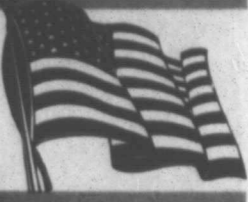




THE Lynn County News



MEMBER 2010 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 107, NUMBER 23

TAHOKA, LYNN COUNTY, TEXAS

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010

8 PAGES PLUS INSERT

50¢

What's Inside

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June 11 Jury Duty cancelled

Notice: Petit Jury scheduled for June 11, 2010 in the 106th District Court of Lynn County has been cancelled, because all cases scheduled for trial have been pled and settled. Anyone who received a notice for jury duty on June 11, 2010 does not need to report for duty.

"The Court very much appreciates citizens' willingness to perform their civil duty to serve on juries when called, but asks that you now please make note that the June 11 jury selection has been cancelled and you will not need to appear for jury service as originally requested," said District Judge Carter T. Schildknecht.

June 14th Flag Day

Be Proud!

Weather

| Date | High | Low | Precip. |
|--------|------|-----|---------|
| June 2 | 89 | 63 | 0.03" |
| June 3 | 89 | 62 | |
| June 4 | 97 | 83 | |
| June 5 | 105 | 67 | |
| June 6 | 95 | 69 | |
| June 7 | 93 | 70 | |
| June 8 | 94 | 70 | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Precipitation for June: | 0.28" |
| Precipitation for May: | 0.80" |
| Precipitation for Apr: | 7.02" |
| Precipitation for Mar: | 3.65" |
| Precipitation for Feb: | 2.48" |
| Precipitation for Jan: | 1.91" |
| Total Precip. year to date: | 16.14" |

Lynn County News

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DEADLINE: Noon Tuesdays

County animal shelter fills quickly, needs more dogs adopted, volunteers

by JUANELL JONES

Looking for a cute pet? The Lynn County Animal Shelter is the place to go, where there are usually about a dozen dogs desperately needing a home and someone to love.

The shelter opened in January, and it has been full nearly every day since the doors opened. Abbey Redman is director of the facility, and she says there are always adoptable dogs there that need a home. This week, there are 12 dogs in the eight pens at the shelter - Redman places friendly dogs

asia policy for animals that are left at the shelter for more than 72 hours, but Redman has some discretion with this policy if there is room to keep animals longer, or if she can find someone to volunteer to foster a dog at their home until it can be adopted out.

"I really need more volunteers to offer foster care for some of these dogs until they can be adopted - I have taken some of them home to foster because I just can't stand to euthanize the ones who would make such a good pet for someone, but there are always

"I really need more volunteers to offer foster care for some of these dogs until they can be adopted ... there are always more than I can keep."

- ABBEY REDMAN

together in the same pen to keep each other company. When she steps into the area, all are vying for her attention, happy to get a friendly pat on the head and a moment of her time.

Redman is kept busy patrolling the area, staying mostly in Tahoka but also patrolling in O'Donnell, Wilson and the New Home area one day each week unless circumstances prevent it. She will answer calls from anywhere in the county.

"I pick up strays, but also I get a lot of calls from people who are wanting to surrender their dogs to the shelter because they don't want them anymore for a variety of reasons - some because they say they can't afford to feed them or because they don't want to deal with ticks and fleas, or they just no longer want them," said Redman. "With the summer season I have seen a big increase in tick infestations on dogs, and I do treat them for ticks if I believe the dog is adoptable," she added.

Adoptable dogs are also given their first immunization shot, which is included in the \$25 adoption fee. The only requirement is that anyone who adopts a dog must promise to get the animal spayed or neutered, and Redman says she is negotiating with a veterinarian in Lubbock to provide a reduced fee for the service.

The shelter does have a euthana-

tion policy for animals that are left at the shelter for more than 72 hours, but Redman has some discretion with this policy if there is room to keep animals longer, or if she can find someone to volunteer to foster a dog at their home until it can be adopted out.

Foster care is just one of the ways area citizens can assist the local animal shelter. Redman says she would love to have volunteers assist her at any time, including someone to help clean the animal pens, or even someone to just come and give the dogs some attention by walking them or playing with them.

Additionally, as the sole employee of the shelter, Redman says it is difficult for her to keep up with photographing dogs to add their pictures to the website she uses to post adoptable dogs pictures and information. The Lynn County Animal Shelter has a link on www.petfinders.com (just type in Tahoka, Tx in the location box to bring up local information).

"It would be great if a volunteer could take over photographing the adoptable dogs and posting their photos and information on the website," Redman said. "I would appreciate any help I can get," she added.

Anyone who has lost a dog should always call the animal shelter at 561-4056 to see if the animal has been picked up, as the shelter is only required to keep strays for 72 hours.



We need a home ... These are just two of the cute dogs at the Lynn County Animal Shelter who need a good home. Abbey Redman, director of Lynn County Animal Control, would much rather someone adopt the dogs at the shelter than to have to euthanize animals left for more than 72 hours. Volunteers may also provide foster care for a dog at their home until the dogs can be adopted out. Call Redman at 561-4056 for more information. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

Want to help the animal shelter?

- Adopt a dog from the animal shelter
- Foster a dog in your home until it can be adopted
- Volunteer to clean dog pens at the shelter
- Volunteer to walk dogs or play with them at the shelter
- Volunteer to take digital photos of adoptable dogs and post them to the shelter's link at www.petfinders.com

Lynn County Animal Control
 Abbey Redman, Director • 806-561-4056

woodwork

by dalton



Family violence cases up in city

More incidents of family violence and assaults on family members were investigated during the last week by Tahoka Police, who also dealt with issues of driving violations and violations of liquor and drug laws.

Last Wednesday, June 2, police arrested a 26-year-old man charged with assault on two female family members, age 28 and 49. The 49-year-old woman also was charged with assault on the man. Apparently none of those involved required medical treatment.

A 29-year-old Tahoka man was jailed Thursday on charges of driving while his license was suspended, plus no liability insurance and expired vehicle registration.

A 24-year-old Tahoka man was arrested Saturday for assault on a

44-year-old Tahoka man, and also with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On Monday a 40-year-old Tahoka man was arrested on family violence charges after he allegedly struck his mother.

Thirty-nine persons were in Lynn County jail early this week, with 17 held for Lubbock County. Charges on which the most recent arrests were made included simple assault, carrying a switchblade plus false report to a peace officer, driving while license invalid, no liability insurance, no Texas drivers license, driving while intoxicated/third offense or more, warrants on bond forfeiture and violation of probation, assault causing bodily injury, and DWI plus no liability insurance.

FBC offers free weekday lunches for children

There is such a thing as a **FREE LUNCH!** School's out for the summer, and that means children will be looking for places they can meet their friends, have fun and eat healthy meals. First Baptist Church, Tahoka Summer Food Service Program is ready to meet the demand. Beginning Monday, June 14, First Baptist Church will be serving a free hot lunch to all children up to 18 years old. Meals will be served on the FBC Playground, located directly behind the church on North 1st Street. Meals will be served from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Texas Department of Agriculture Summer Nutrition Program is offered statewide by local sponsors who operate sites where children up to 18 years old can get meals at no charge. The service is open to all children, regardless of income. All children are invited.

The Tahoka Program will also offer recreational activities for children after the meal on Wednesdays.

The most up-to-date information on Summer Food meal sites and hours of operation is available by contacting First Baptist Church at 561-4557.

I REMEMBER that our children, who now are all grown up and becoming more like their parents than they ever wanted to be, never would drink coffee when they were teenagers because that was something old people (like their parents) did, and they wanted to do their own thing.

Girls wore miniskirts ridiculously short because Mom would never have dressed like that. Boys let their hair grow down to their shoulders because Dad would have liked it better short and above the ears.

Kids did everything they could in those days to make a statement that they were different from their parents, and so they would be noticed. This behavioral trend has, over the years, gone from bad to worse, to terrible, and finally to the edge of obscene.

Not all youngsters are defying good taste. There are still plenty of neat, polite and admirable young people around here.

Sadly, there are many who have weird standards, few morals and poor taste in entertainment and music. Even admitting that the kind of music one prefers, or the kind of movie stars one admires, is largely a matter of individual preference, some of us older citizens are appalled by some youngsters' choices.

About two weeks ago in the Lubbock newspaper, writer Williams Kerns noted that a concert featuring four groups of (possibly) musical performers had sold out in advance within hours of being announced as coming to Lubbock.

One of the groups is called Megadeath, as I recall. The others had names like Bloodbuckets, Vomiteaters and Babykillers. Those last three names are not the real ones; I have lost the issue of the paper, which listed them. But the names were just that bad, and whatever they are, someone obviously thinks they are worth paying money to hear.

I maintain that anyone who would pay to hear or see any groups with names like those has a problem.

But before any of you call me, or write me a poison pen letter, I realize some folks will disagree strongly, and think my opinions stink. That's okay. Sometimes I am out of order, but not out of odor.



Striking a tumbleweed pose in music! Tristen Stice, Quincy Harbison, Andrew Saldana, Noah Williams, Jonah Pledger, Braden Stone, and John Stone are having fun with the music at Vacation Bible School this week at First Baptist Church of Tahoka. This year's VBS had a western theme, "Saddle Ridge Ranch."

Employers and youth needed for Summer Youth Employment Program

We've all heard the adage "our children are our future." If our children are indeed our future, then any assistance in helping area youth prepare for the workforce of tomorrow is vital to the region's economic success. Workforce Solutions South Plains is seeking employers throughout the 15-county region to participate in the Subsidized Summer Youth Employment program. Partnering employers will host one or more youth

during the summer months and provide work skills training and mentoring. Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the program is designed to address the needs of low-income youth by imparting the work skills needed to remain competitive and ultimately reduce dependence on public assistance programs. Each participating youth will work no more than 30 hours per

week and will receive wages during their summer employment. Eligible youth must meet the following requirements: Must be age 16-24, must live in a family that receives supplemental federal benefits, and youth ages 16-24 who are pregnant or considered a non-custodial parent are also eligible. Partnering public sector employers must ensure the wages of each workplace supervisor are not derived from federal funds. All Subsidized Summer Youth Employment activities must be concluded by September 30, 2010.

Eligible youth who reside in the South Plains region will be required to complete orientation prior to summer employment. Employers and youth ages 16-24 who are interested in participating in this region-wide skills training and mentoring program are asked to contact Workforce Solutions South Plains toll-free at 1-866-765-5038.

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**From City Hall...
 Illegal Dumping
 at city warehouse**

We are having problems with people dumping trash at the city warehouse. Let me remind everyone that we have a landfill that will take your construction debris, water heaters, furniture, etc. Every citizen who resides in the city limits gets 1000 pounds per month FREE. Please take your trash to the landfill and dispose of it properly. Anyone caught dumping anything other than tree limbs at the city warehouse will be fined on for littering.

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

— Jerry Webster
 City Administrator

**Benefit variety
 show slated
 in O'Donnell**

A Benefit Variety Show will be held this Saturday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the O'Donnell High School Auditorium. The evening will consist of solos, ensembles, poetry, and readings.

Cakes and pies will be available for purchase and contributions welcome. Free coffee and tea will be available. Proceeds will benefit O'Donnell's Centennial Celebrations.



Kendon Quaid Scott

Trent and Dennis Scott of Tahoka announce the birth of their son, Kendon Quaid Scott, born on May 12, 2010 at 1:10 p.m. at Covenant Lakeside Hospital in Lubbock. He weighed 8.5 lbs and was 21-1/2 inches long.

He has a sister, Raymie, 2 years old.

Grandparents are Kenneth and Marquita Scott of Tahoka, Richard and Lacye Hutton, Don and Diane Teague, all of Lubbock and the late Donald McHaney. Great grandparents are Mavis McHaney of Snyder and Ruth Walker of Lubbock.



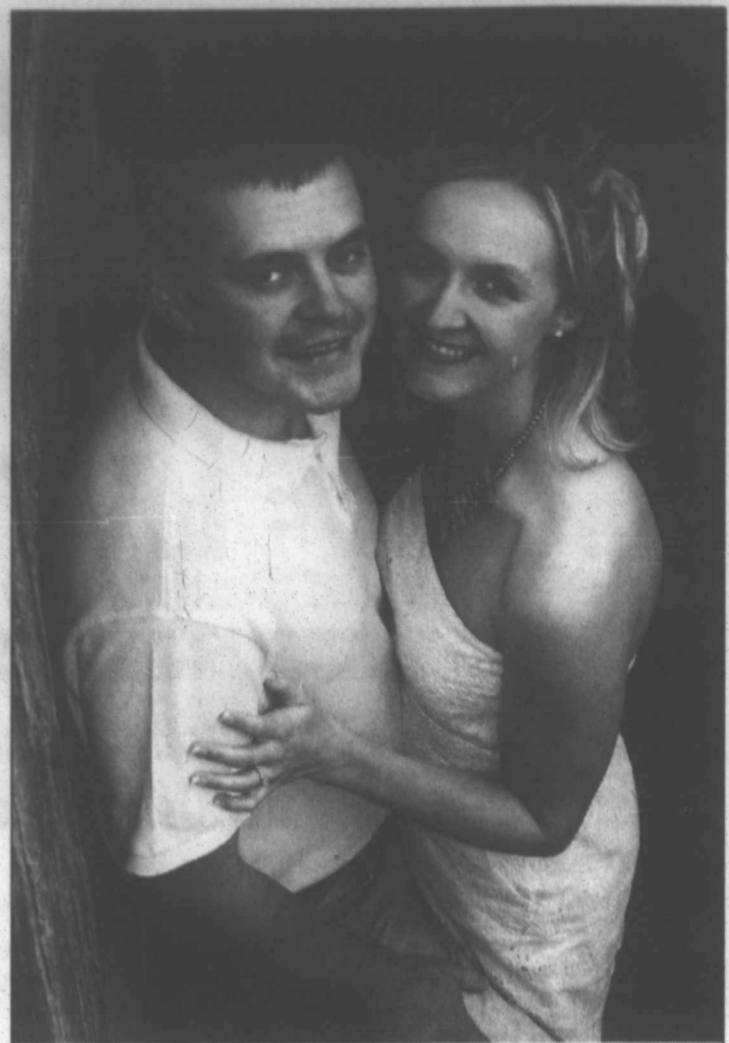
Adopt a Pet!

Lynn County Animal Shelter lists adoptable pets online at www.petfinder.com. At the website, simply enter Tahoka, TX in the location box to bring up photos and lists of adoptable pets at Lynn County Animal Shelter and surrounding areas.

Lynn County Animal Shelter
 Abbey Redman, Director
 806-561-4056

The Lynn County News

Tahoka, Texas 79373
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JOSH HAWTHORNE and ALLISON WHITE

Couple announce engagement

Curt and Kay White of Dalhart announce the engagement of their daughter, Allison Carter White to Josh Tanner Hawthorne, son of John and Lisa Hawthorne of Tahoka.

The bride-elect is a 2005 graduate of Dalhart High School and a 2009 graduate of West Texas A&M University with a degree in Agricultural Education. This past year, she taught Family Consumer Science at Dalhart Junior High. She is the granddaughter of Mary and the late Hoss Carter of Dalhart and Dan and Sheila White of Vernon.

Hawthorne is a 2007 graduate of Tahoka High School. He attended West Texas A&M University through 2009 and is currently attending Killeen Fire Academy where he will graduate June 2010. He is the grandson of Marlin and Diana Hawthorne, and Linda and the late Jimmy Huckabey, all of Tahoka.

The couple plans to marry September 4, 2010 at Central United Methodist Church in Dalhart.

**Christian concert
 Saturday to benefit
 Simple Acts Ministry**

The 2nd Annual Benefit Concert, The Journey-2010, is a Christian Concert held at Buffalo Springs Lake Amphitheater, 9999 High Meadow Road, on Saturday, June 12 from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. This all-day event benefits Simple Acts Ministry.

Simple Acts Ministry (SAM) is a Christian organization formed to witness the love of Christ to the incarcerated and to those released from incarceration. SAM works to aid ex-offenders by providing assistance needed to become established members of the community, and support Christian ministry activities.

Artists featured at The Journey include Jonny Diaz, Shane & Shane, Josh Wilson, Meredith Andrews, Disciple, Hannah Howard, Higher M pact, Chris Hudgins, Andy Johnson & Victory Life Baptist Church, A Road Less Traveled and many more.

Tickets are \$15 (includes lake entry charge), and children under the age of 12 are free. Tickets may be purchased at Mardel's, LifeWay Christian Store, Southcrest Baptist Church, or Turning Point Community Church, in Lubbock. Tickets may be purchased over the phone by calling 800-965-9324 or online at www.itickets.com. A non-refundable service fee applies.

For more information and a complete concert schedule, visit www.thejourneylubbock.org, or contact Pam Carroway, Director, at 806-441-4690.

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Senior Citizens MENU

June 14-18

Monday: Ann Patterson's Day
Beans & cornbread, fried taters & onions, tomato slices, bananas & strawberries

Tuesday: Winona Orr's Day
Baked chicken, new potatoes, corn, biscuits, lemon bars

Wednesday: Jeanette Porterfield's Day
Steak fingers, white gravy, mashed potatoes, greens, bread, rice crispy treats

Thursday: David Hale's Day
Cabbage rolls, salad, homemade rolls, Jell-o

Friday: Bobbie Moore's Day
Apple-chicken salad, fresh fruit salad, blueberry muffins

Reminders and Activities:

Special Request: The Senior Citizen Center homebound program is in need of a new delivery vehicle. If you have a late model jeep, Explorer or similar vehicle that is in good working condition that you would consider donating, please contact Bianca at 561-5264.

Stay tuned: Over the next several weeks, watch for details on a special summer event that we will be hosting to benefit the Senior Citizen Center Meal Program. An invitation will be extended to all the residents and business owners of Lynn County to attend and support the continued good works of the Senior Citizen Center.

Weekly domino night, Mondays at 6:00. Everyone is invited to join in!

Our cookbook, "Timeless Treasures" is available for \$12 each at the Center, Lynn County News; Virginia's Beauty Salon, Huffaker Law Office and the City/County Library.

The recycle bin is open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for can donations. After 1:00 p.m. and on weekends, call Bianca at 201-9169 and she will arrange to accept can donations. Thank you for your continued support with our community cans collection.

LETTER to the EDITOR

Roy Riddle would be proud!

This past Thursday morning, Elizabeth Tew, on behalf of our own Tahoka community, delivered approximately 1,000 pounds of canned and dry goods to our Lynn County Senior Citizens Center.

Elizabeth spearheaded this recent food drive in the memory of our own Roy Riddle. Roy was a wonderful and caring man who dedicated his life to the mission of making sure no one went without food. We are truly blessed that Elizabeth was willing to pick up the torch and carry on this important mission.

These words of thanks seem wholly inadequate because I truly cannot express how much we appreciate the thoughtfulness and goodwill of Elizabeth and Virginia Lee who did the collecting, as well as those of you in our community who so generously gave for the benefit of the Lynn County Senior Citizens Center.

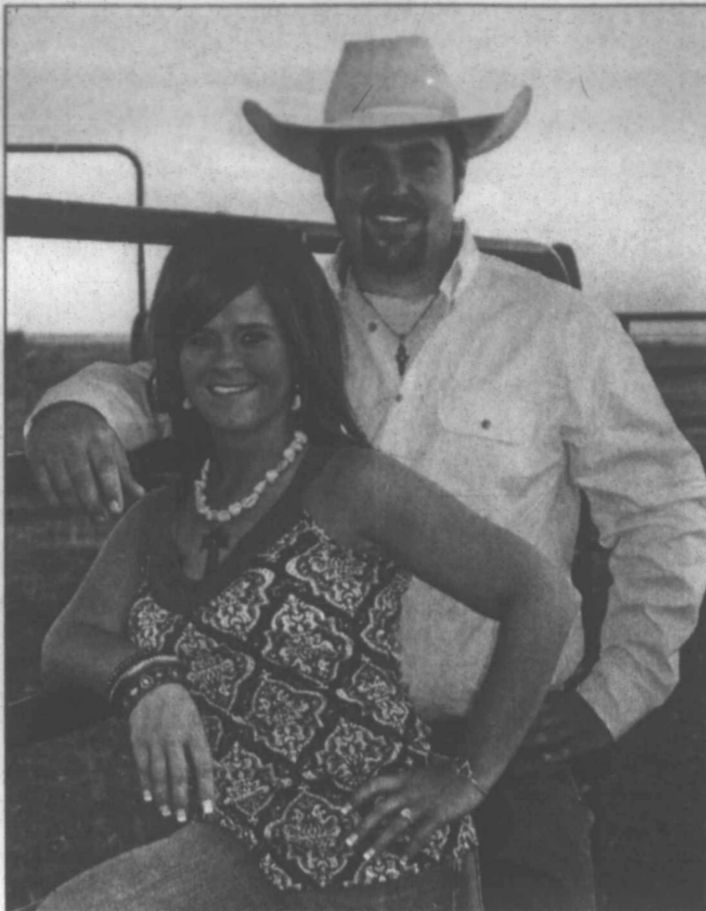
Thank you from the bottom of my heart...and Elizabeth, Roy would be proud.

Bianca Baker
Director, Lynn County Senior Citizens Center

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Obituary Notices -- POLICY --

There is no charge for obituary notices, subject to editing. If you wish the obituary to read exactly as sent, there is a \$35 fee. Photos may be included at no additional charge. The Lynn County News will publish obituaries with any connection to Lynn County. Information may be sent to The Lynn County News, P.O. Box 1170, Tahoka, TX 79373, faxed to 806/561-6308, or e-mail: LynnCoNews@poka.com.



CASSIDY GANDY and TAYLOR ALLISON

Gandy-Allison engagement announced

Roddy and Marci Gandy of Tahoka announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Cassidy Danelle Gandy to Taylor Scott Allison, son of Scott and Tonya Allison, all of Plainview.

Cassidy is the granddaughter of Billy and Arnetta Miller and Patty Gandy, all of Tahoka. Her great-grandparents are Nora Belle Wood and Jack Miller, also of Tahoka.

She is a 2005 graduate of Tahoka High School and a 2009 graduate of West Texas A&M University with a degree in Agricultural Education and is employed by Ag Risk Management Technologies (ARMtech) in Lubbock. Taylor is a 2007 graduate of Plainview High School and a 2010 graduate of South Plains College. He is currently attending West Texas A&M University and farms in the Plainview area.

The couple will exchange vows on Saturday, July 17, 2010 in Tahoka.



DONATIONS
to the Lynn County Hospital District EMS are greatly appreciated.

LCHD EMS, Box 1310, Tahoka, TX

The Lynn County News is open Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (open during lunch) - Closed Fridays - Need to leave us something? Put it in our DROP BOX (blue mailbox near front entry) Phone 806-561-4888 email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

Texas Buffalo Soldiers program set in Morton

The weekend of June 26-27, Morton, Texas will host its seventh annual encampment of the Texas Buffalo Soldiers Living History Program in the Cochran County Park in connection with Texas' Last Frontier Heritage Celebration.

A variety of events throughout the weekend will celebrate Cochran County's western frontier heritage, including a parade, gospel and patriotic singing groups, a live country music band and dancing for the entire family, and an outdoor Sunday morning community worship service.

Enjoy re-enactments of life at a frontier fort and an authentic Texas Buffalo Soldier camp—brought by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Buffalo Soldier Living History Program. Be present to history being made as re-enactors relive the 1877 Buffalo Soldier Lost Troop Expedition. The theme of this year's event is "Celebrating Western Youth".

For more information on any of the events, contact Dorothy Barker, Chair of the Cochran County Historical Commission, (806) 266-5484 (home), (806) 891-5140 (cell).



BRANDI RAINDL

Brandi Raindl is LCU graduate

Lubbock Christian University held commencement exercises in April and among those that graduated was Brandi Raindl of Tahoka.

Raindl graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration. While at LCU, she played on the LCU women's varsity basketball team. She was also named on the Dean's list for several semesters. She is the daughter of Mitch and Donna Raindl of Tahoka.

LOOKING FOR SOME ACTIVITY FOR THE KIDS THIS SUMMER?



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Pages from the Past...

By Vondell Elliott

The following excerpts were taken from past issues of THE LYNN COUNTY NEWS.

Business Hours To Change

In an attempt to unify the operating hours of Tahoka businesses, the Tahoka Chamber of Commerce recommends that businesses adjust their opening and closing times one hour. This will mean that an 8:00-5:00 business will now operate from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. This decision was based upon the majority of the businesses contacted. To make this change of schedule work effectively, a total participation will be necessary. With co-operation, a normal business flow may be established with minimal discord.

Jan. 10, 1974

55 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit Takes Effect Sunday Gas Shortage at Stations

The Lynn County Highway Department finished placing the 55 mile per hour speed limit signs January 15, and the new speed limit will take effect Sunday, January 20 in Lynn County and most parts of the state except where prevailing signs have not been changed. This is one of the first energy crisis measures that will take effect.

Most service stations in Tahoka have been cut anywhere from 10 percent to 20 percent, making a real energy shortage in Tahoka with most stations in Tahoka limiting a 10 gallon sale to most customers, with gas prices rising 8 to 9 cents per gallon.

Taking a random survey, the Lynn County News found that Chancy and Son Service Station had been cut 16 percent overall with a 30 percent cut in fuel in January. According to Bill Chancy, gas prices

have risen more since May than they have in the last 26 years. Bill said that he used to sell two gallons of gas and buy a gallon of milk and now it takes seven gallons. His gas prices have risen 9 cents per gallon and he is limiting customers to 10 gallons.

Chestnut Mobil Service said his gas is up at least 9 cents per gallon with a cut anywhere from 10 percent to 20 percent...with all customers limited to 10 gallons.

Jolly Texaco said they have been receiving 89 percent of what they sold last year but weren't sure what would happen in the next few days. They are giving fill-ups, but can only sell so many gallons per day, then close up for that day. Their prices are up 9 percent also.

Ruby Renfro at Renfro Conoco says that the biggest fuel hike is in propane with propane tripling from last March. Last March they were selling propane at 11-1/2 cents per gallon and are now having to sell it at 33 cents per gallon. They are also giving fillups on gas but limiting their sales a day to so many gallons and then closing up. Their gas is also up around 9 cents per gallon.

H.B. McCord said that they were limited on Phillips gas to 5 percent below what they sold in 1972 with gas prices up 8 to 9 cents per gallon. Their propane is also up to 33 cents per gallon.

All service stations were not checked, but it looks like this gives a good indication of a real energy shortage in Tahoka and Lynn County, with local stations not making any more profit on the gas than usual.

Jan. 17, 1974



We can do that ... Grace Reglin and Bek McCleskey get a roping lesson from Chris Ashbrook at "Saddle Ridge Ranch" Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church of Tahoka.

Texas NRCS offers assistance for Lesser Prairie-Chicken habitat

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas has announced \$2 million available through a national initiative to help reduce the threat to lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) habitat in historic rangeland sites.

"This additional assistance, through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), offers landowners the opportunity to enhance the LPC habitat in the High Plains and South Plains regions," said Manuel De Leon, NRCS wildlife biologist, Lubbock. "The initiative supplements what we have already been doing to assist landowners in their efforts to improve the habitat."

NRCS will be accepting applications through August 1, 2010. "Landowners interested in the initiative for the LPC should inquire now for technical and financial assistance to help establish and improve the habitat," said De Leon.

The WHIP program is a voluntary conservation program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. The program offers a continuous sign-up.

Clint Rollins, NRCS rangeland management specialist, Amarillo, said, "Landowners can develop a comprehensive wildlife management plan that can specifically address the LPC habitat."

The initiative is part of a multi-state opportunity that also includes New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma.

"Good LPC habitat equates to good rangeland that can improve or increase beef production if managed properly," said Rollins. "I encourage all producers in this region to contact the NRCS to find out how the program options can benefit their needs for wildlife enhancement and management."

For additional information about the lesser prairie-chicken initiative and how to apply, please contact the local NRCS office in your county, or visit the Texas NRCS website at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.



POLITICAL CALENDAR

Election Day is November 2, 2010
(Political advertising paid by the candidates listed)



State Representative District 85
JOE HEFLIN
(INCUMBENT)

Lynn County Justice of the Peace #1
DANA MCKAY
(INCUMBENT)



106th Judicial District District Judge
CARTER T. SCHILDKNECHT
(INCUMBENT)

Lynn County Justice of the Peace #1
NANCY GUILLIAMS
(CANDIDATE)

W & D Construction and Design Inc.
Plumbing Lic. M-37779 Electrical Lic. 030907JW
John L. Wilson
C 806-470-1451

Rural Workforce receives grant

The Rural Workforce Network has received a \$447,410 regional cooperation grant from the Texas Workforce Commission to build skilled workforce capacity for eight biotechnology/life science-medical industries. The Rural Workforce Network, representing a 75-county region, serves employers and job seekers in five local workforce development board areas of West Central Texas, South Plains, Permian Basin, North Texas and the Concho Valley.

The grant project, ending April 30, 2011, is a collaborative effort among workforce developers, employers, educators, community and economic developers, and other regional partners. The Rural Workforce Network is working closely with the RWN Biotechnology/Life Sciences-Medical Consortium members and project consultant, Worldwide Interactive Network, Inc. (WIN) to successfully complete the multi-phase project. The Rural Workforce Network will seek regional partnerships and build long term working relationships during and after the grant project.

Project results will include Employer Needs Assessment Survey, Career Pathway Analysis, Regional and Targeted Industries Economic Reports, Curricula Assessment, Sustainability Plan and Financial Plan. The Rural Workforce Network will release project updates on a monthly basis to encourage regional partnerships and activities.

The first crucial step is to survey employers within the eight targeted industries to determine current and projected workforce skills needs. For example, the employer survey results identifying skills gaps will be used to assess community colleges' programs to align with employers' needs. The overall goal is to establish a sustainable regional process of addressing workforce skills gaps. The continuous improvement process will strengthen employers' and job seekers' ability to remain competitive and grow, and will encourage new employers and jobs into the region.

Memorials and donations made to the Lynn County Pioneers
1600 S. 3rd • P. O. Box 223
Tahoka, Tx 79373
will benefit our local senior citizens center.

TAHOKA ATHLETIC CAMP

June 14-17
A Combination Football/Basketball/Baseball camp for incoming 4th-9th grade BOYS
PARTICIPATE IN 1, 2, OR ALL 3 CAMPS!

WHERE: THS Practice Field, THS Gym & Baseball Field
COST: \$25 for 1 camp; \$40 for 2 camps; or \$50 for all 3 camps
CAMP IS AVAILABLE TO ALL ATHLETES, NOT JUST TAHOKA STUDENTS.

TIMES:

MONDAY
Football: 8 am-10 am for 7th-9th graders
10 am-12 noon for 4th-6th graders
Basketball: 8 am-10 am for 4th-6th graders
Baseball: 10 am-12 noon for 7th-9th graders

TUESDAY
Football: 10 am-12 noon for 7th-9th graders
Basketball: 8-10 am for 7th-9th graders; 10 am-12 for 4th-6th graders
Baseball: 8 am-10 am for 4th-6th graders

WEDNESDAY
Football: 8 am-10 am for 4th-6th graders
Basketball: 10 am-12 noon for 7th-9th graders
Baseball: 8-10 am for 7th-9th graders; 10 am-12 for 4th-6th graders

THURSDAY
Football: 8 am-10 am for 7th-9th graders; 10 am-12 for 4th-6th graders
Basketball: 8 am-10 am for 4th-6th graders
Baseball: 10 am-12 noon for 7th-9th graders

CAMPERS PARTICIPATING IN MULTIPLE CAMPS WILL BE PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION TO THE BASEBALL FIELD.
ALL CAMPERS will receive a T-Shirt the first day!

2010 TAHOKA ATHLETIC CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Name: _____ Age (as of 6/1/2010): _____
Parent's Name(s): _____
Emergency Phone (day/evening): _____ Home Phone: _____
Street Address: _____
City / State / Zip: _____

I will attend only ONE camp: (circle one) • Football • Basketball • Baseball
 I will attend TWO camps: (circle two) • Football • Basketball • Baseball
 I will attend all THREE Camps

T-Shirt Size: YOUTH: __YS__ __YM__ __YL__ or ADULT: __AS__ __AM__ __AL__ other _____

I hereby grant permission for my son to attend the Tahoka Athletic Camp. I acknowledge the camp rules and therefore expect my child to abide by these terms. Furthermore, I release the Tahoka Athletic Camp, Tahoka ISD, Camp Coaches, and all persons involved from any and all liability for personal injury arising out of my child's participation in the Building Athletic Camp.

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Workforce grant

Workforce Net received a \$447,410 grant from the Workforce Commission to fund a grant for eight biotechnology-medical industrial Workforce Netting a 75-county employers and five local work- ment board areas in Texas, South Basin, North Basin, and Concho Valley.

project, ending in 2011, is a collaboration among workforce employers, educational and economic development and other regional Workforce Netting partners working closely with the Workforce Netting Technology/Life Sciences Consortium project consultant, Interactive Network, to successfully complete a multi-phase project. Workforce Netting partners are working on term working relationships and after the

ults will include a Needs Assessment and a Pathway Analysis and Targeted Economic Reports, Assessment, Sustainability Financial Plan. Workforce Netting project updates on a regular basis to encourage relationships and activi-

crucial step is to identify gaps within the workforce and industries to determine and project future needs. For employer survey regarding skills gaps will assess community needs to align with workforce. The overall goal is to address workforce gaps. The development process involves employers' and workforce ability to remain competitive and grow, and will involve employers and workforce.

and donations to the County Pioneers P. O. Box 223, Lubbock, Tx 79373. Visit our local website at www.lynnco.org.



Memorial Day service ... Wilson citizens gathered at the Wilson Cemetery for a flag ceremony on Memorial Day. A good crowd turned out for the event honoring those who have served their country. Pictured holding the folded flags are Clyde Wilke and Lester Gickhorn. The special flag ceremony is not officially sponsored by any organization, but is simply a community taking the time, on their own, to observe Memorial Day.



Tanning Bed Dangers in the News

According to news reports this past week, tanning in a tanning bed is a very dangerous thing. Researchers found that the risk of melanoma was 74% higher in persons who tanned indoors than in persons who did not. Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer because it can invade deep into tissues and spread to other parts of the body, unlike other types of skin cancer.

70,000 people in the US were diagnosed with melanoma in 2009, and more than 8,000 died from the disease.

From this study it was determined that with only 10 sessions with an indoor tanning machine you can increase your risk by 34% and with 100 sessions your risk increases 200%. 100 sessions would usually be over a lifetime but with the popularity of tanning beds these sessions are happening quicker than in a lifetime. The study found that people who start tanning at age

35 or younger increased their risk of melanoma to 75%.

Because of this rise in melanoma risk, the FDA is looking into a ban on tanning beds for teens and asking for bolder warnings on tanning beds. The bottom line with all this new information is that we need to think twice before we tan indoors.



The Lynn County News accepts wedding announcements at no charge if run within 8 weeks following the event. A \$35 fee will be assessed if run after that time. All information is subject to editing.

Forms available at The Lynn County News Office 806-561-4888 email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

Llano Estacado sets wine and clay festival

Llano Estacado's Wine and Clay Festival will be held June 12-13. Admission to the festival is free.

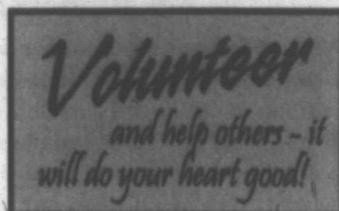
The festival begins at 10 a.m.-5p.m. on Saturday and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday at Llano Estacado Winery located 3.2 miles east of US87 (Tahoka Hwy) on FM1585.

The 2010 Featured Artist is Nancy Phillips of Roswell, NM. Phillips has been a part of the Wine & Clay Festival since the first festival at the winery.

Wine tasting tables will be set-up throughout Llano Estacado Winery for wine-by-the-glass purchase and all will be surrounded by clay art from functional pottery to creative sculpture.

Demonstrations of clay techniques, including raku firing will be scheduled throughout both days and features invited and local artists. In addition to the clay art the festival includes invited painters, photographers, sculptors and jewelers.

For additional information call Llano Winery at 806-745-2258.



Wilson ISD lists Honor Rolls

Wilson ISD lists junior high and high school Honor Roll for the 6th-six weeks. Junior high students on the all A roll included: 6th grade- Cristina Rangel and 7th grade- Dillon Trevino. Students on the AB honor roll were: 6th grade- Mariah Garza, Angel Lopez, Tatyana Marquez, Bryan Pena, Brandon Rowland and Humberto Veleta; 8th grade- Dimitrios Bastianos, Lacy Caballero, Fransisca Garcia and Samantha Mendez-Trujillo.

High school students on the all A honor roll included: 9th grade- Mayra Gonzalez, Peggy Jackson, and Coby Villarreal; 10th grade -Juana Lope. 12th grade- Felipe Ortega and Janet Valdez. AB honor roll for 9th grade- Alaura Mendez; 10th grade- Brittany Walton; 11th grade- Karen McArthur and Brittany Taylor and 12th grade- Jenna Autry, Billy Bassinger, and Wade Warren.

Booster Club golf tourney set for June 26 at T-Bar

The Tahoka Athletic Booster Club 2010 Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 26 at T-Bar Country Club. The four-person scramble will begin with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start and the cost will be \$140 per team. This fundraiser benefits the many athletic programs of Tahoka Middle School and High School.

First prize will be \$420. Second place (\$280) and third place (\$140) will also be awarded if 12 or more teams are entered. Mulligans will be two for \$10 and for a \$5 entry fee, participants can enter for the following with a payback of 50 percent of the pot to the winners; Closest to the pin, longest drive, and put-

ting contest. Arrangements for a golf cart can be made when registering for the tourney.

Businesses and organizations interested in sponsoring a hole for \$100 may contact Christy Bingham at 928-2137.

Free sausage wraps, hamburgers and drinks will be available to the teams. All proceeds will go the Athletic Booster Club.

To enter call Cherry at T-Bar at 998-5305, and for more information contact Michelle Williams at 928-8269.

The Lynn County News encourages you to attend church this Sunday!

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Time to get those overgrown shrubs and hedges trimmed and shaped!

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The 2nd Annual Doug Barham Memorial Golf Tournament & Fundraising Event!

Friday & Saturday, July 30-31
T-Bar Country Club in Tahoka



Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament

FRIDAY NITE • 7:00 p.m. ... Poker is played for entertainment only ...
Buy in: purchase a \$20 raffle ticket • \$20 Re-buy when you get blown out of the game.
Come unseat Joe Brooks, last year's champion!



Golf Tournament

SATURDAY • 9:00 a.m. ... Four Man Scramble - \$100 per person
No need to assemble an entire team ... just sign up
by contacting John Curry at 325-518-4447 or e-mail jcurry@wbhq.com

Bar-B-Q Dinner and Silent Auction

SATURDAY • 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. ... Nobody barbecues better than Lynn Co. boys!

We will continue to gather to honor our friend, Doug Barham's life. Come out, play golf (badly like the rest of us) and help generate funds for a fine purpose. Get back together with old friends and tell stories one more time. Play cards and stay out late ... for our friend, Doug.

Send checks payable to the Douglas G. Barham Foundation, c/o Alan Curry, 5109 82nd St. #7-237, Lubbock, Tx 79424. Sponsored by the Douglas G. Barham Foundation, E.I.N. No. 27-0475410.



West Texas Summit on ag issues set in Plainview

Todd Staples, commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture, and several other statewide officials will be at the Plainview Country Club June 17 to participate in a daylong West Texas Agricultural Summit.

The summit, hosted by District 85 State Rep. Joe Heflin, will focus on the challenges facing rural Texans whose livelihoods depend on agriculture and its numerous related industries. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from some of Texas' most influential ag leaders about the state of the industry and potential legislation affecting the industry.

Staples, a strong advocate for economic growth in rural Texas, will be the keynote speaker during lunch.

Other elected officials who will speak during the event, which begins at 9 a.m. with a welcome from Plainview Mayor John Anderson, include State Sen. Robert Duncan of Lubbock; Rep. Yvonne Gonzales Toureilles, chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock; Rep. Joe Pickett of El Paso, chair of the House Committee on Transportation; and Reps. David Swinford of Dumas, Rick Hardcastle of Vernon, and Heflin.

Billy Howe, legislative director of the Texas Farm Bureau, and Eric Beverly of the Texas Department of Rural Affairs, also will be part of the summit, which is scheduled to conclude at 3 p.m.

Although the summit is free to the public, there is a \$10 charge for the lunch segment, which can be paid at the door.

Because seating is limited, attendees are encouraged to make their reservations no later than Friday, June 11, either by calling Heflin's Austin office at 512-463-0604 or his Crosbyton office at 806-675-1583. Reservations can be made via e-mail at patricia.conradt@house.state.tx.us.



We're ready to play ... Pictured here are a couple of dogs at the Lynn County Animal Shelter who need a good home, or even someone to volunteer to play with them for a few minutes. Abbey Redman, director of Lynn County Animal Control, would love for someone to adopt these homeless dogs. The Beagle looks to be full-blood and is already neutered, and dogs can be adopted for \$25. Volunteers may also provide foster care for a dog at their home until the dogs can be adopted out. Call Redman at 561-4056 for more information. (LCN PHOTOS by Juanell Jones)

Ten tips given on how to avoid dog bites

Dog trainer Robert Cabral, shares 10 Tips to Avoid Dog Bites. According to the Centers for Disease Control, getting bitten by a dog is the fifth most frequent cause of visits to emergency rooms among children.

1. Do not approach strange dogs, whether on leash or off. Don't feel the urge to greet every dog you see.

2. Teach children not to run directly at dogs to try and meet them. Children should be taught not to approach strange dogs or to run, play wildly or scream in front of loose dogs.

3. When meeting a dog, ask the owner if the dog is friendly before engaging them or petting them.

4. Do not stare directly into the eye of a dog. Dogs often see this as a threat.

5. Always allow a dog to see you and sniff you before you pet them. Keep your interaction short and positive. Don't start a play session with a strange dog.

6. Never leave children unattended with dogs, no matter how well you think you know the dog. According to dogbitelaw.com a new dog in the house is dangerous for the first 60 days. In 2008, 20% of fatal dog attacks involved a new person or dog sharing a household for a period of two months or less.

7. Dogs are not stuffed animals: do not cuddle them, climb on top of them or kiss them if you don't know them, and think twice about doing it even if you do know them.

8. If a dog is approaching you, do not run away. This triggers a dog's prey drive. Dogs are more likely to bite someone who is running away from them than someone standing still. The best posture to assume is to stand erect with your arms folded. Turn slightly sideways to the dog and do not look directly at the dog. Even if the dog is jumping and barking at you, remain still. Most dogs will lose interest in an object that is not moving.

9. If a dog knocks you down, roll into a ball and remain as motionless as possible. Cover your head with your arms. Do not scream or roll around. Dogs may bite in playfulness.

10. If a dog is eating or playing with something, do not approach him to play with him or to take the object away from him.

"If you own a dog, enroll him in obedience classes; socialize him at an early age with people and other dogs."

Lynn County FSA reminds area producers to file acreage report

Rodney Schoppa, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Lynn County wants to remind producers to submit their annual report of acreage to their local FSA county office to meet FSA program eligibility requirements.

The final plant date for cotton in Lynn County is June 10. The final date to certify intended use is July 15. The Lynn County FSA will start certifying crops on June 11. Scheduled appointment times will be sent out to producers. Producers can call the office at 806-998-4501 to schedule an appointment time. This is very important that all producers certify their acreage and intended use by July 15th.

"Producers must file their reports accurately and timely for all crops and land uses, including prevented and failed acreage, to ensure they receive the maximum FSA program benefits possible," said Schoppa. Remember that 100% of the total cropland must be reported on an annual basis to be eligible for program benefits.

Accurate acreage reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs, such as the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program and newer programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. Programs include the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

Acreage reports are considered timely filed when completed by the applicable final crop reporting deadline, which may

vary from state to state. Prevented acreage must be reported within 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failed acreage must be reported before the disposition of the crop. Producers should contact their county FSA office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines.

Late-filed provisions may be available to producers who are unable to meet the reporting deadline as required. Reports filed after the established deadline must meet certain requirements to be accepted and may be charged late fees.

Producers should visit their county FSA office to complete acreage reporting. For questions on this or any FSA program, including specific crop reporting deadlines and planting dates, producers should contact their county FSA office. More information on FSA programs is available online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farmers (and everyone) should make a skin check a priority

Farming has plenty of challenges, but probably one of the hazards that farmers worry about the least are the dangers from working in the sun year-round. Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the American Academy of Dermatology asks farmers (and everyone else for that matter) to pay close attention to the condition of their skin.

It's as easy as "ABC" to remember how you can identify a mole or lesion that needs the attention of a dermatologist: Asymmetry-one half is unlike the other, border-irregular, scalloped or poorly defined, color-varies from one area to another, diameter-the size of a pencil eraser or larger, and evolving-changing in size, shape or color.

• Use water-resistant sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30 on all exposed skin, before heading out to the field or pasture. Re-apply approximately every two hours, even on cloudy days.

• Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

• Stay in the shade when possible,

and make sure your tractor has a sun umbrella. The sun's rays are strongest between 10 am and 4 pm.

• If working near water, snow or sand, seek extra shade because these surfaces reflect the sun's rays and increase your chance of sunburn.

• Look at your skin after each harvest. Ask a partner to help. If you notice any moles or spots changing, growing or bleeding, see a dermatologist.

A Body Mole Map is available at www.aad.org/checkpot. The site also has information on how to find a free cancer screening from a dermatologist in your area.

Performing a skin self-exam requires regularly looking over the entire body, including the back, scalp, soles of the feet and between the toes, and on the palms. It is important to use both a full-length mirror and a hand-held mirror to see the scalp, back and buttocks.

For more info visit <http://fcs.tamu.edu> (click on health, and then skin cancer, and visit the Health Hints newsletter Sun-screen issue).

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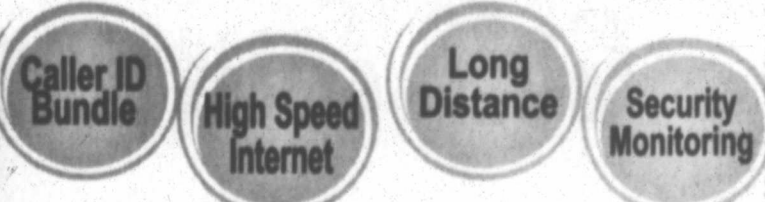
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Help Wanted

Lynn County Hospital District is seeking experienced EMT certified individual to manage and direct hospital based EMS service and department. Salary negotiable-with benefits. Must live in the area or be willing to relocate.

For information contact: Jim Morris 806-998-4533 x426. Resumes can be emailed to: jmorris@lchdhealthcare.org

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Monday thru Friday 9 am-1 pm and 2 pm-6 pm
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2504 N. 2nd Street
3/2/2 Brick has backyard w/waterfall and new fence.
Call for appointment:
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For Rent
FOR RENT: 2127 S. 3rd; 2B/1B; \$450/\$250 deposit. Application, references. Leave msg: 806-894-9826.

1721 S. 1st - Tahoka:
This is a cute 1100 sq. ft. 2/1/1 home with hardwood floors and a metal roof less than 1 year old, central heat and air. Property has a large lot with hook-up for a mobile home, giving this extra income potential.

1625 Ave. P - Tahoka:
A lovely brick home 3/2/0 with double carport. Home has new windows, 2 newly updated baths, new kitchen sink and faucets. Home also features front and back underground sprinkler system. This home is a must see!
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Notice
LOST: Brown chocolate Labrador. Female, 3 years old, with pink camouflage collar. She has been missing since June 2. Her home is about 4 miles north/northeast of Tahoka. Please call if you have any information. It would be greatly appreciated! Gilda Taylor 806-759-4670.

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

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Athletic Camp begins June 14

The Tahoka Athletic Camp will be held June 14-17 at the Tahoka High School practice field, gym and baseball field. This will be a combination of football, basketball and baseball for all incoming 4th thru 9th grade boys. The camp is available to all athletes, not just Tahoka students.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in only one or all three camps. Cost for the camp is \$25 for one camp, \$40 for two and \$50 for all three camps.

Look on page 4 of this edition of the *Lynn County News* for the detailed ad and registration form. Registration will be on June 14.

Tahoka ISD lists Honor Rolls

The Tahoka Middle School honor roll for the 6th- six weeks is as follows: 6th grade- Miranda DeLeon, Maci Dimak, M'Lin Hill, Clarissa Lopez and Juan Moralez. 7th grade- Jeremiah DeLeon, Laura Henderson, Roman Parmer and Dane Rivas. 8th grade- Kristal DeVine and Cort Fisher.

Tahoka High School honor roll students are: 9th grade- Samantha Antuna, Taya Bishop,



A horse, of course ... Kick-Off Night was a hit with carriage rides provided by Randy and Emily Byrum at First Baptist Church's western-themed Vacation Bible School. Randy Byrum is the driver here, carrying Natalie Stice and Bentley Harblson in the carriage.

Jori Chapa, Madylin DeLeon, Sarah Freitag and Smith McLeland. 10th grade- Braiden Fisher, Gretchen Henley, Will Lehmann, Logan Tekell and Hannah Thomas. 11th grade- Taryn Bishop, Emily Box, Jeremy Erslund, Sabrina Moralez, Caleb Renfro, Kyle Reno and Patrick Wells. 12th grade- Anissa Alvarado, Jynna Askew, Stephanie DeLeon, Lacey DeVine, Benjamin Freitag, Chyann Isbell, Kaisha Miller, Meghann Rivas, David Spruiell, Eudoro Torrez and A'Leesha Truelove.

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NOTICE OF SALE

The Lynn County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a sale of seized property on Friday, June 25, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lynn County Sheriff's Office. The following items will be sold. Any questions, contact the Lynn County Sheriff's Office at 806-561-4505.

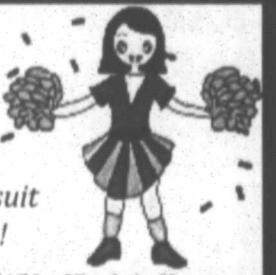
- (1) 1963 Buick Riviera low rider with hydraulics
- (2) 2005 Kawasaki 360 4-wheeler
- (3) 1999 Bombardier jet ski
- (4) 2000 Bombardier jet ski
- (5) 2004 Karavan watercraft trailer
- (6) Miller welder with generator and trailer
- (7) 2-Box cars (must be moved at buyer's expense)
- (8) 2-Bedroom, 1-bath home ready to be moved (must be moved at buyer's expense)
- (9) 1.360 acres of land with residence located at 330 CR Nora in Lynn County
- (10) Other miscellaneous items.

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Local K-12 teachers encouraged to apply for classroom mini-grants

Every day teachers are faced with keeping children interested and challenged with few resources beyond basic curriculum. To address this need, the Lubbock Area Foundation awards grants to area K-12 teachers who wish to provide enriching academic experiences for their students. Mini-Grants also provide a way to recognize and reward outstanding teachers in the South Plains region. Since its inception in 1997, Mini-Grants for Teachers has funded 284 projects in 84 schools and 19 South Plains school districts. Thousands of students each year benefit from the Mini-Grants for Teacher program.

Through the Mini-Grants for Teachers program, teachers who have ideas for enrich-

ing the curriculum and providing students with innovative learning experiences can apply for grants ranging from \$300 - \$1,000. Mini-Grant funding can be used for the purchase of special materials or resources for the classroom that are not available through other funding sources. All South Plains region K-12 teachers from public schools and non-public schools recognized by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC) and the Commissioner of Education are eligible to apply.

Grant applications are due by June 15th and are available at www.lubbockareafoundation.org/mini_grants.shtml or by calling the Lubbock Area Foundation at (806)762-8061.

Cotton Farming High Plains Goal: Managing Ogallala Aquifer

BY TOMMY HORTON
Editor, CottonFarming.com

How important is the Ogallala Aquifer to cotton production in the Texas High Plains? Most farmers in this region already know the answer. And, frankly, they don't want to think about what life would be like if the aquifer ever ran dry.

This massive underground water source - covering 174,000 square miles - is the lifeblood for agriculture in South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

To say that the aquifer is crucial to High Plains cotton producers doesn't begin to explain its importance. Without a reliable water source, the landscape would look very different in this area.

However, nobody can say that this important issue is being neglected. Cotton producers, groundwater conservation districts and the Texas legislature are taking a proactive stance in protecting the aquifer's water.

Legislature Takes Action
In 2005, the legislature passed a bill that mandates water conservation planning for Texas by requiring Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) to define desired future conditions (DFCs) within their area.

Simply put, groundwater conservation districts like the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District face the task of looking to the future and defining the amount of groundwater available for future generations in the aquifers they manage.

"This process gives us a chance to lead by example," says High Plains Water District Manager Jim Conkwright. "We can demonstrate that groundwater conservation districts have the ability to effectively plan and manage groundwater resources."

"By doing so, I am hopeful that we can continue to achieve the economic vitality we enjoy today while ensuring the future of our region."

The High Plains Water District Board of Directors established a management goal of 50/50 for the district in both GMA 1 and GMA 2 in the Texas Panhandle. This means that the district is working to have 50 percent of the current saturated thickness of the Ogallala Aquifer available for use in 50 years (2060).

"Being good stewards of our groundwater resource is the right thing to do," says Conkwright. "We can extend the life of the Ogallala Aquifer, as well as the economic viability of both GMA areas. This will give us the opportunity to benefit from the advances in science, crop genetics, irrigation technology and other areas."

Currently, other groundwater conservation districts throughout Texas are working in their respective GMAs to develop DFCs prior to the Sept. 2010 deadline required by statute.

How quickly is the water level dropping in the aquifer?

Annual depth-to-water level measurements made in 2010 in a network of 1,204 privately owned water wells within the High Plains Water District's 15-county service area indicated an average decline of 0.78 of a foot for a 10-year period (2000-2010) and 0.90 of a foot for a five-year period (2005-2010).

Most industry observers believe the region is reaping the rewards of an aggressive strategy to manage the Ogallala Aquifer. In fact, Texas AgriLife Extension Service cotton agronomist Randy Boman says High Plains producers have made tremendous strides in water use efficiency.

Critical long-term irrigation research has demonstrated that water use efficiency can effectively be improved, thus making more pounds of cotton per acre-inch of water.

"I would submit that our producers are doing a better job of water use efficiency than any group of producers in the country," Boman says.

One specific example of High Plains water management is the increase in drip irrigation systems in the region. Boman says the number of cotton acres utilizing drip systems is somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000.

He also points to widespread use of Low Energy Precision Agriculture (LEPA) irrigation systems and farm programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered by USDA-NRCS.

Possible Recharge?
Despite a widespread notion that the Ogallala can't be recharged, Boman says there are events that might have a positive impact on the aquifer.

He contends that heavy rainfall in the High Plains allows water to collect in the shallow playa basins that dot the landscape. Even though the impact is not fully quantified, these basins are likely a source of recharge for the aquifer.

There is also the existence of the Dockum Aquifer, which underlies the Ogallala. This aquifer hasn't been tapped for water because of its high salt content.

But, in anticipation of producers someday tapping into the Dockum Aquifer, Texas AgriLife Re-search cotton breeder Jane Dever and predecessor John Gannaway have developed methodology for identification of germplasm that has more tolerance to salinity.

Producer Steve Newsom of Levelland says most of his farmer friends eagerly embrace technology for "more than just economic gain."

Excellent Track Record
Another example of how High Plains producers have consistently done their part in protecting the aquifer is when the past four decades are studied. Numerous reports from agricultural economists in the 1970s predicted that the Ogallala would be dry, or that irrigation would at least be economically non-viable in much of the region by the year 2000.

Those predictions turned out to be wrong. According to Texas AgriLife irrigation specialist Dana Porter, "advancements in irrigation technology and management, along with improvements in crop genetics, pest and crop management, have kept High Plains agriculture strong."

"Our producers are rapid adopters of technology and are doing an excellent job of managing irrigation in the Ogallala Aquifer region. Consequently, the future looks bright for cotton production on the High Plains." (Contact Tommy Horton at thorton@onegrower.com.)

What's In

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