

Lynn County Courthouse

Beautiful night scene ... If you haven't seen the Lynn County Courthouse in Tahoka lit up at night, it's worth a drive downtown to see, with the Eagle of Honor Veterans Memorial on the northwest corner of the grounds. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

LN THE Lynn County News

May 7, 2020 ■ Volume 117, No. 19 Serving Lynn County since 1903 Tahoka, Lynn County Texas email: LynnCoNews@poka.com **75¢**

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Parents & Grandparents ...
Congratulate YOUR GRADUATE
 with a personalized ad in our upcoming Grad Edition!
DEADLINE is Monday, May 11.
 Call the Lynn County News at 806-561-4888 or Email photo and info to: LynnCoNews@poka.com
 Cost varies according to size of photo/info.

What's Outside
 NWS official readings for Tahoka

| Date | High | Low | Precip |
|--------|------|-----|----------------|
| Apr 28 | 96 | 56 | |
| Apr 29 | 79 | 49 | |
| Apr 30 | 90 | 49 | |
| May 1 | 100 | 62 | |
| May 2 | 99 | 59 | Triple digits! |
| May 3 | 96 | 63 | |
| May 4 | 98 | 60 | |

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Total Precip for Jan: | 0.58" |
| Total Precip for Feb: | 0.48" |
| Total Precip for Mar: | 2.56" |
| Total Precip for Apr: | 0.02" |
| Total Precip. for 2020: | 3.64" |

SAFETY FIRST

City, County leaders say to keep safety protocols in place for COVID

by JUANELL JONES

While the governor of Texas lifted some restrictions on May 1 for in-store retail services and dining-in at restaurants, allowing for 25 percent of occupancy if owners choose to open their doors, in Lynn County the restaurants are continuing this week with carry out

services only, and most businesses are still asking customers to do business through curb-side service or by phone or email.

City and county leaders are urging citizens to continue taking extreme precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and in last

(See COVID-19 UPDATE, page 6)

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



Thursday, May 7

Lynn County citizens may join in the annual National Day of Prayer, this Thursday at noon, on the north side of the County Courthouse. County Judge Mike Braddock asks that everyone practice social distancing and encourages everyone to wear a mask.

"THIS MAY BE THE MOST CRITICAL YEAR EVER to gather and pray for our nation and community!" say organizers.

"The meeting should only last about 15 to 20 minutes but the time is well spent. Hope to see you there!"

A time of change ... County schools are planning unique commencement ceremonies

by JUANELL JONES

The four school districts in Lynn County are planning commencement ceremonies for their graduating seniors, but the graduates of the Class of 2020 will have unique observances for marking their success in earning their diplomas that will be unlike those of any previous years, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Lynn County, like the rest of the world's population, is navigating through the murky waters of the global COVID-19 Pandemic, and school officials are investigating new options for commencement ceremonies that will keep all participants safe from spreading the coronavirus.

Friday, March 13, was the last day before schools closed for Spring Break – and, as it turned out, was also the last day of regular in-school classes held at Lynn County schools. Governor Greg Abbott declared all Texas schools to close on March 19, and reissued declarations that has kept schools closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, while students and staff adapted to new methods of at-home instruction.

School facilities have remained closed, and all school sports, UIL events, and normal end-of-year senior activities have all been cancelled, and school officials are now seeking innovative ways to conduct commencement ceremonies for students.

There are 89 seniors from the four county schools, including 38 in Tahoka, 22 at New Home, 18 at O'Donnell, and 11 at Wilson ISD.

Tahoka ISD officials have made plans for live ceremonies to be held on the Bulldog football field at 8 p.m. Friday, May 22. Supt. Dick Van Hoose said this week that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has given approval for schools to hold outdoor ceremonies with appropriate social distancing and safety guidelines.

Van Hoose appointed a committee to work with Tahoka High School Principal Don Worth to devise a plan for the event.

Principal Worth told *The News* that the committee has put together a plan that would allow for seating

the graduates on the football field with social distancing, and that each senior would be allowed 4, or possibly 8, tickets for family members or guests to be seated in other areas of the football field, in groups of no more than 8.

Following the ceremonies, THS graduates may participate in a parade of cars that would travel from the school to the courthouse.

O'Donnell ISD has plans for a virtual ceremony, according to information presented by OISD Superintendent Dr. Cathy Palmer. She said that seniors would be individually videoed as they come in at individually-scheduled times to receive diplomas, with a video combining all graduates to be shown on the school's website or YouTube at 7 p.m. on May 22. A senior parade of cars would also be held.

Wilson ISD is planning a drive-thru graduation in front of the WISD central office on Saturday, May 23rd at 10 a.m., pending TEA approval. In order to practice social distancing, each graduate will be allowed to have three vehicles – one vehicle for the graduate and two others for their guests. These vehicles will be given passes



to place on their windshield. The graduate will be the only person allowed to get out of their vehicles to receive their diploma, while everyone else must remain in their vehicles. Wilson ISD has hired a professional photographer to capture this moment, and each graduate will receive one photo and flash drive with all of the pictures taken.

At New Home ISD, commencement plans are still pending, according to Supt. Shane Fiedler.

"We're still hoping to have a live ceremony," Supt. Fiedler told *The News* early this week, adding that he was waiting for any new information from TEA before finalizing plans. He said that school officials would release information on commencement plans as soon as they are approved.



Did you know?

Big hearted! The blue whale's heart is the size of a VW Beetle and weighs up to 1,000 lbs.

The Lynn County News

The Lynn County News (USPS 32-3200) is published weekly by Lynn County News, Inc. on Thursday (52 issues per year) at Tahoka, Lynn County, Texas. Periodical postage paid at Tahoka, Texas 79373. Postmaster: Send address change to The Lynn County News, P.O. Box 1170, Tahoka, TX 79373.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Lynn County Address - \$30 year
Other Addresses in U.S. - \$35 year

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DEADLINE: Noon Tuesdays

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Monday-Thursday, 9 am to 5:30 pm
Closed Fridays. Drop box available by front door.

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FIRE SAFETY

Tahoka Fire Department sets parade next Thursday to promote fire safety

In an effort to help parents educate children about fire safety, the Tahoka Volunteer Fire Department will be doing a parade through Tahoka beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 14. The parade route will be posted on the City of Tahoka Facebook page.

"Many children are staying at home without supervision due to school being out and parents working, so it is important to make sure children understand the danger of fire. Families need to be prepared ahead of time," said Bryan Reynolds, Fire Chief, Tahoka Fire Department.

"We want to let kids have the opportunity to see the fire trucks as they drive on the parade route. At the same time, we think it will provide a great opportunity for adults to discuss fire safety with their children," said Reynolds.

The fire department will be providing a checklist and other resources for parents to teach their children about fire safety at home. Those resources will be available on the City of Tahoka Facebook page.

The Tahoka Fire Department wants everyone to be reminded about fire safety.

One of the most important items to have in a home is working smoke detectors.

Young children aren't as capable of exiting a home or understanding the dangers of fire risks, so parents must take extra precautions to reduce fire risk in the home, including installing fire safety equipment and preparing comprehensive safety and evacuation plans to ensure children escape safely.

"Smoke alarms serve as a first alert, letting your family know there's imminent danger and providing a few moments warning for you to enact your fire safety plan," said Reynolds.

"If you don't have smoke alarms installed, contact the City of Tahoka. The Tahoka Fire Department will provide homeowners with a smoke alarm if none are installed in the house," he added.

Follow these recommendations from the U.S. Fire Administration to install or update your home smoke alarms:

- Install a smoke alarm on every floor of your home, even the basement.
- Install a smoke alarm

outside every sleeping area. Ideally, install smoke alarms in every sleeping area, too.

- Replace smoke alarms after 10 years.

• Also, be sure to test your smoke alarms at least twice annually. You should also change the batteries every six months, at minimum, to ensure the detector is working properly.

Reduce fire threats in the home

It takes about two minutes for a small flame to turn into a life-threatening fire and just five minutes for a fire to engulf an entire home, according to Ready.gov. Putting in place fire prevention measures to avoid a home fire altogether is the best fire safety practice.

While prevention isn't a 100 percent guarantee, there are many precautions one can take in a home to reduce fire hazards and keep family members safe. Follow these recommendations to address common household fire hazards and protect your family from a home fire catching in your home:

- Don't overload electric outlets, extension cords or wall sockets. Stringing multiple extension cords together in order to plug several appliances into the same outlet is a bad idea.

• Reduce clutter. This is especially important in the kitchen, where dish towels, sponges, paper towels, and other items can catch fire if placed too close to a hot stove. But it's also important in all areas of your home - blankets and clothing piled up against a heater, for instance, can also pose a fire hazard. As a rule, keep combustible materials at least three feet from the stove burners, and never leave cooking unattended.

• Don't leave burning candles unattended. A candle can fall for a multitude of reasons, lighting carpets, curtains or furniture ablaze. This can also happen if a candle is allowed to burn down too low, causing its glass container to break and freeing the flame.

• Hide all matches and lighters out of reach of young children. Even responsible children can accidentally light a fire if they encounter a lighter or match and try it out of curiosity. It's best to place these items well out of reach

of kids.

• Always have multiple working fire extinguishers conveniently located in your home. You should always have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, for instance, as it's a common location for fires to occur from cooking and other hazards.

• Replace circuit breakers with arc-fault circuit interrupters. These gadgets pick up on electrical arcs, usually caused by poor insulation or loose wires or connections, and halt them before they lead to fires.

• Replace electrical outlets. Faulty electrical outlets can be a source of home fires, too. If plugs seem to be loose or fall out, the blades inside may have loosened. Loose blades create excessive heat, which can lead to fires.

• Give your clothes dryer proper maintenance. Cleaning the lint catcher thoroughly with every load is just the starting point. Over time, lint and other particles can build up in the vent system or dryer cabinet (where the heating element is located) and potentially cause fires. Having your dryer cabinet professionally cleaned every two years can also reduce potential fire risks.

Create a home fire escape safety plan

Upwards of 75% of U.S. homes do not have a fire escape plan that they practice regularly. Creating a fire escape plan and practicing it with your family is critical to protecting your family's safety in a fire emergency. Kids as young as age three can typically follow a fire escape plan, according to FEMA. Every child is different, so base your plans on your child's individual abilities. For children younger than three or those not able to adequately follow detailed instructions, you'll need a more comprehensive escape plan.

In addition, FEMA recommends the following steps:

- Keep all exits clear of toys and debris.
- Draw a diagram of your home and plan two escape routes.
- Practice, practice, practice.

• Keep children's doors closed. This slows the time it takes for smoke from hallway fires to enter the room, leaving more time for firefighters to rescue young kids.

• Have a safe meeting place outside the home. It should be far enough away from the structure that you will be safe if the building collapses, but close enough that your kids can get there easily.

Tips to teach your kids about fire safety

There are a few things that are critically important to teach young kids about fire safety, in addition to planning and practicing a fire escape route:

- The Stop, Drop and Roll technique - Stop moving, lie down and roll if clothing catches fire.
- Crawl through rooms and hallways to avoid smoke inhalation.
- Touch doors before opening - if the door is hot, don't open it.
- Never re-enter the building for any reason once safely outside.
- Fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Never pick up matches or lighters if found. Instead, tell an adult right away.
- Never leave children unattended around any fire hazard, including cooking stoves, candles, portable heaters, or any other heat source. Teach toddlers and young kids to stay at least three feet away from any common heat source or hazard in your home.

KeepKidsFireSafe.org offers an abundance of resources and materials to teach kids about fire safety, including coloring pages, perfect for toddlers who don't yet have a firm grasp of language communication.

Sharing...

The Good News



Cookie time! ... Home of Hearts Daycare would like to thank Kathy Grant and Lynn County Hospital for bringing us cookies!

A look back at ... Woodwork

ANY TIME someone discovers a long-buried shipwreck underwater, or under a beach, it makes an interesting story to most people, including me, because I am always fascinated by such discoveries, and eager for someone to figure out what happened and when.

But who would have ever dreamed that the workers still cleaning up the site of the murders on Sept. 11, 2001, when the twin towers were brought to the ground in New York City by Muslim monsters, would have found the remains of a small ship under the ground where the World Trade Center once stood?

A couple of weeks ago, those workers discovered the remains of a 32-foot ship under the ground, noticed after a backhoe brought up some curved timbers. An archaeologist brought to the scene said the ship apparently was used in the 18th century as part of the fill that extended lower Manhattan into the Hudson River. They are trying to learn more about it, and hoped to recover more of it intact.

The Lynn County courthouse has been designated as an historical site, and I can't imagine anything other than a really bad tornado which could level it. We pray that will never happen, but if it does, they may discover the remains of a canoe under the building, left over from the last time we had more rain than we did this July.

That would have been the same year Noah left on his big float trip.

SOMEONE at the office was mailed a catalog of Things You Never Wanted Because You Didn't Know They Existed, only they didn't call it that, of course. This is a catalog of items you can order, if you have a lot of room left on your credit card, or in at least one instance, if you are Bill Gates, Donald Trump or one of Obama's czars.

The catalog is called Hammacher Schlemmer, and that's also the name of the company in New York City which sells this stuff. Some of the items in the catalog are pretty strange and some sound pretty good. Here are just a few:

A bladeless fan, a circular thing with no fan blades, but which supposedly blows cool air from a turbine in the base, which draws in air and propels it up to the loop amplifier. Costs \$299.

A ballpoint pen which really is a video camera, clipped into your pocket so nobody will know they are being videoed. Just \$99.

An indoor device which stops dogs from barking in the house. When the dog barks nearby, it emits an ultrasonic sound, which hurts Fido's ears and startles him into silence. Price is \$49.95.

But here's the item that got the attention of the office staff: a two-person submarine that can descend to a depth of 1,000 feet, a climate-controlled pressure sphere that keeps explorers safe on the ocean floor or wherever, with lights, good visibility, radio and other necessary stuff. It costs a cool two million dollars, so you'd better get your VISA card really paid off before you order.

It says the price also includes "comprehensive training." I'm not sure what that means. Maybe they train you to go two hours without breathing.

July 16, 2010

This Month in History

- Good Housekeeping Magazine first hits the news stands in 1885.
- Lou Gehrig plays in his 2,130th game. A baseball record that will last 57 years until Cal Ripkin come along (1939)
- Margaret Mitchell wins Pulitzer Prize for "Gone with the Wind" in 1937.
- Mr. Potato Head was introduced in 1952.
- Big Band leader Glenn Miller records the "Chattanooga Choo Choo" in 1941.
- The first inaugural ball is held in honor of George Washington and his wife in 1789.
- Germany signs an unconditional surrender at Rhims, France, ending WWII in Europe in 1945.
- The Yale lock is patented 1851

In Loving Memory



Refugia
"Cuca"
Perez
1909-2000

20 years in Heaven
with the Lord.
Happy Mother's Day, Mom!
We love you still very much!

For all you were to me in life,
And all the joy you brought,
Your memory is with me
In every single thought.

The pain I felt at losing you
Will never go away,
But knowing that you're in my heart
Helps me through each day.

When you were here I always felt
That nothing could go wrong,
But you're still my inspiration
And your memory keeps me strong.

And though my heart is heavy
It's always full of love,
And that's enough to comfort me
While you're in heaven above.

(author unknown)

We love you & miss you Mom!
Happy Mother's Day

Your daughters,
Anna Perez-Lubbock
Angie Gutierrez-Tahoka
Rosalinda Garcia-Abernathy

Good News

He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

Happy Mother's Day from
The Home Place!
Let us help you shop for the perfect
gift this Mother's Day!
Call 806-759-4951
or message us on Facebook
FREE DELIVERY WITHIN 30 MILES
1614 Main • Tahoka
806-561-HOME (4663)
ShopTheHomePlace@gmail.com
OWNERS: Jynna Bass, Shea Askew, Sharla Askew

Officers responding to burglary call make unusual discovery in shed

by JUANELL JONES

Criminal mischief, grass fires, assault and other reports were in Tahoka Police and Lynn County Sheriff's Office call sheets this week, and police discovered a male and female definitely not social-distancing while in a compromising situation, during the process of investigating a report of a possible burglary in progress.

Tahoka Police responded to a report of a possible burglary in progress, at 10:30 p.m. May 4 in the 1600 block of N. 6th. Family members who had been watching a residence while the homeowner was temporarily away told police that they heard noises and it appeared as if some things had been moved. Upon investigating the property, officers discovered two people, a male and a pregnant female, in the midst of having relations of a sexual nature, inside a shed on the property. Neither had permission to be on the property. The male was arrested and both were charged with burglary of a habitation and possession of narcotics, but the female, due to her pregnancy, was released for later arraignment.

Criminal mischief was reported at 2:33 p.m. on April 28 at a location 6 miles north of Tahoka on US 87, where a caller reported that someone had shot out the windows to the vehicles and a window in the house at his father's place. No estimate was given for the damage.

A man reported that he had been assaulted at the north roadside park just north of Tahoka on US 87, early in the morning of May 3. He called in the report at 1:24 p.m. that same day, telling an officer that he had just been released from a Lubbock hospital after being treated for his injuries. No other details were released.

Police responded to a domestic dispute in the 2100

block of N. 6th at 6:30 a.m. May 3, separating a man and woman and removing the male from the scene to take him to a different residence. Charges were brought, however, when the man got out of the police car at the other residence and then ran from police. He was arrested on charges of evading, possession of narcotics, and public intoxication.

Two juveniles were issued curfew citations at 11:30 p.m. May 3, after officers responded to a report of reckless drivers on Main and Lockwood Streets. Parents were notified to pick up the juveniles to return to their home.

Police were called for a welfare concern when someone noticed a small child walking alone in a residential area near South 8th and Ave. O at 11 a.m. April 28. The child had apparently wandered out of the house unnoticed by an older sibling while the parents were away briefly, but was reunited immediately with the family. No charges were filed.

Other calls during the week included domestic disputes, reckless drivers, suspicious vehicles, an abandoned vehicle left at a convenience store parking lot, animal calls, and a report of criminal mischief where someone had egged two vehicles at a residence in the 1700 block of Ave. L, as well as a call reporting a "bad smell" coming from a yard in the 1800 block of Ave. O, which officers were unable to determine.

The Sheriff's Office had several calls reporting a grass fire that started in the bar ditch on FM 400 about 4 miles north of Tahoka. The fire spread rapidly to an adjacent pasture, and Tahoka Volunteer Fire Dept. was called to the scene at 1:32 p.m. May 2. Four hours later, another caller reported that a grass fire was spreading to a residence on FM 400, and the Wilson

Volunteer Fire Dept. was paged to the scene. And, two hours later a caller reported that the fire on FM 400 had flared back up, and Tahoka VFD was again called out.

A deputy responding to a report of a reckless driver in a silver car southbound on US 87, north of Tahoka, located the vehicle passing Loop 472 at Tahoka, but the driver reportedly refused to pull over. The vehicle was stopped at CR 28 and US 87, and the driver, Barry Anthony Willis Jr., 39, was taken into custody on charges of evading arrest/detention with vehicle.

A 9-1-1 hangup call came from the roadside park on the southbound side of US 87 at 3:37 p.m. May 1, from a woman who said she was riding a bike with her husband but became overheated in the 100-degree heat and was not feeling well. A deputy responding to the scene reported that the woman did not want an ambulance, but asked for a ride to a Tahoka convenience store to recover. He transported her to the Stripes store.

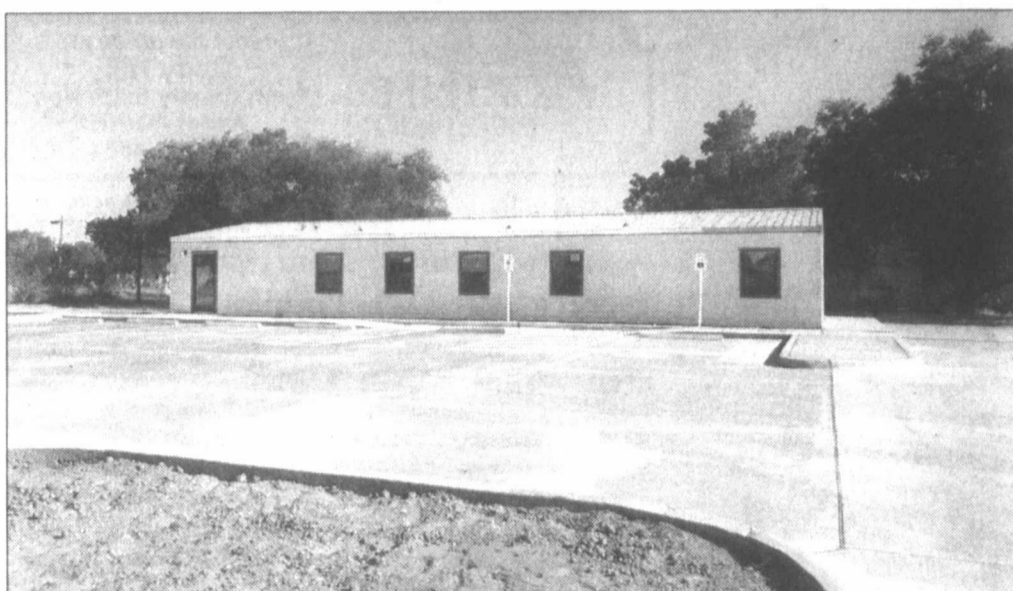
A woman in Wilson called the Sheriff's Office at 9:20 a.m. May 2, saying she had returned to her home in the 1500 block of 16th Street and found that it been burglarized but there were no signs of a break-in. An officer responding said the woman decided it may have been a person described as "her soon-to-be ex-husband," who had taken some of his belongings out of the house, and the report was not designated as a theft.

A man reported to be carrying a shotgun and walking north on 13th Street from Green Ave. in Wilson was reported just after midnight on May 2, but a deputy responding to the area was unable to locate any suspect.

Damage to property was reported a half mile east of CR M on CR 2, at 2:19 p.m. May 3, when a caller said someone had knocked over some of his poles.

Sheriff's officers responded to several other calls during the week, including domestic disturbances, suspicious vehicles/persons, a welfare check, illegal dumping, and a report on April 30 of a dog that had been run over on CR 2.

Lynn County Jail held 29 inmates during the past week, including 17 held for Ector County and 12 for Lynn. Local charges included one for evading arrest with vehicle, two for possession of marijuana, and one for violation of protection order.



O'Donnell Clinic nears completion ... Lynn County Hospital District's new O'Donnell Clinic is nearing completion, and will soon be open for patients, relocating Dr. Griengsak Chompaknam and FNP Cyndi Schneider, from the former O'Donnell clinic site. The new clinic is located at 4th and Doak Street. "The O'Donnell Clinic is about 90 percent complete, and we're getting close. Next week, I hope to be able to announce a date for opening the clinic," said Dr. Melanie Richburg, CEO of LCHD.

New Home Happenings

by Denise Sherrod

The New Home City Council will have its next meeting on Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p. m. in City Hall. Although citizens are usually encouraged to attend, due to the social distancing recommendations currently in place and the cozy atmosphere of our municipal facility, having a big turnout is probably not a great idea.

In other news, due to having absolutely nothing else to do in the evenings, I am on season 19 of *Midsomer Murders*. I now qualify as an expert at murder avoidance in small, English villages. Here are some tips: People, stop investigating strange noises in your massive driveways at night! Zigzag when you are trying to outrun the British version of a front-end loader. Don't drink a bottle of "chambers" and then go sit on the edge of a PIT in the dark. And do not decorate your homes with medieval pikes and torture machines. That's just begging for a crime of opportunity to occur.

I have also learned that I cannot be a British murderer because I don't have the imagination for it. They have themes—almost like a teaching unit—and I just can't see trying to keep up with the next line of the 15th century folk song AND staying out of police custody.

I hope all of you have found something equally productive to do during this strange time. New Home is budding like the desert willows right now, and I have seen kids out doing kid things (they were siblings, I'm sure!), and gardens being planted, and life going on. It is inconvenient to be reminded of the continued need for keeping our distance from one another and wearing those %&* masks, but those actions won't hurt us. The Virus-Of-Whose-Name-I-Am-Tired might, so stay the course and all the cautious things. Don't be offended if you see me and I don't offer to hug you. I probably wouldn't have anyway, but now I can blame corona.

To submit items for New Home Happenings, email dtsherrod@gmail.com by 10:00 on Tuesday mornings.

Senior Citizens LUNCH MENU

May 11-15

Monday: Lasagna, brussel sprouts, pears
Tuesday: Baked chicken breast, baked potato, peas, pineapple tidbits
Wednesday: Beef enchilada, borracha beans, Spanish rice, coleslaw, apricots
Thursday: Chicken salad sandwich, macaroni salad, carrot sticks, watermelon
Friday: Salisbury steak, diced potatoes, English peas, fruit salad
NOTICE: The Center is **CLOSED** for dine-in. For curbside pick up (east side) call in before 10 a.m. each day. 561-5264.

Did you know?

• Ben & Jerry's has an online-flavor graveyard for their 10 discontinued ice cream flavors. Each one has a photo, life span, and epitaph.

Happy Mother's Day
Sunday, May 10

We appreciate your business!

We value this community and our customers and appreciate all of you for your business, patience and understanding as we have had to go through the COVID 19 process. We will continue to follow all guidelines as necessary for your safety shopping experience.

Thank you for shopping with Cashsaver!

Carlos Gonzales, Manager

1729 Lockwood
Tahoka, TX
806-561-4110

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day Sunday, May 10
Many gifts & cards to choose from!

We now have a drive up/thru lane in front of Tahoka Drug!
Enter from the South and Exit to the North. Please WAIT in your car,
CALL us when you are here and we will come to you!
We will help you through your passenger window.
This is to make drop off and pickup smoother for you, as well as us!

TAHOKA DRUG (806)561-4041
Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:00 p.m. • Saturday 8:30-12:00
1610 Main, Tahoka • www.tahokadrug.com

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles...

Congratulate your senior in our graduation issue!

If you would like to congratulate your high school senior in

The Lynn County News' graduation issue on May 21,

Any High School

Congratulations
Name of Student
We're very proud of you.

Mom, Dad or
Whoever

Tahoka High School

CONGRATULATIONS
MARTIN HOWARD!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!
LOVE YOU ...
MOM, DAD,
GRANDPAS, GRANDMAS,
AUNTS, UNCLAS,
COUSINS & SISTERS

send \$8.50 for a small ad like one shown above) or \$17 & up (for an ad with a photo like the one shown at left, depending on size of photo and information), along with the name of the student, high school and congratulators names to Box 1170, Tahoka, or email it to LynnCoNews@poka.com
Call the Lynn County News at 806-561-4888 for a number to text information.

HURRY!
DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MAY 11.

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

These local firms are sponsoring this **FARM NEWS:**

AgTexas Farm Credit Services
Travis Ferguson and Mike Metzger

Capital Farm Credit
Jason Gandy
Shaun Wied

Farmers Co-op Association
No. 1

FirstBank & Trust
Karl McDonald

Lynn County Farm Bureau

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

From the office of:
Cody Hill
Lynn County Extension
Agent AG/NR
806-561-4562

Returning to work post COVID-19
AgriLife Extension offers tips for alleviating concerns, stresses as businesses open

Returning to work after six weeks under the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown can cause differing amounts of emotions – disbelief, fear and even anger – among workers, much like after a disaster.

Returning to work

Returning to work may include wearing a face mask while in the office. But employers and co-workers alike can watch for signs of emotional impact over the coming weeks and months, to ensure everyone is finding their way back to a new normal, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialist.

When states, cities and workplaces begin reopening, COVID-19 won't be gone, nor will the concerns that surround it, said Miquela Smith, AgriLife Extension health specialist, Amarillo.

Some workers will gladly head back to their offices and places of business, while others will do so with trepidation, Smith said.

Many Americans with management and professional occupations will be able to continue working from home, while those with service, production and maintenance-related jobs will have to physically return to work, she said. Employees who can continue to work from home will inherently be at a lower risk of exposure to the virus compared to those who cannot.

This will disproportionately affect Americans with lower education levels because they are less likely to occupy professional and management positions that might allow them to work from home, Smith said. "Minimizing employees' potential exposure to COVID-19 must be a top priority," she said. "The CDC offers resources on their website for businesses and employers to help them prepare to safely reopen. Reopening businesses will come with challenges and people will respond differently to being back at work."

Some people may have lost loved ones or know someone who got sick, so it will hit close to home, Smith said. Others may have anxiety about returning to work safely; or about finding safe daycare for their children, who are not returning to school. Others will be tired of being at home and will welcome the opportunity to go about life as if nothing is happening.

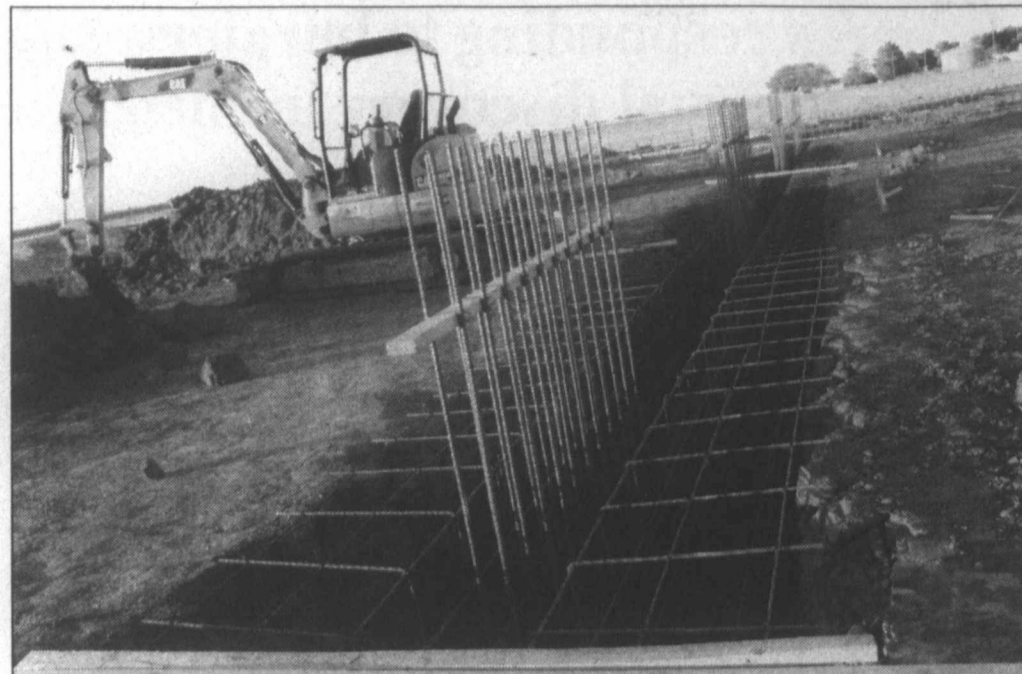
"Each of our lives have been altered and directly impacted by this crisis," she said. "Crisis situations affect people differently and just because a person is not responding to the pandemic in the way you think they should, does not mean they are unaffected. Returning to work after a pandemic is new territory for all of us, and we must have patience with ourselves and others while we navigate the process."

Emotional stress and well-being

Employers and co-workers should watch for signs of emotional impact over the coming weeks and months. Signs someone may be struggling in their return to the workplace include changes in performance and productivity, such as missing deadlines, calling in sick frequently, absenteeism, irritability and anger, difficulty concentrating and making decisions, withdrawal from work activity, and difficulty with work transitions or changes in routines.

Smith suggested employers will need to educate supervisors and managers to be aware of the signs of emotional distress, and to encourage staff to seek treatment when necessary. One program that is offered by AgriLife Extension, Mental Health First Aid, teaches these exact skills. That program is in the process of being modified so it may be offered on a fully virtual platform soon.

"While each business will dictate how they come back online and what will be ex-



Foundation ... Workers are preparing to pour the footings for the foundation of the new TISD gym on land bordered on the south side by North 5th Street, and on the east side by Avenue P. A new gymnasium, fieldhouse, football practice field, and baseball and softball field complex is being built here.
(LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

Property appraisal notices sent

Property values increase in 2020 appraisals

by JUANELL JONES

Property owners in Lynn County should have received notices of appraised value from the Lynn County Appraisal District (LCAD) in the past several days, and many owners may see substantial increases in their values. Residential and commercial values for most of Lynn County may have increased, in part due to updated schedules based on current market values.

"Schedules" are essentially formulas that appraisers use for determining values. LCAD contracts with an outside appraisal company, Eagle Appraisal, to conduct all of their property appraisals.

LCAD mailed appraisal notices on May 1 to all property owners in the county. The notice is not a tax bill, but an estimate of taxes based on

current tax rates, Chief Appraiser Rebecca Norris said. The actual tax statements will be mailed after the taxing units set their tax rates later this year. Included with the appraisal notices were instructions for filing protests. Detailed information for filing property tax protest and appeal procedures was printed in an advertisement in last week's issue (April 30) of *The News*.

Norris will provide more detailed information in an upcoming article, regarding how the new schedules have affected appraisal values.

Property owners who have questions, or want to discuss the value placed on their property, should contact the Lynn County Appraisal District at 806-561-5477.

Farmers, ranchers urged to respond to 2020 custom agricultural rate survey

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is conducting an online survey to collect rates charged for custom agricultural operations and services across Texas.

Steven Klose, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist in College Station, encourages farmers, ranchers, landowners and custom service providers to respond with an online survey.

"We receive a number of inquiries each year for custom rates for a variety of agricultural operations and services," Klose said. "The information collected in this survey is the only source for market and pricing data related to custom-hire activities in Texas."

The survey includes activities such as tractor rental, tillage operations, planting operations, chemical and fertilizer application, custom harvesting, hay baling, land preparation, brush control, and other miscellaneous operations or services. The publication produced from survey data provides a baseline of regional and statewide average rates.

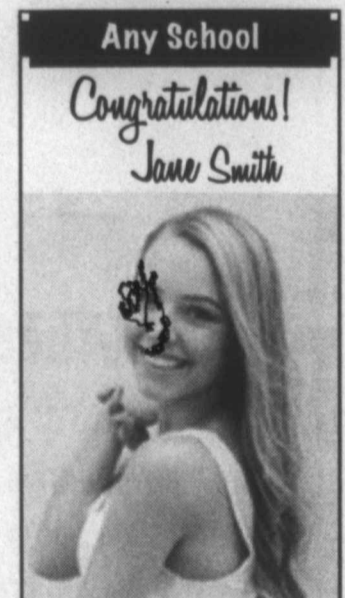
"The survey should only take 10-15 minutes for most people because we only want them to answer the questions that pertain to their operation," Klose said. "Hard copies of the survey will be mailed to a limited group,

however anyone with knowledge of custom farm and ranch operations is encouraged to participate. We need broad participation to produce an accurate and reliable publication of this market information."

Survey collection will run through April, and the publication will be available shortly after. For more information and previous custom rate publications, visit AgriLife Extension Economics Custom Rate Survey webpage at <https://agcoext.tamu.edu/resources/custom-rate-survey/>.

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Email information to: LynnCoNews@poka.com

BURN BAN REINSTATED IN LYNN COUNTY on May 5, 2020
NO CONTROLLED BURNS ARE ALLOWED IN LYNN COUNTY DURING THE BURN BAN
by order of the Lynn County Commissioners Court

Did you know?
Odd Facts About Your Body
• There is a company that will (for \$14,000) take your ashes and compress them into a synthetic diamond to be set in jewelry for a loved one.
• There are more living organisms on the skin of a single human being than there are human beings on the surface of the earth.
• Babies are born without kneecaps. They appear between the ages of 2 and 6.
• Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
• Men can read smaller print than women. Women can hear better.

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HOURLS: Lobby 10:00-2:00 or by appointment • Drive-Thru - 9:00-5:00 Monday-Friday • ATM at Stripes Convenience Store, Tahoka

pected of their employees, it is important to remind them that support among colleagues can help employees work through difficulties," she said.

Initially, it may also be important to reconsider travel needs, as employees, clients and other individuals may be hesitant to make business trips for some time. Consider postponing or canceling upcoming conferences and other meetings that require travel.

Do's and don'ts upon returning to work

Key messages Smith offered for individuals to help facilitate a safe return to the workplace include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Follow the policies and procedures of your employer related to illness, cleaning and disinfecting, work meetings and travel. Continue to follow guidelines from state and local authorities for using face coverings in public spaces.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in your work area, including keyboards, phones, handrails and doorknobs.
 - Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
 - Inform your supervisor if you have a sick family member at home with COVID-19.
 - Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
 - Know what to expect of yourself. You may experience a variety of emotions after returning to work, which is normal.
 - Talking about your feelings with someone you trust is a healthy way to process this evolving situation.
 - Continue to take care of yourself. Eat well, get plenty of rest and exercise, spend time with those closest to you.
 - Take care of your children and your family. Parents could be concerned about their children's well-being when they must return to work. Make sure your children know proper hygiene practices and let them talk about what is going on to help reassure them.
 - Seek help if you need to. If your feelings are too much to bear, seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.
 - Mental health problems—in general and in response to a major event such as the pandemic—are real, diagnosable and treatable.
- Know your rights and the COVID-19-related guidance that has been given for your specific industry by visiting the CDC website and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration website.

Did you know?
• In World War II, Germany tried to collapse the British economy by dropping millions of counterfeit bills over London.
• Red Solo cups are a common souvenir to bring back from the United States. The novelty comes from the cups being used in many party scenes in movies.

Did you know?
• Scientists discovered sharks that are living in an active underwater volcano. Divers cannot investigate because they would get burns from the acidity and heat.
• To properly write adjectives in order, you would list them by amount, value, size, temperature, age, shape, color, origin, and material.

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Exterior...
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CARD OF THANKS

We want to express our appreciation for all of the kindness shown during the illness and loss of Geanne. A special thank you goes to the Lynn County Hospital and Lynnwood staff, and a especially to Shannon. For all of the food, flowers, cards, visits, and especially the prayers, we were overwhelmed. Thank you to those who attended the service during the unusual circumstances we are in. It would have been so special to Geanne, for Josh to bring the message. Thank you to Combest Family Funeral home for their compassion. What great family and friends!

Thank you all,
The Forsythe Family

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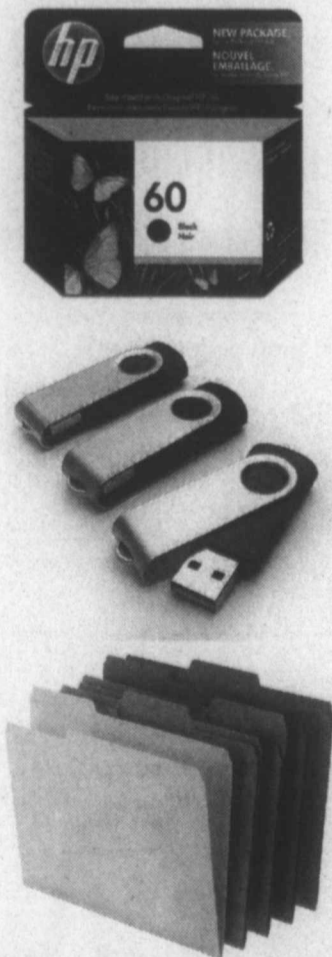
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LEGAL NOTICES

Purchasing Cooperative of America will receive proposals until 11:00am CT on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. RFPs are located through the PCA Website Portal for the City of O'Donnell, 615 8th Street, O'Donnell, TX 79351, for the following national RFP contracts: (1) RFP OD-313-20 Furniture, Fixtures, Equip, including Maint, Install, & Related Items; (2) RFP OD-314-20 Outdoor Recreational Surfaces, Sports & Field Turf, & Associated Outdoor Items; (3) RFP OD-315-20 Playgrounds & Park Equip, Install & Maint Svs; (4) RFP OD-316-20 Glazing: Windows, Doors, Curtainwall - Install, Repair & Maint; (5) OD-317-20 Stadium & Sports Fields Equip, Install & Maint Svs; (6) OD-318-20 Telecommunications, AudioVisual, Signage, Computers, Peripherals, Network Svs, Supplies & Related Items. Go to: www.pcamerica.org/solicitations for more information. Call 844-722-6374 for issues not resolved in 24 hours.

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in our graduation issue!*

If you would like to
congratulate your high school senior in

**The Lynn County News' graduation
issue on May 21,**

Tahoka High School
**CONGRATULATIONS
MARTIN HOWARD!**



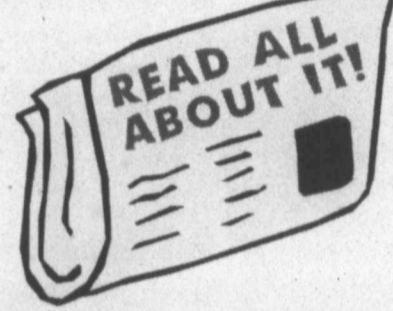
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send \$8.50 for a small ad like one shown above) or \$17 & up (for an ad with a photo like the one shown at left, depending on size of photo and information), along with the name of the student, high school and congratulators names to Box 1170, Tahoka, or email it to LynnCoNews@poka.com

Call the Lynn County News at 806-561-4888 for a number to text information.

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



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COVID-19 Update ...

(Continued from page 1)

Thursday's weekly video update said that these precautions are working in Lynn County, which has had only five confirmed COVID-19 cases in the county population.

"This is a great sign that social distancing is working, and I continue to urge you to use masks when going out in public," said Dr. Melanie Richburg, CEO of Lynn County Hospital District. "Just because we have not had any new cases confirmed does not mean we are done with the COVID virus. We're weathering the storm, but we are still in the storm - be cautious, keep social distancing and using protective masks. I know that we're all ready for life to go back to business as usual, but the COVID virus is still out there, and it has not left our area."

She explained that the hospital tested three patients for COVID-19 during the past week, through their drive-up COVID clinic. The results have not yet been provided.

"The number of tests submitted is going down, but we are still operating as if the COVID-19 is still out there, and continuing to take extreme precautions. Do we hope that means the number of COVID cases are going down? Of course we do, but we are not going to assume that the virus has left our area," she explained.

The last confirmed case of COVID-19 in Lynn County was reported on April 8. Of the five COVID-19 cases in Lynn County, there has been one death, one confirmed recovery, and three still under quarantine pending test results.

"I can't reiterate enough about how stressful it has been on all of our leaders," said Dr. Richburg, referring to city, school and county officials. "But please know that everyone is making decisions based on trying to keep us safe."

Tahoka Mayor John Baker said that the city's restaurants may open dine-in services at 25 percent occupancy (according to the governor), but in speaking with local restaurant owners found that all are continuing to



Dirt work ... Dirt work continues at the Tahoka ISD site for the new gymnasium, field house, baseball and softball complex on N. 5th Street in Tahoka. The project is funded with a bond that voters approved last year. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

Area News News items from area newspapers

Slaton ISD names lone finalist for superintendent

SLATON - The Slaton Independent School District Board of Trustees has named Jim Andrus as the lone finalist for the superintendent's position at SISD.

By state statute, the Board must now wait 21 days before action can be taken to employ Andrus.

He has been the Assistant Superintendent in charge of instruction at SISD since 2018. He also served as Principal of Slaton Junior High. He served as Assistant Principal at Cavazos Middle School, Principal of Preston Smith Elementary, Assistant Principal at JT Hutchinson Junior High and Director of Secondary Program for Advancement, all in Lubbock.

The Slaton ISD Board of Trustees met Tuesday, April 21 to interview finalists for the position. They considered the candidates for several hours, ending about 1 a.m. when Andrus was named.

- from The Slatonite

SHS plans virtual 2020 graduation, to show video at Stars & Stripes Drive-In

SLATON - The Slaton High School Class of 2020 will indeed get a graduation - just not quite the type they had envisioned.

Instead, it will be a virtual graduation.

Students will receive a link in their Gmail to schedule a time to receive their diplomas in full cap and gown attire in the gymnasium. They will be able to invite four family members to attend. These will be videotaped to be included in a video of the Class of 2020 graduation ceremony.

have carry-out services only this week, and will consider opening their dine-in areas at a later date.

"I urge everyone to continue to practice social distancing, and take precautions such as wearing masks to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus," said Baker.

Tahoka City Hall remains closed to public access this week, but all services are continuing, and city officials are at City Hall and answering phones.

Lynn County Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Schoemann reiterated taking precautions.

"There is no stipulation that requires retail or service businesses that are open to have their employees wear masks or gloves - but, it is a good idea to do so," said Schoemann.

County Judge Mike Braddock said that while the governor has allowed counties with 5 or less cases of COVID to apply to open retail/restaurant businesses at 50 percent occupancy, he has not yet taken that step, out of

caution.

"I want to wait another week, to see how the COVID numbers go, before we take that additional step," said Judge Braddock.

Randy Dunn, Mayor of Wilson, reported that Wilson City Hall would open for public access this week, but with measures in place for social distancing. The meals for senior citizens at Wilson are still cancelled, he said, because of social distancing requirements.

O'Donnell Mayor Kim Parker said that the O'Donnell City Hall is still closed to public access, and she encouraged citizens to continue with safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Supt. Dr. Cathy Palmer, O'Donnell ISD, said that the school is planning a virtual graduation ceremony, with seniors to be videoed as they come in at individually-scheduled times to receive diplomas, with a video combining all graduates to be shown on the school's website or YouTube at 7 p.m. on May 22.

On May 19 at 6 p.m. there will be a Class of 2020 car parade through the Slaton square. Graduates can decorate their cars however they want, and will have one graduate and one driver per vehicle. The parade will be escorted by SISD Police.

The evening will conclude at 9 p.m. at the Stars and Stripes Drive-In at 5101 Clovis Road in Lubbock, where the class will get to watch the video of their graduation.

- from The Slatonite

Prospective plan discussed for Seminole High School graduation

SEMINOLE -Seminole ISD Superintendent Kyle Lynch says that High School Principal Chip Chappell and his staff are relentless sorting through options for a 2020 graduation ceremony.

"Mr. Chappell has been working with some of our seniors and we talked about virtual graduation, but we came up with a plan that we all liked fairly well," said Lynch.

"The plan shared with the board was one from a high school in Oklahoma.

"It's an idea they have where their seniors can get in cars with their parents and their cap and gown. It would be a parade setting ending, maybe, down at the stadium. One at a time they would be able to get out of their cars, get on stage and get their diploma, have a picture taken, and then the next group would come up," Lynch said.

"We're kicking this around and have gotten better feedback on this than virtual graduation."

- from The Seminole Sentinel

O'Donnell's Vasquez, Olivan to play college basketball

LAMESA - A couple of O'Donnell High School seniors are making plans to continue their basketball careers into the collegiate ranks.

Jonah Vasquez and Aaron Olivan recently told the Lamesa Press-Reporter they will be taking a shot at college basketball - Vasquez at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, and Olivan at Southwest Texas Junior College at Uvalde.

O'Donnell boys basketball coach Rocky Feliciano, who

played at Sul Ross State University, got this ball rolling for his players.

"I sent out some emails to different coaches and also made some telephone calls. I didn't know it at the time but I actually knew the coach at Howard Payne. We used to play them back when I was in college," Feliciano said.

"I'm extremely excited for both guys but I feel as a coach it's my job to help these guys out any way we can."

Feliciano likes his players' chances of making it on the next level.

"Both have a lot of potential. Both have good quickness and both can shoot the ball. Aaron's got a quick shot and good range to go with it. Jonah's got more of that point guard mentality. He likes to do what he can to get his teammates involved in the offense."

- from The Lamesa Press-Reporter

Did you know?

• Dogs have three eyelids, an upper lid, a lower lid and the third lid, called a nictitating membrane or "haw," which helps keep the eye moist and protected.

• Americans love dogs! 62% of U.S. households own a pet, which equates to 72.9 million homes

Looking for some



GOOD NEWS

in our communities amid the Coronavirus Pandemic?

The Lynn County News wants to print it!

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- A good deed you've seen or heard about someone here
- A kindness by your neighbor
- Fun activities you are doing (send us a picture!)
- A Bible verse or uplifting quote
- Students: Who knew I'd miss school! and why ...
- Recommend a good book to read
- What shows are you binge-watching?
- Why my outside space looks amazing now that I have to stay home and I'm looking for something to do!
- And any other tidbit you'd care to share...



Send us a sentence, or a short paragraph, and share the good news!

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Facts about Tahoka Lake Pasture



Tahoka Lake Pasture



There are large numbers of Mule Deer in Lynn County. Big groups of them live on TLP. Too often, some will cross public roads and are hit by motorists. Please stay very alert when you are driving, especially where TxDot has posted deer crossing signs. The most acute time for deer to appear are at dawn and dusk.

Tahoka Lake is one of only a few spring-fed salinas remaining on the plains of the Americas



Our biggest deficit at this time is communication because electronic and even landline phone service is erratic at TLP. Text and mail are our best ways: **TEXT ONLY: 806-535-5147**

Mail: Tahoka Lake Pasture, 883 FM 400, Wilson, TX 79381-2160