

# THE Lynn County News



VOLUME 101, NUMBER 12 • TAHOKA, LYNN COUNTY, TEXAS • THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2004 • 6 PAGES PLUS INSERT **50¢**

## Church Directory Listing To Begin In April Issues

How many churches are there in Lynn County? When are their services? How can one get in touch with the pastor? Do they have an e-mail address?

There is no easy way to find a listing of all the churches in Lynn County, unless one goes painstakingly through the phone book. However, beginning in the April 1 issue of *The Lynn County News* there will be a new Church Directory Listing that will run twice monthly, for all churches in Lynn County who desire to participate.

The News staff counted 26 churches in the county, including nine Baptist churches, four Methodist, three Churches of Christ, three Catholic, two Lutheran, and one each of the First Born, Trinity, Nazarene, Faith Chapel, and Church of God in Christ. Tahoka has 11 churches, Wilson has five churches, O'Donnell and New Home each have four, and there is a church in Draw, and one in Grassland.

"Letters have been mailed to all church pastors in the county seeking participation from each church," said Juannell Jones, editor. "If there is a church that did not receive a letter,

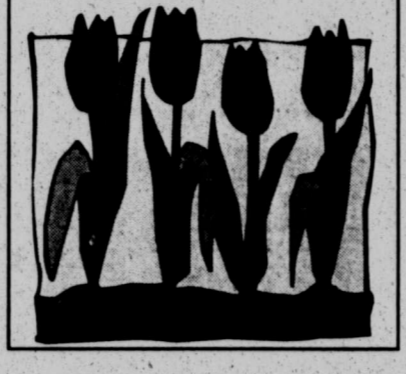
please call the News Office as soon as possible, because the church listing begins in April and we want everyone to have the opportunity to participate," she added.

In addition to the listing of the church address, phone, e-mail or website addresses and names of pastors, each church can list worship services or other activities. Pastors from each church are also invited to submit a short message that will be printed in the center of the church ad page on a random basis - one message every other week from a pastor of a participating church. Cost to churches is \$15 per month for the listing, which runs twice monthly.

"We are pleased to offer this Lynn County Church Directory in *The Lynn County News*, and hope that our readers will find it to contain useful information," said Mrs. Jones. "I would like to remind pastors who have already indicated that their churches are participating to submit their messages for center of the ad by April 1."

For more information, contact *The News* at 561-4888, or submit information by FAX to 561-6308.

The Lynn County News will be closed on Friday, March 19 for Spring Break!



## Lubbock Woman Hurt In Wreck

A Lubbock woman was injured early Wednesday morning as the 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier she was driving overturned on U.S. 87 eight miles north of Tahoka. The accident at 3 a.m. came after the car had a blowout and the driver over-corrected, according to the investigating Dept. of Public Safety officer. The vehicle came to rest upside down.

Lynn County EMS ambulance took the driver, Linda Sierra, to Lynn County Hospital for treatment of undisclosed injuries.

Tahoka Police took a report on a forged check in the amount of \$395.11 which had been passed at Thriftway Supermarket in Tahoka. Dawson County officers later advised Tahoka Police that a woman in jail in that county said she had passed a check at the Tahoka supermarket.

A 56-year-old Tahoka woman stopped last Friday night for a traffic violation was arrested by police after it was learned she had an outstanding warrant from Hale County.

Lupe Rodriguez of Tahoka told police someone had broken into her 1993 Chevrolet at her residence Saturday, causing damage estimated at \$436. Nothing appeared to be missing from the car.

Police also investigated a report of an altercation between two Tahoka young men in which one apparently threatened the other with a knife.

Total jail population as of Wednesday was 41, including 16 from Lubbock County and eight for Garza County.

## Open House For New Wilson Fire Station

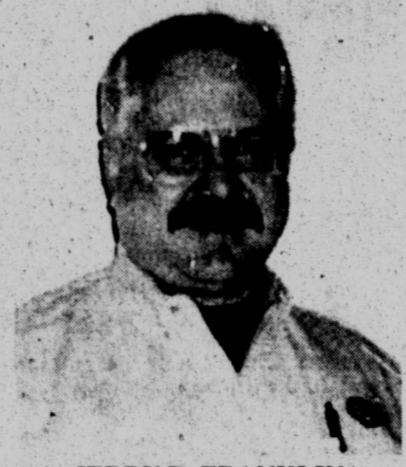
Sunday, March 28th Wilson Fire Department will host an Open House at the new Fire Station. A ham/sausage/fixings meal will be served at a cost of \$6 for adult and \$3 for children. The meal will be from 11:30 til 1:00 and an auction will be held during the same time. All proceeds will benefit the Wilson Fire Department.

## Public Input Sought For School Calendar

Tahoka Independent School District officials are publishing a proposed School Calendar for the 2004-05 school year, which may be seen in this issue of *The News*. Public input on the proposed calendar may be given by calling Superintendent Jimmy Parker's office at 561-4105. Trustees will vote on the calendar at the April board meeting.

The first day of school for students would be Aug. 16, with Christmas break set Dec. 20-Jan. 3, and Spring Break on March 14-18. Graduation would be on May 27, and other holidays are noted in the calendar.

## Sheriff Fires Deputy Franklin Three Days After Election



JERRY D. FRANKLIN

by JUANELL JONES

Lynn County Sheriff's Deputy Jerry D. Franklin, who recently won the Democratic Primary election for Lynn County Sheriff, has been fired from his deputy position at the local Sheriff's Dept. by current Sheriff Bob Wilson. The action came about Friday morning, just three days after last Tuesday's Primary Election when Franklin edged out Wilson in the Sheriff's election.

Voters gave Franklin 744 votes to 600 for Wilson, but Franklin won't take office until after the November General Election, in which he will be unopposed. Officially, winners in the November election take office on Jan. 1, 2005.

Wilson cited local government codes supporting the termination, noting that "a deputy serves at the pleasure of the sheriff," and in fact Wilson said he had planned to let Franklin go regardless of who won the election.

"I had already made the decision to let him go, because it [Franklin's candidacy] split this department. I did what I thought was best for this entire department," Wilson told *The News*.

Franklin declined to comment to *The News*, other than to confirm that his position at the department was terminated on Friday, March 12. He has worked for the Lynn Sheriff's Dept. for 11 years, serving under five different sheriffs at the helm.

Franklin had served as Chief

Deputy for five years when Wilson took over the reins of the Lynn County Sheriff's Dept. in April 2003, appointed by Lynn County Commissioners to fill the position when Sheriff Jake Diggs resigned. Wilson was the first candidate to file for the Sheriff's position in the recent Primary election, followed by Franklin just before the filing period closed. They were the only two candidates for the job. Just days after Franklin filed as a candidate against Wilson for the sheriff's election, Wilson demoted Franklin from Chief Deputy to patrol deputy and removed him from the Chief Deputy's office in the building, again citing local government codes for his action.

"The 1994 rules, which were in place way before I got here, say that upon officially becoming a candidate for any public office a deputy may be asked to resign if that candidacy works a hardship on the department," Wilson said. "When he first filed, he never said a word to me for three days. I thought I was doing the man a favor by letting him keep his job. I think he should have resigned when he became a candidate but when I talked to him his exact words to me were, 'I won't resign. I need the job.' I told him if he would step down to patrol duty then I would let him keep his job," he explained, adding, "Most people would resign the day they filed."

Lynn County has had other deputies who ran against incumbent sheriffs in the past, without causing noticeable controversy in the community. Most recently, in 1996, deputy Charlie Smith defeated incumbent Sheriff Jake Diggs in an election for sheriff, after which both continued in their respective positions until Smith took office in January.

Wilson told *The News* that Lynn County Commissioners have told him he still has the responsibility of overseeing the Sheriff's Department until his term ends on Dec. 31, 2004, but that the controversy over the election has made him question whether he will continue in the position until that time.



SHERIFF BOB WILSON

"I have tried to make this a respectable department and do a good job. I have tried to do what is right since I have stepped in to this office. I came to perform a service for this county, but if they [commissioners] want me to resign, I will. Perhaps my value to this county is used up - when I first came I couldn't do anything wrong... now I can't do anything right," Wilson said.

"Apparently the people of Lynn County want the control that's been here apparently since year one. I tried to stand up and do something right, but if somebody else wants to make the decisions then I won't be a part of it. When do I get some backing? This is ridiculous, and I am not going to put up with it," the sheriff said. "If this situation doesn't get back to some kind of reasonability, then yes I will resign. This is ridiculous fighting this kind of stuff!"

Should the sheriff resign, then it is possible that Franklin would be appointed to the position by Lynn County Commissioners, taking office earlier than Jan. 1 if needed, to fill the interim.

County Commissioners have a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 22, and it is expected they will discuss the controversial situation at the sheriff's department. Any personnel discussions will probably take place in closed session, but any action taken on the issue would not be considered until returning to open session.

**WOODWORK** by Dalton

AMONG THE MANY signs of advanced maturity is the tendency to want to talk to your contemporaries about your ailments and your grandchildren, conversation which nobody wants to hear, because they have their own much more impressive ailments and grandchildren, thank you.

Another sign, for men anyway, is that all the names in your little black book start with "Dr." and I think I have reached that age. Doctors are mostly pretty nice people, but their main goal in life apparently is to make you feel bad about what you have been eating and doing for the last umpty-nine years and assuring you that it's too late to do anything now except take pills and worry.

Ironically one of the things they tell you to do is avoid stress. That's right after they tell you have six different diseases, any one of which could kill you before next week. How can you consider that, without having stress?

Personally I feel pretty good most of the time, and I would feel better if doctors hadn't guaranteed that I have high blood sugar, high cholesterol, high triglycerides, high blood pressure, high risk factors and high medical insurance premiums. The only thing about me not high (other than how tall I am) is I have a low tolerance for pain, turnips and Michael Jackson.

I have had some interesting conversations with medical people. Recently I was told by a doctor that I have high blood pressure and need to take pills to lower it. When I protested that I didn't want any more pills that I have to take forever, I was told, "You don't have to take them forever. Once you die, you can stop taking them." Very funny; I may die laughing.

Later I checked my own blood pressure at the pharmacy, and one of the workers asked me what the meter said. "All I got was a message saying 'Don't start any continued stones,'" I told her.

Last week there was a health screening operation set up at the senior citizens center, and I wisely skipped most of the tests they offered, since I knew I already had all those problems. But I did take one, a bone density scan, and actually did well on it, learning that my bones, like my brain, are pretty dense. This test, designed to tell you if you need more calcium, was one I never had taken before. The woman told me to place my right hand inside the machine, so I did. As she finished, commenting that I passed the test, I saw a little light come on at the top of the machine, reading "Remove patient's hand." I jumped up and got out of there in a hurry, because I knew that would really hurt. I need both of my hands.

My optometrist once referred me to a glaucoma specialist to check the possibility of that disease. Of course, I knew the specialist wasn't about to tell me to "Go on home; your eyes are okay." If you go see any kind of specialist, he or she is going to assure you that yes, indeed, you do have (whatever they specialize in).

He told me I have glaucoma and a cataract. "You're wrong there, Doc," I said. "I have a Toyota." He wasn't too impressed by that, so during the examination, I helpfully informed him that when I was just a baby I stuck a mandolin string in my eye. "Which one?" he asked.

"I think it was the little E string," I said.

He got even with me when he sent the bill.

THE WISE GUY at Wilson suggests that the newspaper person's creed is "Every morning is the dawn of a new error."

## Weather

Date	High	Low	Precip.
March 10	75	40	
March 11	57	40	
March 12	47	42	0.26"
March 13	65	42	0.66"
March 14	54	47	
March 15	71	47	
March 16	75	43	
Total Precipitation in March:			2.20"
Total Precipitation to date:			6.24"

## Weight Watchers Meeting Changes

Weight Watchers will begin meeting in Tahoka on Tuesdays starting March 23. Weigh-in is at 5:00 pm and meeting time is 5:30 pm.

## REGISTER and Vote!

You must be registered to vote 30 days prior to any election.

Register at the Lynn County Courthouse Tax Office.

- Local, school and hospital elections are May 15, 2004.
- U.S. General Election is November 2, 2004.

## 17 More Candidates File: Most City, School, Hospital, Elections To Be Contested

Of the nine elections to be held in Lynn County on May 15 for city councils, school boards and hospital directors, seven of the entities will have contested races following a flurry of last-minute filings during the past week. Since the last report in *The News*, 17 more candidates have filed for places on various ballots. The filing period officially closed Monday this week.

All elections will be held May 15, with early voting set for April 28 through May 11.

Following is a final list of all candidates filing for elections in Lynn County, with incumbents listed with an (I) and those filing during the last week listed in *italics*.

**City of Tahoka:** 3 single-member district council seats, 2-year terms. Filing: District 2 - Clara Calvillo (I), *Jeannie Stone, Jimmy Howard*; District 4 - Jay Dee House (I); District 5 - Ray Box (I).

**Tahoka ISD:** 3 single-member district seats, 3-year terms. Filing: Precinct 1 - Leighton Knox Jr. (I), Kent Kahl; Precinct 2 - Joe Calvillo (I), Kelly Draper, Danny Paris, *Mike Rivas*; Precinct 5 - Carmen Chapa (I), *Carlos Morales*.

**City of Wilson:** Mayor and 2 council seats, 2-year terms. Filing: Mayor Jackie Bishop (I); Council

members: Oscar Follis (I) and Cody Donald (I).

**Wilson ISD:** 4 seats, 3-year terms - Lonnie Paul Donald (I), J.B. Kirk, Janie Rios (I); and filing for a special election for a 2-year unexpired term, *Janie Zepeda, Mike Buckner*.

**City of New Home:** Three council seats, 2-year terms. Filing: Dale Clem (I), Jesus Ramirez, *LaVonne Sharp, Billy Ray Smith, Mario Rodriguez, Louis Rodriguez (I), Roger Martin*.

**New Home ISD:** 3 seats, 3-year terms. Filing: Michael White (I), Angie Kieth, Leo Torres, Jr., Kevin Mitchell (I), Paula Ford, *Danny Nettles, Debi Maloney, Tommy Harmonson*.

**City of O'Donnell:** Mayor and 2 council seats, 2-year terms. Filing for Mayor: James Williams (I), Maurice Jackson, Jamie Casillas; Filing for Council: Harry Howell (I), Max Mendieta, Anita Guajardo (I), *Willie Luera*.

**O'Donnell ISD:** 3 seats, 3-year terms. Filing: Kirby Williams (I), Ben Franklin, *Willie Villarreal (I), Dan Mott (I)*.

**Lynn County Hospital District:** 2 seats, 3-year terms. Filing: Dalton Wood (I), Joan Knox (I).









The **New Home News**  
by Karon Durham • 924-7448

The High School Baseball team will play at Smyer on March 22. The High School District U.I.L. meet at Loop on March 23, along with Judging at Abilene. On March 24, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be testing and Judging contest is at Tarleton on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The One Act Play will present "A Rose For Emily."

New Home Cafeteria, at a cost of \$5 per plate.

On Wednesday, February 4 Angelica Rodriguez, Desiree Garza, Katie O'Rourke, Maricela Rodriguea, Mary Maeker, Mikaela Wallace, Jamie Salinas, Reynaldo Munoz, Adrian Villareal, and Mrs. Quillin attended the District Five Student Council Convention.

The convention was held at the Civic Center in Lubbock.

The day consisted of a general meeting, a rock band, a motivational speaker, and lunch.

An Easter drawing will be March 22 and April 6. A chance to draw an Easter egg and see what prize you might have won will cost \$1.00 per chance. Prizes are valued from \$1.00 to \$10.00.

The drawing will be held in Mrs. Durham's office.

Red Ribbon Spring Bake Sale is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>. Hope you can help send items to sell.

Both projects will help fund the Red Ribbon week activities.



New Home Leopards and Lady Leopards  
Go! Fight! Win!



A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST - This photo, taken from the files of the Tahoka Pioneer Museum, shows Tahoka Masonic Lodge members laying the cornerstone on Aug. 24, 1916 for the new Lynn County Courthouse. No one was identified in the photo.

(Photo courtesy of Tahoka Pioneer Museum)

**New Home School Menu**

**March 22-26 Breakfast**

- Monday- Cinnamon Roll
  - Tuesday-Biscuit/Sausage
  - Wednesday-Granola Bars
  - Thursday-Cinnamon Toast
  - Friday-Breakfast Pizza
- Lunch**
- Monday- Steak fingers, whipped potatoes, green beans, pear cup, Texas Toast
  - Tuesday- Pizza, lettuce/tomato, corn, chocolate pudding
  - Wednesday-Sandwich bar, pickle spears, baby carrots, cucumbers, orange wedges, juice bar
  - Thursday-Spaghetti & meatballs, lettuce/tomato, broccoli w/cheese, peach cup, garlic sticks
  - Friday-Fish shapes, mac & cheese, carrot, cucumber, lettuce/tomato, mixed fruit cup

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**Notice**

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS**

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Lubbock  
Contract 0905-00-036 for MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION IN LUBBOCK County, etc. will be opened on April 07, 2004 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TXDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TXDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TXDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 12514

State Office	Dist/Div Office(s)
Constr/Maint. Division 200 E. Riverside Dr. Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512-416-2540	Lubbock District District Engineer 135 Slaton Lubbock, Texas 79408-0771 Phone: 806-745-4411

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. 12-2c

**SOLICITATION FOR WRITTEN PRICE QUOTATIONS (DIGITAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY)**

The Lynn County Farm Service Agency (FSA) is soliciting written price quotations for aerial photography work covering Dawson, Hockley, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry, and Yoakum Counties.

Submitted price quotations must be submitted in a sealed envelope, either mailed or physically delivered no later than 4:00 P.M. on Friday, March 26, 2004 to the Lynn County FSA office located at 1601 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, P.O. box 1430, Tahoka, Texas 79373. telephone 806-998-4501, ext. 2.

The quoted prices will be reviewed by the Key County Coordinator.

**Prompt delivery of the completed work (Digital Imagery), as specified by the FSA, is an essential part of the agreement. Quotations will not be considered unless the vendor has available equipment and personnel to complete the work required in the agreement. The County scheduled to be flown will not pay for aerial images in excess of the estimated amount needed unless requested.**

FSA reserves the right to reject any or all quoted prices or to accept the quoted price or prices, which in the opinion of the FSA are in the best interest of FSA. 12-2c

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ORA MARIE DAVIS, Deceased, were issued on March 1, 2004, in Cause No. 2004-2736, pending in the County Court of Lynn County, Texas, to: Elmer Owens.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

C/o: Mark A. Marshall  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 968-1540 Avenue J  
Tahoka, Texas 79373  
DATED the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004.

Mark A. Marshall  
Attorney for Estate  
State Bar No.: 24039034  
P.O. Box 968-1540 Avenue J  
Tahoka, Texas 79373  
Telephone: (806) 998-4863  
Facsimile: (806) 998-4839

**Quilt Blocks Wanted For State Competition**

The Texas Department of Agriculture has announced the 2004 quilt block competition, open to participants across the state. For the first time, TDA will feature two separate themes for the competition with a goal of spotlighting children's nutrition and rural Texas, the focus of two new TDA programs.

Each contest participant will use Texas natural fibers - cotton, mohair and leather - to create a quilt block design that will be submitted to TDA. A panel of judges will select the winning entries, which will be combined into two separate quilts. The two quilts will be unveiled at the 2004 State Fair of Texas and will become part of TDA's quilt collection and traveling natural fiber exhibition.

Texas is the leading producer of wool and mohair in the country and has earned a global reputation for superior quality and durability among international textile buyers. Texas also leads the nation in cotton production and is a major producer for hides for leather and suede.

The two quilt block themes will be "Healthy Food for Healthy Kids," which will focus on the importance of proper childhood nutrition, and "Texas Yes!" which will be designed to showcase rural Texas and rural Texas communities.

To participate in the 2004 quilt block competition, call TDA's toll free GO TEXAN line at (877) 99GO-TEX or e-mail gotexanquilts@agr.state.tx.us to re-

serve a packet for each quilt. To help defray the cost of mailing, the final quilting of the winning blocks and the traveling display of the quilt statewide, a \$12 donation for each packet is requested. Each packet contains the natural fiber fabrics to be used in the design along with tips and techniques for developing the block and more information about the contest themes. Texas contest sponsors include Hobbs Bonded Fibers of Waco, Suzy's Quilt Shop of Garland, Sonora Mohair & Company of Sonora, The Sewing Basket of Salado, P&B Textiles of Dallas and The Leather Factory of Fort Worth.

The deadline to receive quilt block entries is May 28, 2004. The winning blocks will be combined into the two final quilts during the summer and will be unveiled at the Texas State Fair in September 2004.

**Children's Health Insurance Program Still Available**

In June of 2003 there were 193 children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Lynn County. That number has declined by 21% to 153 as of the end of February 2004, according to information from Texas Tech Health Sciences Center. The trend in this area mirrors the decline further solidifies Texas' position as having the highest rate of uninsured children in the nation, with one on four children having no coverage.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is designed for families who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid health care, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance. The 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature in Texas made changes to the CHIP program in 2003. Many different scenarios regarding CHIP were reported as the media struggled to keep up with the proposed changes, which at one point included terminating the program. Ultimately, the Legislature tightened the eligibility requirements and discontinued vision and dental services which lowered program costs, while continuing to provide coverage for some uninsured children. These changes caused some families to lose their eligibility. However, because of the many scenarios discussed, many people mistakenly believed that all proposed changes were made final, when in fact they were not. This confusion has caused eligible children to lose benefits, as some parents may mistakenly believe the program has been eliminated or that they no longer qualify.

The insure-a-kid program is a grant funded partnership between the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and Lubbock area school districts. The goal of the program is to identify children without health insurance and to assist eligible families in obtaining coverage through CHIP and Children's Medicaid.

The CHIP program has changed, but it still provides many vital services such as well checks, prescriptions, lab work, x-rays, immunizations, hospitalizations and more. It is

the best affordable option for many working Texas families. A family of four can have a gross monthly income of \$3,067 and still qualify for CHIP. Earnings of parents, step and adoptive parents and money received on behalf of the children count toward this monthly total. The income of other relatives in the home such as grandparents, aunts and uncles or other unrelated persons is not considered in the total.

Some families with higher incomes do not qualify for CHIP of Medicaid, but still are unable to obtain health coverage for their children. Parents can visit the Texas Department of Insurance at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/consumer/cbo72.html> to see a list of all insurance companies in Texas that sell products for children.

Any adult living with an uninsured child can apply for the program on behalf of children in their care. Children must be age 18 or younger and be US citizens or legal residents.

Co-pays in the CHIP program are affordable and the maximum monthly premium to cover all children in the household is \$25 per month. Many families who do not have coverage use the emergency room for their source of medical care. One trip to the emergency room can easily cost \$800, compared with an office visit co-pay of \$10 or less available through CHIP.

Coverage is provided for six months. Families who are already part of the CHIP program are encouraged to know the end date of their coverage period and to send in renewal information as soon as possible in order to maintain coverage. A 90 day waiting period is imposed on those who do not complete the renewal process in a timely manner.

Applications and assistance are available by calling TexCare at 1-800-647-6558, or the insure a kid office at 806-743-4686. Applications are also available online at [www.insureakid.org](http://www.insureakid.org) and [www.texcarepartnership.com](http://www.texcarepartnership.com).

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**Catfish Dinner**

Sponsored by The Catholic Women's Guadalupe Groups

Friday, March 19, 2004  
5:00-8:00 p.m.

Catholic Parish Hall in Wilson, Tx  
Adults \$6.50 • Children \$3.75  
Plates include Catfish, French Fries, Coleslaw, Hushpuppies, Dessert and Iced Tea.

CALL IN ORDERS WELCOME - 632-1812  
Please come and join us!!

**LCHD** Lynn County Hospital District  
Tahoka, Texas • 806-998-4533  
www.lchdhealthcare.org

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