yes, I stopped Uncle Ben from using my jail. We had a little misunderstanding and anyway, he wasn't doing a damn bit of good."

Watch for more "Museum Files" in future issues of the Lynn County News.

The Tahoka Pioneer Museum, located at 1600 Lockwood, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays (phone 806-998-5339).

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