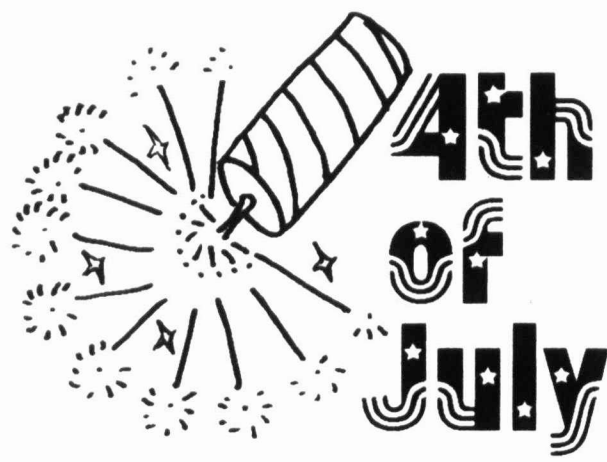


HAPPY BIRTHDAY



LN THE Lynn County News



July 2, 2020 ■ Volume 117, No. 27

Serving Lynn County since 1903

Tahoka, Lynn County Texas

email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

75¢

What's Inside

- **Obituaries** - pg. 2
 - Richard Luera
 - Delores Elrod Fikes
- **Wilson church postpones fireworks show** - pg. 3
- **Area News** - pg. 6
 - Lamesa July 4th events cancelled
 - Dawson Co. Hospital Administrator's contract renewed
 - Slaton cancels July 4th festival

Did you know?

The Liberty Bell rings 13 times every Independence Day to honor the 13 original states. Descendants of people who signed the Declaration of Independence tap the bell, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at 2 p.m. eastern time every 4th of July.

COVID UPDATE:

(Information from Lynn Co. Judge)

June 25: The South Plains Public Health District confirms 2 more new cases in Lynn County:
 Case #27 - Female, age 20-29, Tahoka
 Case #28 - Female, age 60-69, in northern Lynn County

June 26: 5 new cases confirmed, with 2 recoveries, making a total of 9 recoveries and 33 cases
 #29 - Male 30-39 Tahoka
 #30 - Female 30-39 Tahoka
 #31 - Male 70-79 O'Donnell, was released 6-23-2020
 #32 - Female 30-39 Tahoka
 #33 - Male 20-29 Tahoka, was released 6-24-2020

Explanation for Case #31, 33: According to the Lynn County Judge's Office, the two cases that have just now been reported had already recovered by the time the South Plains Public Health District (which notifies the county officials) received case confirmation notification from the State Health Department. Lynn County officials are solely dependent on the South Plains Public Health District for all information as to when the confirmations/recoveries are reported. Authorities at the SPPHD told county officials that the State Health Dept. is overwhelmed with influxes of information, and that the information is disseminated as it becomes available.



No one injured ... No one was injured inside this white Chevy SUV hauling a trailer with a vehicle on it, after a rollover into the center median of US 87 just north of the Star overpass in Tahoka Saturday afternoon. The vehicle, registered to Jesus Ramirez of Lubbock, as well as the flatbed trailer hauling another vehicle, were all rolled over on their sides. Traffic was diverted onto the Tahoka exit and rerouted back to US 87 while the accident was worked. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

No injuries reported in four accidents in county

by JUANELL JONES

Four traffic accidents occurred in the county during the past week, three of them on Saturday, but no injuries were reported in any of the incidents.

A loose cow on the road was the cause of an accident in the early morning hours of Saturday. A driver struck a cow 3-4 miles east of Tahoka on US 380, between 3-4 a.m. The vehicle was heavily damaged, and was towed from the scene. The owner of the cow was

notified, and TxDOT was called to remove the cow from the road.

At 12:32 p.m. Saturday, another accident occurred about 3 miles east of Tahoka on US 380, when two vehicles collided at the intersection of FM 2956. Crystal Marie Martinez was the driver of a 2012 white GMC registered in New Jersey, and Christine Nichole Authement was the driver of a 2017 grey Hyundai registered in Austin. No injuries were reported.

Just before 4 p.m. Saturday, a

white 2002 Chevy SUV hauling a trailer with a vehicle on it, rolled over into the median of US 87 just north of the Star overpass in Tahoka. Lynn County 9-1-1 received several calls on the accident, with one caller reporting that it appeared the driver may have been trapped inside the rolled vehicle. However, when Tahoka Police, Sheriff's Deputies, DPS, Lynn County EMS, and Tahoka Volunteer Fire Dept. arrived at the scene it was discovered that the driver was not trapped

inside the vehicle, and no injuries were reported, with the driver refusing EMS transport. The vehicle, registered to Jesus Ramirez of Lubbock, as well as the trailer hauling another vehicle, were all rolled over on their sides. Traffic was diverted onto the Tahoka exit and rerouted back to US 87 while the accident was worked.

A local DPS trooper was dispatched by Lubbock DPS to an accident on CR 3 and US 87 with (See POLICE REPORT, page 6)



Fireworks display set July 4th in O'Donnell

With 4th of July just around the corner, O'Donnell city officials ask citizens to please remember fireworks are not permitted within the incorporated city limits of O'Donnell. However, a public fireworks display privately

and independently sponsored by the Eagle Community Action Group and Renteria Brothers will be held on July 4, 2020 at the O'Donnell Farmer's Co-op as scheduled, with everyone invited to attend.

Fireworks spectacular

planned at Tahoka baseball field Friday, July 3rd



The City of Tahoka will sponsor an Independence Day Fireworks Spectacular on Friday, July 3rd, at the Tahoka baseball complex, located on South 8th Street. Admission is free.

All who attend are asked to follow social distancing requirements, and to limit groups to 10 people or less in the designated areas, in order to minimize contact between individuals and children outside of one's immediate family.

The fun begins at 4 p.m., with music and food trucks on site including Monster's Ice, Harv's Grill, Cliff's Food Wagon, and Big Dog food truck.

Bring lawn chairs for seating, or park cars in designated areas to observe the fireworks show, which will begin at dusk.

Reminder: Citizens may NOT set off fireworks inside the city limits of Tahoka, per city ordinance.



Did you know?

“ Around 70% of people tilt their heads to the right rather than the left when kissing somebody else. (Yes, we tried it too) ”

The Lynn County News

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Juanell Jones
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Pam Elrod
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CONTACT US:
Office: 806-561-4888
Fax: (806) 561-6308
E-Mail: LynnCoNews@poka.com
1617 Main Street
P.O. Box 1170
Tahoka, TX 79373

OFFICE HOURS:
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Closed Fridays. Drop box available by front door.

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www.facebook.com/LynnCountyNews

MEMBER:
TPA Texas Press Association 2020

Happy 4th
of July

Senior Citizens LUNCH MENU

July 6-10

- Monday:** Baked chicken breast, baked potato, peas, pineapple tidbits
- Tuesday:** Beef soft taco, Spanish rice, corn, mandarin oranges
- Wednesday:** Salmon patties, scalloped potatoes, green peas, salad, peach-apple crisp
- Thursday:** Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, mixed squash, fruit cup
- Friday:** Cheeseburger, potato wedges, tomato wedge salad, melon medley

NOTICE: THE CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 3.
The Center is CLOSED for dine-in. For curbside pick up (east side) call in before 10 a.m. each day. 561-5264.

Obituaries



Richard Luera

Richard Luera, 74, of O'Donnell passed away on Thursday, June 25, 2020 in Lubbock. Richard was born on April 3, 1946 in Paint Rock, Texas to Albert Luera and Aurora Gebera Luera. He was raised in Voss, Texas and married the love of his life, Carolina Morales, on January 16, 1965 in Coleman. He ranched in Voss until 1967, and then moved to Seagraves to farm. In 1975, he moved to O'Donnell and farmed with Dorman Farms until 1990, when he retired. He loved to farm, ranch, and raise cattle, goats, and sheep. He enjoyed spending time with his family, and they knew him as "Big Da". He enjoyed cooking out, fishing, and going to Hords Creek Lake. He was a member of St. Pius X Catholic Church in O'Donnell. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was a 3rd Degree Knight.

Richard was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, 2 brothers, Mike and Willie Luera, and grandson, Jeremy J. Ortiz.

Richard is survived by his daughter, Lynn and Gerardo Ortiz of O'Donnell, son, Joseph and Elizabeth Luera of O'Donnell, and his niece that they raised like a daughter, Amanda Luera of Anchorage, AK, 2 brothers, Charlie and Debbie Luera of Hobbs, NM and Benny Luera of Voss, 3 grandchildren, Jonathan and Xavier Ortiz and Scott and Christy Oliván, and 2 great grandchildren, Aaron and Ryan Oliván.

A private mass will be celebrated by his immediate family only at St. Pius X Catholic

Church with Rev. John Rathnam officiating. Interment will follow in the O'Donnell Cemetery.

Please visit www.combestfamilyfuneralhome.com for more information. Social distancing and face masks will be required for any family attending. The funeral will be livestreamed on Lynn Ortiz's Facebook page. Memorials may be sent to St. Pius X Catholic Church in O'Donnell. (PAID)



Delores Elrod Fikes

Alphie Delores Elrod Fikes, age 72, of Cisco, passed away on June 21, 2020. She was born to Jim and Claudia Elrod on November 4, 1947 in Coleman, TX.

Memorial and graveside services will be held at a later date.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Tommie Fikes; sister Mozelle Harris; two brothers Leslie Jones, Rodger Elrod; sister-in-law Ruth Elrod, grandson Steven Tyler Coslett.

She is survived by three daughters Cheryl Vanderzward and husband Tuenis, Mickey Long, Angie Pounds and husband Todd; five brothers Allen Elrod and wife Pam, of Tahoka, Sonny Elrod of Cisco, Dell Mellette and wife Sherry, Chris Mellette and wife Sharon, Danny Mellette and wife Andrea; sisters Wanda Brunson and husband Brad of Lubbock, Rhonda Elrod of Cisco, seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; as well as numerous other relatives and friends. (PAID)



LCHD dining room gets facelift ...

The dining area at Lynn County Hospital got a facelift during the COVID-19 lockdown, including refreshing the walls with new paint, and new décor. An LCHD nurse, Angie Jalomo, was the artist for the paintings that were placed on one wall (pictured above). Volunteer painters pictured at right are Angie Jalomo and Erica Gutierrez, and also helping but not pictured is Kelsey Fulford. The photo below shows a portion of the dining area.



Famous quotes

- At times you have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover is yourself. *Alan Alda*
- And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years. *Abraham Lincoln*

New Home Happenings

by Denise Sherrod

Several notes from the City of New Home...

Mosquito Roundup

It's Mosquito Time! If you have the dread standing water or tall grass and weeds around your place, get rid of them pronto! The mosquitoes have heard that we're weakened from all the other plagues (virus, murder bugs, economic disaster, and foreign dust [like we don't have enough of our own]), and they are coming for us.

Water Rustlers

If you see someone messing with a fire hydrant, and this person is not dressed as a fire fighter, please inform City Hall. One person (not a city resident) has already been warned. I am possessive of our limited water supply as I enjoy showering somewhat regularly, so I take it personally when someone uses our water for non-resident purposes.

Be the Ranger

With all this Old West ac-

tivity, you can even dress the part: Wear your mask! Okay, it's not over your eyes like the Lone Ranger's, but it does hide your identity even better than that eye mask. So, don your face covering, round up and dispose of your mosquito lairs, and keep an uncovered eye out for water rustlers.

Book L'arning

A generous community resident brought the library several books this week, one of which is the best-seller *Educated* by Tara Westover. This is a memoir of Westover's life with her over-the-top conservative family and how she survived and has done very well—so far. I listened to this book, and it was one that was both hard to hear and impossible to stop listening to.

If you have information for New Home Happenings, please email dtsherrod@gmail.com by 10:00 on Tuesday mornings.

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.
Bill of Rights

For the Freedoms that we all enjoy... Our Thanks go to the young men and women serving in all branches of the military.

We Salute You!

Have a happy and safe 4th of July!

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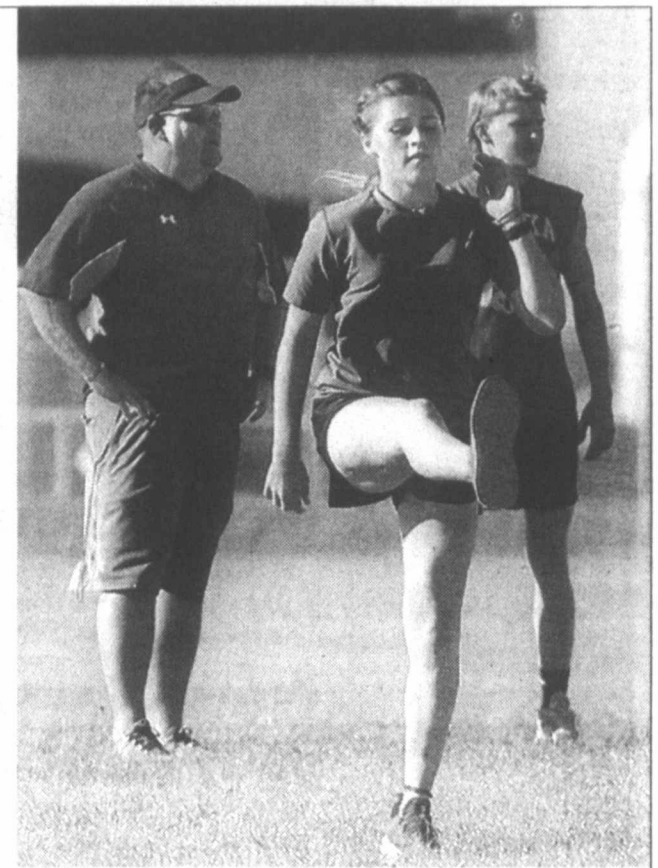
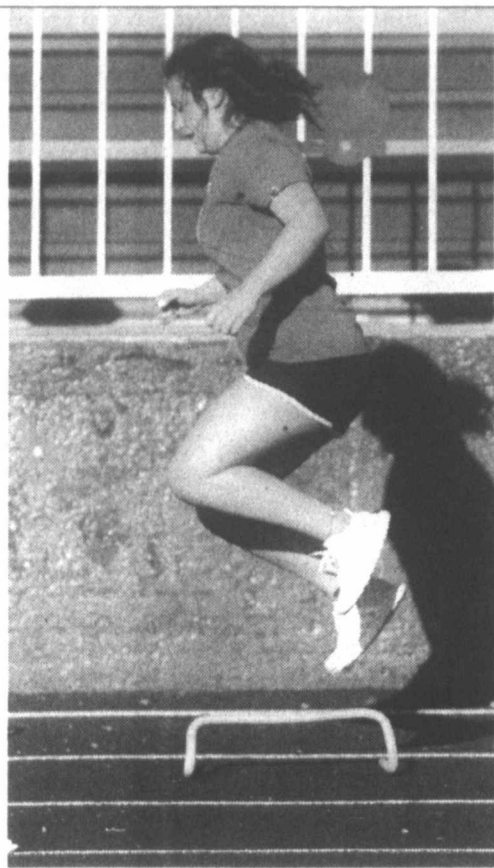
Plus: Zucchini & squash Peppers & Mexican Vanilla

NEW THIS WEEK! Watermelon

Find us at the WolfForth Farmers Market every Saturday from 10-2. Pecos Cantaloupe

Come see us at the 4th of July Celebration in O'Donnell!

We will not be open at the Red Top, but do deliveries in Tahoka. Check out our Facebook page "Mustard Seed Farms" for availability and delivery times. Call or Message Trish Dunlap at 806-201-3481 or Josh at 806-201-1663 for deliveries! Located in Tahoka! Thank you for your business!



Workout time ... Tahoka ISD opened facilities last week for voluntary workouts for students that wanted to participate, while enforcing COVID-19 safety protocols. Pictured here, from left: Major Due, Karlie Swinford, and Amy Tew. (PHOTOS submitted by Lanae Gwin)

Texas Medical Association (TMA) says: 'Governor is right; Act now to stop COVID-19 spread'

Statement by Texas Medical Association (TMA) President Diana L. Fite, MD, regarding Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's comments on Monday, June 22, about curbing the spread of coronavirus:

"The physicians of Texas greatly appreciate Governor Abbott using the power of his office to warn Texans about the serious, ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to recommend that Texans take proven steps to protect themselves and their neighbors.

"The governor is right – COVID-19 is now spreading at an unacceptable rate in

Texas. "The governor is right – we should all wash our hands frequently, stay home if we can, wear masks if we go out, and practice social distancing. "And the governor is right – if we don't do that now, we face a return to even stricter measures to protect the health of all Texans.

"As a physician, I've seen many patients reach that critical moment when the right actions make the difference between recovery or not. Texas is at that critical moment today. The governor told us all what we need to do. Wear a

mask, Texas. "We urge the governor to repeat his message over and over, everywhere he can, to anyone who will listen, through any medium possible."

*** TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 53,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 110 component county medical societies around the state. TMA's key objective since 1853 is to improve the health of all Texans.

Did you know?

- All of the sweaters Mister Rogers wore on his show were hand knitted by his mother. He said he loved wearing them because they always made him think of her.
- Extreme ironing is a sport in which people take ironing boards to remote locations and iron items of clothing. It originated in England.
- Mickey Mouse was the first ever cartoon character to talk. In the 1929 episode, The Karnival Kid, Mickey's first words were "Hot dogs!"

Wilson church postpones annual fireworks show

Wilson's annual July 4th fireworks show, held at Wilson City Park, has been postponed indefinitely.

The annual event, sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wilson, was originally scheduled to take place on Friday, July 3rd, but with the recent COVID-19 outbreaks in Lynn County it was decided to postpone the show.

"Depending on the situation in the county, we may decide to put on the fireworks show possibly in the fall, but at this point it is postponed indefinitely," said Pastor David Rhode on Monday.

Did you know?

- Jellyfish are considered biologically immortal. They don't age and will never die unless they are killed.

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Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm • Sat. (Closed at this time)

Shannon Hammonds FNP-C Anais Molina FNP-C
Dr. Jarrett Ross MD Christopher Leach MD

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LCHD O'Donnell Clinic

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Clinic Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00-5:00

GRIENSAK CHOWPAKNAM MD, MBA, FAAP CYNDE SCHNEIDER MSN, APRN, FNP-C

Accepting new patients

Call to schedule an appointment with any of these healthcare professionals. Bring valid insurance card and drivers license to your appointment.

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

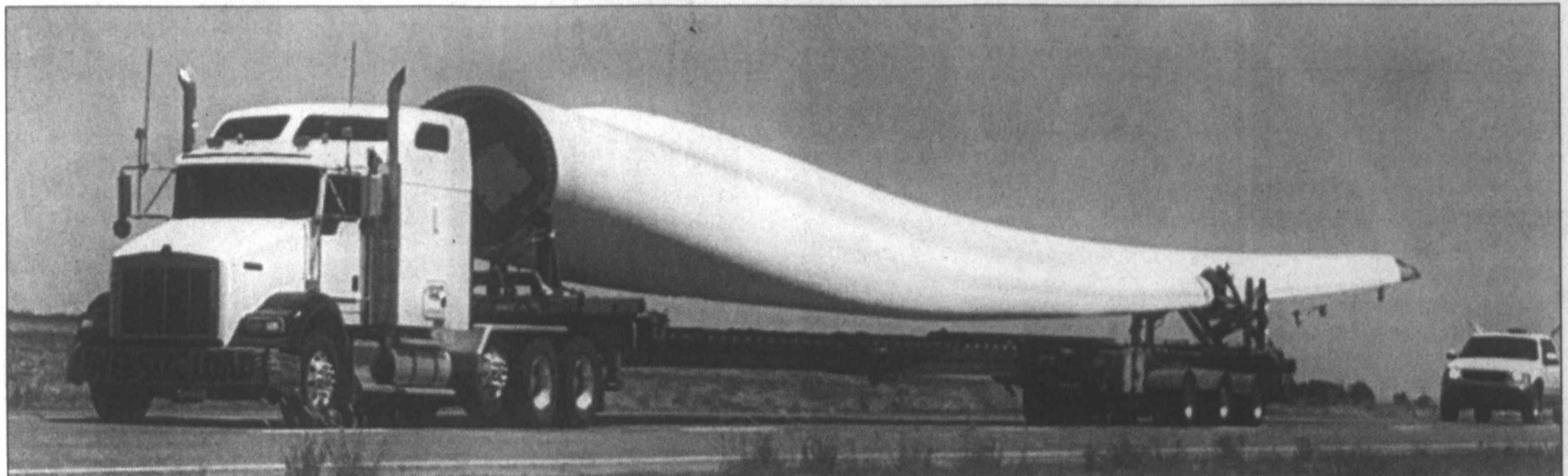
AgTexas Farm Credit Services
Travis Ferguson and Mike Metzlig

Capital Farm Credit
Jason Gandy
Shaun Wied

Farmers Co-op Association
No. 1

FirstBank & Trust
Karl McDonald

Lynn County Farm Bureau



Blade runner ... Trucks hauling wind turbine blades are now a common site in this area, with the booming wind energy industry. This truck is on US 87 southbound near O'Donnell. (LCN PHOTO)

New Game Wardens join Lubbock region

After about seven months of intense training, the 63rd Texas Game Warden cadet class have moved into their assigned duty stations in the Amarillo, Lubbock and Abilene districts.

- The seven new wardens and their assigned duty stations are:
- Wesley "Casen" Driskell - Oldham County
 - Tanner Campbell - Deaf Smith, Castro and Parmer Counties
 - Zack Fisher - Childress and Hall Counties
 - Josue Hernandez - Lamb, Bailey and Cochran Counties
 - J.D. Cuellar - Borden and Dawson Counties
 - Trent Walker - Scurry and Garza Counties
 - Larry Hampel - King and Knox Counties

The duties of a Texas Game Warden include the enforcement of all state laws as well as hunting, fishing and

water safety regulations. As fully commissioned peace officers, they respond to emergencies, assist other law enforcement agencies and work to educate the public about conservation issues.

All graduates met the state-mandated requirements for peace officer certification, including criminal and constitutional law, firearms, self-defense, use of force, defensive driving, arrest, search and seizure, ethics and first aid. The new wardens are joining the more than 500 game wardens currently in the field and will help enforce Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) regulations and carry the department's high standards to every corner of the state.

Residents can find information on how to contact a game warden in their area on the TPWD website.

Did you know?

- It was Nicholas Cage who first advised Johnny Depp to pursue a career in acting, during the mid-1980s.
- Mercury and Venus are the only two planets in our solar system that do not have any moons.
- The word "friends" is said in every episode of Friends.
- Around 15% of active Twitter accounts are social bots. This means there are nearly 48 million accounts that are not controlled by humans.
- Contrary to popular belief, only 45% of the London Underground is actually underground.
- In 2013, a plant was genetically spliced that grew tomatoes above ground, and potatoes underground. It is called the Tomato.
- Apple seeds, cherry apricot, and peach pits contain cyanide, but it takes a large amount of each to actually make you sick or kill you.

USDA adds digital options for farmers and ranchers to apply for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

USDA's Farm Service Agency will now accept applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) through an online portal, expanding the options available to producers to apply for this program, which helps offset price declines and additional marketing costs because of the coronavirus pandemic. FSA is also leveraging commercial document storage and e-signature solutions to enable producers to work with local service center staff to complete their applications from home.

"We are doing everything we can to serve our customers and make sure agricultural producers impacted by the pandemic can quickly and securely apply for this relief program," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "In addition to working with FSA staff through the phone, email and scheduled in-person appointments, we can now also

take applications through the farmers.gov portal, which saves producers and our staff time."

Through the portal, producers with secure USDA login credentials—known as eAuthentication—can certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center. Producers who do not have an eAuthentication account can learn more and begin the enrollment process at farmers.gov/sign-in. Currently, the digital application is only available to sole proprietors or single-member business entities.

USDA Service Centers can also work with producers to complete and securely transmit digitally signed applications through two commercially available tools: Box and OneSpan. Producers who are interested in digitally signing their applications should notify their local service centers when calling to discuss the CFAP application process. You can learn more about these solutions at farmers.gov/mydocs.

USDA has several other options for producers to complete and submit their CFAP applications. These include:

1. Downloading the AD-3114 application form from farmers.gov/cfap and manually completing the form to submit to the local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically or by hand delivery to an office drop box. In some limited cases, the office may be open for in-person business by appointment. Visit farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status to check the status of your local office.

2. Completing the application form using our CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator found at farmers.gov/cfap. This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, and then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center.

New customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from farmers.gov/cfap. For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.

Producers self-certify their records when applying for CFAP, and that documentation is not submitted with the application. However, producers may be asked for their documentation to support the certification of eligible commodities, so they should retain the information used to complete their application.

To find the latest information on CFAP, visit farmers.gov/cfap or call 877-508-8364.

Planning a Control Burn?

Landowners in Lynn County are asked to notify the Lynn County Sheriff's Office at 806-561-4505 when a control burn is going to occur. This notification will allow the Sheriff's Office to be aware of control burns when fire reports are called in by passersby or others, and will assist the S.O. in knowing if area fire departments need to be called to respond to a fire.

CALL 806-561-4505 TO REPORT A CONTROL BURN IN LYNN COUNTY



Have a happy and safe 4th of July!

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Happy Independence Day

LCHD Business office will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

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currently a full time of maintenance etc. The license. A drug screen Application the city's open until The City

is currently Maintained Candidate learn new service This apartment Experience carpenter required

This is off, on-camera necessary Require High School Valid 1 Able to Bi-ling Position Please more info Application Monday Ave. K.T.

Help with a high Apply

83, maintenance ebony

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Call 561-4888
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DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND ADS IS NOON TUESDAYS

HELP WANTED

The City of Tahoka
currently has a vacancy in the Water & Sewer Department. This is a full time position with benefits. This position includes all types of maintenance associated with water, wastewater, and streets, etc. The successful candidate MUST have a valid Texas driver's license. Also, MUST be able to pass a background check and a drug screen.
Application may be picked up at city hall, 1807 Main Street, or on the city's website, www.tahoka-texas.com. Vacancy will remain open until filled.
The City of Tahoka is an EOE.

Tahoka Housing Authority
is currently recruiting for the position of an Apartment Maintenance Technician.
Candidate must have a positive attitude, willingness and ability to learn new skills, good communication skills and strong customer service skills.
This position includes various job duties associated with apartment maintenance.
Experience in areas of general repairs, property make-ready, carpentry, plumbing and electrical repairs is preferred but not required.
This is a full-time position with benefits. Weekends and Holidays off, on-call for emergencies only. Work vehicle provided with the necessary tools and equipment.
Requirements:
• High School Diploma or GED
• Valid Texas Drivers' License with an acceptable driving record
• Able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language.
• Bi-lingual in Spanish a plus
Position will remain open until filled.
Please Contact Tahoka Housing Authority at (806) 561-4716 for more information.
Applications may be picked up during our regular office hours, Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-4:00PM. 1400 Ave. K Tahoka Housing Authority is an EOE.

NOW HIRING
Help wanted for Let The Children Come Child Care. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent and pass a drug screening. Must be reliable and punctual.
Apply in person at 1801 Ave. J in Tahoka. Applications available at the Day Care or at the FUMC Church office.

LEGAL NOTICES

Purchasing Cooperative of America will receive proposals for the following until 11:00am CT on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. Address all questions to PCamerica@pcamerica.org. RFPs/RFQ are located through the PCA Website Portal for the City of O'Donnell, Texas, for the following national RFP contracts: (1) RFP OD-325-20 Job Order Contracting; (2) RFP OD-326-20 Athletic Equipment, Flooring, Supplies, & Related Items; (3) RFP OD-327-20 Musical Instruments & Related Items; (4) RFP OD-328-20 Heavy Equipment-New and Used - Sales, Rental, Maintenance & Parts; and the following RFQ: (5) RFQ OD-329-20 Energy & Infrastructure With Alternative Funding Options. Go to: www.pcamerica.org/solicitations for more information. Call 844-722-6374 for issues not resolved in 24 hours.

NOTICE

FOUND: Two black calves (Steers) weighing approximately 700 lbs., with light green ear tags. Call 806-759-0820

Lynn County Hospital COVID-19 Hotline 806-561-2076

answered 24-hours-a-day by LCHD healthcare providers

Please call if you think you have symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or persistent pressure in chest

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NEED OFFICE SUPPLIES?

WE'VE GOT 'EM AT THE LYNN COUNTY NEWS

1617 Main Street in Tahoka • 806-561-4888



Collision with cow ... A loose cow on the road was the cause of an accident in the early morning hours of Saturday, when the driver of this vehicle struck a cow 3-4 miles east of Tahoka on US 380, between 3-4 a.m. No injuries were reported.

Police report ...

(Continued from page 1)

no injuries, at 6:46 p.m. last Tuesday, June 23. No vehicle or driver information was available.

A motorist on US 87 called for assistance at 2:17 a.m. last Tuesday, reporting that his vehicle spun off the road near the Lubbock/Lynn County line due to large amounts of water over the road. He initially reported that his vehicle was stuck in the ditch, but then was able to get out on his own.

A report of a stolen tractor at 9 p.m. last Wednesday turned out to be a grandson borrowing his grandfather's tractor to get his truck unstuck about 2 miles west of the stop sign at a dead end on FM 2053, and the tractor was then returned to his grandfather's property, according to the Sheriff's Office call sheet report.

At 4:57 a.m. Friday, a semi truck was stuck in the center median and reportedly blocking traffic in the northbound lanes of US 87, as it was attempting to turn into the Allsup's convenience store at O'Donnell from the southbound lane. The O'Donnell Fire Dept. was dispatched for traffic control until the truck was moved.

Wilson Volunteer Fire Dept. responded to a small grass fire in the median of US 87 about 8 miles north of Tahoka at 2:21 p.m. Friday. Sheriff's deputies responded to other calls during the week, including domestic disturbances, assisting motorists, reckless drivers, and a dog complaint in Wilson.

Evan Garrett Wallace of Tahoka was arrested on four counts, two of them felony charges, after an altercation in Tahoka Friday evening, about 7:30 p.m. He was charged with a second-degree felony charge of assault by strangulation causing bodily

injury, a third-degree felony charge of assault with injury to a child, and misdemeanor charges of terroristic threat, and unlawfully carrying a weapon, according to Tahoka Police reports this week. The altercation occurred in the 1800 block of Ave. L, where Wallace, who was driving down the street, stopped and got out of his vehicle after a male reportedly yelled at him from a nearby residence to slow down. According to Police Chief Jeff Parker's report to *The News*, Wallace approached the male on his property and grabbed the man by the throat, and the two were reportedly fighting on the ground when the man's 14-year-old son was struck as he was attempting to assist his father. Wallace also reportedly made a verbal threat referring to a weapon inside his vehicle, for which police charged him with terroristic threat.

Tahoka Police answered several calls reporting fireworks in the city, assisted Animal Control with the capture of a dog, and assisted a man visiting the Tahoka Cemetery whose vehicle broke down. Police also escorted a birthday drive-by during the week.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that birthday parties are not being held, and people are having birthday drive-by parades to wish the person a happy birthday. As a way to give back to our community we are pleased to provide an escort for these when we are asked, if we are available," said Chief Parker.

Lynn County Jail held 19 inmates, including one held for Floyd County, and 18 for Lynn County. Local charges included one for terroristic threat/assault, charges, one for harassment, one for public intoxication, and two for possession of drugs.

Lynn County Citizens ... doing our part!



Wearing our masks ... Bob and Nancy Guilliams say "God Bless America!"
• Email us YOUR masked photo at LynnCoNews@poka.com

Area News News items from area newspapers

Lamesa Chamber cancels July 4th activities, but annual fireworks display still planned

LAMESA - Except for the fireworks display, all Independence Day festivities planned by the Lamesa Area of Chamber have been cancelled.

Word about the cancellation came on Friday, one day after Gov. Greg Abbott issued an order limiting certain activities as part of the state's effort to contain a resurgence of COVID-19 in Texas. Included in that order was a ban on outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people unless approved by local governments, with certain exceptions.

The annual fireworks show will still be held on Saturday, July 4, at dark.

"Remember to stay in your vehicles and practice social distancing," said Chamber of Commerce President Karen Mize.

The Chamber had planned a full array of Independence Day activities as usual, including a parade, booths in Forrest Park, talent show, kickball tournament, Mr. and Miss Firecracker Pageant, and rib cookoff.

- from the Lamesa Press-Reporter

Stokes gets contract extension at Dawson County Hospital

LAMESA - The contract for Letha Stokes to serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Dawson County Hospital District has been extended until January of 2023.

Extension of the contract, without any increase in salary, came just before the end of last Thursday's regular monthly meeting of the Dawson County Hospital District's board of directors.

It was done after board members spent about an hour and a half in a closed executive session for Stokes' yearly evaluation.

- from the Lamesa Press-Reporter

City cancels Slaton's 4th of July festival

SLATON - Slaton's annual Fourth of July Festival, which was scheduled for 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Slaton Park, has been canceled, according to a recent facebook post by Lynn Nowlin, Mayor of Slaton.

"The Slaton City Council, our city Administrator, employees of our city, and numerous conversations with citizens and other Texas leaders have brought us to the decision to cancel our Annual 4th of July Festival held in the park this year," posted Nowlin.

- from The Slatonite

Did you know?

The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies. Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later.

• Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.



• The only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Early summer drying may indicate a severe wildfire season in Texas

Drought conditions in the western Plains and early drying across the state have led to an increase in wildfire activity and an early start to the summer wildfire season. Most of the state is trending three to four weeks ahead of typical early summer drying, and the rainfall outlook over the next six weeks is not anticipated to be enough to reverse this trend, according to recent information from the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Wildfire analysts with Texas A&M Forest Service report that Texas could experience a severe summer wildfire season.

"The dryness we are currently seeing across portions of the state is, generally, what we would be experiencing in mid- to late July," said Brad Smith, Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services Department Head.

"The drought that will carry over from the spring into the summer and the emerging drought that is developing in June have initiated an early start to the summer fire season. Early summer drying in June also introduces the possibility of experiencing a severe late-summer fire season."

Under these conditions, state officials are tracking an increased number of wildfire ignitions occurring across Texas. Since Tuesday, June 9, Texas A&M Forest Service and local fire departments have responded to 90 wildfires that burned a total of 21,692 acres. Many of the recent wildfires are attributed to equipment use, welding, debris burning and roadside starts.

"Texas is experiencing an uptick in wildfire activity across most of the state, and it's easy to think that a wildfire won't impact you until you see the smoke on the horizon," said Kari Hines, Texas A&M Forest Service Firewise Coordinator. "Now is the time to prepare your house and property to make them wildfire resilient. Create an evacuation plan for your family that includes pets and livestock. Look for the buildup of dead and dry vegetative material around your house, the driveway, and other important buildings, as this is

where embers can gather and start fires."

Successfully preparing for a wildfire requires everyone to take personal responsibility for protecting themselves, their families and their properties.

Texas A&M Forest Service encourages Texans to take the following steps around their homes today to reduce the risk of wildfire:

1. Clean out gutters of debris.
2. Mow and water lawns.
3. Move firewood a minimum of 30 feet from homes.
4. Remove anything stored under decks or porches.
5. Make sure home addresses are visible from the road.

If a wildfire is spotted, contact local authorities immediately. A quick response can help save lives and property.

Did you know?



• The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. This was also the day that the Declaration of Independence was first read in public after people were summoned by the ringing of the Liberty Bell.

• Every 4th of July the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped (not actually rung) thirteen times in honor of the original thirteen colonies.

• In 1776, there were 2.5 million people living in the new nation. Today the population of the U.S.A. is 330 million.

• The White House held its first 4th July party in 1801.

• President John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on a July 4th. Adams and Jefferson (both signed the Declaration) died on the same day within hours of each other in 1826.

FREE ADMISSION

INDEPENDENCE DAY

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

FRIDAY, JULY 3rd

Tahoka Baseball Complex

4:00 PM ★★ FIREWORKS @ DUSK

★ **FOOD TRUCKS** ★

HARV'S GRILL • CLIFF'S FOOD WAGON •
BIG DOG • MONSTER'S ICE •
MUSIC & MUCH MORE!

★ **BRING LAWN CHAIRS**

Follow social distancing • Stay inside designated areas • 10 people or less inside each painted areas • Minimize contact between individuals & children outside of your immediate family • Park your cars in designated areas to observe the show.

Sponsored by: City of Tahoka

Visit a County Landmark!

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**

July 9, 2020

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