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Lynn County Tax Assessor/Collector's office announces new hours

Lynn County Tax Assessor/Collector Donna Willis announces that her office will have new office hours beginning April 1, 2015. The Tax Assessor's office will open Monday through Thursday only, from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. (open during the lunch hour), and remain closed on Fridays.

The office is located at 1521 Ave. J, just west of the courthouse, phone 806-561-4112. This office handles vehicle titles and registrations, voter registration, and collection of special fees imposed by the county.

TRIVIA: In America in 1977, the punishment for smuggling marijuana was 15 years less than the punishment for smuggling coffee. (triviaoftheday.wordpress.com)

Don't forget to take your LCN on trips!



The Lynn County News loves to travel - so don't forget to take us with you when you take a trip!

Send us your "Where In The World is the Lynn County News" photos, and we will publish them as soon as space allows. This feature has proven very popular with LCN readers, and we love to see all the fabulous places that our readers travel.

Email your photos to: LynnCoNews@poka.com

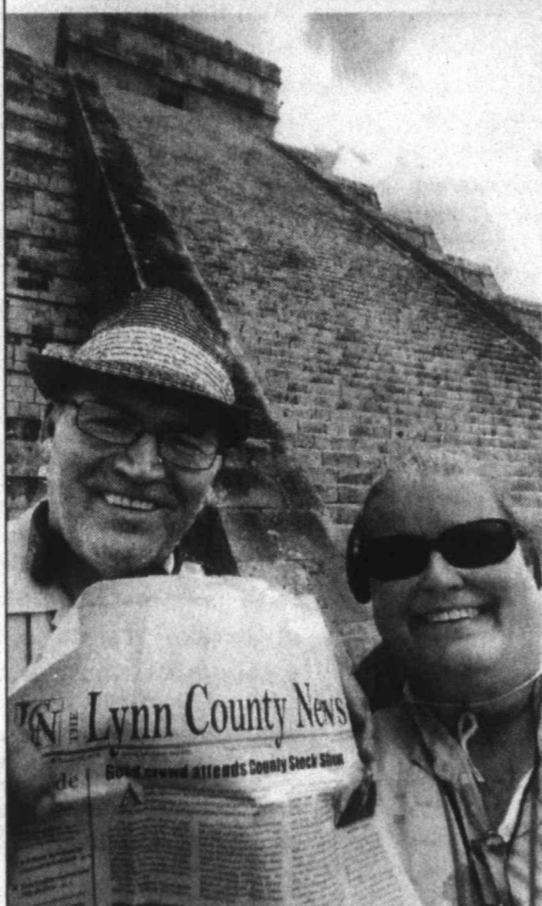
What's Outside

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Mar 3	63	27	
Mar 4	44	38	0.46"
Mar 5	44	21	
Mar 6	57	21	
Mar 7	61	23	
Mar 8	68	32	
Mar 9	68	39	
Total Precip for Jan:			1.70"
Total Precip for Feb:			0.89"
Total Precip for Mar:			0.47"
Total Precip. for 2015:			3.06"

Where in the world is

The Lynn County News?



At the pyramids ...

Al and Donna Garrett of Tahoka visited the pyramids at Chichen Itza while on a cruise recently, carrying their Lynn County News with them for this photo op.

In the photo below:

There be pirates here! ...

There's a pirate standing between Al and Donna in this picture on the coast of Jamaica at another of the stops on their cruise. Well, it's a statue of a pirate, but still - there be pirates, Arrrrgh!

Send The News your "Where In The World photos!"



Commissioners consider litigation regarding county road issue

by JUANELL JONES

Lynn County Commissioners, in action taken at Monday morning's first session of the month, voted to hire Jon Mark Hogg as an attorney to represent Lynn County in civil litigation in a case involving a county road issue.

"We will have Hogg working with County Attorney Rebekah Filley on this issue, which involves a county landowner moving a county road," County Judge Mike Braddock told *The News*. "We hope to resolve the issue without litigation, but we will if necessary," he said.

Braddock said that two years ago the county had public hearings when they formally investigated all county roads, in order to clarify all roads designated as Lynn County roads, and printing a new map marking all county roads. Apparently, the road in question has been moved since that time, but Braddock declined to comment on the issue, which had been discussed in closed session during Monday's meeting.

In other business, commissioners voted to approve a request from the Sheriff's Dept. to replace the control board at the county jail. Jim Bingham, Chief Jailer, reported that the board controls the intercom and locking system on all cells, and that the current system is outdated and parts are not available for repairs.

"It's currently working, but we are having some problems with it, and we need to get this issue corrected," Bingham told commissioners.

He presented information on a new control board from Argyle Security at a cost of \$37,750. Commissioners approved the purchase, but instructed that County Treasurer Amy Schuknecht should investigate the possibility of using funds from the county security fund, and to allow Sheriff Jerry D. Franklin to seek funding from First Bank and Trust if security funds were not available.

Judge Braddock informed commissioners of a special called meeting (See COMMISSIONERS, page 6)

Jefferson man dies after car overturns on Highway 87

The driver in a one-vehicle rollover on U.S. 87 about 11 miles north of Tahoka last Wednesday evening died Friday of injuries suffered in the accident.

Jason Michael Gentry, 38, of Jefferson, was the victim. Information from the Dept. of Public Safety's investigating trooper was that Gentry was ejected from his Volkswagen after the northbound vehicle went out of control, rolled over several times and came to rest in the southbound lane. Gentry was transported to University Medical Center in Lubbock.

The crash occurred near the Poka Lambro facility.

Another accident on U.S. 87, near FM 211, Sunday resulted in one person being airlifted to a Lubbock hos-

pital. Names of the drivers of vehicles involved in what was described as a head-on collision, and name of the injured person were not available. One driver involved in the accident was taken to Lynn County jail.

Jose Torres of New Home advised the sheriff's department Friday that someone had stolen a package left at his residence by Fed Ex.

The county jail held 44 persons on Tuesday, including 29 held for Ector County. Among the recent arrests were persons charged with possession of marijuana under two ounces, driving while intoxicated, unlawful restraint, assault on a public servant, evading arrest, and assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Tahoka PD gets new bodycams, CopSync software for vehicles

by JUANELL JONES

Tahoka Police officers have some new tools that will make their jobs a little easier, more efficient, and will allow instant access to information shared by law enforcement officers statewide. The Tahoka Police Dept. received grant funding to purchase CopSync software and laptop computers, as well as new bodycams for video/audio recording during on-scene investigations.

Mandi Duncan, Municipal Judge for the City of Tahoka, applied for \$18,455.41 in grant funds for the police department, which fully funded the purchases.

"The City of Tahoka received the grant in October to purchase the CopSync system and we just recently had it installed in the vehicles, and it is now being used," said Duncan, who wrote and presented the grant. "We were ranked 3rd out of 12 and were fully funded, no match required," she reported.

"The department really appreciates Judge Duncan for applying for the grant, she has been really helpful," said Jeff Parker with the Tahoka Police Dept. "We have installed the CopSync systems in our police vehicles, and it enables us to have instant access to information from other law enforce-

ment officers from throughout the state. This real-time sharing between law enforcement agencies can assist in watching for vehicles suspected of drug trafficking, missing children alerts, and other issues," he explained.

The CopSync software also can be used for compiling reports that can be shared, issuing citations, instant information accessed by swiping drivers licenses, security checks, tracking information history on vehicles, and more.

He explained that having the CopSync software provides instant information on vehicle registrations and licenses, instead of having to go through communications and asking others to check that information and get back to them.

"CopSync is very good tool, allowing us to have instant access to all kinds of information and sharing this information with other agencies. It is just a much more efficient way of doing things," said Parker.

The bodycams are new to the police department, adding a portable video/audio feature that officers may use to record any investigations or on-scene activities while away from their vehicles.

"This is a great addition, and it has the night vision that records even in total darkness. This can protect an

officer by documenting all evidence at the scene. All are digital recordings that can then be used in presenting information on cases, and can be downloaded to the DA's office if needed," said Parker.

The new CopSync software and

bodycams allow a small police department the tools that larger departments have the ability to access, and Parker says the department is appreciative of the grant funding that has afforded them the opportunity while not costing the citizens a penny from local funds.



New tools ... Jeff Parker, with the Tahoka Police Dept., shows the laptop with the CopSync software in officers' vehicles. The City of Tahoka received grant funding to purchase CopSync software and laptop computers, as well as new bodycams for video/audio recording during on-scene investigations.

(LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)



Words of Inspiration:

"Certain things catch your eye, but pursue only those that capture the heart. - ANCIENT INDIAN PROVERB"

The Lynn County News

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PUBLISHER / NEWS EDITOR
Juanell Jones

PUBLISHER / MANAGING EDITOR
Vondell Elliott

OFFICE MANAGER
Pam Elnod

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

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Thursday, 9 am to 5:30 pm
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Obituaries

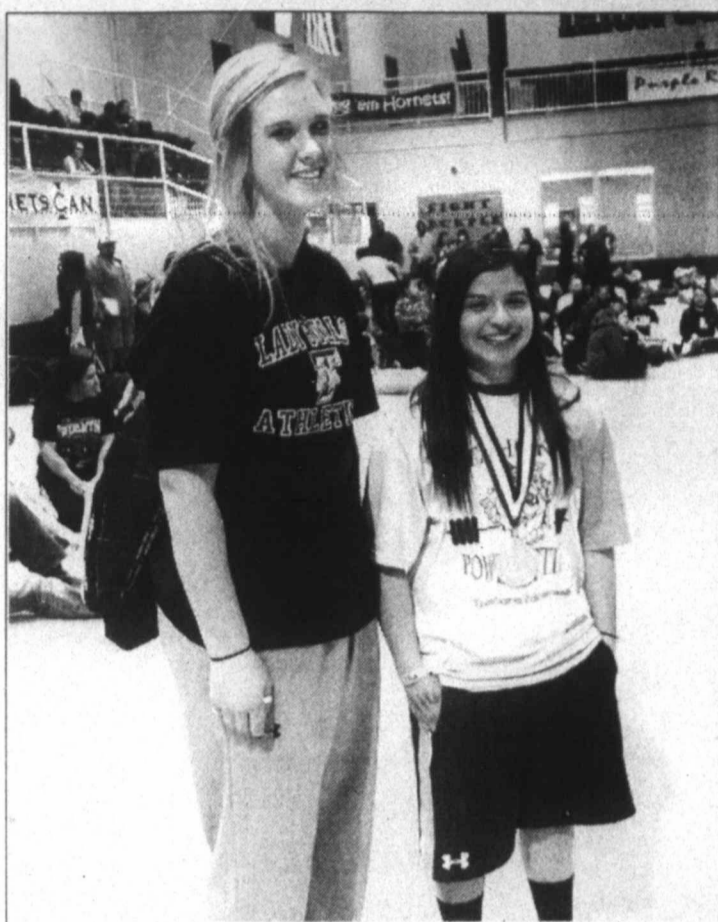


Rickie Lynn Graves

Rickie Lynn Graves of Tahoka passed away on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at the age of 51. He was born January 17, 1964 in Tahoka to Tommy Lee and Shirley Gene (Brown) Graves. Rickie graduated from Tahoka High School. He was married to Cathy Runkels. He was a self-employed carpet layer.

Rickie was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Tommy Lewis Graves.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Cathy of Tahoka; daughters, Kelia Madison of, Colorado Springs, Co, Starlett Lopez of Post, Carissa Harris and Allison Graves of Lubbock; sons, David Kimble of Cleveland, OH, Jeffery Elmore of Odessa, Jarard Graves of Tahoka, Ridge Graves and Chase Graves of Post; brothers, Tony Graves and David



Advancing to State ... Tahoka's Serena Ayala (at right, with medal) competed at the Region 1 Division 3 women's Powerlifting championships on Friday, March 6. She finished 3rd overall in her weight class and advances to the Girls State Powerlifting meet in Corpus Christie. The meet will take place on March 21 at the American Bank Center. Pictured with Serena is Olivia Hammonds.

Graves of Tahoka, Alton Graves of Houston and Calvin Graves of Denver, Co; sister, Michelle Risher of Las Vegas, NV and 17 grandchildren.

Services were held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, March 9, 2015 at First Baptist Church with interment at Nevels Memorial Cemetery.

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

You are 23 Times

more likely to crash when you text while driving.

Senior Citizen's LUNCH MENU

March 16-20

- Monday:** Swedish meatballs, parsley noodles, mixed vegetables, angel food cake w/ strawberries
- Tuesday:** Homestyle lasagna, brussel sprouts, garlic bread, pears
- Wednesday:** Baked chicken breast, Au Gratin gratin potatoes, peas & carrots, Waldorf salad, sliced bananas
- Thursday:** Beef taco bake, Spanish rice, cauliflower, salad w/ dressing, country apple crisp
- Friday:** Beef stroganoff, noodles, mixed veggies, winter fruit cup

Woodwork

by Dalton Wood



LOOKING for an interesting topic, I visited a website called "This Month in History," and discovered a few items about this time of year.

The first supposedly noteworthy birthday I saw was that March 12, 1881, was the birthday of the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who led a revolution and was Turkey's first president.

Reading about this turkey didn't excite me much, but there were others.

March 13, 1733, was the birthday of an Englishman named Joseph Priestly, who discovered oxygen, but apparently didn't do much with it. ("Don't breathe a word of this to anybody...")

Albert Einstein was born in Germany March 14, 1879. Now, there's a name I recognize. Believing the Nazis might develop an atomic bomb, he urged President Franklin Roosevelt to push the development of a U.S. atomic bomb. Einstein was known for his theory of relativity. As I understand it, that means that if you are wealthy and/or have a nice home on a route to a good vacation spot, relatives will find you.

Julius Caesar was assassinated in Rome of March 15, 44 B.C.

Andrew Jackson was born March 15, 1767. He later became the U.S. President, after being a military hero during the War of 1812 (whenever that was). March is also the birthday month of Presidents Grover Cleveland, John Tyler, and James Madison, Plymouth Governor William Bradford, missionary David Livingstone, Wyatt Earp, William Jennings Bryan, boxing champion Jack Johnson, playwright Tennessee Williams, painter Vincent Van Gogh, and musicians Franz Joseph Haydn and Johann Sebastian Bach, who composed a lot of famous music really hard to whistle.

Oh, yes, one more: Harry Houdini, born March 24, 1874, in Hungary (real name, Erik Weisz). Houdini was a famous escape artist, whose name escaped me there for a minute.

WILSON SCHOOL NEWS

By: Bill R. Gonzales - District Coordinator of School Improvement/Home Liaison

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, all students (and parents) were able to attend a special presentation at 3:00 pm from the Science Spectrum in the new gym.

At 4:00 pm Wilson ISD had an author visit as Ralph Williston worked with our students for two hours during the ACE program. Wilson ISD would like to remind everyone that it is time to sign-up for the Before and After School ACE Program. The Wilson ISD before and after school program is designed to offer an enriched portfolio of activities for students and their families at no cost to participants. The program offers Academic assistance, enrichment, and college and career readiness. It is available to all Pre-K - 12th grade students. The program began March 2, and will end on May 22. It is offered between the morning hours of 7:00 am-8:00am, Monday through Friday. The program will resume in the afternoons between 3:45 pm - 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

The purpose of the ACE program is to help ensure that students are safe before and

after school and that each student has the opportunity to graduate and is prepared for leaving high school. Expanded services in the program will include tutoring, homework help, enrichment activities, job readiness, and college readiness. These programs and events are offered at no charge.

Samantha Lungstrum is the ACE Site Coordinator. She is in Wilson Elementary Building, Room #7 and may be reached at 806-628-6271.

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.

Tahoka Daisy

(*Machaeranthera tanacetifolia*)

This beautiful wild flower is native to the South Plains of Texas. It was first discovered growing at Tahoka Lake in 1898. The Tahoka Daisy is an aster-family wild flower with 2 inch lavender-blue flowers, a golden-yellow center, and lovely green fern-like foliage. Plant in early September. The Tahoka Daisy enjoys full sun and blooms from mid-spring until frost. This saucy, low maintenance flower is an excellent choice for garden or patio borders, rock gardens or any hard-to-maintain location!

Net Wt. 2 grams • Seeds/Packet approx. 200
Lot #332007 • Purity 96.36% • Germ. 68% • Coverage 20 square feet

Seed packets available at the City of Tahoka • 806-561-4211

Please visit these Lynn County Churches

Tahoka Trinity Church

1925 Lockwood • Box 1168 • Tahoka • (806) 561-5317

PASTOR: PERRY SHUFFIELD

Sunday School - 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Sunday Evening Worship - 6 pm
Youth - Sundays at 7 pm

For a ride to Sunday School or Church, call 561-5317

Draw First United Methodist Church

(established 1907)

P.O. Box 496 • O'Donnell, TX 79351
Phone (806) 428-3357

PASTOR: REV. WESTON PENDERGRASS

Sunday Morning Worship - 9:15 am

TAHOKA Church of Christ

2320 Lockwood • Box 1177 • Tahoka, TX 79373
(806) 561-4060 • email: tcoc@poka.com

PULPIT MINISTER: STEVEN BONNER

Sunday School - 10:00 am
Sunday Worship - 11 am

Fellowship & Devotion - Wednesday 6:30 pm

Wilson First Baptist Church

1403 13th St. • Box 67 • Wilson, TX 79381 • (806) 628-6333

PASTOR: BILLY FARMER

Sunday School - 9:45 am
Sunday Worship - 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
Discipleship Training - 5 pm Sunday
6:30 pm Wednesdays
Fellowship Meal & Classes for all ages
• Bible Study & Prayer Mtg • Youth

Sweet Street Baptist Church

1300 AVENUE J • BOX 751 • TAHOKA, TX 79373 • (806) 561-5310
DAVID EARNEST, PASTOR

Sunday School - 9:45 am
(A Bible Study Class for all ages)

Morning Worship - 11:00 am
(Lifting Music - Message from God's Word)

Wednesday Night - 7 pm
(Prayer & Bible Study, Children & Youth Ministries)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Wilson St. Paul Lutheran Church

16th & Houston St. • Box 126 • Wilson, TX 79381
(806) 628-6471 • www.stpaulwilson.com

PASTOR: DAVID W. RICHIE

Sunday School 9:15 am • Divine Service 10:15 am

"Where Christ Serves People"

Communication with God

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." ~ Romans 8:26

In this modern, 21st Century, there are many technological devices to help us communicate with cell phones, computers, facebook, tweets, blogs, texts, webpage, cams, etc, etc. However, none of those provide communication with God. Do not fear! You have a direct, old-fashioned, line to God, through the Holy Spirit! It is called prayer, and it works! Have a humble and honest communication with God. The only thing better than praying by yourself, is praying with others, and for others, in a church! If you would like a church home, please visit one of the churches listed. *May the peace and love of God be with you.*

Curtis Schrader, Pastor
New Home United Methodist Church

Grassland Nazarene Church

2885 CR 25 • Tahoka, TX 79373 • (806) 561-5656, 562-5655

PASTOR: Rev. James Miller

Sunday School - 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Sunday Evening Worship - 6 pm
Youth and Adults: Wednesdays - 7 pm

First Baptist Church

1701 Ave. K • Box 1547 • Tahoka, TX 79373
(806) 561-4557 • www.fctahoka.org

PASTOR: BILL FULLER

Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship Service - 10:45 am
SBL (Youth) - 6:00 pm Sunday

Activities For All Ages - Call For Complete Schedule
There's A Place For Me at FBCh

TAHOKA St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church

South 4th & Ave. M • Tahoka, TX 79373 • (806) 561-4436

PASTOR: REV. EDUARDO TEO
DEACON: PETE PANIAGUA

Mass - 11:00 am Sunday, 6 pm Wed. & Thur.
Rosary - 6 pm Tues.
CCE Class/Confirmation Instruct. - 7 pm Wed.

New Home United Methodist Church

350 N. Main
New Home, TX 79383
(806) 924-7549

PASTOR: CURTIS SCHRADER

Sunday School 10:00 am • Worship 10:45 am
Youth Activities

First Methodist of Tahoka

1801 Ave. J • Tahoka • (806) 561-4583
email: functahoka@poka.com

SUNDAYS: Sunday School - 9:30 am
Sunday Worship - 10:30 am (Fellowship Hall)
"Like" our Facebook page... facebook/FMoTahoka

Let the Children Come
LICENSED CHILD CARE 7 am-6 pm M-F
561-4829

Wilson St. John Lutheran Church

13th & Dickson • Wilson, TX 79381 • (806) 628-6073

Sharing Christ's message of forgiveness and salvation with our community and beyond.

TONDA FREITAG, PLM

Sunday School - 10 am • Sunday Worship - 11:15 am

NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of 4th & Smith • Pastor: Larry Madlrox
"Serving the Lord for 100 Years"

SERVICES:

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm
Wed. Youth/Children's Activities 7:00 pm

New Home Church of Christ

324 N. Main • Box 186 • New Home, TX 79383 • (806) 924-7579

MINISTER: VICTOR ELLISON

Bible Class - 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 am
Sunday Evening Service - 6:00 pm
Mid-Week Bible Study - 7:00 pm

LCHD is now offering

CARDIAC REHAB!

Travis Armstrong
ACSM-CES, HFS, NSCA-CSCS
certified
Clinical Exercise Physiologist

Cardiac Rehab can help you repair and rebuild your life after experiencing the debilitating effects of cardiac disease.

Healthcare Closer to Home

Fitness & Rehab Center

www.lchdhealthcare.org
1809 Lockwood • 806-561-1340

'What's Dinner for Mar... Families faced with th for dinner? like to alrea and dinner r Wendy S and interac you will not also take ho Cooker Chip is a come-ar ing March Housing A from 11:30 ingredients you choose don't want meal. Cost is \$ for the fami friends! Ple money) by tention Off mation ple Scott, CEA 4562 or e ag.tamu.edu

"Lik Fac www. Lynn Lynn Coun Master

Comp Gift fo

Offering TAH 1610

If W ar of sa ct F THE

'What's for Dinner' scheduled for March 26

Families are constantly faced with the question, "What's for dinner?" How would you like to already have that answer and dinner ready?

Wendy Scott will have a fun and interactive how-to where you will not only get to eat but also take home your own "Slow Cooker Chipotle Burritos." This is a come-and-go event happening March 26 at the Tahoka Housing Authority Building from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. All ingredients will be laid out and you choose what you want and don't want in your take home meal.

Cost is \$20 for lunch, dinner for the family and fun with your friends! Please RSVP (with the money) by March 20 at the Extension Office. For more information please contact Wendy Scott, CEA-FCS at 806-561-4562 or email wendy.scott@ag.tamu.edu.

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www.facebook.com/LynnCountyNews

Lynn County News now accepts MasterCard/Visa cards

Regional Spelling Bee ... Estevan Calvillo, a 4th grade student at Tahoka Elementary, won 1st Place in the Tahoka Elementary Spelling Bee to advance to the Regional Spelling Bee in Lubbock on March 7, pictured here during the competition, and afterwards with his family. He is the son of Virginia Silvas and Emilio Calvillo, Jr.



AgriLife Extension sets South Plains Profitability Workshops

"South Plains producers are facing stressful times because of depressed commodity prices and alternatives added to the new farm bill," said Dr. Jackie Smith, AgriLife Extension economist at Lubbock. "Farmers will be looking for and considering decisions that could cut costs or improve yields. Some will also be considering alternative crops.

The workshops will be held March 17, 31, April 7 & 23 at the AgriLife office north of

Lubbock. For additional information, go to <http://agrilife.org/southplainsprofit/>

"Cotton farmers especially will be evaluating new options as they navigate the 2014 farm bill. Their cotton base acres are now generic base acres. And while their generic base is not directly covered by Farm Service Agency payments, their generic acres can be planted to a covered commodity, and those acres will then be eligible for payments if payments are made for that covered crop.

"The goal of these workshops, all with a similar curriculum, is to help producers understand the new farm bill and its ramifications on their individual farming operations."

Smith said the curriculum objectives include introducing participants to the budget spreadsheet to compare various alternative crops including planting covered crops on generic base. He said the budgets will be used to compare the net income of cotton with that of relevant covered crops includ-

ing the safety net of PLC payments up to reference prices.

The crop spreadsheet budgets used in all the workshops can be downloaded from the website listed above. All the workshops will use the newest decision-aid tool developed by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University, called the "Generic Base Joint Planting and Program Election Assistance" tool.

"The tool calculates net returns for alternative crops under Price Loss Coverage or PLC and Agricultural Risk Coverage or ARC, for which you could allocate generic base," Smith said. "The workshops will also review the ARC/PLC Evaluator for Generic Base."

Participants will receive a jump drive with the budget spreadsheet on it. Those wishing to bring and use their own computers may do so.

For further information, call Smith at 806-746-6101. There will be no charge for the workshop, but pizza will be provided at lunch for \$5 per individual.

City Council considering more stop signs in town

Tahoka City Council met in regular session Monday night at City Hall, hearing a report on the upcoming Centennial celebration and discussing citizen requests for placement of stop signs at several intersections.

City Administrator Jerry Webster told *The News* that the council tabled any action on the stop sign considerations, instead directing him to have city police monitor traffic at these intersections to see if the need for more stop signs is justified. The intersections under consideration are at N. 8th and Ave. O (with stop signs on N. 8th halting east-west traffic), S. 7th and Ave. L (four-way stop), N. 3rd and Ave. L (four-way stop), and changing the location of stop signs on N. 3rd and Ave. M to the north-south traffic on M instead of N. 3rd.

"After the police department has monitored traffic at these intersections, we will discuss the issue again at a future meeting," said Webster.

In other business, council members voted to cancel the May 9 election since all incumbent are unopposed in their bids for re-election, including Mayor John Baker and council members Amy Preston and Rudy Fuentes. Monthly bills were

also approved.

Susan Tipton, chairman of the city's Centennial Celebration committee, presented an update on the activities planned for June 20, 2015 at the city park and museum, and other activities in conjunction with the event, including a tour offered that morning at Tahoka Lake.

Mayor John Baker led the meeting, with Webster and council members Preston, Fuentes, Jeff Martin and Ray Box present, and councilman Johnny Rosas absent.

God's Clothes Closet

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

TAHOKA CHURCH OF CHRIST
2320 Lockwood

(Donations accepted any time in the outside bins.)

Complete selection of **Gift Items & Cards** for all occasions!



Need a card for St. Patrick's Day, Easter, a Baby Shower, Birthday, Sympathy, or Get Well?

We have CARDS and GIFTS for any event ... come see!

Offering warm, friendly, knowledgeable home-town service!

TAHOKA DRUG • 561-4041
1610 Main, Tahoka • www.tahokadrug.com

Pages from the Past

By Vondell Elliott
Excerpts taken from past issues of THE LYNN COUNTY NEWS.

Fire Damage Estimate at Least \$750,000

An early morning fire in Tahoka caused an estimated \$750,000 damage, destroying the J.B. Greer grain elevator, numerous bales of cotton, and un-ginned cotton and trailers, in the eastern section of the city.

The fire began in the Greer elevator and sparks fanned by a 40-mile wind, quickly ignited bales of cotton in a compress yard, and the gin yards of Fenton Brothers.

The first alarm was sounded at 4:40 a.m. and when firemen arrived at the scene, the elevator was flaming at the top of the head house. A second alarm was sounded shortly thereafter, and pleas for help went out to Slaton, Post and O'Donnell fire departments.

Reports at the scene estimated just above 2,000 gales lost at the compress yard and another 165-180 bales and remnants at Fenton Brothers. An estimated 80 to 100 cotton trailers and un-ginned cotton, two small houses and a converted office building were also destroyed at Fentons.

The Greer elevator was considered a total loss, with some salvage to the grain stored there. Reports were that approximately 40 car-loads of grain were stored at the elevator and warehouse storage facilities.

Tahoka chief, Alton Kelley, finally pulled local equipment from the scene at 5:00 p.m., twelve hours after the alarm sounded. One piece of equipment returned to the scene as hot spots at the elevator began burning again.

This was one of the most serious fires that Tahoka has experienced. The fire could have been more serious, as several small houses were threatened, and occupants were advised to evacuate them. Due to the extra units from surrounding towns, none of the houses received any damage.

Local police and county units had the Post Highway blocked for several hours, and fire lines and equipment were strung out for four to five blocks in the fire area.

Clean-up work began im-

mediately, as soon as the fires were under some control. Cotton trailers were scattered over the east end of town and repair crews from Southwestern Public Service and General Telephone Company quickly began repair work to restore service in town. Other equipment pressed into service included a hydraulic bucket from Lyntegar Electric, with which to finish fire fighting at the elevator. - Dec. 26, 1968

Trivia of the Day

from triviaoftheday.wordpress.com (LCN cannot confirm these "facts"!)

- Nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously.
- The most common name in the world is Mohammed.
- Second hand tobacco smoke is the third leading preventable cause of death, after active tobacco smoking and alcohol use. Environmental tobacco smoke, as it is also called, contributes to more than 50,000 deaths per year in the U.S. alone.

Mobile Mammography

WILL BE AVAILABLE AT



Lynn County Hospital

2600 Lockwood • Tahoka

Wednesday, March 18

To schedule an appointment, please call

1-877-494-4797
or 806-725-6579

Financial assistance available for those who qualify, through a partnership with

CovenantHealth

Susan G. Komen
Lubbock Area

Need an Invitation?

If you need an invitation for a Baby Shower, Wedding, Anniversary, Birthday Party or anything else, come by the Lynn County News office and let us help you! We have lots of samples to choose from and can help you customize your invitations ... all at a low price.

For example: 50 Post Card Invitations ... \$17.50.

THE Lynn County News

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He made me laugh... Odis "Rabbit" Best was a fun guy, regaling life's stories with humor

by Jack Flippin
New Moore Literary Society

In the Book of Proverbs, King Solomon inscribed for the ages: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." And, taking a cue from that scripture, *Reader's Digest* features a humor section: "Laughter, the Best Medicine."

In my youth, the most prolific purveyor of that salubrious potion was my very unique friend Odis Carroll "Rabbit" Best. There was about him a demeanor, a winking wit, a sly grin that gave you the feeling that he was looking any minute for the funniest kind of joke. Which he generally was. This attracted others to him: those who wanted, who needed, to laugh; to release those endorphins that doctors now tell us are secreted in mirth. Yes, in cafes, workplaces, hunting lodges, musical jam sessions, anywhere that friends gathered, "Rabbit" made people laugh, where laughter was no small gift.

Soon after he was born in 1941, his father, Odis Best, Sr., and his wife, Florine, came to a parting of the ways. Some eleven years later she married Mr. George McCracken, who thus became a stepfather to young Odis Carroll and his older sister Gloria.

In the infancy and childhood of "Rabbit," his mouth and teeth never formed correctly. His permanent teeth never came in; so, all his life, he smiled with his baby teeth. This gave his mouth an underdeveloped, sunken appearance. As a result, his face

took on a bunny-like look; thus his moniker. This indentation caused his speech to come out in a droll nasality, sounding as if he were talking into a hollow log. This, plus his tendency to imitate, consciously or unconsciously, the honeysuckle, lisp, winter-molasses, cool-cat intonations of that 1950s Southern comic Brother Dave Gardner... made "Rabbit" a natural draw.

and then enrolled at Texas Tech. But college was not his gig; he dropped out after a semester.

He went to work for Lyntegar, and became a proficient electrician. Eventually he achieved the level of Journeyman in that occupation. Then he decided to leave Lyntegar to be a free-lance electrician, working wherever the wages were attractive. He helped build power plants around the country.

One of the funniest stories he ever told me was about the time he flew to Mexico City, back in the Sixties.

After landing in that teeming city, he took a train to Vera Cruz, to see the Gulf of Mexico. (Instead of going to Acapulco, on the Pacific coast, he decided to economize.)

He bought a *primera clase* ticket, then boarded the train. But the passenger car he was shown to didn't look first class to him. He must be in the wrong car, he figured.

So he stepped into the next car. It had a rude concrete floor with hard wooden benches, and people frantically trying to control their braying burros, bleating goats, squawking chickens, barking dogs, and other livestock. Thus he beat a hasty retreat to his *primera clase* car. He bought a bottle of tequila, nursed it, and (in his words) "vegetated."

The train was snaking through the Sierra Madres, and "Rabbit" could look up and see, a mile above, the tops of the mountains. A mile below, he could see the bottoms of the valleys. He hoped the engineer knew what he was doing.

He spent a day or two on the Gulf Coast. Then he boarded the evening train to return to Mexico City. He went to the *primera clase* car, and took his seat. He said that, after dusk fell, he could look out the passenger car window into the darkness of that tropical jungle and see those eyes of various critters, looking back at him. Opening the window, he could hear the raucous sounds they were making; and was sure that if he reached out the window, he'd bring in a monkey, cockatoo, or parrot.

He arrived in Mexico City without incident, then flew back to Texas.



ODIS "RABBIT" BEST

In 1971 he married a divorcee with two small boys. As he explained it to me, "Aw, I'm just lazy; didn't want to mess with squalling and diapers, so I just took on two boys that are past all that." Seriously, though, he was a superb surrogate father to those youngsters; perhaps because he himself had been raised by a stepfather.

He shared my affinity for bluegrass music. And he and I both agreed that the greatest, most evocative voice on the radio was that of Marty Robbins. (I sensed that anybody with such exquisite musical tastes as "Rabbit" must have a solid set of values.)

He was living outside Lamesa when one day he told me he wanted to buy a bass fiddle. I told him I knew of one for sale in Lubbock for \$150.00.

"Well, I don't want a 'Ford,' I want a 'Cadillac,'" he said.

"All right, I know of another one for \$500.00," I suggested.

"That's the one I want," he affirmed.

I told him where to find it, and then proposed that, after purchasing it, he stop at the home in Lubbock of my older brother Perry, his wife Ingrid, and their daughter Anne.

Which he proceeded to do. Sitting there amongst us, he humorously regaled us with stories of his home and family life there in Lamesa, to the accompaniment of peals of laughter.

I wanted to know if he might happen to have a copy of the Marty Robbins LP album "The Drifter." So, during a lull in the conversation, I asked him, "Rabbit, do you have...?"

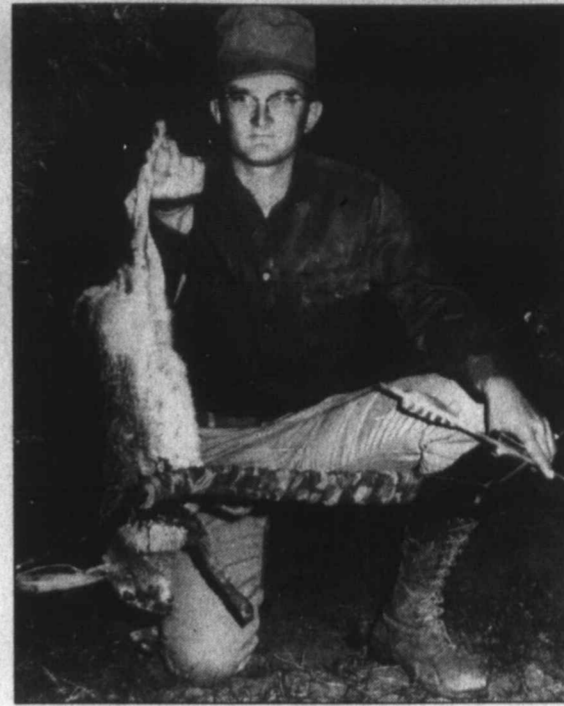
And before I could get the question out, he chuckled, "No, I probably don't 'have,' after what I've just spent."

(We were all laughing so hard, I don't remember whether I finished the question or not.)

In the mid-Seventies, he moved his family to Hobbs. His wife expressed a desire to get a college education. So she enrolled at New Mexico Junior College there, and got all she could from it. Then she enrolled at Texas Tech. She was gone through the week, and would return home on weekends. When she was away, "Rabbit" cooked, cleaned, and helped the boys with their homework; all while holding down his full-time job.

She graduated with a degree in accounting, and eventually earned a CPA license.

He later moved to Peoria, Arizona. Along about 1981, he developed a brain tumor. He knew his time on Earth would be brief. In the summer of 1982 he took what would be a farewell trip to Tahoka. He bade his fond farewells to those who meant the most to him, including John Ed Redwine, who (as he told me recently), "loved 'Rabbit' like a brother." I felt very privileged to be among his



Rabbit gets a rabbit... "Rabbit" with a jackrabbit he hunted with his crossbow.

"inner circle." I had been told he was terminal, but I was in denial: he looked all right to me. But I could tell by the way he hugged me that he knew this would be our last visit. He went back to Peoria.

In December 1982, Marty Robbins died. I called "Rabbit," and we held a telephone wake across a thousand miles for our mutually cherished singer.

Then, in February, 1983, "Rabbit" breathed his last, at the age of forty-one. His two stepsons served as pallbearers.

Odis Carroll "Rabbit" Best, while perhaps marching to the beat of a different drummer, was his own man. With his gentle disposition, and outrageous sense of wit and humor, he brightened whatever corner he happened to be living in, and thus made his part of the country a better place. When he laughed, the world laughed with him.



Jack Flippin, a former Tahokan, is a retired free-lance writer living in central Kentucky. He is a member of the New Moore Literary Society.

The New Moore Literary Society Lynn County has produced more than its share of writers. The New Moore Literary Society recognizes those literary types from Lynn County who have published and are still living. From time to time one of these writers will submit an article to the Lynn County News.

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Looking back ... Odis "Rabbit" Best was elected FHA Beau at Tahoka High School, pictured in this photo taken from the THS Kennel Yearbook for that honor. The young lady is believed to be Jackie Alexander, FFA Sweetheart. Rabbit was a 1961 THS graduate.

(Dale Carnegie is credited with saying, "If life hands you a lemon, make lemonade." Here was a personification of that axiom.)

His humor was often self-deprecating, and never at the other fellow's expense: "When I was a kid, I was so ugly I had to sneak up on a glass of water to get a drink."

He and I were both lovers of music, and he played bass guitar in a local group called "The Earls." He graduated from Tahoka High School in 1961,

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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.

REQUEST FOR BIDS
Lee Lewis Construction, Inc., as construction manager, will be receiving bids for the O'Donnell ISD Phase 3 - High School, Junior High School and Elementary Kitchen Additions and Renovations.
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CARDS of THANKS

THANK YOU!
The family of Ernestine "Dink" Short is humbled by the many cards, visits from friends, flowers, donations and food for our home and church meal.
Thank you to the First Methodist Church and Dorothy Draper and the ladies who gave their time to prepare food and serve us lunch. Thank you to Rev. Billy Everett and Marcy Whitley for coordinating things at the church.
Thank you to Maxine Paris (Paris n' Bloom) for the beautiful flowers covering Dink.
Thank you to Rev. Marvin Gregory, Rev. Ruby Moultrie, Byron Norwood and Cheryl Posey for the "perfect" service of words and music honoring Dink.
Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Combest and the staff at Combest Family Funeral Home for going the extra miles to meet with us and to travel to Austin to set up her very special burial at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas.
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Tahoka High School track teams compete at Sundown meet

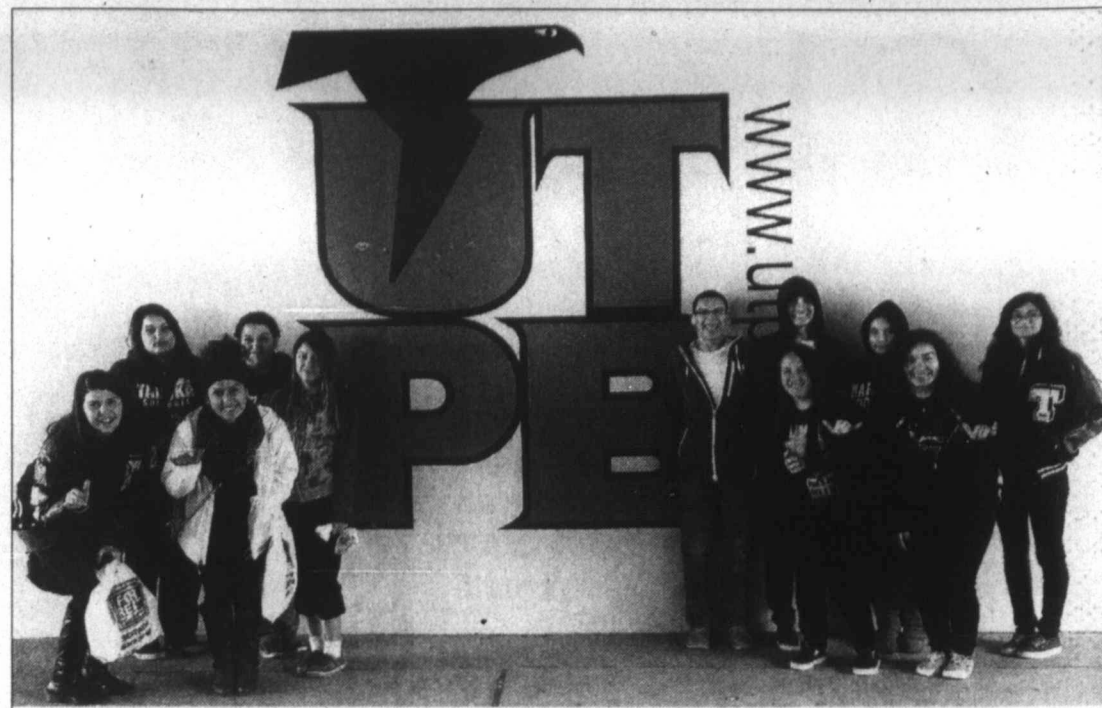
The varsity and junior varsity teams competed in a track meet at Sundown. The results are as follows: Varsity: Hadley Reynolds-3rd place- Pole Vault; Ryan Mendez- 2nd place- Shot Put. Junior Varsity: Kevin White- 2nd place- Triple Jump; 3rd Place- Shot Put; Michael Farrell- 2nd place- Shot Put; Andrew Alavarez- 1st place- 800 m run; 1st place- 200 m dash; 1st place 400 m dash.

The varsity girls placed third overall. The following participants and their results are as follows; Caitlynn Adams- 8th in the 800m; 10th in the 1600m run; Maci Dimak- 2nd in the Triple Jump; 1st in the 800m; Yancy Draper- 4X200m relay; Kylynn McCleskey- 3rd in the 200m, 4X100m, 4X200m re-

lay; Averi Starkey- 7th in the 800m, 4X400m relay; Haley Stephens- 6th in the 100m Hurdles; Natalie Stice- 2nd in High Jump, 4th in the 100m dash; Micaela Torrez- 4X100m, 4X200m, 4X400m relay; Yuli Villegas- 4X100m, 4X200m relay.

Relay times were 3rd in the 4X100m with a time of 54.82, by team members Natalie Stice, Yuli Villegas, Kylynn McCleskey, Micaela Torrez. Placing 2nd in the 4X200m with a time of 1:58.79 were Yancy Draper, Kylynn McCleskey, Micaela Torrez, and Yuli Villegas.

Placing 2nd in the 4X400m with a time of 4:47.88 were team members Maci Dimak, Natalie Stice, Averi Starkey, and Micaela Torrez.



UTPB tour... Tahoka High School Junior AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students toured UTPB in Odessa. Pictured at left are Andrea Garcez, Xenia Charon, Taylor Morin, Sarina Ybarra and Valerie Arriaga. At right are Nick Garcia, Chris Earnest, Mishelle Earnest, Adriana Salinas, Tari'Anna Pena and Esperanza Ramirez.

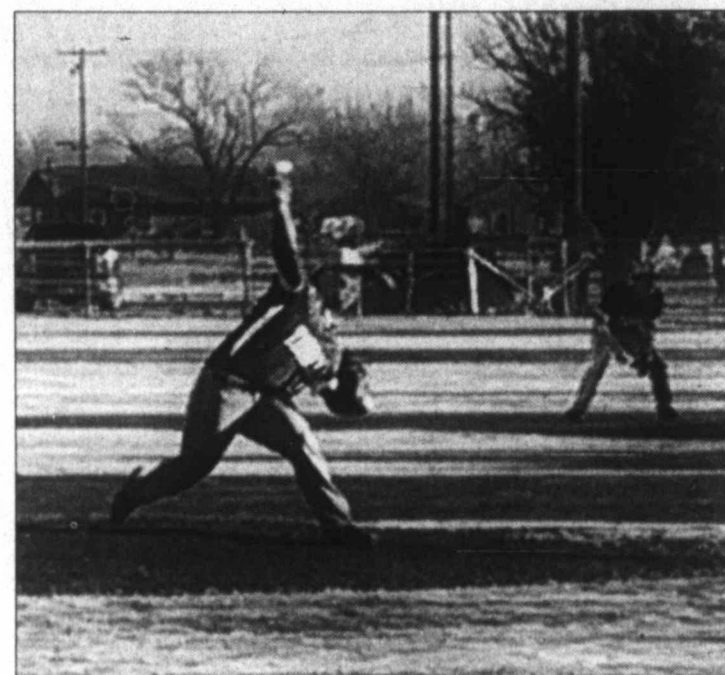
AVID tours TTUHSC ... Tahoka High School sophomore and junior students toured Texas Tech University Health Science Center (TTUHSC) last Wednesday. The tour included the anatomy lab and F. Marie Hall SimLife Center. Pictured from left are Tony Garcia, Grant Garvin, Courtney Perez, Lacy Goodell, Elida Ramirez, Roman Barrientez, Tari'Anna Pena, Kendra DeLeon, Mercedes Perez and Leticia Olvera.



All-district team honors go to four Lady Bulldogs

Freshman Natalie Stice, leading scorer for the Tahoka High School girls basketball team this season, was named Newcomer of the Year, and three other Lady Bulldogs were honored as the All-District selections were announced last week.

Chosen to the first team All-District was Hannah Hammonds, a junior. Junior Maci Dimak was named to the Defensive All-District team, and also was named to the Academic All-District team, along with junior Miranda Deleon.



Dom's pitching ... Dominique Herrera was pitching for the Bulldogs last Friday in game 1 for Tahoka (vs Slaton) in the Tahoka Tournament. Slaton won 8-4, but Tahoka rallied in game 2, beating Abernathy 12-6. The Bulldogs lost in the consolation round, 14-10 to Andrews JV.

Commissioners ...

(Continued from page 1) on Friday, for commissioners to meet with the electricians in a preconstruction meeting regarding electrical repairs at the courthouse.

Probation Officer Bill Schoemann informed commissioners that he is seeking a \$5,000 grant from Home Depot (for materials) to help with updating the county's Memorial Triangle. He asked commissioners to nominate someone from each of their precincts to serve on a board to make decisions for the renovation of the property just west of the courthouse, where the war veterans are listed on a granite marker.

"We would like for a board comprised of interested persons from each community to head a project to renovate this property to honor all military service, not just those who fought in a war, and to display emblems or flags from all military branches," Schoemann explained to *The News*. "This board could then discuss their own ideas and suggestions for improvements, in order to honor all county citizens who have served in the military," he added.

Judge Braddock said the county already has \$5,000 earmarked for the memorial triangle project, donated by Stephen DeWolf. Anyone interested in serving on the board should contact Schoemann at his office in the courthouse, phone 806-561-5244.

In a new practice beginning this month, clergy from the county will be invited to the twice-monthly regular sessions of the commissioners court, to give an invocation, according to county officials. Bill Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Tahoka, attended Monday's meeting to open the session with prayer, and all in attendance then recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag, and the Pledge to the Texas Flag, before the business session began.

Braddock led the meeting, with all four commissioners present, including Larry Durham, Don Blair, John Hawthorne and Keith Wied, as well as other county officials.

Bulldogs host baseball tourney, set for district opener next week

The Tahoka Bulldogs will open district play next Tuesday, March 17 at O'Donnell, in a game set for 5 p.m., and will host their first district home game the following Saturday, March 21, when Sundown comes to the Bulldog field at noon.

Tahoka hosted a baseball tournament March 6-7, with teams participating from Abernathy, Slaton, Brownfield, Andrews JV, Kermit, Plains and Muleshoe. Brownfield and Kermit ended up in the championship game, with Brownfield winning the tournament and Muleshoe coming in third place.

In Game 1, the Bulldogs lost 8-4 to Slaton, but rallied with a 12-6 win over Abernathy in Game 2. The Dogs played Andrews JV for Consolation, but were unable to take the win despite a good effort, losing 14-10.

"Dom Herrera had two home runs in the consolation game," said Coach Stephen Overstreet. "John and Ruben Quinonez both pitched well in the tournament. Santiago Martinez, Macon Thornton and Julian Rodriguez were all big contributors at the plate throughout the whole tournament as well."

The Dogs beat Floydada 12-4 on March 2.

"We had a really good night offensively, putting up 12 runs," said Coach Overstreet. "We had a few big errors in the field but did a great job pitching ourselves out of some jams. Isaiah Arce did a great job to start out but John Quinonez came in and picked up the win. Dom Herrera and Ruben Quinonez both had big nights at the plate and we played really good for the first rattle out of the box," he added.



Grand Masters visit Masonic Lodge... On March 3, District Deputy Grand Master Johnny Davis of Plains and Past District Deputy Grand Master Dan Swanson of Denver City visited Tahoka Masonic Lodge #1041. Pictured front row from left are Ed Follis, Gene Ingle, Worshipful Master Pete Piatak, D.D.G.M. Johnny Davis, Milt Draper, Robert Woodfin, Marc Maule and P.D.D.G.M. Dan Swanson. Back row Tom Lusk, Troy Moore, and Leighton Knox.

From City Hall
by Jerry Webster
City Administrator

Alley Spring Clean

Spring is about here and Summer is coming, making this a good time to get a jump start to cleaning up yards and alleys in Tahoka. By cleaning yards and alleys of debris now, yard and alley maintenance will be easier throughout the year. The homeowner or occupant is responsible for maintaining the area from the curb or untraveled portion of the street to the middle of the alley (or back of the property if there is no alley) free of litter and high weeds. Weeds or grass over 12 inches are in violation of Tahoka City Code. The City of Tahoka is trying to help by picking up discarded tree limbs that have been placed in the alleys but it is the occupant's or homeowner's responsibility to haul all items to the City Landfill that is not placed in the trash bins. Tahoka citizens are

allowed 1,000 lbs. every month without charge at the Landfill. The Landfill is open Monday-

Applications for conservation programs being accepted at Lynn County NRCS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist Kerry Weinheimer announces applications for funding opportunities with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are currently being accepted at the NRCS office located at Tahoka.

NRCS in Texas has received its initial allocation of EQIP funding for 2015 and will begin ranking and obligating contracts after April 17, 2015. All agriculture producers interested in submitting a contract application for 2015 should do so before this ranking deadline.

EQIP — one of the largest programs in the Farm Bill — is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state and federal regulations.

"EQIP is a valuable tool to help Lynn County's agricultural producers implement conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations," says Weinheimer.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical assistance for the application of specific conservation practices; but the deadline for the first 2015 funding allocation is April 17, 2015. Contracts are offered periodically depending on budgetary allocations. Applications made after the deadline will be considered in the next funding

Friday from 8am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. This month the Code Enforcement Office will be visiting neighborhoods and asking homeowners and tenants to voluntarily bring their properties into compliance with Tahoka City Code.

cycle. Higher priority will be given to those applications that address national, state and local priorities and provide higher cost efficiency.

EQIP offers technical and financial help to install or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices that can benefit the soil, water, air, plants, livestock, and wildlife. Each county in the state is funded yearly to assist producers financially with these land management practices.

Last year, NRCS in Texas funded over 3,400 EQIP contracts with \$82 million to accomplish conservation practices such as irrigation efficiency, minimum tillage, brush management and more on 1.8 million acres across the entire state.

In addition to helping our environment, Farm Bill conservation program funds support rural communities. In Texas, it is estimated that each dollar of NRCS and private matching expenditures on NRCS conservation programs generates an additional \$2.54 in sales of goods and services locally.

For information on eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center at 998-4507. Service center locations and program information can be found at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

4-H Archery to begin this month

Lynn County 4-H Archery will hold a meeting on March 24 at 6 p.m. at the Tahoka Housing Authority building for participants in grades 3 through 12, interested in learning archery. Classes are under the instruction of trained adult leaders, and participants will learn the importance of safety and proper technique in this fun hands-on experience.

Anyone interested, who is not already enrolled in 4-H will have the opportunity to do so at this time as well and pay the \$25 enrollment fee. For more information contact Wendy Scott CEA-FCS at 806-561-4562 or email wendy.scott@ag.tamu.edu or Brad Ashbrook, Archery Project Leader at 806-535-4689.

Don't miss the fun from 12 noon to 8 p.m. on June 20, 2015 at the Centennial Celebration of the City of Tahoka at the Mini Park

Where in the world is
The Lynn County News?
Around the World Photos
Take a photo of you or someone else displaying The Lynn County News (show the front page of the newspaper) in an interesting location or setting anywhere around the world. Provide information about the photo. We'll publish them as soon as space is available.
Email photos to: LynnCoNews@poka.com or bring them to 1617 Main St. or mail to Box 1170, Tahoka, TX 79373

March 19, ...
What's In ...
Obituaries - Jerine - Lee Ed - Raquel - Dwight
Circus at Libr
From - Neight
Good City wa project
Applic for ga class
Letter - Thanks
Wilson Easter ...
Wilson invited to Park on S: 12 noon for Easter Egg Dog Cook
The ev a special p P.B. 'n' J., from St. Jo Church. T begin shor for childre through ag drinks and available f hunt. Bring enjoy the
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Tennis Monday, N Tahoka Wednesday Tahoka
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