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## Christmas Concert is tonight at TISD

The Tahoka 3-D Band is helping to get everyone in the Christmas Spirit with their annual Christmas Concert this Thursday, December 15, at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The concert is free and everyone is invited to attend.



## Christmas Open Houses

- 15th First National Bank lobby 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 16th First Bank & Trust, Tahoka and Wilson, 10:00-2:00
- 22nd Walker-Solomon Agency, Huffaker Law, & Lynn County Abstract offices, 1:00-5:00
- 22nd Senior Citizens Center 12:00 noon

## SANTA'S LAND DRIVE THRU PARK

is open 6:30-10:00 pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, and EVERY night from Dec. 16-25. It's free! Located at S. 11th & Ave. O in Tahoka.

## What's Outside

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Dec 6	60	32	
Dec 7	45	30	
Dec 8	43	24	
Dec 9	34	22	
Dec 10	39	26	
Dec 11	59	28	
Dec 12	73	28	

(Precipitation/temps measured as of 8 a.m. on date reported, for the previous 24-hr period)

Total Precip for Jan:	0.23"
Total Precip for Feb:	0.12"
Total Precip for Mar:	0.39"
Total Precip for Apr:	1.08"
Total Precip for May:	5.83"
Total Precip for June:	3.76"
Total Precip for July:	0.49"
Total Precip for Aug:	5.34"
Total Precip for Sept:	7.51"
Total Precip for Oct:	0.25"
Total Precip for Nov:	3.21"
Total Precip for Dec:	1.01"
Total Precip. for 2016:	29.22"

## O'Donnell couple loses everything in house fire

A fire that started in the kitchen of Cecil and Janie Honesto's home at 712 2nd Street in O'Donnell, quickly spread and consumed their home and all their belongings last Thursday. O'Donnell and Tahoka volunteer fire departments responded to the scene, but the blazing inferno quickly consumed the house and everything inside.

Mrs. Honesto was the only one home when the fire occurred, and she was able to escape the house unharmed.

Family members have started a donation account through an online donation site called "Go Fund Me," and posted the following information on the Go Fund Me website (<https://www.gofundme.com/rebuilding-for-the-future>):

"Today my in-laws have lost their home! Dennis, Thomas, and Mingo are heading up the responsibility of making sure their mom and dad are able to get back into a home soon. A fire that started in the kitchen spread very quickly and consumed the home. The house is a total loss and all of their belongings are gone as well.

"Thankfully, Janie was able to escape the home with two of their four puppies. Two of their sweet puppies were lost in the fire. They became scared and couldn't be coaxed out from under the bed.

"The Red Cross came out to supply a few toiletries and blankets and help for a few meals so we are thankful. Also the church provided a place to stay for a few days while we await the insurance adjuster and the outcome.

"We are so thankful for everyone who has already begun to ask how they can help. Janie and Cecil are now without a home and only have the clothes on their backs with only a few weeks until Christmas and during the coldest time of the year. We as the family are trying to create a central place for those who have asked where they can donate and help out. We appreciate any amount to help our parents get back into a warm home."

An update followed:

"We've heard from the insurance adjuster and the home was declared a total loss. It will take 7-10 business days for the insurance help to kick in so the heat is on to find a home or have one built on the current property. This means that Janie and Cecil are still without a home. The monetary donations are so much help to provide shelter, food, toiletries, and clothing. Thank you all so much for thinking of us and keeping us in your prayers!"

Anyone who would like to make a contribution may contact the family in O'Donnell, or contribute online at the GoFundMe website.



Fire destroys home ... O'Donnell and Tahoka volunteer fire departments responded to a fire at the home of Cecil and Janie Honesto in O'Donnell last Thursday, but the blazing inferno quickly consumed the house and everything inside. No one was injured, but the couple lost all of their belongings. A donation account for the family has been set up through "Go Fund Me."

## TFB names Lynn-Garza County Farm Bureau 'Most Outstanding'

Dedication to community, education and agriculture has earned the Lynn-Garza County Farm Bureau one of the most coveted awards presented by Texas Farm Bureau (TFB).

The organization was named the 2016 Most Outstanding County Farm Bureau (CFB) at TFB's Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

"We just believe in the message and the mission of Texas Farm Bureau,"

Walt Hagood, president of Lynn-Garza CFB, said. "When you look at it, we were already doing about 75 percent of what qualifies you for the award."

Hosting community activities and engaging, educational events throughout the year earned the county points toward the award as did meetings with state and national lawmakers.

The county is also active in the

grassroots policy development process, which gave it a leg up in the competition.

"We've got some key resolutions that were actually birthed in our county," Hagood said.

Lynn-Garza CFB members crafted and passed a resolution asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Risk Management Agency to

(See MOST OUTSTANDING, page 6)



## Have a holly jolly Christmas ...

The home of Bobby and Traci Jolly, at 2304 N. 4th Street in Tahoka, won the \$100 first place prize from the Tahoka Area Chamber of Commerce for having the best-decorated home on the Tahoka Polar Express train route. The Jolly home was quite jolly, featuring lots of fun Christmas scenes, including Olaf the snowman, a polar bear and igloo, and Santa in an airplane!

(LCN PHOTO)



"Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

- DALE EVANS

**The Lynn County News**

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**Obituaries**

**Ruby Nell Bessire**

Ruby Nell Bessire, 94, of Tahoka died December 6, 2016. Graveside services were at 2:00 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, 2016 in the O'Donnell Cemetery.



**Ouida J Turner**

Ouida J Turner of Tahoka passed away on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at the age of 87. She was born May 31, 1929 in Dawson County to Willie McKinley and Roxie Lee (Smith) Isaacs. She married Dan Turner on September 6, 1947 in Lubbock. She was a homemaker.

Those left to cherish her memory are her husband, Dan;

daughter, Danna Curry (Zane); daughter-in-law, Janette Turner; grandchildren, Bric Turner (Tanya), Kimberly Lightfoot (Steve), Rachel Lehman, Rebekah Filley (Reed), Ryan Curry (Erica) and Roxie Miller (Clay) and 13 great-grandchildren.

Ouida was preceded in death by her parents; son, Blaine Turner and two sisters.

Services were held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 9, 2016 at First Baptist Church, O'Donnell with interment at Gail Cemetery.

Celebrate the life of Ouida by visiting [www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com). (PAID)



**Charles 'Scott' Williams**

Charles 'Scott' Williams, age 42, of Tahoka, died peacefully after a valiant battle with esophageal adenocarcinoma, with his family by his side on Saturday, December 10, 2016. He was born September 3, 1974, in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He attended school in Snyder and grew up in the Snyder/Fluvanna area. He had four adoring children. He was a proud member of Heart of Worship Baptist Church in Lubbock. He was employed by Dixie Electric.

He is preceded in death by his father, Wayne Williams.

He is survived by his wife, Eden Williams, of Tahoka; children, Tyler Williams, and his wife Kat, of Odessa; Bryan Williams, London Williams and Cooper Williams, all of



**Give to our local fund ...** Marcy Whitley, one of many local volunteers who are ringing the bell for the Salvation Army kettle at Thriftway Grocery in Tahoka, will be collecting donations now through Christmas Eve, for Lynn County's Salvation Army program. All funds collected stay in Lynn County.

Tahoka; grandchildren, Isaac Williams, of Odessa; parents, Rick and Dean Wemken, of Fluvanna; sister, Kasey Taylor, and her husband Michael, of Snyder; two nephews; five nieces; and many close friends he considered family.

Services were held Wednesday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m., at Heart of Worship Baptist Church, Lubbock.

Celebrate the life of 'Scott' by signing his guestbook at: [www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com). (PAID)

**Donations to benefit local family**

A special donation account has been opened at First Bank & Trust in Tahoka to benefit a local family. Funds may be contributed to the "Eden Williams Donation Acct." to help with expenses for Eden Williams and family of Tahoka, as her husband Scott succumbed to esophageal cancer last week, after receiving palliative care at a Lubbock facility. Scott and Eden are the parents of four children, and have one grandchild.

Donations may be left at FB&T.

Additionally, a spaghetti meal fundraiser is being hosted by friends of the family, with the community invited to attend. Carryout plates will be available at the dinner, set for 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20 at the Tahoka Housing Authority Center, 1400 Ave. K. Dine-in or order carryout plates to go.

For more information, contact Amber (Sires) Farris at (806) 241-2754.

**Phebe K Warner Club Christmas greetings donation due today**

Contributors have until today (Dec. 15) to make their donations for the annual Phebe K. Warner Club Community Christmas Greeting, the club's annual scholarship fundraiser. Contributors' names will be printed in the Dec. 22 issue of the Lynn County News.

This annual fundraiser lets community members send Christmas greetings to friends while contributing to the Phebe K. Warner Club Scholarship funds to be given to local graduating Lynn County high school seniors. This money is often donated in lieu of sending local Christmas cards.

Contributions may be taken to the First National Bank of Tahoka, along with the name of the donor, as it is to appear in the ad.

"Anyone unable to make the trip to the bank may call any Phebe K. Warner Club member to take your contribution to the bank," said a club representative.

**Volunteers ringing bell for Salvation Army kettle here**

Local volunteers are ringing the bell for the Salvation Army kettle at Thriftway Grocery in Tahoka, now through 4 p.m. Christmas Eve, collecting donations for Lynn County's Salvation Army program. Volunteers started ringing the bell on Monday, and will be at Thriftway Grocery during the evenings and on Saturdays.

"Every penny collected here stays in Lynn County, 100 percent," noted Marcy Whitley, secretary at First United Methodist Church of Tahoka, who administers the Salvation Army funds for the county. "None of the donations collected here will go to the Lubbock office, it all stays here for our use," she stressed. Anyone who would like to mail in a contribution to the local Salvation Army Fund may send it to First United Methodist Church c/o Salvation Army Fund, P.O. Box 500, Tahoka, TX 79373.

Whitley says more community volunteers are needed to man the kettle from now through Christmas eve, and that anyone interested in volunteering for a one-hour shift may contact her at the church, 561-4503, or Pastor Billy Everett at 806-215-6496.

**Orientation meeting is today for GED class**

Anyone interested in attending a GED class in Tahoka may attend an orientation session today (Thursday) at 6:00 p.m. at the Tahoka Housing Authority Center, at 1400 Ave. K. Information on classes starting in January at Tahoka ISD will be presented.

For more information, call Dr. George McFarland, TISD Superintendent, or call Amber (Sires) Farris at 806-241-2754.

**Senior Citizen's Menu**

December 19-22

**Monday:** Sloppy Joes on bun, potato salad, carrots & zucchini, creamy fruit square  
**Tuesday:** Beef soft tacos, Spanish rice, broccoli/corn, mandarin oranges

**Wednesday:** Chicken spaghetti, carrots, zucchini, bananas/vanilla pudding

**Thursday:** Turkey sandwich, broccoli raisin salad, macaroni salad, pineapple tidbits

**Friday:** Closed for Christmas

**Mark your calendars ...**  
• Annual Christmas open house will be Dec. 22 at noon. Guests are encouraged to bring something sweet to share. We will also be playing BINGO!

Treat yourself to some **Christmas Cookies**

Remember to...  
**Order your Holiday pies and bread rolls today!**

**TAHOKA DONUTS**

1515 South 1st St. • 806-561-1611  
OPEN: 8:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON TUESDAY-SATURDAY  
email: [tahokadonuts@yahoo.com](mailto:tahokadonuts@yahoo.com)

Please join us for  
**Punch, Cookies & Coffee**  
at our  
**Christmas Open House**

**TODAY! Thursday, Dec. 15**  
from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.  
in the **BANK LOBBY.**

We wish all of our Friends and Customers  
a very Merry Christmas!

**FN** First National Bank of Tahoka

1601 South 1st St., Tahoka • 806 / 561-4511 • Member FDIC.  
[www.fnbtahoka.com](http://www.fnbtahoka.com) • 24-Hr. Bank by Phone: 1-855-232-8503 (toll free)

**4 DOZEN! MONSTER COOKIES & RED VELVET CAKE**

made by Lenda Wood  
made by Virginia House

**Make Your Bid Today for these baked goodies!**

A Silent Auction will be held until 12 noon Wednesday, Dec. 21 at the Lynn County News office.

**Just in time for Christmas!**

The baked goodies will be awarded to the highest bidder and will be ready for pickup on Dec. 21. Monster cookies are made with oatmeal, chocolate chips & peanut butter.

Stop by, call or email your bid at the News Office, 561-4888, email: [LynnCoNews@poka.com](mailto:LynnCoNews@poka.com).

All proceeds will go to our local **Senior Citizens New Building Fund.**

Tahoka Daisy

**GREAT STOCKING STUFFER!**

Buy me; put me in a Christmas stocking; fill me up!

Just \$9.99 each - available at the  
**LYNN COUNTY NEWS**  
1617 Main in Tahoka, 806-561-4888  
[LynnCoNews@poka.com](mailto:LynnCoNews@poka.com)

LynnCoNews  
Excellent members a qualifying fr Michaila Lo Farrell were  
NEW Lit  
Story Time  
Bring yo to the Libra Wednesdays week childr The Gingerb Christmas. C sonalized gi girl and boy Story Time mas break...  
Holiday hc  
The Libr Friday, Dec Dec. 26. W January 2. closed for lu open 1-6 Mo until 5 on Fri  
Happy h happily vol Library's Cr  
Winner... the big wr Library Op  
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350 N. Mai



**Excellent musicians ...** These Tahoka High School 3-D Band members auditioned for the ATSSB Honor Band, with three qualifying for the Honor Band – Jordan Fowler, Mercedes Perez and Michaila Lopez. Priscilla Castillo, Dalton Chapman, and Brandon Farrell were all First-Alternates, and Emit Quintero also auditioned.

## TISD musicians make Honor Band, Area Band

Last Saturday at Idalou seven Tahoka High School 3-D Band students auditioned for the ATSSB Honor Band, with three chosen for the band and three others named first alternates. In addition, two band members also made the Area Band.

Auditioning were Emit Quintero and Priscilla Castillo on flute, Mercedes Perez on clarinet, Dalton Chapman on bass clarinet and contra-alto clarinet, Jordan Fowler on alto saxophone, Braudon Farrell on tenor saxophone, and Michaila Lopez on trombone. Priscilla Castillo, Dalton Chapman, and Brandon Farrell were all First-

Alternates, which means if a student placing ahead of them is unable to participate they will be moved up into the Honor Band.

Qualifying for Honor Band were Jordan Fowler (1st chair 4A), Mercedes Perez, and Michaila Lopez. The ATSSB Honor Band will perform the last Saturday in January at the Lubbock Civic Auditorium.

In addition both Jordan and Mercedes both qualified for Area where on January 7 they compete at Idalou against students from four regions for the opportunity to make the ATSSB All-State Band which

**Area Band qualifiers ...** Tahoka High School 3-D Band members Jordan Fowler (right) and Mercedes Perez both qualified for Area Band where on January 7 they compete at Idalou against students from four regions for the opportunity to make the ATSSB All-State Band. The girls also made the ATSSB Honor Band. Jordan plays alto saxophone, and Mercedes plays clarinet.



will perform on February 11 at TMEA in San Antonio. This is the second year for Mercedes to make it to Area and the third year for Jordan.

"We are very proud of these

young people and their hard work that is exemplified by their achievements. They are better musicians as the result," stated TISD Band directors Carroll Rhodes and Cristal Burse.

## NEWS from the Library

CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY  
1717 Main St. • Tahoka TX  
(inside the Life Enrichment Center)

### Story Time

Bring your toddlers -4yrs to the Library Story Time on Wednesdays 10:30am. This week children will listen to The Gingerbread Cowboy and The Gingerbread Man Loose at Christmas. Crafts will be a personalized gingerbread for each girl and boy. We will continue Story Time during the Christmas break.

### Holiday hours

The Library will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26. We will close again January 2. We are open 9-12 closed for lunch from 12-1 and open 1-6 Monday-Thursday and until 5 on Friday. Don't forget to

use the book drop if you can't make regular library hours.

### Open House

Santa had his picture taken with lots of good boys and girls during the festive Library Open House this year. Thank you to Pam Elrod for taking professional pictures. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who make this such a special event: Jennifer and Madelynn DeLeon, Helen Saldana, David Earnest, Bill Chancy, Breklyn Rodriguez, Janey McMillan, Lenda Wood, and Elizabeth Tew. Congratulations to Jentry Askew for winning the Gift Basket. Hope to see everyone again next year.



**New Home field trip ...** New Home pre-k classes of Mrs. Bundy and Mrs. Baeza visited the Library Friday morning. They were treated to a puppet show, a grand library tour and refreshments. They also searched for Lady and Wait our Library Elfs. Call the library to arrange a time for your group to see what the library has to offer.



**Happy helpers ...** Janie McMillan (left) and Lenda Wood happily volunteered to help serve refreshments at the City/County Library's Christmas Open House, held last week.



**Winner...** Jentry Askew, daughter of Shea and Brady Askew, was the big winner of the gift basket last Thursday at the City-County Library Open House.

## Please visit these Lynn County Churches

### NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of 4th & Smith • Pastor: Larry Maddox  
"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

### TAHOKA St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church

1829 S. Ave. M • Tahoka, TX 79373 • Office (806) 561-4436  
PASTOR: FATHER JOHN S. RATHINAM, 806-241-0086  
DEACON: PETE PANIAGUA, 846-4077

Sunday Mass - 11:00 am  
Communion Mass Service Wednesdays & Thursdays, 6:00 pm  
CCE Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
Reconciliation 10:30 am Sundays or any time by appointment

### Draw First United Methodist Church

(established 1907)

P.O. Box 496 • O'Donnell, TX 79351  
Phone (806) 438-3357

PASTOR: REV. WESTON PENDERGRASS  
Sunday Morning Worship - 9:15 am

### First Methodist of Tahoka

1801 Ave. J • Tahoka • (806) 561-4503  
email: fmo@tahokaepoka.com

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

Let the Children Come 7 am - 9 pm M-F  
KIDNEY CHURCH 561-4529

### TAHOKA Church of Christ

2320 Lockwood • Box 1177 • Tahoka, TX 79373  
(806) 561-4860 • email: tcc@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 & 6:50 pm  
Discipleship Training - 5 pm Sunday  
6:30 pm Wednesdays  
Fellowship Meal & Classes for all ages  
Bible Study & Prayer Wg - Youth

### THE Christmas Gift!!!

"A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6

In December we celebrate Christmas - a time of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ! We are reminded in our scripture verse from Isaiah, that Jesus had many other names, including Jesus of Nazareth, Christ, Jesus Christ, and Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Wow, and I thought it was hard to pick the names of my children! However, Jesus is worthy of all these names, because He can be, and is, all of these names to us at any given moment in our lives. Plus, He is a gift for us, He is "born to us" and "given to us" - Jesus is for us, all of us, who believe in Him and accept Him into our hearts. What a Christmas gift, and it lasts a lifetime!!! I pray that each of you will have a very safe, blessed, and merry Christmas!!!

Do you need a church home? Please visit one of the churches listed on this page.

May the peace and love of God, in Christ, be with you.

Curtis Schrader, Pastor  
New Home United Methodist Church

### Wilson St. John Lutheran Church

1318 & Dickson • Wilson, TX 79381 • (806) 628-6573

Sharing Christ's message of forgiveness and salvation with our community and beyond.  
TONDA FREITAG, PLM

Sunday School - 9:30 am • Sunday Worship - 10:45 am

### Grassland Nazarene Church

2885 CR 25 • Tahoka, TX 79373 • (806) 327-5656, 327-5655

PASTOR: Rev. James Miller

Sunday School - 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 am  
Sunday Evening Worship - 6 pm

### 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

### Sweet Street Baptist Church

1800 AVENUE J • BOX 751 • TAHOKA, TX 79373 • (806) 561-5318

DAVID EARNEST, PASTOR • (806) 438-3105

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

Morning Worship - 10:50 am  
(Lithany Music - Message from God's Word)

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

### New Home United Methodist Church

CURTIS SCHRADER, Pastor  
(879) 822-3347  
Curtis@cschrader@live.com

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

Sunday School 9:45 am • Worship 10:45 am

### New Home Church of Christ

219 N. Main • Box 188 • New Home, TX 79381 • (806) 924-7579

MINISTER: VICTOR ELLISON

Bible Class - 10:00 am  
Sunday Worship Service - 10:45 am  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm

You are invited to join us on **Christmas Eve!**

Christmas Eve Service  
6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

**New Home United Methodist Church**  
CURTIS SCHRADER, Pastor  
350 N. Main • New Home • (806) 924-7549



**Champions! ...** The Wilson Lady Mustangs were the champions of the Motley County Tournament in Matador, on Saturday, December 10. Coach Cori Vega's Lady Mustangs beat Rule 48-22, and then won 55-34 over Motley County to win the tournament.

**From City Hall**

**SMART METERS**

Part of the water line replacement project is the installation of new "smart meters". These new water meters will be the most accurate meters we have ever had, and will read every drop of water that goes through it. Many residents will experience higher water bills

because of the difference in the accuracy.

Please be aware of the change that is coming with these new meters, and adjust your water usage accordingly. Once the new meters are installed we will be able to show you on a graph each and every time water goes through your meter. We will

also be able to detect a leak in your system in a timely manner.

In other cities after the new "smart" meters were installed some residents were very surprised by the amount of water they were actually using. We would like to avoid that by letting everyone know what you might experience and that you can take steps to control your usage from the start.

If you are wanting to upsize your new meter please let the City know as soon as possible as the order will be going in soon. Residential meters are 1/2" meters. However, if you want a larger meter you can get a 1" or a 2". Be aware there may be an additional cost for increasing the size of your meter.

City Hall is currently compiling a list of meter changes so please let us know.

**DRIVEWAY REPAIRS**

The contractor has informed us that driveway repairs will begin next week. Rusty Cook will be in charge of setting forms and pouring concrete. Be aware that it will take three (3) days for the concrete to set up, so your vehicles will have to be parked in the street until the concrete sets up.

If you have any questions contact Tahoka City Hall at 806-561-4211.

**Commissioners approve reinvestment zone designation**

by JUANELL JONES

Lynn County Commissioners unanimously approved designating a reinvestment zone in Lynn County, to allow for discussions and decisions regarding a potential new wind energy farm that is in the planning stages for Lynn and Garza counties. The decisions followed a public hearing on the subject that no citizens attended.

Staked Plains is a multi-phase wind project in Lynn and Garza counties being developed by Lincoln Clean Energy. The first phase, Tahoka Wind, is expected to be approximately 300MW, and is anticipated to be online by the end of 2018.

Eric Barnett, Director of Development with Lincoln Clean Energy, was present to visit with the court to discuss the reinvestment zones in Lynn County for the new wind energy project. The project will encompass approximately 340,000 acres of land in Lynn and Garza counties with up to four phases in the project.

In other business, the county finance report for the months of September, October and November 2016 were approved, and monthly bills were approved. The meeting adjourned in less than an hour.

County Judge Mike Bradcock presided, with commissioners Keith Wied, John Hawthorne, Don Blair and Larry Durham present, as well as other county officials. Commissioner-elect Matt Woodley was also present.

**IP Diet program to be offered at local Hospital**

The Ideal Protein (IP) diet program will be offered through Lynn County Hospital. Anyone interested in learning about the IP diet is encouraged to attend an informational meeting at the LCHD meeting room at 6 p.m. Thursday, December 29. To reserve a seat, call 561-4048. The educational session will include product tasting, and more.

The Ideal Protein diet has been around for 25 years, and was developed and endorsed by medical doctors. The IP protocol was designed to induce rapid weight loss and spare lean muscle mass. It is different from the normal low-calorie diet because it is designed to keep the sugar stores at a minimum and keeping the body in a fat-burning mode round the clock. This diet is low fat, low carb and normal protein; very different from high protein diets.

"The IP diet differs from other diets in its four-phased approach. You lose the weight and phase back into eating "normal" foods. You get one-on-one counseling by trained counselors, daily videos sent to your email and food choices you can enjoy. To make things even better, it doesn't require exercise," explained an LCHD proponent of the program.

**WILSON COMMUNITY NEWS**

by Bonnie S. Schwertner

Send news to: bonnie\_schwertner\_wilson@yahoo.com



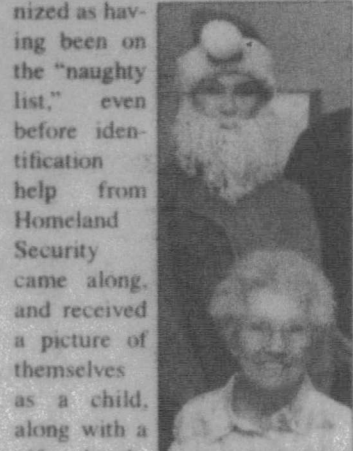
Did you know there is a Farm Santa? Don't quote me on accuracy; I'm just passing along the tale.

Recently the government, in all its great wisdom, decided that Santa Claus should be more reflective of varying regional population differences. In order to do that, the biggest "big wigs" met a while back to map out a plan. As you can imagine, feathers were ruffled and words were said. After great frustration, a temporary meeting of minds was the result. As with anything government-related, the decisions could change as fast as the weather in Texas. Because of the lengthy list, I'll stick with the one assigned to us by the Secretary of Agriculture: "Farm Santa."

Farm Santa, like most country folks, is not fancy, nor does he only work one day per year. As with the typical farmer, he works non-stop, year round. With no time to change into fancy red suits, this guy wears work overalls, a red shirt (aka "long-handled"), work gloves and boots, and a "John Deere" logo on his hat. (What can I say? Sponsorship is king!) His beard is wind-blown, and his coat is made from the sewn-together skins of coyotes or jackrabbits, since he believes in using everything possible from

nature. I was invited to be Santa - only I knew it would be "Farm Santa" - for my mom's family Christmas party. She and her siblings were farmers before "retirement", and this Santa fit right in! One of my uncles is married a Wilson grad, Eunice "Buxkemper," who wanted to say "hi" to y'all.

My cousin, Roxanne Schwertner, was Mrs. Claus, and helped spread cheer with lumps of coal, candy canes, and trinkets. My mom's siblings were recognized as having been on the "naughty list," even before identification help from Homeland Security came along, and received a picture of themselves as a child, along with a gift laughingly created by Farm Santa. Mrs. Claus and Farm Santa then went down the halls, spreading cheer (and more than a little surprise) throughout her mom's nursing home, which was the party venue. I guarantee that laughter IS the best medicine! I know I felt really healthy, considering all the "Ho ho ho's" that came out of my mouth.



Vera Schwertner with Farm Santa

I'm adding this to my personal "It's a Wonderful Life."



**Christmas carolers...** Tahoka Middle School students from Pam Paris' class, Juan Granados, Mariana Lopez, Gabriel Solorzano, Jediah Velasquez, and 9th grader Annamarie Arce, sang Christmas Carols with Lynnwood Assisted Living residents on December 8. Claps, cheers and hugs were exchanged along with promises to return in 2017. Merry Christmas to our new friends at Lynnwood!

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Thank you all for the calls, texts, prayers and kindness shown during my recent surgery. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and am thankful for all of you. It's great to know that I have so many friends in a time of need.

Sincerely,  
Judge Mike Braddock

The family of Idrys Davis would like to thank everyone for all the words of encouragement, the food and the flowers that you sent during the loss of our mother. We appreciate everything that you did.

A special thank you to Lynnwood for all that you did for Mother. It was truly her home for the last 7 years and you gave her so much love, help and support during those years. To the residents of Lynnwood, you were her family. She may not always be able to call you by name, but she knew your faces!

We truly thank you again from the bottom of our hearts!  
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