



**Electrical show ...**  
Gary Jones took this photo during thunderstorm activity in the area Monday night. Three rounds of showers passed through the Tahoka area, dumping almost an inch (.93) of much-needed precipitation. Some areas had brief periods of pea-sized hail.  
(LCN PHOTO by Gary Jones)

# LCN THE Lynn County News

May 14, 2020 ■ Volume 117, No. 20 Serving Lynn County since 1903 Tahoka, Lynn County Texas email: LynnCoNews@poka.com **75¢**

## What's Inside

- **Obituaries** - pg. 2
  - B.J. Lovell
  - Joey Pierce
  - Dwayne Smith
  - Walter R. Steen
- **Supt's contract renewed, THS grad procedures presented at meeting** - pg. 3
- **Local students graduate from South Plains College** - pg. 4
- **EMS transports one person from O'Donnell rollover** - pg. 6
- **Property appraisals based on market values** - pg. 6
- **Area News** - pg. 6
  - Dawson ISD hires new football coach
  - Prisoner quickly captured after escape in Lamesa

### The Lynn County News office

is now open to visitors. We ask all visitors to wear masks if available.



### COVID-19 Update ...

There are no new COVID-19 cases confirmed in Lynn County this week. Lynn County has had five confirmed cases, with the last confirmed case reported on April 8. Four cases have reportedly recovered, and there was one death from the disease.

City and county officials ask citizens to remain vigilant in taking precautions to prevent the spread of the disease – wear masks in public areas, continue social distancing, and stay out of areas with high numbers of COVID-19.

## What's Outside

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
May 5	76	54	
May 6	83	54	
May 7	97	57	
May 8	66	46	
May 9	78	45	
May 10	77	54	
May 11	81	55	0.93"

(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 May:	0.93"
Total Precip. for 2020:	4.57"

## City officials say no to opening Little League ballfields, city pool

by JUANELL JONES

Tahoka City Council met in a Zoom videoconference session Monday night to discuss city business, including the city's continued precautions for the Covid-19 Pandemic. Discussion was held on whether to allow Little League

the use of the city's baseball fields, and whether to open the city pool for the summer, with city officials agreeing to keep them closed, for now, as precautionary measures against spreading the Coronavirus.

Mayor John Baker said that city officials take their responsibility

of keeping everyone as safe as possible very seriously, and told *The News*, "At this unprecedented time in our history, a significant responsibility has been placed on our shoulders: the responsibility to keep the most valuable Americans safe, our precious children

and grandchildren. By employing longstanding principles of infection control and prevention, social distancing, and closely coordinating on the local and state level, and showing patience and kindness to others, we can beat the virus, (See CITY COUNCIL, page 6)

## We Appreciate You!

Tell LCHD staff they are "great!" during National Hospital Week

by JUANELL JONES

This week (May 10-16) is National Hospital Week 2020 – a time for citizens to show their appreciation for every hospital, health system and person involved in keeping our communities healthy. Now, more than ever, shows the importance of healthcare providers, and recognizes that these frontline forces in "The Great Pandemic of 2020" are truly heroes, risking their own health every day to take care of others.

Throughout the world, healthcare providers are working tirelessly to care for those in need. Their passion and dedication to serving others is evident, and they offer their services with compassion and kindness.

Here in Lynn County, the citizens are indeed fortunate to have health clinics in Tahoka and O'Donnell, EMS, pharmacy, hospital, lab, physical therapy/fitness and assisted living services, all under the umbrella of Lynn County Hospital District.

LCHD is operated independently of the larger healthcare conglomerates, with seven locally-elected board of directors that make the decisions on all facets of the organization. Dr. Ed Smith is President of the Board of Directors, serving with directors W. Calloway Huffaker, Mary Gayle Raindl, Sharon Isham, Manuel DeLeon, Jana Bishop and Connie Donald.

Dr. Melanie Richburg is the Chief Executive Officer of LCHD, a Family Nurse Practitioner who moved up through the ranks to the

chief position. Her motto for Lynn County Hospital District is "healthcare closer to home" and she is committed to providing quality healthcare to the communities of Lynn County and the surrounding area.

Four family practice physicians are on staff, including Donald Freitag MD, Christopher Leach MD, Jarrett Ross MD, and Griengsak Chowpaknam MD. In addition, there are six Family Nurse Practitioners on staff, including Shannon Hammonds, Anais Molina, Chelsea Acuna, Ashley Skrabanek, Kim Billingsley, and Cynde Schneider; and a host of support staff in all areas of the LCHD family.

In all, LCHD employs 162 personnel, with every staff member performing a vital service to the hospital district for the citizens of this community. Their kindness, compassion, service, willingness,

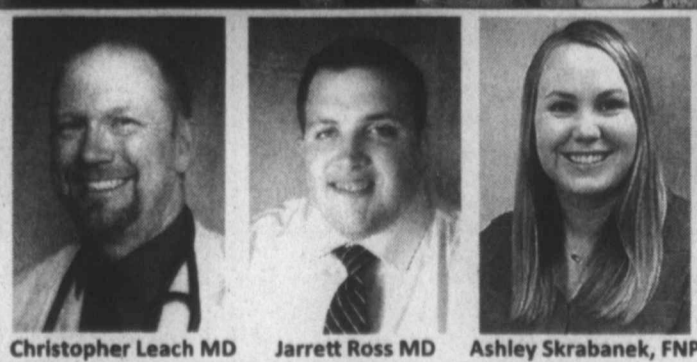
and dedication should not be taken for granted. They are the ones who support us in our times of need, both before and during the current pandemic. They leave the safety of their homes to be there for us.

During National Hospital Week – or any other day – take a moment to tell the LCHD family how much they are appreciated, and what they mean to this community. Sometimes a word of encouragement can go a long way towards making a hard day easier. One small positive word can change the outcome of an entire day.

Words are important. So ... Thank You to the LCHD Family of healthcare providers. Borrowing a beautiful expression from "The Help," – "You are smart. You are kind. You are important." Thank you for your service to this community, and to the citizens of Lynn County.



**LCHD Medical team ...** Pictured from left in an earlier photo before Covid-19: CEO Melanie Richburg, FNPC; Chelsea Acuna, FNP; Cynde Schneider, FNP-C; Anais Molina, FNP; Kim Billingsley, FNP; Shannon Hammonds, FNP-C; Griengsak Chowpaknam MD; and Donald Freitag MD. Inset photos are Christopher Leach, MD; Jarrett Ross, MD; and Ashley Skrabanek, FNP. See page 3 for a list of LCHD employees.



Did you know?

“ The average person takes 12 seconds to count to 24 (according to TheFactSite.com). Ready to count? Start your timer! ”



### The Lynn County News

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# Obituaries



### B.J. Lovell

B.J. Lovell, 97, of Midland, passed away on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 1:00 PM at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland, TX.

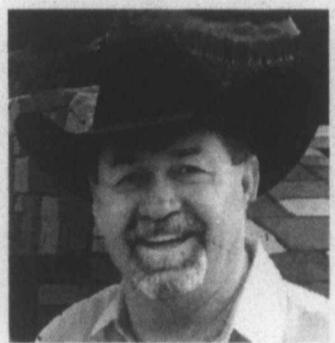
B.J. was born to Lena and Clarence Lovell in Henrietta, TX on August 22, 1922. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II in the Pacific Theatre. After the war he began a 40-year career in the oilfields of West Texas. He met his wife, Hazel Meeks, in Tahoka, TX and they married August 25, 1949 and enjoyed 71 years together. Some of his favorite times were fishing and boating with his family at his house at Lake Proctor. He loved learning new things and was always reading. He loved to piddle in his backyard and feed pecans to doves. One dove became tame enough to land on B.J.'s head when it wanted more pecans.

He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings: Eugene Lovell, Howard Lovell,

Tommy Lovell, and Lorene Clother. He is also preceded in death by his son Jim Lovell and one great grandchild.

He is survived by his wife Hazel, and children Mike Lovell (Cynthia), Danny Lovell (Marva), and daughter-in-law Chris Lovell. He is also survived by his grandchildren Ryan Lovell (Hillary), Amber Lovell, Danna Botros (Jonathan), Dustin Lovell (Amanda), Angela Mercuri (Nick), 9 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be donated to Wounded Warrior Project, John F. Younger Alzheimer's Center, or patriotic charity of your choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com). (PAID)



### Joey Pierce

On May 6, 2020, Joey Pierce, loving husband and father, passed away at the age of 57.

Joey was born in O'Donnell, TX to Marvin and the late Barbara (Arnold) Pierce on July 18th, 1962. He graduated from Tahoka High School in 1980. His life of hard work as a lineman started right after high school. He then went on to establish the first of many successful businesses in the medical services industry.

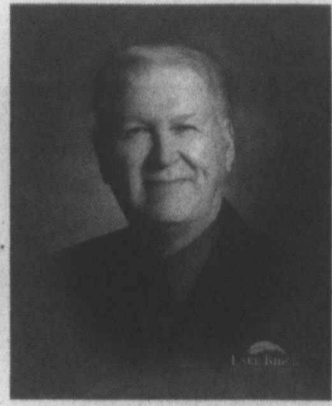
At the age of 20, Joey became a father to his son, Joshua Scott Pierce followed by a daughter, Alyssa Nicole in 1987. He married the love

of his life Gena, in 2008. They built their dream home in Abilene, Texas where they enjoyed the outdoors and entertaining friends and neighbors. They had a mutual love for travel and adventure.

Joey will always be remembered for his positivity and ability to make everyone laugh. He never met a stranger and always put everyone else before himself. He was a magnet not only to his own grandchildren, but any kid he met. They were amazed at his magic tricks and guitar pick-in' talent. Joey will be deeply missed.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Barbara.

He is survived by his wife, Gena, his children Josh (Brooke) of Midland and Alyssa (Casey) Hargrove of Lubbock, his step children Shaun Preston of Abilene and Shelley Preston of Austin, TX. He was a wonderful Daddy Pop to Cooper, McKenzie, Blakely, Crew, Madilyn, Audrey and Kylie. He also leaves behind his Dad, Marvin and wife, Emily Pierce of Tahoka and two loving sisters, Connie (Mike) Braddock of Tahoka and Marva (Danny) Lovell of Hobbs, NM and many nieces and nephews that will forever treasure his memory. Celebration of Life services will be held in Tahoka, TX on May 16, 2020 at 4:00 pm. (PAID)



### Dwayne Smith

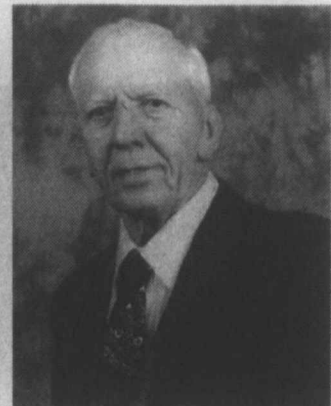
Dwayne Smith, of New Home passed away on May 7, 2020. The family will host a time of fellowship and remembrance from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Monday, May 11, 2020, at Lake Ridge Chapel and Memorial Designers. Graveside services will be at 2:00 pm Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at Peaceful Gardens Mausoleum. Memorial services at New Home Baptist Church are currently postponed to a later date. Friends are invited to sign his virtual guest book and share memories and expressions of sympathy for the family to cherish as well as view his life tribute at [www.memorialdesigners.net](http://www.memorialdesigners.net).

Dwayne Smith was born on January 30, 1942, to J.B. and Thelma Smith in Tahoka, TX. He worked with his dad at the barber shop before graduating from Slaton High School. Following in his father's footsteps, he then attended Barber College and owned and operated Smith's Barber Shop in Slaton for sixty years. Dwayne married the love of his life, Garene Harris on November 26, 1969, in New Home. When Dwayne was not at the Barber Shop, he was involved in church and civic activities. He was an active member of New Home Baptist Church where he served in various positions. He also served on the New Home school board and as president of the New Home Lion's club. Dwayne was also a very dedicated family man and enjoyed spending time with family and especially his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister, Pat Hurst.

Survivors include his wife, Garene; son, Stacy Smith and wife Amie; and two grandchildren, Taylor and Connor Smith.

The family of Dwayne Smith requests memorials be made to New Home Baptist Church, 128 N. 4th Street, New Home, Texas 79382 or a charity of your choice. (PAID)



### Walter R. Steen

Walter R. Steen, 91, of Wilson, passed away on Friday, May 8, 2020. A Private Graveside Service was held Monday, May 11, 2020 in Green Memorial Park Cemetery in Wilson under the direction of Englands Funeral Service.

Walter was born September 16, 1928 in Wilson to Walter and Alma Steen. His family moved to California and returned to Wilson in 1929 after his father died of influenza. Alma married Hugo Maeker which gave Walter three step-brothers and three half-brothers. He is the last of the seven siblings. He graduated from Wilson High School and went to work for Wilson State Bank. Walter married Jerry Ann Hewlett on July 7, 1950 in Wilson. The call of the land called him back to farming in 1951 and he retired in 2010. He was a member of First Baptist Church and served the community as a deacon, and a board member for Wilson Coop Gin, Wilson School Board, Lynn County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Lynn County Historical Society.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Jerry; his son, Don Steen; and his six brothers.

Walter is survived by his daughters, Nan Wied and husband, David of New Home and Terie Wied and husband Dr. Greg Wied; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

The family suggest memorials to First Baptist Church in Wilson or Green Memorial Park Cemetery in Wilson. (PAID)



**Today's Verse**  
"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."  
Revelation 3:20

Please join us for some laughs, some tears, but most importantly, smiles - to honor Joey Pierce.

Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt, and bring your favorite memory to share.

**Celebration of Life**

Saturday, May 16th, 2020  
4:00pm - 7:00pm  
Miller Pond | 1212 CR 24 | Tahoka, TX

### 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

### TMS Chrome book returns set for May 19

Tahoka Middle School will have a chromebook return on Tuesday, May 19, beginning at 8:30 am. The same time sheet will be used as was done for pick-up. The list will be attached to email. Students will need to bring a bag of to carry all their belongings from their locker. Students will need to report to Mrs. Bgm Bam's office, through the conference room to check in chromebooks, and then go to lockers to remove all belongings, then leave the building. Any students with band instruments will need to turn them in as well. Students will need to go to the band hall where Mrs. Burse and Mr. Rhodes will meet you to turn in your instrument.

**SHOP LOCAL!**  
SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT ARE HERE FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

### Tahoka Seniors Check-in Day is Friday, May 15

Friday, May 15th, will be Tahoka High School "Senior Check In Day." Seniors will return computers, books, or any other school materials between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. After returning materials Seniors will be allowed in the building to clean out lockers. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.

Seniors please make plans to attend as we will also hand out graduation tickets and packets detailing guidelines for the 2020 graduation that will be taking place at "Bulldog Stadium" on Friday, May 22nd at 8:00 p.m.

## Please visit these Lynn County Churches

<p><b>Tahoka Trinity Church</b> 1925 Lockwood • Box 1168 • Tahoka • (806) 561-5317 PASTOR: PERRY SHUFFIELD Sunday School - 9:45 am Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 am Sunday Evening Worship - 6 pm Youth - Sundays at 7 pm For a ride to Sunday School or Church, call 561-5317</p>	<p><i>He is my Hope</i> There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. ~ Proverbs 23:18  Abraham took God at his word. Everything about his present circumstance made the idea that he would have a son ridiculous. His body was good as dead. His own wife laughed at the thought that she, a woman of 90, body worn out and barren, would nurse a child of her own. And yet, God had said it - this God that could give life even to the dead and who could call into existence things that didn't yet exist. Hope starts with the promises of God. When doubt, discouragement, or despair threatens your soul, take heart. We have a God that has already spoken words of life and certainty that will prove both revive and carry us. Hope is taking God at his word, believing that all he has said is true. <i>God, you are my trustworthy anchor. I confidently expect that you will do all you have said you will do - even the things that seem impossible. I choose to believe you for the fulfillment of your promises.</i> ~ Amen</p>	<p><b>Wilson St. John Lutheran Church</b> 13th &amp; 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</p>
<p><b>Wilson First Baptist Church</b> 1403 13th St. • Box 67 • Wilson, TX 79381 • (806) 628-6333 PASTOR: BILLY PARMER Sunday School - 9:45 am Sunday Worship - 11:00 am &amp; 6:00 pm Discipleship Training - 5 pm Sunday 6:30 pm Wednesdays Fellowship Meal &amp; Classes for all ages • Bible Study &amp; Prayer Mtg • Youth</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>New Home Church of Christ</b> 324 N. Main • Box 188 • New Home, TX 79383 • (806) 924-7579 MINISTER: MIKE HEATWOLE Bible Class - 9:00 am Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 am Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 6:30 pm</p>
<p><b>First Methodist of Tahoka</b> 1801 Ave. J • Tahoka • (806) 561-4503 email: <a href="mailto:fmctahoka@poka.com">fmctahoka@poka.com</a> Billy Everett, Pastor Sunday School - 9:30 am Sunday Worship - 10:30 am (Fellowship Hall) "Like" our Facebook page... <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FMofTahoka">facebook/FMofTahoka</a> Let the Children Come 7 am-6 pm LICENSED CHILD CARE 806-561-4529 M-F</p>		<p><b>Sweet Street Baptist Church</b> 1300 AVENUE J • BOX 751 • TAHOKA, TX 79373 • (806) 561-1306 Sunday School - 9:45 am (A Bible Study Class for all ages) Morning Worship - 10:50 am (Uplifting Music - Message from God's Word) Wednesday Night - 6 pm (Prayer &amp; Bible Study, Children &amp; Youth Ministries) EVERYONE IS WELCOME!</p>
<p><b>Wilson St. Paul Lutheran Church</b> 16th &amp; Houston St. • Box 136 • Wilson, TX 79381 (806) 628-6471 • <a href="http://www.stpaulwilson.com">www.stpaulwilson.com</a> PASTOR: DAVID W. ROHDE Sunday School 9:15 am • Divine Service 10:15 am "Where Christ Serves People"</p>		<p><b>New Home United Methodist Church</b> Pastor Madoc Thomas (806) 470-2939 emt@madocthomas.com 350 N. Main • New Home, TX 79383 (806) 924-7549 Sunday School 9:45 am • Worship 10:45 am</p>
<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 1701 Ave. K • Box 1547 • Tahoka, TX 79373 (806) 561-4557 • <a href="http://www.fbctahoka.org">www.fbctahoka.org</a> 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</p>	<p><b>Draw First United Methodist Church</b> (established 1907) P.O. Box 496 • O'Donnell, TX 79351 Phone (806) 428-3357 PASTOR: REV. WESTON PENDERGRASS Sunday Morning Worship - 9:15 am</p>	<p><b>Grassland Nazarene Church</b> 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</p>

**You are 23 Times more likely to crash when you text while driving and IT IS ILLEGAL IN TEXAS.**  
Park the phone when you drive.



## Supt's contract renewed, THS graduation procedures presented at board meeting

by JUANELL JONES

Tahoka Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session Monday night, May 11, at the Harvick Educational Building, with all but one board member present. Trustees approved a motion to renew Superintendent Dick Van Hoose's contract for a one-year period, approved teacher contracts for two new staff members, and were notified of two staff members who are retiring at the end of the school year.

Announcing their retirements were school nurse Carol Miller, and second grade teacher Nancy Greenhill.

New staff for the 2020-21 school year are Ethan Aycock, who will be an assistant coach in the girls sports programs, and a Social Studies teacher at Tahoka Middle School; and Meredith Gibson, a speech pathologist for the Special Education cooperative.

High School Principal Don Worth presented the board with information about the upcoming THS graduation ceremonies, which will be conducted on the Bulldog football field at 8 p.m. Friday, May 22. Students will be seated

on the field, allowing for social distancing, and will be allowed four tickets for family members to be seated in designated areas on the field. Additionally, Supt. Van Hoose told *The News*, each graduate may be allowed an additional four tickets for family members to be seated in the stadium.

Lenora Ask, with Chapman Harvey Architects, presented samples and renditions for the new gym project that is currently underway, and trustees discussed the floor design options.

Trustees approved a 2020-21 school calendar, with the first day of classes for students set for Aug. 18.

"At this time, we are going on the assumption that students and teachers will be able to return to on-campus classes in the fall, but if things change we will of course adjust as needed," Supt. Van Hoose said.

Grading procedures for the current internet-based at-home instruction was discussed, and the superintendent spoke to trustees about possible teacher assignments for the fall. Trustees voted to approve supplementing cheer-



**School meals...** Tahoka ISD is working hard to provide meals for children in the Tahoka ISD School District. Approximately 110 deliveries are made daily, with cafeteria staff providing an average of 370 meals per day. (LCN PHOTO by Pam Elrod)

leaders costs, as cheerleaders have been unable to have fundraisers to supplement their needs.

Several of the older school vehicles were approved for sale, with the school district to publish a notice and take bids on the vehicles.

Supt. Van Hoose told *The News* that several improvement projects have been targeted for this summer, using

the remaining funds from the 2016 bond, including new flooring in the hallways, and some classrooms, at the high school campus; remodeling a space into a teachers lounge and multipurpose room; sidewalk and concrete projects; storage facilities for band instruments; and new mats for the pole vault/high jump events. The district has also received a \$25,000 grant for

technology needs.

Board President Clay Taylor led the meeting, with trustees Blanda Watt, Doug Green, Drew Stone, Lea Swinford, and Slate May present, and trustee Jon Luna absent.

When shuffling a deck of cards, the number of possible arrangements is approximately 8x1067. That's more than the number of stars in the observable universe.

### Did you know?

- The only continent with no active volcanoes is Australia
- Hummingbirds are the only bird that can fly backwards
- The word "velociraptor" comes from the Latin words "velox" which means swift, and "raptor" which means robber. Literally - speedy robber!

# This week is Hospital Appreciation Week

*Thank you!*

## Lynn County Hospital District



**Board of Directors**  
Dr. Ed Smith, Pres.  
W. Calloway Huffaker  
Mary Gayle Raindl  
Manuel DeLeon  
Sharon Isham  
Jana Bishop  
Connie Donald

**Administration**  
Dr. Melanie Richburg, CEO  
Anthony Brocato, CFO  
Carmen Chapa, Adm. Asst.

**Physicians and Family Nurse Practitioners**  
Donald Freitag, MD  
Griengsak Chowpaknam, MD  
Christopher Leach, MD  
Jarrett Ross, MD  
Shannon Hammonds, FNP-C  
Anais Molina, FNP  
Chelsea Acuna, FNP  
Ashley Skrabanek, FNP-C  
Kim Billingsley, FNP  
Cynde Schneider, FNP-C

**EMS/Ambulance**  
John Baker, Director  
Traci Jolly  
Amanda Bower  
Johnna Alvarado  
Todd Henry  
Ginger Henry  
Victor Herrera  
Bobby Jolly Jr.  
Jerry Tew  
Janis Thomas  
Whitlee Williams  
Trystan Hilger  
Jessie Perez  
Allegra Ramirez  
Debbie Saldana  
Micah Stone

**Tahoka Drug**  
Na'Lyn Swartz, Pharmacist  
Rebecca Cowell, Pharmacist  
Jamie Dominguez  
Stephen Keene  
Erica Garrett  
Iris Martinez  
Richard Bixler  
Lindsay Harrell

**Family Wellness Clinic**  
Eva Alvarado, Clinic Director  
Sarah Hite, FNP (Sat.Clinic)  
Mary Calvillo  
Donald Crenshaw  
Itza Nambo  
Virginia Silvas  
Angelita Rangel  
Sharla Lee  
Nancy Jolly  
Becky Estes  
Amy Stroope

**Fast Track Clinic**  
Sharmye Jonas, LVN  
Marivel Sarinana

**O'Donnell Clinic**  
Linda Perez  
JoAnn Guzman  
Patti Wolford  
Olga Gutierrez  
Erin Pierce

**Physical Therapy & Fitness Center**  
Seth Manly, PT, Director  
Kyle Barnett, PT  
David Ayala  
Kari Robinson  
John Olivan  
Shirley Ann Aguas  
Kenzie Parks  
Brittany Ortega  
Jessica Phillips Garrett  
Diamantina Bevers (Post PT)  
Heather Blacklock (Post PT)

**Medical Records**  
Cynthia White

**Patient Navigator**  
Peter Paniagua

**Radiology**  
Amador Padilla III, Director  
Erica Curry  
Dianna Silvas  
Nicole Hudson  
Halee Turner  
Alexia Faries

**Respiratory Therapy**  
Jason Polk

**Laboratory**  
Regina Fabella, Director  
Carina Cortez  
Lorraine Macabenta  
Rhuely Soliva  
Maria Donesa

**Business Office**  
Donna Garrett  
Mary Barrientez  
Elisa DeLeon  
Dianna Shaver  
Marcus Bermea  
Kelsey Fulford  
Janet Lara

**Human Resources**  
Jill Stone

**Marketing**  
Kathy Grant, Director

**Central Supply**  
Virginia Henry

**IT**  
Alton Williams

**Dietary**  
Yolanda Alvarado, Mgr.  
Magdalena Moreno  
Pamela Simms  
Ida Valdez  
Adriana Salinas  
Rose Flores  
Lorena Flores

**Housekeeping**  
Melissa Segovia, Mgr.  
Joaquina Castaneda  
Irma Perez  
Amy DeLeon  
Haley Landa

**Plant Operations**  
Kohen Josey, Mgr.  
Arthur Castaneda  
Fidensio Perez

**Lynnwood Independent & Assisted Living Center**  
Jenny Garrett, Director  
Jana Phillips, Asst. Manager  
Nadine Aguirre  
Gloria Barrientos  
Bobbie Castillo  
Rose Jaime  
Maria Morado  
Gloria Moralez  
Rosalinda Rosas  
Rosalinda Vega  
Donna Brooks  
Chelsea Colwell  
Veronica Coronado  
Samantha Antuna  
Kyllyn Vega  
MKenzie Pena  
Dolores Lira  
Shelley Barrientos  
Lindsey Munoz  
Jessica Morin  
Denicia Vasquez  
Nancy Munoz

**Nursing Staff**  
**Administrative:**  
Mandy Graves, RN, MSN,  
Director of Nursing  
Casey McLelland, RN, BSN  
Nikki Donald, RN  
Olga Rivas, LVN  
**PRN:**  
Sharmye Jonas, LVN  
Mary Ann Molinar, RN  
Denise Villareal, LVN  
Melanie Inman, LVN  
Andrew Anderson, RN  
Alexis Villareal, Aide  
Tommy Brooks, RN  
**Days:**  
Angie Jalomo, RN  
Isabel Ochoa, RN  
Sheila Froman, RN, BSN  
Susan Parks, RN  
Mackie Buck, RN  
Tasha Pyle, Aide  
Jessica Arriazola, Aide  
Martha DeLeon, Aide  
Tina Marquez, Aide  
Kendra Donaho, LVN  
Shellie Bairrington, LVN  
Erica Gutierrez, RN  
**Nights:**  
Fatima Bunquin, RN  
Mary Harrison, LVN  
Rebecca Childress, RN  
Linda Leija, Aide  
Teresa Lopez, Aide  
Lisa Segovia, Aide  
Monica Alonzo, Aide  
Kayla Pyron, RN  
Briana Garza, RN

**Registration**  
Pat Barrientez  
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Amanda Reed

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**The Lynn County News**



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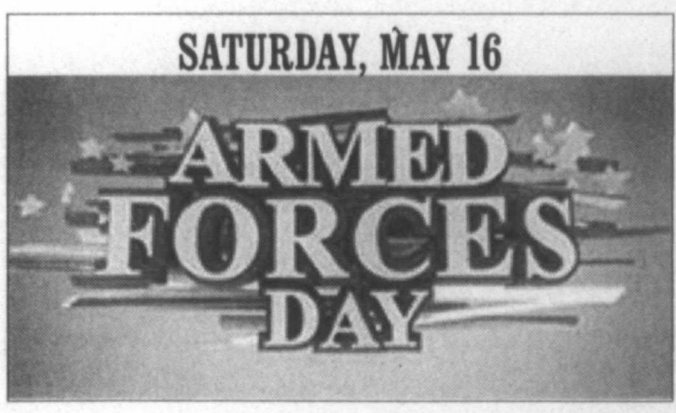


**Lightning strikes ...** Pam Elrod was able to capture this lightning strike on her camera during Monday night's thunderstorms. (LCN PHOTO by Pam Elrod)

*Did you know?*

- When George Washington died, Napoleon Bonaparte of France gave a personal eulogy and ordered a ten day mourning period for France.
- A wildlife technician, Richard Thomas, took the famous tongue twister, "how much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood" and calculated a rough estimate of what the answer would actually be. It came out to be around 700 pounds.
- The color red doesn't really make bulls angry; they are color-blind.

**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



**Local students graduate from South Plains College**

South Plains College congratulates the more than 1,300 students who received their academic degree or certificate on May 8, 2020. The following local students earned degrees:

Trevor Balague of O'Donnell - graduated with a Fire Technology Certificate - Basic Fire Academy.  
Gillian Jonas of O'Donnell - graduated with an AA in Psychology.  
Ashleigh Jonas of O'Donnell - graduated with an AS in Kinesiology.  
Jonathan Ortiz of O'Donnell - graduated with a Law Enforcement Certificate - Police Academy.  
Kenzie Parks of Tahoka - graduated with an AA in General Studies.  
Paula Poole of Tahoka - graduated with an AAS in Accounting.  
Isabel Silva of New Home - graduated with an AAS in Office Administration.  
Yiwen Zhou of Shanghai, China - graduated with an AS in Business Administration.  
Arichel Garza of Lubbock - graduated with an AA in General Studies.

Elijah Abney of Wilson - graduated with an AS in General Studies.  
Julissa Castillo of O'Donnell - graduated with a Cosmetology Certificate.  
Alexander Deleon of Tahoka - graduated with an AS in Computer Science.  
Maci Dimak of Tahoka - graduated with an AA in General Studies.  
Matthew Duenes of Wilson - graduated with an AA in General Studies.  
Lauryn Hernandez of O'Donnell - graduated with a Cosmetology Certificate.  
Trystan Hilger of Tahoka - graduated with an AS in Kinesiology.  
M'Lin Hill of Tahoka - graduated with an AA in General Studies.  
Erin Martin of Wilson - graduated with an AA in General Studies.  
Victor Martinez of Tahoka - graduated with an AS in Pre-Engineering.  
Devin McCleskey of Tahoka - graduated with an AA in Criminal Justice.  
Tracy Moczygamba of Wilson - graduated with an AAS in Nursing (Advanced Placement ADN).  
Ariana Monsivais of Tahoka - graduated with an AAS in Surgical Technology.  
Paula Poole of Tahoka - graduated with an Accounting Certificate.  
Allegra Ramirez of Tahoka - graduated with a Vocational Nursing Certificate.  
Isabel Silva of Wilson - graduated with an Office Administration Certificate - Advanced.  
Jose Torres of New Home - graduated with an AA in General Studies.

**USDA reports record enrollment in safety programs**

Producers signed a record 1.77 million contracts for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2019 crop year, which is more than 107 percent of the total contracts signed compared with a 5-year average. USDA also reminds producers that June 30 is the deadline to enroll in ARC and PLC for the 2020 crop year.

"Producers for several years have experienced low commodity prices, a volatile trade environment and catastrophic natural disasters," said Richard Fordyce, Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). "Farmers looking to mitigate these risks recognize that ARC and PLC provide the financial protections they need to weather substantial drops in crop prices or revenues."

Producers interested in enrolling for 2020 should contact their FSA county office. Producers must enroll by June 30 and make their one-time update to PLC payment yields by September 30.

FSA attributes the significant participation in the 2019 crop year ARC and PLC programs to increased producer interest in the programs under the 2018 Farm Bill and to an increase in eligible farms because of the selling and buying of farms and new opportunities for beginning farmers and military veterans with farms having 10 or fewer base acres. Enrollment for 2019 ended March 16.

USDA Service Centers,

**Producers encouraged to participate in HPWD Irrigation Assessment Program**

Interested producers are encouraged to participate in the High Plains Undergrnd Water Conservation District's (HPWD) 2020 Irrigation Assessment Program.

"The Irrigation Assessment Program has two major benefits. Producers learn more about the performance of their center pivot or subsurface drip irrigation system. Plus, it gives a better understanding of groundwater conditions in aquifers within the HPWD service area," said Field Staff Supervisor Keith Whitworth.

Since 2013, cooperators have volunteered to have their irrigation systems assessed by HPWD staff. Water levels in wells are measured at the beginning/end of the growing season. In addition, flow rates of the wells/irrigation systems are checked using an ultrasonic flow meter. This service is provided free of charge to program participants by HPWD.

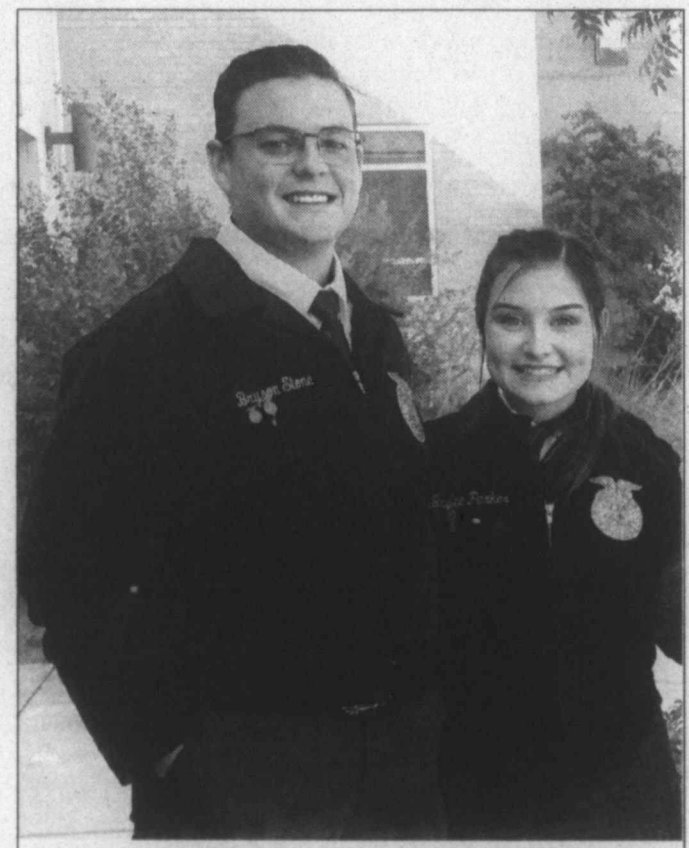
Total pumping hours, gallons per minute pumped, and number of irrigated acres are calculated to determine the total acre-inches of groundwater applied during the growing season.

Rainfall totals are determined through use of radar estimates from April-September. This gives an estimate of the total inches of water available for plant use.

For example, the 2019 program participants' well data indicates an average depth-to-water of 223 feet and an average flow rate of 105 gallons per minute. The average amount of irrigation water applied in 2019 by program participants was 13.4 inches for corn; 11.2 inches for cotton; 16.7 inches for silage; and 3.6 inches for wheat. All information gathered from each site is shared with program participants.

Whitworth said water samples are also collected as an extra service to Irrigation Assessment Program participants. HPWD is able to check Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), chloride, and pH levels of groundwater. Knowing the water chemistry in wells is important since it impacts efficient use of supplemental nutrients applied to crops.

Interested producers are encouraged to contact Whitworth at (806) 762-0181 for additional information.



**District FFA Officers ...** Tahoka FFA members Bryson Stone and Brylee Parker have been elected Mesa District officers for the 2020-21 school year. Bryson will serve as Vice President and Brylee as Historian. "Both completed the election process virtually, including a knowledge test and recording and uploading their candidate speech, allowing district delegates to watch and then cast ballots - a very new experience for all. We are proud of you both!" said Tahoka FFA advisor Shelby Hannum.

including FSA county offices, vice Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

**SHANNON HAMMONDS -FNP-C & ANAIS MOLINA - FNP-C**  
*Welcome* **JARRETT ROSS, M.D. & CHRISTOPHER LEACH, M.D.**  
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- 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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or message us on our Facebook page



## EMS transports one person from single vehicle rollover at O'Donnell

by JUANELL JONES

The driver of a 2014 silver Chevy was transported to Lynn County Hospital for treatment of unknown injuries, after a one-vehicle rollover on US 87 southbound lanes just south of the Allsup's store in O'Donnell at 8 a.m. Monday. The Sheriff's Office, Lynn County EMS, O'Donnell Police, DPS and O'Donnell Fire Dept. all responded to the scene of the accident. The vehicle was registered to Jacob Janzen of O'Donnell, and the driver was Eva Janzen of O'Donnell.

A man was taken to Lynn County Jail on assault charges after a caller reported her ex-husband behaving inappropriately to her daughter and friends, at 5:08 a.m. May 10.

A deputy reported that he was checking on a vehicle that had been tagged for removal on US 87 northbound lanes a half mile south of CR 32, at 1:11 a.m. May 8, when he discovered that the passenger window was broken and a tire and radio were missing. He spoke with Midland Police Dept. to make contact with the registered owner out of Midland, and the vehicle was

towed.

A woman called the Sheriff's Office to report a rattlesnake in her dog pen at a residence on US 87, at 3:27 p.m. May 7. Deputies and Tahoka Animal Control responded to the scene and caught the snake, which turned out to be a bull snake instead of a rattlesnake.

A caller reported a suspected intoxicated driver in the New Home area at 6 p.m. on May 7, reporting that he had been behind a vehicle that was swerving and then pulled over and stopped at the old post office in New Home. The caller walked up to the vehicle and knocked on the window, but the driver was described as slumped over the steering wheel and groaning. A few minutes later, the driver pulled away eastbound on FM 211. Deputies and DPS looked for the vehicle but were unable to locate.

Sheriff's deputies and Tahoka Police responded to several other suspicious vehicles/person calls, welfare concerns, and domestic disputes during the week.

A caller from Wilson reported that her temporary li-

cense plate was missing from her 2004 Kia Optima, the evening of May 8.

Tahoka Police responded to a minor traffic accident in the 1300 block of Ave. J at 7 p.m. May 9, with both parties uninjured and exchanging insurance information.

A woman called police at 9:30 p.m. May 11 in the 2000 block of Main Street, saying she thought she heard someone breaking into her attic, but police were unable to find anything suspicious.

A fire alarm called in at 6:30 p.m. May 6 in the 1700 block of N. 2nd turned out to be a smoke alarm sounding from a burnt meal.

## Area News

### Dawson ISD hires Hodges as new football coach

LAMESA – As the Dawson Dragons bring six-man high school football back to Welch this fall, Superintendent Layne Sheets believes they've got the right man for the job. The Dawson school board named John Hodges as their new field boss.

After playing only junior high football the past two seasons, the Dragons will return to the Friday night lights this fall. Supt. Sheets is expecting at least 10 boys in high school this fall, with four of them freshmen.

Graduating from high school at Morton in 1976, Hodges earned a degree from Texas Tech in 1980. He worked in an accounting firm and later farmed before starting his coaching career in 2006 at Morton. This will be Hodges' first position as a head high school football coach.

— from The Lamesa Press-Reporter

### Did you know?

- There is a statue of Tesla in Silicon Valley that radiates free Wi-Fi. It was done as an homage to his vision for wireless communication.
- Tic Tacs got their name from the sound they make when they are tossed around in their container.
- Over 290 people have died climbing Mount Everest since 1922. Most deaths occur because of avalanches, and not all bodies have been recovered.
- There are only two countries in the world that have the color purple in their flags: Nicaragua and Dominica.

## Area News

### Prisoner quickly captured after escape in Lamesa

LAMESA – A prisoner in handcuffs and shackles who jumped from a moving sheriff's vehicle and fled into a nearby house in Lamesa Friday morning was back in custody in just over 10 minutes, according to local law enforcement officials.

Blane Lars Spear, a 36-year-old male who has been an inmate in the Dawson County Jail since March 17, was recaptured without incident, according to Sheriff Matt Hogg.

A woman who was inside the residence where Spear fled to was "shaken up" by the incident but was not injured, said Josh Peterson, the sheriff's chief deputy who also is serving as acting chief of the Lamesa Police Department.

The incident was reported at 8:01 a.m. by a sheriff's department jailer who was transporting Spear from the county jail to an appointment with a dentist in Lamesa, Hogg said.

Although the doors to the vehicle should have been locked, Hogg said, Spear was able to get the door open in the 700 block of N. 3rd St. and flee toward a nearby residence.

"He was handcuffed and shackled but he was able to get up to that residence before the jailer could get the vehicle in park and try to run after him," Hogg told the Press-Reporter.

Officers from the sheriff's department, police department, and Texas Dept. of Public Safety quickly responded to the location. When a deputy and a police officer approached the residence together, a woman came out and said a man was inside a back bedroom, according to Hogg and Peterson.

"He was taken into custody without incident," Peterson said.

There did not appear to be any connection between Spear and the woman who was inside the residence.

"She said she didn't have a clue who he was," said Hogg.

Hogg said Spear was back in custody 11 minutes after the jailer reported he had escaped.

— from The Lamesa Press-Reporter

### Did you know?

- A bolt of lightning can reach 53,540 degrees Fahrenheit. That's 5 times hotter than the surface of the sun, which is 10,340 degrees Fahrenheit.



**Rollover ...** Eva Janzen of O'Donnell was the driver of a 2014 silver Chevy (left) in a one-vehicle rollover on US 87 southbound lanes just south of the Allsup's store in O'Donnell at 8 a.m. Monday. She was transported by Lynn County EMS for treatment of unknown injuries.

## Property appraisals based on market value, other evidence

Lynn County Appraisal District 2020 "Notices of Value" have been mailed to property owners that meet certain criteria, including higher appraised values or ownership changes, or changes in exemption status from the previous year.

According to Rebecca Norris, Chief Appraiser, many of the residential and commercial values for portions of Lynn County may have increased, in part due to updated schedules that determine 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.

"These updated schedules determine the market value of property as of January 1," said Norris.

According to the Texas Property Tax Code (Sec. 23.01), if the appraisal district determines the appraised value of a property using mass appraisal standards, which must comply with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. The same or similar appraisal methods and techniques must be used in appraising the same or similar kinds of property. However, each property is appraised based upon the individual characteristics that affect the property's market value, and all available evidence that is specific to the value of the property shall be taken into account in determining the property's market value.

"The easiest way to evaluate the status of your property is to request a copy of the appraisal card," says Norris. "There are several items you should review for correctness, including owner name, owner address, property's legal description, land lot size or acreage, and building descriptions. All improvements are appraised on outside measurements of the building then classified on building type, quality and age (depreciation). In the appraisal of property, the Lynn CAD has the assignment of appraising every property in the District as of January 1st (ss 23.01 a & b) of each respective year at one hundred percent of market (1.04 7 Aa, b, c) value as mandated in the Texas Property Tax Code," she explained.

"Market value" is defined as the price at which a property would transfer for cash or its equivalent under prevailing market conditions if: (A) exposed for sale in the open

The Lynn County News will publish its annual GRADUATION EDITION next week featuring all graduates from Tahoka ISD New Home ISD Wilson ISD O'Donnell ISD Don't miss it!

## Commissioners approve resolution to seek COVID-19 emergency funding

by JUANELL JONES

Lynn County Commissioners met in regular session Monday morning at the Lynn County Courthouse, approving a resolution that will allow the county to apply for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding program for 2020. If approved, the funding would be used for providing emergency supplies, such as masks and gloves, to first responders.

A four-year service agreement with Thyssen Krupp Elevator Corp. was approved for maintaining the elevator at the courthouse, and commissioners approved a burn ban prohibiting outdoor burning for Lynn County. An order prohibiting certain types of fireworks in the county was approved, for the period of May 11-26.

Some discussion was held regarding video visitation for Lynn County Jail inmates due to the pandemic restrictions, but action was tabled pending further information.

Monthly bills were approved. Judge Mike Braddock informed commissioners that plexiglass sneeze-guard barriers have been ordered for some county offices.

Judge Braddock led the

meeting, with all four commissioners present including Matt Woodley, John Hawthorne, Don Blair and Larry Durham.

## City Council ...

(Continued from page 1)

reopen America, and keep our children safe and healthy."

In other business, council members agreed to authorize the city administrator to negotiate with First National Bank of Tahoka for funds, if needed, to help cover expenses due to any decreases in revenue for the city. Mayor Baker said that at this time the city funds are sufficient, but if the need arises at some point between now and August then the city administrator has the authority to seek additional funding.

Monthly bills were approved, and department reports were presented.

Mayor Baker led the meeting, with City Administrator Jerry Webster, city attorneys Cal Huffaker and Hunter Harris, and all council members participating in the videoconference session, including Ronny Jolly, Shiloh Braddock, Ryan Curry and Ray Box.

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The Lynn County News runs engagement, wedding, and special anniversary announcements free of charge.

All information is subject to editing. Anniversaries for 25th, 50th, or 60th year.

Simply email us your information or ask us to email you a form to fill out, add your photo, and send to: LynnCoNews@poka.com

TAHOKA ISD O'DONNELL ISD May 2020