



# THE Lynn County News



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8 PAGES PLUS INSERT

50¢

## What's Inside

- **Hawthorne Named To LCHD Board** - pg. 2
- **Obituaries** - pg. 2  
- Joe Medina
- **Managing Post-Holiday Debt** - pg. 3
- **Ag Conference** - pg. 4
- **Pictures from 2005** - pg. 6

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
The News Office will be **CLOSED Monday, Jan. 2, 2006** for New Year's

## Area Bale Count

(as of Tuesday)

Texas Star Gin-Wilson/Union	74,526
New Home Coop-Lakeview	46,451
Farmers Coop-O'Donnell	45,112
Farmers Coop Assn. 1-Tahoka	28,491
Woolam Gin-O'Donnell	28,025
Wells Coop Gin	20,300
Grassland Coop Gin	10,737
Close City Gin-Post	8,202
Lynn County Gin-Tahoka	5,000
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>266,844</b>

## Weather

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Dec. 21	66	32	
Dec. 22	72	31	
Dec. 23	75	35	
Dec. 24	61	39	
Dec. 25	74	37	
Dec. 26	80	39	
Dec. 27	69	39	
<b>Total Precipitation in Dec.:</b>	<b>0.07"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in Oct.:</b>	<b>4.10"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in Sept.:</b>	<b>0.20"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in Aug.:</b>	<b>4.92"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in Jul.:</b>	<b>2.27"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in Jun.:</b>	<b>0.77"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in May:</b>	<b>5.88"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in Apr.:</b>	<b>0.19"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in Mar.:</b>	<b>0.97"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in Feb.:</b>	<b>1.86"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation in Jan.:</b>	<b>1.07"</b>		
<b>Total Precipitation to date:</b>	<b>22.30"</b>		

## Words of Wisdom

Life can only be understood by looking backward, but it must be lived by looking forward.

## Lynn County News

P.O. Box 1170 • Tahoka, TX 79373  
Phone: 806-561-4888  
Fax: 806-561-6308

E-mail address:  
lcn1tahoka@poka.com

Office Hours  
1617 Main St.  
In Tahoka

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(Open During Lunch Hour)  
CLOSED FRIDAYS  
(Drop Box available by front door)



**Goodbye 2005 ...** In what has become a traditional event, *The Lynn County News* once again provides a glimpse of the year past with photos taken from issues of *The News* in 2005. If your picture was in the paper during the year, you may find it again pictured here, or on page 6 where a full page of photos gives us glimpses from 2005.

## Motorcycle Rider Hurt In Accident Near Wilson

Richard Johnston, a motorcycle rider from Post, was critically injured Monday afternoon when he crashed the cycle, apparently to avoid a collision with a pickup. The accident occurred on FM 2192 northwest of Wilson. Johnston was treated by EMS ambulance personnel from Tahoka and then airlifted from the scene to University Medical Center in Lubbock, where his condition Wednesday morning remained critical.

Four teenage Tahoka residents, ranging in age from 14 to 16, suffered minor injuries around 1:45 a.m. Dec. 21 when the

Mitsubishi they were driving east on S. 9th Street was struck by a car driven by a 19-year-old Lubbock man who was being chased by a Tahoka police officer. The driver was arrested and jailed on charges of driving while intoxicated, criminal mischief and four counts of assault with a motor vehicle. The four teens were treated at Lynn County Hospital emergency room and released.

Lindsey Jay Garcia of Tahoka told police Friday that someone had stolen from her car a brown suede purse containing credit cards and other cards, and that a CD player face plate was missing from her 1996 Honda Accord. It later was determined that someone had tried to use her credit card. Total loss was set at \$180 and investigation was continuing.

Sheriff's deputies took reports of three incidents of property damage, two of them apparently attempts at burglary, with nothing missing in either case.

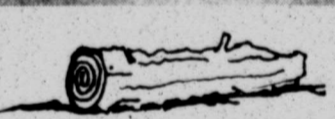
Craig Taylor reported Tuesday that sheet metal had been peeled back to gain entry to a barn six miles west of Tahoka on U.S. 380, but nothing appeared to be missing. Brad Hammonds also reported that a lock was cut off his barn about 2.5 miles northeast of Tahoka, but nothing was taken. And Doug Taylor reported that two tractor tires had been shot out at a location about two miles north of Tahoka.

Forty-six persons were in Lynn County jail over the Christmas weekend, including 30 held for the county, and the rest held for Lubbock, Gaines, Dawson and Garza counties.

Charges on which the latest inmates were held included intoxicated assault with a vehicle causing severe bodily injury, driving while intoxicated (DWI), criminal mischief over \$500 and less than \$20,000, driving while license invalid, parole violation/open container and warrants for expired drivers license and no liability insurance.

## woodwork

by dalton



THIS YEAR IS fading fast, so if you haven't yet done all the things you planned to do this year, you'd best get busy. Actually I didn't plan to do anything special this year, and I have succeeded in my campaign for mediocrity quite well.

It has been a good year, though; I have enjoyed many things and have just about reached my only goal - to get through the year in reasonable physical and mental condition, and enjoying association with people I love and others I like a lot.

A lady in California sent me a story about an elderly man whose attitude toward life is admirable, and should be a standard for most of us, closing with Five Simple Rules for Happiness.

I don't know if the story is true or not. Regardless, it makes some really good points, especially for older persons (it's good for you younger readers, too, but hopefully you still have time to shape up before your bodies and your plans all fall apart).

Here's the story:

A proud 92-year-old man, who is fully dressed each morning by 8 a.m., shaved perfectly even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years died recently, making the move necessary. After hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled when told his room was ready.

As he guided his walker to the elevator, I described his tiny room to him, including the window decoration.

"I love it," he said, with enthusiasm.

"Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room yet; just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," he replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged; it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice: I can spend the day in bed thinking about how much trouble I have with parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

"Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away... Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in."

He then listed five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

Those sound like good points to me. I might add something about the need for a strong Christian faith, and the need for a good sense of humor. Pretty soon that may be the only sense you have left.



SARA VICTORIA CHAPA

**Chapa is TTU Grad**

Sara Victoria Chapa graduated from Texas Tech University with a B.A. in Human Development and Family Studies, during commencement ceremonies held Dec. 17.

Sara is the daughter of Mario Chapa of Tahoka, and Gloria Valerio of Lubbock.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Chapa Jr. of Tahoka.

**Boys Little Dribblers Registration Sign Up**

Tahoka Boys Little Dribblers will have a registration sign-up on Friday, January 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the THS gym, and on Saturday, January 7, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Lyntegar meeting room.

Sign ups are for boys from second grade through sixth grade, and birth certificates must be provided at registration.

For more information please call Tammie Angeley at 561-4213 or Mike Rivas at 561-1240.

**Obituaries**

**Joe Medina**

Rosary for Joe Medina, 61, of O'Donnell, was held Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Pius Catholic Church in O'Donnell. Mass was to be recited Wednesday, Dec. 28 at the same church with Father Teo officiating. Interment was to follow in O'Donnell Cemetery; under the direction of White Funeral Home of Tahoka.

He died Friday, Dec. 23, 2005 at his home. He was born to Fred and Maria Lucinda Gonzales Medina on Feb. 27, 1944 in Littlefield. He moved to O'Donnell in 1985 and was an equipment operator at O'Donnell Compress. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a Catholic.

Survivors include three sons, Joe Medina Jr., David Medina and Felix Hernandez; two daughters, Lucinda Perrier of California and Lillian Medina of Littlefield; a brother, John Medina of Littlefield; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**New Home FFA Auction, Cookout Slated Jan. 5**

The annual New Home FFA Auction and Hamburger Cookout will be held Thursday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the New Home School Cafeteria. Many items have been donated for the event, and items are still being accepted for the auction.

A raffle drawing for a Henry, Golden Boy .22 rifle will be held the evening of the auction. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$12. Proceeds from the auction benefit the New Home FFA Chapter.

To donate items or purchase raffle tickets, contact James Tabor or any FFA student. Tickets for the raffle drawing will also be available at the auction.

The local New Home Stock Show will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006. New Home FFA students will be exhibiting their animal projects for the 2006 show season. A barbecue lunch will be available as well as many homemade snacks and cakes.

The Lynn County Stock Show will be Jan. 19-21 at the Lynn County Showbarn in Tahoka.



**Cheerful Volunteer ... Carolyn Botkin of Tahoka smiles as she gives blood at the Blood Drive held in Tahoka before Christmas at the Life Enrichment Center. (LCN PHOTO)**

**Seven Tips Given To Slash Soaring Home Heating Bills**

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will hit homeowners everywhere in the wallet this winter. The storms have caused real damage and disruption to the natural gas industry, adding to strains already caused by rising demand. Natural gas prices are now at a record high, and the Department of Energy states they will keep going up as the cold weather descends upon us. The "Energy Crisis" is back.

How high will natural gas prices rise? As much as a whopping 71% more this winter compared to last year. This will translate into a \$500 to \$800 jump in annual home and water heating bills for most homeowners and over \$1000 for many. While you can't control the price of fuel, you can reduce how much you use. Here are seven tips from the Comfort Institute to make your home an energy sipper instead of a gas-guzzler!

**1. Have your duct system tested for air leaks.** Many assume that windows and doors are the major cause of a home's energy wasting air leaks. But according to recent research by the Department of Energy (DOE), gaps, joints and disconnections in the typical home's duct system are much more significant. The DOE states that the typical duct system loses 25 to 40 percent of the energy put out by the central furnace or heat pump. Authorities recommend having a heating contractor test for leaks and then seal them with a brushed on fiber reinforced sealant. Duct tape usually dries out and fails. It turns out duct tape is great for many things, but sealing isn't one of them.

**2. Ask your contractor to perform an Infiltrometer "blower door" test.** The blower door test is a computerized instrument originally invented by the Department of Energy. It pinpoints where your home's worst leaks are, such as duct leaks, and also measures how leaky the overall house is. Most homes have the equivalent of an open window in combined air leaks. Many heating contractors offer an Infiltrometer test as part of a "Whole House Health & Comfort Checkup" that also checks insulation levels and overall duct performance. Ask if they also provide an infrared camera scan to pinpoint hidden heat leaks.

**3. Close your fireplace damper.** Did you remember to close it last time you used the fireplace? Shut it

now or waste precious warm air all winter long.

**4. Replace your furnace or heat pump air filter.** Most systems need this every month to ensure safe and efficient operation. Keep forgetting to do it? Ask your contractor for information on an extended surface area whole house air filter that only needs to be replaced once a year. It also does a far better job at keeping your equipment and the air in your home clean.

**5. Have your heating system cleaned and tuned.** A pre-season tune up is a great investment. It reduces the chances of breakdowns on cold winter nights, improves safety, and more than pays for itself through more energy efficient operation. Ensure your contractor also performs a complete carbon monoxide safety check. For a free report: "How To Identify a Good Heating and Cooling Contractor", go to [www.comfortinstitute.org](http://www.comfortinstitute.org).

**6. Install a programmable setback thermostat.** Turn down your thermostat 8 degrees for 8 hours a day and you'll save 8 percent on home heating costs. But you don't have to sacrifice comfort! Ask your heating contractor to install a "programmable thermostat" that will turn the heat back up before you wake up or before you come home. New models are much easier to program.

**7. Consider replacing your old furnace or heat pump.** Just like a car, heating and cooling equipment doesn't last forever. Is your system more than 12 years old? It probably wastes 35 cents out of every dollar you pay for fuel. Planning to stay in your home more than a few years? Many authorities recommend replacing it before it fails permanently. A new system is safer, improves comfort, is more dependable and creates less air pollution. New units pay for themselves over time as they only waste eight cents out of every dollar worth of gas. However, government and utility research has found that over 90% of newly installed high efficiency systems have energy wasting installation mistakes. Do some homework before talking to contractors.

For more information, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and [www.comfortinstitute.org](http://www.comfortinstitute.org). Print out the free Comfort Institute report "Tips and Secrets To Buying A New Heating And Cooling System".

**Hawthorne Named To Hospital Board**

John Hawthorne, a former board member, was unanimously selected by the Lynn County Hospital directors last Thursday to serve out the remaining four months on the term of Virginia Griffing, whose resignation from the board for health reasons was reluctantly accepted by the board.

Hospital administrator Jim Morris reported on a recent bio-terrorism training session which was conducted at the hospital for staff members and others charged with responsibility in the event of a major biological mishap or terrorist attack. A second training session is scheduled this month.

Board president Billy Tomlinson presided. All board members were present, including Jerry Ford, Dalton Wood, Cal Huffaker, Regina Crutcher and Joan Knox.

**Commissioners Meet In Last Session of 2005**

Lynn County Commissioners met in their last session of the year on Tuesday, Dec. 27, with a very brief agenda. All four commissioners were present, including Don Blair, Don Morton, Mike Braddock and J.T. Miller, as well as County Judge H.G. Franklin who led the 10 a.m. meeting.

Commissioners approved a request to allow county employees to attend a diabetes workshop being conducted by Lynn County Extension Agent Amy Baugh, beginning in January and ending in February. There will be four workshops being held on Wednesdays from 2:30 until 5 p.m.

Monthly bills were approved as presented, and the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

**NEW AT THE CITY/CO. LIBRARY**

**First Impressions by Jude Deveraux**  
In the aftermath of her beloved daughter's wedding, forty-five-year-old single mother Edna Palmer endeavors to transition into solitary life in a North Carolina small town, where she unexpectedly finds passion, intrigue, and betrayal.

**Gabriel's Angel by Nora Roberts**  
Pregnant, alone, and on the run to protect her unborn child, Laura Malone finds herself stranded with Gabriel Bradley, with whom she forms a bond after he provides her with shelter and friendship through the storm.

**The Camel Club by David Baldacci**  
Witnessing a murder with ties to a prestigious businessman's club, homeless conspiracy theorist Harry Stone steals a crucial piece of evidence from the scene and is subsequently pursued by a dangerous member of the club and a secret service agent who slowly uncovers the truth.

**At First Sight by Nicholas Sparks**  
Finding himself happily married, living far from his New York City origins, and anticipating the birth of his first child in spite of previous vows that he would never willingly pursue such a life, Jeremy Marsh receives a mysterious message that reopens wounds from the past and changes the course of his marriage.

**Mary, Mary by James Patterson**  
Vacationing in Disneyland with his family when he receives instructions to investigate an actress's murder outside of her Beverly Hills home, FBI agent Alex Cross learns that the attack was the latest in a series of celebrity killings linked to the elusive Mary Smith, who proves more challenging than Alex anticipates.

**Tahoka Bulldog Basketball 2005-2006 Schedule**

Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Teams
Dec. 27-29	Slaton Tourney	Away	TBA	JV/VG
Dec. 29-31	Lamesa Tourney	Away	TBA	JV/VB
Jan. 3	TBA			
Jan. 6	Post	Home	4:00	JV/VBG
Jan. 10	Idalou	Home	4:00	JV/VBG
Jan. 13	Slaton	Away	5:00	JV/VBG
Jan. 17	Roosevelt	Away	5:00	JV/VBG
Jan. 20	Denver City	Home	4:00	JV/VBG
Jan. 24	Abernathy	Away	5:00	JV/VBG
Jan. 27	Shallowater	Home	4:00	JV/VBG
Jan. 31	Post	Away	5:00	JV/VBG
Feb. 3	Idalou	Away	5:00	JV/VBG
Feb. 7	Slaton	Home	4:00	JV/VBG
Feb. 10	Roosevelt	Home	5:00	JV/VB
Feb. 14	Denver City	Away	5:00	JV/VB

**The Lynn County News**  
Tahoka, Texas 79373

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FAX: (806) 561-6308 • E-MAIL: [lc1tahoka@poka.com](mailto:lc1tahoka@poka.com)

NEWS STAFF  
Juanel Jones ..... News Editor  
Vondell Elliott ..... Managing Editor  
Pam Elrod ..... Typesetting/Bookkeeping

*Camaron Pet Salon & Day Care*

5137 Suite C • 69th Street • Lubbock  
794-0897 or Cell 786-0461

BROCKE TEKELL-EVANS, owner/groomer

**If you currently benefit from Medicare Part A or B ... now's your chance to get a healthy dose of D!**

Medicare Parts A and B have benefited Americans for ages. On January 1, 2006, Medicare Part D, the Federal Government's Medicare prescription drug coverage, goes into full effect. People with Medicare have until May 15, 2006 to join without penalty and the folks at Community Care Rx<sup>SM</sup> urge you to make an informed decision. Ask your friends. Confer with your doctor and other health care professionals you trust, like your personal pharmacist. Ask about the Community Care Rx<sup>SM</sup> card\*, a Medicare-approved prescription drug plan with an extensive list of drugs and a variety of plan designs.

*Ask about your choices, get informed and act today because a healthy dose of D will enhance your medicare benefits!*

\* For Community Care Rx<sup>SM</sup> customer service, call 1-866-684-5353 Mon-Sat 7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. (ET). TTY users call 1-866-684-5351. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

A representative from Community Care Rx, a certified Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program, will be in our store each Tuesday morning from 9 am to 12 noon, to assist you in understanding the new Medicare program and the options that you may have.

Family-owned since 1923 **Tahoka Drug** 1610 Main in Tahoka 561-4041

**New Home Leopards Basketball Schedule**

Date	Opponent	Place	Time	Teams
Jan. 3	Grady	New Home	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Jan. 6	Loop	Loop	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Jan. 10	*Whitharral	New Home	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Jan. 13	*Wellman-Union	Wellman	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Jan. 17	*Ropes	New Home	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Jan. 20	*Meadow	Meadow	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Jan. 24	*Loop	New Home	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Jan. 27	*Whitharral	Whitharral	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Jan. 31	*Wellman-Union	New Home	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Feb. 3	*Ropes	Ropes	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB
Feb. 7	*Meadow	New Home	4:00	jvg,jvb,VG,VB

**Close City Co-op Gin**

Rt. 3, Box 47  
Post, Texas 79356  
(806) 495-2753

**New Subscription Rates**

Due to the rising cost of postage, The Lynn County News must raise their subscription rates. Effective January 1, 2006, a one-year subscription to a mailing address in Lynn County will cost \$21 (you still save \$5 a year over the newsstand price). One-year subscriptions to all other addresses in the United States will be \$26.

Mail your payment to  
The Lynn County News, Box 1170, Tahoka, TX 79373  
or come by the office at 1617 Main Street in Tahoka.

## Managing Post-Holiday Debt In Seven Easy Steps

With the holiday season coming to a close, it's time to get serious about managing your debt. If you're staring at a stack of credit card bills, the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants suggests you follow this seven-step plan for managing debt.

### 1. CURB THE URGE TO SPEND.

You'll never get out of debt if you spend more than you make each month. Effective debt management begins with taking a critical look at your spending, and then setting priorities for change. Take the time to write down everything you spend for a month and you'll be able to analyze where your money is going. Identify where you can cut back, and allocate the money you save to paying down debt. Plan to put money aside throughout the year, so you can avoid using your credit card during the next holiday season.

### 2. KNOW WHAT YOU OWE.

You can't come up with a plan for managing your debt until you know where you stand. List all your debt, including the outstanding balance, minimum monthly payment, and interest rate. Start with the credit cards and loans with the highest interest rate and work your way down.

### 3. PRIORITIZE YOUR PAYMENT PLAN.

First, determine the maximum amount you can afford to pay each month. Then set up a plan for paying off the debt with the highest interest rate first, while paying at least the minimum due on the others.

Use any and all available cash to pay down the debt. This includes raises, bonuses, and the \$20 bill you found in an old coat pocket. When the highest interest debt is wiped out, use the cash that is freed up to step up efforts to pay down the next debt on the list.

### 4. RESTRUCTURE YOUR DEBT.

One strategy is to move your high-interest credit card balances to a card with a lower interest rate. Or,

if you own your own home, consider transferring your credit card debt to a home equity loan or line of credit. The interest rate is likely to be significantly lower, and home equity interest generally is tax deductible. Just be sure that you don't make this decision lightly. You run the risk of losing your home if you don't meet payments.

### 5. CUT UP EXTRA CREDIT CARDS.

As you eliminate your credit card debt, be sure to cancel the paid-off cards so you're not tempted to run up a bill again. There is no need to have more than one or two credit cards.

If you don't want to carry cash, use a debit card. With a debit card, the funds are pulled directly from your checking account. So before you use it, you need to determine whether you have the cash to make the purchase. This can help reduce the urge to overspend, particularly if you know that the money in your checking account will be needed for another purpose.

### 6. DON'T HIDE FROM THE TRUTH.

Get a copy of your credit report and study it carefully. The 2003 Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act gives every American the right to a credit report every year from each of the three major credit bureaus — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

To order yours, go to [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). This is the only authorized source for accessing your annual credit report online for free. If you prefer to order your free report by phone, call 1-877-322-8228. Study your report carefully and follow the agency's instructions for making any corrections.

### 7. SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.

If you don't feel you can go it alone, look for help from a professional credit counseling company. Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) is a national non-profit company that can help you explore your options for getting out of debt. You might also consult with a CPA who can help you work debt repayment into an overall financial plan for the future.

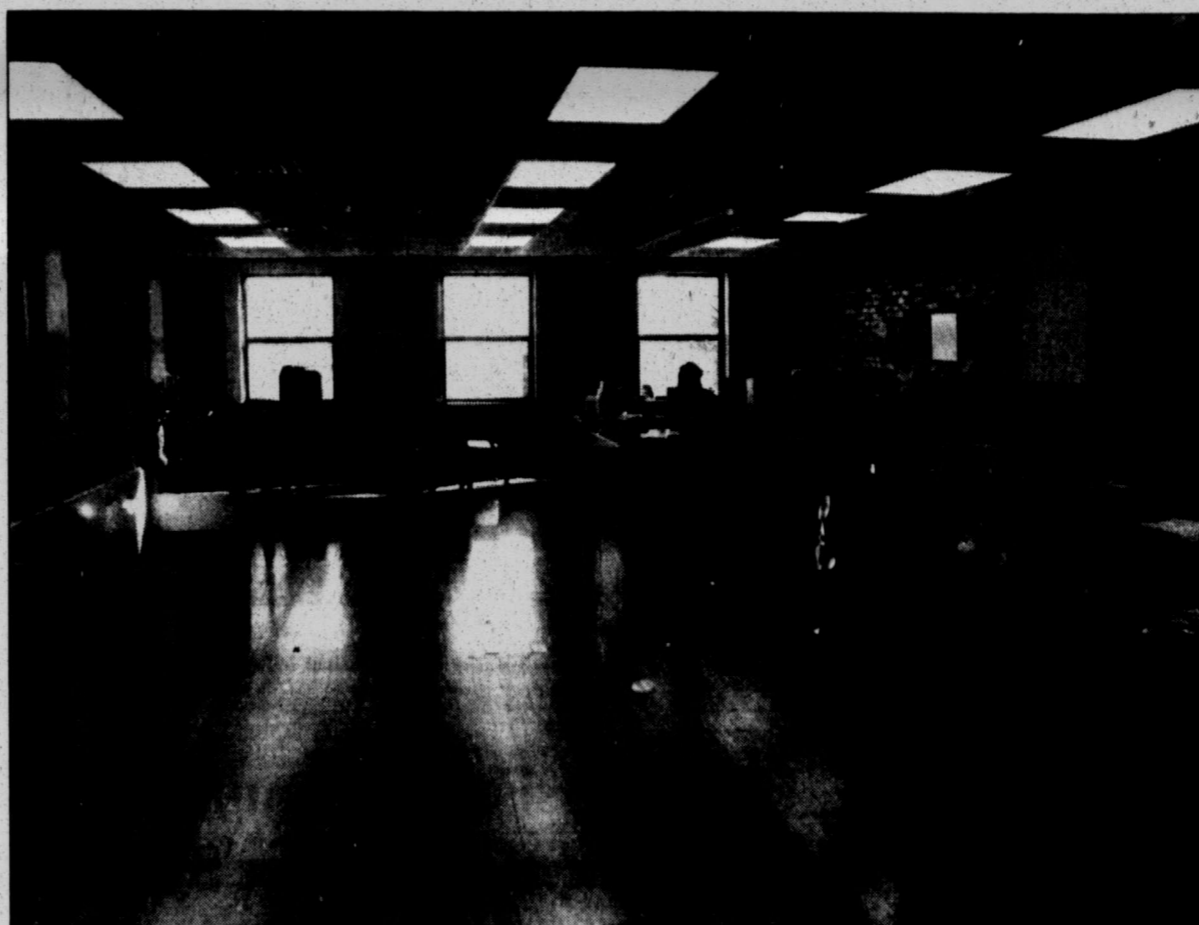
### PERSONAL FINANCE INFORMATION

For more information about personal finance issues, visit [www.ValueYourMoney.org](http://www.ValueYourMoney.org). While there, sign up to receive a free monthly electronic newsletter with personal finance tips on variety of topics.

### NEW AT THE CITY/CO. LIBRARY

*Character is Destiny: True Stories Every Young Person Should Know and Every Adult Should Remember* by John McCain & Mark Salter

An inspirational volume of moral and ethical lessons for parents to share with their children presents a collection of original profiles of individuals—including Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, Mark Twain, Elizabeth I, and Thomas More—who exemplify qualities and such values as diligence, forgiveness, humor, confidence, and honesty.



**Beautiful Renovation ...** This photo shows the recently renovated Lynn County Abstract Office, located on the second floor above Huffaker Law Firm in a building on the west side of the square in Tahoka. Cal Huffaker, owner of the building, had the original wood floors restored and removed plaster from the interior brick wall as part of the restoration. An Open House held Dec. 22 allowed visitors to view the recently completed project.

**BE RESPONSIBLE.**

**THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE ...**

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**

Remember, legal drinking age is 21.

If you are 17 years old, you will be charged as an adult if driving while intoxicated.

**IF YOU DRINK & DRIVE THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE ... IT COULD COST YOU THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS, OR WORSE -- SOMEONE'S LIFE -- EVEN YOUR OWN.**

## New Year's Eve Brings Out Highway Patrol Troopers

During the New Year's weekend, DPS will have all available troopers on Texas roadways. Troopers will be looking for speeders, seat belt violators, reckless drivers and drunk drivers from New Year's Eve through midnight on January 1.

Last New Year's, DPS troopers arrested 423 people for driving while intoxicated; they also arrested 50 minors for driving under the influence.

"DPS troopers will be looking for people who are driving while intoxicated," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS, "so it's a good idea to designate a driver at the beginning of the evening. That designated driver should not consume any alcohol. Otherwise, you may find yourself on the side of the road, participating in a field sobriety test."

Last New Year's, troopers also issued 6,244 speeding tickets. In addition, they wrote 797 tickets for seat belt violations and 329 tickets for child safety seat violations.

If you're looking for self-improvement ideas for the New Year, look no farther than your own mirror. Driving can be one of the most dangerous activities you engage in during the day, so taking a few moments to think about your driving is a good idea.

Here are some good driving habits to employ: • Make sure everyone is buckled up. • Drive sober. • Use your turn signals. • Do not tailgate. • Obey the speed limit. • Do not speed up, block lanes, slam or tap on brakes. • Report extreme cases of reckless driving to the appropriate authorities at the time the violation occurs. • Do not retaliate, gesture or make eye contact.

**Lynn County Merchants Appreciate Your Business!**

## ATTEND CHURCH IN LYNN COUNTY

<p><b>New Home United Methodist Church</b> 350 N. Main New Home, TX 79383 (806) 924-7549</p> <p>PASTOR: RICK WOLFE Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - 10:45 a.m. Youth Activities</p>	<p><b>New Home Church of Christ</b> St. address • Box 188 • New Home, TX 79383 (806) 924-7579</p> <p>MINISTER: VICTOR ELLISON Bible Class - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service - 6 p.m. Mid-Week Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Wilson St. Paul Lutheran Church</b> 16th &amp; Houston St. • Box 136 • Wilson, TX 79381 (806) 628-6471 • <a href="http://www.stpaulwilson.com">www.stpaulwilson.com</a></p> <p>PASTOR: DAVID W. ROHDE Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. Divine Service - 10:15 a.m. "Where Christ Serves People"</p>	<p><b>Sweet Street Baptist Church</b> 1300 Avenue J • Box 751 • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 561-5310</p> <p>PASTOR: LYNN LONG Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. (A Bible Study Class for all ages) Morning Worship - 10:55 a.m. (Uplifting Music - Message from God's Word) Evening Worship - 6 p.m. (Praise &amp; Worship - Gospel Message) Wednesday Night - 7 p.m. (Prayer &amp; Bible Study, Children &amp; Youth Ministries) EVERYONE IS WELCOME!</p>
<p><b>Tahoka Trinity Church</b> 1925 Lockwood • Box 1168 • Tahoka, TX 79373 Phone (806) 561-5317</p> <p>PASTOR: PERRY SHUFFIELD Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. Youth - Sundays at 7 p.m. For a ride to Sunday School or Church, call 561-5317</p>	<p><b>Wilson First Baptist Church</b> 1403 13th St. • Box 67 • Wilson, TX 79381 (806) 628-6333</p> <p>PASTOR: BILLY PARMER Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m. Discipleship Training - 5 p.m. Sunday Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study &amp; Prayer Mtg-6 p.m., Youth 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>TAHOKA St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church</b> South 4th &amp; Ave. M • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 561-4436</p> <p>PASTOR: REV. EDUARDO TEO DEACON: FRANCISCO AGUILAR Mass - 11 a.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Wed. &amp; Thur. Rosary - 7 p.m. Tues. CCE Class/Confirmation Instruct. - 7 p.m. Wed.</p>	<p><b>O'Donnell First Baptist Church</b> 701 Standefer • O'Donnell, TX 79351 (806) 428-3236</p> <p>PASTOR: SCOTT HENSLEY Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7 p.m.</p>
<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 1701 Ave. K • Box 1547 • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 561-4557 • <a href="http://www.fbctahoka.org">www.fbctahoka.org</a></p> <p>PASTOR: REV. RICHARD HARBISON First Service - 8:30 a.m. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Second Service - 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship - 6 p.m. Activities For All Ages - Call For Complete Schedule There's A Place For Me at FBC!</p>	<p><b>Message From:</b> Rev. Jeff Bayley, Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Tahoka</p> <p><b>"God Listens"</b> "I cry out to the Lord; I pray to the Lord for mercy." Psalm 142:1</p> <p>You can talk to God because God listens. Your voice matters in heaven. He takes you very seriously. When you enter his presence, he turns to you to hear your voice. No need to fear that you will be ignored. Even if you stammer or stumble, even if what you have to say impresses no one, it impresses God and he listens. He listens to the painful plea of the elderly in the rest home. He listens to the gruff confession of the death-row inmate. When the alcoholic begs for mercy, when the spouse seeks guidance, when the businessman steps off the street into the chapel, God listens. Intently. Carefully.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Be blessed, Jeff Bayley</i></p>		<p><b>Grassland Nazarene Church</b> 2885 CR 25 • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 327-5656, 327-5655</p> <p>PASTOR: DAVID PARKER Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. Youth and Adults: Wednesdays - 7 p.m.</p>
<p><b>TAHOKA Church of Christ</b> 2320 Lockwood • Box 1177 • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 561-4060 • email: <a href="mailto:tcoc@poka.com">tcoc@poka.com</a></p> <p>MINISTER: RON FANT Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - 11 a.m., 6 p.m. Bible Classes - Wednesday 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Ambassadors for Christ</b> 701 N. 1st • Tahoka, TX 79373 Phone 561-5520 or 998-6082</p> <p>PASTOR: CHARLIE STICE ASSOCIATE PASTOR: MICHAEL SCOTT SUNDAY SERVICES: Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. Youth - 5:15 p.m. Evening Praise &amp; Worship - 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>First United Methodist Church</b> 1801 Ave. J • Box 500 • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 561-4503 • <a href="mailto:fumctahoka@juno.com">fumctahoka@juno.com</a></p> <p>PASTOR: REV. JEFF BAYLEY Sundays: Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship - 10:45 a.m. Youth - 6 p.m. - Adult Bible Study 7 p.m. Family Fellowship - 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays "For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future!" - JEREMIAH 29:11</p>	<p><b>Wilson St. John Lutheran Church</b> 13th &amp; Dickson • Wilson, TX 79381 (806) 628-6573</p> <p>Sharing Christ's message of forgiveness and salvation with our community and beyond. LEADERS: REV. YVONNE KIEBLER TONDA FREITAS, PLM Sunday School (for all ages) - 10 a.m. Sunday Worship - 11:15 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Local &amp; Long Distance Phone Service, High-Speed DSL Internet Service and DISH Network® Satellite TV available.</b></p> <p>For more information, call 1-866-638-1100</p>	<p><b>Draw First United Methodist Church</b> (established 1907) P.O. Box 496 • O'Donnell, TX 79351 Phone (806) 428-3357 or Fern Barnes (806) 327-5583</p> <p>PASTOR: REV. TONI BAYLEY Sunday Morning Worship - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School following</p>	<p><b>Gethsemane Baptist Church</b> 1421 South 9th • Box 1017 • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 561-4577</p> <p>PASTOR: REV. MINGO CHAPA Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m., 6 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch Every Sunday - All Welcome! MATTHEW 11:28</p>	

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## Southern Mesa Agricultural Conference Slated In January

The Southern Mesa Agricultural Conference will focus on regulations and policies affecting Texas agriculture as well as the BMP's (Best Management Practices) for cotton and peanuts.

This conference will be held on Thursday, January 26, at the Dawson County Annex Building located at 609 North First Street in Lamesa, and will begin at 8:00 a.m. The registration fee, which includes a complimentary gift, technical sessions, door prize ticket, lunch, refreshments, educational materials and access to exhibits, is \$20.00 if paid by January 23, 2006. After January 23, the registration fee will be \$25.00. Registration forms and fees, payable to "Dawson Ag Fund", should be mailed to the Dawson County Extension Office at P.O. Box 1268, Lamesa, Tx. 79331.

The program, sponsored by the Texas Cooperative Extension in Dawson, Borden, Scurry, Mitchell, Lynn and Garza counties, will feature information on the Overview of Cotton Production and Varieties (Conventional and Transgenic; Dryland and Irrigated), Managing Fertilizer in Dryland and Irrigated Cotton, IPM Scouting Techniques, Sustaining Agriculture through production Options and Projections, Peanut Production, Weed Management and Strategies in Cotton, Alternative Chemicals used for Cotton Production, and Laws and Regulations Pre-

sentation Top quality speakers from across the State and the South Plains area will make presentations concerning current research production trials. Producers will have the opportunity to discuss their experiences with experts, specialists and other growers. Also, producers will be able to visit commercial booths throughout the day.

Five Continuing Education Units (CEU's) (2 General, 2 IPM and 1 Laws & Regs) will be provided for private, commercial and non-commercial applicators for attendance at this program.

Speakers include Dr. Randy Boman, Mr. Tommy Doederlein, Dr. Jackie Smith, Dr. Todd Baughman, Dr. Wayne Keeling and Dr. Robert Lemon all with the Texas Cooperative Extension; and Mrs. Debbie Slocum with the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Producers who wish to pre-register, may fill out the form provided by calling the Dawson County Extension Office at 806-872-3444. Remember the registration fee is \$20 if paid before Jan. 23, 2006. After Jan. 23, the fee will be \$25.

We will seek to accommodate all persons with disabilities for this event. We request that you call the Dawson County Extension Office at 806-872-3444 as soon as possible to advise us of any auxiliary aid or service that you require.



**\$1,000 Grant ...** Wal-Mart store representative Vicki Sharp (right) presents a check for \$1,000 to Susan Tipton, President of Tahoka Rotary Club, for the Rotary Club to use in their service work.

## USDA Assists Communities With Access To Water Systems

Rural Texans know the importance of a safe, dependable water source. During fiscal year 2005, USDA Rural Development assisted nearly 90,000 rural households in obtaining access to safe and sanitary drinking water by providing more than \$80 million in grants and direct loans to rural water systems.

"If you are living in a rural community in Texas that needs to improve its water system, USDA Rural Development has a program designed for you," said Bryan Daniel, State Director. "USDA Rural Development is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all rural Texans."

USDA Rural Development's Water and Wastewater Program is

designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Towns, corporations operating on a non-profit basis, and Indian tribes are eligible for assistance.

USDA Rural Development works to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global marketplace, by providing programs that assist rural Americans in building strong economies and to improve their quality of life.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the State Office at 254-742-9700, or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

## Annual Depth-to-Water Level Measurements to Begin in January

Beginning in early January, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 personnel will make annual depth-to-water level measurements to determine the effect of pumpage during 2005 on ground water levels in the Ogallala aquifer within the district's 15-county service area.

Water level measurements are made in a network of more than 1,200 privately-owned wells. These water level observation wells are spaced throughout the district at a density of about one well per nine square miles.

"It is important for the public to be aware that water district field personnel will be visiting observation well sites from early January until completion of this work effort," said Jim Conkwright, manager.

Water district personnel make the water level measurement by lowering a steel tape to a pre-determined depth in the well. The first few feet of the tape lowered into each well are coated with carpenters' chalk, which turns a darker shade of blue when it comes into contact with water.

The distance from land surface to the static water level is determined by subtracting the amount of tape with the darker blue chalk from the total feet of tape extended into the well.

After the measurement is made,

a blue vinyl sticker with the observation well number, the depth-to-water level measurement, and the date of the measurement is affixed to the well equipment or other appropriate surface near the well site.

Water District personnel attempt to measure the same wells in the observation well network each year, as long as the individual wells are accessible and continue to provide satisfactory data. The current depth-to-water level measurement in individual wells is compared to that of the previous year to determine the annual change in water levels in the Ogallala aquifer within the district.

Maps showing the location and well number of the observation wells in each county or portion of a county served by the water district are published each year in the district's newsletter, *The Cross Section*. The water level issue contains tables listing observation wells in each county within the district and the average and annual change in water levels for one-year, five-year, and 10-year intervals.

Additional information about the observation well program and annual depth-to-water level measurements is available by contacting the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 at (806) 762-0181 or by visiting the district's web site at [www.hpwd.com](http://www.hpwd.com).

**Happy New Year**

The Lynn County News office will be closed Monday, Jan. 2.

Deadline for next week's issue is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3

## LYNN COUNTY GIN

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## THE Lynn County News

1617 MAIN • TAHOKA, TX • 806/561-4888 • FAX 806/561-6308



He may not have an achy breaky heart, but if Sparky doesn't run around like he used to, some achy breaky joints may be the reason — he might be suffering from a painful joint disease that is very common in pets.

Degenerative joint disease, or arthritis, affects animals in many of the same ways it does people, says Dr. Bianca Hettlich, a veterinarian at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University.

"Degenerative joint disease begins with an injury to the joint," says Hettlich. "These injuries can range from a torn ligament to an infection that causes damage to the joint."

There are various types of orthopedic problems animals can endure. "The most common arthritic problems owners will notice are hip dysplasia, bad elbows and bad knees. These problems are usually caused by joints that do not fit together properly or are unstable," says Hettlich.

"Animals can also suffer from rheumatoid arthritis, just like humans can, which is when the immune system starts attacking the joint," she says. "Cruciate injuries, or tears in the ligaments, especially of the knee joint (cruciate ligament tear), are extremely common as well."

The pain caused by arthritis may be hard to see in pets, says Hettlich.

"Animals with arthritis will be slow getting up from a laying position or have trouble getting comfortable," she warns. Hettlich advises owners to call their veterinarian if they notice any reluctance in their pet to participate in normal activities.

"Sometimes arthritis can be so painful that it affects the animal's appetite," she notes. Owners should also be aware of changes in elimination behaviors because animals may be too sore to step into the litter box or go outside.

Owners might notice an obvious lameness in their pets as well, says Hettlich.

"Arthritic animals may pick up their leg or start dragging it." If you are the owner of an older pet, Hettlich warns not to accept these signs as old age.

There are many different treatments, often that you can perform on your own, that help your pet with degenerative joint disease.

"Some of the animals we see with arthritic problems are overweight, which puts a lot of stress on their joints. Weight reduction is one solution to the problem," she says.

Another prevention technique Hettlich suggests is limiting high impact activity. "Owners should engage their pets in activities like leash walking or swimming, which build up the muscles and don't cause the joints to suffer," she adds.

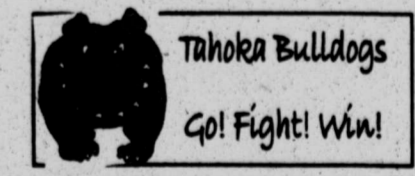
Hettlich also recommends consulting with your veterinarian about various medications available for animals with arthritis.

"These drugs are similar to those people take for arthritis, but they have to be veterinary prescribed because animals often have serious reactions to human drugs," Hettlich says.

Other options for animals with arthritis include surgery if applicable, and rehabilitation. "Hip replacement is the most common surgery that is performed," she says. "With this surgery, animals can have excellent function in their hip joint."

Rehabilitation helps to rebuild the muscle after an injury. "Just like a person uses rehabilitation after an injury, you can rehabilitate your cat or dog," Hettlich says. "The owner can perform some rehabilitation exercises, but a veterinarian should be consulted first."

As for prevention, Hettlich suggests that owners see a veterinarian if there is any injury to a joint or change in behavior. "Degenerative joint disease can be present in both young and old animals," she says. "If we can do regular activity with our animals, an injury will be less likely to occur."



These Tahoka Firms Are Sponsoring This

## FARM NEWS

**AgTexas Farm Credit Services (AgTexas FCS) formerly PCA**  
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No. 1

**Lynn County Farm Bureau**

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## Real Estate

### REAL ESTATE

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### Card of Thanks

I would like to say thank you for all the prayers, hugs, phone calls, cards, beautiful plants and words of encouragement expressed to me and my family during the loss of our Precious Mom, Grandmother and Great Grandmother, Irene Dyke. We are so blessed to be part of a Community such as ours that has so much love and cares about one another no matter who they are.

I pray that God will bless each and every one of you. Again thanks.

Mike and Gail Quisenberry  
Trey Daves  
Terry, Lanae, Mikaylee & Paxtyn Gwin and Reilly Bishop  
Stephen, Amanda, Alison,  
Ethan & Addie Quisenberry  
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Kirsten & Katie Scoggin  
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