

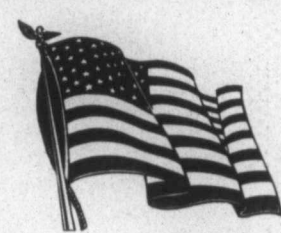
EMS "Stronger Together"

Thank you,
Lynn County EMS!

Lynn County EMS is comprised of John Baker, Jerry Tew, Janis Thomas, Whitlee Anderson, Bobby Jolly, Amanda Bower, Debbie Salinas, Samantha Henderson, Todd Henry, Johnna Alvarado, Traci Jolly, Allegra Ramirez, and not present for the photo: Brent Myers, Nyssa Powers, Ramiro Cerda, Victor Herrera, Ginger Henry, and Brant Taylor. National Emergency Medical Services Week (May 20-26) celebrates and pays tribute to the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." The 2018 theme EMS STRONG is "Stronger Together".



LCN THE Lynn County News



May 17, 2018 ■ Volume 115, No. 20 Serving Lynn County since 1903 Tahoka, Lynn County, Texas email: LynnCoNews@poka.com 75¢

What's Inside

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Last chance!
Parents & Grandparents: **TODAY (Thursday)** is your last chance to turn in congrats ads for your graduating seniors!
... NO LATER THAN 5 PM at The Lynn County News
Call us at 561-4888 or email your ad to LynnCoNews@poka.com



Next week is the **Lynn County News Graduation Edition** featuring high school graduates from Lynn County schools

What's Outside

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
May 8	94	60	
May 9	94	64	
May 10	96	64	
May 11	98	64	
May 12	101	66	
May 13	99	65	
May 14	95	66	
<i>(Precipitation/temps measured as of 8 a.m. on date reported, for the previous 24-hr period)</i>			
Total Precip for Jan:			0.01"
Total Precip for Feb:			0.03"
Total Precip for Mar:			1.50"
Total Precip for Apr:			0.10"
Total Precip for May:			0.10"
Total Precip. for 2018:			1.74"

Tahoka ISD Board approves armed security policy, names new elementary principal

by JUANELL JONES
A new policy allowing armed security personnel on the school campus will be implemented for Tahoka Independent School District for the next school year, approved by the Board of Trustees last Tuesday night. The Board also approved the hiring of Donnie Scott as the new Elementary Principal, as well as a slate of other new teaching staff.

Beginning August 23, 2018, Tahoka ISD will allow certain Board-approved employees who meet certain criteria and possess a license to carry a firearm on school grounds. According to school officials, the goal of this new policy is to provide, as quickly as possible, an armed response to an active shooter at a school so that needless bloodshed may be prevented.

After a presentation by David Backus outlining the parameters of a policy for school districts considering the security issues involved and the steps involved in vetting personnel who could perform those duties, the Board conducted a public forum to give an opportunity for citizens and staff to present their opinions on the security issue.

Ag teacher Shelbie Hannum addressed the board, saying, "I am addressing this a CDL holder, and as a staff member who teaches in a stand-

alone building, and also who has multiple students in major out-of-school activities. I am 5'3", and I am a female, but I am not afraid to use my concealed gun in an instance where I can protect my students if needed. I want you to take into consideration that we only have one liaison officer for three campuses, and the response time for this officer or other law enforcement may matter. I feel strongly about this. I do agree that whoever is picked should go through a vetting process, and I also believe that all staff needs to be trained in how to handle active-shooter situations. I encourage you to approve this policy."

Ross Aten also addressed the board. "I am here tonight to strongly encourage you to do the right thing and to pass this policy. We vote you people into office to look over our children who we send to public school, and the responsibility now falls on you to make sure that our children are not soft targets. It sounds like you have done your homework. I have the greatest faith in you that you will do the right thing. We saw what happened in Florida, there can be delays in response time. If you have people that have been properly vetted and trained, if one life is saved it's worth it. If one instance is prevented, it's definitely worth it. I also believe there should be

(See TISD BOARD MEETING, page 4)



New Principal ... Tahoka ISD Superintendent Alan Umholtz (left) and Board President Clay Taylor (right) welcome Donnie Scott as the new Tahoka Elementary Principal. His contract for the upcoming 2018-19 school year was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees last week. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

Baccalaureate services set for some seniors

Baccalaureate services for area high school seniors will be held on Sunday, May 20. Tahoka and New Home school districts will have Baccalaureate services, but O'Donnell ISD no longer has the service for their high school seniors. Wilson ISD Baccalaureate services were held Sunday, May 13 at First Baptist Church in Wilson.
Baccalaureate services for Tahoka graduates will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church of Tahoka. New Home grads will have a Baccalaureate service at the First Baptist Church in New Home, at 6 p.m.
Commencement exercises for area high school seniors will be held next Friday, May 25 for Tahoka, O'Donnell and New Home schools, and on Saturday, May 26 for Wilson ISD.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE TISD Board approves new measures to allow armed security on campus, at school events

Board of Trustees adds additional layer of protection in case of an active shooter

by Alan Umholtz, Superintendent
Tahoka Independent School District
Hearthbreaking tragedies involving active shooters at schools have made the names of Columbine High School and Sandy Hook Elementary School infamous. What those tragedies have taught many school administrators responsible for the safety of children is that responding to an active shooter within the first few minutes is critical to preventing needless bloodshed.

The Tahoka ISD Board of Trustees has decided to join many other school districts from across Texas in adding an additional layer of security for student safety should the unlikely but tragic scenario of an active shooter present itself at one of its schools. As

of August 23, 2018, Tahoka ISD is allowing certain Board-approved employees who meet certain criteria and possess a license to carry a firearm on school grounds. The goal of this policy is to provide, as quickly as possible, an armed response to an active shooter at a school so that needless bloodshed may be prevented.
Not all District employees who possess a license to carry a handgun will be allowed to do so on school grounds. Instead, employees possessing the necessary skill set to meet the District's overall security needs and who are assigned at critical District locations will be identified and vetted by the administration. Then, those employees will be presented to the Tahoka School Board for approval. If the individual employee is approved by the School Board, the employee is required to meet the following additional measures before he or she may possess a firearm on school grounds:

1. The employee must be properly licensed under state law to carry a handgun;
2. The employee must take a psychological examination to affirmatively determine that he or she is psychologically fit to engage an active shooter in an emergency situation; and
3. The employee must receive training in the following areas:
 - Protection of Students;
 - Interaction with first responders;
 - Tactics for denying an intruder

(See ARMED SECURITY AT TISD, page 3)

Did you know? " Did you know there is a McDonald's in every continent except Antarctica? " Carpe McDiem!



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The Lynn County News

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DEADLINE: Noon Tuesdays

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TA Texas Press Association 2018

Tahoka SCHOOL MENU

May 21-24
Elementary
Monday: Cinnamon Bun
Tuesday: Cheerios
Wednesday: Sausage roll
Thursday: Blueberry muffin
Lunch * Pre-K
Monday: *Turkey Hot Dog/
Pasta Alfredo/BBQ Chicken
Salad
Tuesday: *Spaghetti w/ meat
sauce/Ham & Cheese Wrap/
Grilled cheese
Wednesday: *Two Cheese
Pizza/Beef Ravioli
Thursday: *Sack lunch, Deli
Stacker Sandwich, carrots,
apple

Brownfield man killed in traffic fatality in county

by JUANELL JONES

A Brownfield man was fatally wounded in a one-vehicle traffic accident in Lynn County Sunday afternoon, and an O'Donnell volunteer fireman responding to assist with a semi rollover last Wednesday night had his personal vehicle rear-ended while it was parked on the side of US 87.

Agustin Lopez-Chavez, 54, of Brownfield was pronounced dead at the scene of a traffic accident that occurred at 4:12 p.m. Sunday, May 13 about 20 miles west of Tahoka, on FM 213. According to a report from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), three people were in a 1995 white Ford pickup that was traveling north on FM 179. The driver decided to turn west on FM 213, but the vehicle was reportedly traveling at a speed that was too fast for this specific turn. The vehicle drove into the ditch on the northwest side of the intersection and struck two utility poles, which were located in the ditch at that location. The pickup came to rest after striking a third utility pole with its front center. According to the DPS report, the third utility pole was located about 15 to 20 feet west of the first two utility poles that were struck. The back seat passenger, Agustin Lopez-Chavez, suffered a head injury and was pronounced dead on scene. The two front passengers, Jose Luis Avalos, 52, and Moises Perez, 57, both of Brownfield, suffered minor injury, one was transported to Lynn County ER, and the other front occupant was treated and released on scene. None of the vehicle occupants were wearing seatbelts, according to the report. DPS is still investigating

the crash to determine who the driver was.

A semi trailer overturned on US 87 near O'Donnell last Wednesday night at approximately 9 p.m. Lynn County Sheriff's Office, Lynn County EMS, DPS, and O'Donnell Volunteer Fire Dept. responded to the scene, with the O'Donnell firemen assisting with traffic control. One of the firemen (unidentified) had parked his personal vehicle, a red four-door pickup, on the side of the road while assisting at the scene. A white four-door sedan struck the rear end of the pickup at the crash scene, causing significant damage to both vehicles. Two people from the car, and the semi-trailer truck driver, were all transported by Lynn County EMS for treatment of unknown injuries. The fireman was reportedly not in his pickup when it was struck.

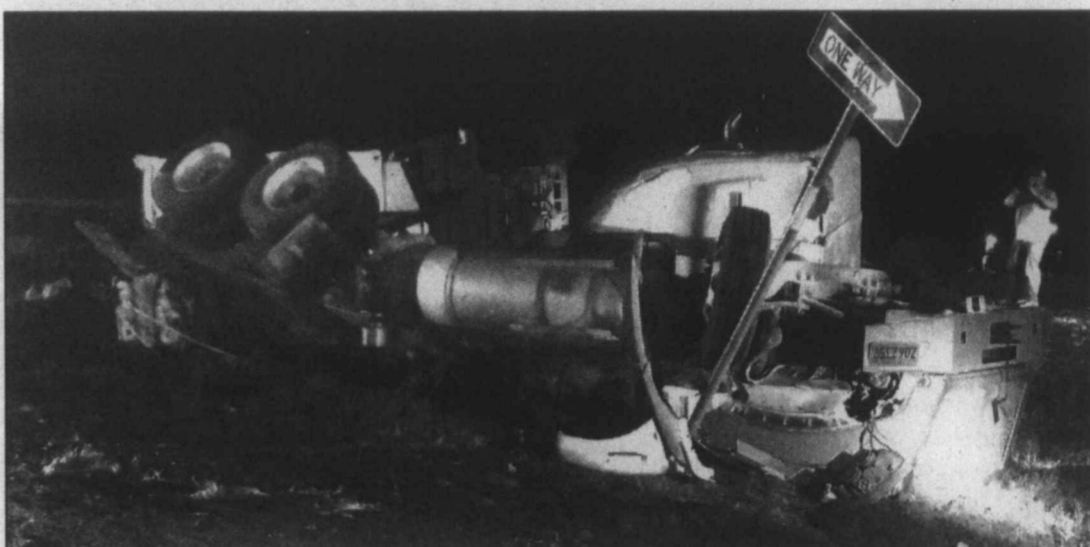
Wilson and New Home fire departments responded to a hay grazer pasture fire at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, about 2 miles west of US 87 on County Road 3. During the pasture fire, a welding trailer also caught fire.

Tahoka VFD responded to a car reported on fire just after noon on Friday, May 11, about a half mile east of FM 179 on County Road 1. No injuries were reported.

New Home VFD responded to a call reporting a front yard on fire across the street from New Home school on Main Street in New Home at 3:30 p.m. Friday, dousing the flames before it spread. No injuries were reported.

Wilson VFD responded to what was called in at 12:28 a.m. Sunday, May 13 as a house on fire at 12th and Lumsden in Wilson, but the fire was actually contained in a barrel, with no damage caused.

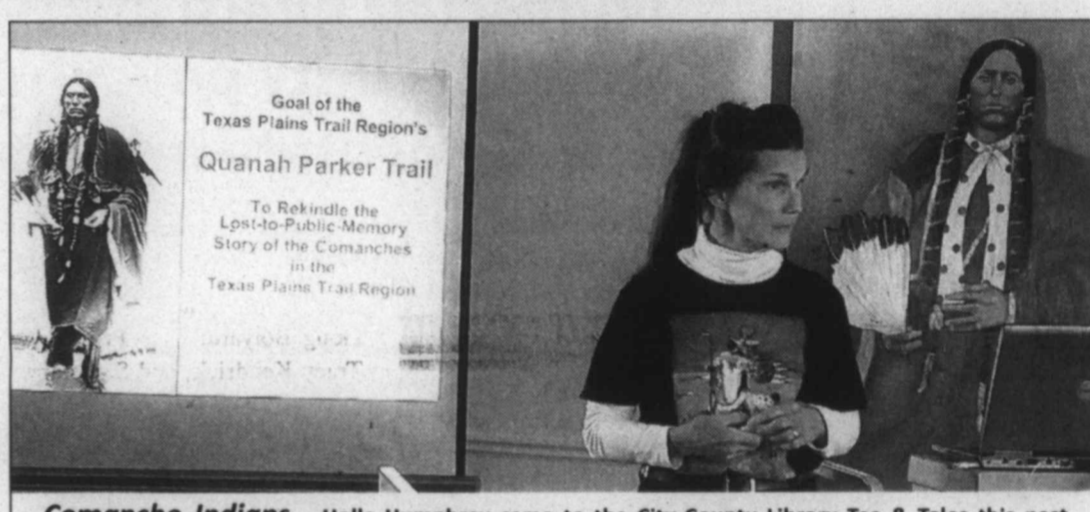
At approximately 12:20 Friday afternoon, Jimmy Brown reported an attempted break-in of a barn located a half mile east of FM 179 on County Road 1, evidenced by someone removing screws from the metal siding, but entry was not gained. In Tahoka Police reports, one was arrested for possession



Roll-over ... This is the aftermath of a semi-truck rollover that occurred last Wednesday night on US 87 near O'Donnell. The driver, unidentified, was transported by Lynn County EMS for treatment of unknown injuries.



Two injured ... Two people in the 4-door sedan (left) were transported by Lynn County EMS for treatment of unknown injuries, after their vehicle crashed into a pickup (below) parked on the side of US 87 near O'Donnell last Wednesday. The pickup belonged to an O'Donnell volunteer fireman, who had responded to assist at the scene of a semi-truck rollover (above) that had just occurred.

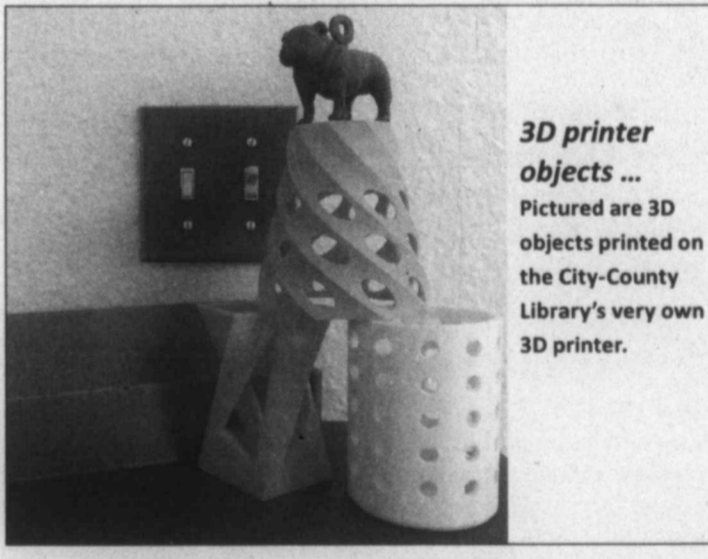


Comanche Indians... Holle Humphrey came to the City-County Library Tea & Tales this past Tuesday, with facts about the Comanche Indians and their trails in West Texas.

of narcotics, and two traffic accidents were reported. A 28-year-old Tahoka male was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, after a police officer investigated a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Ave. F at 2:36 a.m. May 14.

Two traffic accidents reportedly occurred as the result of altercations between the parties involved. At 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 13, a 2005 Chrysler 300 driven by Brooklyn Ann Scott, 22, of O'Donnell struck a 2007 Chrysler Aspen driven by Helen Benavidez, 50, of Tahoka at the intersection of N. 4th and Main in Tahoka. According to the police report, Scott told police that while she was attempting to pick up her children, her estranged husband left the residence with the children, and Benavidez left in a separate vehicle. When Scott tried to follow the vehicle that her children were in, Benavidez reportedly stopped her vehicle in the middle of the intersection to block Scott's access, and Scott's vehicle struck the Benavidez vehicle. Benavidez was cited for Failure to Yield Right of Way.

On Wednesday, May 2, at 7:54 p.m., Tahoka Police responded to a fight in progress in the 1300 block of N. 6th. Upon arrival, Donovan Tillman, 28, of Tahoka, told officers that he had been driving southbound on the East Access Road and after stopping at the stop sign intersection Lockwood, that the driver of a 2002 Cadillac Escalade, Maximo Castaneda, 39, of Tahoka had hit the back of his 2006 GMC Sierra pickup truck and then left the scene. Castaneda was issued citations for No Driver's License and Following Too Closely.



3D printer objects ... Pictured are 3D objects printed on the City-County Library's very own 3D printer.

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

Special Guest
Tea & Tales welcomed special guest Holle Humphrey who came and intrigued everyone with the history of the Comanche Indians and their trails in West Texas. Learning an amazing fact, Lynn County had the most documented Indian camp sites along these trails. We would like to say thank you to Holle for coming and filling minds with amazing facts about the place we call home.

It's Not Cheating
Available at the City-County Library, audio books which are great in the car, truck, SUV, RV, tractor, anything on wheels. No, it is not cheating. Just as captivating as words written on paper to form the book, audio books are convenient for the ones who are on the go. So, stop by the library and check out some audio books that contain the words of favorite books for listening ears.

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It's a girl baby
Randi H
and the arrival of her
Bleke Lanae Harris is due to

Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Meeting Room
(old Lyntegor bldg)

REGISTRY:
BabiesRUs
Target

For example:
50 postcards are \$27.50 and up, depending on style chosen.

Calling all Sh...
Come join us at the
Chloe's 6th Birthday!
Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016
8:30-10:30 p.m.
Blazing Bouncers
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You are invited to join our parents
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50th Wedding Anniversary
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Reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Dance from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.
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LYNN COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT STAFF



Hospital Week ... The staff of Lynn County Hospital District celebrated National Hospital Week last week, taking time for a group photo in front of the hospital. The theme of the 2018 National Hospital Week was "Caring is our Calling," honoring the members of the board of directors, physicians, and every member of the hospital staff, as well as the staff of LCHD's umbrella facilities, including Lynn County Hospital, Lynn County EMS, Lynnwood Independent & Assisted Living Center, the Family Wellness Clinic and Fitness Center in Tahoka, LCHD Clinic in O'Donnell, and Tahoka Drug.



College signing day... Wilson ISD held its first annual College Signing Day ceremony. All of the Wilson 2018 graduates have been accepted to, and will be attending, an institute of higher learning.



Mother & daughter tea... Wilson ISD recently had their annual Mother and daughter tea. Some mothers and daughters attending were Mrs. Braddock and her daughter Cree, Lora Smith and daughters Kaitlynn, Bally and Emily.

Council approves property purchase; new members sworn into office

by JUANELL JONES

Two of the four newly-elected Tahoka City Council members were sworn into office at Monday night's City Council meeting, and the council also approved a motion to purchase new property.

Mayor John Baker gave the Oath of Office to Ronny Jolly, who was unopposed for another

term, and newly-elected member Shiloh Braddock. Incumbent Ray Don Box, and new member Ryan Curry, both of whom were unopposed for their council seats and declared elected, were unable to attend Monday night's session and will be sworn in at a later date.

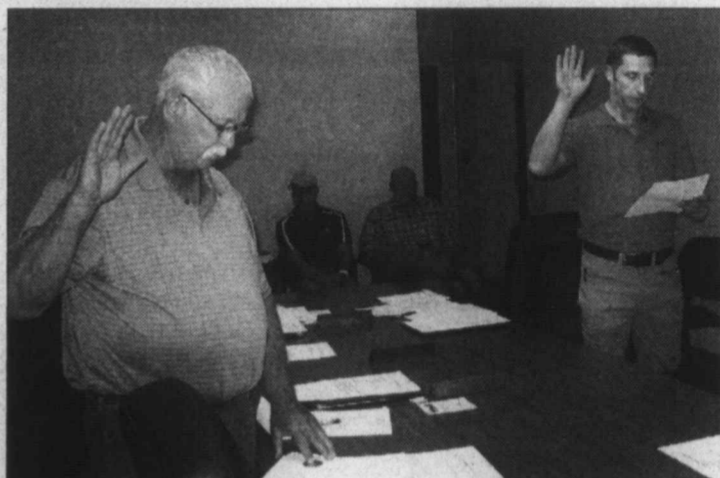
The council voted unanimously to purchase the old historical Rose Theatre building on Main Street, at a cost of \$10,000 from Lyntegar Electric Cooperative. Lyntegar had used the building for storage purposes. Mayor Baker told the council that the purchase gives the city ownership of that entire block (the theatre is adjacent to the city's Life Enrichment Center), and he hopes to renovate the historical building into usable facilities, possibly for assembly-type purposes.

"We're not going to tear it down," Baker told the council. "Our plan is to restore or renovate this historical building for usable assembly-type purposes, whether it be for showing movies or plays, town hall meetings, or

use the psychological testing to ensure that we are putting a tactically proficient and psychologically suitable person in the position of protecting our children."

The names of the persons who have been certified by the District to carry their handguns and the number and locations of those persons is considered confidential by law under Texas Government Code Chapter 552 and won't be released by the District in order to protect the safety of those employees and to give them the best opportunity to protect the children of Tahoka ISD.

"Every student is precious to us at Tahoka ISD. Consequently, Tahoka ISD is prepared to take this legally permissible path to give students and their parents the peace of mind that students will be in as safe an environment as we are reasonably able to provide. All of us in the District pray that no employee authorized under this new program will ever have to use deadly force to protect students and staff against an armed intruder on a campus; however, if such a circumstance presents itself, the Tahoka ISD Board has implemented this program with the goal of putting the right employees with the right training between an active shooter and our children," Umholtz said.



Oath of Office ... Two of the four newly-elected members of the Tahoka City Council were sworn in Monday night by Mayor John Baker at the City Council meeting. Ronny Jolly (left) was re-elected for another term, and Shiloh Braddock is a new member of the council. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

other type gatherings. But some of the area between the theatre and the Life Enrichment Center could be used for additional off-street parking," he added.

The council approved two requests from the A.C.T. Board, the first of which was to change the name of the group from Advancing the Community of Tahoka (A.C.T.) to the Tahoka Economic Development Corporation, which more accurately describes the purpose of the group. Amendments clarifying guidelines for the Business Façade Program were also approved, which designates the purpose of those funds for businesses that have foot traffic cus-

tomers, not for buildings that are mainly to be used for storage purposes. Any Tahoka business interested in applying for funds for improvements to their property may contact City Administrator Jerry Webster at Tahoka City Hall for an application and guideline criteria.

Police Chief Miguel Reyna presented a monthly report on the police department, and other departmental reports were given. Monthly bills were approved, and the meeting adjourned in under an hour. Mayor Baker led the meeting, with council members Ronny Jolly, Johnny Rosas, and Shiloh Braddock present. Webster, and others.



Wilson Community News
By Bonnie S. Schwertner
b.schwertner@yahoo.com

At this month's WISD School Board meeting, we said goodbye to long time member, Bobby Miller. The ceremony included swearing in of returning trustee, Michael Villarreal, and new member, Craig Wilke. Officers for the year are President, Doug Bolyard; Vice President, Tracy Kendrick; and Secretary, Desirea Earwood.

WISD held its first annual College Signing Day ceremony. Every one of our graduates has been accepted to, and will be attending an institute of higher learning. Congratulations!!

Baccalaureate Service for Wilson ISD class of 2018 was held on May 13. Special thanks to First Baptist Church of Wilson, for hosting this evening to remember.

Academic awards assemblies will be the morning of Monday, May 21. Elementary honors will begin at 9:00, followed by those for secondary students. Please join us in the auditorium.

Reminder: High school graduation will be May 26 at 10:00 a.m. in the high school gym.

Commission on Law Enforcement ("TCOLE") with developing a psychological test that would "determine whether [a person] is psychologically fit to carry out the duties of a school marshal in an emergency shooting or situation involving an active shooter."

Umholtz stated, "Due to the legislature's forward thinking in SB 1857 and HB 1009 and other law enforcement initiatives, Tahoka ISD will be able to find high-quality training in tactical school safety through several resources, including state licensed and certified instructors. Moreover, the District can

Armed security at TISD ...

(Continued from page 1)

entry into a classroom or school facility; and

• Methods for increasing an authorized employee's accuracy with a handgun while under duress; and

4. The employee must certify to the District that he or she has practiced loading, unloading, and shooting the employee's primary carry handgun with a minimum of 50 rounds of ammunition annually.

Once the Board-approved employee has presented the appropriate documentation to the superintendent of schools that he or she has completed the psychological, tactical, and practical training, the employee will be certified by the superintendent to carry a handgun on school grounds.

"The responsibility that the administration and the school board of Tahoka ISD has for the safety and wellbeing of TISD students is the primary driver behind the adoption of this program," stated Alan Umholtz, Superintendent of schools for Tahoka ISD. "Tahoka ISD is fortunate to have local, county, and state law enforcement personnel who are counted among

the best in the state; however, past experiences across the country have demonstrated that an incredible amount of damage can be inflicted at a school campus by an active shooter in the few minutes that it takes for even the best law enforcement agencies to respond to a 911 call. It's critical that we position ourselves to defend our students during those first few minutes while first responders are making their way to the campus. The implementation of this program puts us in that position," he added.

As Tahoka ISD begins its program, it is taking advantage of several new laws that the Texas legislature has recently passed to get its Board-approved employees tested and trained. Specifically, in 2013, the legislature passed SB 1857, which created an additional certification for certified handgun instructors to teach individuals in the exact tactics required by the Tahoka ISD plan. Also in 2013, the legislature passed HB 1009, which is commonly referred to as the "School Marshall Bill". In that new law, the legislature tasked the Texas

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Our local economy is fragile ...

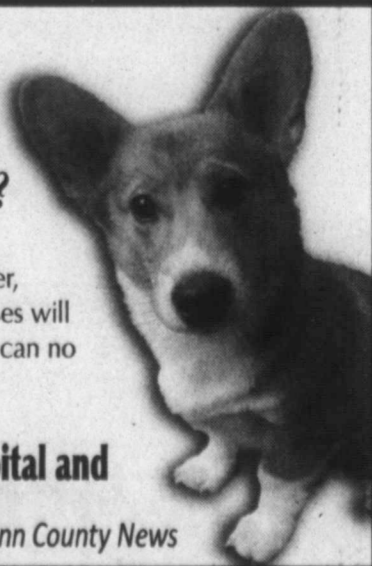
Shopping locally is a vital part of our growth and prosperity.

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. 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** -- 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



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No. 1

Lynn County Farm Bureau

County Commissioners asked to consider impact of wind turbines on sandhill crane roosting area

by JUANELL JONES

Lynn County Commissioners on Monday heard a request from a Lynn County landowner to consider the environmental impact of wind energy farms near Tahoka Lake area, which has long been a roosting area for thousands of mid-continental sandhill cranes.

"I'm not against clean energy, and I want the wind energy project to go forth," Jeffrey Taylor told commissioners at Monday morning's meeting. "I'm just asking you to delay any decision about approving a tax abatement for the wind energy project until Lincoln Clean Energy has done their due diligence," he explained.

Taylor was referring to Lincoln Clean Energy's Sage Draw Wind project, which is currently under consideration by county commissioners. Sage Draw Wind is the second phase of the Staked Plains project, for a 300-megawatt wind energy project situated east of Wilson and north of Tahoka. Seventy percent of the project will be in Lynn County, and the remainder will be in Garza County, and the project also falls under the jurisdiction of Wilson ISD and Southland ISD taxing entities.

"For many years, from September through April, thousands of sandhill crane have roosted in the Tahoka Lake area. Sandhill cranes avoid man-made objects. They need an undisturbed area for feeding, roosting and water. It is essential to have a radius of protection so that they are undisturbed. This wind farm can majorly impact up to 200,000 sand-

hill crane. I want to ask you to allow them to have a future here. That's within your power. I am asking that you be pre-emptive to protect the Tahoka Lake area," Taylor said to commissioners.

Commissioners asked Taylor if there was a specific radius recommended by environmental experts, and he told them it should be a 20-mile radius. County Judge Braddock thanked Taylor for the information, and said they would be considering the issue further before making any decisions.

In other business, Steve Payne presented information to commissioners about the possibility of having a Lynn County designated inspector for septic permits/inspections, instead of having to go through a Lubbock office, which he said caused time delays. His information included the possibility of going through the South Plains Health Dept., which works with other counties on this issue, and he told commissioners that he could have a representative from that department visit with commissioners at their next meeting, asking to be put on the agenda at that time for consideration.

Commissioners approved an order regulating and prohibiting the use of certain fireworks for the Memorial Day holiday, and moved to accept Unclaimed Property Capital Credits that are available for Lynn County to accept and allowed to donate to certain groups that meet the criteria as designated by the state legislature.

"We don't know exactly how much money this will be, but it is usually anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000. In the past we have given to the city/county library, the historical commission, and other entities. We don't have to decide today where we want the money to go, we just need to approve accepting the funds," Judge Braddock explained.

Sheriff's Deputy Pete Vallejo presented a report on the Sheriff's Office, and commissioners approved a contract for housing Crosby County inmates at Lynn County Jail, at a cost of \$40 per day, per inmate.

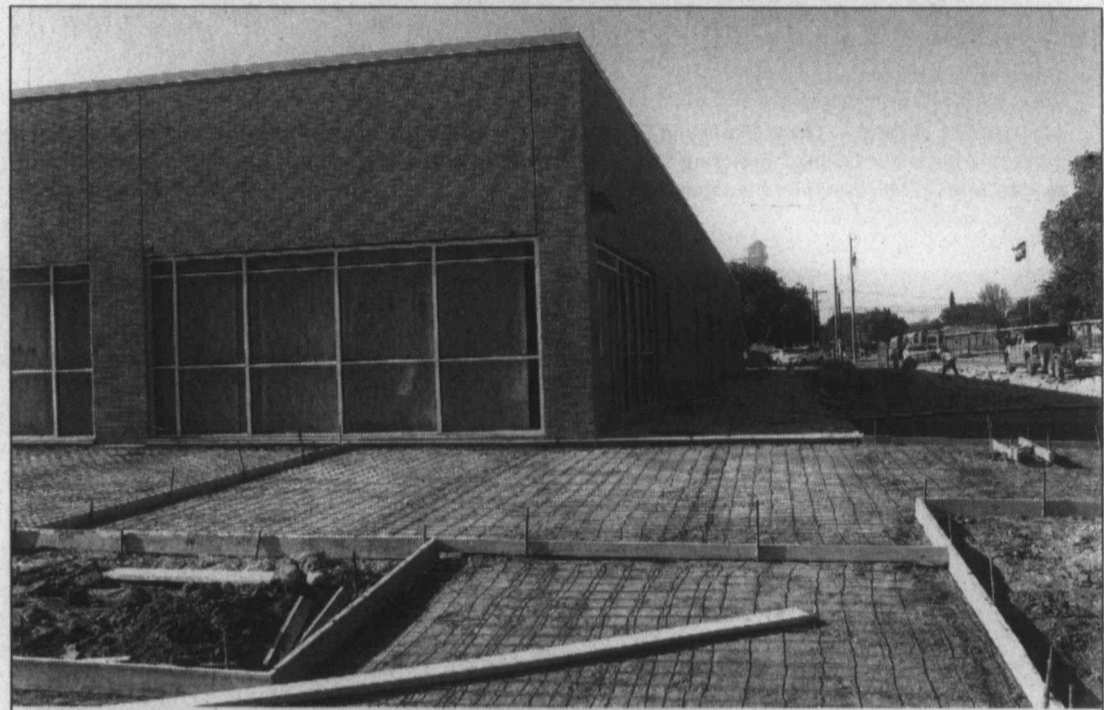
Monthly bills were approved as presented, and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. Judge Braddock led the meeting, with all four commissioners present including Matt Woodley, John Hawthorne, Don Blair, and Larry Durham, as well as other county officials.

ing this summer.

"We are trying to get the middle school ready for the teachers and kids to move their classrooms over to the new building as soon as possible. It's a big push right now, we've had some delays with permanent power, but hopefully by tomorrow we will have power to the middle school. If that happens we can start turning on air conditioners and climatize the building. We should also have the glass for the front windows this week," he said. "The auditor-



New auditorium ... Construction work continues on the Tahoka ISD campus, where a new middle school building and separate auditorium are being built. Pictured here is the auditorium, situated on the high school grounds in front of the THS gym. Workers have begun bricking the new building. The new auditorium is expected to be completed for the 2018-19 school year. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)



Laying concrete ... Concrete sidewalks are being laid around the new middle school building on the Tahoka ISD campus, and also pictured is the front side view of the new building, which is located directly across the street east from the THS gym, and will be completed soon. This year's Tahoka Middle School students are the last classes that will be held in the old three-story building, which is going to be demolished this summer. (LCN PHOTOS by Juanell Jones)

TISD Board Meeting ...

(Continued from page 1)

signage posted - people need to know when they walk in the building that there are employees that are trained for this, and if someone is sick and deranged, that they are not going to have a field day at our school."

Trustee Scott Dimak made a motion to adopt a series of policy changes resulting in a program in which the Board permits certain authorized school employees, who possess a license to carry a firearm under Texas Government Code Chapter 411, to do so while on school premises and at school-sponsored and school-related activities, as well as at Board meetings. The motion passed with unanimous approval by the four of seven trustees present at Tuesday night's meeting, include Dimak, Doug Green, Drew Stone, and Board President Clay Taylor. Trustees Jon Luna and Blanda Miller were absent, and trustee Lisa Hawthorne had submitted her resignation from the Board, which the Board accepted at the meeting.

Not all District employees who possess a license to carry a handgun will be allowed to do so on school grounds. Instead, employees possessing the necessary skill set to meet the District's overall security needs and who are assigned at critical District locations will be identified and vetted by the administration. Then, those employees will be presented to the Tahoka School Board for approval. If the individual employee is approved by the School Board, the employee will be required to meet additional measures before he or she may possess a firearm on school grounds. More information about this new policy is printed elsewhere in this edition of *The News*, provided by TISD Superintendent

Fire management is responsibility of not just firemen, but all citizens

by William Schoemann, Lynn County Emergency Management Coordinator

Lynn County is in a burn ban, as are most of the neighboring communities. Fighting fires is not just the responsibility of our firemen but also requires our home and land owners to do their part to reduce the risk of fire. As weather conditions continue to worsen in our area with the forecasting of deepening drought conditions, warmer temperatures and stronger wind, the likelihood for the spread of grass and CRP fires is greatly enhanced.

The fire triangle consists of heat, fuel, and oxygen.

The triangle illustrates the three elements a fire needs to ignite: heat, fuel, and an oxidizing agent (usually oxygen). Fire is the result of a chemical reaction called combustion. At a certain point in the combustion reaction,



called the ignition point, flames are produced. Flames consist primarily of carbon dioxide, water vapor, oxygen and nitrogen. The fuel is the grass, garbage, weeds and other debris that act as the food source for the fire to continue to burn and spread.


All fire departments in the county are asking you to do your part to reduce the likelihood of a fire at your residence and land. Clean the weeds and debris around your home or structure as well as making sure you alley is clear of trash, weeds, high grass or other debris. Land owners are asked to also help reduce the fuel sources by performing land management practices that reduce the

likelihood of the spread of grass fires and establishing fire breaks in their grass or pasture lands.

Smokers are asked to refrain from throwing their cigarette butts out the car/truck windows while driving.

Any efforts by all of us in the community will reduce the risks for the spread of fires in the communities and our county.

Additional information is available at the Lynn County Emergency Management Office, 1627 Ave. K, Tahoka, TX 806-561-5244.



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rium, if everything goes well, is going to be ready by the middle of August. Our summer projects are coming up - the biggest one is probably the most challenging, which is the tear-down of the three-story building. That will start as soon as we get a clear report on the abatement, which will allow us to move a little faster. We've hired a company out of Dallas that specializes in tearing down three-story buildings or higher. On this project, this is the most challenging thing that we have. It's going to be loud, with the big machinery tearing things down, but the one thing that is concerning for us is there is an unknown factor of how everything underground the buildings ties together. But we have a plan that by the time principals and teachers come back in August, that it will all be torn down and cleaned up and we will only be working on parking lot paving," Easter explained.

In other business, trustees approved a service agreement with Covenant Medical Group for athletic training services provided for TISD during the 2018-19 school year, and approved dual credit classes that will be offered in 2018-19.

The meeting lasted approximately 3-1/2 hours, including a two-hour executive session, adjourning at 10:06 p.m.

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