



THE

Lynn County News



January 3, 2013 ■ Volume 110, No. 1

Serving Lynn County since 1903

Tahoka, Lynn County, Texas

email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

75¢

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LCN price increase to **75¢** is first in **14 years**

It has been 14 years since the per-issue price of the weekly Lynn County News has increased, but beginning with this issue the price is going up from 50-cents per issue to 75-cents. Subscription rates are also increasing slightly, with in-county rates increasing from \$23 to \$25 per year, and out-of-county rates going up from \$28 to \$30 per year.

"We have held the cost of the issue price down as long as possible, and in fact have long passed the point when the price realistically could have increased at a more gradual rate. But, the time has come to make the jump - and we don't know of any other product that has remained at the same price for 14 years," said Juanell Jones, co-publisher of The Lynn County News with her twin sister, Vendell Elliott.

"We appreciate our readers, and hope to retain our readership despite the price increase. You may notice a slight format change in the design of the newspaper this week as well, which is a more updated look," said Jones.

What's Outside

NWS official readings for Tahoka

| Date | High | Low | Precip. |
|---------|------|-----|---------|
| Dec. 26 | 38 | 14 | |
| Dec. 27 | 49 | 14 | |
| Dec. 28 | 39 | 20 | |
| Dec. 29 | 49 | 19 | |
| Dec. 30 | 44 | 18 | |
| Dec. 31 | 55 | 29 | 0.30" |
| Jan. 1 | 40 | 26 | |

Total Precip for Dec.: 0.45"
Total Precip. for 2012: 12.55"



O'Donnell VFD and their canine mascot "Cope"

O'Donnell Fire Department

Volunteering for love of their community

by JUANELL JONES

Community. It's a word that means a group of people belong together, that they share the joys and sorrows of one another, and join together to watch out for their neighbors and town. For the 17 members of the O'Donnell Volunteer Fire Department, 'community' means watching out for their extended family by volunteering their time, energy and expertise to respond to emergency situations involving fire or traffic accidents.

It actually is a family matter for most of the department, as 10 of the 17 members are related to one another, and the Pyron family has five men representing three generations currently serving together on the squad.

Another member of the crew is considered their "miracle man," surviving a forklift accident that the

OVFD responded to several years ago, to discover that the victim was one of their own crew members when they arrived on the scene.

"Not very many departments can say that they have a true miracle on their crew," said Fire Chief Jessie Perez. "Armando Arguello has been on our department for about ten years. On March 28, 2007, we got a call of an accident about 4-1/2 miles north of

O'Donnell. We responded, not knowing what to expect, and also not knowing that the person involved in that accident would be one of our own. Armando was trapped under a forklift that had fallen on him while it was to be loaded on a trailer. 'Mondo' is what we call him, and he was rushed to Covenant Hospital in Lubbock by Aero Care. He was listed in critical condition and doctors told the family

that they should start praying because he probably would not make it through the night. So as everyone kept praying, Mondo kept fighting, and thank God he made it through. It is the highlight of our days when we meet and at our fund raisers," he explained.

The O'Donnell Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1926, and many volunteers have staffed the crew

(See Fighting Fire, page 3)

Fighting Fire

New statement released:

When shot, Tahoka man was approaching officer with knife

New information has been released since last week regarding an officer-involved shooting in Tahoka on Dec. 23, which reports that Rodney Moore was shot by a Tahoka Police Officer as he was approaching the officer with a knife, forcing the officer to fire his service weapon.

The statement, released by Texas DPS Public Information Officer Sr. Cpl. John Gonzalez, included information from the 9-1-1 call sheet that the Lynn County News printed last week, noting that the 9-1-1 call at 3:16 p.m. reported a man walking around with a knife at Ave. N and S. 1st Street. Tahoka Police officers, Lynn County Sheriff's Deputies and Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers responded to the scene.

The statement went on to say: "Officers arrived on the scene and witnessed a man standing in front of the residence holding a knife. After a lengthy standoff with officers, the man refused to drop the knife. The man then turned and approached an officer, with the knife, forcing the officer to fire his service weapon. The man was injured and the officers on scene immediately started first aid. The man was transported to Lynn County Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

"The city officer involved has been placed on administrative leave, which is standard operating procedure. The Texas Rangers are investigating the shooting, at the request of the Tahoka Police Dept. Further investigative findings will be released to the District Attorney's office," the statement concluded.

Moore was 35 years old. During the week leading up to New Year's Eve, Tahoka police also investigated incidents of trespassing and criminal mischief.

A Tahoka man told police he wanted to file criminal trespassing charges against another Tahoka man who had been on his property. In the criminal mischief case, Carrol Lee Spilman of Tahoka advised that someone had broken out the rear window of his 2008 Toyota while it was parked last Tuesday night at his residence on Lockwood. Damage was estimated at \$700.

January

"Beginnings"

Monthly Photo Theme

Submit your photos to:
LynnCoNews@poka.com

Feb. theme: "Winter Wonderland" or "Love" due Jan. 20
March theme: "Where in the County is That?" due Feb. 20

See more photos page 6



Our new look ... Workers put the finishing touches on a bright new awning and sign affixed to the front of The Lynn County News recently, replacing the decades-old metal awning that this summer's hailstorm redecorated with baseball-size dents. It's a new look for 2013 for the News Office, located at 1617 Main Street in Tahoka.



Words of

Inspiration:

Happiness does not consist in pastimes and amusements but in virtuous activities.

ARISTOTLE

The Lynn County News

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PUBLISHER / NEWS EDITOR
Juanell Jones
PUBLISHER / MANAGING EDITOR
Vondell Elliott
OFFICE MANAGER
Pam Crod

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The Lynn County News

DEADLINE:
Noon Tuesdays

CONTACT US:
Office: 806-561-4888
Fax: (806) 561-6308
E-Mail: LynnCoNews@poka.com
1617 Main Street
P.O. Box 1170
Tahoka, TX 79373

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Obituaries



Ramiro Perez
Rosary for Ramiro Perez, 79, of Tahoka, was held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 27, 2012 at St. Pius X Catholic Church O'Donnell. Mass was held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 28, 2012 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in O'Donnell. Interment was at O'Donnell Cemetery. He died on December 24, 2012.

He was born in Taft, September 3, 1933, to Guadalupe and Petra (Silvas) Perez. Perez married Nicolasa Longoria on December 26, 1954. He worked as a farmer. He raised five grandkids and one great-granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Nicolasa and one brother, Vicente Perez.

Survivors include three daughters, Gloria Villanueva of Temple, Sylvia Perez and Sandra Martinez both of Tahoka; two sons, Felix Perez of O'Donnell, and Armando Perez of Tahoka; three brothers, Nick Perez of Corpus Christi, Pancho Perez of Houston, and Lupe Garcia of Taft; one sister, Modesta Garcia of Taft; 15 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren.



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

LCHD EMS, Box 1310, Tahoka, TX



Paul Milton Sherrill

Paul Milton Sherrill of O'Donnell departed this life on December 25, 2012, at the age of 84 years. He was born in Draw, on October 23, 1928, to John Elmo and Myrtle (Porterfield) Sherrill. Paul graduated from Draw High School in 1946. He married Lois Rains on August 6, 1954 in Lubbock. He was a member of First Baptist Church. He worked as a farmer.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Lois of O'Donnell; three daughters, Deb Irons and husband Dan of Midland, Tara Davis and husband Randy of Lubbock, and Cindy Carpenter and husband Terry of O'Donnell; son, Brent Sherrill of O'Donnell; sister, Bea Brown of San Angelo, and four grandchildren, Bry Sherrill, Braedyn Sherrill, Lee Irons and Erin Irons Hathaway.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, X.L., Gus, Ronald and J.E.; two sisters, Myrl and Etha Mae.

Graveside Services were held at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, December 27, 2012 at O'Donnell Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest memorials be made to Odyssey Hospice of Lubbock 1717A Norfolk Avenue 4th floor Lubbock, TX 79416 or a charity of your choice.

Join us in celebrating Paul's life by visiting www.combest-familyfuneralhomes.com.

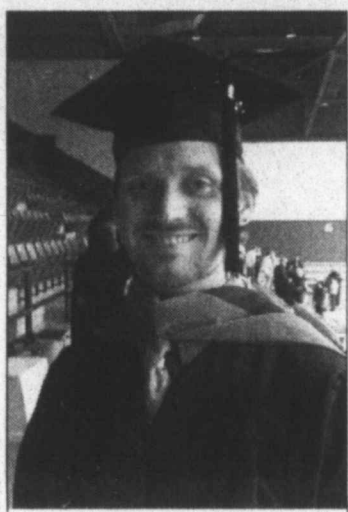
(PAID)

Once Again:
Water line repairs initiate boil notice

The City of Tahoka was forced to again turn water off city-wide, initiating their automated calling system to inform residents of a boil-water notice last Saturday. City crews repaired a 3 foot crack in an 8" cast iron main line on Lockwood Street. Due to the holidays, the testing of the water was delayed, but by Tuesday morning the city notified residents that the boil water notice for human consumption was lifted.

City residents are well-aware of Tahoka's antiquated waterline system, but the good news is that the city was approved for grant funds for replacing the city's 100-year-old water lines, and the planning portion of the project has been underway during the last year.

According to Mayor John Baker, the water system replacement plan is in final planning and design by the city's engineering consultant, and city officials hope to submit the final version to the State of Texas Water Development Board in early 2013.



JASON NEWSOM

Newsom receives Master's Degree

Jason Newsom, of Tahoka, received his Masters of Art in Wellness Promotion from Morehead State University in Kentucky. He served as a graduate assistant strength coach where he was part of a Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) championship in men's basketball and two volleyball championships. During his time at Morehead State he coached 22 OVC All-Conference Team players with 13 OVC All-Conference Honorable Mention along with multiple All-Americans.

He is the son of Dennis and Linda Newsom of Tahoka.

Phebe K. Warner CLUB NEWS

Phebe K. Warner Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 8th at 4:00 p.m. in the Lynn County Courthouse. District Judge Carter Schildknecht will present our program. Nancy Guilliams and Linda Owens will host the meeting.

Phebe K. Warner Club is dedicated to making our community a better place to live through providing support to our youth, our schools, our community and our country.

It's a new year! Anyone is invited to come and join us as we strive to better our community in 2013.

REMINDER:
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Justice of Peace, Pct. 1
and
Tax Assessor-Collector
offices are now located on the west side of the square at 1521 Ave. J in Tahoka.

Justice Peace #: 561-4337
Tax Assessor: 561-4112

by Dalton
Woodwork
Dalton Wood



RANDOM memories from childhood, mostly growing up at Jacksboro and Newport, TX:

In elementary school, which we called "grade school" in the early 40s, boys used to play a game called "Red Rover," which, as I recall, involved lining up at one point and then calling out someone's name. Whoever got called out was supposed to run over to another spot while everyone else tried to hit him. I didn't participate, because for most of my school years, I was in a wheel chair, or on crutches, thanks to a bone disease called osteomyelitis.

There was a kid in third grade who drank fountain pen ink right out of the bottle. His lips and tongue always were blue, his favorite flavor. I never heard that drinking ink caused him any physical problems; he was always a little different mentally.

After several of us boys got out of freshman class early one January day, we headed home, crossing the elementary school grounds, where classes were still in session. There was snow on the ground, and some guy dared me to try to throw a snowball through an open window on the second floor of the school. I thought I could do that, and let one fly, as hard as I could throw it. Just before it reached the open window, it lost momentum and dropped, breaking a closed window on the second floor. My mother paid for the window.

I learned to swim at a place on the edge of Jacksboro called "water crossing." The water depth went gradually from about knee deep to about 15 feet deep, I think. Anyway, I would walk as far out as I could, then swim back. We boys frequently saw snakes in the water. Don't know if the place is still there, but if it is, the only way I would go swimming there is at gunpoint.

Without such things as iPads and television, youngsters were fairly adept at organizing their own games and equipment. I remember boys using saws to make their own "rubber guns," mounting a clothespin at the back to hold ammunition, which were strips of rubber cut from car inner tubes.

We played baseball and football wherever we could, choosing up sides and playing for hours at a time. (I once read of some man's memories of playing baseball in a cow pasture: "The game was called in the fourth inning after Jimmy Jones slid into what he thought was third base.")

One of my own memorable experiences along that line was a summer day when seven or eight of us boys climbed a fence so we could play football in a big space on the estate of a woman who didn't want kids on her property. As we were playing, the football rolled into some thick bushes, so I went after it. I was in those bushes about 15 seconds, because I ran directly into a wasp's nest. I got out in a hurry, making noises heard in the next county. I had been stung 11 times.

So far as I know, that football is still in those bushes.

Rosebud the rooster and our Daddy: "The Wizard" live outside of Tahoka. They've shared morning meals and a few old re-run TV polkas!
Happy 95th Birthday, Daddy!
~ Love, Your Family and Friends

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Obituary Notices
-- POLICY --

There is no charge for obituary notices, subject to editing. If you wish the obituary to read exactly as sent, there is a \$35 fee. Photos may be included at no additional charge. The Lynn County News will publish obituaries with any connection to Lynn County. Information may be sent to The Lynn County News, P.O. Box 1170, Tahoka, TX 79373, faxed to 806/561-6308, or e-mail: LynnCoNews@poka.com.

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LynnCoNews@
Who are th

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Who are the volunteers with O'Donnell VFD?

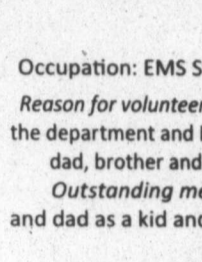
Fighting Fire ...

(continued from page 1)

Jessie Perez – Fire Chief
10 years with OVFD
Occupation: Store Manager, Auto Zone
How to assist OVFD: "To continue to help and support our department because we do not get paid for what we do. So please continue to come and support us during our annual fundraiser. Also, find us on Facebook for weather and fundraiser alerts."



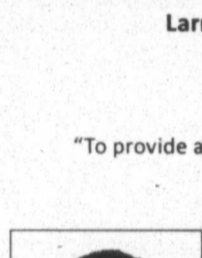
Spencer Arthur – Assistant Chief
3 years with OVFD
Occupation: Tractor Technician, BE Implement
Reason for volunteer service: "My grandpa Larry and also my dad Kyle and both uncles have been here for many years. I want to help others like they have. My younger brother has joined us now."
Outstanding memory: "As a kid, getting to come to the fire hall and go to fundraisers. Always thought it was a cool place to be."



Brandon Pyron – Captain
1 year on OVFD
Occupation: EMS Student at South Plains College
Reason for volunteer service: "A lot of my family is on the department and I enjoy doing it. I have a grandpa, dad, brother and two uncles on the department."
Outstanding memory: "Watching my grandpa and dad as a kid and I always wanted to be on the department just like them."



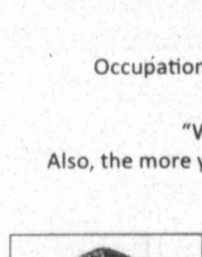
Chris Hernandez – Captain
1 month on OVFD
Occupation: Plumber's Apprentice
Reason for volunteer service: "I love the job. I was a firefighter in another town for about two years. I am also glad to help."



Larry Pyron - Training Officer
42 years on OVFD
Occupation: Farmer
Reason for volunteer service: "To provide a service for our community."



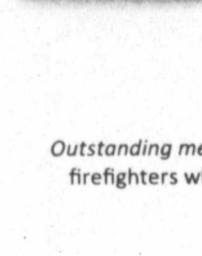
Kyle Pyron – Training Officer
23 years on OVFD
Occupation: Farmer
Outstanding memory: "The cold nights firefighting and the bunker gear being frozen on us."



Mark Roye – Secretary
1 year on OVFD
Occupation: Farm Labor/Self Employed
How to assist OVFD: "Watch for emergency trucks! Also, the more you give, the better we live."



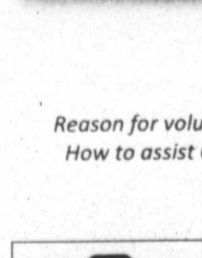
Choya Davis
29 years with OVFD
Occupation: Automation Tech, Oxy Permian
How to assist OVFD: "To keep in mind this is a volunteer service and we try our best at each fire or rescue effort."



Troy Cook
28 years with OVFD
Occupation: Farmhand
Outstanding memory: "To be with the other firefighters when we go out to fight fires."



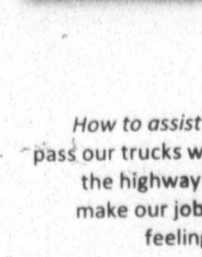
Florenzio Perez
15 years with OVFD
Occupation: Farmhand
How to assist OVFD: "Please support our department through our fundraisers."



Aurelio Hernandez III
10 years with OVFD
Occupation: Chemical Tech
Reason for volunteer service: Helping people
How to assist OVFD: We need the public to stay away from accidents



Armando Arguello
10 years with OVFD
Occupation: Farmhand
Reason for volunteer service: Helping people



Monty Barnett
1 year with OVFD
Occupation: Pastor
How to assist OVFD: "If you can, try not to pass our trucks when you see us driving down the highway with our lights on. It doesn't make our jobs any easier. It just keeps my feelings from getting hurt so bad!"



Juan Garces
(no bio available)



No Photo/Bio available:
Jerry Castro
Louis Pesina
Cameron Childress

since that time. Currently, the 17 members include volunteers who together have served a total of 156 years on the squad – that includes Larry Pyron, who has served the longest with 42 years of service, Choya Davis, a 29-year member and son-in-law of Pyron, Troy Cook, a 28-year member, and Kyle Pyron, a 23-year member and son of Larry Pyron.

The Pyron family tree is well-rooted in the O'Donnell VFD, with three generations including patriarch Larry Pyron, his son Kyle Pyron, Kyle's sons Brandon Pyron and Spencer Arthur, and Larry's two sons-in-law, Choya Davis and Cameron Childress. Then there are two more father-son duos on the squad, including Florenzio Perez and son Jessie Perez, and Junior Hernandez and son Chris Hernandez. That only leaves seven more crew members non-related on the squad, and they include Troy Cook, Juan Garces, Mark Roye, Armando Arguello, Monty Barnett, Jerry Castro, and Louis Pesina.

As volunteers, these men may be called upon to leave their real jobs at any given moment. Those jobs include store manager, pastor, several farmers, automation technician, plumber's apprentice, tractor technician, chemical technician, and college student.

Monty Barnett, pastor of First Methodist Church of O'Donnell, said he became a member of the fire department after he invited the members of the department to church for an appreciation Sunday.

"In return, one of the VFD members, Cameron Childress, asked me to serve on the fire department. Now that I think about it, he probably expected me to say no," said Barnett with a laugh.

"I am really proud of our department for wanting ongoing training on the equipment to keep our skills sharp and everyone ready for any moment. Our Chief, Jessie Perez, has been outstanding in recruiting for us, working to upgrade our equipment and fleet, and setting up those training sessions. Our veteran, Larry Pyron, has done a great job helping the new guys like me catch up on the basics. I've really appreciated the opportunity to learn before I was needed in an actual emergency," Barnett added.

"We enjoy what we do," said Fire Chief Jessie Perez, "and we do it for you, the members of our community."

The OVFD answered 37 emergency calls in 2012, including 12 grass fires, 13 traffic accidents, one house fire, two truck fires, a gas leak, a camper fire and a gin fire. They have also assisted Lynn County EMS when asked, and seven members of the department are trained in CPR, first aide, and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator).

"We are also looking forward to working with Lynn County EMS in the near future to try and start a first responder program in O'Donnell," said the Chief, adding that he has spoken with EMS Director Tyler Franklin regarding training for such a program. At one time, O'Donnell had their own EMS crew, but that has not been the case in several years, and the

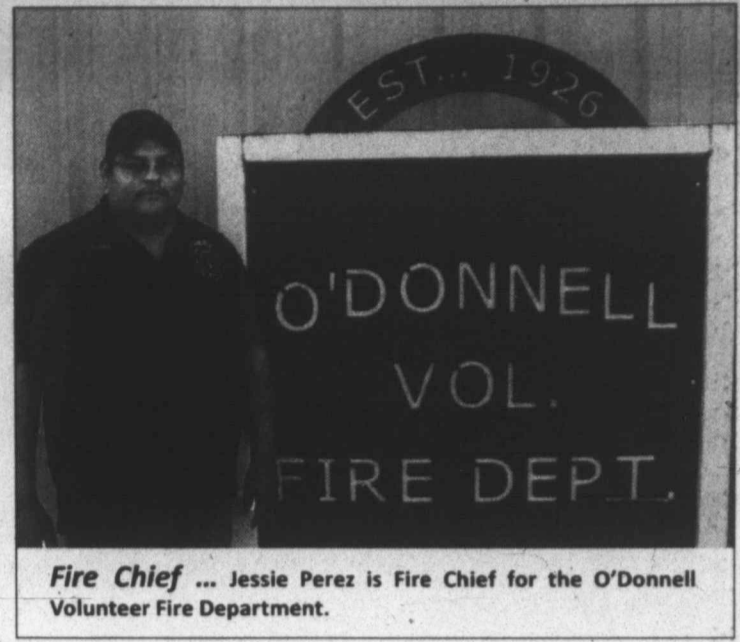
VFD is willing to step up as first responders when time is critical and the Lynn County EMS has not yet arrived.

The department is pro-active as well, ordering smoke alarms for the community. "During the last year, the O'Donnell VFD provided smoke alarms to the citizens of O'Donnell to help protect our community," said Perez.

The OVFD has three trucks for fighting fires, which combined carry approximately 2000 gallons of water. The oldest truck is a 1980 Ford brush truck, but they also have a 2009 Ford F150 brush truck, as well as a 1995 Ford Eone pumper truck. They are willing to assist neighboring fire departments in the county anytime they are asked, and they in turn ask for help when needed.

The O'Donnell Fire Dept. sponsors two fundraisers a year, with a brisket dinner in April, and their annual Rodeo Concession Stand at the O'Donnell Rodeo. Recently, the department also sponsored a gun raffle to bring in additional funds.

There is a perk for volun-



Fire Chief ... Jessie Perez is Fire Chief for the O'Donnell Volunteer Fire Department.

teering at the department, albeit one that hopefully they won't need. It's a paid membership for the services of Aero Care medical helicopter in the event it is required.

"All members of our department are provided with the Aero Care program for each member and their families, paid for by the department," explained Chief Perez.

Training and certification is important to the members of the OVFD, with regularly scheduled sessions for members. "We

are also in the processes of getting registered through the State Firemen's and Fire Marshalls Association of Texas," said the Chief.

It's a time-consuming volunteer job, and one that these men are responsible for 24/7. For the residents of O'Donnell, the fact that they have a fire department ready and willing to assist in an emergency, gives them peace of mind and an appreciation for those who are willing to sacrifice their time in service.



Training with The Jaws of Life ... Members of the O'Donnell Volunteer Fire Department participate in hours of training to ensure proper use of equipment. Pictured here, practicing with the Jaws of Life equipment that is used to help release victims from vehicles mangled in an accident, are, from left, Juan Garces, Larry Pyron, Mark Roye and Junior Hernandez. (LCN PHOTO)



35-Year Award ... Leonard Nettles was presented an award for his 35-years of service on the Board of Directors of Lyntegar Electric Cooperative at the Christmas party recently. The News mistakenly reported it as a 50-year award in last week's issue.

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Rodney Keeton and Mike Matzig

Capital Farm Credit
Clint Robinson
Jason Gandy

Farmers Co-op Association
No. 1

Lynn County Farm Bureau

LYNN COUNTY TOTAL PRECIPITATION IN 2012:
12.55"
Precipitation for January: 0.00"

Lynn County Area Gins BALE COUNT
(reported 12-31-12)

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Texas Star Gin, Wilson/Union | *71,868 |
| New Home Coop, Lakeview | *58,285 |
| Wells Coop Gin | *28,278 |
| Woolam Gin, O'Donnell | *25,425 |
| Farmers Coop #1, Tahoka | *24,782 |
| Farmers Coop, O'Donnell | *22,530 |
| Grassland Coop Gin | *9,800 |
| Close City Gin, Post | *5,120 |
| TOTAL BALES | *246,088 |

*Final Bale Count

Gins finish processing 2012 crop

Lynn County area gin facilities all reported final totals this week, as they finished processing the 2012 cotton crop for area producers. This year's total bale count, for eight area gins, stands at 246,088 bales, which is more than double last year's pitiful count of 109,885.

Leading the tally was Texas Coop Gin, with processing plants in both Union and Wilson, at 71,868 bales. New Home Coop Gin, Lakeview, processed 58,285 bales this year.

Several area gins had totals in the 20,000+ range, including Wells Coop Gin with 28,278 bales, Woolam Gin in O'Donnell had 25,425 bales, Farmers Coop Gin in O'Donnell had 22,530 bales, and Farmers Coop Assn. #1 in Tahoka reported 24,782 bales for the year.

Grassland Coop Gin reported a total of 9,800 bales processed for the 2012 cotton crop, and Close City Gin at Post had 5,120 bales by year's end.

Following is a list of total tallies by area cotton gins during the past several years, with 2007's cotton crop surpassing records at most of the gins. These figures differ from Lynn County's official total bale counts, as some of the production may have been from fields outside the county, and some producers in the county may not have processed their cotton at local gins.

| Year | Bale Count |
|------|------------|
| 2012 | 246,088 |
| 2011 | 109,885 |
| 2010 | 395,650 |
| 2009 | 249,555 |
| 2008 | 228,086 |
| 2007 | 575,403 |
| 2006 | 163,241 |
| 2005 | 511,194 |
| 2004 | 435,276 |
| 2003 | 174,722 |

from the **Mayor**

City of Tahoka
John Baker



Reacting back on 2012, we have moved ahead and look forward for a bright 2013, despite the Mayans telling us, December 21st was our last day. On December 20th, it looked like that they might be right, but now we press on.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FACING TAHOKA

Tahoka is one of the best communities on the South Plains, having a unique blend of small town charm in a close-knit community, while also having large city opportunities and potential due to its strategic proximity to a larger city. People have started to notice change and, as a result, the business growth is starting. The agriculture of the area is still down, as market prices fell last year by almost half, and insurance payments also were down. Agriculture affects us all. We all still need to pray for rain.

This being said, we faired the storm as well as could be expected. The 2010 Census showed a smaller percentage loss in population in Tahoka, than in the rest of Lynn County. With the anticipated interest in oil, gas and wind energy, we are hoping for an upturn in our growth. Communities that handle their resources poorly are the ones that take a passive approach towards community development, deciding that their only role was to provide basic services and to otherwise stand aside while business development "took care of itself", or business leaves all together. Communities that handled it well and became model communities that sustained property values and offered a high quality of living were the ones that took an active role in their community's development. They decided which types of businesses would be the best fit for them and implemented proactive economic development and internal investment necessary to attract those kinds of businesses. The City of Tahoka is taking the latter path because it has worked for every other community that had the vision and discipline to do it.

OUR PLAN AND STRATEGY

To meet the challenge of aiding community growth and meeting the inevitable, increased cost of services, without hav-

ing to raise property tax rates or eliminate existing services, The City of Tahoka's plan is to adopt a proactive economic development strategy to raise additional revenue, while at the same time making more efficient use of existing resources. The proactive economic development strategy involves the City of Tahoka taking an active role in the recruiting and retention of quality businesses that will diversify our local economy, increase economic growth from having more companies and workers paying taxes, and manage our growth by getting positive business developments to come to Tahoka.

Tahoka's internal efficiency changes will make better use of existing City funds and resources, allowing us to meet increased service demands and also make wise investments in projects and activities that support our economic development program and long term goals.

This plan and strategy is part of a larger mission statement we developed that guides the priorities and decisions we make and will serve as a guide for future generations of Tahoka leaders: *The mission of the City of Tahoka is to manage community growth, operate efficiently, provide effective services, plan for the future, and keep Tahoka a great place to live, work, and have fun.*

THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE
A. Encourage Community Growth.

Two years ago, we created the Economic Development Board to meet the challenge of managing the growth of Tahoka and increasing City revenues so tax increases will not be necessary. Led by Vernon Baker, the mission of the economic development board is to recruit and retain quality businesses in Tahoka that diversify the local economy, provide high quality jobs, improve the quality of life, and contribute to the tax base without disproportionately consuming City services.

Quality business development does not happen by accident or naturally, but only through careful planning, hard work, and wise expenditures and investments. In this case, a quality business development for Tahoka is something that diversifies our local economy, creates jobs, and provides tax revenue with minimal usage of traditional City services. The result, Tahoka welcomed several new businesses to town. Tahoka has had substantial retail, and restaurant growth, which are necessary parts of any community.

The process of recruiting quality businesses to Tahoka is similar to the things people do to get a good job or sell their home: they learn what the potential employer or buyer wants or finds valuable, they emphasize their strengths and assets, they address their perceived weakness-

es, and they make themselves or their homes look their absolute best.

Businesses will only consider expanding or relocating to a different location if there is profit involved. Fairly or unfairly, quality companies will not invest their capital and livelihoods in communities that they conclude are sloppy and undisciplined due to the community's appearance. Consequently, the City made investments in updating and modernizing its website, highway exit, street signs, and City logo, because they are the primary source of people's first impressions of Tahoka.

For similar reasons, the City revised its ordinances and began enforcing its zoning laws, to not only help become competitive for quality business development, but also to improve neighborhood appearance, property values, and quality of life. Economic development programs are investments that usually take three to five years to produce results, but the City's program has had an immediate impact. The food service, light industrial, and medical office developments are the types of targeted businesses we were looking for, and in attracting those businesses to Tahoka.

The continued success of this new program will allow us to maximize control of our future and meet additional service needs without raising taxes. Despite the recession, in the last two years, Tahoka has seen more commercial growth than it has in many years. We congratulate Lyntegar Electric Cooperative and Lynn County Hospital District on the expansions of their facilities in 2013.

B. Operate Efficiently.

The recent recession has certainly had an impact on City finances, but due to forward-thinking planning and efficiency measures begun before the recession started, Tahoka has weathered the recession better than other area municipalities. Sales Tax revenue in 2012 was up overall, and among some of the best percentage in the state. This means people are spending money locally. Some of the money may come from our local citizens, but some comes from people passing through Tahoka on US 87 & US 380. The recession is not over and fiscal challenges still remain, but Tahoka's finances will remain sound without the need to increase taxes in the near future.

C. Provide Effective Services.

The traditional services the City of Tahoka provides its residents and businesses come from the fire department, police department, public works (water, sewer, streets) department, and code enforcement department. City services not only increase safety and quality of life, but also provide Tahoka a competitive advantage in our efforts to recruit quality businesses to Tahoka to promote growth and meet increased service needs without a tax increase.

(1) Tahoka Volunteer Fire Department

The Tahoka Fire Department ("TVFD") under the leadership of Chief Steve Sanders, has done a great job the last several years. The TVFD successfully met its traditional role of providing fire protection of many house and structural fires, preventing any lives from being lost and preventing the fires from spreading to nearby homes. The TVFD also responded to many calls in the Lynn County for fire and Life Services. As an EMS member, I am thankful for the hours of training these men put in.

(2) Tahoka Police Department

The Tahoka Police Department ("TPD") under the leadership of Chief Doyle Lee has been an excellent law enforcement agency for many years. TPD has hired two new officers this year, Lester Holsey and David Ham. We look forward to many years of your service. 2012 marked 25 years of service for Sergeant Steve McKay, and also his subsequent retirement. Thank you, Steve, for making Tahoka a safe place to work and live.

(3) Public Works: Water, Sewer, Streets

The Public Works Depart-

ment led by Public Works Director Raymond Vega and his work force have been busy improving the quality of City water, sewer, and streets. The master utility plan for water and sewer is being reviewed and revised for the first time in over 20 years. The water system replacement plan is in final planning and design by our engineering consultant, and we hope to submit it to the State of Texas Water Development Board in early 2013. At a recent City Leader conference, I was amazed at the number of cities forecasting water sources within the next ten years. Your City Council took a bold move with the Canadian River Water Authority to provide Tahoka and ten other cities with water for the next 100 years.

(4) Code Enforcement Department

The City's Code Enforcement Department under the leadership of Director Jimmy Woodard has become a real asset in our effort to proactively monitoring our growth. Code and building department policies, rules, and forms are now available online and related permits and inspections are performed for a reasonable fee. Our Zoning and Building review and approval process is completed in a timely manner, giving us another competitive advantage. Our codes department makes up a vital part of Tahoka's competitive edge over surrounding small towns for quality business and possible, future residential developments.

D. A Great Place to Live, Work, and Have Fun

The City of Tahoka and partnered citizens' groups have made great strides in recent years in addressing the common complaint that "there is nothing to do in Tahoka." Newly refurbished recreational areas and events not only give people things to do, but are intended to keep the close-knit feel among existing residents while also creating customers for local businesses by attracting outside visitors to our community.

With the help of the Economic Development Board (ACT) we have refurbished the municipal swimming pool restrooms, and pool gutter and filter systems. The new play surface and canopy at the mini parks have added safety for our children. Always, the Harvest Festival brings in visitors from the surrounding area to Tahoka. The Rotary 2012 Polar Express and Santa's Land brought in people from out of town as well. These visitors, in turn, are likely to spend money at local businesses and help spread the word about Tahoka, which assists in our economic development goals and other efforts to aid in our growth and future.

CONCLUSION

Despite the challenges we face, this is a fun, exciting time to be in Tahoka. We're following a good plan for dealing with these challenges, and we can't do it alone. Here are some of the ways you can help:

(i) **Shop local.** Many of the things we go to other communities to buy can be found locally. If it's the same item at the same or similar price, support our local economy by buying it from a Tahoka business.

(ii) **Attend a local event.** Events put on by local groups and nongovernmental organizations provide fun things to do all year round. Show up. You'll have fun, make new friends, and support the fine organizations that work hard to give everyone something to do.

(iii) **Share your ideas and information.** Many of the good ideas we've had and good things that we've done or plan to do came from the input of people who took the time to call, email, or write. If you think of, see, or hear about something that you think is a good idea or practice, pass it along.

If you have any questions about an issue not mentioned or want more information, feel free to contact me directly by phone, email, or letter. May 2013 bring blessings to us all.

John Baker, Mayor

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The Curtis and Moore family wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to each of you for the many acts of kindness shown during our time of sorrow. Thank you also for the food, flowers, cards and again your kindness. Your prayers are precious to you, your kindness shall never be forgotten.

May God bless you all.
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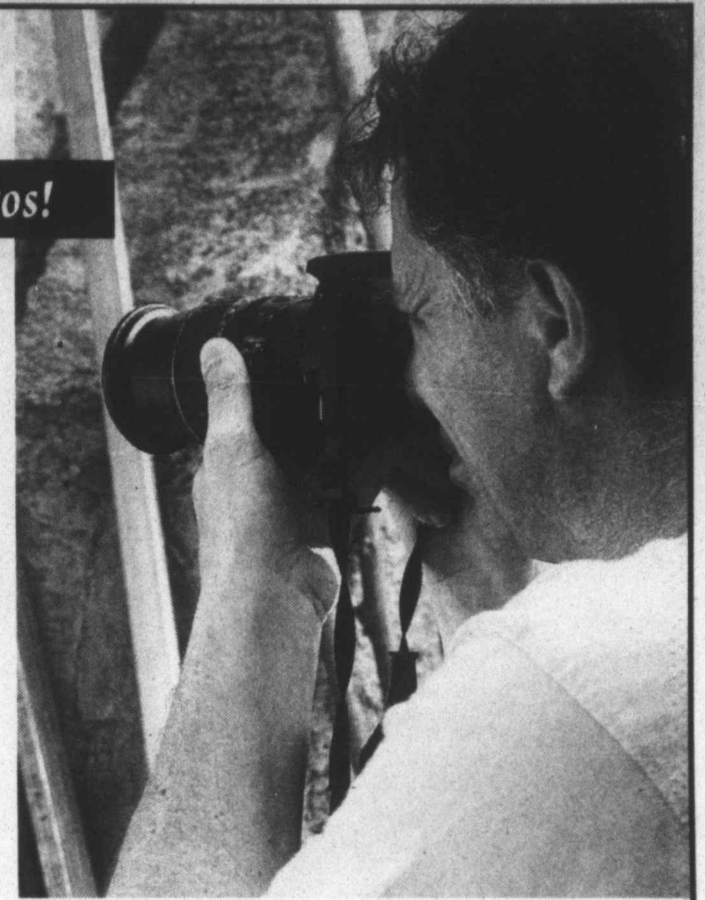
Feeling creative?

The Lynn County News wants your photos!

We are looking for submissions by readers for photos depicting our monthly themes. Each month *The News* will feature the best photo (or photos as space allows) submitted that best reflects that month's theme, and will include the name of the person submitting the photo. It's just for fun, and to showcase the photographic expertise of *News* readers.

The only criteria is that the photo must be taken in Lynn County and deadline for submission is the 20th of the month prior to the theme depicted. Photos should be submitted digitally by email to LynnCoNews@poka.com (please send attachments "actual size" for best quality).

February theme: "Winter Wonderland" or "Love"
March theme: "Where in the county is this?"
April theme: "Life is Good"



Get creative ... dust off that digital camera and wander around Lynn County to see if you can get your own color photo printed in the Lynn County News!

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New Beginnings ... Dustin and Audrey Boyd begin their new life together as a couple, pictured among the falling leaves as they leave the Life Enrichment Center in Tahoka.
(Photo submitted by Jessica Hardt)

“January Beginnings”

Submit your photos to: LynnCoNews@poka.com
Feb. theme: “Winter Wonderland” or “Love” (due Jan. 30)
March theme: “Where in the County is This?” (due Feb. 30)

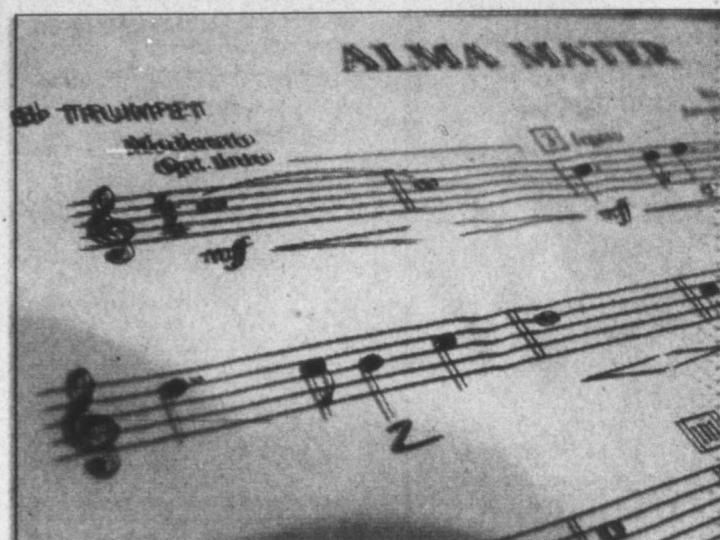
Thank you to all who submitted photos for our January theme. We invite everyone to start looking for photos to take in Lynn County to submit depicting our February theme. Since we had some extra space available this week, we were able to use several submissions.
The deadline for February’s theme is Jan. 20th.



A new life ... A delivery room nurse took this photo in the first moments of a newborn baby of Lynn County resident Kaleb Crutcher with his daughter Aubree Nash Crutcher, in the hospital delivery room. Aubree was born on Nov. 8, 2012 to Kaleb and Skye Crutcher.
(Photo submitted by Regina Crutcher)



Night Begins ... The beauty of a West Texas sunset signals the beginning of nightfall, in this photo taken from a home northwest of O’Donnell on the Wells, New Moore highway.
(Photo submitted Darla Stidham)



The Beginning ... An interesting point of view for the “Beginnings” theme is this photo of the beginning of the Tahoka High School “Alma Mater” music, for a trumpet.
(Photo submitted Yancy Draper)

New Home SCHOOL MENU

JAN. 7-11
Breakfast
Monday: Breakfast Pizza
Tuesday: Cinnamon Roll
Wednesday: Biscuit Sausage
Thursday: Waffle Sticks
Friday: Muffins
Lunch
Monday: Cheese enchiladas, refried beans, salad, hot cinnamon apples
Tuesday: Hot dog, potato rounds, veggie cup, seasonal fruit
Wednesday: Grilled cheese sandwich, vegetable soup, baby carrots, fruit cup
Thursday: Chicken nuggets, mac & cheese, salad, green beans, apple
Friday: Hamburger, corn, baby carrots, peaches

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Wilson SCHOOL MENU

JAN. 7-11
Breakfast
Monday: Biscuits w/ sausage gravy or Fruit Loops
Tuesday: Cinnamon Toast w/ sausage or Lucky Charms
Wednesday: Mini Corn dog or Cinnamon Toast Crunch
Thursday: Pancakes w/ syrup or Cocoa Puffs
Friday: Cinnamon roll or Trix
Lunch
Monday: Lasagna, green peas, corn, apple
Tuesday: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed fruit
Wednesday: Beef tacos, Mexican style beans, lettuce, cheese, orange
Thursday: Cheeseburger, glazed carrots, pineapple tidbits
Friday: Pizza, tater tots, pork & beans, grapes

You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.
--Mark Twain

If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up somewhere else.
--Yogi Berra

Don't bunt. Aim out of the ballpark.
--David Ogilvy

Tahoka Bulldog Track Schedule

| DATE | MEET | LOCATION |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| February 28th | Seagraves Eagle Relays | Seagraves |
| March 8th | Everritt McAdams Relays | Plains |
| March 22nd | Crosbyton Chieftain Relays | Crosbyton |
| March 28th | Tahoka Bulldog Relays | Tahoka |
| April 5th | Roosevelt Eagles | Roosevelt |
| April 11th | District Track Meet | Seagraves |
| April 18th | Area Track Meet | Sundown |
| April 26 - 27th | Regional Track Meet | Levelland |
| May 10 - 11th | State Track Meet | Austin |

Terms expiring for three Tahoka ISD Board members

The Tahoka ISD Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, December 20, for their final meeting in 2012, taking care of routine business and approving filing dates for the May election. Three members of the Board of Trustees have terms expiring in 2013, with three places to be filled in the election.

The Board officially approved the “notice to file applications for a place on the ballot for May 11, 2013 school board election.” The first day to file for a place on the ballot will be Wednesday, January 30, 2013. The last day to file for a place on the ballot will be Friday, March 1, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. Trustees Scott Dimak, Abraham Vega and Brenda Dotson have terms expiring on the board this year.

“There was discussion on how to meet the needs of students as we train them for the 21st century,” said Superintendent Steve Burleson. The Board and school administrators had a three-hour training session with John Horn, senior associate, with the Schlechty Center, on December 5, 2012. There will be more discussion and training in the future. Board President, Frank McLelland, gave a report that showed that all seven board members had received their required board training hours during 2012.

Trustees approved a contract with the West Texas Food Service Cooperative for the 2013-2014 school year. Jenni McLelland gave a report on the District’s Performance Based Monitoring Analysis-Systems, which was approved as presented.

Supt. Burleson reported enrollment district-wide at 606 students 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 Jason Powell announced that Tahoka Elementary students placed fourth in a UIL contest that the students participated in at Seagraves ISD on December 11. There were also several Tahoka Middle school students that placed in the District UIL meet at Seagraves ISD.

The next regular board meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 17, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Harvick Educational Building.

LYNN COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPT. DISPATCH

December 2012 calls:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| County | 125 |
| Tahoka | 56 |
| O’Donnell | 8 |
| EMS | 30 |
| Fire | 5 |
| Animal Control | 34 |
| Total Calls | 258 |

What’s Happening this week

IN SPORTS

TAHOKA BASKETBALL

- Jan. 3 - at New Deal JV/VB, 5 pm
- Jan. 4 - Sundown JV/VG, 5 pm
- Jan. 8 - at Plains JV/VB/VG, 5 pm

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~ Wendell Berry

Monetary gifts to Tahoka Lake Pasture or the J.C. Calm Foundation are tax deductible.

January 10, 2013

What’s In

- Woodwork
- Obituaries - Juanita B...
- Letters to - Food Pan... - Christmas
- O’Donnell introducing “Dad” mini
- Tahoka, O Stock Show
- What’s ha week in Sp



Picture Grand

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MARCH “Where Cou

What’s Ou

NWS official

| Date | High | Low |
|--------|------|-----|
| Jan. 2 | 49 | 40 |
| Jan. 3 | 40 | 32 |
| Jan. 4 | 32 | 24 |
| Jan. 5 | 53 | 45 |
| Jan. 6 | 54 | 46 |
| Jan. 7 | 53 | 45 |
| Jan. 8 | 47 | 39 |

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