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BALE COUNT

Area gin counts as of Tuesday, Dec. 26

Texas Star-Wilson/Union	56,500
New Home Coop Gin	43,791
Woolam Gin, O'Donnell	16,925
Farmers Coop #1, Tahoka	16,829
Wells Coop Gin	*10,404
Farmers Coop, O'Donnell	*4,949
Grassland Coop Gin	3,334
Close City Gin, Post	2,767
TOTAL	155,499

* Final Bale Count

Emergency Numbers

Lynn Co. Sheriff	561-4505
Lynn Victim Assistance	561-6521
Tahoka Police Dept.	561-5255
Lynn Co. DPS Office	561-5086
O'Donnell Police Dept.	428-3344
Lynn Co. Hospital	998-4533

FOR FIRE-POLICE-AMBULANCE EMERGENCY, CALL 9-1-1

Weather

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Dec. 20	49	31	
Dec. 21	48	29	
Dec. 22	57	29	
Dec. 23	47	28	
Dec. 24	61	28	0.05"
Dec. 25	41	28	
Dec. 26	64	28	

Total Precipitation Dec.:	1.05"
Total Precipitation Nov.:	0.24"
Total Precipitation Oct.:	3.77"
Total Precipitation Sept.:	2.96"
Total Precipitation Aug.:	4.49"
Total Precipitation July:	3.36"
Total Precipitation June:	0.95"
Total Precipitation May:	2.27"
Total Precipitation April:	1.01"
Total Precipitation Mar.:	1.36"
Total Precipitation Feb.:	0.02"
Total Precipitation Jan.:	Trace
Total Precip. Year to Date:	21.48"

Lynn County News

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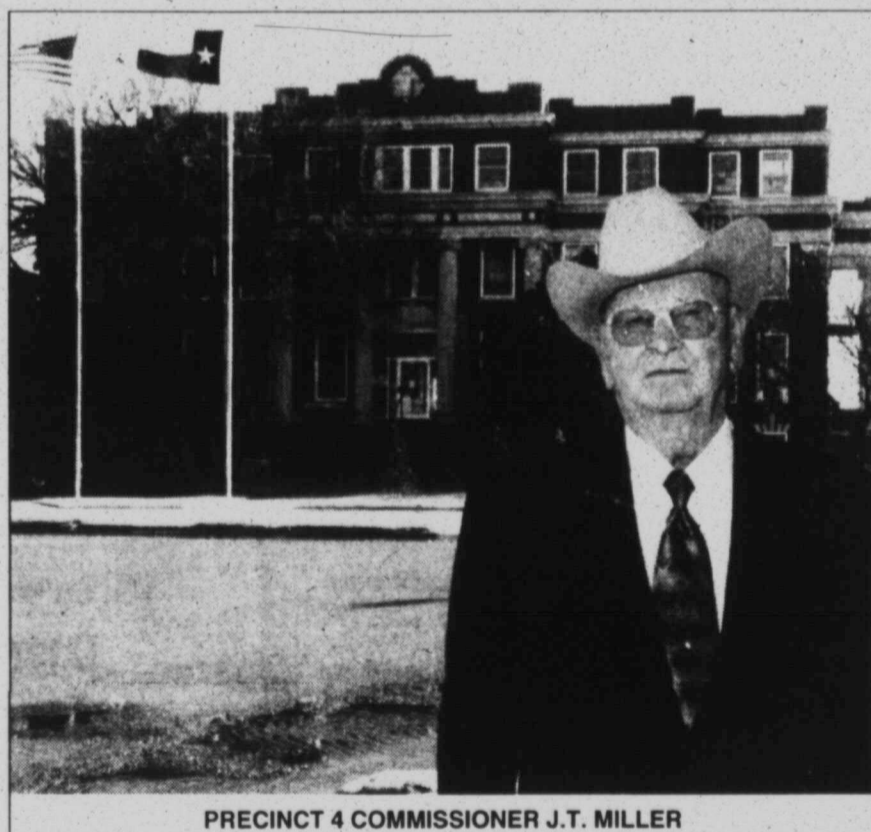
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Good-bye 2006 ... It has become a tradition for The Lynn County News to provide a glimpse of the year past with photos taken from past issues of The News. If your picture was in the paper during 2006, you may find it again here, or inside where a full page of photos gives a glimpse of 2006. Thanks to the Tahoka High School journalism classes for putting these photo montages together.



PRECINCT 4 COMMISSIONER J.T. MILLER

Commissioner J.T. Miller Retiring After 22 Years

by JUANELL JONES

J.T. Miller, Lynn County Commissioner of Precinct 4, is retiring after serving 22 years as county commissioner, from 1984-2006. He will be honored this Friday, Dec. 29 with a retirement reception from 2-4 p.m. in the second floor District Courtroom at Lynn County Courthouse.

After winning five previous contested elections throughout his career as commissioner, Miller had decided this was his last term of office and did not run for re-election in the last election. Brad Hammonds won the Pct. 4 commissioner seat in the 2006 election and he will take office on Jan. 1, 2007. Miller, who lives in Tahoka, says he is grateful for the opportunity to serve as commissioner these past 22 years. "This job has been good for me, and I have come to know lots of good people that I probably never would have met except as commissioner," he says.

Miller began his career as commissioner on Nov. 7, 1984, taking over the unexpired term of office of Commis-

sioner E.R. Blakney, who was killed in a farm accident midterm during his four-year term of office.

"E.R. actually beat me in my first bid for election, and he served a four-year term. He decided to run for re-election that next term, so I did not run in that election. He was a good guy, and I told him if he was running again then I would not run against him. He told me he wanted one more term, so I didn't run against him ... and then two years into that term he was killed. I took the remaining two years of his term, serving with commissioners Eldon Gattis, Boyd Barnes and Bart Anderson, and they taught me a lot," Miller recalls.

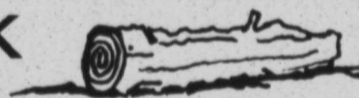
He then ran for a full four-year term in the next five elections, and remembers that each election was contested. "I have beat some really fine people in several elections, and I just want people to know that I appreciated the opportunity to continue as commissioner," said Miller.

There have been many projects and issues for commissioners to con-

(See Miller Retires, page 2)

woodwork

by dalton



I HAVE ALWAYS known that from the younger person's viewpoint, old age is 10 years past however old you happen to be at the time. But I was reminded the other day at a Christmas dinner that anyone 30 years or so older than you are is really ancient. The only problem was that I was the ancient one.

Our hostess (who really served up a delicious meal in a gracious atmosphere) asked us to name our favorite Christmas movie, and my wife and I both said at the same time, "Christmas Eve" (which starred Loretta Young in one of her last movies). And then our hostess, years younger than us, inadvertently tipped us off about how she regarded us chronologically by asking "Was that in black and white?"

We all got a laugh out of that, but at least she didn't ask us if it was a silent movie or one of the first "talkies."

Anyway, it's not the first time someone implied that I have been around forever. Even back when I was only about 35, our son, 9 or 10 years old, watched me typing on a manual typewriter and commented that I sure could type fast. I had watched him picking out some things on the typewriter, and I told him, "When I was your age, I couldn't type as well as you do now."

"Of course not," he said. "Typewriters hadn't even been invented then."

Anyway, the conversation at the Christmas dinner evolved from black and white movies to some of us recalling the first television sets our families owned, and somehow got into early-day rodeos, which one of the men at the dinner had participated in.

I had to tell them about a rodeo I went to at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Exposition when I was still in high school, when I got to see Ken Maynard (a cowboy movie star in the 1940s) perform in person. And, yes, he was in black and white.

WELCOME 2007!



Wilson Volunteer Fire Department Named "2006 Citizens of the Year"

The Wilson Lions Club recognized all of the members of the Wilson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) as the "2006 Wilson Citizens of the Year." Lions Club Vice President, Mike Jones, made the presentation during the annual club Christmas party meeting held at the Green Building.

"We thought about all of the countless hours of training and service these brave men provide for our citizens to protect them and their property from fire and it seemed very appropriate to recognize the firemen," said Jones.

extreme heat were trapped in the burning classrooms. These men entered the building and extinguished the fire and stayed on the scene monitoring the smoldering rubble for hours to make sure it did not re-ignite," said Jones.

The certificate reads, "In Grateful Appreciation for Service, Devotion, and Courage in Protecting the Citizens and Our Community, the Wilson Lions Club Recognizes the Wilson Volunteer Fire Department as the 2006 Citizens of the Year".

Clyde Wilke is Fire Chief of the nine-member volunteer department, which includes Cody Donald, Lester Gicklhorn, Curtis Gicklhorn, Lanny Zant, Dusty Patterson, Craig Wilke, Danial Clark and Casey Donald.



Lions Honor Wilson Fire Dept. ... Wilson Lions Club named all the members of the Wilson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) as Wilson Citizens of the Year for 2006, making the presentation at the club Christmas party. Pictured from left are Wilson Lions Club Vice President Mike Jones, Wilson Lions Club President and WVFD Secretary Cody Donald, and WVFD Chief Clyde Wilke accepting the "Wilson Citizens of the Year for 2006" certificate on the behalf of the fire department.

Senior Citizens MENU

January 1-5
Monday: Happy New Year!
CLOSED
Tuesday: CLOSED
Wednesday: Hamburger steak, brown gravy, homemade mashed potatoes, spinach, rolls, apricots
Thursday: Baked ham, cabbage, blackeyed peas, cornbread, cake
Friday: Beef burritos, safad, peas and carrots, cherry cobbler

Memorials and donations made to the
Lynn County Pioneers
 1600 S. 3rd • P. O. Box 223
 Tahoka, Tx 79373
 will benefit our local senior citizens center.

Miller Retiring ...

(continued from page 1)
 sider during the past 22 years, but county road conditions have always been a big issue for commissioners.

"Perfilio Garcia, one of my Precinct 4 employees, figured out for me last week that we have made, 30 miles of all-weather roads from material provided free by the highway department throughout the years," said Miller. "We get the grindings off the top of pavement from the highway department, and then we take it and fix the roads that we can. We made an all-weather road leading to T-Bar Country Club, and several city streets in New Home, and approximately 30 miles of county roads. I know we didn't get all the roads paved with the grindings, but we did our best to maintain all the roads as best we could. If there was an elderly person living down a bad road, or a road with more than one family living along it, then we tried to get to those first. Of course, some roads are just harder to maintain than others, and sometimes you just can't please everyone, but we tried," Miller says.

One of the biggest projects brought to fruition during Miller's 22-year service has been the new Lynn County Law Enforcement Center, completed in February 2002. The \$2.3 million renovation project transformed the former S&K Implement building into a 48-bed jail and offices for the Lynn County Sheriff's Department and DPS. The new facilities far surpass the old 14-bed jail, which was built in 1960 next to the courthouse, and had cramped office space, with all deputies sharing one office and the secretary's office was a closet.

"That project was the most costly, and it is never an easy

decision to make when spending county funds, but I believe that was a good project. The sheriff is doing a good job of keeping that going and keeping it full (by accommodating prisoners from other counties, a venue that provides funds for county coffers). Sheriff Jerry D. Franklin is doing a good job there," said Miller.

He feels he has had a good working relationship with all commissioners he has served with over the years, and especially the current board that includes Don Blair, Mike Braddock and Don Morton.

"These are all really good guys to work with, and I believe Brad Hammonds is going to be a good commissioner. He took an interest in the job before he ever needed to (coming to commissioner meetings these last few months) and I feel good about Brad taking my place," said Miller. "Judge H.G. Franklin is very good to work with too - it's just been a very good group to work with and I will miss them," he said.

"I have really enjoyed serving as commissioner, and I know I will miss it, but it's time for me to retire," said Miller. "If the county gets the grant funds for the courthouse renovation project, that's going to be a great project, but I know there are lots of good people who will get that done," he said.

There are two Precinct 4 employees, including Perfilio Garcia who has worked with Commissioner Miller for many years and who plans to retire at the end of this year when Miller's term expires. Domingo Morin has worked in Pct. 4 for the past six years.

Area residents are invited to Miller's retirement reception this Friday at the Lynn County Courthouse.



Wilson ISD Students of Month ... The December Students of the Month at Wilson ISD include Chelsea Bingham, 6th grade, daughter of Melinda Bingham; Felipe Ortega, 9th grade, son of Oscar and Anita Ortega; and Rebeka Hite, 2nd grade, daughter of Eric and Sarah Hite.

Atmos Energy Announces "Round Up" Initiative For Sharing the Warmth Program

Atmos Energy Corporation (NYSE: ATO) has announced a new initiative that will make it easier for its customers to help their less fortunate neighbors pay their natural gas bills this winter.

Atmos Energy Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Robert W. Best said that customers can now "round-up" their payment to the next highest dollar amount with the difference going directly to the "Sharing the Warmth" program.

Atmos Energy's "Sharing the Warmth" program supports approximately 2,000 community energy-assistance agencies nationwide. These agencies use federal funding and customers' donations to help the elderly, the disabled and low-income families pay their energy bills. The total funds distributed last year accounted for about one-fifth of the annual energy costs of low-income customers.

"Last season, our customers donated more than \$370,000 through 'Sharing the Warmth,' which when combined with our

donation of \$500,000, meant that some \$870,000 went toward helping people pay their gas bills. We think that this new 'round-up' program will enable us to greatly expand that support," Best said. "Our goal is to double the amount the Sharing the Warmth program raised from customers last year."

All donations are tax deductible and go directly to local people in need that meet criteria established by each individual program's guidelines. The new "round-up" option will appear on future monthly bills. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.atmosenergy.com.

NEW AT THE City-County Library

Nature Girl
 by Carl Hiaasen
 Honey Santana, the bipolar, self-proclaimed "Queen of lost causes," has plans to give telemarketer Boyd Shreve and his mistress a lesson in civility, unaware that she is being followed by her obsessed ex-employer Piejack, her one-time drug runner ex-husband Perry, and their twelve-year-old son, Fry, or that they will all intrude on the privacy of would-be recluse Sammy Tigertail.

Cross
 by James Patterson
 Years after his wife Maria is gunned down by an unknown shooter, a crime that has never been solved and still haunts him, psychologist Alex Cross is called in by his former partner, John Sampson, who wants his help in tracking a serial rapist stalking Georgetown, a case that reveals a startling connection to Maria's death.

Fires of War
 by Larry Bond
 When, after years of tough negotiations, North Korea's Kim Jong Il suddenly agrees to surrender all of his nuclear weapons, a suspicious U.S. government sends the First Team in to uncover the truth, racing against time to stop a mysterious conspiracy plotting a full-scale nuclear attack that could throw the entire world into political and economic chaos.

Treasure of Khan
 by Clive Cussler & Dirk Cussler
 When an oil survey team is abducted after a suspicious accident, Dirk Pitt follows leads to Mongolia, where he learns about a megalomaniac's plot to supply oil to China and to undermine global oil markets.

Parked Vehicles Damaged In Tahoka Accidents

Two parked vehicles were damaged in separate accidents in the city during the last week, with one apparently struck by a vehicle which left the scene.

Jesus Monsivais of Tahoka told police his legally parked 1994 Pontiac Firebird received \$1000 damage when it was struck by another vehicle which left the scene, in the 1800-block of N. 4th St., Saturday.

Last Wednesday in the 1800-block of Ave. P, a 2006 Chevrolet Silverado pickup driven by William Shon Overton, 39, of Tahoka, went out of control on a turn on wet pavement and struck a parked 2007 Ford Mustang owned by Antonio and Sandy Alvarez of Tahoka.

Melissa Ann Cruz of Tahoka reported that a green Next bicycle valued at \$100 was stolen from her front yard on S. 7th St. Friday.

Police Saturday arrested a 43-year-old Tahoka man as a suspect in a Lubbock murder in which a woman was stabbed

multiple times. He also was charged on warrants for application to revoke probation on conviction of driving while intoxicated and a warrant for assault/family violence.

On Sunday Tahoka police officers arrested a 31-year-old Slaton man for shooting a .45 caliber pistol at a speed limit sign on U.S. 380 west, near the hospital. He was charged with criminal mischief and his pistol was confiscated.

Jailed during the last week were persons charged with DWI, driving while license invalid, warrants for murder and domestic violence, warrants for endangering a child and DWI second offense or more, assault causing bodily injury, application to revoke probation on conviction for possession of controlled substance, and criminal mischief.

Total jail population at latest report was 49, including 15 held for Garza County, 10 for Lubbock, three for Gaines and two for Dawson County.

REGISTER and VOTE!

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

Register at the Lynn County Courthouse Tax Office.

You are Cordially Invited to a
RETIREMENT RECEPTION
 honoring
J.T. MILLER
 for his service as
 Lynn County Commissioner

Friday, December 29, 2006
 from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.
 in the District Courtroom
 Lynn County Courthouse
 Tahoka, Texas

The Lynn County News

Tahoka, Texas 79373

THE LYNN COUNTY NEWS (usps 323200) is published weekly by Lynn County News, Inc. on Thursday (52 issues per year) at Tahoka, Lynn County, Texas. Office location is 1617 Main, Tahoka. Phone (806) 561-4888. Periodical postage paid at Tahoka, Texas 79373. Postmaster: Send address change to The News, P.O. Box 1170, Tahoka, TX 79373.

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LCHD Rehab and Fitness Center

1313 LOCKWOOD • TAHOKA • 561-1340



NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL

2 FREE Months with purchase of a 10-month membership

- OR -

10% OFF all other monthly memberships

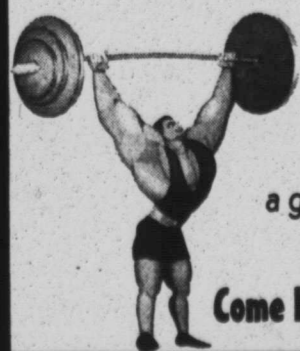
(These specials must be purchased between December 25, 2006 and January 31, 2007.)

Whether you're into cardio training, weight training or racquetball, the LCHD Rehab and Fitness Center

has something for you! A fitness membership is a great way to do

something healthy for your body and is

a great gift for someone you care about.



Come by 1313 Lockwood or Call 561-1340 for information.

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Managing Editor
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YOU may be in one of these
photos taken from the 2006 issues
of The Lynn County News.
Thanks to the THS Journalism Classes for
putting these photos together!

Care TO BE Aware

HEALTH NEWS FROM LYNN COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
by Monica Brown, RN, DON and Jeanie Stone, EMT-I, EMS Director

THE IMPORTANCE OF CPR

Any accident, such as a heart attack, drowning, vehicle accident, electric shock or medical problems may cause a person's heart to stop pumping blood. This is called Cardiac Arrest.

Studies show that effective CPR right away improves survival from cardiac arrest. Most cardiac arrests happen outside the hospital, where bystander CPR is very important.

You can make a difference. and the first step is learning CPR. You never know when you might need to use the CPR skills you learn for someone you know or a family member. The American Heart Association has designed a course called "Heartsaver AED" to prepare a wide variety of people with the skills they would need to perform CPR in their work place, use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) or help someone who is choking.

The steps of 'Heartsaver CPR':

1. Make sure the area is safe for you and the victim
2. Place the victim on their back on a firm, flat surface, like the

floor. If the victim is lying face-down, carefully roll him onto his back.

3. Kneel at the victim's side. Tap and shout to see if the victim responds.
4. If the victim does not respond, yell for help. If someone comes, send that person to call 911. If no one comes, leave the victim to phone 911 and then return to the victim.
5. Open the airway.
6. Check to see if the victim is breathing: look, listen and feel.
7. If the victim is not breathing, give 2 breaths.
8. Quickly remove clothing from the chest area.
9. Give 30 compressions at a rate of 100 a minute, and then give 2 breaths.
10. Keep giving sets of 30 compressions and 2 breaths until the AED arrives, the victim starts to move or trained help takes over.

If that's simple. For a more detailed explanation of these steps, or to schedule an adult, child or infant CPR class, contact Jeanie Stone at 998-4533, ext. 307 for more information.



Detailed work ... Tahoka High School students D'Maris Murillo and Jynna Askew cut and place photos for The Lynn County News' Dec. 28 issue, which will feature newspaper photos from throughout the past year. For the past few years, THS journalism/annual staff students have put the photo montage together for the Lynn County News.

PET TALK

Myths depicting bats as dangerous and feared creatures are enough to drive a person batty. So what exactly is the truth about bats?

Missy Young, a research assistant in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University, says when it comes to bats there is nothing to fear.

"Bats are very misunderstood creatures that have a tremendous ability to control insect populations," says Young. "They are extremely docile and shy in nature and do not deserve the negative stigma that often surrounds them."

Bats currently account for one-fourth of the animal population in the world. "They are extremely long lived, with some species surviving up to 30 years," she says. "When left undisturbed, bats will flourish and continue to be the harmless and beneficial creatures they are."

"Bats are able to see at night through the process of echolocation," she says. "Echolocation produces ultrasonic pulses and interprets the echoes that rebound from objects in a bat's path."

Echolocation calls are produced in the bat's larynx and can be emitted orally or nasally, says Young. "Low frequency echolocation calls are used to communicate socially and high frequency calls are used to navigate and forage for insects." Many people also believe

that bats are blind, which Young says is not the case.

"Some bats have vision adapted for low light conditions and therefore, have developed tiny eyes," she says. "Some species such as the Pallid bat have the ability to differentiate visual patterns in low light."

Another misconception about bats is that they have rabies. But Young says this is false. "Clearly they don't all have rabies because the species itself would not exist if they did," she says. "Statistically speaking, less than one-half of one percent of bats contracts rabies."

Bats by nature are not aggressive, despite several images put forth by the media, says Young.

"It is not hard to find photos of bats holding their mouth open which can be interpreted as being aggressive," she says. "Keep in mind that it is natural for a wild animal to want to defend itself if it feels threatened."

Unlike the fictional villain Dracula, bats do not suck people's blood. "There are only three species of true vampire bats in the world, none of which live in Texas," says Young. "These bats typically feed on the blood of livestock such as cows and birds."

There's no need to drive yourself batty with fear because bats are helpful and harmless animals if left undisturbed.

"Bats play a significant part in maintaining whole systems of life from desert regions to the rain forests," adds Young.

OISD Search For Football Coach Narrows To Eight Candidates

The search for a new head football coach for the Class A O'Donnell Eagles has narrowed to eight candidates, Superintendent Rodney Schneider informed trustees at the O'Donnell Independent School District board meeting last week. Names of the candidates were not shared with the board, but the eight candidates will be involved in first round interviews during the second week of January, the superintendent said. After the first round interviews, the administrative team will conduct a second round of informal interviews, and then Supt. Schneider will present the top candidate to the board for consideration. The new coach will succeed former head coach Rick Price, who submitted his resignation in November.

The board recognized school nurse Lindy Brewer in "Celebration of Excellence," noting her commitment to providing medical care for community members and their children.

During the open forum, Ms. Regina Crutcher asked trustees to consider adding a principal or assistant principal at the junior high level because she felt this would address concerns regarding the safety of the children, and

she also expressed concern regarding the lack of a Christmas concert by the school band.

In other business, the District Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report was presented, reporting on TAKS test scores and other data relative to state accountability. Other reports concerning violent criminal incidents, higher education coordinating board report, adequate yearly progress, and the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System were presented to trustees. The board approved a food and commodities purchasing contract with West Texas Food Service Purchasing Cooperative, and approved WADA (Weighted Average Daily Attendance) agreements with Borden County ISD and Dawson ISD.

Trustees approved an appraisal instrument for evaluating the superintendent, which will be conducted during the regular monthly January meeting, and approved a resolution authorizing a joint election with the City of O'Donnell. A TASB policy update was approved, and principals reported on campus activities and enrollment figures.

The next board meeting will be held Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.



Guarding Bailey ... A Sudan Homette guards Tahoka's Bailey Hall on Dec. 19. Sudan won the game.
(PHOTO by Rachel Lehman, THS Journalism Teacher)

Memorials and donations made to the **Lynn County Pioneers**
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will benefit our local senior citizens center.

NEW HOME INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2005-2006 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE INDICATOR SYSTEM REPORT

In accordance with Texas Education Code 39.053, the New Home Independent School District Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing on the District's AEIS (Academic Excellence Indicator System) Report on **Monday, January 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.**

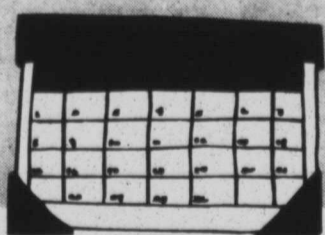
The hearing will be held in the **New Home ISD Board Room.**

WE CAN HELP YOU GET Organized FOR 2007

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET STARTED!

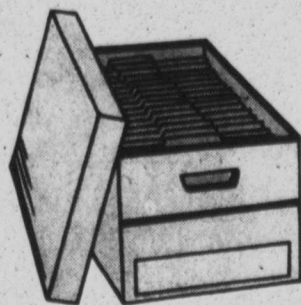
If you need ... appointment calendars, file folders, hanging file folders, storage boxes, desk pads, desk calendars, labels, calculators, stacking trays, file guides, paper shredders, or some other office supplies ... then it's time to come see us!

Open Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



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\$3.00 each
(letter or legal)

THE Lynn County News

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Tahoka High School 2006-07 Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	TEAMS
Dec. 28-30	Slaton Tourney	THERE	T.B.A.	J.V.-V.G.
Dec.	Lamesa Tourney	THERE	T.B.A.	J.V.-V.B.
Jan. 3	T.B.A.	T.B.A.	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
Jan. 5	Slaton	HERE	5:00	J.V.-V.G.
Jan. 5	T.B.A.	T.B.A.	5:00	J.V.-V.B.
Jan. 9	Idalou	THERE	5:00	J.V.-V.G.
Jan. 9	Cooper	THERE	5:00	J.V.-V.B.
Jan. 12	Post	HERE	4:00	J.V.-V.B&G
Jan. 16	Denver City	THERE	5:00	J.V.-V.B&G
Jan. 19	Roosevelt	HERE	4:00	J.V.-V.B&G
Jan. 23	Slaton	THERE	5:00	J.V.-V.B&G
Jan. 26	Idalou	HERE	4:00	J.V.-V.B&G
Jan. 30	Post	THERE	5:00	J.V.-V.B&G
Feb. 2	Denver City	HERE	4:00	J.V.-V.B&G
Feb. 6	Roosevelt	THERE	5:00	J.V.-V.B&G
Feb. 9	Slaton	HERE	5:00	J.V.-V.B.
Feb. 13	Idalou	THERE	5:00	J.V.-V.B.

Old-fashioned service ... with state-of-the-art methods!

Unlike those cold, impersonal chain stores ... we honestly believe you'll prefer the warm, friendly way we'll serve you here.

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Family-owned since 1923
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Texas Decals

On Jan. 1, 2007, all Texas residents will be required to have a decal on their vehicles. The decal will be a small, rectangular sticker that will be placed on the front of the vehicle. The decal will be a small, rectangular sticker that will be placed on the front of the vehicle.

A Texas resident who does not have a decal on their vehicle will be fined \$200. The decal will be a small, rectangular sticker that will be placed on the front of the vehicle.

Reverend will be used to help municipalities and non-profit organizations improve their services in Texas.

Non-street vehicles are all terrain vehicles, off-road vehicles, and the OHV. The law applies to all OHVs in Texas.

Approved OHV decal are used in private law. Failure to have a decal on an OHV is a criminal offense and could result in a fine or imprisonment.

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**Texas Off Highway Vehicle (OHV)
Decals To Be Enforced Starting Jan. 1**

On Jan. 1, 2007, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens and other authorities will begin enforcing the requirement for all qualifying trail vehicles to have a current Texas Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) decal properly mounted on their trail vehicles when used at OHV venues on public land in Texas.

A Texas OHV decal costs \$8 and is good through August 31 of the year it is purchased. Many other states require similar decals. A decal bought in Texas is also valid in other states and other states' decals are valid in Texas.

Revenue from decal sales will be used to provide grants to help municipalities, counties, state or federal agencies and non-profit corporations create or improve OHV recreation areas in Texas.

Non-street legal motorcycles, all terrain vehicles (ATV) and non-street legal four-wheel drive vehicles are required to display the OHV decal when trail riding on public lands in Texas. The law applies to all public lands in Texas including municipal, county, state or federal lands where OHV recreation is approved and legal. Street legal OHV's do not require the Texas OHV decal no matter where they are used in Texas. Decals are not required for vehicles used on private land.

Failure to comply with this law is a Class C misdemeanor and could result in the OHV operator being issued a citation,

with possible fines ranging from \$25-to-\$500.

It's been almost one year since the Texas OHV program was created Jan. 1, 2006 to provide family-oriented OHV trail riding opportunities which are safer and will serve as a positive force for conservation of the natural and cultural resources of Texas.

During 2006, the Texas program began the process of creating new OHV parks near Ozona in Crockett County, near Big Spring in Howard County, and near Childress in Childress County. The program has also approved grant funds to improve existing OHV venues in the Sam Houston National Forest in Montgomery County, the Marshall Creek OHV Park in Denton County, Buffalo Springs Lake Trails in Lubbock County, the Canadian River OHV Area in Potter County and Buffalo Valley MX Park in Bexar County.

The program now has a new set of Web pages with up to date information on where to buy the required decal, where to ride off the highway in Texas, responsible use of OHVs, resources for riders, and frequently asked questions about the OHV program.

A Texas OHV decal can be purchased by calling the Texas Parks & Wildlife Customer Service Center (CSC) at (512) 389-8917. Decals can also be bought at selected parks and retail stores listed on the TPWD Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/ohv.



Dogs win at home ... The Tahoka Bulldogs trounced Sudan 64-33 at home on Dec. 19, with Bulldogs Lance Murphy (#5) and Damon Moore leading the Dogs with 22 points apiece. Bulldog #10 is Matt McLelland, and #21 is Jay Tillman. The win put the Dogs at 12-1 for the season.
(PHOTO by Rachel Lehman, THS Journalism Teacher)

**WEATHER
"WHYS"**

MICROBURSTS

Q: What exactly is a microburst?

A: It's a powerful wind that comes down from a thunderstorm and it can be deadly, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "Microbursts are often only one-half mile to a mile wide but they are capable of producing winds of well over 100 miles per hour," he explains. "What makes them so deadly is that they can be a major aviation hazard and we know now they have been responsible for dozens of airplane crashes. A strong microburst can push a plane down to the ground quickly, causing it to crash. These types of winds are often associated with windshear conditions which have been responsible for many airplane disasters."

Q: Where do they most often occur?

A: They form in areas that have frequent thunderstorms, such as the Southwest, Midwest and southern parts of the United States, McRoberts adds. "Today's pilots are trained in learning how to avoid microbursts, and the advent of Doppler radar and other systems have made locating microbursts somewhat easier. But predicting where microbursts occur can be difficult, and most of them only last 5-15 minutes. We know that there are dry and wet microbursts, with wet ones usually the most dangerous because they are usually in or near a severe thunderstorm."

ADVANCE TORNADO WARNINGS

Q: How much advance warning time is there before a tornado hits?

A: New technologies have improved advance warning times dramatically, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "The National Weather Service says that in the last 15 years, the amount of pre-warning time before a tornado hits has almost doubled," McRoberts explains. "It is now as high as 15 minutes, but the average time is about 11 minutes. That's up sharply from 5-6 minutes in the 1980s. Also, there is now something called the Emergency Alert System used by many radio and TV stations. This system takes control automatically of a broadcast and

advises listeners and viewers of an approaching tornado. When an alert is sent, a forecast is automatically scrawled across a TV screen or there is a break in programming."

Q: Is that enough time?

A: Every advance minute could possibly save someone's life, McRoberts adds. "Last year, the 122 National Weather Service stations issued more than 3,000 tornado warnings. There is no doubt that these warnings saved lives and gave people a chance to take cover and seek safety. Remember that in an average year, there are about 1,200 tornadoes in the United States and about 55 people are killed each year with almost \$500 million worth of damage. So the more time people have when a tornado nears is time that can surely save some lives."

TORNADOES AND HIGHWAY UNDERPASSES

Q: Is it really safer in a highway overpass during a tornado?

A: The answer is definitely not, says John Nielsen-Gammon of Texas A&M University. "This is one of the great urban myths that has developed over the past few years," Nielsen-Gammon explains. "It may have arisen because there are several filmed incidents of people crouching by the girders of a highway overpass while a tornado passes overhead. But several studies show that being in an overpass may be one of the very worst places to be in a tornado. One of the main concerns is that there is no protection from the flying debris associated with a tornado, and debris whirled around at up to 300 miles per hour is the main cause of injuries caused by a tornado."

Q: What are the other problems about being near an overpass?

A: There are several more, Orville points out. "Usually, there is nothing to hang on to during the fierce winds as they approach, and your chances of being sucked out are very real. Also, there is growing evidence that overpasses create a sort of wind tunnel affect that actually make the winds of a tornado even worse than they might be - the winds are pushed through such areas with a greater force."

**Keep it current in the New Year...
Update Your Address
On Your Driver License**

The DPS wants to remind you to make one more New Year's resolution-update the address on your driver license. Keeping a current address on your license provides DPS with the ability to communicate important information to you regarding your driver license. Plus, updating your driver license address is important because it's the law.

DPS routinely sends out reminders to drivers when their license is about to expire, information on how to renew their license and even notification when there is a change in driver license status, such as when your license is being suspended or revoked. Updating your address can also help you avoid a situation in which law enforcement cannot identify your residence to contact a family member or a loved one in the event of an emergency.

"It's impossible for DPS to send drivers updates on their license status, if the Department does not have a current address for each driver on file," said Director of the DPS Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr. "Update your address to avoid unnecessary cost and possible charges if you're driving on an invalid license."

There are several reasons why it is important for DPS to have your current address.

Do you know when your license expires? Many people don't. DPS sends a reminder out to drivers reminding them that their driver license is about to expire and provides information on how to renew your license by mail, over the Internet, by telephone or even the old-fashioned way...in person. While some people (such as CDL holders) cannot renew by mail or over the Internet, many others can.

Another reason it is impor-

tant for you to keep your address current is so that DPS can notify you if your license is suspended or revoked. If your address is not current, you may not receive this notification. If you are stopped for any reason and found to be driving on a suspended license, you can be arrested. Licenses are often suspended or revoked for driving with no insurance, driving while intoxicated, for failing to appear in court for a citation or for failure to comply with the requirements of the Driver Responsibility Program.

In the event that you are involved in a car crash or some other type of emergency in which you are unable to identify yourself, law enforcement must rely on your license to determine who you are. If your address is current, they will at least have a starting point in trying to notify your family about what has happened to you.

Finally, you should keep a current address on your license because it's required by law. You have 30 days to change your address on your driver license when you move, or you could face a citation.

You can change your address online, through the mail or at your local driver license office. To change your address online, go to www.texas.gov or you can download the form you'll need to renew by mail at <http://ftp.txidps.state.tx.us/forms/dl-64.pdf>. The fee to change your address is \$10. If you have a commercial driver license, you cannot change your address online or through the mail, which means you must go to a driver license office.

If you have questions concerning your license or how to change your address, please call the Driver License Customer Service office at 512-424-2600.



Let's put this one here ... Nick House places a picture on the page, while Amber Alvarado cuts out another picture for the project. The THS journalism/annual staff students put the photo montage together for the Lynn County News' end-of-year issue featuring newspaper photos from throughout the past year.

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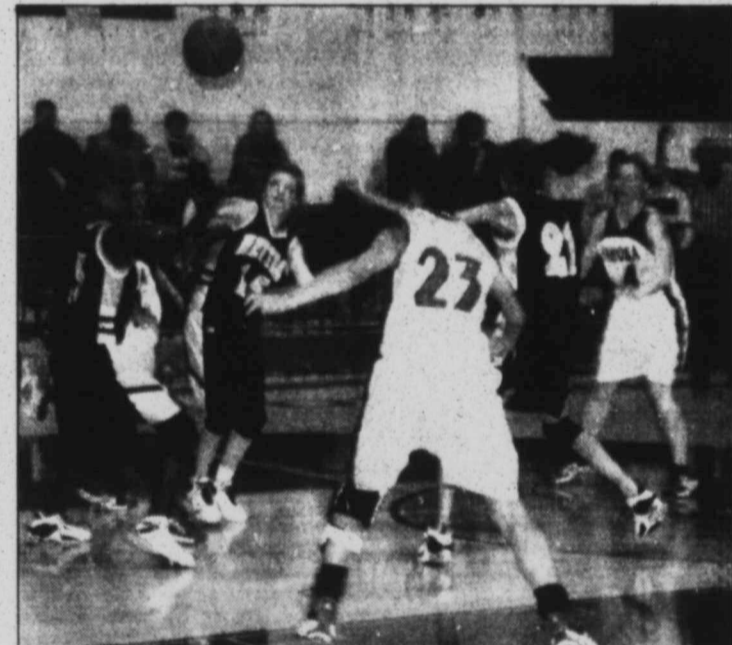
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Hornettes Sting Lady Dogs ... The Tahoka Lady Bulldogs hosted the Sudan Hornettes on Dec. 19, with Sudan taking a 51-26 victory.
(PHOTO by Rachel Lehman, THS Journalism Teacher)

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WANTED: A Tahoka High School 1983 Yearbook for the Tahoka Pioneer Museum. The museum has every THS yearbook/annual except for 1983. If you would like to donate one, please bring it to the Lynn County News office at 1617 Main or to the Museum (open 10-2 Friday and Saturdays).

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