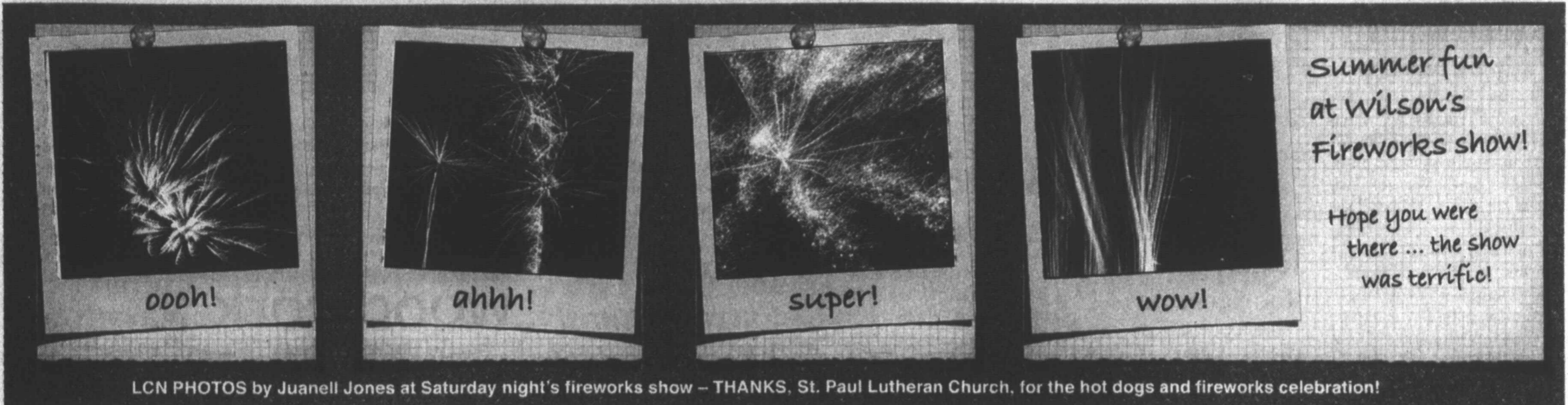


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA



LCN PHOTOS by Juanell Jones at Saturday night's fireworks show - THANKS, St. Paul Lutheran Church, for the hot dogs and fireworks celebration!

email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

LYNN COUNTY COURTHOUSE



THE Lynn County News



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VOLUME 109, NUMBER 27

TAHOKA, LYNN COUNTY, TEXAS

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2012

6 PAGES PLUS INSERT

What's Inside

- **Obituaries** - pg. 2
- Annie Caballero
- Johnny Rodriguez, Sr.
- **Woodwork** - pg. 2
- **Poker, golf, food offered at Barham fundraiser** - pg. 3
- **Tahoka 3-D bandmen bring home gold** - pg. 3
- **O'Donnell Rodeo set for July 12-14** - pg. 6



News Office to close July 4-6

In an extended observance of the July 4th holiday, The Lynn County News office will be closed July 4-5-6, and will reopen on Monday, July 9.

Weather

Date	High	Low	Precip.
June 27	101	74	
June 28	100	72	
June 29	97	70	
June 30	93	70	
July 1	90	69	

Precipitation for Jan:	0.34"
Precipitation for Feb:	0.91"
Precipitation for Mar:	1.03"
Precipitation for Apr:	1.58"
Precipitation for May:	1.82"
Precipitation for June:	1.43"
Total Precip. for 2012:	7.11"

Lynn County News

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In Tahoka

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

(Open During Lunch Hour)

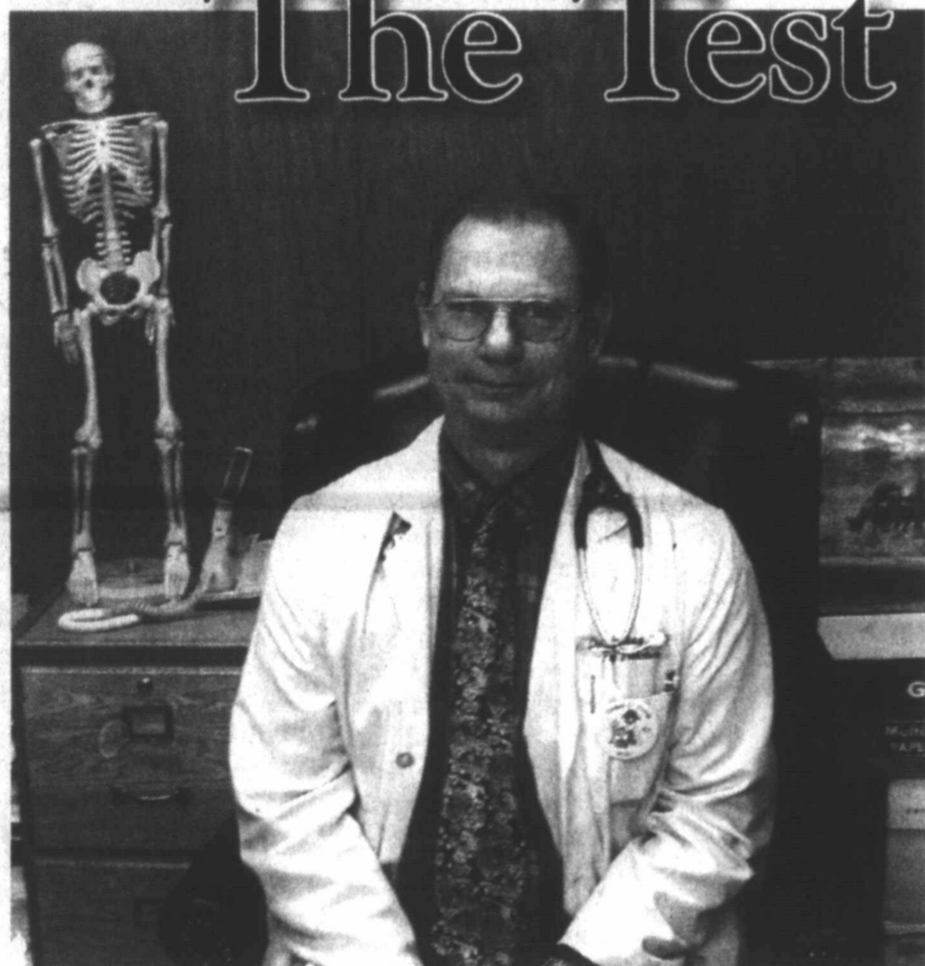
CLOSED FRIDAYS

(Drop Box available by front door)

DEADLINE: Noon Tuesdays



The Test of Time ...



Dr. Donald Freitag observing 20th year at LCHD Clinic

by JUANELL JONES

He is called Doc everywhere he goes - the title doesn't get left at the office, and the doctor never gets to lose that identity, especially in small-town America where he is recognized on sight, by his patients and by others who may not call him their doctor but know he's "the doctor." He's not the only physician in town (Dr. Patrick Edwards, and FNPCs Melanie Richburg and Shannon Hammonds also serve the medical needs of residents) ... but he is the only one who is marking two decades as a family physician at Lynn County Hospital District.

July of 2012 is Dr. Donald Freitag's 20th anniversary at Lynn County Hospital and Clinic in Tahoka, and it's not just his family practice keeping him here. Freitag is a product of Lynn County, growing up in the Wilson community, marrying a local girl whose roots are here as well, and raising their family here. They still attend St. John Lutheran Church in Wilson where he and his wife, Tonda (formerly Klaus, daughter of longtime Wilson residents Donald and Carolyn Klaus) were married. They had two young sons when he first began seeing patients here in July of 1992, and a daughter was born later.

Today, their oldest son, Joshua, is married and following his father's footsteps in the medical field as he

are complicated, and sometimes a 'cure' is not an option, but when we can figure out a solution, or a fix to help a medical condition, that's rewarding for me," he said. "And another part of small-town practice is that sometimes just by knowing the person, or knowing their families and their lives in the community, I can sometimes know the 'stressors' that may also be contributing to their medical issues.

"I grew up in a small town and I know how gossip works," he said with a grin. "I like taking care of the whole family ... and sometimes, if someone in the family forgets something, why I can just look in their mother's chart, or some other family medical history, and figure out the answer," he added.

But 'knowing the family' or

"I have to assume that you're coming in with some heinous disease that I don't want, so I try to wash it off before seeing the next person," he joked. "But washing your hands is the best general advice I can give, and the second piece of advice is just as obvious - exercise and drink plenty of fluids." -- DR. FREITAG

Resident signatures sought for petition for water grant funds

by JUANELL JONES

Tahoka residents will most likely all agree on one issue: the city's underground waterline system needs updating. City officials are in the midst of the planning/design stages of implementing a city-wide water project to do just that, but the grant process is to the point where the citizens' show of support, by merely signing their names on a petition, can have a direct impact on the city's request for the construction funds.

This is the gist of the last week's town hall meeting, when city officials and Wasteline Engineering's Abby

Scioli presented information about the grant process and timeline. The grant is through the Texas Water Development Board's Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP).

"The planning phase is going well, and we have just completed the second of four phases in the planning and design portion," said Scioli. "Now it is important that the Texas Water Development Board knows that the citizens of Tahoka are behind this project, and a petition with signatures showing that support will be beneficial when submitting the next portion of

(See 'Signatures Sought,' page 6)

Assault injures O'Donnell man

A 50-year-old O'Donnell man was treated at Lynn County Hospital and later transferred to a Lubbock hospital for treatment of injuries reportedly suffered in an aggravated assault in Tahoka last Saturday.

Tahoka Police said the man was found on the ground Saturday near the intersection of 3rd St. and Ave. C. The report said the man was unable to give a complete account of what transpired, but a 43-year-old man was being sought as a suspect. Police were waiting to get a more complete statement from the O'Donnell man.

After police stopped a 2002 Chevrolet pickup that appeared to be speeding on U.S. 87 in the city limits Thursday, the driver was arrested on a report his license was suspended, and also charged with speeding, no liability insurance and expired vehicle inspection

sticker. It later was determined that the pickup had been stolen in Lubbock.

A car hit a deer on FM 211 east of Wilson Monday morning, an incident investigated by Dept. of Public Safety. Details were unavailable, but the woman driving the car reportedly was not injured.

Dispatchers at Lynn County Sheriff's office processed 298 calls in June, including 111 for the county, 131 for City of Tahoka, 20 for O'Donnell, 27 ambulance calls and nine fire alarms.

Twelve persons were in jail early this week, with three held for Gaines County. Latest arrests were for bond surrender on possession of a dangerous drug, expired inspection sticker and registration and no liability insurance, and bond forfeiture on driving while intoxicated with two or more previous convictions.

studies to become a physical therapist, and Benjamin, who was 3 months old when his father started at LCHD, is a Texas Tech student; and they have a younger sister, Sarah, who is a student at Tahoka High School.

"I don't know that my practice has turned out to be what I envisioned when I started, but I can say that I have enjoyed it, and that one of the biggest rewards is watching my patients grow up and seeing how their lives have turned out ... and in some cases, I am seeing the next generation. I like that connection, and I like living in a small town," said Freitag.

"Hey Doc!" is a greeting he hears everywhere he goes.

"Sometimes it doesn't seem like it's been 20 years, and sometimes it seems a lot longer," he said with a smile. You know what they say about living in a small town - the best part is that you know everyone, and the worst part is you know everyone's business, and they know yours."

He says his biggest reward, medically, is helping to find a "fix" for his patients.

"Sometimes their medical issues

'knowing the doctor' works both ways - just ask Dr. Freitag.

The title of 'Doc' follows him to the high school basketball game, football/baseball/etc. games, church gatherings, and other community events. He may not be wearing the traditional white lab coat he wears in the office, but the title of "Dr." is forever pre-facing his name. It's a comfort to the community, to know that medical expertise is here, available and accessible, by merely looking to the stadium, or the stands, or the pew where he sits. And, it is probably an advantage taken too often by the community.

"I can't go to the grocery store," he says with a sigh. "Invariably I get stopped and asked for medical advice. Now I don't dispense medical advice in a grocery store, the medical board tends to frown on that," he said, grinning and rolling his eyes comically. "But I can give general advice. Really, though, I'm not sure how much of that is a chance to ask the doctor for advice, or maybe because being the doctor is the only way they know me, so they don't know what else to talk about

(See 'Dr. Freitag,' page 4)

Poker, golf, food offered at Doug Barham fundraiser

The 4th Annual Doug Barham Fundraiser is scheduled for July 27-28 at T-Bar Country Club, with area residents invited to participate in a Texas Hold 'Em tournament, a 4-Man Golf Scramble, barbecue dinner and auction during the two-day period. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Douglas G. Barham Foundation for scholarships and benevolent projects.

The Texas Hold 'Em tournament will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, July 27 at the clubhouse. It's a \$20 buy-in, non-cash game. The initial buy-in and each re-buy will entitle the player to one raffle ticket. A drawing will be held for the Grand Prize of custom "Buddha Barham" poker chips. Various other door prizes will also be offered.

"The winner of the Poker Tournament will have his/her name engraved on a 'Buddha' trophy and will retain possession of the trophy until a winner is crowned in 2013. Snacks will be provided. No pre-registration required, just show up and ante up!" said a sponsor.

The 4-Man Scramble kicks off at 9 a.m. Saturday, with an entry fee of \$100 per person. Prizes will be given for longest drive and closest to the pin and here will be a cash hole. The

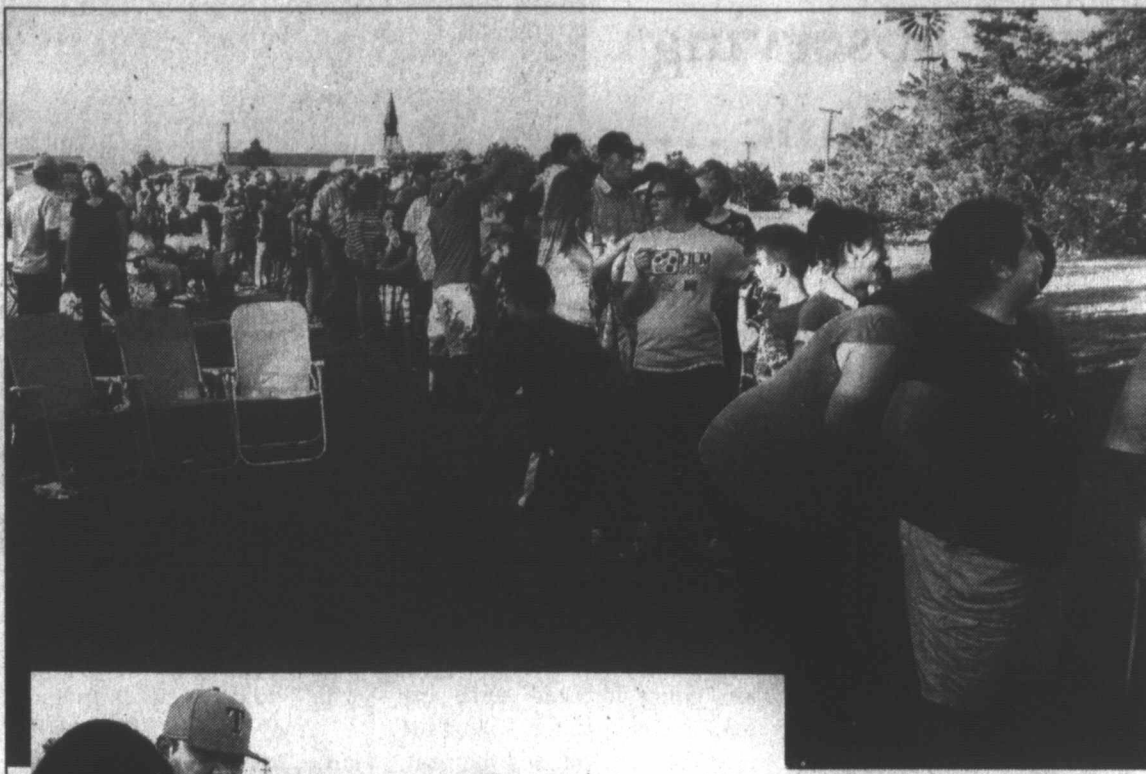
winning team will have their names engraved on a plaque that hangs in the T-Bar Country Club. Sausage wrap and ticket for the barbeque dinner are included with entry fee. To enter, contact Chad Ford at 806-577-8430, Eddie Hancock at 806-891-7191, Mike Rivas at 806-239-9567, or Alan Curry at 806-778-4661.

Come visit with friends and meet the Barham family from 3-7 p.m. as area cooks serve up a dinner of brisket, potato salad, beans, and fixings. Take out plates will be available, and tickets are available at the door, at a cost of \$15 per person.

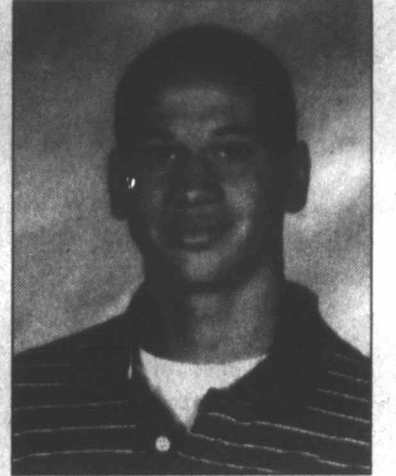
The dinner will conclude with a live auction from 6-7 p.m., with items including trips, baked goods and a variety of other items.

For more information, contact Claudia Guin at 806-535-1477 or Alan Curry at 806-778-4661.

Doug Barham is a Tahoka ex who died in a tragic automobile accident in 2009. The foundation was established to honor his memory and provide a benevolence fund for the Barham family children, as well as providing local scholarships and contributions to local philanthropic endeavors.



Hot Dog Line ...
Four hundred and fifty free hotdogs were given away by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wilson during the Fireworks Celebration held Saturday Night at the Wilson City Park. Attendees were also treated to an evening fireworks display.



KORDELL BAKER

Baker named as All-American Scholar

The United States Achievement Academy announced Kordell Briscoe Baker, of Tahoka, has been named All American Scholar.

The USAA has established the All-American Scholar Award Program offers deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines.

Baker, who attends Tahoka High School was nominated for this honor by the USAA Evaluation Committee. He will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook, which is published nationally.

The Academy selects All-American Scholars upon the recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors and other qualified sponsors.

Baker is the son of Bianca Baker of Tahoka and, the late David A. Baker, Jr. Grandparents are Peter and Joan Cirillo, of Johnstown, N.Y., and the late Jeannine A. Cirillo, and Jean Baker of Montgomery, AL and the late David A. Baker, Sr.

The Lynn County Harvest Festival is set for Saturday, Sept. 15
...
THS Homecoming is Sept. 14

LETTER to the EDITOR

The Gloaming

You know what I miss about Tahoka? Among countless other things, I miss the gloaming — that beautiful time at the end of a high plains day when your whole world turns to gold. How lucky are you who live there!

You have the most glorious sunrises and sunsets in the world. At night you can see lights of towns 30-50 miles away. You sleep under the milky way and an awe-inspiring canopy of stars. Your summer nights are cool. You can watch anvils of thunderstorms a hundred miles away and plot their courses. And then you have the most breath-taking lightning and thunder when they get to where you are.

You see friendly faces every day. You can actually smell the first frost in the fall, the rain before it falls, and the freshly-plowed earth in the spring. You can lie on your back and see shapes and faces in the clouds. Twice a year you're serenaded by cranes in lazy V formations. You always know which way is north, south, east or west. Friday afternoons are the most fun of any place on earth, and just about everyone knows your name. I do so love my home town.

Mary Jane McCord
(a former Tahokan)

Fun Facts about the USA

(website info, not confirmed facts!)

Did you know...

- The world's tallest battle monument is found in Houston, Texas
- The world's highest roller coaster is located in Ohio.
- The world's first atomic bomb was set off in New Mexico during 1945.
- The first US capital was New York City.
- The center of North America is in the town of Rugby, North Dakota.
- The center of the U.S. is in the town of Castle Rock, South Dakota.
- Bagdad, California once had no rain for 2 years!
- Boulder, Colorado is the only city in the U.S. to own a glacier.
- The wettest place in the world is Mountain Waialeale in Hawaii.
- Hawaii is the only state that grows coffee.

FROM CITY HALL

by Jerry Webster
City Administrator



WATER SHUT-OFF NOTICE

We have scheduled a valve replacement for midnight Monday, July 9, 2012. This is to replace a faulty five-inch valve that regulates one of our pumps. The water system will have to be shut off to relieve the pressure so the valve can be replaced. This means we will have to issue a "Boil Water Notice" until we can get samples taken to the lab and cleared. We are going to do it at midnight to cause the least amount of problems for everyone. Raymond says it should

not take more than two hours to remove and replace the valve. This notice will be published in the newspaper twice; it will be put on the city's facebook page, and automated calls will be made on that Monday.

REMINDER — Please remember to take brush and limbs to the city's landfill. If you live in town there is NO COST to you. Make sure you let Jesse or George inspect your load and show you where to put them.

If you have questions contact Tahoka City Hall, 561-4211.

Tahoka 3-D bandsmen bring home gold medals

After school was out in May, 24 Tahoka 3-D Band members traveled to Pflugerville to compete at the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest, May 28, and 17 received gold medals for "Superior Performance."

"This is the most gold medals Tahoka has earned at one time at the TSSEC and we are proud of every group who competed, for the competition is very stiff at this level," stated Carroll Rhodes and Johnathan Smith, band directors at Tahoka ISD.

To get to the state contest, each musician had to have

earned a '1' on a class 1 solo or ensemble.

The two vocal soloists, Braiden Fisher and Bryan Callahan, both received gold medals and a rating of "Superior." Also receiving a rating of "Superior" and gold medals were the woodwind ensemble of Sarah Freitag, Taya Bishop, Braiden Fisher, Abigail Santos, Ariana Monsivais, Hannah Thomas, Cort Fisher, Josh Miller, Kaitlyn Lehman, LisaMarie Alvarado, Mady DeLeon, Mia Saldana, Micaela Torrez, Charlie Duran, and Lauren Raindl.

The saxophone trio of Mady DeLeon, Kaitlyn Lehman, and Josh Miller and the brass sextet of Yancy Draper, Selena Tello, Bryan Pena, Zach Garcia, Bryan Callahan, and Kordell Baker received a silver or "Excellent" rating.

The clarinet trio of Vanessa Chavarria, Elizabeth Locke, and Hunter Lowdermilk earned a bronze or "Good" rating.



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Dr. Donald Freitag observing 20th year at LCHD Clinic ...

(continued from page 1)
 other than their medical issues." "I like living here. If I was in it for the money I would be in a big city and seeing only patients with insurance," he said, laughing. "But small town life is what I know, and what I like. I like looking out my office window and seeing the golf course ... that's not to say I play much golf, I haven't done that in years - what free time I have I like to spend with my family, not on the golf course," said Freitag.

well, but of course there were times when it was disappointing. I do have to say, however, that our children know the difference between serious and non-serious health issues, and emergencies and non-emergencies," said the doctor.

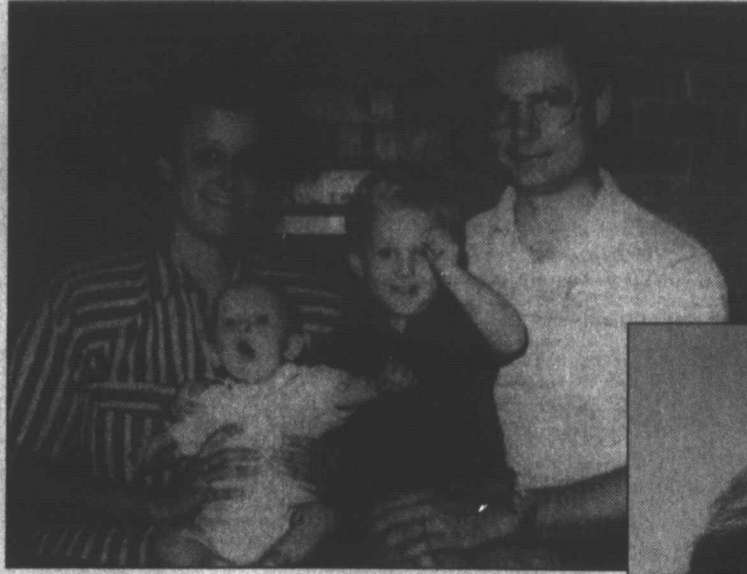
While Dr. Freitag is deeply committed to providing the best possible medical care to his patients, one of his pet peeves is being called to the ER for non-emergencies - that is, people who go to the emergency room

with the doctor during what was scheduled to be a 15-minute appointment.

"I am happy to take the time to talk about their medical issues, but I wish they would tell the receptionist when making the appointment that they are going to need some extended time with me, so that the next appointment, and the next, aren't all affected by the delay," said Freitag, who likes to schedule his appointments so that patients are not kept waiting if at all possible.

He still has many of the same patients that he began seeing 20 years ago, and he has had some humorous incidents at the office. "There was a skunk that somehow got into the x-ray lab, and I remember that Austin Simpson got the job of chasing it out of there," he said with a grin.

"And Stacy (his office nurse) and I still chuckle about one of my patients, an elderly gentleman several years ago, who



Then and Now ...

◀ This photo was scanned from the front page of The Lynn County News, July 16, 1992, when Dr. Freitag opened his practice here. He and his wife, Tonda, are pictured with their sons, Benjamin (3 months) and Joshua (2-1/2 years).

The photo below was taken last week at Dr. Freitag's office, with Tonda. ▼



and stuck the \$20 bill back in his shirt pocket with a wink, saying 'shhhh, don't tell my wife!'" said Freitag, smiling.

Stacy Engle, LVN, his office nurse, has been with Dr. Freitag since he opened his practice here 20 years ago.

"I was here when he opened his doors the first day - I guess you could say we have grown up together," Engle says with a laugh.

"Stacy is a very good asset to my practice," says Dr. Freitag. "Because we have been working together in the office for so long, she knows my routine very well and what to expect, and she knows what advice I like to give patients under certain circumstances. Stacy usually takes the patient calls for me as well. It makes for a much more efficient office.

be needed, and there were not enough procedures to allow for a fulltime person here. So we had to discontinue any surgical procedures done here at the hospital," he explained.

He says that a physician friend once told him that if a doctor stops delivering babies,

ally discussed declaring an epidemic in Lynn County.

"This was in 2000, when nearly every patient we all saw had the stomach bug. Dr. Thomas and Dr. Freid and myself actually discussed declaring an epidemic because it was everywhere - all the towns in the county, all the schools, people coming from Post - everyone had it. But in the end we didn't declare it an epidemic," said Freitag.

"There was a national flu epidemic but it actually wasn't that bad here. I did see two cases of the H1N1 virus, and all flu cases must be reported to a national database," he said.

One of the biggest changes Dr. Freitag has seen in his clinic practice in recent years is that he has gone electronic with patient information, with no more files, full of paper charts. He carries an electronic pad with him that provides access to all his patient records at a glance, but he is quick to point out that the information is contained digitally on a dedicated server in his office, only, with no electronic access through the internet.

Although the process may change as technology advances, Dr. Freitag's devotion to providing the best medical care to his patients continues unchanged. He will greet you by name and offer to shake your hand every time you come to see him, and he has no plans to stop seeing patients here anytime soon.

"Twenty years from now? I imagine I will still be right here in this office," he said with a smile. "This is home."

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The advice most often ignored by my patients?
Stop smoking. — DR. FREITAG

He knows that his family life has been impacted by his medical practice, and says he knows it took him away from his family at times.

"I tried, but I couldn't make it to all of their extracurricular activities, and I know at times our children were probably disappointed when I was called away on medical emergencies. They say they understand, and actually they tolerate it pretty

for non-emergency conditions. "Diaper rash at midnight, sore throats that can wait until an appointment time," he mutters, "these are not emergencies, and people should know the difference."

Another headache for the physician is patients who tell the receptionist one medical reason for making an appointment, and then bring a whole list of ailments they want to talk about

wanted to try Viagra - this was when it was first became popular," said Freitag. "Anyway, he came in, and said his wife sent him here to get some. 'I heard they cost \$10 a pill, and I have \$20 - I just want two,' he told me, pulling a folded \$20 bill out of his shirt pocket. I gave him three samples and told him 'no charge.' He took the samples,

"She is very protective of me and my time, and does what she can to make sure I get to see my family. We've probably seen each other at our best and at our worst!" he said with a laugh. "I enjoy working with her. My wife says we treat each other like brother and sister," he added.

Dr. Freitag's wife, Tonda, is a volunteer in the community and also assists the doctor at his office if needed, and was filling in as his office receptionist this week. "I try to help, but I think I spend more time asking how to do something than really helping," she said with a smile.

Of their three children, the couple are obviously proud parents. Dr. Freitag says the oldest is planning a career in the medical field. "Joshua earned his bachelor's degree at Texas Tech and has been accepted into school for becoming a physical therapist, where he is currently studying. Ben wants no part of what he calls 'blood and guts,' and Sarah is just not interested in the medical field. We have always encouraged them to make up their own minds ... they learned long ago that if they asked me a question to which I replied with an answer full of technical terms, that was our way of encouraging them to look it up for themselves. They're great," he added.

When he started as a family physician here in 1992, Dr. Freitag not only saw patients in the clinic but also performed surgeries and delivered babies. Lynn County Hospital is one of the few small rural hospitals that is not owned and operated by a larger corporate healthcare conglomerate, and its locally-elected board of directors sets policy and oversees the management of the hospital. That freedom comes with a price in some ways, however. Several years ago, the decision was made to no longer offer surgeries or obstetrics because it was not fiscally feasible to have a fulltime anesthesiologist on staff.

Freitag delivered 281 babies at LCHD, from 1994 through Nov. 30, 2006.

"I miss performing the surgeries, and delivering babies," Dr. Freitag admitted. "But it was too risky to try to deliver a baby if a caesarean birth might become necessary and no anesthesiologist was here to administer the sedative. And sometimes you can't schedule when an anesthesiologist will

The title of "Doc" follows him to the high school basketball game, football/baseball/etc. games, church gatherings, and other community events ... It's a comfort to the community, to know that medical expertise is here, available and accessible, by merely looking to the stadium, or the stands, or the pew where he sits. And, it is probably an advantage taken too often by the community.

The Lynn County Hospital District
Back-to-School Physicals & Immunization Contest
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 Bring your child in for Back-to-School Physicals or Immunizations during JUNE or JULY and they will be entered in a drawing for a new bicycle!
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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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Cons John L. V Master Plum Water Electr Builder/Remo A.C. & Refrig

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