



**Tornado north of Tahoka ...** Traffic was stopped on US 87 about 8 miles north of Tahoka when a tornado touched down about 4 miles north of Tahoka, heading east/southeast. This photo, taken by Erin Wilcox, shows an incredible view looking south from her vehicle as the tornado picked up dirt and debris. Some damage was reported to homes and property about 4 miles north and east of Tahoka, as well as in the Draw area, but no injuries were reported.



**Tornado near Draw ...** This large tornado was seen in eastern Lynn County Sunday afternoon, with the storm also producing baseball to softball sized hail in areas. This tornado was about five miles east and two miles south of U.S. 380 in Lynn County. Jessica Ashbrook took this photo on the way to her storm cellar.



# Lynn County News



May 9, 2019 ■ Volume 116, No. 19

Serving Lynn County since 1903

Tahoka, Lynn County

Texas

email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

75¢

## What's Inside

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County fortunate to have services of Lynn County Hospital District
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Happy Mother's Day  
on Sunday, May 12

## DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR SENIOR CONGRATS ADS!

**Parents and Grandparents:** Turn in your congrats ads for your favorite graduating senior to the Lynn County News by **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15!**

These ads will be placed with the senior biographies in the LCN's Graduation Edition on May 23.

*Ad a cute photo, prices vary according to size!*

## What's Outside

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Apr 30	76	55	
May 1	83	55	
May 2	88	56	
May 3	61	56	
May 4	75	54	0.03"
May 5	71	56	
May 6	87	58	0.70"

*(Precipitation/temps measured as of 7 a.m. on date reported, for the previous 24-hr period)*

Total Precip for Jan:	0.00"
Total Precip for Feb:	0.00"
Total Precip for Mar:	1.59"
Total Precip for Apr:	3.27"
Total Precip for May:	0.73"
Total Precip. for 2019:	5.56"

## 4-6 tornadoes spawned in Lynn County during Sunday evening thunderstorms

by JUANELL JONES

Four or more tornadoes were spawned in severe thunderstorms that struck the Lynn County area Sunday evening, with no injuries reported but some damage caused to homes, barns and farm equipment. Flash flooding in some areas, and hail from pea size up to softball size, were also reported.

Personnel from the National Weather Service were in Tahoka, Draw and O'Donnell areas on Monday to determine from damage and debris trails left behind, whether there were four, or possibly six, tornadoes that had touched down. Initial estimates indicated there may have been six tornadoes, an NWS representative said. As press time Tuesday afternoon, no official summary had been released by NWS on the number or severity of the tornadoes.

US 87 was closed down from Tahoka to 8 miles north of Tahoka, stopping traffic from proceeding as the first twister touched ground four miles northeast of Tahoka just after 6 p.m. Some reports of damages to homes north and east of Tahoka were reported, including

a carport destroyed at one home, and roof, garage and other damage at another home. Power lines east of Tahoka were down as well, and Hwy 380 east of Tahoka was closed down for a time while tornadoes were in the area.

A large "wedge" tornado was reported in the Draw area, and then

as the storm moved south there were at least two reports of tornadoes in the O'Donnell area, with one west of the city, and another southeast of the city.

John and Lisa Hawthorne's residence near Draw, about 5-6 miles east and 2-3 miles south of Tahoka, was hit hard, with a portion of

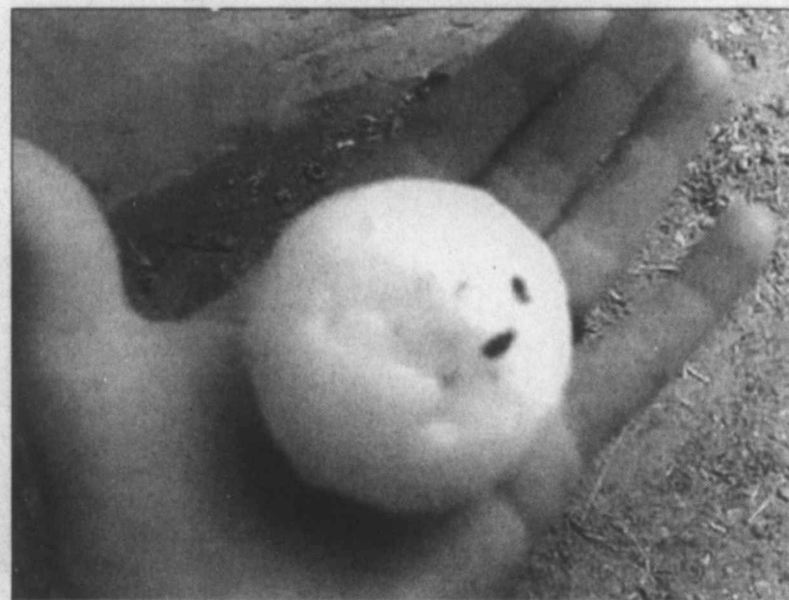
the roof torn from their home and a ceiling collapsed in a bedroom. A circle of trees surrounding the house were sheared off, farm equipment was flipped over or damaged, and a barn destroyed. The family was not home at the time that the tornado occurred, but discovered the damage when they returned home from church just before dark.

"I'm really glad we weren't home," John Hawthorne admitted. "We had gone to a business meeting at church, which I had not really wanted to go to, but I went anyway and I'm sure glad I did. We would have survived it, I think, but we would have really been shook up," he said.

"When we were coming home, it was still light enough to see from the Draw highway as we were approaching - and I told Lisa, 'Our trees are gone.' We knew then that we were going to find more destruction. But the important thing is, no one was hurt."

Hawthorne said there was debris for a mile in every direction from his place. A boll buggy and module builder were flipped over,

*(See TORNADOES, page 6)*



**Large hail...** Severe storms passed through eastern Lynn County on Sunday afternoon producing large hail and tornadoes. Jessica Ashbrook, who lives five miles east of Tahoka, took this picture of softball sized hail in her hand.

## Voters approve TISD bond for new sports facilities

by JUANELL JONES

**A** new gymnasium and other sports facilities are in Tahoka ISD's near future, as voters within the school district approved a \$7.5 million bond in the May 4 election.

The bond issue passed by a margin of 137, with 226 votes cast in favor and 89 votes against the proposed bond. Early reports on Saturday night indicated the count at 220-120, but election officials revised the official count to 226-89. It was a small voter turnout, with only 315 voters casting ballots in the TISD election for which the bond issue was the only consideration for voters, since the trustee election was canceled due to unopposed candidates.

With the bond approved, TISD

Superintendent Dick Van Hoose and the Board of Trustees can move forward with projects that will be built on the N. 5th Street property located one block away from the current gym, which was built in the 1960s.

The new gym will feature chair seating for 650, and will share the lobby/concessions area and restroom facilities with adjacent baseball and softball fields. A new field house and football practice field will also be constructed at the site, and the bond funds will also

be used for some renovation of the current high school facility.

"We already have a meeting scheduled for next week with the architects and contractor, and will meet with the financial advisor about the bond process as well," Supt. Van Hoose told *The News* on Monday morning. It will most likely be two years before the projects are completed.

Three other elections were held in Lynn County on May 4th, including the Wilson ISD trustee election, O'Donnell ISD trustee election, and City of O'Donnell election.

In the Wilson ISD election for three trustees, incumbent Les Walker led the ticket with 55 votes,

Oscar Ortega had 39 votes, and JJ Pena Jr. had 38 votes, to claim the three seats. Also running was incumbent Tracy Kendrick, who had 27 votes.

In the O'Donnell ISD election for three trustees, the three incumbents were re-elected for another term, with Billy Edwards leading the ticket with 104 votes, Landon Mires 78, and Melissa Pedroza 69. Also running was Simon Resendez, with 23 votes.

In the City of O'Donnell election for two council seats, incumbent Bruce Vaughn led the ticket with 76 votes, and Katy Mires was also elected, with 51 votes. Also running was Jessie Perez, 32 votes, and Paul Hale, 7.



Did you know?

There's a popular misconception that tornadoes can't pass over valleys, mountains, lakes or rivers. When they pass over water, they become waterspouts.



# NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK 2019

## Tahoka, Lynn County, fortunate to have services of Lynn County Hospital District

by JUANELL JONES

A hospital is more than a place where people go to heal – it is a part of the community that fosters health and represents hope. From providing treatment and comfort to the sick, to providing emergency care, to promoting wellness and physical fitness, the Lynn County Hospital and its umbrella facilities are central to a healthy and optimistic community. During National Hospital Week, May 12-18, tell those at Lynn County Hospital District (LCHD) how much they are appreciated for the compassionate and professional services they provide their community. The theme of the 2019 National Hospital Week is “Celebrating Hope and Healing.”

National Hospital Week 2019 celebrates hope and healing, and the hospitals, health systems, and the women and men who support the health and well-being of their communities through dedication and care from the heart.

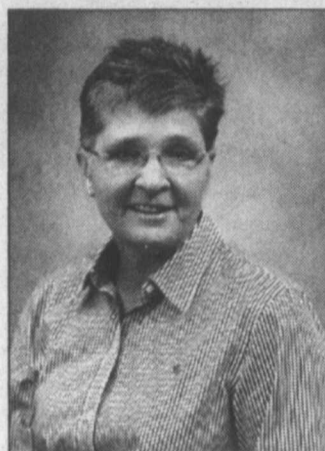
Celebrating National Hospital Week provides an opportunity to thank all of the dedicated individuals – physicians, nurses, therapists, food and maintenance service workers, volunteers, administrators and so many more at Lynn County Hospital – for their contributions, as well as the staff of LCHD's umbrella facilities, including Lynn County EMS, Lynnwood Independent & Assisted Living Center, LCHD Family Wellness Clinic and Physical Therapy/Fitness Center in Tahoka, LCHD Clinic in O'Donnell, and Tahoka Drug.

On Tuesday, May 14, the community is invited to come hear a “State of the Union” address about Lynn County Hospital District presented by Dr. Melanie Richburg, CEO, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tahoka Housing Authority Center's community room, located at South 3rd and Ave. K in Tahoka. Dr. Richburg will present an overview of LCHD during the past year, as well as information about their goals and plans for the future.

“LCHD is your hospital!” states Dr. Richburg. “We want you to think first of LCHD in all aspects of healthcare, because we truly have compassionate and caring staff offering healthcare closer to home.”

She invites citizens to come to Tuesday night's meeting to hear how the hospital is accomplishing its goals.

This month marks the one-year anniversary of Dr.



DR. MELANIE RICHBURG  
LCHD CEO

is getting out of the way,” she says with a small sigh. “Leadership means assigning and designating, and then stepping back to allow them to do their jobs. You've got to choose the right people and trust that they can do it. That's hard for me to let go, because I've been in the front line for so many years.”

“I've been really blessed with our staff – the things that I've asked them to do are turning out – sometimes maybe not as good as I'd hoped for, but we're getting there. I'm humbled by their commitment to our mission and our vision. We've got a new vision – it's ‘healthcare closer to home.’ We want to take care of all things health, and if we can't help you then we will help you get to someone who can,” said Dr. Richburg.

“We have a strategic plan now. We're building a good solid foundation. Our focus is four areas of needs assessment – employees, our service line, community, and finance,” she added.

The CEO explained that assessments of these four areas have targeted such things as a student work program, needs assessment on employees, patient transportation, pediatrics care, geriatrics care, a multi-media presence, community classes on a variety of health issues, and being present in the community. In the financial arena, Dr. Richburg says that LCHD needs to focus on implementing the right infrastructure and reporting systems, using it effectively, creating the proper reports, making short and long-term financial goals, seeking grants and non-traditional revenue,

and implementing incentives to give to the LCHD Foundation.

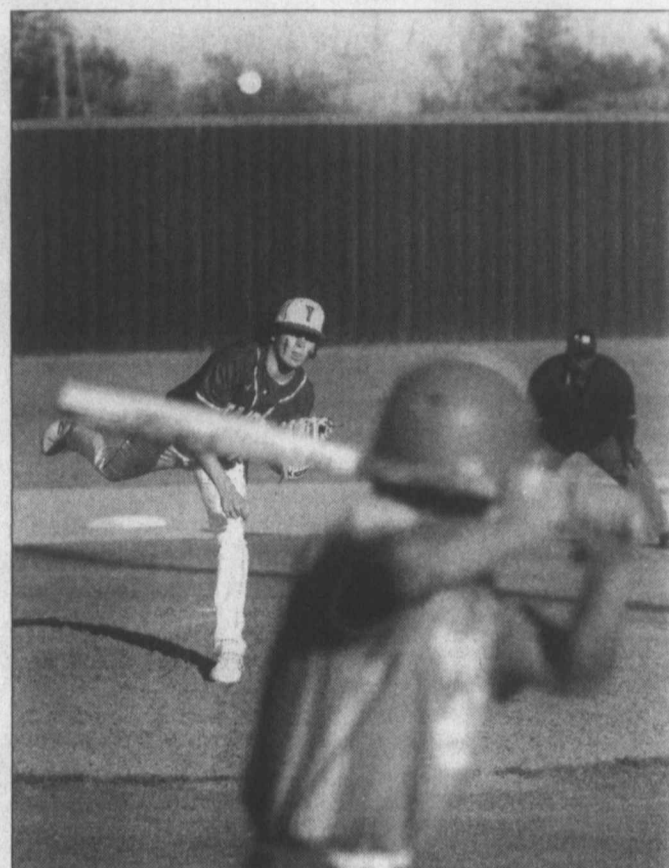
“I can promise you – with myself and the CFO that I hired here, with 100% confidence I can tell you that the money we raise through the LCHD Foundation will be spent on a project that will directly affect and impact the people of Lynn County,” Dr. Richburg stated.

Looking back at her first year as CEO, Dr. Richburg is pleased with the direction that LCHD is going, and that the staff is buying into her vision as leader. She calls them her team, and she believes in them.

“You always wonder if people around you believe like you do, and you always want to hold that at the core of us there's good. I think the thing that's been the most inspiring for me is that I've seen the good come out, because people trust in what I'm trying to do here. If I say we're going to do something, I'm going to do it, or I'm going to tell you why we didn't do it, or we're going to try find another way to do it. And I'm tenacious. I'll just keep asking until we get it right,” she said with a smile.

“People really do care that work here. And, they care about their community. Most of us that chose the profession we're in, did it because we care about people. So now I feel like they know they've got someone that they know, foremost, that taking care of people is who I am.”

A team that cares and has compassion is, she believes, a good foundation for building the future of Lynn County Hospital District.



The pitch ... Tahoka's Braden Stone pitched for the Bulldogs in their bi-district playoff game against New Deal, but New Deal took the 7-1 win, ending the Bulldogs' playoff run.

(LCN PHOTO by Gary Jones)



Marathon runners ... Tahokans Carlos Moralez, Sabrina Moralez, Don Hilger and Kelsi Hilger all ran in the 2nd Annual Lubbock Mayor's Marathon on Sunday, April 28.

## ATTENTION Citizens of Lynn County

LCHD is YOUR Hospital!

Come hear our

## State of the Union

address

Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m.  
in the Tahoka Housing Authority Center

S. 3rd and Ave K • Tahoka, Texas

Dr. Melanie Richburg, CEO  
will present a look back at the last year,  
and how our hospital is doing now.

Please come hear how YOUR hospital  
is working hard to serve you!



Healthcare  
— closer to —  
**H + M E**  
Lynn County Hospital District



LCHD MEDICAL STAFF

## Parents, Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles...

Get your congratulations ad in  
by Wednesday, May 15  
for the graduation issue!

If you would like to congratulate your high school senior in  
The Lynn County News' graduation issue on May 23,  
send \$8.50 (for a small size ad without a photo) or \$17 (for  
an ad with a photo), the name of the student, high school  
and congratulators names to Box 1170, Tahoka or come by  
the News Office at 1617 Main St. or email it to  
LynnCoNews@poka.com.

**HURRY! DEADLINE IS  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15.**

This graduation issue will  
include New Home,  
Wilson, O'Donnell and  
Tahoka seniors!



## Sheriff's Office gets lots of calls during Sunday's tornadic storms

by JUANELL JONES

Numerous reports of downed power lines and water over roads were reported to the Lynn County Sheriff's Office and 9-1-1 emergency system during Sunday evening's thunderstorm, and several motorists called for assistance on FM 1054 after flash flooding in the area. Traffic was stopped on US 87 and Hwy 380 during tornadic activity in the county as well. No injuries were reported in any of these calls.

On April 25, a driver passing by the Wilson Cemetery on FM 400 saw a man hanging from a tree inside the cemetery at about 7:15 a.m. The man, 23-year-old Coby Villarreal of Wilson, was declared dead at the scene. Lynn County Sheriff's Office requested the Texas Rangers take the lead in investigating the case, which is being investigated as a questionable death. The case is still ongoing.

An accident was reported at 6:35 a.m. April 23 from a location at 926 CR 11, with the caller to the Lynn County Sheriff's Office reporting that a neighbor had struck her truck with his vehicle. The complainant was issued a form for insurance purposes.

In Tahoka, two vehicles collided at the intersection of the 1800 block of S. 3rd and 1300 block of Ave. M at 12:20 p.m. May 6, when a 2000 silver Lincoln Town Car driven by Judy Sepeda Hernandez failed to yield to a 2007 white Chevrolet C/K 2500 driven by Nathan Paul Garcia. Both drivers advised of possible injuries but refused EMS treatment at the scene, choosing to go by private vehicle for medical treatment.

A gun and two sets of keys were reported stolen from a cabinet in a home at 696 FM 179, reported at 4:54 p.m. April 27.

At 7:33 p.m. April 27, a caller reported someone stole a gas lid off a tractor, broke down a part of the fence, stole a feed bank, tipped over a well water tank, and tipped over some equipment at CR C and CR 13.

At 7:51 a.m. April 29, a

caller reported someone had broken into his white 2007 Chevy pickup at 599 FM 400 and had taken several items, and also reported that his barn door was left open but did not know if any items were missing.

On May 4, at 11:22 a.m., a push lawn mower was reported taken from a shed at 102 Aubrey Lane in New Home.

At 4:10 p.m. May 1, the Lynn County Sheriff's Office received a call from Lubbock UMC ER advising that they had a 4-year-old child in the ER with a dog bite that occurred in Lynn County. The bite was from a family dog, and the family reported they would quarantine the dog for 10 days and provide proof of vaccinations.

A caller at 9:45 a.m. May 3 told the Lynn County S.O. that he had found a hawk with two broken legs near 2822 CR Y. The Game Warden was notified, and the injured hawk was taken to the South Plains Wildlife Rehab Center in Lubbock.

Tahoka Police arrested a 35-year-old Lubbock male on charges of public intoxication, after being called to a location in the 2000 block of N. 2nd Street at 5 p.m. May 6 for a report of an intoxicated man reportedly trying to initiate a fight with a resident in that location.

A 51-year-old Tahoka female was charged with harassment on May 1 after a man contacted Tahoka Police and reported the woman kept calling his residence, posting comments online and using his family photographer on her social media page. Police already had an open case against the woman for harassment and added the new information to the report.

Lynn County Jail held 42 inmates during the past week, including 23 for Ector County and 19 for Lynn. Local charges included one for DWI 3rd or more offense, and one for temper/fabricate physical evidence.

## NEWS from the Library

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

### Teddy Bear Picnic

A big surprise was waiting for the little ones who came to the library for Kidspace. Beneath the trees Teddy Bears were waiting to picnic with the littles. The Teddy Bears served up a marvelous lunch and had a lovely time with the children. Because the Teddy Bears were tired the littles took them home for a nap.

### Summer Readers Enter To Win A Free Pool Party

Win a FREE POOL PARTY with Early Summer Reading Sign-up. Babies thru 5th graders who sign-up between May 28th - May 30th will be entered to win a FREE 2-hour pool party for a maximum of 50 people at the City of Tahoka Pool. School age kids signing up for Summer Reading will be their 2018-2019 school year. The City-County Library is encouraging expanding minds and imagination through Summer Reading.

### Summer Kickoff

Save the date for the City-County Library's Annual Summer Kickoff Friday, May 31st. The FREE Petting Zoo will be back at the library from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. While you're waiting for the Petting Zoo to open, come inside and shop with Bella Thrift Shoppe, Rustic Sign Junkie, Heirlooms Etc. and Boots N Bows from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Chick-fil-A will be serving up lunch at the Petting Zoo. Shop, pet and feed the animals, bring Chick-fil-A inside to eat and then pet the animals again.



**Law Enforcement Torch Run ...** 26 law enforcement officers from West Texas ran through Tahoka on their way to San Antonio, last Tuesday morning. It was all a part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run to raise awareness and funds for the Special Olympics movement. Tahoka ISD Special Education classes and Lyntegar employees came out to support these local heroes as they ran through Tahoka on the access road of HWY 87. Tahoka ISD will be hosting a Special Olympics Track and Field Meet on Thursday, May 16th starting at 9 a.m. Special Olympics athletes will be represented from 6 area schools including Tahoka, Seagraves, Lamesa, Post, Brownfield, and Denver City. Anyone is welcome to come out to the Tahoka track on May 16 to support these youth.

## PCG alerts growers to importance of sourcing seed in Pima Cotton due to FOV4 risk

by Mary Jane Buerkle and Shawn Wade from Plains Cotton Growers website

It's planting time on the Texas High Plains, and growers throughout the region are sitting on "Go," ready to plant their 2019 cotton acreage, if they haven't already started.

A few growers have indicated an intention to experiment with Pima cotton this season as well, which raises a point of concern due to the recent identification of the soil-borne fungus *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. vasinfectum* Race 4 (FOV4) in the El Paso Valley production region.

Before making good on that decision, representatives from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers are encouraging growers to verify the source of the seed they intend to plant and avoid planting any seed that has been sourced from California or the El Paso Valley regions where the FOV4 fungus has been confirmed to exist.

Due to the recent identification of FOV4 in the El Paso Valley production region, PCG and other experts have grave concerns about the potential for this devastating disease to be spread to the Texas High Plains.

"We want it to be abundantly clear that by no means are we discouraging growers who decide to plant Pima cotton," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said. "Our concern centers around helping ensure that growers are one hundred percent aware and sure of where their Pima seed is coming from."

*Fusarium wilt* is a highly virulent cotton disease caused by the soil-borne fungus *Fusarium*

*oxysporum f. sp. vasinfectum*. This new Race 4 was first detected in California in the early 2000s and most recently was discovered in the Upper Rio Grande Valley area in Texas, in El Paso and Hudspeth counties.

One reason this is especially alarming is that there currently is no variety of upland cotton that is resistant to FOV4, and once it's introduced onto a farm, it will be a permanent infestation and there are no chemical control options for controlling FOV4.

Dr. Terry Wheeler, Texas A&M AgriLife Research plant pathologist, said that a troubling point related to the potential introduction of FOV4 via infected

planting seed is that it would take at least five years for the populations to build to a point where symptoms would be readily identifiable, and that the introduction of the disease in the region would significantly limit the opportunity to maintain commercial seed production in this area in addition to negatively impacting yields in infected fields. The pathogen is easily spread by infected seed and movement of soil infested with the pathogen.

Impact on seed production is a short-term effect of FOV4, but long-term impacts include decreases in yield and overall ability to grow upland cotton unless resistant varieties are developed.



**Tornado approaching ...** Laura Stephens took this photo of an approaching tornado north of Tahoka on Sunday, as she and her husband Derrick and family took shelter inside the kitchen pantry in Derrick's grandmother's home (Gilda Taylor). The home and property suffered some damage, but no one was injured.

**You are 23 Times more likely to crash when you text while driving. Texting while driving IS ILLEGAL IN TEXAS.**  
*Is sending an LOL text message really worth an accident?*

**Park the phone when you drive.**

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**BLATTNER ENERGY**

**Local Services & JOB FAIR—May 22nd**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Blattner Energy, Inc. will be hosting a Job Fair in Post, TX for our project in Lynn and Garza counties.

We are looking for safety conscious personnel with experience or interest in the following positions:

- General Laborers
- Equipment Operators
- Electrical Workers
- Tower Installation
- Mechanics and Oilers (CDL Required)

Interested parties are encouraged to stop by the:  
**Post Community Center**  
113 W Main  
Post, TX 79356  
From 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 22

If you are unable to attend our job fair or would like to apply prior to the job fair, please visit our website at [www.blattnerenergy.com](http://www.blattnerenergy.com).

*All job offers are contingent upon receiving a negative drug/alcohol test result and a satisfactory physical examination. Field employees are subject to random drug testing and some may require a criminal background check and a valid driver's license with an acceptable motor vehicle record.*

**EEO Minorities/Women/Disabled/Veterans**

# Classified Ads

Call 561-4888  
by NOON Tuesday

DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND ADS IS NOON TUESDAYS

## GENERAL

**Bella Thrift Shoppe**  
1660 Main St. • Tahoka (at the red light)  
HOURS: Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Wed. 3 - 7 p.m. Come see us!  
**JOIN US FOR ART CLASSES MAY 18!**  
City Hall Meeting Room (Former Lyntegar Meeting Room)  
SATURDAY, May 18th •  
9-12 noon Oil Painting Class with local artist Donna Roberson  
10-noon Charcoal art class with local artist Arlene Ohlson!  
2-5 p.m. Acrylic art class with local artist Arlene Ohlson!  
FREE Meal served after each class! Free bottle of wine to go!  
Call 806-548-4410 for more information on Art Classes! \$25 per class!

## SALES

**Tool Sale**  
Saturday May 11, 2019 • 8:30 to 5:00  
309 9th St. • O'Donnell, TX  
Senior Citizen Building  
John Deere riding lawnmower, 29 gallon air compressor, wet vacs, shelves, lawn care equipment, lawn mowers, golf clubs, camping equipment, tools, tool chests, many, many tools and other items. Sponsored by Senior Citizens Proceeds to benefit Senior Citizens for new roof and repairs.

**Bella Thrift Shoppe**  
1660 Main St. • Tahoka (at the red light)  
HOURS: Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Wed. 3 - 7 p.m. Come see us!  
50% off sale! Come see us!

**HALFMANN Heat & Air**  
It's time for a PRE-SEASON checkup on your AC unit.  
Serving O'Donnell and surrounding areas. Your local service for all heating and A/C needs for the last 20 years!  
**Call today!**  
**806-332-4513**  
Jeff Halfmann  
OWNER/OPERATOR  
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or call 574-642-2023

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CALL TODAY: 806.620.1422  
**LOBO MINERALS, LLC**  
PO Box 1800 • Lubbock, TX 79408-1800  
LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com

## HELP WANTED

**First Baptist Church of Tahoka** is accepting applications for a nursery worker for Sunday mornings, 2nd and 4th Monday evenings, and Wednesday evenings. Pick up application at FBC church office, 1701 Ave. K, Tahoka.  
Call 806-544-1719 or 806-759-4959 for more information  
18-4tp

**NOTICE**  
The City of Tahoka is currently taking applications for a position in the Water & Sewer Department. Requirements include a high diploma or GED, a valid Texas driver's license, and must be able to pass a background check. This is a full time position with benefits. Questions about the position may be directed to the Public Works Director, Raymond Vega at 806-759-1222. The City of Tahoka is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
18-2tc

**HELP WANTED**  
Full time cleaning person for hunting lodge in Gall, TX. Duties include cleaning all rooms, laundry, shopping for and stocking supplies, minor maintenance. Full time position with full benefits: health insurance, 401k, vacation, holidays. Needed Monday through Thursday 32-40 hours a week.  
Call Riley at (806) 392-2118 18-3tp

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

**LAUNDROMAT FOR SALE**  
Do you need extra income? Good solid operating business, requires little time or labor. Building, land and equipment. For more information contact  
**Kent Powers 806-241-4015** 18-6p

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Upright freezer, gold in color. \$75. 2009 N. 4th

**Got a Storm Shelter?**  
REGISTER YOUR LOCATION WITH LYNN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE (EMO)

This information will assist the emergency responders in a quicker response with rescue, medical services and recovery.

If you wish to have your information on the list, please provide your address, phone, type of shelter and location on the property.  
Mail, email or call information to:  
Lynn County EMO  
P.O. Box 1166, Tahoka, TX 79373  
Phone 806-561-5244 - or - email to: [lynncountyemc@co.lynn.tx.us](mailto:lynncountyemc@co.lynn.tx.us) or stop by the office located at 1627 Ave. K in Tahoka

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**Pitching in ...** Lynn County Commissioner Don Blair arrived at commissioner John Hawthorne's home to help with cleanup Monday, after a tornado wreaked havoc with the property. The Hawthornes estimated between 30-50 friends and neighbors came to help clean up debris. No one was injured in the tornado, but the home, barn, and farm equipment was damaged, and trees destroyed. (LCN PHOTO by Gary Jones)

the time. She said they hid in the kitchen pantry after seeing the tornado heading their way.

"It was really, really loud," Derrick Stephens told *The News*. "Almost like a bomb going off!" he added. He and his family survived safely inside the home, however.

Some trees in the front of the brick home were damaged, the glass front door and some windows were broken, and a steel-sided garage had panels ripped from the roof and the door caved in. A shed on the property was blown away, and one of the 14-foot poles from the shed had been impaled in the ground.

"We were lucky - no one was hurt, and all the rest can be fixed," Taylor said.

A large portion of Tahoka was without electricity for a brief time period, and Lyntegar Electric Cooperative's rural customers in the Draw area were also without power. On Lyntegar's facebook page, at 6:09 p.m., Lyntegar reported that due to tornadic weather, crews would be dispatched when the weather allowed. Another posting at 6:30 said there were numerous Xcel and Lyntegar Electric poles down and that crews would be dispatched when weather allowed. At 8 p.m., a posting reported at least 40 transmission poles on Lyntegar's Draw substation were down, as well as numerous distribution poles in the area.

No hail was reported in Tahoka, but outlying areas saw some hail. Jessica Ashbrook, a rural resident about 4 miles east of Tahoka off Hwy 380, had a picture of a softball-size hailstone, which she says she picked up on her way to the storm cellar. She also had photos of the tornado, but fortunately the twister missed their property.



**The aftermath ...** This is the home of John and Lisa Hawthorne, whose home and farm and suffered damage after a tornado whipped through Sunday evening, near Draw. Front porch posts were ripped from beneath the front porch, and on the back side of the house, the roof was peeled off and a ceiling collapsed inside a bedroom. No one was home at the time. (LCN PHOTO by Gary Jones)

Most of the damage was east of Tahoka and in the Draw area, with flash flooding reported on some Farm-to-Market roads and County roads.

**Ball for Billy Paul Fundraiser May 18**

A fundraising tournament has been set to benefit basketball referee Billy Paul, to help with medical expenses after he was diagnosed with MS.

The basketball tournament will be held Saturday, May 18, at Lubbock Cooper High School. Boys and girls first through eighth grade are eligible to sign up. Cost will be \$150 per team.

For more information or to sign up go to ballforbilly-paul.com.

**Did you know?**

• Where is Tornado Alley? The heart of Tornado Alley includes parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, eastern Colorado, and South Dakota. Less intense areas of Tornado Alley include parts of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Iowa, Tennessee, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.



**Topsy turvy ...** A tornado near Draw damaged farm equipment on the John and Lisa Hawthorne property, tossing this module builder on top of a cotton stripper. (LCN PHOTO by Gary Jones)



**Radio tower bent ...** This radio tower southeast of Tahoka was bent to the ground, after a tornado passed through on Sunday evening. (LCN PHOTO by Gary Jones)

**Tornadoes ...**

(Continued from page 1)

windows blown out of a tractor, barn destroyed, and a stock trailer had been picked up, sheared off the top of a tractor, rolled over two pickups and landed on its wheels a good distance from the barn. The chicken coop was lost in the wind, and some of the chickens were lost. Three dogs on the place had run away Sunday night, and two had returned on Monday morning. Later in the day, a friend helping pick up debris heard a dog barking from inside a closed storage container, opened the door, and the dog ran out.

"I don't know how she got in there," Hawthorne said. "The door must have blown open, the dog ran in, and then the door blew shut. But she's okay."

Hawthorne said that in addition to the tornado damage, there was some damage from golf-ball size hail as well. As of Monday afternoon he did not have an estimate of the total amount of damage.

On Monday morning; Mrs. Hawthorne said an es-

estimated 30-50 friends and neighbors had arrived with tractors and other equipment at their home to help clear debris left from the storm.

"We want to thank everyone who came to help us, we appreciate it so very much," she said.

"I've lived here all my life, and I've watched tornadoes off in the distance ... I just never dreamed one would hit us," John admitted. He said that there is an old dirt cellar in the back yard that had collapsed and is unusable, and that he had just recently planned to cave it in and redo the yard. "But now I'm kind of rethinking that - there's no place to shelter from a storm here, and our kids live nearby and they don't have a shelter. After this tornado, I'm thinking either we put in a new cellar or a safe room, but definitely something," he added.

Closer to Tahoka, Gilda Taylor's home about 4 miles northeast of town was in the path of the tornado. She wasn't home, but her grandson and his family were there at



**Pole impaled in ground ...** A steel beam was impaled into the ground at the home of Gilda Taylor northeast of Tahoka on Sunday evening. What's impressive is that this is a 14-foot steel beam with a 3-foot concrete base, which tornadic winds picked up and impaled into the ground. Less than five feet of the pole remained above ground. (LCN PHOTO by Gary Jones)

**Please visit these Lynn County Churches**

**Wilson St. Paul Lutheran Church**

16th & Houston St. • Box 136 • Wilson, TX 79381  
(806) 628-6471 • www.stpaulwilson.com  
PASTOR: DAVID W. ROHDE  
Sunday School 9:15 am • Divine Service 10:15 am  
"Where Christ Serves People"

**Wilson St. John Lutheran Church**

13th & Dickson • Wilson, TX 79381 • (806) 628-6573  
Sharing Christ's message of forgiveness and salvation with our community and beyond.  
TONDA FREITAG, PLM  
Sunday School - 9:30 am • Sunday Worship - 10:45 am

**New Home United Methodist Church**

Pastor Madoc Thomas  
(806) 470-2939  
emt@madocthomass.com  
350 N. Main • New Home, Tx 79383  
(806) 924-7549  
Sunday School 9:45 am • Worship 10:45 am

**TAHOKA Church of Christ**

2320 Lockwood • Box 1177 • Tahoka, TX 79373  
(806) 561-4060 • email: tcoc@poka.com  
Sunday School - 10:00 am  
Sunday Worship - 11 am  
Fellowship & Devotion  
Wednesday 6:30 pm

**First Baptist Church**

1701 Ave. K • Box 1547 • Tahoka, TX 79373  
(806) 561-4557 • www.fbctahoka.org  
PASTOR CLIFF HOLDRIDGE  
Sunday School - 9:45 am  
Morning Worship Service - 10:45 am  
SNL (Youth) - 6:00 pm Sunday  
Activities For All Ages -  
Call For Complete Schedule

**Tahoka Trinity Church**

1925 Lockwood • Box 1168 • Tahoka • (806) 561-5377  
PASTOR: PERRY SHUFFIELD  
Sunday School - 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 am  
Sunday Evening Worship - 6 pm  
Youth - Sundays at 7 pm  
For a ride to Sunday School or Church, call 561-5377

**All things are possible**

*It is God who makes us able to do all that we do.*

~2 Corinthians 12:9

In the midst of trying situations, there are days when we're so exhausted we feel like we can barely put on foot in front of the other. The thought of creating some semblance of a meal, or even getting out of bed for that matter, seems near impossible. Forget about responding gracefully when people say or do ridiculous things. Forget about the project that was supposed to be finished two weeks ago. Forget about going to that event we thought we wanted to attend. We just can't keep up.

The good news is God doesn't expect us to. In fact, he doesn't even want us to. When we allow ourselves to be weak in our grief-filled moments, we give God the opportunity to show his strength. We don't have to be "willing and able"; we can just be willing because God is able.

Do you need a church home? Please visit one of the churches listed on this page. May the peace and love of God, in Christ, be with you.

**Wilson First Baptist Church**

1403 13th St. • Box 67 • Wilson, TX 79381 • (806) 628-6333  
PASTOR: BILLY PARMER  
Sunday School - 9:45 am  
Sunday Worship - 11:00 am & 6:00 pm  
Discipleship Training - 5 pm Sunday  
6:30 pm Wednesdays:  
Fellowship Meal & Classes for all ages  
• Bible Study & Prayer Mtg • Youth

**Grassland Nazarene Church**

2885 CR 25 • Tahoka, TX 79373 • (806) 327-5656  
Pastor Genell Knisley  
(806) 201-0792  
Sunday School - 10:00 am  
Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 am  
Wednesday Prayer Service - 7:00 pm

**Draw First United Methodist Church**

(established 1907)  
P.O. Box 496 • O'Donnell, TX 79351  
Phone (806) 428-3357  
PASTOR: REV. WESTON PENDERGRASS  
Sunday Morning Worship - 9:15 am

**New Home Baptist Church**

Corner of 4th & Smith • Pastor: Larry Maddox  
"Serving the Lord for 100 Years"  
SERVICES:  
Sunday School.....10:00 am  
Sunday Worship.....11:00 am  
Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 pm  
Wed. Youth/Children's Activities...7:00 pm

**New Home Church of Christ**

324 N. Main • Box 188 • New Home, TX 79383 • (806) 924-7579  
MINISTER: MIKE HEATWOLE  
Bible Class - 10:00 am  
Sunday Worship Service - 10:45 am  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm

**Sweet Street Baptist Church**

1300 AVENUE J • BOX 751 • TAHOKA, TX 79373 • (806) 561-5310  
DAVID EARNEST, PASTOR • (806) 438-5105  
Sunday School - 9:45 am  
(A Bible Study Class for all ages)  
Morning Worship - 10:50 am  
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