

LYNN COUNTY COURTHOUSE



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THE

# Lynn County News



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Serving Lynn County since 1903

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TAHOKA, LYNN COUNTY, TEXAS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011

6 PAGES PLUS INSERTS

50¢

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### FUN FACTS ABOUT TEXAS

from [www.50states.com](http://www.50states.com)

Texas includes 267,339 square miles, or 7.4% of the nation's total area.

More land is farmed in Texas than in any other state.

### Lynn County Area BALE COUNT

(reported 12-13-11)

Texas Star Gin, Wilson/Union.....	38,971
New Home Coop, Lakeview.....	34,817
Wells Coop Gin.....	10,798
Woolam Gin, O'Donnell.....	*9,920
Farmers Coop, O'Donnell.....	3,417
Grassland Coop Gin.....	*2,918
Close City Gin, Post.....	986
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>101,827</b>

\* Final Bale Count

## Weather

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Dec. 7	56	12	
Dec. 8	57	18	
Dec. 9	47	28	0.05"
Dec. 10	36	26	0.05"
Dec. 11	41	26	0.07"
Dec. 12	46	36	Trace
Dec. 13	58	41	

Precipitation for Jan:	0.01"
Precipitation for Feb:	0.66"
Precipitation for Mar:	0.07"
Precipitation for Apr:	0.00"
Precipitation for May:	0.05"
Precipitation for June:	0.30"
Precipitation for July:	0.21"
Precipitation for Aug:	0.53"
Precipitation for Sept:	1.08"
Precipitation for Oct:	0.85"
Precipitation for Nov:	0.25"
Precipitation for Dec:	0.51"
<b>Total Precip. for 2011:</b>	<b>4.52"</b>

## Lynn County News

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CLOSED FRIDAYS  
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DEADLINE: Noon Tuesdays



## Christmas Cheer! ...

These New Home Varsity Cheerleaders will perform in the Disney Christmas Parade at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Pictured from left are McKenzie English, Kimberely Alaniz, Samantha Cantu, and Skye Kirkland. They received this invitation by being nominated for All American at cheer camp this summer. The parade will be broadcast on ABC Christmas morning.



## Wind energy project nears construction phase; burn ban rescinded for one week, possibly longer

by JUANELL JONES

Lynn County Commissioners Monday approved lifting a countywide burn ban for one week, from Monday, Dec. 12 through Monday, Dec. 19, due to recent wet weather. Commissioners are scheduled to have a short session on Dec. 19 to consider extending the time period to allow agricultural and other outdoor burning, but at this time the burn ban is only lifted until Dec. 19.

"We do want to remind anyone conducting a control burn that they are liable for any property damage caused by their controlled burn to adjacent property or livestock," stated commissioners.

A wind energy project is nearing the construction phase in Lynn County, according to information presented at Monday's meeting. Consent was given to WindTex Energy to partially assign its tax abatement agreement to Cirrus Wind 1, LLC, in a 3-0 vote by commissioners. Commissioner Mike Braddock, who said the project could affect him, abstained from voting.

WindTex is selling the project to Cirrus Wind 1, LLC. Paul Thompson, representing Cirrus, told commissioners that the company expects to begin construction on the wind energy project within 15 days, contingent upon permission to connect on the Southwest Power Pool's lines.

County Attorney Donnis Scott told *The News* that in order to receive federal tax credit, Cirrus must begin construction by Dec. 31, and that they have applied for 200 megawatts on the SW Power Pool lines, although this project is anticipated at only 61.2 megawatts. The number/size of turbines is also contingent on the SW Power Pool approval.

"Thompson said that they are calling this Cirrus Wind 1 as the first phase of what is anticipated to be a bigger project that would grow eventually towards the south. This land is in Lynn County, and the entire project is within the O'Donnell school district, which Thompson said has already signed approval on the project," said Scott.

"Lynn County's tax abatement agreement stipulates that the county would begin receiving a guaranteed minimum of \$60,000 per year for 10 years after the project goes into production, beginning the year after construction is completed, which would be 2013," Scott explained.

In other business, District Judge Carter Schildknecht presented information to commissioners regarding the county's cost-share for indigent defense court costs. Under the current contract, Lynn County paid 16.42 percent (\$10,837.20) of the total \$66,000 contract for the four-county 106th

Judicial District, based on the number of cases disposed in the previous year. Commissioners approved a new contract for 2012 that shows a \$4,000 decrease in Lynn County's share, at \$6,864, based on 21 cases disposed during the current year. The total of \$66,000 is shared by three other counties, with Dawson County paying the most (based on their number of cases in the current year) at \$31,363.20; Gaines County's cost is \$18,625.20, and Garza County pays \$9,147.60 in the 2012 contract.

Commissioners appointed Brady Askew to represent them for another term as director for the Lynn County Appraisal District, with the term to expire in December 2013.

## woodwork

by dalton wood



MOST PEOPLE I know have a fear of something, either secretly or openly. I thought about this a few years ago as I read a story in the Lubbock newspaper, written by Marty Reves, about phobias. His story talked about a guy who starts choking and shaking every time he sits down for a meal. The man who had this choking phobia started having these panic attacks, which lasted about three months, after the first attack when he actually choked on a piece of food. He had to quit dining outside his home because he feared a choking attack in a public restaurant.

It didn't say where he first choked on his food, but I think I have eaten at that place.

Anyway, the gist of the story is that lots of people have phobias. "More common fears than choking that cause panic attacks among people," said the story, "include phobias toward germs, airplanes, animals and witnessing bloody injuries."

It quotes a psychologist as saying that when people experience panic attacks, symptoms can include an accelerated heartbeat, hot flashes, shallow breathing and sweaty palms. I never feel that way at restaurants until the waiter brings the check.

My encyclopedia says, "Some common phobias are fear of public places, high places, closed spaces, social situations, death, the dark, animals, foreigners or other groups of people, meteorological events and electricity. Phobia sufferers may experience a variety of symptoms, including dizziness, palpitations, nausea and immobilization."

"Cause of phobia is unknown, but there are theories that they are the result of a single frightening experience with the thing feared, that phobias mask anxieties dating from childhood; that phobias are "learned" gradually over a long period of time; and that phobias result from distorted thoughts about the thing feared."

Three forms of phobias mentioned in the A-J article are:

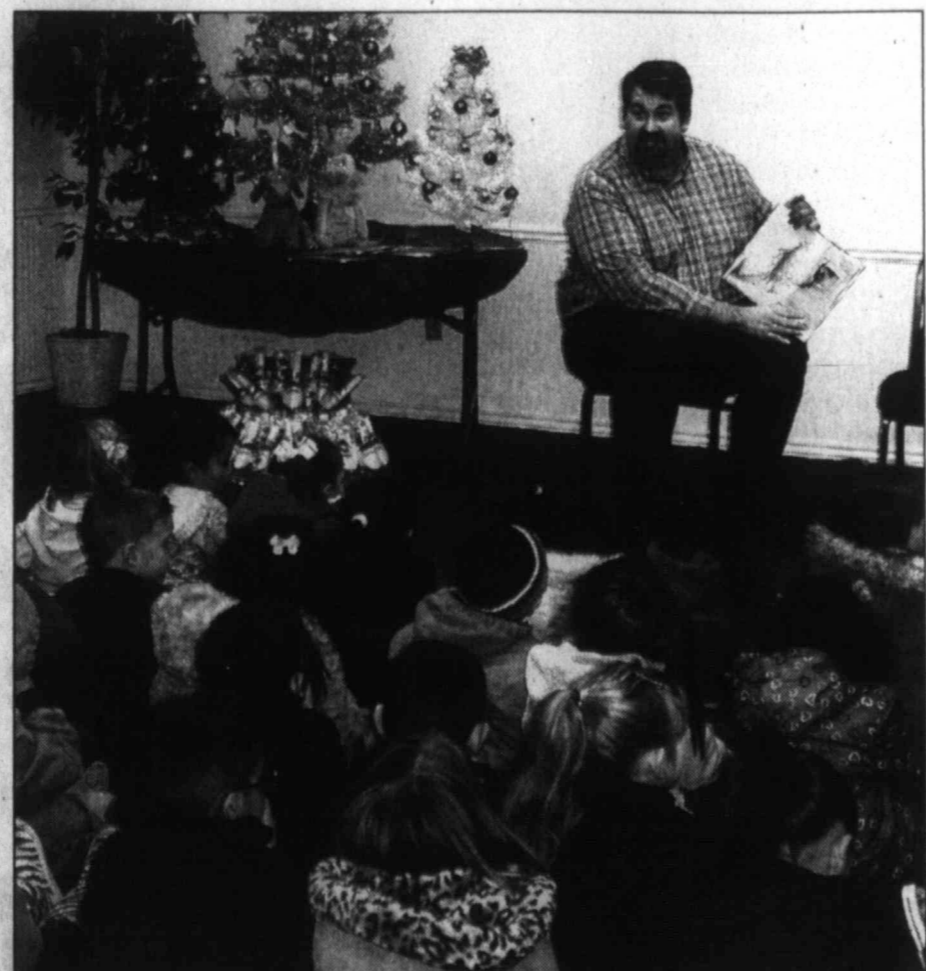
A *specific phobia*, or a fear of a particular object or situation. (Like a quarterback looking up to see Demarcus Ware and Ray Lewis bearing down on him).

*Social phobia*, a fear of being painfully embarrassed in a social setting. (I sometimes dream I am naked in church or in the middle of some big crowd. However, some psychologists say this means you are afraid of being found out as the lousy person you really are).

*Agoraphobia*, which often accompanies panic disorder, is a fear of being in any situation that might provoke a panic attack, or from which escape might be difficult if one occurred. Agoraphobia should not be confused with agriphobia, a fear of farming.

I couldn't find a list of the names of the phobias, but I do know that acrophobia is a fear of heights. Canadi-hydrophobia is a fear of having to drink Canadian River water, which might rot your insides like it does the inside of our water pipes.

As Christmas approaches, a lot of parents may get Claustrophobia, a fear of Santa Claus.



**How the Grinch Stole Christmas ...** James Craig, a local attorney, took time out from his day Tuesday morning to read "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" and other Christmas stories to children at the City/County Library. Approximately 50 children attended the event that included story time, crafts, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)



MR. and MRS. ANTONIO SILVAS

### Couple to celebrate 56th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Silvas, of Tahoka, will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 17. Silvas and the former Ruth Coronado were married December 17, 1955 in Tahoka.

The couple has 11 children, Tony Jr., Raul, Arthur, Virginia, Dianna, Kristy, Anthony, Angelica, Estevan and Ethan. They have one great-grandchild and one on the way.

### Tahoka Tumblers compete in Idalou

The Tahoka Tumblers competed in their first tumbling meet this school year on November 19th in Idalou. The tumblers did very well competing and representing their school and brought home many medals. We are very proud of these young athletes.

The following contestants were 1st place winners; Pre-K: Kate Warren, Kylee Chapa, Emily Smith; Kindergarden-Cagnie Long, Kaycee Swinford; 3rd Grade- Karlie Swinford, and 5th Grade-Tamya Stroope.

Tumblers receiving 2nd place medals were: 3 year old's Gabby Balderas; Pre-K: Jaxon Hall, Michaela Sullivan, and Kylie Jolly. Kindergarden: Miller Norwood; 1st Grade: Madison Fox; 2nd Grade, Amy Tew and Noelani Rodriguez. 4th Grade: Marisol Vega; 5th Grade: Jo Rosas; 6th Grade: Natalie Stice.

The following tumblers won 3rd place medals: 3 year olds: Kaitlyn Smith; Pre K: Kaelyn Barrientez, Jaelyn Gomez, and Averi Duncan. 1st Grade: Nataly Taylor.

## The Lynn County News

Tahoka, Texas 79373

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### Christmas wrappers ...

Several volunteers wrapped gifts for the Lynn County Christmas For Kids program Tuesday afternoon, wrapping and organizing gifts for some of the 253 children who will receive gifts in this year's program. Pictured from left are Judy Holden, Johnette Havens, Pat Hogg, Becky Rodriguez, Naomi Aleman, Dorothy Walker and Janet Porterfield.

(LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)



## Three more candidates file for places on ballot

Three more candidates have filed for election during the past week, all on the Republican ticket, according to information from John Baker, Lynn County Republican Party Chairman. Lynn County Treasurer Amy Schuknecht filed for the two-year unexpired term for treasurer, and Precinct 1 Commissioner Keith Wied filed for another four-year term as commissioner. And, filing late Tuesday was Donna Willis for Lynn County Tax Assessor/Collector.

Previously, Lynn County Attorney Donnis Scott (R) and Sheriff Jerry D. Franklin (D) filed for re-election and a place on their respective party primary ballots in March Primary elections.

As of press time, candidates had only two more days to file for places on the ballot, with the filing period ending on Thursday, Dec. 15.

As of Wednesday morning, candidates have filed for five of six local county offices on the ballot in the March Primary elections, including the positions of Sheriff, Treasurer, County Attorney, Tax Assessor/Collector, and Pct. 1 Commissioner. No candidate has filed for the

Pct. 3 Commissioner seat, currently held by Don Blair, who has indicated he will not seek re-election.

Filing fee is \$750, and candidates must file with the county party chairman for county offices.

Filing with the state offices, according to the Republican Party website, are two candidates for the seat of 106th District Attorney, including incumbent Brian L. Kingston of O'Donnell and challenger Michael Munk of Post.

Bonnie Ericson, a Seminole attorney who had announced her intentions to seek election to the 106th District Attorney's seat earlier this fall, has indicated now that she is withdrawing her intentions to seek election. She has not filed for candidacy.

"After discussions with my family, we decided this wasn't the right time (to seek election)," Ericson reportedly told the Seminole newspaper.

No candidates have been listed on the Democratic website for the position as of Tuesday afternoon. The 106th District Attorney serves a four-county area including Lynn, Gaines, Garza and Dawson counties.

## Obituaries



### Arlena Heck

Eula Arlena (Brock) Heck of Wilson left her earthly home at the age of 91 on December 12, 2011 to spend Christmas with her beloved Lord, and with her husband. Arlena was born to Jim and Eula (Oden) Brock on October 29, 1920 in Waco. She was the third of four children, her two older brothers being Carl and James and her younger sister being Gladys, who was blind. Arlena attended high school, and then began working to help care for Gladys.

While living and working in Houston, Arlena met and fell in love with Floyd. After eight dates, she married the love of her life on February 12, 1945 at Congress Avenue Baptist Church in Austin. As a new bride, they moved to Ft. Lewis, WA where Floyd was stationed. When he finished his tour of duty, they moved to Wilson, to help on the family farm. In 1946, they celebrated the birth of their only daughter, Lynda Heck. In 1955, Floyd and Arlena moved her parents to Wilson to care for them, as well as her sister Gladys.

In addition to caring for her parents, Arlena's love for children allowed them to be foster parents. They first cared for Terry Ray Payne, a two year old from Buckner's Home of Lubbock until his mother could get on her feet. They then took in Jack Dokken, a 15 year old, who lived with them throughout high school, then accepted a football scholarship at Texas Tech. He later joined the U.S. Coast Guard.

Arlena was a devout Christian and an active member of First Baptist Church of Wilson for over 60 years. She served as a Sunday School teacher, first teaching the young married couples before moving on to the youth, and lastly the adult ladies. She also served as a church treasurer. She worked at the Wilson Co-op Gin for a number of years and the Wilson and Lubbock Post Offices until retiring. Arlena was a multi-talented, creative woman who enjoyed painting; sewing, baking, working with leaded glass, avidly worked crossword puzzles, and loved anything and everything to do with birds and flowers. She was very passionate about her grandchildren and treasured every moment with them, teaching them things dearest to her heart. Over the past four years, she has enjoyed her two great-granddaughters and was anxiously awaiting the arrival of her third great-grandchild.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Lynda Linton and husband Fred of Monahans; two grandchildren, Christopher Linton and wife Rachel of Arlington and Christin Nicholas and husband Alan of Monahans; three great-grandchildren, Isabella and Iyleigh Nicholas of Monahans and Baby Linton of Arlington due in May; a host of nephews, nieces and cousins; and her loving care giver for the last year of her life, Sandi James of Wilson. She also leaves behind her two beloved dogs, Bubba and Princess.

Arlena was preceded in death by her husband Floyd after 56 years of marriage on August 10, 2001; parents; foster son, Jack Dokken; two brothers; one sister; nephew, Dan Cook; and many cherished pets, including Buck, Oscar Mayer, and Ashley.

The family will receive friends from 2-4 p.m. on Sun, Dec 18, 2011 at Combest Family Funeral Homes in Tahoka. Services will be at 2:00 p.m. Mon, Dec 19, at Wilson First Baptist Church with interment to follow.

Please celebrate the life of Arlena by visiting [www.combest-familyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.combest-familyfuneralhomes.com) (PAID)

COME JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF

*Hennietta Burleson*

AT 3:00 P.M. SUNDAY, DEC. 18 AT OUR DAILY BREAD DINER

Happy Birthday ... We appreciate you!

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY IS SPONSORED BY THE GOLDEN VOICES



### Cold and Flu Season

Cold and Flu season is upon us. And at the same time we are all trying to get our holiday errands done. Here is some healthy advice to help you survive the season.

First and foremost get some REST. Resting gives your body the energy it needs to battle the cold or flu. Wrap a few gifts in gift bags to save yourself some sleep time. Next, eat your veggies; colorful vegetables are rich in antioxidants that strengthen natural immunity. Good nutrition helps your body heal. Start with citrus. Vitamin C still rules. Also to keep your immunity strong, get 30 minutes of exercise daily if possible.

Is It Cold ... Or Flu? Remember colds start slowly, with a sore throat and sneezing. The flu includes all-over aches, fever, and chills. If you do happen to get the flu or a cold keep in mind these helpful hints. Colds are most contagious the first two to four days. Stay home when symptoms strike. Get anti-flu drugs within 48 hours for maximum effectiveness. Fluids help loosen congestion-causing mucus so be sure to slurp lots of clear soups and water. Grandma's chicken soup will help keep you hydrated through a cold. The steam can also relieve a clogged nose. Hot tea soothes inflamed membranes that line nose and throat. Make sure it's herbal tea. Caffeine may dehydrate you. Don't fight a fever. Fever helps germ-killing proteins circulate in your blood faster. Let a slight fever of 102 F. or less run its course. You may get well faster. And again rest, rest, rest.

Remember that a little prevention goes a long way and by following some if not all of this

advice you may really be able to enjoy Christmas morning after all. We here at Lynn County Hospital District wish all of you a very happy and healthy Holiday season.

### FUN FACTS ABOUT TEXAS

from [www.50states.com](http://www.50states.com)

Sam Houston, arguably the most famous Texan, was actually born in Virginia. Houston served as governor of Tennessee before coming to Texas.

\*\*\*

The Hertzberg Circus Museum in San Antonio contains one of the largest assortments of circuses in the world.

Just in time for Christmas!



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Maxine Paris, Owner

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**Merry shoppers...** The annual local Christmas Craft Show was held Dec. 3rd at the Life Enrichment Center in Tahoka. Several shoppers braved the cold morning to shop for that special gift for Christmas. The event was a great success, according to organizers.

### Country Christmas Blood Drive set

KLLL and United Blood Services invite everyone to be part of the 31st Annual Country Christmas Blood Drive. The Blood Drive will be in Tahoka on Monday Dec. 19, at the Life Enrichment Center from 2:00-8:00 p.m.

Each donor will receive a 31st Annual KLLL Country Christmas t-shirt and a pint of Blue Bell ice cream. They will also be registered to win some great prizes. Donors will be entered for a drawing for a \$100 Visa gift card and an iPad2.

Blood donation requirements are that donors be at least 16 years of age, be in good health and have a valid photo ID. If you are a previous donor, bring your donor card. Also, free cholesterol testing is available with every donation.

"We are calling on the citizens of the South Plains to show their civic support. Come out, roll up your sleeve, and give from the heart," said a sponsor.

"Blood transfusions save more than 4 million lives each year. It is estimated that blood is needed every two seconds, and that 1 out of 7 people entering the hospital will need blood. Since blood cannot be manufactured or harvested, it can only come from Heroes like YOU - the volunteer blood donor!" the sponsor added.



**Win this quilt ...** Lois Roberts made this patchwork quilt for the Lynn County Pioneers Senior Citizens Center and they are raffling it off during their Open House on Wednesday, December 21. Anyone may buy a chance to win the quilt - tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. All proceeds will benefit the local Senior Citizens Center. Tickets are available any time at the center, located at 1600 S. 3rd Street in Tahoka.

## TISD trustees approve audit, attend THS band concert

The Tahoka Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, Dec. 12, approving the school district's annual financial audit and other routine business. Trustees also took the time from their meeting to attend the Tahoka 3D Band Christmas Concert at the high school auditorium. During the concert each one of the students were presented a certificate from the TISD board recognizing their great accomplishments by placing eleventh at the State Marching Contest in San Antonio in November.

The board held a public hearing and passed a resolution to approve the Goods in Transit tax, for Lynn County and Terry County, which relates to the inventory produced by manufacturing companies, as a result of changes to the tax code passed by the Texas Legislature this spring. The board was required to pass a resolution if it wanted to tax these goods as a result of changes to the code approved during the 82nd Legislative Session. Manufacturers, previously eligible for an exemption on goods stored on their own property, must now store goods on a site owned by a third party to qualify for the exemption under the new code.

"Though no businesses in TISD have ever filed for the goods-in-transit exemption, the district could stand to lose future debt service tax revenue if it chooses to not pass the resolution," explained Superintendent Steve Burleson. If allowed to take effect, the exemption would have been available to businesses starting next year. The district's state funding also could have been impacted if the tax was not approved, Burleson said, since the school finance system gives districts less money if they do not utilize all existing local tax opportunities.

The Tahoka ISD 2011 financial audit was approved as presented by Greg Gilbert of the Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert, and Moss firm of Lubbock. Trustees also approved the revision of the National Honor Society Constitution. The West Texas Food Service Cooperative Contract for 2012-2013 school year was approved, and a contract to repair the roof on the high school gym was approved by the Board.

The Board approved the Texas Association of School Boards' local policy update 91 and Local Policies EIA and EIC as the grading policies to be receded.

and working na met and fell yd. After eight ed the love of ary 12, 1945 at Baptist Church new bride, they wis, WA where ned. When he of duty, they , to help on the 1946, they cel- of their only Heck. In 1955, moved her par- care for them, er Gladys. caring for her love for child- m to be foster rst cared for a two year old Home of Lub- thers could get then took in year old, who oughout high epted a foot- t Texas Tech. he U.S. Coast

devout Chris- member of ch of Wilson She served as teacher, first ung married ving on to the e adult ladies. a church treat- at the Wilson mber of years Lubbock Post g. Arlena was eative woman ting; sewing, with leaded ed crossword anything and ith birds and ry passionate dren and treat- nt with them, ings dearest the past four oyed her two rs and was the arrival of dchild. cherish her ughter, Lyn- band Fred of randchildren, and wife Ra- and Christin and Alan of great-grand- lyleigh us and Baby due in May; , nieces and loving care ar of her life, son. She also two beloved ncess.

receded; ind Floyd after e on August foster son, rothers; one Cook; and s, including and Ashley. ill receive m. on Sun, best Farjily tahoka. Ser- ) p.m. Mon, first Baptist tent to fol-

the life of w.combest- com (PAID)

match the requirements of Update 91. Board President, Frank McLelland, gave a report that showed that all seven board members had received their required board training hours during 2011.

The superintendent reported enrollment of 603 for the district through the third six weeks of school, and noted that attendance is running at 97% for the district through the third six weeks.

Elementary Principal Alecia Hancock discussed the UIL contest that the elementary students participated in at Tahoka ISD on Dec. 7. The middle school students also participated in the District UIL meet held at Tahoka ISD on Dec. 7. Both campuses placed fourth in their respective contests. High School Principal Michael Norman talked about the high school students taking several different tests during the

six weeks such as the ASVAB, Plan, and Explore.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Harvick Educational Building.

*Show your colors!*  
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**- SPECIALS OF THE WEEK -**

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### The price of spaying and neutering

Consider this: One pair of un-sterilized cats, together with their offspring, can result in 420,000 kittens in 7 years. One pair of un-sterilized dogs, with their offspring, can result in 4,372 puppies in 7 years. Statistics also show that only one out of nine of these animals find a good home, leaving the rest to suffer abandonment and/or euthanasia.

"Spaying and neutering pets results in fewer reproductive health problems and makes the treatment of epilepsy, diabetes, and other diseases much easier," notes Ruoff.

"In both male and female pets, sterilization makes them far less likely to roam, which tends to safeguard against inju-

ries due to fights and accidents," adds Ruoff. "Neutered males are less likely to mark their territory by urinating in the house and will not be inclined to wander off in search of a mate. Spayed females are also less likely to wander and will not attract males who will fight over a female in heat."

In addition, hunting, guarding, and other skills are actually improved in spayed and neutered dogs because they are not distracted by hormonal urges, Ruoff believes.

Ruoff explains that spaying and neutering, while considered major surgery and performed under general anesthesia, involve little risk in young, healthy pets. Animals also recover from these procedures much faster than one might expect. Most pets recover within a week or less.

"You can't put a price tag on a family pet that becomes lost or killed," adds Ruoff.

## ATTEND CHURCH IN LYNN COUNTY

<p><b>New Home United Methodist Church</b> 350 N. Main New Home, TX 79383 (806) 924-7549 PASTOR: BOB POWELL Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - 10:45 a.m. Youth Activities</p>	<p><b>New Home Church of Christ</b> St. address • Box 188 • New Home, TX 79383 (806) 924-7579 MINISTER: VICTOR ELLISON Bible Class - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service - 6:00 p.m. Mid-Week Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Wilson St. John Lutheran Church</b> 13th &amp; Dickson • Wilson, TX 79381 (806) 628-6573 Sharing Christ's message of forgiveness and salvation with our community and beyond. LEADERS: REV. LESLIE LEWIS TONDA FREITAG, PLM Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - 11:15 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Tahoka Trinity Church</b> 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 or Church, call 561-5317</p>
<p><b>TAHOKA St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church</b> South 4th &amp; 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. &amp; Thur. Rosary - 7 p.m. Tues. CCE Class/Confirmation Instruct. - 7 p.m. Wed.</p>	<p align="center"><b>What does one pray when the felt absence of God is the only presence?</b></p> <p>This is a legitimate question, yet, a difficult one. I think we all, at one time or another, have been here before and it is difficult to come to grips with the reality of God's silence. We cry out, "Why, O God have you allowed this to happen?"</p> <p>Millennia ago the prophet Isaiah cried out to God demanding an answer for His silence. In Isaiah 64 a remnant has returned to Jerusalem, the temple has been rebuilt, and the people of God were anxious to pick up their distinctive way of life, however, the lavish promises of renewal are drastically different from reality. And so, the prophet, seeking answers, cries out, "Where are you, God?" The prophet cries out for intervention, for the heavens to be torn in half, for God to <i>show up</i> like He had in the past. Silence!</p> <p>In the darkness of our questions we know this world and our experience of it is incompatible with God's Kingdom - with God's desire for human flourishing. Too many of us are trapped and these patterns are ingrained in our ways of life.</p> <p>What does one pray when the felt absence of God is the only presence? The weight of this question would be unbearable if it weren't for the merciful turn in the text of Isaiah 64:8, "Yet, You are our Father!" As clay is to the potter, so the people are to God - utterly dependent! The prophet speaks as one who is unsure of God's forgiveness. We, in Christ, are not!</p> <p>God has intervened decisively in the world for us in Jesus Christ, who announced, embodied, and rules the in-breaking Kingdom of God. Jesus has come and will come again. We confess that Jesus will complete what He has begun. So, even though our circumstances might cause us to question God's presence, in this season of Advent we can, with the heart of faith, confidently step through the darkness towards the Light for we know Who is coming!</p> <p align="right">- Steven Bonner, Tahoka Church of Christ minister</p>	<p><b>TAHOKA Church of Christ</b> 2320 Lockwood • Box 1177 • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 561-4060 • email: tcoc@poka.com PULPIT MINISTER: STEVEN BONNER YOUTH &amp; FAMILY MINISTER: ANDY BREWER Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Fellowship &amp; Devotion - Wednesday 6:30 p.m.</p>	
<p><b>Draw First United Methodist Church</b> (established 1907) P.O. Box 496 • O'Donnell, TX 79351 Phone (806) 428-3357 or Fern Barnes (806) 327-5583 PASTOR: REV. MONTY BARNETT Sunday Morning Worship - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School following</p>		<p><b>First United Methodist Church</b> 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.</p>	
<p><b>Grassland Nazarene Church</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Wilson St. Paul Lutheran Church</b> 16th &amp; Houston St. • Box 136 • Wilson, TX 79381 (806) 628-6471 • www.stpaulwilson.com PASTOR: DAVID W. RHODE Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. Divine Service - 10:15 a.m. "Where Christ Serves People"</p>		
<p><b>NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Corner of Fourth &amp; Smith "Serving the Lord for 100 Years" SERVICES: Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 pm Wed. Youth/Children's Activities.....7:00 pm Pastor: Calvin Gray</p>	<p><b>Wilson First Baptist Church</b> 1403 13th St. • Box 67 • Wilson, TX 79381 (806) 628-6333 PASTOR: BILLY PARMER Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m. Discipleship Training - 5 p.m. Sunday Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays: Fellowship Meal &amp; Classes for all ages • Bible Study &amp; Prayer Mtg • Youth</p>	<p><b>Sweet Street Baptist Church</b> 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 &amp; Worship - Gospel Message) Wednesday Night - 7 p.m. (Prayer &amp; Bible Study, Children &amp; Youth Ministries) EVERYONE IS WELCOME!</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 1701 Ave. K • Box 1547 • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 561-4557 • www.fbctahoka.org Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service - 10:45 a.m. SNL (Youth) - 6:00 p.m. Sunday Activities For All Ages - Call For Complete Schedule There's A Place For Me at FBC!</p>

**God's Clothes Closet**

OPEN at 9:00 am every 1st & 3rd SATURDAY of the month for those needing clothing. (Please use West entrance.)

**TAHOKA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2320 Lockwood  
(Donations accepted any time in the outside bins.)



**Here comes Santa Claus!** ... Their faces lit up with excitement as these little ones spied Santa and Mrs. Claus coming to visit at the children's Christmas story time at the City/County Library Tuesday morning. Each had an opportunity to visit with Santa and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

### Nothing missing in motel burglary

Apparently nothing was stolen in a burglary of a room at Tahoka Motel last Thursday night or early Friday, but a door and window screen were damaged, and three beer cans and a sandwich wrapper were left in the room which previously had been cleaned.

Motel operator Donna Speropalous called police Friday morning after finding the entry door jammed and a Do Not Disturb sign on the door.

Police last week arrested a 28-year-old Tahoka man and a 31-year-old O'Donnell man on warrants in separate incidents.

In November, dispatchers at the sheriff's department processed 246 calls, including 119 for the county, 74 for the City of Tahoka, 17 for O'Donnell, 23 ambulance calls and 13 fire alarms.



### Fundraiser winners

... The Tahoka Pride Corp held a "Gourmet Treats" fundraiser, and the top four sellers were, pictured from left, Adisannah Soto, 2nd grade, Lezariah Rodriguez, Pre K, Jamie Garza, Kindergarten and Soul Moore, 3rd grade. Each student in the top four received a \$25 gift card to Toys R Us. All Tahoka Elementary students who sold items were placed in a raffle drawing and the winner of an MP3 player with speakers was 1st grader, Madison Fox, pictured at right.

## Don't Drive if you're Tipsy, Buzzed, or Blitized

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Holiday parties are happening, and alcohol is often a part of those celebrations.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent Amy Baugh reminds drivers that the Don't Drink and Drive campaign runs from now until January 2, 2012.

The death toll from drunk driving significantly increases during the period from Christmas to New Year's Day. In fact, Texas Department of Transportation crash records show that New Year's Day was the most deadly day in Texas in 2010 when 25 persons died in traffic crashes. But not everyone dies in a crash. Many live with lifelong, debilitating injuries as a result of their own drunk driving or that of a complete stranger.

The consequences and costs are significant if you are caught driving while intoxicated, costing you \$17,000 or more. Wouldn't you rather put that money toward holiday gifts or a great vacation?

Even a little holiday cheer can impair a person's driving. Plan ahead if you are going to drink alcohol. Choose your ride carefully whether or not you are just across your small town or celebrating in a larger city miles away!

- Designate a sober driver before festivities begin.

- Keep taxi cab company phone numbers handy if your city has cab service, and dial one when you're ready to leave.

- Look into alternate rides home, such as public transportation, pedicabs, or seasonal safe ride home programs available in

larger cities.  
- Make arrangements to call someone you trust to pick you up.

- Spend the night where you are.

- Step up and step in - don't let "deer ones" drive if they've been drinking. Give someone a gift by being their designated driver.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service wishes you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

### South Plains Food Bank applicant screening set here

The South Plains Food Bank will be re-screening current and new applicants who wish to continue receive or continue to receive Mobile Pantry food boxes in 2012. Screening will be Thursday, Dec. 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tahoka Church of Christ.

Please bring documents that show proof of income, physical address, and photo I.D. to the screening.

First National Bank and First Bank & Trust now have accounts to accept donations for the mobile pantry and church food pantry for Lynn County.

**Adopt a Pet!**  
Check with the Lynn County Animal Shelter about adoptable pets.  
**Lynn County Animal Shelter**  
806-561-4056



**Lyntegar service awards ...** The Lyntegar Electric Cooperative Annual Christmas Party and 2011 service awards banquet was held on Friday, Dec. 9 at the Tahoka Housing Authority. The award for the most years of service went to Line Department Manager Glenn (Bonzo) Anderson (left), for 45 years of service. Construction Superintendent, Chuck Tipton (right) received an award for 40 years of service. Both are employed through the Tahoka Branch of Lyntegar Electric.

### FUN FACTS ABOUT TEXAS ... from www.50states.com

The Alamo is located in San Antonio. It is where Texas defenders fell to Mexican General Santa Anna and the phrase *Remember the Alamo* originated. The Alamo is considered the cradle of Texas liberty and the state's most popular historic site.

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## County 4-H members win at Consumer Decision Making Contest

Eleven Lynn County 4-H members competed recently in the 2011-12 South Plains District 4-H Consumer Decision Making Contest in Tahoka.

4-H'ers from the 20 county area around Lubbock competed in the Consumer Decision Making Contest.

4-H members study guidelines for products or services such as digital televisions, watches, nutritious snacks, cell phones, games or green cleaning products. Members then must place the products based on guidelines and a specific situation and be able to defend their placing with oral reasoning to a judge. "The consumer decision making project is one the 4-H members can use as they start making decisions and purchasing these products or services," stated Bryan Reynolds, County Extension Agent. "It is extremely useful and something they can use from now on."

Lynn County won 2nd in the

Junior division. Junior members were Jett Ballard, who was 3rd High Individual Overall, Ashlyn Ballard- 4th Individual, and Karlie Swinford.

In the Intermediate division, Lynn County won First Place Overall Team, First in team placings, and First in team reasons. Lea Gustafson was 2nd High Individual Overall, Ian Cobb was 4th High Individual Overall, and Hadley Reynolds was 5th Individual Overall.

In the Senior division, Lynn County won First Place Overall Team, First in team placings, and First in team reasons. Lindsey Cobb was High Individual Overall, Jesse Terry was Third Individual Overall and Coy Mercer was 5th High Individual Overall. Blake McCleskey and Dane Rivas also participated in this event.

### New Home Tumblers compete in Idalou

The New Home Tumblers competed in their first tumbling meet this school year on November 19th in Idalou. The tumblers did very well competing and representing their school and brought home many medals. We are very proud of these young athletes.

The following won 1st place medals: 4th Grade- Alice Hamilton, and Kyle Gill; 5th Grade: Celee Smith, and Brook Tyson; and 6th grade, Heaven Hargrove.

The following won 2nd place medals. Pre K: Savannah Correa; Kindergarten: Maddy Zant; 1st Grade: Carley Smith, Cameron McFadden and Abby Ehlers; 2nd Grade: M'Kenna McFadden; 4th Grade: Lexis Hargrove and Destiny Torres.

The following won 3rd place medals: 3 Years: Kenedy Lorton; 4th Grade: Katelyn Hargrove, Samantha Correa and Effi Correa.

Even Santa knows the place to go for the best hair style!  
Men's & Women's Styling Products make great Stocking Stuffers!  
• American Crew • Johnny B • Joico • Kendra • Matrix  
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Feeds 18-20 people • Whole, Sliced or Shredded  
Order by Dec. 16 - Pick up Dec. 21 between 5-8 pm at N. 1st & Ave. K (The Masonic Lodge)  
**\$25** All proceeds benefit the TAHOKA LODGE 1041 SCHOLARSHIP FUND for local TMS seniors  
Call Leighton Knox: 806-327-5201 or Randy Byram: 806-224-7776

This holiday season ...  
**Lynn County Senior Citizens Center**  
invites the community ...  
- individuals and businesses -  
to decorate the  
**Sr. Citizens Christmas Tree**  
... by donating to the Center  
(In Honor, In Memoriam or a Family name)  
• \$100 donation ... a Gold Christmas Ornament  
• \$50 donation ... a Silver Christmas Ornament  
• \$25 donation ... choice of Purple, Blue or Red ornament  
STOP IN AT THE CENTER, CALL 561-5264 OR MAIL IN YOUR DONATIONS TO P.O. BOX 223, TAHOKA, TX  
State Funding has NOT come in since October ... ALL DONATIONS will help to continue our on-site and home-delivery meal programs in Lynn County.

**Doggone it, shop at home when you can.**  
Our local economy is fragile ...  
Shopping locally is a vital part of our growth and prosperity.  
Why send locally-owned, hard-earned dollars out of town to support someone else? Money spent in Lubbock or other surrounding towns does not support our community, our school, or our hospital.  
The local businessperson pays the highest percentage of local taxes. Every time a business goes under, local taxes will go up in order to have the same tax base. That means homeowners and remaining businesses will inevitably pay more in taxes. So please, think before you shop out of town -- if prices seem cheaper elsewhere, are they really going to be cheaper in the long run? What will happen when you can no longer buy what you need in our town and there are no businesses left?  
And all local businesses especially appreciate it when our taxing entities -- our school, county, hospital and city -- spend the taxes they collect from us in our own town and county.  
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2C in Tahoka is 2 bath, 2 car living areas, isolated ma backyard. Mt an appointm  
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**Real Estate**

**FOR SALE BY OWNER:**  
3 BR, 2 bath, 2300+ sq feet. On 2 1/2 lots. Features large sunken living room, basement, plantation shutters in all rooms, fireplace, large master bedroom w/ large walk-in closet. Storage in garage. extra storage building. Large backyard w/cinderblock fence, covered patio, sprinkler system.

2507 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
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FOR RENT: 2127 S. 3rd; 2B/1B; \$450/\$250 deposit. Application, references. Leave msg: 806-894-9826. 25-tfc

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In Tahoka is an affordable 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car carport home with 2 living areas, fireplace, hardwood floors, isolated master bedroom and cute backyard. Must see to believe! Call for an appointment to see!

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**POLITICAL CALENDAR**

Political Primary is March 6, 2011  
Early voting is Feb. 21-Mar. 2  
(Political advertising paid by the candidates listed)

**REPUBLICAN PRIMARY**

**106<sup>th</sup> Judicial District District Attorney BRIAN KINGSTON (INCUMBENT)**

**106<sup>th</sup> Judicial District District Attorney MICHAEL MUNK (CANDIDATE)**

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**

**Lynn County Sheriff JERRY D. FRANKLIN (INCUMBENT)**

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[judifillingim@kw.com](http://judifillingim@kw.com)

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Monday thru Friday 9 am-1 pm and 2 pm-6 pm  
Saturdays 9 am-12 noon  
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**Tahoka Pioneer Museum**  
561-5339 • 1600 Lockwood • Tahoka, TX  
Open Friday & Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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