

A good day's work ...

Bob Ballard retiring after 30 years in ginning industry

by JUANELL JONES

870,639

That's the number of bales of cotton Bob Ballard says he has had a hand in processing during his career spanning 31 years as a cotton gin manager in Lynn County. On Friday, Ballard spent his last day as a gin manager at Farmers Coop Gin Association #1 in Tahoka, and on Tuesday this week he was honored with a retirement reception, as he prepares to take life a little easier and spend some time with his family doing "the things we want to do."

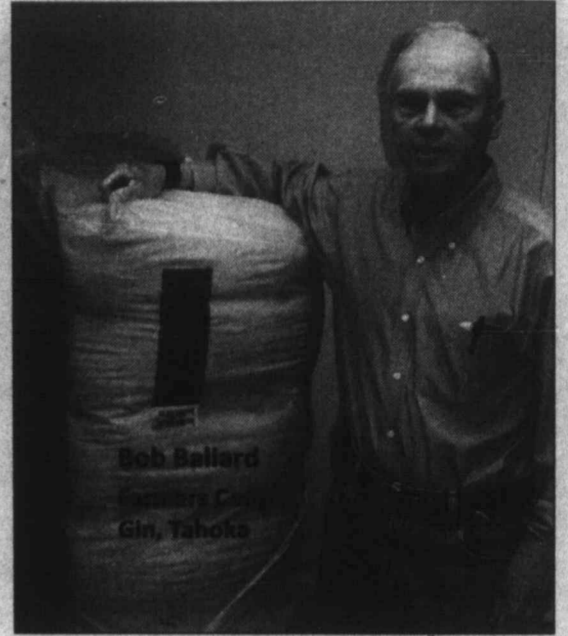
Ballard credits Lynn County with providing him a good life, and a good living, in his job career. He came to Lynn County as an ag teacher, teaching at New Home ISD from 1964-1976, changing careers to the cotton gin industry in 1977. That's the year he went to work as a gin manager for New Home Coop Gin, where he stayed for the next 18 years, learning the many demands of the cotton ginning business and gaining the experience and knowledge that only

comes from a hands-on approach.

In 1996, he shifted to a different aspect of the cotton industry for a few years, working for South Plains Industrial Supply in Lubbock, a company that sold gin parts and supplies, but he returned to gin management in August of 2002, taking the position at Farmers Coop Gin in Tahoka, where he has worked since.

"I guess every nickel I ever made has been in Lynn County,"

(See BALLARD RETIRES, page 6)



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Daylight Saving Time begins
Turn clocks FORWARD 1 hour
before retiring Saturday night

Recycling Containers:
The City of Tahoka recycling containers are located at the city warehouse located at 1200 Lockwood Street.

Trivia of the Day
from triviaoftheday.wordpress.com
(LCN can not confirm these "facts")

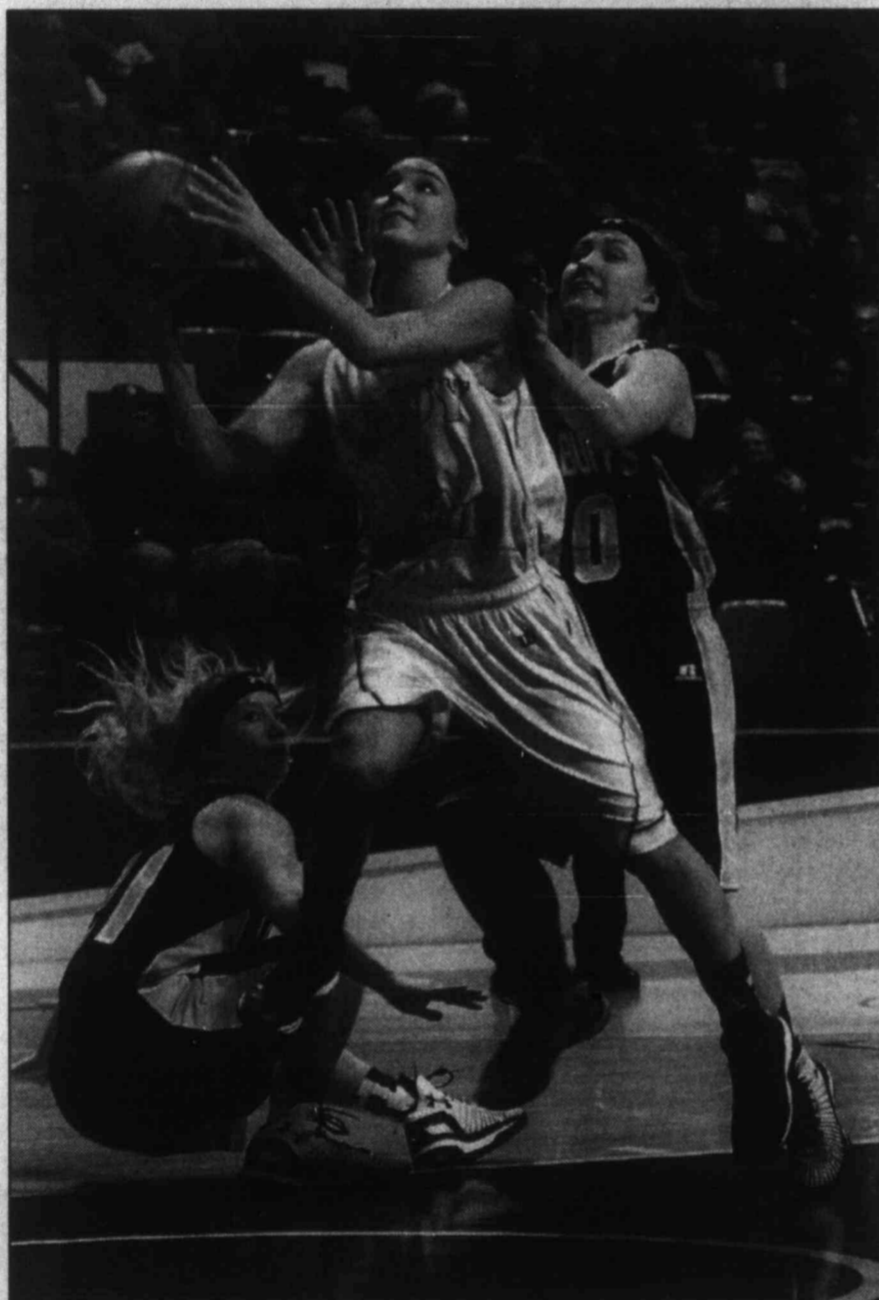
The Boston University Bridge (on Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts) is one of the few places in the world where a boat can sail under a train driving under a car driving under an airplane.

1 in 8 people in have been employed by McDonald's in the US.

What's Outside

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Feb 24	45	15	
Feb 25	65	23	
Feb 26	28	26	
Feb 27	19	14	
Feb 28	25	14	0.15"
Mar 1	31	14	0.07"
Mar 2	38	23	0.01"
Total Precip for Jan:			1.70"
Total Precip for Feb:			0.89"
Total Precip. for 2015:			2.59"



Reg. Semifinal Champions ... O'Donnell's Lady Eagles won the regional semifinals in a 59-58 thriller against Cross Plains, in the Class 1A Region 2 tournament held in Abilene last weekend. Brooklyn Wilkie (1) had 11 points in the semifinal win. They lost to Garden City in the regional finals.

(Photo by Paige Otway, courtesy Lamesa Press-Reporter)

Lady Eagles shine, but lose in regional finals

by DWIGHT HEINS, Sports Editor
Lamesa Press-Reporter

O'Donnell High School's girls basketball team fell one game short of living out their dream Sunday afternoon at Abilene Christian University's Moody Coliseum.

Playing for a berth in next weekend's state tournament, Coach Terry Collins' Eagle girls fell 49-42 to Garden City in the Class 1A Region 2 finals.

"It's always hard to see it end. Right now, these girls are taking it pretty hard but whenever it hurts you know it really meant something to them," Collins said.

A slow start ended up taking its toll on the Eagle hoop girls in the championship game of the tournament, which was delayed because of icy weather.

O'Donnell found itself down 17-5 at the end of the first quarter.

The Eagle girls battled back to make it a fight to the finish. A couple of free throws by Lexi Villarreal tied it at 39-all late in the game.

Free throws, however, helped the Garden City pull off the win. The Lady Kats hit all 10 of their free throws in the final minute of the game.

"You've got to give Garden City lots of credit," Collins said. "After we pulled our way back into that game they responded pretty well."

"We're just proud to see how our girls worked their way back into it. It ended up taking a lot of energy and emotion just to get ourselves back into it."

The Lady Kats connected on 16 of their 17 free throws in the game, compared to the Eagles' 11-of-18 showing at the stripe.

It was the O'Donnell girls' second

straight regional tournament appearance. The OHS girls had also made it to the regional finals in 1986.

Sophomore Lexi Villarreal had 13 points and junior Kaitlin Bell had 10 points to lead the scoring for the Eagle girls. Sophomore Brooklyn Wilkie had nine points while senior Alyssa Barton and Avery McDaniel had two each.

The Eagle girls finished their season with a 27-7 record. Although they were among the last eight teams playing in the state, the Lady Eagles were unranked in the latest state poll.

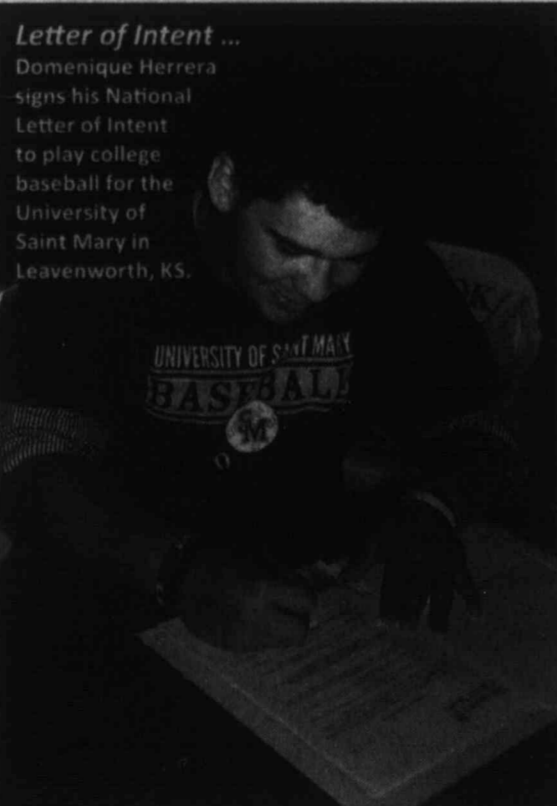
O'Donnell girls had to survive a 59-58 thriller over Cross Plains on Saturday afternoon to reach the regional championship game.

This game was tight from the opening tip off to the final buzzer. Cross Plains led O'Donnell 37-36 and 49-48 at the end of the third quarter. The Eagle girls dodged a big bullet in that game when Cross Plains missed on two free throws in the closing seconds.

Alyssa Barton had 16 points and Brooklyn Balague had 12 to lead the Eagle girls on Saturday. Brooklyn Wilkie and Lexi Villarreal had 11 points each. Kristyn Edwards had three points while Selena Castro, Hannah Naumann and Kaitlin Bell had two points each.

Collins said his 32nd season as a high school hoop coach - his fifth at O'Donnell - ranks among his best ever.

"It's always been hard to judge just one team or one season but there's no doubt this one has to rank right up there as one of the best. It's always a great accomplishment anytime you can finish up in that elite eight," Collins said.



Letter of Intent ...

Domenique Herrera signs his National Letter of Intent to play college baseball for the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, KS.

The Game of Life

Baseball to pave way for THS senior to attend University of Saint Mary

by JUANELL JONES

Tahoka High School senior Domenique Herrera has a plan for his future, and playing college baseball is part of the plan that will get him there.

Last week, Herrera signed a National Letter of Intent to play college baseball for The University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, KS. The signing ceremonies were conducted in front of his peers at Tahoka High School last week, with his parents, Victor and Virginia Herrera, and other family members at his side as he put pen to paper to seal his intent

with USM.

Dom will exchange the Bulldog blue and white colors for the Saint Mary colors of navy blue and gold when he becomes a member of the Spires baseball team at The University of Saint Mary, a four-year Catholic liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in 1923. USM Spires athletes compete in the Kansas Col-

legiate Athletic Conference, part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II. They are known as the Saint Mary Spires, named after the spire atop Saint Mary Hall, the oldest campus building, and their mascot is Spiro the Dragon.

It's an 11-hour drive from Tahoka to Leavenworth, KS, but the Tahoka senior is excited about his opportunities.

"My parents are excited for me - I always told my parents I wanted to pursue any opportunities, and they want me to do this," Herrera said. "I got an email from the coaches at Saint

(See GAME OF LIFE, page 4)



Words of Inspiration:

"Character is the result of two things: Mental attitude and the way we spend our time." - ELBERT GREEN HUBBARD

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Green Memorial Park Cemetery

Green Memorial Park Cemetery will have its annual **DONATION DRIVE** during the month of March.

Funds may be deposited directly to First Bank & Trust or mailed to Green Memorial Park Cemetery, P.O. Box 102, Wilson, Texas 79381.

The board of directors (Servando Benavidez, Oscar Follis, Lester Gickhorn, and Dennis Moore) would like to thank each of you for your past contributions and ask for your support to help keep the cemetery neat and attractive.



New faces at the library... The Tahoka City-County Library now has a new Library Director, Children's Program Director and a Library Assistant. New ideas are being planned for teens and children's programs for Spring Break and Summer Reading Programs. Pictured are Haley Stephens (Assistant), Judith Miller (Children's Director) with her pupper, "Jimmy" the polar bear, and Cissy Webster, Library Director.

City-County Library gets new Children's Director

by PAM ELROD

Cissy Webster, Director of the City-County Library located inside the Life Enrichment Center in Tahoka, has a new Children's Director at the library and innovative plans for offering new and exciting programs for local and area youth.

Judith Miller of Grassland has been named the Children's Director of the library, and she is bringing a new set of talents to the library - she's an artist, a musician, a ventriloquist, and a puppeteer, and she has been involved in many children's programs throughout the 50 states. She is the wife of James Miller, pastor at Grassland Nazarene Church.

Webster says she is pleased to have the talents of Mrs. Miller as the new Children's Director, and that they are planning more programs and activities for library patrons.

"Lots of new ideas are in the planning stages for the Library," she said.

New programs for teens (Jr. high/high School) will begin on Spring Break (March 19) with snacks and board games and other activities, and will have other programs for younger aged children. New ideas and activities are being planned for Mother's Day, Father's Day and the Summer Reading Program.

The book sale for the library will be held April 17. The library is seeking donations of gently used children's books for the sale, and will have "Kid's Books for Fines" instead of

canned food for fines as in the past from March 2- April 15. Donations to the library are greatly appreciated.

The Library will be honoring the Phebe K Warner Club with a reception on May 12, at the First Baptist Church. Phebe K Warner originally started the City-County Library in 1931 with 50 books. The first library was on the third floor of the courthouse in Tahoka.

The new hours for the library are Monday-Thursday 9-12 and 1-6, Friday 9-12 and 1-5. The library now has a Facebook page, "City-County Library," that will feature news and upcoming events at the library.

Obituaries

Eureda "Reda" Fay Abbe

A memorial service celebrating the life of Reda (Eureda) Abbe, of Wilson, was held Saturday, February 28, 2015. She died on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

She was born Nov. 6, 1950, to Arnold and Beatha Lehman

of Tahoka. She married Buster (Robert) Abbe, Nov. 3, 1972. She worked in the banking industry for over 40 years starting at Wilson State Bank and then continuing when it became FirstBank & Trust.

She was preceded in death by her husband Buster, her parents, and brother, Glen Lehman.

Survivors include her daughter, Loretta of Amarillo; son, Kevin of Wilson; brothers Melvin Lehmann of Tahoka, Clifton (Kathy) Lehman of Lubbock; sisters Arnell (Ed) Finley of Bucoda, WA, and Earline (Ray) Bagby of Post; brother-in-law Don (Sally) Abbe of Lubbock, and -sister-in-law Barbara Abbe of Lubbock; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Memorials can be made to St. John Lutheran Church, Green Memorial Cemetery, or Wilson Volunteer Fire Department all in Wilson, Texas; or the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.

Deedie "Dee" Tolbert

Deedie "Dee" Tolbert of Tahoka passed away on Friday, February 27, 2015 at the age of 86. She was born August 5, 1928 in Eldorado, OK to Dee and Margaret (Criswell) Berry. She married Curtis Willard Tolbert on December 20, 1947 in Lubbock. Dee loved to crochet blankets for her family. She loved traveling with her family, fishing, and playing cards with her friends. She was always ready to play sports or go watch grandkids or great grandkids. She also loved to play the one arm bandit, even had one in room at the assisted living. But most of all she love the Lord, her family and friends.

-Dee was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Willard and grandson, Kyle Soloman.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Karen Soloman and husband Stan of Denton and Stacy Engle and husband Mike of Tahoka; son, Tony Tolbert and wife Melinda of Crosbyton; brothers, Chris Berry of Crosbyton and Mike Berry of Altus, OK; seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at Combest Family Funeral Homes, Tahoka with private burial to be held at Ralls Cemetery.

Celebrate the life of Dee by visiting www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com. (PAID)

by Dalton **Woodwork**

Dalton Wood



HICKORY, Dickory, Dock, the mouse ran up the clock," and in about three days from now, he will have to do it all over again.

That mouse, the featured character in a long-ago nursery rhyme, must have been the first living creature ever to observe Daylight Savings Time, instituted during World War II, supposedly to save precious energy for several of the warmer months of the year.

Whether it ever actually saved any money to be diverted to the war effort is highly questionable, and even more puzzling is why the stupid practice of resetting the clock twice a year is still being observed. It's just a pain to have to reset the clock twice a year, and I wish our state legislature would just leave it one way or the other.

Yeah, I know, you regular readers of this column (all three of you) already knew I don't like having to flip-flop around the clock (Flip-Flop Around the Clock—wasn't that a hit song by Bill Haley and the Comets years ago? Oh, no, that was "Rock Around the Clock.")

Golfers like DST because that means they can get in more holes before dark and after they get off work at 5 p.m. I used to enjoy playing golf myself, until one day some spoilsport in our group insisted we keep score.

Okay, so far as I am concerned, leave it at the daylight time setting all year. Or the state legislature could compromise with the standard time people and set all Texas clocks forward 30 minutes next spring and leave them there forever. Then we would be unique, out of synch with EVERYBODY, including Arizona and the other few states that already refuse to go on daylight time.

At my age, I sort of hate to run the clock up an hour this Sunday anyway. That just means another hour of life lost forever, for no reason, sort of like reading the instruction booklet for an IRS income tax form.



Carlos "Charlie" Gonzales

Rosary for Carlos "Charlie" Gonzales, 52, of O'Donnell was held on Sunday, March 1, 2015, at 7 p.m. at Calvillo Funeral Home Chapel-Tahoka. Mass was celebrated on Monday, March 2, at 10 a.m. at St. Jude's Catholic Church with Father Edward Teo officiating. Burial was at Nevels Cemetery under the direction of Calvillo Funeral Home and Chapel. He died on February 24.

He was born on September 8, 1961 in Tahoka to the late Gilbert Sr. and Irene Gonzales. He married Francis Barrientos on May 16, 2006 in O'Donnell. Charlie worked as a farmer for Brad Williams Farms in O'Donnell for many years, and he collected antiques.

Survivors include his wife Frances Gonzales; four sons, Carlitos Gonzales Jr., Benny Gonzales both of Tahoka, James Gonzales of Dallas, Carlos Gonzales of Lubbock; seven daughters, Gina Gonzales Villarreal, Mi-

chelle Barrientos, Victoria Pesina and Pat Pesina all of Lubbock, Amanda Pesina of Brownfield and Crystal Trevino of Midland; four brothers, Manuel Gonzales of San Antonio, Jesse Gonzales, Tony Gonzales and Gilbert Gonzales Jr. all of O'Donnell; two sisters Sara Nava of O'Donnell and Ester Gonzales of Houston; 21 grandchildren and three great grand children.



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to the Lynn County Hospital District EMS are always greatly appreciated. **LCED EMS, Box 1310, Tahoka, TX**

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Where in the world is
The Lynn County News?



Grand Rapids, Michigan... Virginia Campanale, of Tahoka, recently was in Michigan celebrating the 101st birthday of her mother, Ethel Hinrichs. She brought her Lynn County News with her and stopped in Grand Rapids for a photo. Grand Rapids is approximately 1,309 miles from Tahoka.

**The Knights of Cybertron:
Robotics teams compete
in Area Championship**

FIRST robotics Team 7239, The Knights of Cybertron, from New Home High School have competed in two competitions this semester, performing well against other competitors.

"The Knights spent countless hours designing, building, and programming their robot to complete challenges designed to earn them points," explained their teacher, Sabrina Multer. "Each robot has a partner on the field and two opponents. Teams learn to communicate with others to develop a strategy for each match. Your partner in one match might be an opponent during the next match," she explained.

Teams also spend time with judges explaining their reasoning behind their design, discussing how they are promoting robotics in their school and community, and the intricacies of their computer programs.

"Our students are great about mentoring our younger robotics students with competitions such as TCEA and



New Home Robotics Teams... FIRST robotics Team 7239, The Knights of Cybertron, from New Home High School have competed in two competitions this semester, including the Panhandle Plains Regional Qualifiers, and Panhandle Plains Area Championship competition where they ranked 10th out of 28 teams. Pictured on front row from left are Daniel Hall, Kaden Buckelew, Mike Torres Joarir Mireles, Lea Gustafson, and Dimitri Correa. Back row, Jamie Rodriguez, and teachers, Micki Oliver, Kristi Walker, and Sabrina Multer.

GEAR," she added.

"During our first competition, Panhandle Plains Regional Qualifiers, held in January we won 2 out of 5 of our matches and ended up ranked 16th out of 20 teams. There were some

technical difficulties with the scissor lift system, but were able to make adjustments and still be able to complete all of the matches. The team was invited to the Panhandle Plains Area Championship competition on February 21st. The team was able to win 3 out of 5 matches and ended up ranked 10th out of 28 teams," said Multer.

"We would also like to thank our mentors for taking the time to share their knowledge in the areas of design, building, and computer programming. Andy Beck, with John Deere, has been a great help in the computer programming of our robot. Andrew Fillingim, with Texas Tech University, has been extremely helpful in all areas of the FIRST competition from programming to building. Randy Gustafson shared his vast knowledge of construction with our students as they built our playing field. We appreciate all of the donations from sponsors to support the New Home Robotics teams," added the teacher.

**Leopards falter
In fourth, lose
playoff to Crowell**

Crowell put up a strong 20-point comeback in the final quarter to defeat the New Home Leopards 51-43 in the area playoff game last week, ending a very good season for the New Home boys and Coach Koby Abney.

New Home led 25-20 at halftime, and 32-31 at the end of three, but the Leopards could manage just 11 points in the last quarter.

Billy Castro led New Home scoring with 13 points. Other Leopard scoring was by Jackson Abney 7, Ryan Thomas and Emanuel Rosa, 6 each; Mariano Torres 5; and Blaine Watts and Jonathan Phillips Garrett, 3 each.

Mitchell Parsley's 25 points paced Crowell, and Tristen Hayes had 14.



Regional Science Fair... Twenty-one students from New Home ISD competed February 13th at the South Plains Regional Science and Engineering Fair held at the United Supermarkets Arena in Lubbock. Pictured back row from left are (teacher) Micki Oliver, Danielle Fonseca, Taylor Smith, Ashlyn Ballard, Jett Ballard, Dillon Ford, Jayton Rodgers, Kaden Buckelew, Lea Gustafson, (teacher) Sabrina Multer. Middle row Jaxxon Zant, Jake Tabor, Pace Ritz, Carson Lucas, Brylee Parker, Connor Cook, M'Kenna McFadden, and Ryan Weeks. Front row, Keaton Pearson, Cameron McFadden, Brady Weeks, Dillan DeAnda, and Braxton Beck.

**New Home students win medals at
South Plains Regional Science Fair**

Twenty-one students from New Home ISD competed February 13, at the South Plains Regional Science and Engineering Fair held at the United Supermarkets Arena in Lubbock. Twelve projects out of the 20 came home with medals, and three students received special awards.

Special Awards went to Pace Ritz for Outstanding Water-Related Science Fair Project Elementary Division from the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 and Environmental Excel-

lence Award-Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. M'Kenna McFadden was awarded the American Chemical Society Award and the John Marx Excellence in Chemistry Award (\$25). Lea Gustafson was awarded the American Physical Society Award (\$25), 1st place Senior High Level Energy Project Award-South Plains Electric Cooperative (\$125) and The Office of Naval Research Naval Science Award (scholarship application).

Other results include: 4th Grade: Medals: Braxton Beck, Brady Weeks and Dillon DeAn-

da; Red Ribbon: Keaton Pearson and Cameron McFadden; 5th Grade: Medal: Casen Lucas and Jake Tabor; Red Ribbon: Pace Ritz, Jaxxon Zant and Brylee Parker. 6th Grade: Medal: Connor Cook, McKenna McFadden and Ryan Weeks; 7th Grade: Red

Ribbon: Ashlyn Ballard; Medal: Taylor Smith and Danielle Fonseca; 8th Grade: Red Ribbon: Jayton Rodgers; Medal: Dillan Ford and Jett Ballard; 9th Grade: Red Ribbon: Kaden Buckelew; 10th Grade: Medal: Lea Gustafson.

**Contested races set in
four local May 9 elections**

Last-minute filings on Friday added four more candidates and set contested races for four local elections in Lynn County on May 9. Contested races will be on the ballots for Wilson and Tahoka ISD, City of O'Donnell, and Lynn County Hospital District, with four other entities having the option of cancelling their elections due to uncontested candidates.

The filing deadline was 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27.

Following is a complete list of terms expiring in the elections, with names printed in *italics* of candidates who have filed, as reported by officials from each entity.

Lynn County Hospital District: Three directors, 3-yr terms. Terms expiring: Jannis Childress, Jerry Ford, Nancy Guilliams. Filing: *Jannis Childress, Jerry Ford Jr., Nancy Guilliams, Robbie Autry, Mandi Duncan.*

City of Tahoka: Mayor and two Council members, 2-yr terms. Terms expiring: Mayor John Baker; Council District 1: Rudy Fuentes; District 3: Amy Preston. Filing: *John Baker for Mayor; Rudy Fuentes for Dist. 1, and Amy Preston for Dist. 3.* (No election necessary)

Tahoka ISD: Four trustees. Terms expiring: At-Large (3-yr terms): Cathy Box, Michael Duncan; Pct. 2 (1-yr unexpired term): Scottie Olivan; Pct. 4 (2-yr unexpired term): Matt Woodley. Filing: *Pct. 2-Abraham*

Vega; Pct. 4-Matt Woodley; At-Large: Scottie Olivan, Dr. Cathy Box, Clay D. Taylor, John (Mike) Rivas, Michael Duncan.

City of Wilson: Three council seats, 2-year terms. Terms expiring: Helen Stephenson, Weldon Menzer, Pat Cates. Filing: *Helen Stephenson, Weldon Menzer, Pat Cates.* (No election necessary)

Wilson ISD: Two trustees, 3-year terms. Terms expiring: Bobby Miller, April Moore. Filing: *Bobby Miller, Kim Steen, Michael Villarreal, Juanita Rendon.*

City of New Home: Mayor and one Council member, 2-yr terms. Terms expiring: Mayor David Gandy; Council: John Edwards. Filing: *Mayor David Gandy.* (No election necessary, and council may appoint someone to fill vacant council seat.)

New Home ISD: (Election is in November)

City of O'Donnell: Two Council seats, 2-yr terms. Terms expiring: Martin Casarez, Liz Luera. Filing: *Kimberly Parker, Matthew Gibson, Mike Renteria, Jessie Perez.*

O'Donnell ISD: Two trustees, 3-yr terms. Terms expiring: Monty Hancock, Mandy Stidham. Filing: *Monty Hancock, Mandy Stidham.* (No election necessary)



Special Awards ... These New Home ISD students received special awards at the South Plains Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Pace Ritz (left) was awarded Outstanding Water-Related Science Fair Project Elementary Division from the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, and the Environmental Excellence Award-Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. M'Kenna McFadden (center) was awarded the American Chemical Society Award and the John Marx Excellence in Chemistry Award (\$25). Lea Gustafson (right) was awarded the American Physical Society Award (\$25), 1st place Senior High Level Energy Project Award-South Plains Electric Cooperative (\$125) and The Office of Naval Research Naval Science Award (scholarship application).

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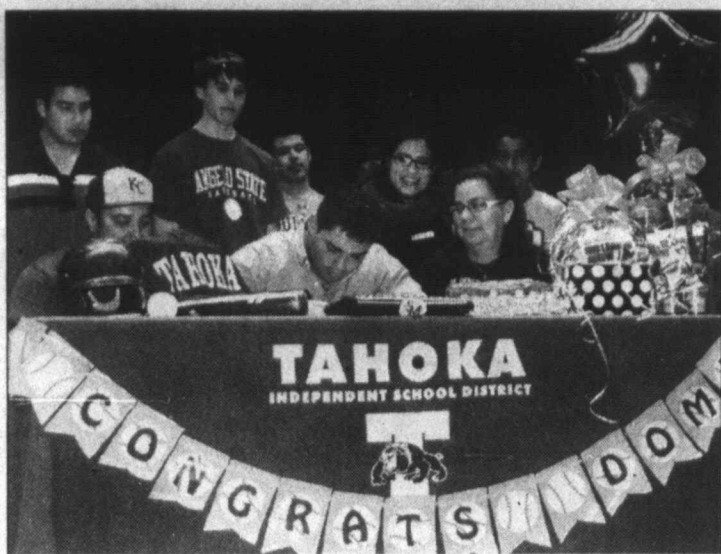
(Continued from page 1)

Mary's, and they said they were interested in me, so I went for a visit. I enjoyed it a lot, and after my family and I weighed our options we decided that this is by far the best option for me. I liked the coaches and I am excited about playing baseball, but also excited about the academic opportunities they offer," he added.

He says he plans to begin classes there in the fall, with a major in sports management.

"I visited the campus, and it's nice ... but I was surprised to see a cemetery on campus," Herrera said with a smile. "But I found out it is for the nuns who teach on campus, if they choose to be buried there. There's a church on campus too, it's a pretty campus," he added. As a Catholic himself, he said he is pleased to attend a Catholic school. He says he also has relatives stationed in the military nearby as well, which fit well with his college choice.

"USM is known for our personalized approach to learning with dedicated faculty and staff



Planning his future ... Tahoka High School senior Domenique Herrera (center), is flanked by his parents, Victor and Virginia Herrera (seated), as he signs his National Letter of Intent to play college baseball for the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, KS. The signing ceremonies were conducted in front of his peers at Tahoka High School last week. Standing in back, from left, is a cousin, Carlos Castillo, baseball teammates Colton Taylor and Santiago Martinez, cousin D'Maris Murrilo, and one brother, Joey. His other brother, Patrick, is not pictured.

who care about our students' success in the classroom and in life. Our education is values-based and grounded in moral principles," stated the school's website, citing a student-to-faculty ratio of 11:1.

The Princeton Review has repeatedly named the Univer-

sity of Saint Mary a "Best Mid-western College" every year since 2005, according to the USM website. The distinction is based on meeting lofty standards of academic excellence and feedback from students, parents, educators, and Princeton Review staff.

NEWS FROM Wilson ISD

By Bill Gonzales
District Coordinator of School Improvement/Home Liaison

Monday March 2, the ACE (Afterschool Centers on Education) program began, providing enrichment activities such as robotics for all students and Arts and Crafts as well. In curriculum, the students will be provided instruction/information on College and Career Readiness. In addition, all students will be provided "homework help" or tutoring in the morning 7am -8am. Wilson ISD is very fortunate to have such a program in the school district and would like to thank the Communities in Schools agency for providing the help and support that they give our students.

The track teams at Wilson ISD ready to compete against Loop. The junior high will compete on Thursday, March 5th and the High School on Friday, March 6th.

Tahoka School Menu

- March 9-13**
Monday: Cereal bar
Tuesday: Pancake on a stick
Wednesday: Blueberry muffin
Thursday: Breakfast burrito
Friday: Sausage Croissant
Lunch
Monday: Cheeseburger/ Mac & cheese/ Popcorn chicken bowl
Tuesday: Breaded chicken sandwich/Chicken quesadilla/Pepperoni pizza
Wednesday: Ham & Cheese sandwich/Chicken nuggets/ Chicken teriyaki w/ brown rice
Thursday: Beef fingers/Hamburger/Beef nachos
Friday: Spaghetti w/ meatballs/ Corn dog/Grilled cheese sandwich

Don't miss the fun on June 20, 2015 at the

Centennial Celebration

marking the 100th year of incorporation for the City of Tahoka
 12:00 Noon - 8:00 p.m. at the Tahoka Mini Park

Also, don't miss an opportunity to tour the Tahoka Lake area that morning - watch for details to come!

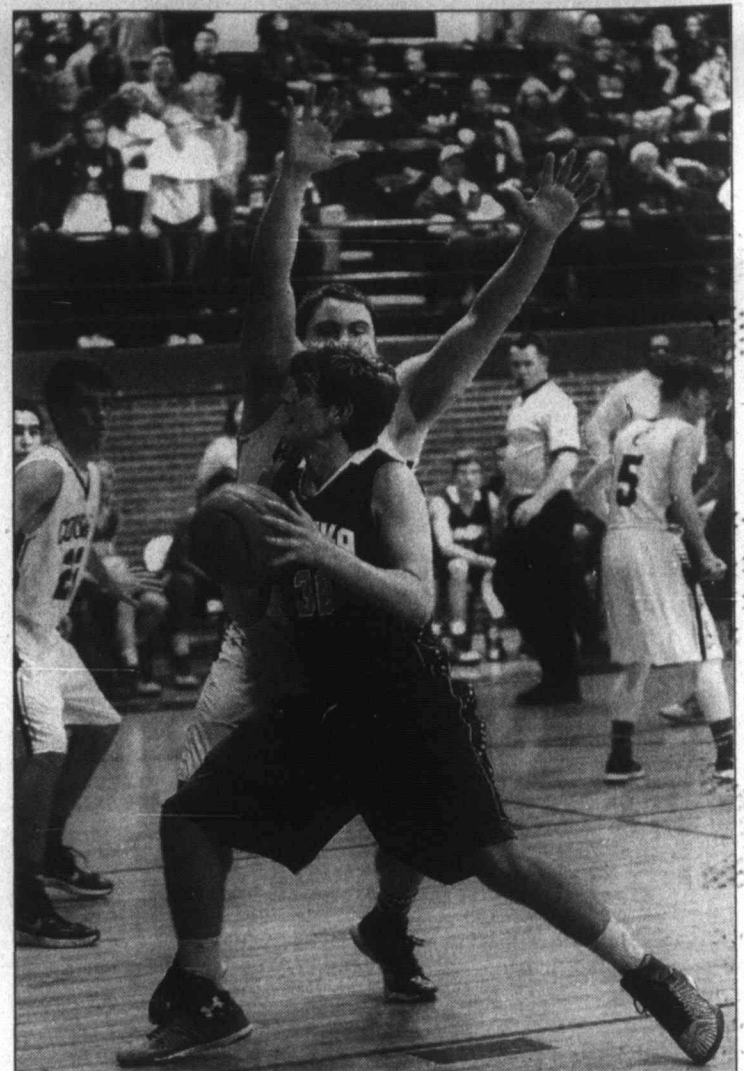
Christoval takes Area win from Bulldogs, 49-44

The Christoval Cougars came from behind and outscored the Tahoka Bulldogs in the final period to win the Area round of Class A UIL Boys Basketball Playoffs Monday night, winning 49-44 and dashing Tahoka's hopes for more playoff action this week.

The game was originally scheduled for last Friday night, but a winter snowstorm moved into much of Texas and delayed playoff games throughout the South Plains area, with the Tahoka game delayed until Saturday and then rescheduled again on Monday night, at Colorado City.

Christoval led 14-8 after the first quarter, but the Bulldogs scored more than twice the points of the Cougars in the second quarter, chalking up 19 points to lead 27-22 at the half. The Dogs continued strong in the third period, with the Cougars matching them nearly point for point as the Dogs added 13 to Christoval's 12, but still leading by a 6-point margin, 40-34, as they went in to the final period.

The fourth and final period went cold for the Dogs, however, as they were only able to



Top scorer ... Jared Green (30) was top scorer in Tahoka's Area playoff game against Christoval Monday night, tossing in 11 points for the Bulldogs. Christoval outlasted the Dogs 49-44 to end Tahoka's playoff run.

(LCN PHOTO by Abraham Vega)

score another 4 points, while the Cougars finished strong with 15 points to take the lead, and the

win. Jared Green led the Bulldogs with 11 points, Carlos Moralez had 9, Colton Taylor 9, Luke Fleenor 5, Grant Tekell 5, and Dillon Trevino 5.

Little League baseball/softball sign-ups begin

Sign-ups for Tahoka Little League baseball and softball will begin on Thursday, March 5, and Tuesday, March 10 from 7-8:00 p.m. at the Lyntegar Meeting Room. Parents are to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate and registration fee to sign-ups. Fee is \$50 per child. Players must turn 5 by May 1, 2015. Registration forms will be available at sign-ups.

Age groups are as follows: T-ball 5/6; Softball machine pitch 7/8; Baseball coach pitch 7/8; Softball and baseball minor 9/10; Softball and baseball major 11/12; Softball and baseball junior 13/14.

Two powerlifters advancing to regional event

This past Saturday, Tahoka competed at the Slaton Invitational Powerlifting meet. This was the last meet of the season and two individuals qualified to represent Tahoka High School at the Regional Powerlifting meet in Sundown on March 14.

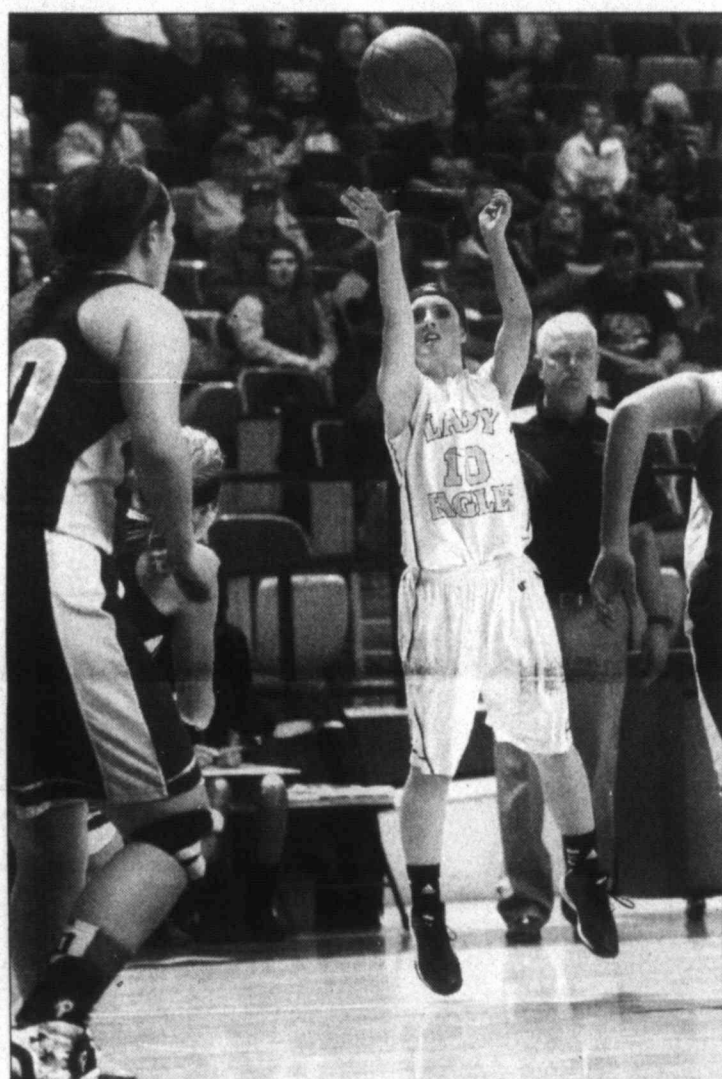
"Jeremiah Deleon is currently in 1st place in the Region with a total of 1,520 lbs. He is the top individual in his weight class and has an excellent shot of making a return trip to state," said Coach Stephen Overstreet. "Also, after doing well at Saturday's meet, Tony Garcia will be competing at regionals as well. Tony has a current total of 1,135 and is in 9th place," said the coach.

Letters to the Editor

Fundraiser was a success

Our 1st Sunday Dinner fundraiser of 2015 was a hit and if you purchased a meal or two or more, volunteered in the kitchen, helped at the door, donated a turkey or two, donated homemade ice cream, 'got the word out' on our behalf, we want to thank you! The weather was not great but I appreciate each and every one of you that helped on behalf of the Center.

Bianca Baker,
Lynn County
Senior Citizens Director



Score ... O'Donnell's Alyssa Barton (10) puts one up for the Lady Eagles the Class 1A Region 2 semifinals on Saturday. O'Donnell won a 59-58 thriller over Cross Plains to reach the regional championship game. Barton led the team with 16 points in the win.

(Photo by Paige Otway, courtesy Lamesa Press-Reporter)

Senior Citizen's Menu

- March 9-13**
Monday: Taco salad, refried beans, Spanish rice, broccoli & cauliflower salad, apricot halves
Tuesday: Sloppy Joes, potato salad, carrots & zucchini, creamy fruit square
Wednesday: Salisbury steak w/ mushroom sauce, mashed potatoes, spinach, pea salad, fruit cocktail
Thursday: Liver & onions, scalloped potatoes, carrots, coleslaw, white cake w/ tropical fruit mix
Friday: Macaroni beef/tomato, lima beans, tomatoes, fruit & oatmeal bar

• "Like" us on Facebook: Lynn County Pioneers Senior Citizens Center
 • Donations are greatly appreciated! All donations are tax deductible; we are a 501(c)3 organization.

New Home School Menu

- March 9-13**
Monday: Chicken n waffles
Tuesday: Breakfast Club
Wednesday: Texas toast, scrambled eggs, sausage/Cinnamon roll
Thursday: Muffin/ Yogurt
Friday: Breakfast pizza
Lunch
Monday: Spaghetti w/ meatballs/Breaded pork chop, salad carrots, peaches
Tuesday: Crispy tacos, Spanish rice/Chicken enchiladas, charro beans, cinnamon apples
Wednesday: Chicken strips/ Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, strawberries & bananas
Thursday: Teriyaki beef sandwich/Beef & bean burrito, chips, broccoli bites, salad, oranges
Friday: Hot dog/Sloppy Joes, sweet potato fries, cucumber dip-pers, chocolate chip cookie



Taking a shot ... Roman Parmer (12) eyes the basket as he goes up for a shot in Tahoka's Area playoff game against Christoval Monday night. The Bulldogs lost 49-44 to end their playoff season.

(LCN PHOTO by Abraham Vega)

Six traffic accidents leave three injured

Three persons were treated for injuries in traffic accidents in the county during the last week as ice and snow glazed highways and roads with the continuation of winter here.

The injuries were reported in two of five accidents occurring in the county, all investigated by Dept. of Public Safety troopers from out of the county, meaning the names of the drivers and the injured were not available to this newspaper.

There were no injuries in one accident in the city of Tahoka, where a 2008 Toyota Tacoma pickup driven by Caleb R. Ragsdale, 23, of Hobbs, NM, slid into a ditch on U.S. 87 near S. 3rd St. Friday, overturning onto its side.

Two persons were taken to Lynn County Hospital by EMS ambulance after a one-vehicle rollover two miles south of Tahoka on U.S. 87 Saturday.

Another person was taken in for treatment after a one-vehicle rollover about six miles south of Tahoka on U.S. 87 Monday night.

Last Tuesday, Feb. 24, a 2004 Nissan struck a traffic sign on U.S. 87, north of Tahoka near FM 3332, and the driver refused treatment by EMS.

On Friday, no injuries resulted as a vehicle overturned on U.S. 87 just south of the U.S. 380 overpass in Tahoka.

Also, no injuries were listed after a one-vehicle rollover on FM 1730 north of New Home Monday.

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CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you to all my friends and family for the support during this time of my husband, Truett's, death and for all the visits, calls, food and flowers.
~ Katie Stone

Thanks to family and friends for all your prayers while I have been in the hospital.
~ Olivia Villarreal

Thank you, everyone who thought of us during our loss. Thank you for the food, flowers, the kind words spoken and mostly for your prayers. Thank you to Bro. Shuffield, Mike & Poo for the sweet service and music. Dad would be so honored. Thank you, Tahoka Trinity for the good meal.
~ Betty & Joby & Family
Bonita & Billy & family

Reda was an amazing woman and will be missed by so many. A simple "Thank You" doesn't seem adequate for all the prayers, thoughts, cards, calls, visits, food, and flowers that you blessed us with over the last several days. Please know that we are touched and blessed beyond measure by all your thoughtfulness.
Thank you!
~ Loretta and Kevin Abbe and the Reda Abbe family

NEWS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
12 NOON on Tuesdays

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE BILL

Pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas, notice is hereby given of the intent to introduce a bill in the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas at its regular session in Austin, Texas, the substance of the contemplated law being as follows: An act relating to the ability of the Lynn County Hospital District to call a bond election.

All interested persons will, therefore take notice of the matters and facts set out in the foregoing statement of the substance of the contemplated laws as required by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas.

Any questions on this amendment should be directed to the Lynn County Hospital District, Attention: Stace Holland, CEO.

LOST and FOUND

Missing in Draw:

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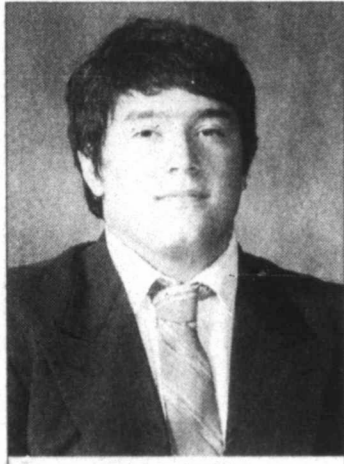
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MARCUS VEGA

Marcus Vega to play football in Greenbelt Bowl

Tahoka High School senior Marcus Vega has been chosen by the Childress Rotary Greenbelt Bowl Committee to participate in the 66th annual Childress Rotary Greenbelt Bowl Classic, an all-star football game, this summer. Game day is Saturday, June 13, 2015.

Marcus is the son of Abraham and Lisha Vega of Tahoka. He was nominated for the opportunity by his coach, THS Athletic Director and head football coach Brandon Hopper. The Greenbelt Bowl affords players an opportunity to showcase their abilities, as Texas and Oklahoma college coaches are invited to attend the annual event.

The first Greenbelt Bowl game was played Aug. 11, 1950. In 1999, the Greenbelt Bowl celebrated its 50th Anniversary, and in 2007 the Greenbelt Bowl was rotated by the Childress Rotary Club.

Bob Ballard retiring ...

(Continued from page 1)
Ballard says with a smile. "This county has been very good to me, and the people here are the best," he added.

His wife, Linda, is a retired teacher from New Home ISD, and the couple have three sons — Shawn, Todd and Cory — and three grandchildren.

Although he says he will miss the people, Bob says he is "done" now with the day-to-day worries of managing a gin, and is pleased that Bryan Reynolds, formerly the Lynn County Extension Agent, is taking over as gin manager.

"Bryan came in October, and he is going to do a really good job here," Ballard says. "He knows the farmers, he knows the process, and he is very dedicated — I have really enjoyed working with him in this transition," he added.

Susan Zant, who has worked with Ballard at both the New Home and Tahoka gin offices, says that she has enjoyed working with him throughout the years.

"After 16 years of working together you get to know each other very well," said Mrs. Zant. "There were times when we could finish each others sentences, and times when it took both of us to make a sentence! Bob made my job very easy by knowing not only his job, but my job, and how to handle every situation professionally and with everyone's best interest in mind. I was privileged to work with him and will continue to have him as my friend," she added.

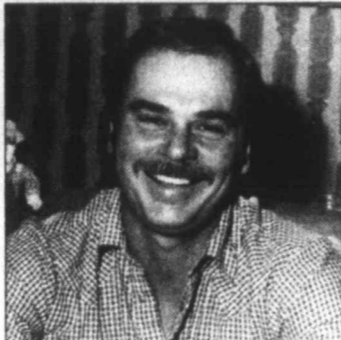
Ballard remembers 2007 as being the best year, in terms of ginning cotton, at Farmers Coop. That year, they processed 73,455 bales of cotton — "that's the biggest year that I ever had Tahoka!" he says.

Altogether in his career, including both the New Home and Tahoka gin, Ballard has tallied a total of 870,639 bales of cotton during his 31-year career. He was surprised to discover, however, that the tallies were about even, counting 457,937 bales processed during his 18 years at New Home Coop Gin, and 412,702 bales in the last 13 years at Farmers Coop in Tahoka.

"I'm now working with my third generation of farmers since I started managing these gins in Lynn County," Ballard says with a wry smile, adding, "Times have changed since I started out with my first group of farmers."

"I remember there were 17

gins in Lynn County when I started managing, and now there are only seven. The modern technology, mechanization and big equipment has changed the face of the cotton industry, both for the farmers and for the gins — not to mention the changes in cotton varieties and



Back in the day ... Bob Ballard, in 1985, when he worked at New Home Coop Gin.

growing seasons that have changed the way we do everything," said Ballard.

"The first press I put in at New Home, many years ago, cost about \$450,000. The last press I put in here in 2007, if you had to buy it today, would cost \$1 million.

The equipment is bigger, better, and faster and that equipment has changed the process quite a bit. When I first started, we were processing 10-12 bales in an hour — now we can do 35-40 bales, and some of my friends in other gins can get up to 60 bales an hour," he said. "A ginning season used to run August through March, that's how long it took to get it done. Now, 80 days is a big crop.

"I guess it takes less people, but now it takes a person with higher qualifications to run the technology. We have bigger — but fewer — gins, larger farms, bigger production — it's gotten awfully hard for the smaller farmer to make it these days. Lynn County has always been high up in cotton production in the state, and I believe cotton will stay strong in our part of the country ... we don't have a lot of alternative choices, really," he added.

Ballard says he has been fortunate during his ginning career to have not had any loss of life of any of his employees working with the gin equipment, which can be quite dangerous if safety measures are not followed diligently. "We have had one who lost a leg, and have had some severed fingers, but other than that we have been very fortunate to not lose any lives," he said.

He says the hardest thing about being a gin manager is being able to balance income and expenses and to make a profit that will pay out dividends to members. But the best part, he says without any hesitation, is the people he has come to know and work with throughout the years.

"I enjoy the people — we have wonderful people here in Lynn County. I was raised a farm boy, and have worked all my life with farmers ... I love the people," he said.

He recalls one farmer, during his years at New Home Coop Gin, who drove his pickup up on the scales and said, "Bob, would you weigh my trailer?" "Sure," responded Ballard, "which trailer?"

"Why, the trailer I just pulled up on the scales," responded the farmer, in a tone that indicated he thought that was a strange question. "What trailer? All I see is a pickup on the scales," responded Ballard, causing the farmer to twist around and discover, to his dismay, that he had lost the trailer at some point along the route to the gin.

"Oh! Corky (Smith) had hit a bump or something, and it pulled the tongue off the trailer and left the trailer behind," Ballard said, laughing. "We all got a kick out of that — and he did go back and find it," he said.

A couple of longtime county farmers who have since passed, were longtime friends and customers at the gin, Ballard says. "Gilbert Gandy and Paul Kiser watched us

when we put the new press in at Farmers Coop in 2007. We put a couple of chairs out for them to sit in, and they would watch us every day, both in their 90s, just shaking their heads and talking about it. They must have come every day during the three months or so it took to put in the new press," he said, smiling as he recalled the fond memories.

"I guess the biggest changes in the cotton ginning business, since I have been associated with it, are the module feeders and module trucks. The module builders in the late 70s, I guess about 1977-78-79 — they changed the outlook of the cotton industry. They made it more economical, faster, and they could be moved miles with trucks," said Ballard.

"The new fad now is going to the round bales, but it will be expensive to change all the equipment, both for the farmers and the ginners. And I think it won't be long until one man can run a gin with just 2-3 others, with all the modernized technology coming," predicted Ballard.

It won't be Ballard having to oversee any future changes, however, as he is looking forward to retiring.

"I will be enjoying life with my wife, doing some of the things we want to do, and we have a couple of farms and will spend time with our children and grandchildren," he said.

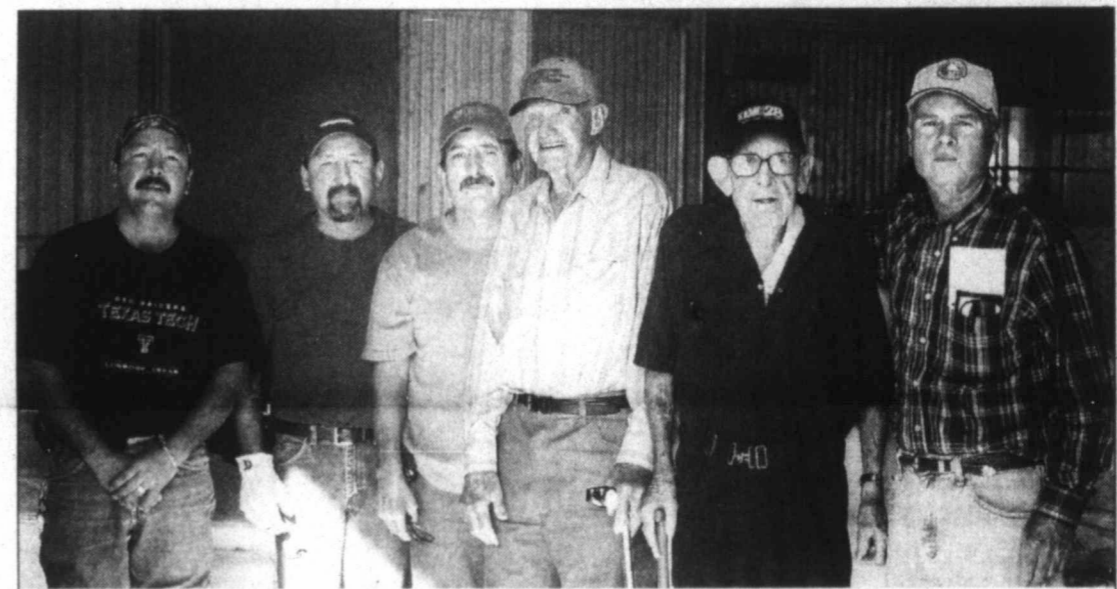
Although he is retiring from the cotton ginning industry, it is a sure bet that after three decades of hands-on involvement Ballard will still be very aware of the county's cotton production and the seasonal issues that affect local growers, and will remain interested in the well-being of the cotton industry in Lynn County.



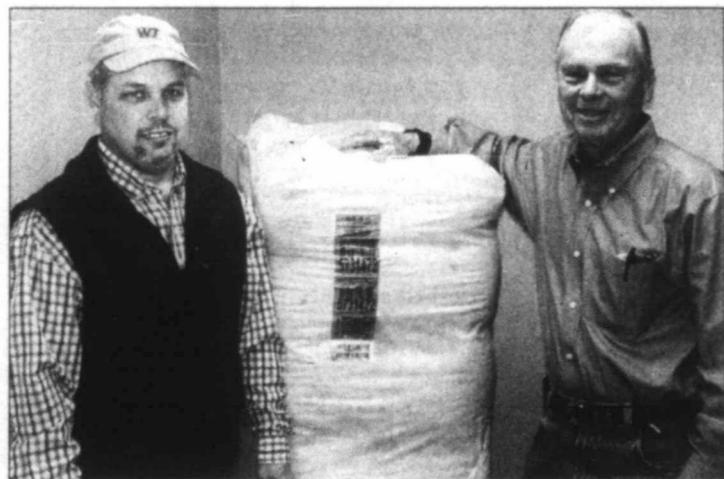
Tournament Champions ... Tahoka ISD hosted the Tahoka Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at T-Bar Country Club, and the Tahoka Golf Team comprised of Hadley Reynolds, Alfredo Martinez, Kohl Angeley and Patrick Hererra were overall Tournament Champions. Individually, Reynolds was the 1st Place Champion, Martinez placed 2nd, and Angeley placed 3rd.



Chamber Directors ... The Tahoka Area Chamber of Commerce recently elected two new directors, Blake Moore and Al Garrett, and elected new officers. Pictured from left are Leighton Knox (vice-president), Stace Holland (president), Pam Elrod (director), Tilda Carrasco (treasurer) and Blake Moore (secretary). Not pictured are directors Al Garrett and Jose Delgado.



The crew at the gin ... Bob Ballard (far right) is pictured with longtime Farmers Coop Gin employees (from left) Habel DeLeon, Felipe DeLeon and Tino DeLeon, as well as Gilbert Gandy and Paul Kiser, who were longtime producers and supporters of the gin. This photo was taken several years ago, and Gandy and Kiser are both deceased now, and Ballard remembers them with fondness.



Transition complete ... Bob Ballard (right) is pictured with Bryan Reynolds at Farmers Coop Gin in Tahoka. Ballard retired last week after 13 years as gin manager, and Reynolds is the new gin manager. The cotton bale they are standing by was bale #57,456 from the 2006 ginning season, which was one of the better production years, although the following year, in 2007, proved to hold the record as they processed 73,455 bales of cotton.

(LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

Doggone it, shop at home when you can.

Our local economy is fragile ...

Shopping locally is a vital part of our growth and prosperity.

Why send locally-owned, hard-earned dollars out of town to support someone else? Money spent in Lubbock or other surrounding towns does not support our community, our school, or our hospital.

The local businessperson pays a high percentage of local taxes and all our area businesses are staunch supporters of this community. Every time a business goes under, local taxes will go up in order to have the same tax base. That means homeowners and remaining businesses will inevitably pay more in taxes. So please, **think before you shop out of town** -- if prices seem cheaper elsewhere, are they really going to be cheaper in the long run? What will happen when you can no longer buy what you need in our town and there are no businesses left?

And we especially appreciate it when our taxing entities -- our school, county, hospital and city -- spend the taxes they collect from us in our own town and county.

THE LYNN COUNTY NEWS

1617 Main St., Tahoka • 561-4888 • Fax 561-6308 • LynnCoNews@poka.com

Open Monday-Thursday 9:00-5:30

AUCTION
Tuesday, March 10... 9:00 a.m.
This auction was previously scheduled on Feb. 24. Notice time and date change.

LOCATION: Plains, TX (Yoakum Co) From intersection of 82/380 and TX 214, east 2 miles on 82/380 (Known as Brownfield Hwy)

ASHBURN AND WALL, Owners
(806) 456-7859 or (806) 456-7549

TRACTORS/ HARVEST/SPRAYS: 2-2008 JD 8230, 2-2004 JD 8220, 1996 JD 8300, 1992 JD 4560, 2009 JD 7460 Stripper, 2005 JD 7460 Stripper, 2001 JD 4710 Sprayer, KBH Module Builder, A&L Boll Buggy, Crustbuster Boll Buggy, D6 CAT Truck and Trailer

ANTIQUE TRACTORS AND VEHICLES: JD 2 Cyl. Model G, JD 2 Cyl. Model A, JD 2 Cyl. Model B, JD 2 Cyl. Model A Modified Puller, 1963 Chevy PU Original, 1966 Chevy El Camino 327 (Good)

PU, JEEP, and RV: 2007 Chevy 1500 PU, 2004 Chevy 2500 PU, 2001 Ford F-250 PU, 1997 Jeep Wrangler, 2001 Newmar Country Star 32 Ft. 5th Wheel RV Trailer (NICE)

PLUS: Peanut Equipment, Livestock, Hay and Grain Equipment, Generators, Irrigation Engines, Trailers, Tanks, Additional Antique Tools and approx. 50+ Pieces of Assorted Farm Equipment

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March 12, 2015

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