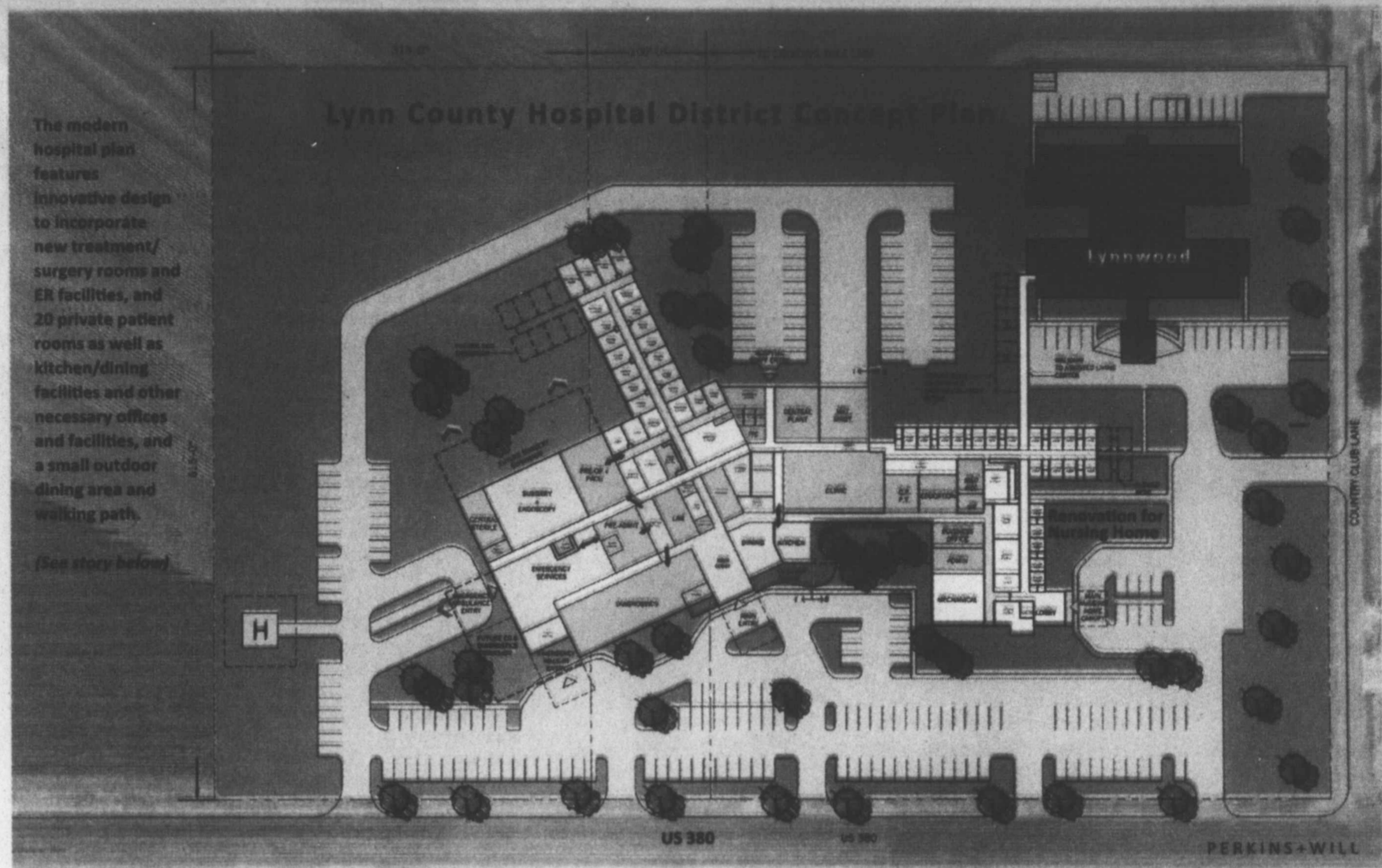


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# LN THE Lynn County News

March 20, 2014 ■ Volume 111, No. 12

Tahoka, Lynn County, Texas

email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

75¢

## VFD says: Change batteries in smoke detectors

Tahoka Volunteer Fire Dept. reminds citizens to change the batteries in smoke alarms in their homes, and to purchase at least one smoke alarm if one is not already in the home. Most alarms need a new battery at least once a year. Some smoke alarms have batteries that last for up to 10 years, but if the alarm is more than 10 years old it must be completely replaced with a new alarm and a new battery.

Check smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button. Never take smoke alarm batteries out to put into other items like games or remote controls, and teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear the alarm sound.

Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms, according to information from the U.S. Fire Administration. More than one-third of home fire deaths resulted from fires in which no smoke alarms were present at all. One-quarter of the deaths were caused by fires in properties in which smoke alarms were present but failed to operate, because of dead batteries, or missing or disconnected batteries.

## Architectural plans drawn for proposed new hospital

by JUANELL JONES

Architectural plans have been drawn for the construction of a new hospital here, as Lynn County Hospital District officials progress with plans for a proposed new hospital and renovation of the current facility into a full-time nursing home. The plans provide for building to the west of the current hospital building, for an LCHD complex that would include a new hospital and nursing home adjacent to Lynnwood Independent & Assisted Living Center, with all three facilities connected.

The modern hospital plan features innovative design to incorporate new treatment/surgery rooms and ER facilities, and 20 private patient rooms as well as kitchen/dining facilities and other necessary offices and facilities, and a small outdoor dining area and walking path. A portion of the current hospital, such as the clinic-office/treatment rooms and administrative offices, would be remodeled to incorporate the new design, and the remainder of the hospital (including the current hospital patient rooms)

would be renovated in a second phase as nursing home facilities.

Lynn County residents will have an opportunity to vote on a \$28 million bond for the proposed project, in a May 10 election. Stace Holland, Hospital CEO, says he is planning to have several town hall meetings in the community throughout the month of April, to explain the proposal and answer questions county residents may have about the project.

"We are excited about an opportunity to grow and serve the

residents of Lynn County," said Holland, adding that the hospital has seen significant increases in patient admissions during the previous year, up 157% from 60 admissions in 2012 to 154 admissions in 2013, and Emergency Room (ER) visits increased from 1,921 in 2012 to 2,280 in 2013, which is an increase of 19%. Lab and x-ray usage has also increased dramatically in the past year.

Holland believes this increase in volume in patient care areas is due to a renewed dedication and commitment of hospital staff offering compassionate care to their patients, and he has high expectations that providing more testing procedures and surgical services will bring even more growth, while providing much-needed healthcare services here.

"We want Lynn County Hospital to be the first choice for healthcare, and we believe that a new physical facility that provides more space and

offers more services would have a positive impact on the community," said Holland.

He said that if the bond election passes voter approval, the economic impact on the community during the construction phase could be significant.

"During the construction, I estimate we would have 60 workers here every day - that's 60 extra people in town who need meals, gasoline for their vehicles, and other amenities," said Holland. He estimated that if each worker spent a minimum of \$15 per day for meals alone, that would bring \$900 a day to local food establishments.

When construction is completed, Holland said that he anticipates hiring 24-30 more people to staff the new nursing home and some additional hospital staff, which would bring local job opportunities and hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community. In addition, the CEO

(See HOSPITAL, page 4)

"We want Lynn County Hospital to be the first choice for healthcare..."  
-- STACE HOLLAND, CEO

## What's Outside

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Mar. 11	81	35	
Mar. 12	56	33	
Mar. 13	67	31	
Mar. 14	77	30	0.01"
Mar. 15	72	38	
Mar. 16	56	40	
Mar. 17	76	30	
Total Precip for Jan.:			0.0"
Total Precip for Feb.:			0.48"
Total Precip for Mar.:			0.0"
Total Precip. for 2014:			0.48"



(LCN photo/artwork by Vondell Elliott)

## James Craig appointed Lynn County Attorney

James Craig, a Tahoka attorney, was appointed Monday as Lynn County Attorney, to fill the position being vacated by Donnis Scott on April 1. Lynn County Commissioners approved the appointment in a unanimous decision after interviewing Craig and deliberating in Monday morning's session. Atty. Scott is resigning to accept a position as an Assistant AG.

Craig and another local attorney, Rebekah Filley, were the two applicants for the position, but Mrs. Filley was reportedly unable to attend the interview session as she was in a hospital giving birth at the time.

The interview and deliberation process was conducted in closed executive session for just over an hour, and upon returning to open session Commissioner Danny Martin made the motion to appoint Craig as Lynn County Attorney beginning April 1, seconded by Commissioner Keith Wied. Commissioners Martin, Wied, Don Blair and John Hawthorne all voted in favor.

Craig will serve as the county attorney until the November 2014 Gen-

eral Election, at which time he plans to file as a write-in candidate for the two-year unexpired term, since it is too late to file for a place on the ballot. Any other interested write-in candidates may also file when that filing period opens.

"I am excited to be able to serve the county as the Lynn County Attorney, and look forward to working with other county officials," Craig told *The News*.

In other business, commissioners approved a contract with Switch IT for 12 new computers for county offices, and approved an interlocal agreement for a Regional Public Defender for capital cases, should any such cases come to trial in the county.



Words of Inspiration:

Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it.

-- JOHN MAXWELL

**The Lynn County News**

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**Obituaries**



**Tommie Mack Forbes**

Tommie Mack Forbes, 75, of O'Donnell joined Jesus, friends and family in heaven about 3 p.m. Thursday, March 13, 2014. He was surrounded by his family who loved him dearly. Mack was born to J. T. and Sue Forbes on November 30, 1938. He graduated from O'Donnell High School in 1957 and from Texas Technological College with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1961. He loved his classmates and lifetime friends. Mack began working for his dad in the Ford business at an early age and was a Ford Dealer until 1989. He was a lifetime farmer and rancher and devoted family leader. He is Granddaddy to 13 grandchildren and their friends. He is a loving husband and father. His presence will be supremely missed.

Mack is survived by his wife of 54 blessed years Donna Vestal Forbes. He is the father of Don and Penny Forbes, Stanley and Shannon Forbes, Rhonda and Brian Kingston. Grandchildren include, Chera and Tatum Bessire, Tonya and Jeff Graham, Justin Forbes, Hanna Forbes, Fallon Forbes, Tommy Mack Kingston and Rhett Kingston. Great Grandchildren include Bliss and Brock Bessire, Lincoln and London Graham. Mack is also survived by his sister Mary Forbes Finch and husband Dale of Sweetwater, extended family and lifetime friends.

Celebration of life services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 16, 2014, at First Baptist Church O'Donnell with interment to follow at the O'Donnell

Cemetery.

Family suggests donations to the First Baptist Church of O'Donnell, First United Methodist Church of O'Donnell, O'Donnell Museum or to the O'Donnell Downtown Lighting Fund c/o The 1946 Study Club.

Please join us in celebrating Mack's life by visiting [www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com). (PAID)



**Mitzi Blackerby**

Graveside services for Mitzi Blackerby, 55, of Lubbock were held Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at The City of Lubbock Cemetery with Rev. Sam Wheeler officiating. Mitzi died on Tuesday, March 11, in Carthage.

Mitzi was born on November 2, 1958 in Olton, to Sammy Lee Wheeler and Dona Faye Malone. She married Earl Blackerby on April 23, 1988 in Hobbs, NM. She had worked for the US Census Bureau for several years before retiring to be a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her mother Dona Faye Johns in 1991; a sister Shejia Johnson in 1996 and a nephew Joell Lowdermilk in 2010.

Survivors include her husband Earl Blackerby of Lubbock; two sons Eric and Sandy Johnson of Lubbock, Chad and Nicole Grant of Lubbock; her father Sammy Lee Wheeler of Center; a brother James Ladon Wheeler of East Texas; a sister, Jana and Chad Lowdermilk of Tahoka; and three grandchildren.

**NO TEXTING!  
Park the phone  
when you drive.**



**Minnie Lou Ash**

Minnie Lou Christine Ash, age 79, of Tahoka, passed away on March 16, 2014. She was born on March 22, 1934 on a farm near Garza County to Orville J and Esther Stanley. She was raised in the Grassland and Draw area. She was a graduate of Abilene Christian University and began her teaching career in Slaton in 1955. Minnie Lou married her loving husband, Johnny Ray Ash, on March 24, 1956 and farmed land near Grassland. Minnie Lou was a former teacher and school administrator at Tahoka ISD where she began teaching in 1962. She most recently lived at Lynnwood Assisted Living facility at 1801 Country Club Road, Tahoka.

Minnie Lou Ash was a member of Tahoka Church of Christ in Tahoka. She was a very devoted Christian who was faithful to her Lord in word and deed.

Minnie Lou Ash was preceded in death by her husband, Johnny Ray Ash in 1988; her parents, Orville and Esther Stanley; brothers Ollie J and Frankie C Stanley; and a sister Patsy Lavern Roberts.

She is survived by her admiring children Carolyne Wilson (spouse John) of Tahoka, Carlton Ash (spouse Jayne) of Sugar Land, Texas, Carla Gulley (spouse Jon David) of North Richland Hills, Texas, and Charles Ash (spouse Andrea) of Athens, Georgia. They each have families that provided Minnie Lou with 17 grandchildren: Jeanine Howell (spouse Landon), Jessica Murphy (spouse Larry), Jeremy Ash, Lauren Ash, Taylor Gulley (spouse Rachel), Jason Gulley, Shawn Gulley, Abigail Gulley, Alyssa Gulley, Kerry Kitchens-Ash, Savannah Ash, Jonathan Ash, Zachary Ash, Benjamin Ash, Christopher Ash, Samuel Ash, Mary Heather Ash; and three great grandchildren, Brooklyn Howell, Siena Howell and Courtland Murphy. She is also survived by numerous other loving relatives and close friends.

Minnie Lou Ash will be laid to rest next to her husband of 32 yrs in the Grassland Cemetery near where they farmed and raised their family.

Viewing will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Combest Family Funeral Homes, Tahoka. Services will be held at the Church of Christ in Tahoka, on Thursday, March 20, at 1:00 p.m. with interment to follow at Grassland Cemetery, in Grassland.

Pallbearers are Landon Howell, Larry Murphy, Jeremy Ash, Taylor Gulley, Jason Gulley, and Jonathan Ash.

In-lieu of flowers family suggest memorial donations be made to The Children's Home of Lubbock, P. O. Box 2824, Lubbock, TX 79408 (806) 762-0481 or Lynn County Hospital District Foundation, 2600 Lockwood Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 998-4533

Please celebrate the life of Minnie Lou by visiting [www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com). (PAID)

by Dalton **Woodwork**



**S**INCE SPRING officially arrived a week ago (March 13), I thought I might do a tiny bit of spring cleaning, and go through one of the stacks of magazines and other stuff on top of my desk, and besides, the stack is about to fall over. So I went through all those things I was pretty sure I might need someday, and sure enough, most of it is not so valuable any more.

Here are some of the things I found:

A pamphlet telling me I can reset my body to feel younger and healthier by mixing my breakfast cereal with yogurt instead of milk. Haven't tried that, sounds messy. Anyway that went to trash.

Several recent and older copies of the Texas AAA magazine, which has some interesting articles I almost never read. Trash now.

Texas Historical Commission's quarterly mag (see comments on AAA above).

A 2013 calendar, with notes in days I went to doctors and other tax-deductible things. Just in case the IRS comes snooping around when somebody tells them I didn't vote for Obama.

Various other magazines I will never read, including old copies of Consumer Reports. Out they go.

Several pieces of sheet music I mistakenly put in that pile instead of with all my other printed music. Error corrected.

A piece of paper with the phone number of the Lubbock Highway Patrol information officer. Good thing I don't often need it.

Information about switching over to DirecTV. About two years old, now.

Papers on re-roofing our home in July 2012. Remember, the best time to buy a new roof (or to build a new house, for that matter) is always about 10 years ago.

When I finished, there still is a stack of unneeded stuff on my desk. But at least I can see over it.

My desk is still pretty messy. It reminds me of Fibber McGee's closet. If you remember Fibber McGee's closet, it's time to retire. If you never heard of it, ask your parents or grandparents.



**Tumbleweed fence ...** Tumbleweeds are a common sight in this part of Texas during the dry, windy weather. This photo was taken from U.S. 87 a few miles south of Tahoka on Tuesday afternoon, showing tumbleweeds pressed against a wire fence. (Photo submitted by Starr Bray)

**Criminal mischief, theft, assault reported here**

During the past week, Tahoka Police investigated incidents listed as theft, assault/family violence and two reports of criminal mischief.

The theft charges were filed after a 53-year-old suspect identified by a witness at Allsup's came into the Tahoka store last Thursday afternoon and left without paying for 8 bottles of beer he loaded into a backpack. He also reportedly dropped one bottle on the floor, where he left it after it broke. The beer was valued at \$28.16.

Beer also was a factor in the family violence incident March 11. Police went to a residence where a woman said her daughter had assaulted her because she was pouring out her daughter's beer. The 32-year-old daughter was arrested.

Ashley Nicole Clark reported March 11 that the glass window on the back screen door of her home had been broken out, with damage estimated at \$100.

Another criminal mischief report was filed last Thursday when Anthony Gabriel Deleon advised that his 2010 Nissan Altima had been keyed across the top, with damage estimated at \$2,000.

On Saturday, Police arrested a 30-year-old Tahoka man on an outstanding warrant from Garza County for an unspecified offense.

**Happy Birthday, Lucy Rodriguez**



on MARCH 23

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Happy to be Alive!**

Dear Editor,

Thanks to all that were so generous and supportive in the "Happy to be Alive: small dog rescue" t-shirt order fundraiser. Three small dogs will get vet care, and a second chance for adoption.

There were a total of 29 shirts ordered through the fundraiser. Thanks to Angie, Rosalie, Sherron, Susan, Debbie, Rod, Alyssa, Connie Pirtle, Bianca Baker and family, Regina, Eda Richardson, Karen and Ark Animal Hospital. A special thank you to Patricia Generanx of Vancouver BC, Canada, for her generous \$250 donation.

Thank you,  
**Arlene & Ron Ohlson**

Whether you need bandages or cold medicine, prescription drugs vitamins or ... we can help!

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# Thank You ... from the LYNN COUNTY LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

The following individuals and firms have invested in the future of Lynn County and its young people by contributing generously to Lynn County Livestock Association and by participating in Premium Bidding at the Sale.



**Best in the show ...** Pictured here are the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion winners at the Lynn County Stock Show, from left: Ian Cobb, Reserve Grand Champion Goat; Kyley Gill, Reserve Grand Champion Lamb; Connor Cook, Reserve Grand Champion Barrow; Alyssa Barton, Reserve Grand Champion Steer; Lindsey Cobb, Grand Champion Goat; Celee Smith, Grand Champion Lamb; Jake Tabor, Grand Champion Barrow; and Karter Long, Grand Champion Steer.

A.B. & C.W. McCleskey Farms  
Ag Texas FCS  
Alan & Sharee Nettles  
Allen & Tatum Schilling  
Allyson & Lee Lisemby  
Andy & Judi Fillingim  
B.E. Implement  
B.L. & Pam Miller  
BC Supply  
Becknell Wholesale  
Bee Equipment  
Belew Farms-Denny & Mary  
Bill & Donna Aten  
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Caprock Metal Works  
Cardi's Café  
Casey & Nikki Donald  
Chad & Lea Swinford  
Chemical Weed Control  
Chip & Terri Anderson  
CHS Service Center  
Cisco Equipment  
City Bank Texas-Lubbock  
Clay & Celeste Taylor  
Clyde & Cam Wilke  
CNT Spraying  
Cody & Amanda Donald  
Cody & Stephanie Allen  
Cook Farms-Danny & David  
Courtney & Mandy Stidham  
Cowlicks Barber Salon

Crop Production Services  
Crop Production Services-Slaton  
Cruz Rivas  
Curtis & Linda Wilke  
Dale & Sharla Schaffner  
Dan Lee & Donna Stone  
Daniel & Jennifer Clark  
Danny & Amy Preston  
Danny & Marla Cook  
Danny Martin  
Danny Nettles  
Darin & Amy Epley  
Darrell Paul  
Darrow Talkmitt  
David & Lisa Cook  
David & Nan Wied  
David Ehlers  
David, Treva, Ben & Debbie Franklin  
Davis Insurance  
Davy & Kassidi Stone  
Dean Bartley  
Designs & Daisies  
Diversified Sub-Surface  
Don & Laura Bishop  
Don Blair  
Donnie & Tammie Wilson  
Doug & Leah Taylor  
Doug & Trisha Green  
Dr. Mark & Sidney Dorsett  
Drew & Shelly Stone  
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First Bank & Trust  
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Fulton Quien Sabe Ranches,  
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Gid Moore  
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Gregg & Stina Nieman  
H&H Trailer Sales  
Helena Chemical-Ben Franklin  
HF&C  
Huffaker Farms  
Huffaker Law Office  
Hurst Farm Supply  
Hydraulic Shop LLC.  
Ian & J'Lynn Mounce  
In Memory of Dale Zant  
J.E. & Tommye Nance  
J.T. Miller  
Jack Hamilton Tire  
Jackie & Darla Stidham  
James & Robin Tabor  
Jay & Kim Hurst  
Jay Forsythe  
Jeff & Cassie Martin  
Jerry & Missy Jaquess  
Jim & Christy Bingham  
Jody & Lauren Clem  
Joe & Christy Hurst  
Joe & Jerri Brooks  
Joe Brown Insurance  
Joe, Kim & Coy Mercer  
John & Donna Fields  
John & Lisa Hawthorne  
John Witt Butane  
Jolene Tomlinson  
Jon Luna  
Jordan & Corey Clem  
JP & Miranda Stice  
Kathy Rice  
KD's @ Twins in Post  
Kedon & Becki Burke  
Keith Wied  
Kendall & Katie Long  
Kent & Jeanie Stone  
Kent & Mistie Kahl  
Kevin & Julie Bass  
Kim Paris  
Knorpp Insurance Agency  
Lanny Zant  
Larry & Karon Durham  
Lee Jay Lisemby  
Leland & Barbara White  
Leland Zant  
Leonard & Janice Dube  
Leslie & Maxine Paris  
Lester, Sheri & Trevor  
Link Show Pigs  
Lockaby Farms  
Lone Star Crop Ins.-Tatum  
Lonnie & Connie Donald

Louder & Louder CPA  
Lubbock Cotton Growers  
Lubbock Grader Blade, Inc.  
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Lynn Co. Hospital  
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Lynnco Automotive  
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Marc & Cathy Amonett  
Mark & Georgia Clem  
Mark & Quenna Terry  
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Rocky & Lexie Wilson  
Roddy & Marci Gandy  
Ronnie & Deann Bratcher  
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Rusty & Mandy Cook  
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Shawn & Deena Ballard  
Slaton Gas  
Smith Fans  
Smithco Pools  
South Plains Compost  
South Plains Precision Ag  
South Plains Vet Clinic  
Spike Dykes Ford  
SPJST-South Plains Lodge  
Stan Gill  
Stanton Fertilizer  
State National Bank  
Steve & Ann Lisemby  
Steve & Carol Miller  
Steve & Shirley Burleson

Stringer Insurance  
T&S Farms-Ty & Sharla Askew  
Tahoka Drug  
Tahoka Livestock Assn.  
Tahoka Rotary Club  
Tahoka Thriftway  
Tahoka Volunteer Fire Dept.  
Taylor, Cassidy & Paislee Allison  
T-Bar Ranch  
Terry Co. Tractor  
Terry Co. Vet. Hospital  
Terry County Coop Gin  
Texas Star Co-op  
Tim & Kendra Fulton  
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Tommy & Sherri Stone  
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Wayne & Loretta Tekell  
Wayne & Robin Taylor  
Wells Farmers Co-op  
Wildcat Manufacturing Co.  
Woolam Gin  
Wylie Manufacturing  
Zane Curry Design



**Last show ...** Pictured here are the seniors at the 2014 Lynn County Stock Show, their last county show. They are, from left, Hunter Lowdermilk, Makenzie Dimak, Mckenzy Forsythe, Jesse Terry, Dastine White, Nicole Taylor, Madison Lockaby, Karter Long, and Merritt Mitchell.

Martin Irrigation-Danny W. Martin  
Marvin & Emily Pierce  
Math & Linda Bartley  
Matt Farmer  
Matt Hamel Ag Products  
Mesa Pivot Irrigation  
Michael & Carol White  
Michael Baker  
Mike & Beth Huffaker  
Mike & Julia Allen  
Mike & Michelle McMillan  
Mike & Paige Rivas  
Milt & Dorothy Draper  
Milton & Mary Ann Edwards  
Mitchell Family-James, Mr. & Mrs. Binie White  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Wilke  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Bragg  
Nan & Duane Howell  
Nathan & Mindy Jordan  
Nathan Morris  
New Home Buyers Pot  
New Home Co-op Gin  
O.D. Kenney Auto Parts  
O'Donnell Livestock Assn.  
One Stop Burritos  
Patsy Barnett  
Plains Cotton Cooperative  
Plains Cotton Growers  
Poka Lambro  
Quick Stripe Paving  
Quintin Talkmitt  
R.T. & Shirley Draper

## A Special Thanks to the following:

**BUCKLE DONORS:**  
Lynn County Farm Bureau  
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Farmer's Coop Assn. - O'Donnell  
B.E. Implement  
New Home Coop Gin  
Farmer's Coop Assn. #1 - Tahoka  
Wells Farmers Coop Gin  
Texas Star Coop  
Woolam Gin - O'Donnell  
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**PRIZE MONEY DONORS:**  
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First National Bank, Tahoka

**BBQ DONORS:**  
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Farmer's Coop Assn. #1 - Tahoka  
Grassland Coop  
New Home Coop Gin  
Texas Star Coop  
Wells Farmers Coop Gin  
Woolam Gin - O'Donnell

(If any name has been omitted, please let the Lynn County Extension Office know, and they will correct the mistake.)

**THANK YOU!**  
Thanks to your generosity we raised  
**\$167,940**  
in sales this year!

**A New Record in Sales!**

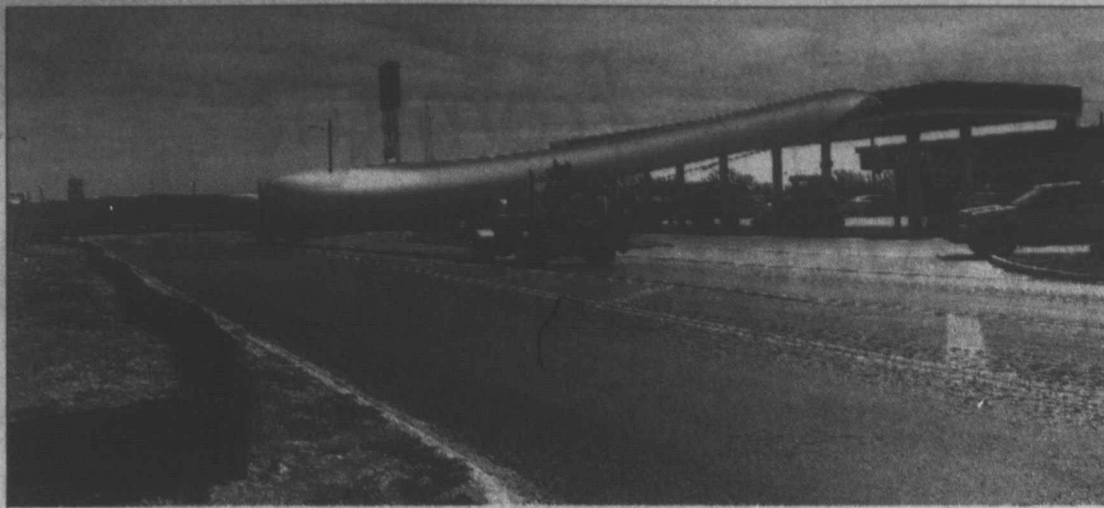
### Tahoka Chamber sets Spring Fling casino night for members

Tahoka Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Spring Fling casino night for Chamber members and spouses next Saturday, March 29. The event will be held at the Cotton Creek Barn, one mile west of New Home on FM 211 (the Chamber's newest member), from 7 p.m. until midnight. Chamber members and their spouses will have free admission, and employees of Chamber-member businesses are invited to attend if they choose, by paying admission at the door.

Texas Hold'Em, Black Jack, Craps and Roulette will be part of the night's fun, with finger foods and a cash bar available as well. For more information on the event, contact Jon Luna at jon@poka.com.

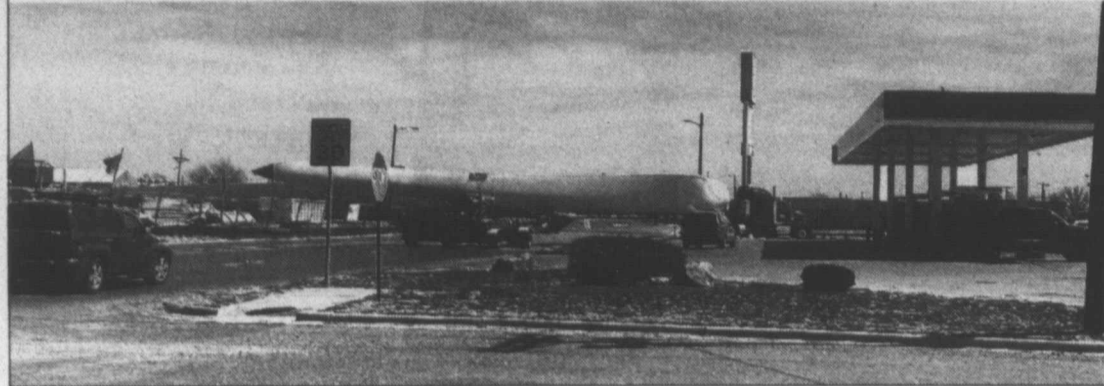
Anyone interested in joining the Tahoka Area Chamber of Commerce is invited to join and attend the Spring Fling. For information about joining the TACC, contact TACC President James Craig at 998-4515.

Visit your City-County Library  
1717 Main St. • Tahoka TX  
http://wfs.tsi.state.tx.us/tahoka



**Road block ...** A number of these wind turbine blades came through Tahoka on Monday afternoon, on their way to their final destination. Coming from the north on U.S. Highway 87, drivers had to maneuver the 166-foot blade through the Stripes parking lot and use a remote control at the far end of the blade to turn to go east, therefore blocking the east/west bound traffic for a short time.

(LCN PHOTOS by Pam Elrod)



### Tahoka firemen mostly called outside city limits in 2013

Tahoka's Volunteer Fire Department battled 21 fires and was needed in five other emergencies during 2013, but only two of the fires were within the Tahoka city limits.

These facts were made available this week in the annual report of incidents released by Bill Schoemann, public information officer for the VFD. Schoemann explained that the

firemen answered many other alarms during the year in which firemen were needed only on standby, both in the city and county.

The VFD, manned by 20 volunteers and led by Fire Chief Steve Sanders and Assistant Chief Bryan Reynolds, last year was called to many parts of Lynn County, mostly for wild fires, but also to scenes of traffic accidents, where firemen sometimes use special equipment to free trapped victims, and once to a location of flash flooding.

### AgTexas distributes cash patronage to customers

Customers of AgTexas Farm Credit Services recently benefited from a cash patronage payment that effectively reduced their 2013 interest rate by an average of 0.70 percent, or 70 basis points. Patronage checks were distributed in early March.

The AgTexas Board of Directors declared the patronage based on the rural lending cooperative's strong financial results for 2013. This year's patronage distribution totaled \$3.165 million.

"Patronage payments help to lower the cost of borrowing from AgTexas, and they are a cornerstone of doing business with our cooperative. The fact that we have been able to share our earnings with our customers for two decades proves the effectiveness of our co-op business model," said Mitchell Harris, AgTexas chief executive officer.

"We are particularly pleased that we were able to distribute checks in time to help defray farmers' spring planting expenses for 2014 crops," Harris said.

Every year, the AgTexas Board of Directors reviews the co-op's financial position and determines the amount of patronage, if any, that can be distributed to its customers, who are also the owners of the business. This is the 20th consecutive year that AgTexas has distributed patronage to its customer-owners.

### FBC Wilson extends portrait date for church directory

The First Baptist Church in Wilson will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary in October and in conjunction with that event have begun working on a church directory. The directory committee of the FBC has extended the date for portrait sittings to May 1, from 2-9 p.m. Anyone connected to Wilson First Baptist Church may take advantage of this opportunity to have individual or family portraits taken at reduced prices.

There will be opportunities to place business and/or memorial ads in the directory, and the church is reaching out to all current and former members, whether presently living in Lynn County or not. For more information and to schedule an appointment for one of these days between 2:00-9:00 p.m., contact 806-628-6363 or 806-628-0180.

### Capital Farm Credit distributes largest ever cash patronage refund

Capital Farm Credit stockholders will soon receive an all-time record \$65 million cash patronage payment this spring.

The customer-owned lending cooperative continued its track record of strong earnings in 2013, enabling it to maintain its long tradition of returning profits to stockholders through its patronage program. Since 2006, Capital Farm Credit has returned over \$385 million to its stockholders — equating to an effective annual rate reduction of 1.10 percent on an average loan.

### Diabetic Seminar is March 29 in Lubbock

"Healthy Living in the Real World" will be Saturday, March 29, 8:30 am-12:30 pm in the LP&L basement, 1301 Broadway.

There will be an expert speaker on diabetic foot care, and a panel discussion including pharmacist, dietitian, diabetes educator, and foot and exercise specialist. There will also be vendor booths, door prizes, health screenings and snacks. Free lunch with reservations. RSVP no later than March 25 at 806-794-0691, ext. 6139.

## Hospital plans...

(continued from page 1)

is collaborating with local school officials to begin offering educational classes to high school students, for Certified Nurses Aides (CNAs) and EMTs.

"We're excited because of the timing of this collaboration," said Holland. "Our goal is to have the nursing home ready to open when the first graduates of the CNA program are ready to be employed. It would be great to have a program in place to be able to hire locally."

He says that Lynn County Hospital is "a compassionate group of professionals committed to healing our communities," and he is hopeful that community residents will allow the hospital an opportunity to grow and expand their services.

### A message from Stace Holland CEO, Lynn County Hospital



"He sat on the sidewalk alone, the cardboard beneath him his only protection from the cold cement. Around him people talked. They laughed. They ordered coffee to go. Occasionally, someone would drop a coin into the can at his side. The loud clank revealed that the can was virtually empty. A scrawled sign said, 'I'm blind. Please help.'" Later a woman came walking down the sidewalk on her way to a meeting. She walked past the man, and then something made her stop. She turned and looked thoughtfully at the man, the sign and the empty can. She stepped forward and grabbed the sign. She flipped it over and she began to write. Without a word the revised sign was returned to its place and the woman strode off to her appointment.

The scene on the street began to change. Many of the people who passed the sitting man stopped to give a coin or even several coins. The empty clang in the can was replaced with the softer clink of a can filling with money. Several hours later the man heard the familiar sound of the earlier woman returning. He reached out and felt the familiar shoes to confirm it was her. "What did you do to my sign?" he asked. "I wrote the same thing you did but with different words," she replied. "Thank you," he said gratefully as she walked off. What did the new sign say that had made all the difference?

"It's a beautiful day and I can't see it."

This story really touched me, and I thought about the compassion that we all need in order to help those that are hurting or disabled. That's when I realized the story paralleled our Hospital. I have been impressed with the overwhelming support the communities give to this hospital. If you remember, my first day here was the Saturday of the hospital fundraiser — the Billy Tomlinson Memorial Hospital Benefit Auction. However, time after time I kept hearing residents talk about how they drive past the hospital to seek healthcare in Lubbock.

I am like the lady in the story, it broke my heart to realize the greatness of LCHD but people weren't paying it any mind and were seeking healthcare somewhere else. At that time our inpatient census was low and we weren't offering many of the services the communities needed. That's when our Board of Directors changed the sign. Our new sign reads, "a compassionate group of professionals, committed to healing our communities." This new commitment of, "ya'll come" and we will treat you with love, compassion, dignity and respect, has filled our patient rooms, the ER, and has given us the opportunity to add new tests and equipment.

The current building limits our abilities to offer the services needed and in the environment you deserve. It's my desire to continue to grow and to give Lynn County something to brag about and to feel confident in the care given.

-- STACE HOLLAND

## "Productivity appraisal" may lower the property taxes on your farm, ranch or timberland!

Texas law allows farmers, ranchers, wildlife managers and timber growers to pay property taxes based upon the productivity value of their land rather than on market value. This means qualified land is taxed based on its ability to produce crops, livestock or timber—not on its value on the real estate market. And it can mean substantial property tax savings.

### When is the application deadline?

If your land has never had a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to your local appraisal district before May 1 to take advantage of this benefit on your 2014 property taxes. You may get up to 60 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it before May 1. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will pay a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

### Do you need to reapply annually?

If your land already receives agricultural or timber productivity appraisal, you normally don't need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

**Or contact:**  
Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
Property Tax Assistance Division  
P.O. Box 13528  
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

**or call:** 1-800-252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu and then press "1" to contact the Information Service Team.

**or on the Web at:** [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax)

**LYNN COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**  
1615 Main Street  
Tahoka, TX 79373  
806-561-5477

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

### Dear Supporters,

I want to say, "Thank you!" Thank you for being there, thank you for encouraging me to try the impossible, thank you for being that ear to listen, thank you for putting your faith in me and for taking the time to help. I appreciate you all more than you will ever know. There were times when the road got rough, but God, my family, and my supporters were there to encourage me to keep on going. It didn't turn out as we had hoped, and that is hard, but as Mike Ditka said, "You're never a loser until you quit trying."

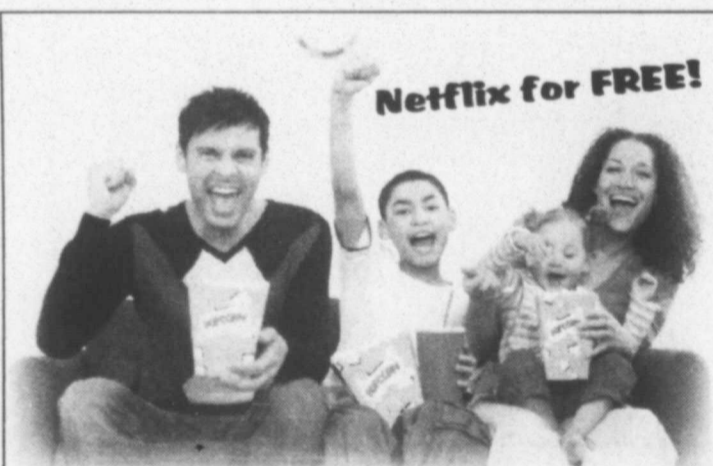
I am not done, I did not win, but I have gained more than I have lost. I will be back, I will try again, and we will succeed. Together we can, and together we will. It is up to us to make a difference and that time will come.

As always, I welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions, and can be reached at 806-441-8753.

Thanks a million,

**Mandi Tejeda Duncan**

City of Tahoka Municipal Court Judge



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## CARDS OF THANKS

There comes a time when we must say goodbye to a loved one until we meet again in Heaven. That time came Monday night, March 3, for our family. We want to thank you for your prayers, food, visits and stories told to us about Jimmy. They helped to ease the pain. Also, thanks to IntegraCare Hospice, Tahoka Police and Lynn County EMS - you helped when you were most needed. May God bless you.

The family of Jimmy McMillan  
Janey McMillan  
Dennis McMillan  
Kurt McMillan  
Kimberly Harris  
and Grandchildren

## New Home School Menu

**March 24-28 Breakfast**  
**Monday:** Oatmeal round  
**Tuesday:** Chicken n waffle sticks  
**Wednesday:** Sunrise sandwich  
**Thursday:** Sausage biscuit  
**Friday:** Cinnamon roll  
**Lunch**  
**Monday:** Toasted ham & cheese/ beef/bean burrito, broccoli bites, salad, orange smiles  
**Tuesday:** Crispy tacos/Southwest chicken casserole, tortilla chips, salad, charro beans, cinn. applesauce  
**Wednesday:** Chicken nuggets/ Salisbury steak, brown gravy, mashed potatoes, carrot coins, strawberries & bananas  
**Thursday:** Spag. w/ meatballs/ pork chops, salad, green beans, sliced peaches  
**Friday:** Turkey & cheese wrap/hot dog, sweet potato fries, cucumber dippers, fruit

## Senior Citizen's LUNCH MENU

Senior Citizen MENU  
**March 24-28**  
**Monday:** Chicken salad sandwich, macaroni salad, carrot sticks, watermelon  
**Tuesday:** Salisbury steak, mushroom sauce, mashed potatoes, spinach, pea salad, fruit cocktail  
**Wednesday:** Wis. veal cutlet, cabbage & noodles, peas, breadstick, diet pumpkin custard  
**Thursday:** Beef fajitas, Spanish rice, refried beans, salad, peach cobbler  
**Friday:** Fish strips, borracho beans, green peas, salad, tropical fruit mix  
• It's tax time! Consider making a donation to the Center. We are a non-profit organization. Monetary donations are encouraged and greatly appreciated.

• Cookbooks and baby quilts for sale at the Center! Check them out on our Facebook page ... Lynn County Pioneers Senior Citizens Center  
• The Center's "Feed Our Community" program offers a ten-day lunch ticket for a suggested donation of \$35. If the individual is under 60, a ten-day lunch ticket costs \$50. Tickets can be used for an on-site meal, a take-out meal or if eligible, for delivery. Tickets can be purchased for a specific person or donated.  
• Aluminum can recycle is located on N. 5th street across from the City Barn. All donations dropped off at this site benefit the Sr. Citizen's Center home delivery and congregate meal programs. Please tie bags before placing them in the bin.  
• The Center has gently used medical equipment available to lend out. Please call us at 561-5264 for more information.  
• We will be hosting a bowling

tournament on our new Wii system. Watch for details coming soon.

## Tahoka School Menu

**March 24-28**  
**Monday:** Yogurt  
**Tuesday:** Sausage & Cheese English muffin  
**Wednesday:** Pigs in a blanket  
**Thursday:** Maple burrito  
**Friday:** Breakfast burrito  
**Lunch**  
**Monday:** Cheeseburger/Mac & Cheese/Chicken tacos  
**Tuesday:** Pepperoni pizza/ Cheese quesadilla/Spicy Chicken sandwich  
**Wednesday:** Grilled cheese/hot dog/ beef enchiladas  
**Thursday:** Nachos/Beef fingers/ Oven roasted chicken  
**Friday:** Corn dog/bean & cheese burrito/ham & cheese sandwich  
**Fresh fruit & vegetable bar available daily**

## THE CITY OF TAHOKA

is currently taking applications for a position in the **Water/Sewer Department.** Requirements include a high school diploma or GED, a valid Texas driver's license, and must be able to pass a background check. Backhoe experience a plus. Questions about the position may be directed to the Public Works Director, Raymond Vega. Applications available at [www.tahoka-texas.com](http://www.tahoka-texas.com). The City of Tahoka is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## NOTICE

**HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED** at my home. Once a week for 2-4 hours, \$10/hour. Call AJ at 806-241-4434 (no texts, please).

**WANT TO PURCHASE** minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: PO Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201.

**NEED A BUSINESS CARD? Or wedding or baby shower invitations?** Check with the Lynn County News! We print cards and invitations and much more... all at a reasonable price. Call 561-4888 Mon-Thurs., 9-5:30.

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**Wanzek Construction, a MasTec Company,** is looking for safety conscious personnel with experience to work on our Wind Turbine Project near O'Donnell, Texas. We are seeking to fill the following positions: General Laborers and Tower Erectors. Qualified applicants should send resume to [hr@wanzek.com](mailto:hr@wanzek.com) or drop off at the project @ 1300 FM 1054, O'Donnell, TX 79351. Wanzek Construction is an EOE/AA Employer. Drug-Free Workplace.

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Contact **CLYDE MAY** at 806-327-5434 or 1-888-568-7301 leave a message and we'll call back.

**FYI:** For the future ... the new but much diminished visitor center and manager residence should be ready to move into by next month.  
Monetary gifts to Tahoka Lake Pasture or the J.C. Calm Foundation are tax deductible.

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**FARM NEWS:**

**AgTexas Farm Credit Services**  
Travis Ferguson and Mike Metzig

**Capital Farm Credit**  
Clint Robinson  
Jason Gandy

**Farmers Co-op Association**  
No. 1

**Lynn County Farm Bureau**

LYNN COUNTY  
TOTAL PRECIPITATION IN 2013:  
19.72"

The Lynn County Hospital  
Billy Tomlinson Memorial  
Hospital Benefit Auction  
is Saturday, April 26  
at Lynn County Show Barn

**FSA Celebrates American Ag Producers on National Ag Day**

USDA Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Judith A. Canales, encourages everyone to take a moment to appreciate the hard working farmers and ranchers in Texas on March 25, National Ag Day. This year's theme is "Agriculture: 365 Sunrises and 7 Billion Mouths to Feed."

USDA is proud to stand behind the producers who rise before dawn 365 days a year in order to put food on the table for 7 billion people.

"We recognize the importance of agriculture and hope that the recent passage of a new Farm Bill is a sign that 2014 will be a 'banner year for the industry,'" said Canales. There is no better way to show our support for farmers and ranchers than to begin implementing a new Farm Bill - legislation that will provide farmers, ranchers and consumers alike supportive results."

While the American economy is rebounding and gaining strength, the agricultural econo-

my has remained strong and at its best. Looking ahead, the U.S. has seen a trend towards aging farmers; however, according to the recent Census of Agriculture, the nation is beginning to reverse that trend. There is an increase in the number of farmers under the age of 35.

And although the agriculture industry promises a bright future, many farmers and ranchers are still recovering from natural disasters that occurred this year, including the continuing drought. Fortunately, these producers were still able to grow the commodities that Americans rely on in order to remain a food-secure nation. Our farmers and ranchers have also continued their legacy of protecting natural resources and environmentally sensitive land through the use of conservation programs.

Ag Day is a project of the Agriculture Council of America. For further Ag Day information and events visit [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org) For information on programs administered by FSA, please contact your local FSA office or visit us online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Local 4-H starts Archery Project**

Lynn County 4-H is starting an archery project. Any youth, from 3rd thru 12th grade, who would like to learn about archery is encouraged to attend. Youth will be introduced to the archery project and the opportunities that are available for learning to shoot archery. Youth do not have to be a current 4-H member to participate in this meeting.

Also, Lynn County 4-H is seeking any archery equipment that people may have and would be willing to donate to the 4-H

**\$2500 donation goes to Wilson VFD ...**

John Fields (second from left), a Lynn County farmer, was selected as a winner in America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, and he chose Wilson Volunteer Fire Department to receive the \$2,500 donation in ceremonies held at the Wilson VFD recently. Presenting the check was Monsanto representative Rhett Brewster (right), to Wilson VFD secretary Dusty Patterson (left), and Fire Chief Craig Wilke (third from left).



**Leyva graduates from Basic Training in GA**

Jurmiya Justin Leyva, of Wilson, graduated from the U.S. Army Basic Training in Ft. Benning, GA on March 20, 2014.

Pvt. Leyva is a 2012 graduate of Wilson High School and the son of Joe Portales of Wilson.

program. Bows, arrows or targets are items that we are looking for.

The project will begin March 25, at the Tahoka Housing Authority at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office in Lynn County at 806-561-4562 or contact Brad Ashbrook at 806-535-4689.

**TAHOKA ROTARY CLUB NEWS**

Tahoka Rotary Club met Thursday, March 13 under the direction of Club President Jana Bishop. Three guests and 27 members attended.

The program, given by Dana Bearden with the Methodist Children's Home (MCH) Family Outreach, was about four programs they offer. She shared about the Foster Care Program and that they are always in need of foster parents. She explained about their GAPP program, (Grandparents as Parents), a support group for grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc., that are taking the role of a parent in a child's life. Nurturing Parenting Curriculum is a family-centered initiative designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child rearing practices. She also talking about the Family Solutions program, an early intervention designed to strengthen families at risk of possible abuse in children. It identifies goals and works with the family to change practices to achieve these goals.

Anyone interested in finding out more about these programs can contact the MCH Family Outreach at 806-792-0099.

The Tahoka Rotary Club meets every Thursday at 12:05

P.M. in the Life Enrichment Center, and visitors are welcome.

**Poka Lambro Annual meeting set for March 27**

Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is set to host their 63rd Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 27 at their main business office located 11.5 miles north of Tahoka, Texas on US Hwy 87.

Member registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch at noon. The business meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting highlights include the election of directors for Districts 1 and 4, the reports of officers and directors and the presentation of Poka Lambro Scholarships. All Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative members are encouraged to attend the meeting. Members may pick up door prize cards when registering at the meeting. Members must be present to win door prizes.

For more information, call Amy Preston, 1-800-422-2387.

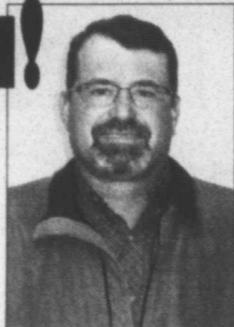
**Thank You!**

*I truly appreciate your votes and support in the recent election.*

*I am excited to continue serving you as Lynn County Precinct 2 Commissioner.*

*Thanks again for the opportunity to serve.*

- John Hawthorne



**Justin Whitley**  
has joined with



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