



THE Lynn County News



VOLUME 107, NUMBER 17

TAHOKA, LYNN COUNTY, TEXAS

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010

8 PAGES PLUS INSERT

50¢

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COMMUNITY INVITATION:

Trudy Schuknecht's 100th birthday party
11 am-5 pm Saturday
at The Center
(see invitation, page 3)

Early voting continues

Early voting for the May 8 city and school elections in Lynn County began Monday, April 26 and continues through May 4, at locations chosen by each taxing entity. Following is a list of elections, candidates, and early voting poll locations.

City of Tahoka: Dist. 2 council seat: Billy Bishop, Michael Walker, Ronny Jolly, Max Mendieta III, Edward Gomez. Early voting at County Courthouse basement courtroom.

Tahoka ISD: (3 trustees) - Dist. 1: Kent Kahl (incumbent), Scott Dimak; Dist. 2: Beth Huffaker, Abraham Vega, Martin Hammonds; Dist. 5: Tony Garcia (incumbent). Early voting at County Courthouse basement courtroom.

City of O'Donnell: (mayor, 2 council seats) - Mayor: James Williams (incumbent), Scotty Martinez; Council: Max Mendieta, Roger Doss, Rex Little (incumbent), Norma Ramirez. Early voting at O'Donnell City Hall.

O'Donnell ISD: (3 trustees) - Randy Cook, Jerry Castro, Kirby Williams, Mark Royce (incumbent), Billy Edwards, Missy Jaquess. Early voting at O'Donnell ISD Administrative Office.

Wilson ISD: (3 trustees) - Mary Kathleen Mendez, Angelic Frausto, Janie Rios (incumbent), Yolanda Trevino, Doug Bolyard. Early voting at Wilson ISD Business Office.

Weather

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Apr. 21	81	48	
Apr. 22	80	53	2.78"
Apr. 23	80	45	
Apr. 24	73	45	
Apr. 25	77	48	
Apr. 26	58	48	
Apr. 27	89	42	
Precipitation for Apr:			7.02"
Precipitation for Mar:			3.65"
Precipitation for Feb:			2.48"
Precipitation for Jan:			1.91"
Total Precip. year to date:			15.06"

Lynn County News

P.O. Box 1170 • Tahoka, TX 79373
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Let's go fishin' ... Tahoka Rotary Club president G.G. Fillingim shows the crowd fishing equipment up for auction as spotter Math Bartley and auctioneer Bill Mijler work the crowd at the 30th annual Fun/Food Festival held here Saturday night. An estimated \$24,000 was raised for the hospital. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

THS Principal Troy Hinds resigns here

Tahoka High School Principal Troy Hinds has submitted his resignation to TISD officials, and his last day as THS Principal is Friday, April 30. Hinds is leaving Tahoka to accept a position at 2A Anson High School as principal and coach.



Hinds has served Tahoka ISD for a total of 13 years, as a teacher/coach, athletic director, and four years as high school principal.

He told *The News* that he and his family are grateful to Tahoka for their many good years here. "I am very pleased to have lived and worked in Tahoka for all these years. The kids here are just the best - you cannot beat the kids here, and Tahoka has been so good to me and my family. We will miss them," he said.

May 7 meeting to consider Democratic commissioner candidates

RosaLinda Gutierrez, Lynn County Democratic Chairman, has scheduled a meeting for Friday, May 7, at 7 p.m. at the First National Bank Community Meeting Room, to consider possible candidates for the Democratic contender for the Lynn County Precinct 4 Commissioner race. The local party may appoint someone to fill the position after the former candidate, Wendell Morrow, was withdrawn from the race.

"I will be contacting possible candidates and then on that day the Democratic Executive Committee will vote on someone for the Pct. 4 County Commissioner race in November," said Gutierrez.

For more information, contact her at 806-561-2233 or 806-781-4679.

Wilson church fundraiser dinner set Sunday, May 2

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Wilson, at the corner of 15th and Culpepper, invites all to a fundraiser dinner Sunday, May 2, from 9:00 to 3:00. Menu includes enchiladas, rice & beans, taco, and dessert. Cost is \$6 per person, dine-in or carryout.

Former Justice of Peace Ginger Henry indicted on felony theft charges

Virginia Lee (Ginger) Henry, 55, of Tahoka, former Lynn County Precinct 1 Justice of Peace, was indicted on felony charges of theft by public servant by a 106th District Court grand jury recently. Henry turned herself in to sheriff's officials on April 20, and has bonded out awaiting legal proceedings. The felony indictment charge was on theft of funds between \$1500-\$20,000.

Henry, who was elected to the office in January 2007, was placed on leave of absence in early December 2008 during an investigation conducted by the Texas Rangers. She resigned from the JP office on Dec. 30, effective Jan. 1, 2009. The Texas Rangers and State Attorney General's office handled the case.

Seven other indictments were returned by the 106th District grand jury, including the following, according to information this week from the Lynn County Sheriff's Department:

Rowdy Braddock, 32, of New Home, DWI 2 or more;

Jordon Dewayne Criswell, 23, of Tahoka, Evading Arrest Detention with Vehicle;

Wesley Wayne Crow, 32, of Lubbock, DWI 2 or more;

Garland Graves, 36, of Slaton, theft of \$1500-\$20,000;

Anna Garcia Rodriguez, 41, of Tahoka, theft of \$1500-\$20,000;

Debbie Sue Rodriguez, 47, of Tahoka, theft of \$1500-\$20,000;

Mary Morin Rodriguez, 54, of Tahoka, theft of \$1500-\$20,000;

All but Braddock and Graves have bonded out. Braddock and Graves were already in jail on other charges, according to jail officials.

Tahoka Police investigated an incident of criminal mischief in which a 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier was damaged last Thursday when a suspect who left the scene allegedly kicked the car, owned by his girl friend's grandmother.

Last Wednesday police arrested a 33-year-old Lubbock man for DWI and possession of marijuana.

Lynn County Sheriff's Dept. and officers from Garza and Vega counties assisted Ranger Dean Bohannon with the Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn. in an investigation which led to a guilty plea last week from James Dean Nelms, 18, of Southland, on charges of stealing a tractor valued at \$30,000 from a Garza County farmer.

Nelms was assessed a seven-year prison term, probated, and fined \$1,500 plus court costs. He was arrested in February. The tractor was recovered and returned to the owner.



Headed to Austin ... Tahoka High School Junior Brittany Garcia (right) will compete at State UIL on May 6 in Headline Writing after placing 3rd at Regional UIL competition April 23. Ben Freitag is a State alternate, placing 4th in Calculator Applications and 6th in Mathematics at Regional competition. (TISD PHOTO)

woodwork by dalton

DID YOU EVER get caught in the dark when a storm causes a sudden loss of power at your house, and you have to stumble around looking for flashlights or candles? Well, here's a possible solution: get a soccer ball like one described in a recent issue of Reader's Digest, with an electric plug built into it.

According to the story, someone has invented a ball (called the sOcket), which generates energy as players kick it, and then provides energy at home. No kidding, fifteen minutes on the field supposedly captures enough energy to power a small light for three hours. It may be sold at Wal-Mart pretty soon.

So I guess if you get one of those, you watch for storm clouds, and when one comes up, you run out in your front yard and start kicking the ball around. Of course, if it's already raining, and you're over 50 years old, the neighbors may call for the guys from Big Spring to come get you. And trying to tell them you're just getting ready to plug your drop light into your soccer ball probably won't help you much.

I can just picture them hauling me off in a padded wagon while I'm clutching my soccer ball and singing "This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine..."

THE SAME ISSUE of Reader's Digest has something about a new anti-smoking vaccine that has been developed. They give you a shot and you don't want to smoke any more. I may have accidentally been inoculated with this stuff some years ago; I don't want to smoke any more. Actually it works too well - I don't want to do anything any more.



Dedication ... The 30th annual Fun/Food Festival was dedicated and renamed the Billy Tomlinson Memorial Hospital Benefit Auction in ceremonies held Saturday night at the event. Tomlinson, a longtime supporter of the hospital and festival, died Dec. 22, 2009. Pictured here at the dedication are family members, from left, Joy Bragg, Cody Tomlinson, Brandon Tomlinson, Gordon Tomlinson, Jolene Tomlinson, Sheri Pugh, Bam Bam Tomlinson, Brianna Riley and Sue Tekell. It was announced that henceforth the festival will be known as the Billy Tomlinson Memorial Hospital Benefit Auction.

(LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

2010 Census questionnaires should be returned

Did you lose or not receive your 2010 Census questionnaire? There's still time to get a questionnaire and to mail it back to avoid a visit from a census worker.

The Census Bureau's toll-free line is open to requests for questionnaires. Callers may dial 866-872-6868 (in Spanish, 866-928-2010), where operators will take requests from households that have yet to receive or lost 2010 Census forms. Households that did not mail their questionnaires to the Census Bureau by April 16 can expect a knock on the door from Census workers who are collecting information in person. Door-to-door visits begin in May.

"If you don't want a census worker knocking on your door, complete your census form and mail it back," said Dallas Regional Census Center Director Gabriel Sanchez. The call center is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

Mailing back completed census forms is the least costly way for the Census Bureau to count individuals living in the United States. It costs the fed-

eral government an average of \$57 per household to send census takers to each address, versus the 42-cent cost to mail back a questionnaire.

The Census Bureau estimates that if every household completed and mailed back their census form, taxpayers could reduce the cost of the census by \$1.5 billion.



Myles Crayton Heinrich

Robert and Darla Heinrich of Tahoka announce the birth of their son, Myles Crayton Heinrich, born on April 7, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at Covenant Lakeside. He weighed 7 lbs. 9 ozs., and was 20-1/2 inches long. He has one brother, Michael.

Grandparents are Doyle and Donna Willis of Tahoka and Charlie and Martha McQuay of Idalou. Great-grandparents are J.C. and Bobbie Heinrich of Idalou and Doris Willis of Lubbock.



Got it ... Brittani Ford, shortstop for the Lady Bulldogs softball team, makes a catch for Tahoka in their final district game against Ralls Saturday. Ralls won 8-3, and the Lady Bulldogs finished 2nd in district.

Information sought for book about O'Donnell history

O'Donnell will be celebrating its 100th birthday this year, and a book is being compiled in honor of all the people who have been a part of O'Donnell and surrounding communities. Those compiling the book are seeking family histories.

"If you or your family have been a part of the early days, we would appreciate getting a story of your family. Please tell when they came to this country, from where, and something about the family's life," said a sponsor.

"People who were a part of the early days had many hardships. We would like to honor them with a story of their life, as they are what made this country what it is today," added the sponsor.

The stories are needed by May 31 to get them in the book. Please email stories to mri@poka.com or fax to 806-428-3960.

The first train rolled into O'Donnell on July 10, 1910, and there was a very big celebration at that time. On July 10, 2010, O'Donnell will observe its Centennial with a celebration starting at 3 p.m. at Simpson Park, in conjunction with the O'Donnell Rodeo parade and other rodeo events. Additionally, the Centennial will be observed on Sept. 10, 2010 in conjunction with O'Donnell's annual Cotton Fest and Homecoming activities.

Wilson ISD lists Honor Rolls

Wilson ISD lists the following Honor Rolls for the 5th six weeks.

Middle School all A's - Dillon Trevino. A-B's - Tatyana Marquez, Bryan Pena Christina Rangel, and Samantha Mendez-Trujillo.

High School all A's - Matra Gonzalez, Juana Lopez, Felipe Ortega and Brandon Bassinger. A-B's - Peggy Jackson, Alaura Mendez, Coby Villarreal, Karen McAuther, Brittany Taylor, Jenna Autry, Janet Valdez and Wade Warren.

Wilson Elementary students listed on the all A Honor Roll for the 5th - six weeks are: JD Maldonado, Garrett Racca, Alex Garza, Tony Pantoja, Ebony Spencer, Kylie Steen and Amanda Walton. A-B Honor Roll: Oscar Castanon, Britlyn Yell, Nate Davilla, Justin Guzman, Ryan Isham, Topis Massingill, Araceli Valdez, Kaitlyn Yell, Amber Guzman, Raygin Taylor, Brook Tyson, Meghan Ramirez, Samantha Valdez, Marissa Nino, Nicole Ramirez, and Bailey Steen.

Get your ad or news information in by **12 NOON on Tuesdays at The Lynn County News**
email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

Obituary



Susana DeLeon

Services for Susana DeLeon, 79, of Tahoka were held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, April 23, 2010 at St. Jude Catholic Church. Interment was at Nevels Cemetery. She died on April 20, 2010. Services were under the direction of White Funeral Home.

She was born on May 23, 1930 in Paint Rock, to Jose Sarsoza and Rosa (Salas) Sarsoza. She married Monico DeLeon on March 5, 1948 in Eola. She moved to Tahoka from San Angelo in 1952. She was a homemaker and a member of St. Jude Catholic Church of Tahoka.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jose and Rosa Sarsoza; two sisters, Eugenia Torres and Sofia Aguirre, and one brother, Francisco Sarsoza.

Survivors include her husband, Monico DeLeon of Tahoka; three daughters, Olga Gonzales and Aurora Cruz, both of Tahoka, and Naida Gonzales of Lubbock; one son, Milton DeLeon of Tahoka; one brother, Pilar Sarsoza of San Angelo; four sisters, Antonia Velasquez of Grand Prairie, Epifania Urteaga of San Angelo, Rosa Alvarado of Tahoka and Brucelia Sanchez of Mereta; 16 grandchildren and 34 great grandchildren.

Pleasant Grove MENU

Sunday, May 2 menu: Fried chicken, baked chicken, meatloaf, butter beans, candied sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn and dessert. Call in orders at 561-1019.

Wilson SCHOOL MENU

May 3-7
BREAKFAST
Monday: No School
Tuesday: Cinnamon Roll
Wednesday: Eggs, hash browns, toast
Thursday: Sausage on a stick
Friday: Biscuits, gravy, sausage

LUNCH
Monday: No School
Tuesday: Chicken patty sandwich, tots, western beans, oranges
Wednesday: Lasagna, corn salad, Texas toast, peaches
Thursday: Burrito, Spanish rice, salad, fruit, cookies
Friday: Hamburgers w/ trimmings, carrots w/ ranch, chocolate pudding

DONATIONS to the Lynn County Hospital District EMS are greatly appreciated.
LCD EMS, Box 131
Tahoka, Tx 79373

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(IN ASSOCIATION WITH HUDMAN'S GREENHOUSE)

- * Bedding Flowers
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SATURDAY 8-4:30
SUNDAY 1-4

NOW OPEN!

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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Order Food From "Provider's Pantry"

"The Provider's Pantry" food ministry, under the direction of Tahoka Trinity Church, will be accepting monthly food orders at Tahoka Trinity Church on Friday, May 7th from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Orders using Lone Star cards will also be taken at this time. This will be the last date to pay and place orders for the month and no orders will be taken after 6:00 p.m.

Distribution of food boxes will be Saturday, May 22, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Tahoka Trinity Church, 1925 Lockwood. For more information, contact Polly Smullen at 786-5349 or Charlene Williams at 759-4565.

NEED A MOUSE? ... Computer optical mouse connects via USB or PS/2 ... \$19.95 at the Lynn County News, 1617 Main, Tahoka, 561-4888.

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Sun 9:00

15th & C

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Fun/Food Festival dedicated to memory of Billy Tomlinson

The 30th annual Fun/Food Festival benefitting Lynn County Hospital was held Saturday night, with a special dedication honoring the memory of a longtime hospital supporter and hospital board member, Billy Tomlinson. A presentation was made to Tomlinson's wife, Jolene, and other family members and a sign was unveiled that re-names the festival "The Billy Tomlinson Memorial Hospital Benefit Auction" and noting that henceforth the festival will be known by that name.

Tomlinson died unexpectedly in December 2009. He served as president and board member of the Lynn County Hospital District for 24 years, and was an EMS volunteer for 13 years.

The Tahoka Rotary Club sponsors the festival, and club

president G.G. Fillingim told *The News* that checks are still coming in this week from the event but at this time a low estimate of funds raised is \$24,000. A more exact figure will be reported later.

Also honored at this year's event was Trudy Schuknecht, who observed her 100th birthday on Sunday, the day after the festival. She is a longtime supporter of the festival and has made handmade quilts for the past 30 years, including this year. There is a square on this year's quilt where she noted that it was made by Trudy Schuknecht, 100 years old, April 2010.

A good crowd attended the festival, and appreciation is extended to all who helped make the event a success. A special thanks to all who donated items for the auction and silent auction, and to those who helped at the event, including Rotary members, hospital physicians, employees and directors, EMS, 4-H youth, Phebe K. Warner members, and Tahoka Volunteer Fire Department, and other citizens who volunteered their time.

Lynn County Hospital District is one of the few remaining locally owned rural hospitals. The funds raised at the benefit will be put to good use purchasing equipment or other needed items for the hospital.



DONATIONS
to the Lynn County Hospital District EMS are greatly appreciated.

LCHEM EMS, Box 1310, Tahoka, Tx



Good crowd ... There was a good crowd attending the 30th annual Fun/Food Festival Saturday night to help raise funds for Lynn County Hospital. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)



Finished on a high note ... Matt Taylor, a senior at Tahoka High School, finished off his high school golf career on a good note. He won four tournaments, including the district title by nine strokes. He finished regionals tied for 3rd and lost in a playoff to go to the state golf tournament. Matt is the son of Toby and Dana Taylor.

Ag Secretary seeks Advisory Committee for Minority farmers

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is asking for nominations to the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers. This committee will advise on how to provide outreach and assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, methods to maximize participation of minority farmers and ranchers in USDA programs and civil rights activities related to program participation.

"This committee will help ensure that USDA provides the proper outreach and assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers so that they have the opportunity to fully participate in all of USDA's programs," Vilsack said.

The committee, which was established by the 2008 Farm Bill, will be composed of not more than 15 members. The membership will include no less than four socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers; no less than two representatives of nonprofit organizations with a history of working with minority farmers and ranchers; no less than two civil rights professionals; and no less than two representatives of institutions of higher education with demonstrated experience working with minority farmers and ranchers along with others that Vilsack may select.

Nominations should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications and must be received at USDA by May 24.

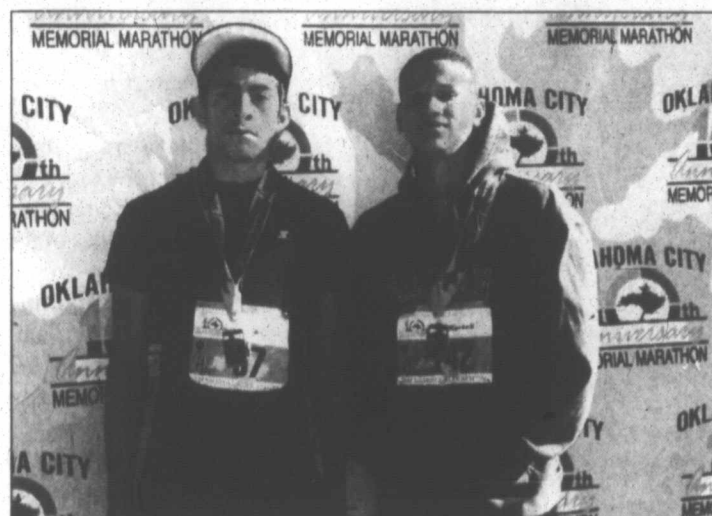
The nomination may be in the form of a letter or on a completed Advisory Committee Membership background Information Questionnaire (Form AD-55). Those nominated for this committee will be required to complete and submit this form.

The form is available from: Elaine Huhn, Designated Federal Official (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers, Office of Advocacy and Outreach, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Whitten Building, 240W, Washington, DC 20250-0522. Phone: (202) 720-1229; Fax: (202) 720-2191; or Email: Elaine.Huhn@osec.usda.gov.

The form is also available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ad755.pdf.

However, nominees who complete the form online must print their completed forms from the Adobe PDF file, sign, and mail or fax them to Elaine Huhn. All inquiries about the

nomination process and submissions of the AD-755 should be made to Elaine Huhn.



Marathon men ... Alex Rodriguez and Kordell Baker, both 14, ran in the Oklahoma City 10th Anniversary Memorial Marathon on Sunday, April 25, participating in the half marathon race with 7,251 runners in a distance of 13.1 miles. Baker placed 1,163 with a time of 1:57:59, and Rodriguez placed 2,704 with a time of 2:12:28. In their Division, 1-19 year olds, Baker was 50th out of 121, and Rodriguez was 75th. The Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon remembers the bombing at 9:02 a.m. on April 19, 1995 that destroyed the Federal Building and killed 168 people. There were several races included in the marathon event, with over 23,000 runners and 30,000 spectators.

Dinner to benefit J. Ryan Gicklhorn

A barbecue brisket dinner on Sunday, May 2 will benefit J. Ryan Gicklhorn, a 2006 Borden High School graduate and son of Philea Farmer, a former math teacher in Tahoka and O'Donnell. Friends from Borden County, O'Donnell, and Tahoka will host a benefit luncheon, Sunday, May 2, from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the Borden High School cafeteria.

Gicklhorn was hospitalized January 30 with pancreatitis. Doctors diagnosed "dissecting pancreatitis" in the initial stages, but that diagnosis changed to "necrotizing pancreatitis" indicating that part of Gicklhorn's pancreas died. He spent a total of 58 days at UMC in Lubbock, 19 of those in surgical ICU.

Barbecue brisket, beans, potato salad, and homemade desserts will be served at the benefit. All donations will go to J. Ryan and his family.

Show your colors!
Fly the American Flag
to show your support
for our nation.



Adopt a Pet!

Lynn County Animal Shelter lists adoptable pets online at www.Petfinder.com. At the website, simply enter Tahoka, TX in the location box to bring up photos and lists of adoptable pets at Lynn County Animal Shelter and surrounding areas.

Lynn County Animal Shelter
Abbey Redman, Director
806-561-4056

ENCHILADA DINNER SALE
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Sunday, May 2
9:00 am-3:00 pm

Corner of 15th & Culpepper in Wilson
\$6.00 per plate.
Enchiladas, Rice & Beans, Taco, Tea, Dessert
Dine in or Carry Out.
Proceeds benefit Blessed Sacrament church.

Everyone is invited to a Retirement Reception

honoring

Deborah Burk

for her 30 years of service to the Tahoka United States Post Office

2:30-3:30 p.m.
Friday, April 30
at the Tahoka Post Office

Schwartz & Co.

will be opening an

All-You-Can-Eat

BUFFET

in August!

Watch for details.

Everyone is cordially invited to a 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

honoring
Trudy Schuknecht

Saturday, May 1, 2010

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

at The Center

1400 Avenue K in Tahoka



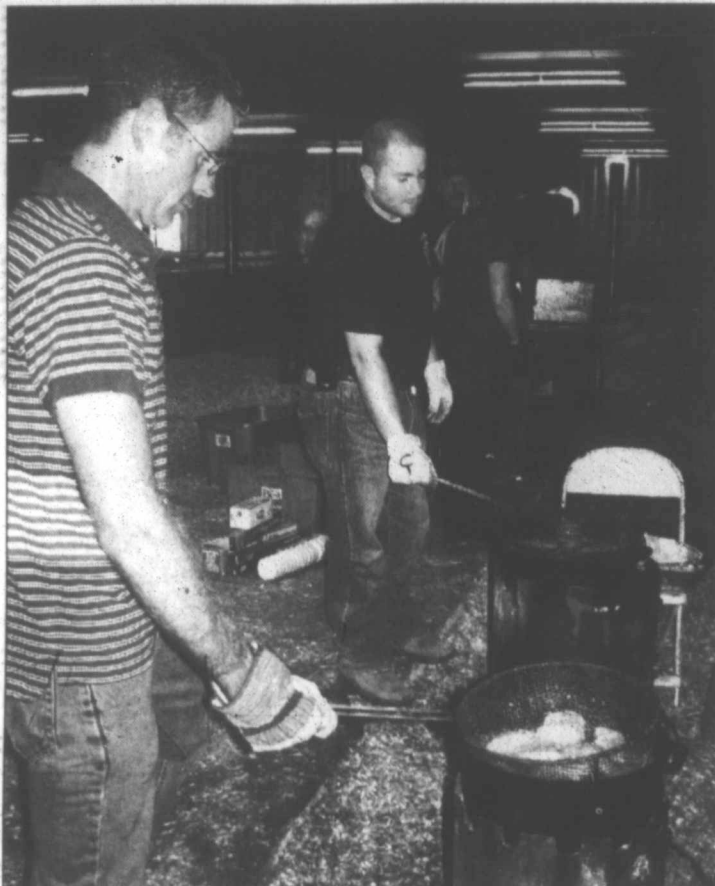
Your presence
is your gift.





We want this ... Axie Allen and Raymie Scott were delighted to play with this airplane, complete with foot pedals and propellers that turned, as they waited for it to be auctioned at the Fun/Food Festival Saturday. Axie is the daughter of Mike and Julia Allen, and Raymie is the daughter of Trent and Donnis Scott, all of Tahoka.

(LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)



Fish fry volunteers ... Tahoka Volunteer Fire Department members offered their services and expertise at frying fish, hush puppies and fries/onions at Saturday's Fun/Food Festival. Pictured here are Bill Schoemann (left) and Kent Stone.

(LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

Arbor Day tree planting advice offered by ISA

Texas Arbor Day is just around the corner (April 30), coinciding with the observance of Arbor Day throughout much of the nation. Everyone grab a shovel and get ready to start digging! But wait...

Before planting a tree, make sure you know how to do it correctly, advises the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). How a tree is planted and initially maintained makes all the difference in the world. Too many people are content to simply plant a tree and don't ensure that the tree has the chance to go on to live for many years.

"Planting a tree is making an investment in the future," says Sharon Lilly, ISA Educational Director. "You must care for and nurture your young tree so that it will pay dividends for years to come."

Tree Planting Tips

There are a few simple tips to remember when planting your tree this Arbor Day:

Prepare the perfect hole for planting

- Dig the hole two to three times the width of the root ball. Do NOT dig deeper than root ball depth. Make the sides of the hole slant gradually outward.
- For bare-root trees, neatly cut away any broken or damaged roots. Soak the roots for a few hours prior to planting to allow them to absorb water.

- Container-grown trees should have the plastic or metal containers completely removed. Carefully cut through any circling roots. Remove the top half of pressed peat/paper containers.
- Balled and Burlapped ("B&B") trees should have all of the ropes cut. Pull the burlap at least one third of the way down, slit remaining burlap to

encourage root growth. If in a wire basket, cut away the top of the basket.

Plant the Tree

- Gently place the tree in the hole.
- Partially backfill with the soil from the hole.
- Water to settle the soil
- Finish back-filling the hole.

- Tap the soil gently, but do not step on the root ball.

A Few More Pointers

While you may have finished planting, Arbor Day aficionados should remember these final touches:

- Remove tags and labels.
- Do not stake unless the tree has a large crown or if the planting is situated on a site where wind or people may push the tree over. Stake for a maximum of one year.
- Prune only the damaged branches.

- Soak the soil well, making sure no air pockets form between roots. Wait until next year to fertilize.
- Spread two to three inches of mulch over the planting area, but do not place it up against the trunk.
- Be sure the root ball has plenty of water throughout the year.

Adopt a Pet!

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Lynn County Animal Shelter
Abbey Redman, Director
806-561-4056



Quarter-size hail ... Last Thursday night's thunderstorm dumped significant rain, reported from 2-5 inches in the Tahoka area, and hail ranging from pea size to golf ball size was reported. This picture was sent to The News, measuring hail with a penny, nickel and quarters. The US 87 underpass at the south end of Tahoka (cemetery overpass) was closed due to flooding for about an hour and a half, and there have been reports of hail damage on cars, windows and roofs and some crop damage in the area.



Souvenir cloth found ... An old piece of fabric featuring Tahoka business names was brought to the News Office this week, belonging to Pat Bingham. Some of the names included G.W. Perryman, Attorney-At-Law; Stake Plains Telephone Co.; Tahoka Hotel; The First Baptist Church, Pastor T.E. McKenney; J.E. Ketner Dry Goods and Groceries; South Plains Wagon Yard, G.W. Small, Mgr.; E.D. Skinner & Son Real Estate; and M.E. Church South, Pastor T.E. Doak. According to First Baptist Church history, McKenney was pastor in 1910, so the fabric - or at least the names of the businesses - dates back 100 years.

ATTEND CHURCH IN LYNN COUNTY

Draw First United Methodist Church
(established 1907)
P.O. Box 496 • O'Donnell, TX 79351
Phone (806) 428-3357
or Fern Barnes (806) 327-5583
PASTOR: REV. MONTY BARNETT
Sunday Morning Worship - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School following

TAHOKA St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church
South 4th & Ave. M • Tahoka, TX 79373
(806) 561-4436
PASTOR: REV. EDUARDO TEO
DEACON: FRANCISCO AGUILAR
Mass - 9:30 a.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Wed. & Thur.
Rosary - 7 p.m. Tues.
CCE Class/Confirmation Instruct. - 7 p.m. Wed.

TAHOKA Church of Christ
2320 Lockwood • Box 1177 • Tahoka, TX 79373
(806) 561-4060 • email: tcoc@poka.com
MINISTER: RON FANT
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Bible Classes - Wednesday 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
1801 Ave. J • Box 500
Tahoka, TX 79373
(806) 561-4503
email: fumctahoka@poka.com
PASTOR: VERNON BAKER
SUNDAYS: Praise Worship - 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m.
TUESDAYS: Branded Ministries - 6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS: Youth - 6:30 p.m.

Wilson St. Paul Lutheran Church
16th & Houston St. • Box 136 • Wilson, TX 79381
(806) 628-6471 • www.stpaulwilson.com
PASTOR: DAVID W. RONDE
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Divine Service - 10:15 a.m.
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Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Wed. Youth/Children's Activities 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Calvin Gray

O'Donnell First Baptist Church
701 Standefer • O'Donnell, TX 79351
(806) 428-3236
PASTOR: SCOTT HENSLEY
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church
1701 Ave. K • Box 1547 • Tahoka, TX 79373
(806) 561-4557 • www.fbctahoka.org
PASTOR: REV. RICHARD HARBISON
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship Service - 6 p.m.
Activities For All Ages - Call For Complete Schedule
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Grassland Nazarene Church
2885 CR 25 • Tahoka, TX 79373
(806) 327-5656, 327-5655
PASTOR: Rev. James Miller
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.

God's Throne Room
Read Hebrews 4:14-16
Let us ... come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
- Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)
In a moment of confusion and anguish, I pulled into a vacant parking lot and rolled down the car windows. I heard the noise of rumbling trucks overhead, as I had parked directly under an interstate overpass.
In places such as this I can pour out my heart to God without fear of being heard. I cried, told God my woes, and cried some more. Then I pulled out the little Bible I keep in my purse and flipped through it. As the Holy Spirit helps us understand, words from the Bible become a healing balm for spiritual wounds we receive in the course of living. Jesus said that we would suffer tribulation in this world but that we can be of good cheer because he has overcome the world (John 16:33).
Hebrews 4:16 invites us to come before God's throne to find grace in times of need. I found God's throne room inside my car. You might find it at the foot of your bed or in your backyard. Wherever we find God's throne, there we receive the mercy and grace we need, our wounds are healed, and God gives us encouragement. Could there be a better place to be?
Prayer: God, lead us to your throne to receive healing, mercy and whatever else we need. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.
Amy Kent ... from The Upper Room

PRAY FOR OUR NATION
Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." ... Luke 18:27

Wilson First Baptist Church
1403 13th St. • Box 67 • Wilson, TX 79381
(806) 628-6333
PASTOR: BILLY FARMER
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.
8:30 p.m. Wednesdays:
Fellowship Meal & Classes for all ages
Bible Study & Prayer Mtg - Youth

New Home United Methodist Church
350 N. Main
New Home, TX 79383
(806) 924-7549
PASTOR: RICK WOLFE
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Youth Activities

New Home Church of Christ
St. address • Box 188 • New Home, TX 79383
(806) 924-7579
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.

Sweet Street Baptist Church
1300 Avenue J • Box 751 • Tahoka, TX 79373
(806) 561-5310
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 & Worship - Gospel Message)
Wednesday Night - 7 p.m.
(Prayer & Bible Study, Children & Youth Ministries)
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Tahoka Trinity Church
1925 Lockwood • Box 1168 • Tahoka, TX 79373
Phone (806) 561-5317
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 of Church, call 561-5317

Wilson St. John Lutheran Church
13th & Dickson • Wilson, TX 79381
(806) 628-6573
Sharing Christ's message of forgiveness and salvation with our community and beyond.
LEADERS: REV. YVONNE KIEBLER
TONDA FREITAG, PLM
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 11:15 a.m.

Apply now for TFB Youth Conference

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) is providing Texas high school juniors and seniors with an opportunity to become leaders in their communities with the 47th annual TFB Youth Leadership Conference, set June 14-18 at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

"The goal of the conference is to promote patriotism along with responsibility and leadership," said Kenneth Dierschke, Texas Farm Bureau president. "Our communities, state and nation need qualified leaders and the Youth Leadership Conference is helping to develop them."

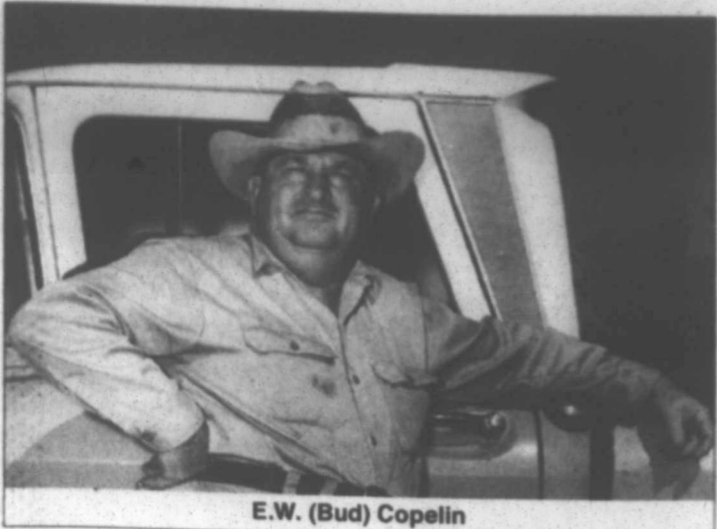
During the conference, students learn about capitalism and the free market system. They will see firsthand how the election process works by role-playing a member of the U.S. Congress. They will also participate in activities that allow them to develop professional etiquette skills. The conference will feature motivational speakers from across the country as well as professional development speakers.

Incoming high school juniors and seniors will be selected and sponsored by their respective county Farm Bureau and must be in the top 30 percent of their class.

"We are really focusing on personal leadership this year," said Coleburn Davis, conference coordinator. "We are not taking away from the other areas but we have seen a need to develop business etiquette and professionalism."

Students who attend the conference will qualify to participate in the Free Enterprise Speech Contest. Thirteen district winners will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship as well as an expense paid trip to Waco to compete in the state contest. The top six contestants in the state will receive additional scholarships as well as an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Deadline for applications is April 30. For more information contact your local county Farm Bureau or Coleburn Davis at cdavis@txfb.org or call (254) 399-5037.



E.W. (Bud) Copelin

Laylan Copelin: Why I came back to the newspaper Lesson of cotton-growing father's life leads reporter back to familiar ground

By Laylan Copelin
AMERICAN-STATESMAN
STAFF

Copyright 2010, Austin American-Statesman; reprinted with permission (Editor's Note: The author of this article, Laylan Copelin, graduated from Tahoka High School in 1969. His father, Bud Copelin, owned a farm 7 miles north of Tahoka on the west side of U.S. 87.)

A year ago, I left my life's work, most of it at this newspaper.

It was not a calculated decision. At the time, Cox Enterprises was considering selling the newspaper and offered a generous buyout to longtime employees. I had two weeks to decide. I took the offer.

I was lucky that Comptroller Susan Combs immediately gave me a good job working with great people. So it surprised many that, a year later, I left a comfortable state job to return to an industry facing dramatic change and, in some people's minds, an uncertain future.

I could give you a windy rationale, with the fact that Cox decided not to sell the paper at the top of the list.

Truthfully, though, it was about my father.

To understand, you would have to get a glimpse of the Old Man.

He was a West Texas cotton farmer. At 5-foot-3 and 200 pounds, he had the look of a small sumo wrestler. He tended to push straight ahead through obstacles. There was no nuance to the man.

When he faced going broke during the historic drought of the 1950s, he "witched" for water and dug the first irrigation well in that part of the county. That well no longer gushes eight inches of water, but it's still watering the fields almost 60 years later.

He survived overturning a tractor and countless seasons of risking his livelihood to hailstorms, floods, droughts and unpredictable cotton prices. One year, I saw him plant and replant seven times, but he made a crop.

He faced his share of technological change, too. As a boy, he farmed with his father, plowing behind a pair of mules. By the end of his career, his air-conditioned, eight-row tractor that cost more than my first house was getting out of date.

After he retired at 67, he continued to live on the farm, monitoring every action by the farmers who rented his land. Even when we moved him to town, to be closer to my sister, he drove to his farms every day. When he could no longer drive, he hired a driver. It was not a quick trip. With land in two counties, the round trip was more than 60 miles.

When I came to visit, I drove him, slowly through the fields, listening to the same old stories,

the keeper of his oral history.

Despite his failing eyesight, my father always contended he could see every new green shoot, each bloom, the latest boll. Those trips kept him in the world. Long after he couldn't find the Dallas Cowboys on his cable TV, he could recount that day's activity on the farms.

When I last saw him, it had been a hard year. He spent much of it in hospitals or nursing homes. He lost his legs to diabetes. He wasn't well enough to go to the farm. His car was sold. His driver was no longer needed.

That New Year, as I was leaving him to return to work, my father looked up from his wheelchair with that childlike expression that dementia had given him.

"I've got to buy a car," he said. "I need to start going back to the farm."

I thought I saw the green shoot of new life in him. Maybe the Old Man was going to push through this obstacle as well.

He died in bed a few days later, the victim of the kind of viral outbreak that empties nursing home beds every winter.

Last year, as I faced leaving my life's work, I had forgotten my father's lessons.

When you face a drought, you dig a well. When you get hailed out, you replant. Most important, life eventually takes away the things you love, but you don't give them away.

Right or wrong, this newspaper is my farm. I understand its rhythms, the cycles of its seasons and its quirks. And newspapering has more in common with farming than you might think.

For my father, each crop year had its own narrative: the year of too much rain, too little rain, a hailstorm, a bumper crop, a tornado flattening the barn and so forth.

For me, each newspaper story has its own story about how I got the story.

Over my career I've written countless stories, most forgotten as soon as they were written. But I've also written stories that busted politicians, saved a woman's home from sheriff's auction and sent two men to prison. I've witnessed horrific tragedies and profiled some compelling personalities.

When I tell your story, it becomes a part of my own. To stop telling stories is to stop adding to my own. And I guess I just wasn't ready for that.

I know how lucky I am. Unlike my father, I made it back — to where I belong.

A life in the press

In his 35 years as a reporter, primarily for the Austin American-Statesman, Laylan Copelin

has covered a range of city and state issues, with a focus on investigative projects.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Copelin wrote about ethics questions surrounding Democratic House Speaker Gib Lewis, who was indicted on misdemeanor ethics charges. In the late 1990s, he helped expose purchasing violations at Capital Metro that eventually led to the indictment of a transit authority official and a vendor. He also

uncovered mismanagement in the Austin Independent School District's building program at the time. By 2001, he was back covering the Texas Legislature, where he wrote extensively about corporate donations by a political action committee created by former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay. Criminal investigations ensued and DeLay and others were indicted, although DeLay has never gone to trial.

Copelin, also a former state editor for the newspaper, is currently assigned to the business desk, where he is writing about the intersection of business and state government regulation.



Laylan Copelin at the Austin American-Statesman.

Commissioners have routine meeting

Lynn County Commissioners met Monday morning to consider routine business, accepting the Lynn County Data Reporting Improvement Plan as presented to comply with the computerized-criminal history system reporting to DPS.

Sheriff Jerry D. Franklin reported on his department's activities, and monthly bills were approved.

Lynn County Judge H.G. Franklin presided, with commissioners Keith Wied, Mike Braddock, Don Blair and Brad Hammonds present.

Senior Citizens MENU

MAY 3-7

Monday: Chicken strips, gravy, mashed potatoes, salad, biscuits, peaches

Tuesday: Baked ham, macaroni salad, sweet peas, cornbread, rice crispy treats

Wednesday: Beef stroganoff, green beans, cucumber salad, rolls, cake

Thursday: Baked chicken w/ mushrooms, ranch style beans, steamed squash, rolls, cookies

Friday: Liver & onions / hamburger steak, gravy, mac & tomatoes, black-eyed peas, bread, chocolate pudding.

Reminders and Activities:

- Handquilted baby quilts for sale for \$35. Come by the center and purchase one.
- Weekly domino night 6:00 Mondays. Everyone invited.

- Our cookbook, "Timeless Treasures" is available for \$12 at the Center, Lynn County News, Virginia's Beauty Salon, Huffaker Law Office and the City/County Library.
- The recycle bin is open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for can donations. After 1 p.m. and on weekends, call Bianca at 201-9169 and she will arrange to accept donations. Thank you for your continued support with our community cans collection.

TAHOKA SCHOOL NEWS

Baseball Wins Two

By: Skyler McCleskey

Tahoka Baseball boys beat O'Donnell 10-0. John Cantu pitched 5 innings and had 9 strikeouts. Sabino Perez and Cantu scored two runs. Ridge Hall, Larry Saldana, Taylor Abell, John Ryan Barrientez, Zach Garciz, and Jamie Bingham all added one run.

They beat Seagraves 15-9. Barrientez pitched 5 innings and had 6 strikeouts. Ridge Hall pitched one inning and had 1 strikeout. Cantu pitched 1 inning and had 2 strikeouts. Larry Saldana scored 4, Taylor Abell, 3; Barrientez, 2, and Hall, Sabino Perez, Cantu, Jamie Bingham, Kyle Reno, and Smith McLelland all added one run each.

They will play Ralls Friday for a chance to go to the playoffs.

Softball falls to Ralls

By: Kadi Larpenter

The Lady Dogs played their final district game against Ralls Saturday, and lost 8-3. They finished 2nd in district. A'Leesha Truelove got a hit out into center field for a single.

Advertising Pays! ...

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POLITICAL CALENDAR

Election Day is November 2, 2010

(Political advertising paid by the candidates listed)



DEMOCRATIC

State Representative District 85

JOE HEFLIN

(INCUMBENT)

Lynn County Justice of the Peace #1

DANA MCKAY

(INCUMBENT)



REPUBLICAN

106th Judicial District District Judge

CARTER T. SCHILDKNECHT

(INCUMBENT)

Lynn County Justice of the Peace #1

NANCY GUILLIAMS

(CANDIDATE)

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Triumph over tragedy:

Hometown ex helps boy overcome adversity

By Bobby Horacka
Texas Agriculture/
Texas Farm Bureau

(Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with permission from the Texas Farm Bureau's Aug. 16, 2010 publication of Texas Agriculture. It is a story about triumph over tragedy, and how a professional auctioneer who hails from Tahoka, C. Jason Spence, has a kind heart to help others. Spence, who graduated from Tahoka High School in the late 1980s, is the grandson of the late Cleve and Mary Littlepage of Tahoka, who instilled in their grandson a heart for making a difference in others' lives. Spence and his family live in the San Antonio area.)

Fourth place is no contestant's dream. It might rate a pat on the back or some pastel-colored ribbon, but it's hardly an aspiration.

Particularly at major livestock shows like San Antonio, where stakes are high and winnings can shape the future for young showmen.

But what if that fourth place winner were to bring a whopping \$150,000?

It seems hardly probable, but as one little boy from Mullin would learn, it's entirely possible.



C. JASON SPENCE

C. Jason Spence has watched thousands of kids make their way through the sale ring.

A professional auctioneer, his services are often tapped as shows come to their conclusion. Youngsters dude up, parade their projects and hope for the best as he slides into his professional cadence, calling for bids from prospective buyers.

Dustin Mangus is much like other boys his age—ready for some video games after the school day, not above the occasional tussle with his younger brother and sister, and more than ready for that next trip out to wet a hook or scare up some game.

Like his siblings and relatives, he tends animals, raising prize winners for county and statewide shows. They definitely have what it takes to win. His cousin showed the grand prize lamb in Fort Worth this year, followed by a reserve champion win in Houston.

Now in his second year of showing, Dustin likes the goats that dot his family's ranch like early spring flowers.

Yet despite the easy smile he wears naturally, his eyes reflect a difficult journey.

It's a distance few have traveled—or ever want to, for that matter—a place far removed from that rocky patch of ground he calls home, yet still uncom-

fortably nearby.

And it began one dreary Monday morning four months ago.

Those closest to David Mangus, Dustin's dad, speak with great fondness of him—a generous individual, hard worker and budding entrepreneur.

A welder by trade, the 33-year-old had launched his own business months before, having partnered with a long-time friend to build barns and boat docks for folks on the nearby lakeside.

Still, he remained a devoted father, says John Carl Smith, Dustin's grandfather and David's father-in-law.

"He was always there for them," he says. "If they had something at school, he'd call it a day and come support them. I've seen all kinds of fathers in my day, but he was really one of the best."

Young Dustin's family lives just down the hill from his grandfather's place, easy walking distance to the barns and pens where most of the show animals are kept. The family was quite accustomed to giving John Carl a hearty wave each morning as they rode out to school on the tiny, two-lane road that connects their ranch to town.

So it came as no surprise that the Mills County Farm Bureau member watched David and his grandchildren wheel past on Dec. 7.

"It was real foggy that morning," he recalls. "I wasn't even sure if they could see me. But David drove past real slow, and it had become tradition for us."

So he hailed his morning salute and headed to the barn for the morning feedings.

Then John Carl says he got a phone call no parent ever wants to hear.

"One of my foster kids called me and asked me if I knew David had been in a wreck," John



Dustin Mangus works one of the show goats at his grandfather's barn, much like the animal he raised for the San Antonio show. He never named the one he sold, saying, "There's no sense in naming him since he wasn't going to be there forever." (Photo from "Texas Agriculture")

Carl recalls.

He dove into his truck and raced down the same road he had seen them pass just moments before. Not four miles from his driveway, John Carl arrived to see the first of the rescuers frantically working.

No one knows what happened. The extended-cab truck was capsized in the opposing ditch, the roof flattened to the ground.

One by one, his grandchildren were pulled from the wreckage and loaded into ambulances, but his son-in-law was past saving.

"They wouldn't even let me see David," John Carl says. "He was pinned between the seat and the cab. They said there wasn't anything they could do for him."

Young Dustin, who had been riding shotgun with his dad, took the worst of the crash. His brother and sister in the backseat would go home from the Brownwood hospital the next day, but Dustin was destined for Cook's Children's Hospital in Fort Worth.

Over the next few days, Dustin endured countless hours in the operating room as doctors worked to rebuild his face. In the process, surgeons found and removed a half-inch shard of blue plastic from behind his left eye, a chunk of dashboard that gave way when the airbag deployed.

Five days later, Dustin finally made it back home, just in time for his father's final remembrances.

David Mangus was buried Dec. 13, one day after he would have celebrated his 34th birthday.

The weeks following have been tough, John Carl says, with many restless nights for young Dustin.

"You always hear about these kinds of things happening, but you never expect it to happen to you," he says. "You just can't imagine."

Still, plans were made months before to attend the San Antonio show. Dustin healed remarkably fast and seemed anxious to get back with his animals, so John Carl agreed to take him to the Alamo City.

Dustin finished fourth in the junior show at San Antonio, not a stellar showing but enough to make it to the premium sale the following week. He drew Lot 44 in the lineup, placing him a little less than halfway through the day's sale.

Having spent 51 years in arenas since he showed his own animals at the age of nine, John Carl knew the sale ring could hold all kinds of surprises.

But not even John Carl could have predicted what came next.

A knot balled up in Jason Spence's stomach as he read the handwritten account of Dustin's plight hours before the big sale. "It was pretty tough," he says, sadness still cracking his voice weeks after the sale took place. "I was certain there would be no way I could get through it by myself, particularly in the sale ring."

So with the help of fellow auctioneer Vance Rannels and sale manager Ronnie Urbanczyk, Dustin's story was shared with potential buyers.

"There was hardly a dry eye in the place," Jason recalls. Projects move fast in San Antonio. They're typically sold in less than a minute.

There was already \$27,000 gathered up when the bidding

started for Dustin, so we decided to slow things down a bit," Jason says.

A call for any interested buyers went out and bids came flying, raising the amount \$1,000 at a time.

Soon, \$27,000 grew to \$35,000.

"We were already past what the grand champion had brought," Jason says, "and the bids kept coming."

\$35,000 became \$55,000, then \$60,000.

"We were running out of paper for the bids, so we started writing on the backs," the auctioneer says.

\$75,000. \$80,000.

"Vance looked over at me and said we're about to hit \$100,000. And then we got some more..."

\$108,000. \$109,000. San Antonio's top sale record ever was \$110,000 for a grand prize steer.

"Then we had a bit of a commotion with one of our bidders," he says. "He waved his hand and we decided to hold on a minute. We found the boy's grandfather and brought him up."

The bidder was Marvin Rush of Rush Family Enterprises, who pooled his resources with Sondra Grohman with Shining Star Ranches to up the total even more.

The final outcome: \$150,000 for a fourth place goat. In barely five minutes, the unlikely became reality.

John Carl was dumbfounded. "Thank you," he told the sale crowd in a faltering voice. "I don't know what else to say." As the bidding wound down, Ronnie Urbanczyk turned to Dustin and asked: "Son, do you believe that's a lot of money?"

The boy answered, "I think so," later telling reporters he doubted he could ever count as high.

No doubt, the money will be put to good use, John Carl says, listing medical costs and college educations as definite possibilities.

"That money can never replace his daddy but it will help him do a lot of things that his daddy would have done for him," he says. "I tell you, though, I'd give it all back and then some if we could have David back here with us."

Jason Spence is quick to shy from any credit for what took place that day.

"This was definitely not an auctioneer thing," he says. "It was a God thing, and you could surely feel his presence in the sale ring that day."

"Hopefully, Dustin now knows the world is a better place than we all sometimes give it credit for," he adds. "Of course, it's not about the money raised, but the difference it can make in someone's life. Hopefully, this will help make a difference in his."

Lynn County News addition:

We contacted Jason Spence by email, and he added, "We are all blessed with talents, and mine is selling. I have been fortunate enough that my talents have taken me throughout the world selling land to livestock. Long after the sound of the gavel has faded, the livestock is loaded and the checks are mailed -- we need to remain focused on what is most important -- give God the glory. All I did as an auctioneer that day was act as a catalyst, asked people to help if they could and the rest is history ... in less than 7 minutes.

There is a photo accompanying this story of Spence's son, Sterling Gage Spence, who is the great-grandson of the late Cleve and Mary Lee Littlepage of Tahoka and grandson of Jean Ann Spence of Slaton. His



Just let me get my boots ... Sterling Spence, son of C. Jason Spence, has a handsome collection of custom made boots that his parents have given him. Spence, a Tahoka ex who is now a professional auctioneer in the San Antonio area, sent a picture of his son, saying, "This is what makes it all worthwhile."

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FARM NEWS

AgTexas Farm Credit Services

Rodney Keeton and Mike Metzger

Capital Farm Credit (formerly First Ag Credit, FCS)

Clint Robinson Jason Gandy

Farmers Co-op Association

No. 1

Lynn County Farm Bureau

parents are C Jason Spence of Pleasanton, Texas and Amy Wiatrek of Poth, Texas. "Gage has been fortunate enough to be featured in commercials for RFD TV's program, 'The American Rancher' as well as several different national livestock publications. His boot collection is the product of RC Custom Boots, who often features his boots and designs in their ads," says his father.

"Gage has been to auctions across the United States and his desire to be an auctioneer is very prevalent. Recently during a counting exercise in kindergarten class he was asked to count to 100. He stood up, stretched, picked up a pencil, took a deep breath, pointed the pencil and rattled-off the numbers from 10 to 100 by 10s at lightning speed and finished by, 'who wants to be 110? Sold, 100 dollars, put them on buyer 18. Thanks much, next lot' and then sat back down. His classmates went wild and once the teacher regained order she thanked Gage for his demonstration. The note that she sent home describing the event was a classic."

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Real Estate

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2504 N. 2nd Street
3/2/2 Brick has backyard w/waterfall and new fence.
Call for appointment:
Daniel Garvin
806-438-7247

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HOUSE FOR SALE
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Completely remodeled 2700-2800 square foot home in Country Club addition in Tahoka.
3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths.
All new appliances-built in microwave, reverse osmosis water treatment system and black glass-cooktop in kitchen. Remodeled from floor to ceiling in 2007-2008 with large sunroom added in back. Large storage building in back yard with cellar.
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This is a cute 1100 sq. ft. 2/1/1 home with hardwood floors and a metal roof less than 1 year old, central heat and air. Property has a large lot with hook-up for a mobile home, giving this extra income potential.

1829 N. 8th - Tahoka:
This home is over 2000 sq. ft. brick 3/2/2 with circle driveway, garage, low maintenance fireplace, office, with many built-ins throughout the house. A great home for anyone in a quiet neighborhood.

1625 Ave. P - Tahoka:
A lovely brick home 3/2/0 with double carport. Home has new windows, 2 newly updated baths, new kitchen sink and faucets. Home also features front and back underground sprinkler system. This home is a must see! **REDUCED!**

1807 S. 2nd - Tahoka:
1,944 sq. ft. 3/1/2 with extra house, water well and new air conditioning.

Toy Holland, REALTOR
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For Sale in O'Donnell 511 8th Street

2200 Square feet, 4 Bedroom, 3 bath. Updated throughout. Ceramic tile in bathrooms, hallways, utility room, kitchen, cabinet tops and back-splash. Isolated master suite with office and built in shelves. 2 car-carport, workshop, new paint inside and out.
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Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE: 1416 Ave P - Saturday 8:00-5:00. Baby clothes, some golf items, lots of miscellaneous. 17-1tc

3-FAMILY BACKYARD SALE: 1925 N. 1st St. - Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. Everything cheap! Everything must go! 17-1tp

Notice
LOST during last Thursday's storm ... near N. 4th and Ave. L. Female dog by name of "Sadie", black/white/brown Border Collie mix with red collar. Call Donnie or Amy Henry at 561-1079. 17-1tnc

Help Wanted

Lynnwood Assisted Living is looking for a full time Housekeeper.
Interested individuals must be dependable, self-motivated and willing to stay busy in this large facility. Benefits include employee health insurance, vacation and sick time. Working hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and every other weekend. Applications may be picked up at Lynnwood 1801 Country Club Road. 16-2tc

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CITY OF O'DONNELL is now taking applications for a **CITY WORKER.**
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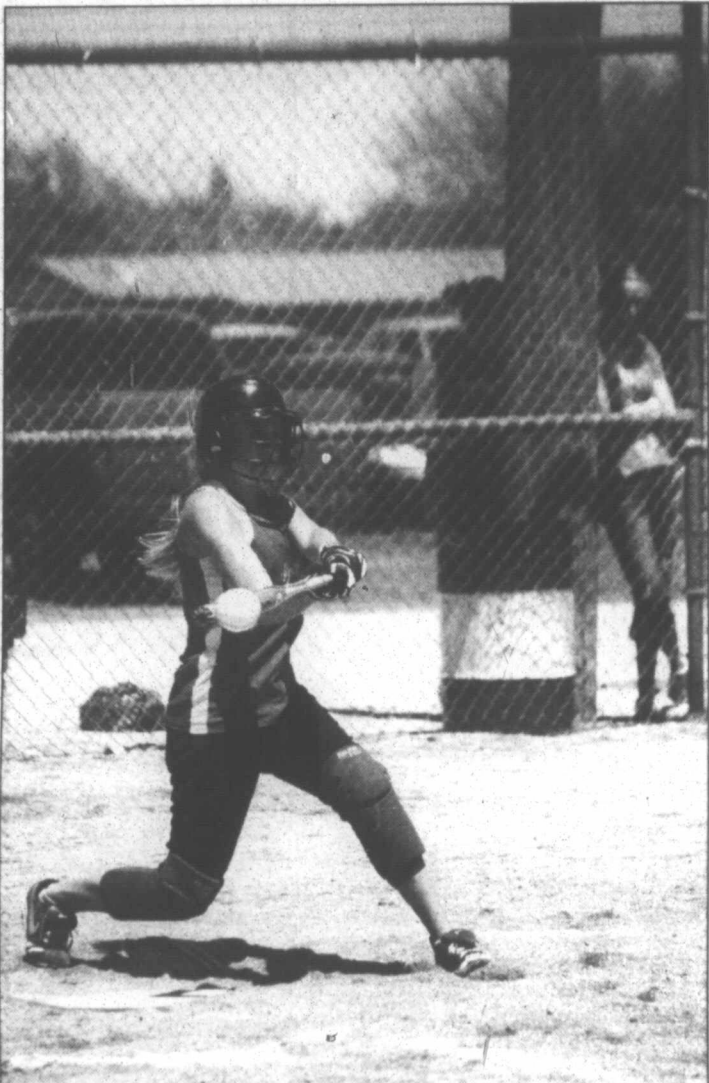
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Wood honored... On April 6, 2010, Kevyn Wood (left) presented his father, Hilton Wood, with the Golden Trowel Award at the Tahoka Masonic Lodge #1041. This is the highest award a Mason can receive.



Nikki's ball ... Nikki Box bats for Tahoka in their final district game against Ralls Saturday. Ralls won 8-3.

NRCS announces funding for water conservation projects

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced \$4.2 million available through the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) for three water conservation and water quality projects on Texas agricultural working lands.

"AWEP is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to improve water conditions on their agricultural land," said Don Gohmert, NRCS state conservationist for Texas. "With water supplies short across Texas, this is just one more way agriculture can help conserve its use."

The Ogallala Aquifer project sponsored by the Texas Water Development Board will receive \$4 million in funding to address water quantity issues in the 49 Panhandle counties within the aquifer area.

Lake Arrowhead sponsored by the Chisholm Trail Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council will receive \$100,000 to address invasive species (eradicate brush) and address water quantity and plant health.

The Leon River project sponsored by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will receive \$125,000 to improve water quality through implementation of water pollution plans and establish water quality monitoring conventions in the Leon River.

In addition to current project funding, NRCS recently announced the availability of \$61.2 million in financial assistance funding for AWEP projects. Of the \$61.2 million, approximately \$40.4 million will be made available to AWEP partners whose projects were approved during last fiscal year and approximately \$20.7 million will be available for new project proposals.

NRCS is now accepting proposals for new projects. Types of water enhancement activities intended with this request for proposal are:

- Water quality or water conservation plan development;
- Water conservation restoration or enhancement projects;
- Water quality or quantity restoration or enhancement projects;
- Irrigation system improvement and irrigation efficiency enhancements;

- Activities designed to mitigate the effects of drought; and
- Related activities determined to help achieve water quality or water conservation benefits on agricultural land.

AWEP projects are implemented by NRCS entering into partnership agreements with eligible entities. This funding will help producers conserve surface and ground water and improve water quality on agricultural land. NRCS works with these partners to help landowners plan and implement conservation practices in project areas established through the agreements.

The following partnership entities are eligible to submit proposals for funding: federally recognized Indian Tribes, States, units of local government, agricultural associations, and other groups of producers—such as irrigation associations, agricultural land trusts, or other nongovernmental organization—that have experience working with agricultural producers. When an AWEP project area has been approved and announced, individual producers may apply for program benefits through their local NRCS office.

The deadline for partner organizations to submit a proposal is May 17, 2010. To view the full request for proposal or find additional AWEP information, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AWEP>. Applications are funded on a competitive basis with those providing the most benefit receiving contracts.

So, You're Ready To Get a Dog?

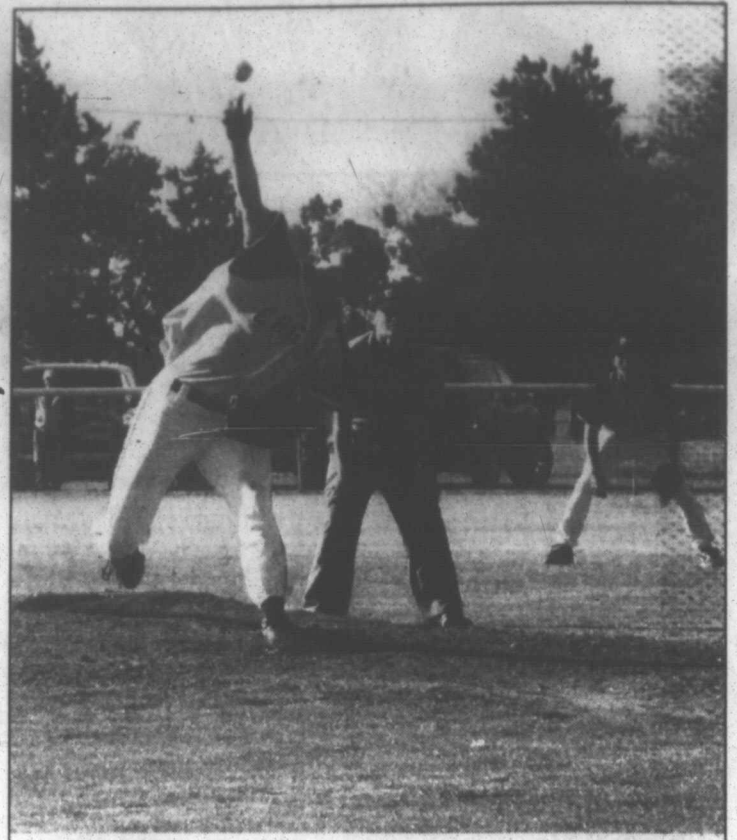
Animal Shelter is better than the Pet Shop

Diane Pomerance knows what people say about adopting pets from animal shelters and rescue organizations, and since National Pet Week is coming up in the first week of May, she'd like to dispel the myths.

"They think, 'I don't want to inherit someone else's problem,' or they simply think all the dogs there are abused or hard to train, or that they won't be able to find the breed that they want," said Pomerance, author of seven books about pets, including *Our Rescue Dog Family Album* www.animalcompanionandtheirpeople.com. Her family has saved and adopted more than 40 rescued dogs over the years and currently have 21 in their home. In addition, she has helped place hundreds more with good homes. "All of those notions couldn't be further from the truth, and in fact, buying from the pet shop can be more hazardous than adopting one from a shelter."

Pomerance does not work for an animal shelter or animal welfare organization. She is simply an individual who has devoted much of her personal life to rescuing these dogs. Here are some myths:

Most shelter dogs are sick or aggressive from abuse -- Rescued dogs receive better care and feeding than pet shop dogs, and they are treated by veterinarians before they are offered for adoption. In addition, they are far more affordable to adopt and care for, since many shelters offer free adoptions, and veterinary services at significantly reduced rates. Most shelters



Eagle pitch ... Dillon Gruben pitched for the O'Donnell Eagles in a game against Tahoka last Tuesday night. Tahoka won the game 10-0. (LCN PHOTO by Tina Wuensche)



Shutout ... Tahoka pitcher John Cantu, a lefty junior, throws a 10-0 shutout in the second District contest of the year between two Lynn County teams that ended by the 10-run rule in the bottom of the fifth. Tahoka hosted O'Donnell last Tuesday night. (LCN PHOTO by Tina Wuensche)



Who wants ice cream ... Clyde May (left) and Deloris Short, members of Phebe K. Warner Club, are serving the popular homemade ice cream provided by Phebe K members at the Fun/Food Festival. Waiting for their ice cream are Dalton Wood, Jayda Rosas, Judy Erickson, and Elizabeth Tew. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

don't allow dangerous animals to be adopted.

Pet Shop dogs are better quality animals -- Pet shops typically get dogs from puppy mills that breed them in unsanitary and inhumane conditions, which means many new owners bring home pets with illnesses not immediately obvious or disclosed at the time of sale, and they are offered no compensation for it. So, buying at a pet shop means paying top dollar, sometimes over \$1,000 for a dog, and then paying top dollar for private veterinary care to treat any initial illnesses many pet shop dogs contract.

Most of the dogs who are euthanized wouldn't make good pets, anyway -- Rescuing a dog helps deplete the high population of animals in these shelters and reduces the number of good, faithful, loving animals that are euthanized every year. It's not just the sick or dangerous dogs who are euthanized at shelters. In most cases, many dogs who would make good pets are euthanized because of overcrowding in the shelter.

"Animals perform many important tasks for us -- in the military, as bomb and weapons detectors, as service animals, as healing companions and friends of the lonely and bereaved and even as search and rescue assistants in natural as well as man-made disasters. They heal and even save human lives. It is scientifically substantiated that animal companions increase our longevity and improve the quality of our lives. We should also realize that getting a family pet should not be a decision or choice that is taken lightly. You're not buying a car or getting a new electronic toy to play with -- these are living, breathing, loving creatures with whom we share our world. If we choose to share our family with one, we should take care to ensure we choose carefully and prudently so we can enhance not only our family's life, but the dog's, as well."

Diane Pomerance has a Ph.D. in Communications from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is widely regarded as a pet expert.

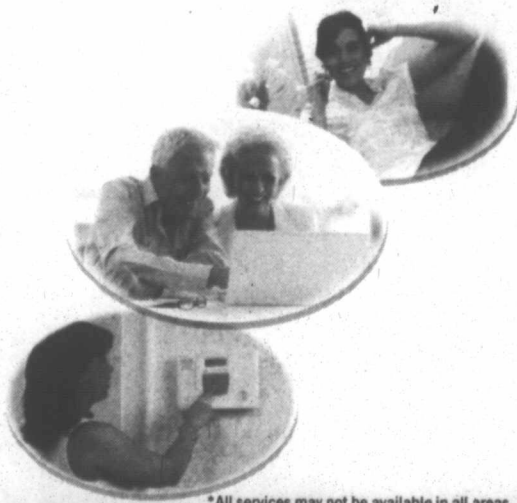
Wedding Announcement Policy

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

Wedding and Engagement forms are available at the Lynn County News Office, 1617 Main, P.O. Box 1170, Tahoka, TX 79373, (806) 561-4888, Fax 561-6308.

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