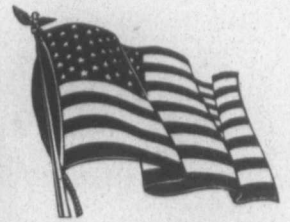




THE

Lynn County News



July 16, 2020 ■ Volume 117, No. 29

Serving Lynn County since 1903

Tahoka, Lynn County Texas

email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

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Officer escort on US 380 Wednesday

Lynn County Sheriff's Office is coordinating an escort of the body of Sheriff Vega from Dallas to Lubbock on Wednesday, July 15, which will be joined by other local and area law enforcement and first responders.

Lynn County citizens who want to show their respect may be stationed on the side of the road Wednesday on US 380 (from the Lynn County Law Enforcement Center to the US 87 turnoff in Tahoka) as the escort passes through Tahoka at approximately 3 p.m. on its way to Resthaven Funeral Home in Lubbock. Please line up starting around 2:30. If standing outside vehicles, officers ask that citizens please wear masks and social distance from others.

COVID UPDATE:

(Information from Lynn Co. Judge)

July 8: The South Plains Public Health District (SPPHD) confirmed 5 new cases of COVID-19 in Lynn County.

- #41 - female 20-29, Tahoka
- #42 - male 20-29, New Home area
- #43 - male 20-29, Tahoka
- #44 - female 40-49, Tahoka
- #45 - female 40-49, Tahoka

July 9: SPPHD confirmed 4 new cases

- #46 - female 40-49, north Lynn Co.
- #47 - female 20-29, Tahoka
- #48 - male 40-49, Tahoka *some residence
- #49 - female 10-19, Tahoka *some resid.

July 10: SPPHD confirmed 4 new cases

- #50 - female 70-79, O'Donnell
- #51 - female 30-39, O'Donnell
- #52 - female 40-49, O'Donnell
- #53 - male 30-39, Tahoka

July 14 STATUS:
Lynn County total cases: 53
13 Active - 38 Recovered - 2 Deaths
(Note: Due to the high volume of COVID-19 cases in the South Plains area, some delays from SPPHD in providing information accounts for some cases reported as active/recovered in the same report)

What's Outside

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
July 7	93	68	
July 8	99	68	
July 9	104	74	
July 10	103	73	60
July 11	105	73	Triple digit!
July 12	104	72	
July 13	106	71	

(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:	2.58"
Total Precip for June:	2.32"
Total Precip for July:	0.46"
Total Precip. for 2020:	9.00"

Saying Goodbye ...

Lynn County Sheriff Abraham Vega succumbs to COVID-19; services set Friday

by JUANELL JONES

Lynn County has lost a good and faithful servant to the community, with the passing of a longtime lawman here. Lynn County Sheriff Abraham Vega died Saturday, July 11, after a three-week battle with the coronavirus disease. He was 48 years old.

Vega tested positive for COVID-19 on June 20, and was hospitalized for treatment in Lubbock on June 24 - which was also the day of his second wedding anniversary with his wife, Rachel. His condition worsened and he was placed on a ventilator on June 28. On July 7 he was airlifted to Dallas for further treatment, where he was placed on an ECMO machine, which is similar to the heart-lung by-pass machine used in open-heart surgery. He succumbed to the illness on Saturday, July 11.

His death is the second in Lynn County due to complications of COVID-19.

Visitation will be held tonight (Thursday) in the First Baptist Church sanctuary in Tahoka from 5-8 p.m. Full law enforcement services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, July 17 at the Tahoka High School football field (sit in home stands, allow for social distancing please). Law enforcement in uniform may stand on the field. The service will be live-streamed, from the Lynn County Sheriff Facebook page.

He is survived by his wife, Rachel, his daughter, Cori Saldana (Joe) and son, Marcus Vega (Kyllyn) all of Tahoka, and two bonus children Kaitlyn Lehman and Curry Lehman of Lubbock; his father, Abel Vega of Tahoka; his mother, Rachel Corona-Saldana (Robert) of Tahoka; his brother, Mark Vega (Rachel) of San Angelo; his sister, Felicia Vallejo (Pete) of Tahoka; and a granddaughter, Emori Saldana of Tahoka.

Vega took office as Sheriff of

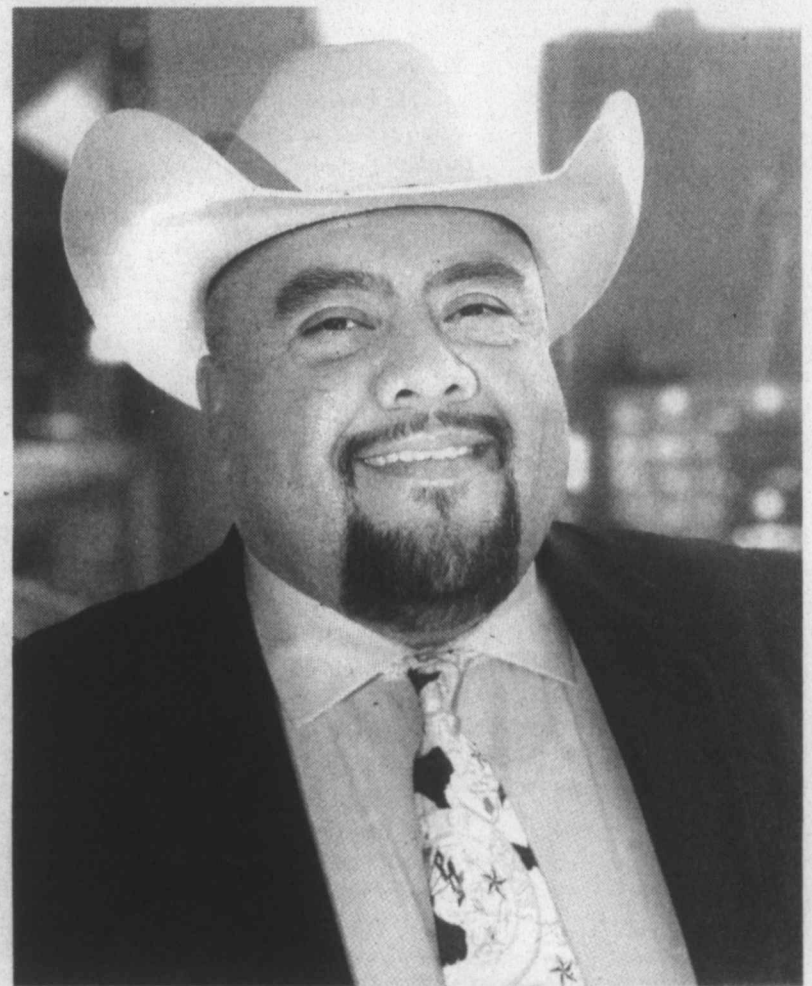
Lynn County in January 2017. He was completing his first four-year term as Sheriff, and had won the election in the March Republican Primary. He would have been unopposed on the November general election ballot, and would have started his second term in January 2021.

"On behalf of the Lynn County Commissioner's Court and myself, we are deeply saddened by the loss of our Sheriff, Abraham Vega," Lynn County Judge Mike Braddock told *The News* this week. "Abraham was not only a kind hearted, genuine man, but also a pillar of our community and county. His work as the Lynn County Sheriff didn't go unnoticed, everyone around him knew that was his passion. He has served as a law enforcement officer in the county for many years, but Sheriff was the title that fit him best. We will miss his friendship and leadership dearly. We would like to send our condolences to his family and loved ones," he added.

The Lynn County Courthouse will be closed Friday, in respect to the family, and so that county employees may attend services.

Sheriff Vega dedicated almost 30 years of his life, beginning at the age of 19, to serve and protect this community in various law enforcement positions.

After graduating from Tahoka High School in 1990, he began working as a dispatcher under Sheriff Jack Miller. He eventually worked through the ranks, becoming the jail administrator. In 1994, he graduated from the SPAG Law Enforcement Academy. He worked



LYNN COUNTY SHERIFF ABRAHAM VEGA

two years as a patrolman for the Tahoka Police Department, then three years as a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Charlie Smith, and was Tahoka ISD's first Chief of Police. Starting in 2001, he worked for the Lynn County Sheriff's Office as a Lieutenant and then Chief Deputy under Sheriffs Jake Diggs, Bob Wilson, and Jerry D. Franklin, before being elected as Sheriff in November 2016 and taking office in January 2017.

He was involved in the Texas Chief Deputies Association, serving on several committees before being elected to the board of directors by Chief Deputies from across the state. He moved up the ranks, and

served as president of the TCDA in 2016-2017. He continued to be a part of the TCDA after being elected sheriff, and served on the Sheriffs' Association Cold Case Review Team. He was also a member of the Texas Jail Association, the Sheriff's Association of Texas, and Caprock Peace Officers Association.

He was an active member of the Tahoka community, and could often be found at any community event. He was elected to serve on two different terms to the Tahoka ISD Board of Trustees, and served on the boards of Tahoka Little League, and Tahoka Little Dribblers.

Vega was a longtime volunteer (See SAYING GOODBYE, page 6)



SANDRA LAWS

District Clerk Sandra Laws to retire in September

Sandra Laws, District Clerk in Lynn County for the past 28 years, has announced that she will be retiring on Sept. 30, 2020. Mrs. Laws said that she is retiring to have time to do other things in her life.

"I have loved my job as District Clerk, and enjoyed meeting the citizens of Lynn County. Hopefully I have served them well, but it is just time for me to move on," Mrs. Laws told *The News* on Tuesday.

She is leaving in the middle of her four-year term, which would have ended in December 2022.

The Honorable Reed Filley, 106th District Judge, will appoint someone to fill the Lynn County District Clerk position until it can be filled in an election at a later date. He is currently accepting applications to consider for the appointment that will begin on Oct. 1, 2020.

The District Clerk is custodian of all records for the District Court in Lynn County, and coordinates the jury panel selection process for district court cases. This office also processes passport applications, manages court registry funds, and performs other duties and statutory responsibilities as determined by Texas law.

A job description for the position is printed in this issue of *The News*.



Cardio workout ... Tahoka ISD athletes take off running during workout sessions at Tahoka ISD early Monday morning, before the heat became extreme. (LCN PHOTO by Gary Jones)



Did you know?

“ There are more stars in space than there are grains of sand on every beach in the world. ”

The Lynn County News

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DEADLINE: Noon Tuesdays

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Obituaries



Abraham Martin Vega

Sheriff Abraham Martin Vega, 48, died Saturday, July 11, 2020 from complications of Covid-19. He was born November 11, 1971 in Brownfield, Texas.

He graduated from Tahoka High School in 1990. He began working at the Lynn County Sheriff's Office as a part-time dispatcher at the age of 19 under Sheriff Jack Miller. He eventually worked through the ranks to becoming the jail administrator. In 1994, he graduated from the South Plains Association of Governments' Law Enforcement Academy. He worked two years as a patrolman for the Tahoka Police Department, then three years as a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Charlie Smith and was Tahoka ISD's first Chief of Police. Since 2001, he has worked for the Lynn County Sheriff's Office as a Lieutenant and then Chief Deputy under Sheriffs Jake Diggs, Bob Wilson, and Jerry D. Franklin. He held TCOLE Telecommunicator, Jailer, Instructor, and Master

Peace Officer licenses. He was elected Sheriff, taking office in January 2017, and was re-elected this year. He was honored to serve as the Lynn County Sheriff.

He became a member of the Texas Chief Deputies Association in 2004 and served on several committees before being elected to the board of directors by Chief Deputies from across the state. He moved up the ranks, and served as president of the TCDA in 2016-2017. He continued to be a part of the TCDA after being elected sheriff. In 2017, he was appointed to the Sheriffs' Association Cold Case Review Team. He was also a member of the Texas Jail Association, the Sheriff's Association of Texas, and Caprock Peace Officers Association. He was elected to serve on two different terms to the Tahoka ISD Board of Trustees, Tahoka Little League, and Tahoka Little Dribblers. He volunteered as a photographer for the Lynn County News, taking thousands of athletic photos over the past ten-plus years.

He is survived by his wife, Rachel, his daughter, Cori Saldana (Joe) and son, Marcus Vega (Kylynn) all of Tahoka, two bonus children Kaitlyn Lehman and Curry Lehman of Lubbock; his father, Abel Vega of Tahoka; his mother, Rachel Corona-Saldana (Robert) of Tahoka; his brother, Mark Vega (Rachel), of San Angelo; and, his sister, Felicia Vallejo (Pete) of Tahoka; granddaughter, Emori Saldana of Tahoka, and extended family too numerous to count.

Pallbearers are Marcus Vega, George Aguirre, Gilbert Arredondo, Ernest Gomez, Jon Luna, and Rick Saldana. Honorary pallbearers are Joe Saldana, Elijah Vega, George Vega, and Trevor Vega.

Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Thursday, July 16 in the First Baptist Church sanctuary in Tahoka (please social distance).

Full law enforcement services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, July 17 at the Tahoka High School football field (sit in home stands, allow for social distancing please). Law enforcement in uniform may stand on the field. The service will be live-streamed from the Lynn County Sheriff Facebook page.

Graveside services will follow at Nevels Cemetery in Tahoka.

Donations may be made in Sheriff Abraham Vega's honor to the Texas Chief Deputies Association, PO Box 452, Tahoka, TX 79373 so that his legacy of a servant's heart may live on. Vega's brother, Mark, is also planning to establish a scholarship for Tahoka High School students in honor of Abraham. Donations will be accepted for the scholarship by mail to: Mark Vega, 5209 Valleyview Court, San Angelo TX 76904. (PAID)



From the ground up ... The construction site for the new Tahoka ISD gym was busy with workers early Monday morning, as work continues on the bond projects. A new gym, football fieldhouse and practice field, and baseball and softball fields, are being built on school property bordered on N. 5th and Ave. P. (LCN PHOTOS by Gary Jones)



TISD Board approves one new hire; eyes property purchase near gym

by JUANELL JONES

The Tahoka Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session Monday, July 13, approving a contract for one new staff member and discussing other school issues, including the possibility of purchasing property between N. 4th and N. 5th

Streets on Ave. P, north of the THS gym parking lot.

The TISD Board gave Superintendent Dick Van Hoose the authority to negotiate for the purchase of three lots that are located between the parking lot at the corner of N. 4th and Ave. P (across the street from the gym), all the way to

N. 5th Street.

"We're looking at removing the three abandoned houses on those properties, and then making it all into a parking area as well as making a clear area for easier access between the high school campus and the new gym and other facilities that are being built on N. 5th Street," the superintendent told *The News* on Tuesday.

Nicole Morissey was hired as a pre-kindergarten teacher, to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Virginia Herrera, who resigned to accept a position elsewhere.

The Board tabled action on accepting a 2020-21 Student Handbook and an Athletic Policy, and discussed on-campus/remote learning options being considered for the upcoming school year. See an article released by the superintendent regarding the Tahoka ISD educational plans, in this week's issue of *The News*. The article provides general information about the 2020-21 school year, and Supt. Van Hoose said that a more detailed article would be printed in a couple of weeks regarding the education options. The first day of school for students will be Aug. 18.

The superintendent also presented an update on the construction project that is underway at the N. 5th Street location, and said that the concrete slab for the gym may be poured this week, and then the block work on the outside walls can begin.

Trustees approved a Lynn County Hazard Mitigation Plan, and approved payment of monthly bills.

TISD Supt. says school to offer instructional options for students

Dick Van Hoose, Superintendent of Tahoka Independent School District, provided the following letter outlining the general details of the 2020-21 school year, including on-campus or remote instructional options for students. He anticipates providing a more detailed letter in a couple of weeks; outlining more specifics for parents and students as school is set to begin on Aug. 18.

The letter is as follows: "With many uncertainties about reopening schools in August, we are preparing for the year realizing parents will have a choice for instruction. Working with information we have received from the Governor and the Commissioner of Education for the Texas Education

Agency, we will have at the top of our priority list keeping students and staff healthy and safe while providing high quality instruction and supporting nutritional needs. Some of you will feel comfortable in sending your students back to school buildings and others might prefer to continue distance learning. We will offer both of those options in the 2020-21 school year.

"For those that prefer to continue distance learning, it will look different than it did in the spring. There will be higher expectations for participation and attendance, increased opportunities for real-time lessons with teachers and greater support if needed. As before, technology devices including internet access will be provided to families that need them.

"For those returning to our school buildings, the health of our students and teachers will be a top priority. We will follow state and local health guidelines including measures like wearing masks, social distancing, frequent hand washing, and increased cleaning of classrooms and common areas. Whether it is concerning safety of riding on the bus, getting meals from the cafeteria, or learning in the classroom, we will follow protocols to ensure the safety of all.

"Our teachers are ready to see students! We hope to have an easy transition back to school no matter which option you choose. Please keep a watch on our website for further information as we finalize plans over the next few weeks. We look forward to being back together."

Dick Van Hoose
Superintendent, Tahoka ISD

New Home Happenings

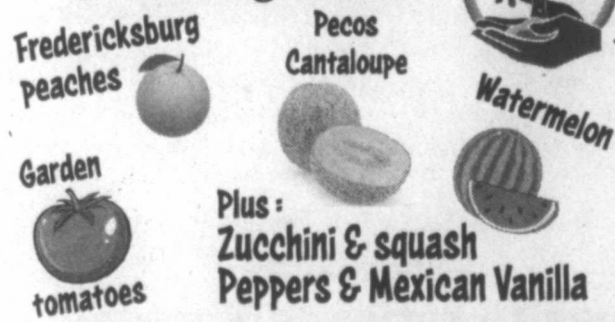
Condolences to the family of Sheriff Abraham Vega

This week, Tahoka and Lynn County lost its second citizen and public servant to Covid19. New Home's mayor, city council, and citizens offer condolences and prayers for comfort to Sheriff Vega's family and friends. We thank him for his service and thank his family for sharing him with our county.

Our condolences to the family of Sheriff Abraham Vega. He will be greatly missed. Love and prayers to all of the Vega family.

Clyde May & the extended May family

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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!

Garza County Health Clinic



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SARAH HITE, FNP-C

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(Answered after hours and weekends)

Clinic Hours: Monday - Thursday 8-5 • Friday 8-2 (Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00)
1104 North Avenue. S • Post, Texas 79356

Senior Citizens LUNCH MENU

July 20-24

Monday: Chicken fajitas, veg., corn, Spanish rice, fruit cocktail

Tuesday: Baked fish, red potatoes, coleslaw, peach shortcake

Wednesday: Pork roast, mashed sweet potatoes, mixed veg, coleslaw, tropical fruit salad

Thursday: Beef & bean chile Verde, rice, salad, cantaloupe

Friday: Herb roasted chicken thighs, potato wedges, peas & carrots, strawberries w/ whipped topping

Overstreet reminds TISD athletes of athletic physicals, new issues

Stephen Overstreet, Athletic Director for Tahoka Independent School District, this week reminds student athletes and their parents that some students will need athletic physicals for the upcoming school year, and of other issues.

"This upcoming year is going to be different than in years past. We are still unclear of what the guidelines will be for the start of football but we are hopeful to get those soon so we can plan accordingly," said Coach Overstreet. "With that being said, the first thing that will look different is the way in which we conduct athletic physicals. Here are the guidelines for this upcoming year. Please note that this is only for the 2020-2021 school year and we will return to our yearly schedule of getting our athletes examined by a medical professional next year. Below are the standards set out by the UIL for upcoming seasons:

"All incoming 7th grade girls and boys MUST have a physical before the first day of school or before any athletic competitions can begin. Also any athlete who sustained an injury last year and was held out of competition by a doctor must also get a new physical this year before they can compete.

"The LCHD Family Wellness Clinic here in Tahoka will have the necessary copies of the physical form and will set aside a few days in which athletes can make an appointment and get this physical done. Please do so before the year starts as the current situation we are in has put a bit of a strain on

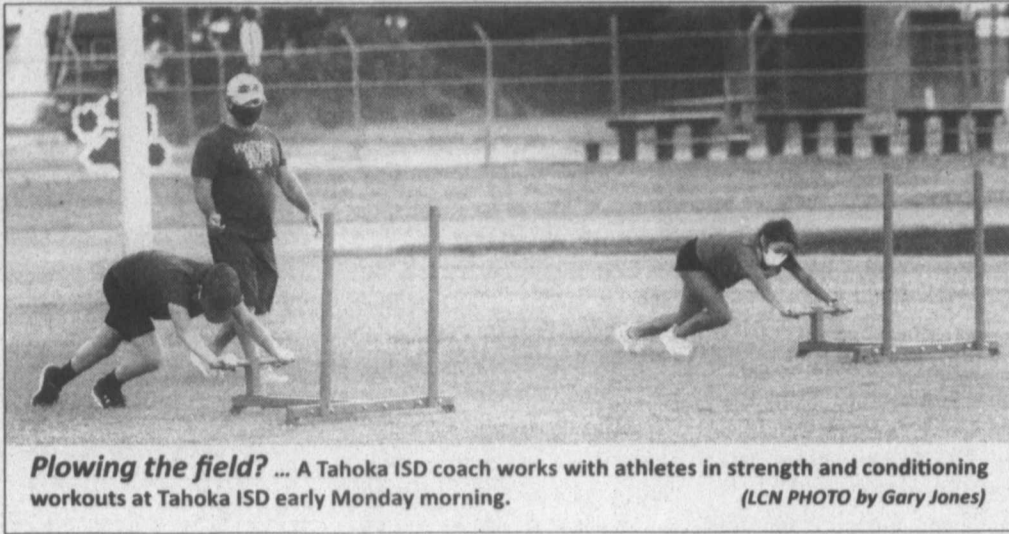
our healthcare workers. Plus, an athlete is not allowed to compete in any competitions or practices until they have these done, and practice times and games are extremely valuable this year. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know, as this is different than in years past for all of us," said the AD.

Overstreet also asks student athletes and their parents to watch for a two-a-day workout schedule and any further updates as they come along.

"We will keep updating all social media outlets like the Athletic Booster Club page, the Tahoka ISD App, and the Lynn County News. I have been hesitant to send out letters this year as the situation seems to change daily. Please know that I will keep you as updated as we are in the coaches office.

"I also want to remind you that the health and safety of our athletes is our number one priority," said Overstreet. "We have conducted summer workouts and the attendance has been amazing. Sanitation, social distancing, and daily temperature checks has been something we have all had to adjust to, but the kids have responded well. We are very hopeful and excited about the 2020-2021 school year, but we are also very well in the loop about the differences that will come with it.

"Please know that if at any time you have questions we will do our best to answer them. We might not have the answers but please know that we will do whatever it takes to find them to help us all understand this new normal," he added.



Plowing the field? ... A Tahoka ISD coach works with athletes in strength and conditioning workouts at Tahoka ISD early Monday morning. (LCN PHOTO by Gary Jones)

USDA designates 10 Texas Counties as primary natural disaster areas

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue has designated 10 Texas counties as primary natural disaster areas. Producers in Carson, Gaines, Hutchinson, Moore, Oldham, Potter, Roberts, Sherman, Terry, and Yoakum counties who suffered losses due to recent drought may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans.

This natural disaster designation allows FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinancing of certain debts.

Producers in the contiguous Texas counties of Andrews, Armstrong, Cochran, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Ochiltree, Randall, and Wheeler, along with Lee and Quay counties in New

Mexico; and Cimarron and Texas counties in Oklahoma, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is Feb. 25, 2021.

FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

FSA has a variety of additional programs to help farmers recover from the impacts of this disaster. FSA programs that do not require a disaster declaration include: Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program; Emergency Conservation Program; Livestock Forage Disaster Program; Livestock Indemnity Program; Operating and Farm Ownership Loans; and the Tree Assistance Program.

Farmers may contact their local USDA service center for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at farmers.gov/recover.

From City Hall

by Jerry Webster
Tahoka City Administrator

TIME TO RETIRE: I began my service with the City of Tahoka on November 12, 1987. My intention was to be here for only a short time... Well, I guess you can say 30+ years is a short time... right?

I have enjoyed my years at the City of Tahoka, and I feel truly blessed to have served the best mayors and councilmembers. And, I will always be proud to call Tahoka my home.

However, I feel it is time for me to step down and let someone new assume the duties of city administrator.

I have set my retirement date for January 22, 2021. This should allow adequate time for the mayor and council to find my replacement.

I greatly appreciate the opportunities provided me these past 30+ years, and I hope in some small way I have bettered the community in which I live and have grown to love.

Jerry Webster
City Administrator

Caller reports rabid raccoon

by JUANELL JONES

A caller to the Lynn County Sheriff's Office at 12:50 p.m. last Wednesday reported that there was a rabid raccoon in the back yard of her parents' house, in the 200 block of Smith Ave. in New Home. A deputy met with the claimant but there was no other information as to whether the raccoon was caught or tested for rabies.

At 2 p.m. Saturday a caller reported that she had been watching a fire that was about two miles east of New Home on FM 211 on the north side, that appeared to be getting larger. According to the call sheet, the fire was a controlled burn by a landowner who was burning two piles of pallets.

The Sheriff's Office received several calls last Monday night, July 6, after 10 p.m., reporting an older model white pickup was driving very slowly and swerving in the US 87 southbound lanes, but officials were unable to locate the vehicle.

On July 9, a man reported a vehicle was stolen, after he had given an individual prior permission to use the vehicle and a credit card, but that the individual had not returned the vehicle. A report was taken.

Other calls during the week included assisting motorists, and assisting Lubbock County with providing transport to a female involved in a domestic assault to Tahoka.

Lynn County Jail held 17 inmates during the week, including one held for Floyd County.

Did you know?

• The original Xbox contained edited snippets of actual transmissions from the Apollo missions.

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ANY SIZE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS IN UNIFORM, POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS, SHERIFFS, DOCTORS, NURSES, OR EMTS

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Capital Farm Credit
Jason Gandy
Shaun Wied

Farmers Co-op Association
No. 1

FirstBank & Trust
Karl McDonald

Lynn County Farm Bureau

Commissioners approve hazard mitigation plan

by **JUANELL JONES**

Lynn County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 13, at 9:30 a.m. in the County Courtroom, approving a hazard mitigation plan, among other agenda items. Commissioners Matt Woodley, John Hawthorne, Don Blair and Larry Durham were present with County Judge Mike Braddock presiding.

Commissioners approved a resolution for adopting the FEMA approved Lamb and Lynn counties and participation jurisdictions multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. Hazard mitigation works to reduce loss of life and property by reducing the impact of disasters. Through effective mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation strategies, greater risk reduction can be achieved.

Annual road reports were discussed, and commissioners approved the purchase of a dedicated line for Tele-Med for use with Lynn County Hospital by county jail inmates. A resolution on this issue will be on

the next agenda.

Commissioners went into executive session for an hour to discuss personnel matters.

Commissioners voted to table an agenda item regarding a deferred payroll deduction. Monthly bills were approved as presented.

Judge Braddock expressed appreciation for Sheriff Abraham Vega and said his death is a shock to all and he will be missed. Sheriff Vega passed away Saturday, July 11, 2020 due to Covid-19 complications.

Braddock also informed the court of the passing of Rigo Avila, a former maintenance person at the courthouse.

County Clerk Susan Tipton expressed her appreciation to Bill Schoemann for his grant writing skills and getting the election personnel Covid-19 masks, gloves, sanitizer and plexiglass through grants. Judge Braddock also spoke appreciation to Bill for all the grants he has written for Lynn County.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Cold water... First National Bank of Tahoka employees Brek Young, Dawn Little and Patrick Herrera, handed out free water at the City of Tahoka Fireworks show on July 3rd.

Tahoka City Administrator Jerry Webster announces upcoming retirement plans

by **JUANELL JONES**

Jerry Webster, long-time City Administrator for the City of Tahoka, is planning to retire in January of 2021. While Tahoka City Council and other city officials have been aware of Webster's plans for some time, the City Council is now considering advertising for candidates to fill the position, and the issue was discussed at Monday night's regular council meeting.

"I plan to retire on Jan. 22, 2021," Webster told *The News* this week. "We will probably begin advertising the position soon, in order for the council to have plenty of time to consider candidates and make a decision in a time-frame that works best for them," he added.

Webster has been City Administrator for the past 25 years, but he has worked for the City of Tahoka for 33 years. He was first hired in 1987 as a police officer with the Tahoka Police Dept., and then served as Chief of Police from 1989 until May of 1995, when he was named City Administrator.

"I have enjoyed my years at the City of Tahoka, and I feel truly blessed to have served the best mayors and

councilmembers. And, I will always be proud to call Tahoka my home. However, I feel it is time for me to step down and let someone new assume the duties of city administrator," said Webster.

In other business at Monday's council meeting, the Oath of Office was administered to three council members who were declared re-elected in May after running unopposed in their bids for their three-year terms of office. Ronny Jolly, District 2, Ryan Curry in District 4, and Ray D. Box in District 5, all were administered the oaths of office. Box was also re-elected as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Shiloh Braddock is the council member for District 3. The District 1 seat on the council is currently vacant, and will be filled in a special election in November.

The council approved an increase in gate rates to Republic Services at the city landfill, and approved a resolution adopting the FEMA approved Lamb and Lynn Counties and participating jurisdictions "Multi-Jurisdictional" Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hazard mitigation works to reduce loss of life and property by reducing the

impact of disasters.

The Tahoka Economic Development Corporation's "Tahoka Business Grant Program" was approved with minor changes to the information presented by the TEDC. The program can provide funding up to \$10,000 for new startup businesses or businesses looking to expand, that meet the program criteria. More information on this program will be printed in *The News* at a later date, but anyone interested in the program may contact Tahoka City Hall for information.


Council members discussed the success of the city-sponsored July 4th event and fireworks show, noting that they had heard positive comments about the event that was spearheaded by councilman Braddock. Braddock told the council that he would like to make it an annual event, and discussed the possibility of spearheading an events committee for other events throughout the year as well.

Monthly bills were also approved.

Mayor John Baker led the meeting with Webster and all city council members present including Jolly, Curry, Box, and Braddock.

Did you know?

- For her part as June Boatwright in the 2008 movie "The Secret Life of Bees", Alicia Keys learned to play cello within 4 weeks.
- In Utah, birds have the right of way on a highway.



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Tuesday July 21st @ 10:00am

We have a great lineup of vendors who will give us information about their great services

Some of the many things discussed will be

- Skilled nursing placement
 - Home Health
 - Wound Care
 - Hospice
 - Swing bed
- COVID-19 update
- Early Head Start
- Well checks

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July 23rd @ Slaton Care Center from 10:00-11:00am

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Area News News items from area newspapers

Lamesa firefighters get 19 calls in 24 hours

LAMESA - From Welch to Patricia and all over Lamesa, fires caused by fireworks were popping up at a steady clip here Saturday night, July 4.

A building at the former Lamesa Country Club was heavily damaged and an abandoned house in Patricia was leveled by flames.

"We set a record," Lamesa Fire Chief Larry Duyck said. "In 24 hours we had 19 fire calls, and they were all fireworks related."

Duyck said firefighters would get one blaze extinguished and have just enough time to refill tanks with water before heading to another.

"It was pretty much non-stop," he said. Eight of the calls on the Fourth of July were in the last two hours before midnight.

Most of the fires involved only grass or brush and were extinguished before they could do much harm. Such was not the case with the fire that damaged the former pro shop at the former county club, now the A&W Event Center. Duyck said he could see flames when he arrived there shortly after the blaze was reported around 1:20 a.m. Sunday.

He said the fire already had gone up a wall and reached the attic of the structure, which had wood sides and a metal roof. "We broke a window to get inside and put it out," he said. "We were very fortunate."

The interior of the building received mostly smoke and water damage, Duyck said, but the fire did cause some damage in the attic.

Ackerly volunteer firefighters also responded and helped transport water to the location.

"We were preparing for a long ordeal so we used our drop tank and hauled water to it," Duyck said, referring to a portable water tank which can be set up at a scene for fire trucks to draw water from.

"Everybody did a good job and we put it out fairly quickly." At Patricia, however, a long-abandoned house on the west side of Highway 349 was fully engulfed when firefighters arrived after getting a call around 11:20 p.m. Saturday.

Firefighters opted to let the building burn and focus on preventing it from spreading through tall grass to other parts of the small community. Firefighters from both Ackerly and Lamesa responded to that blaze, which Duyck said also caused by fireworks.

About 10:00 p.m. on Saturday a possible house fire was reported in Welch. Volunteer firefighters in Welch were notified and later reported the fire was contained to grass that had burned right up to the house but did not ignite the structure.

Most of the other fires were in Lamesa or the immediate surrounding area and caused relatively minor damage, limited to grass and brush.

The largest of those, Duyck said, involved one in Sulphur Springs Draw area near Seminole Highway and Ave. V, and a later one just south of the RV parking area at Forrest Park.

"A lot of them (fires) were just small ones but we had plenty of them," he said.

Several fires also were in trash containers, including dumpsters which had been placed along Weaver Road to give people who discharge fireworks there a place to dispose of their fireworks rather than leaving it alongside the road or adjacent fields.

-from the Lamesa Press Reporter

Concrete work gets underway for new high school building

BROWNFIELD - Concrete work for the new Brownfield High School has officially begun.

The local concrete crew, primarily of Brownfield, began pouring the concrete for the footage of the school early Thursday morning. The concrete, mostly from Brownfield itself, is part of the Package Two process.

During the Package Two process, the crew will continue to pour large amounts of concrete on a weekly basis for many weeks to come, preparing the foundation for Package Three to begin once that job is completed. Package Three will include the construction process.

-from the Brownfield News



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Department: District Clerk
FLSA Status: Exempt
Beginning Date: October 1, 2020

The 106th Judicial District Judge is accepting resumes and will soon make an appointment for the position of District Clerk of Lynn County. Position requirements include:

- (1) Serving as Clerk and custodian of all records for the District Court;
- (2) Indexing and securing all court records, collecting filing fees, and handling funds held in litigation and money awarded to minors;
- (3) Coordinating the jury panel selection process;
- (4) Processing passport applications;
- (5) Managing court registry funds; and
- (6) Being astute in determining and abiding by statutory responsibilities of a district clerk, including administrative, recordkeeping, finance, and miscellaneous responsibilities as determined by Texas Law

A complete job description may be obtained by emailing a request to djudge@co.dawson.tx.us. Resumes may be submitted until the position is filled. Resumes may be mailed to Hon. Reed Filley, PO Box 1268, Lamesa, TX 79331.

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Lynn County Hospital District is located in Tahoka, TX and is currently seeking a Retail Associate for our local pharmacy - Tahoka Drug.

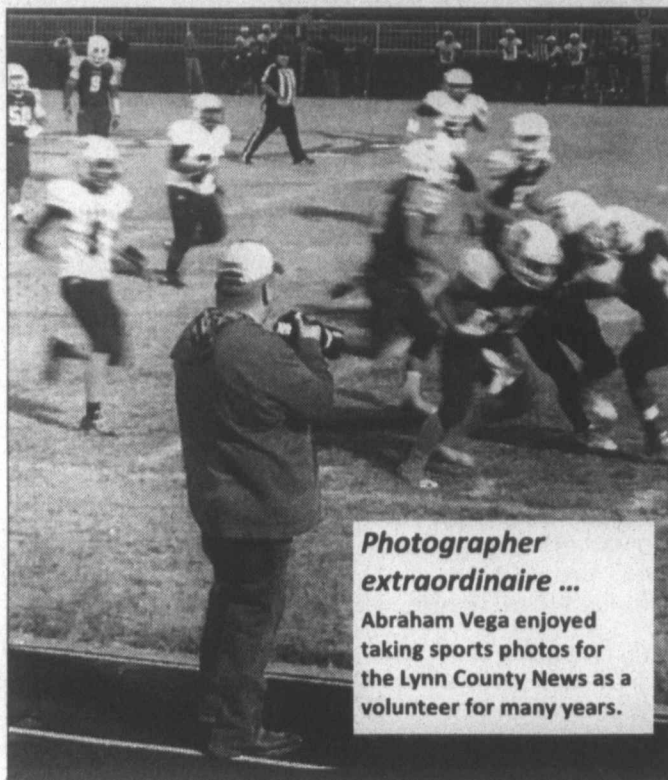
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Photographer extraordinaire ...
Abraham Vega enjoyed taking sports photos for the Lynn County News as a volunteer for many years.

Saying goodbye to Sheriff Vega ...

(Continued from page 1)

photographer for the Lynn County News, delighting especially in taking sports photos. He was often seen at school sports events with his camera, and he enjoyed being on the sidelines at football games, capturing that perfect shot in basketball, or getting those candid moments both on and off the field or court. He was an avid self-motivated learner in the art of photography, and his photos were often truly exceptional. He shared these photos with *The Lynn County News* for free, because he delighted in the opportunity to take the photos, and he was an extraordinary friend to *The News*.

"I knew Abraham to be, first and foremost, a kind and gentle man, extremely loyal, fun-loving, and passionately dedicated to his career in law enforcement," said Juanell Jones, publisher of *The News*. "He loved his family, and he was a worrier when it came to conflict of any kind, which probably made his job as sheriff a difficult one on many occasions. He was an honest man, and a man of faith. He always entered the News office with a friendly greeting and a smile on his face. He was a good friend and his loss will leave a very big hole in our community. He will be greatly missed."

Tahoka Mayor John Baker expressed condolences on behalf of the City of Tahoka, saying, "From the time when Abraham was Chief Deputy and after he became Sheriff, we have always enjoyed the relationship we've had with him and the Sheriff's Dept. He was always ready to back up our police department and assist in any way. As Lynn County EMS Director, I want to express our thanks to Sheriff Vega and his department for all the many times they assist EMS whenever needed.

intoxicated," Peterson said.

"He was trying to clear everything and be sure it was unloaded and pointed it at the ground and pulled the trigger," he said.

"Unfortunately, there was one more bullet in it." Peterson said Tuesday he was uncertain of the extent of the man's injury but that it was not life-threatening."

— from the Lamesa Press Reporter

Abraham was an asset to our community and county, and he will be missed."

The Lynn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) has rallied around Abraham's family during this traumatic time. Since Vega's death, members of the department have been respectfully stationed 24/7 at the home that he shared with his wife Rachel, and a deputy goes with Mrs. Vega if she leaves her home, or takes her anywhere she needs to go.

"There was a deputy here when I got home from Dallas, and there will be one outside our home, until he is buried," Mrs. Vega told *The News*.

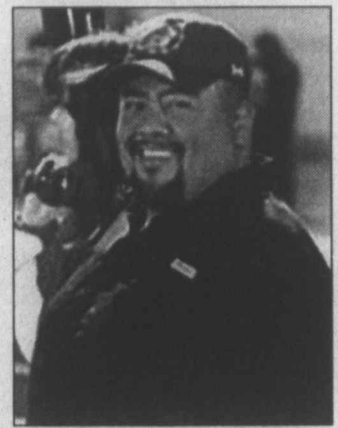
The LCSO was also providing a contingent of officers to escort the body of Sheriff Vega home from Dallas on Wednesday. Tahoka Police Chief Jeff Parker was planning to join the escort, and many other law enforcement officers across the state were expected to join in the escort as it passed through each county, accompanying the Lynn County contingent on its journey.

Abraham's wife, Rachel, shared these thoughts of her husband with *The News*:

"I had four of the most amazing years with the man who changed my life. He had a giving heart, loving eyes, and a contagious smile. He loved me before I knew he loved me. He made sure that I knew he loved me every day. He supported me in anything I wanted to do. And when it was his turn, I was his backbone, his support, his helpmate, and I never turned in the face of adversity. His number one goal every day was to make me happy, and in turn, I made him happy. Our marriage wasn't 50-50 but 100-100 every day. I never wanted to be away from him. I missed him every day he had to go to work and leave for a few hours. Every text, every snap made my heart jump and my face smile. I can sit here and cry about everything we won't have tomorrow or the next day. I can sit here and have regrets. But I won't. Because we lived. We saw beautiful places, we explored island paradises, we experienced great wonders of our world. We experienced life together. I have memories that will last a lifetime. It was short, and we would have made so many more happy memories, but

he gave me enough love that it will be enough to last. He made me a better person, and I know I made his life happier. Always."

Although he was a humble man, Sheriff Abraham Vega made a big impact on his community. He will be missed.



Tributes to Sheriff Abraham Vega

from staff members at Lynn County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Vega believed in me and saw something in me and gave me the opportunity to be his Chief Deputy. He was teaching me how to be a better man, a better father, and a better leader! In the year I worked in Lynn County I learned more from him than anyone else so far in my law enforcement career. This man had a heart of gold and was so compassionate in helping people and making our community better. We had some pretty intimate conversations and I truly saw him as a big brother. I'm going to miss you Sheriff Vega and thank you for impacting my life the way you did in such a short period of time! My heart aches for his wife and children and family. #RIPSheriffVega

— Jason Flores

Sheriff, thank you for giving me the opportunity to work for you and the Lynn County Sheriff's Office. The little time I knew you and worked with you, I respected you so much! You were a great man and were always there to help. You will be missed dearly. But we got it from here sir, Rest Easy Sheriff.

With much Love and Respect,
Aaron & Denicia Vasquez

Abraham came into each of our lives to show us what we are all capable of. He showed us how to be amazing and to push towards our dreams and goals. He will live on within each of us as an example of love, life, and happiness in our journey. May he shine forever true in each of us as we continue on. As he left us all a legend.

— Charlie Duran

Sheriff, I just want to thank you for the opportunity you gave me to work with you. You were always laughing and making people laugh, there was never a dull moment in the office. You will be missed but your presence will always be there in our hearts and memories. Rest easy.

— Xavier Ortiz

"All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there. You live on in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here." — Mitch Albom, author

I want to thank you Abraham for helping me develop in life both professionally and personally. Not only were you a wonderful boss but an empathetic friend and a natural born leader. I am profoundly blessed to have had you as a mentor. Rachel thanks for making sheriff so happy and for showing me the author of such a fitting quote thru your teaching. Marcus thanks for blessing me with the friendship of you and your dad for all these years, from trips to the movies, concerts and everything in between I will always cherish the unforgettable memories. Condolences to the entire Vega family and friends.

— with love, Angel (Mia Saldana)

I have known Sheriff Abraham Vega for over 40 years; when I think about it, that is most of my life. From kindergarten to high school graduates. Our friendship really began in Junior High. Ham would share his homework assignments with me (lol) and in return I would braid his ducktail. I can still hear him say, Kat did you do your homework, and most of the time my answer would be no, Ham, did you.

Even way back then Ham knew that his dream job would be Sheriff of Lynn County. I know this to be true because out of 44 students, three chose law enforcement as career jobs. Fifteen years would pass before I would see him again — we were at the Walker Sayle unit in Breckenridge TX doing prisoner transport. We had a reunion right there in their intake room. I remember those guards looking at us like we were crazy! We said our good byes and he promised to check in on mom (and he did). I smiled all the way back to Marlin TX thinking about my friend. Five years later he would be my Chief Deputy and eventually my Sheriff.

Sheriff Vega had a way of making people smile. He was always giving a helping hand, from taking both of my girls' senior pictures and invitations, to taking so many pictures of my son's games (football, basketball and baseball) that felt like I was at the games — without charging me because I am a single parent and he was my friend. Thank you again. If he had the pleasure to introduce me he would say "Katrina loves to sing gospel you should hear her" (even though I am not that good). He would tease me at work because I always have a different wig on. He would be laughing, saying oh lord, what do you have on today! I would reply, it's my fierce wig today.

Our friendship has lasted for over four decades. I couldn't have asked for a better friend. Thanks for making me smile and being my friend. Rest easy friend and I will see you on the other side of the gates!

— Katrina aka Ms. White

Area News

News items from area newspapers

Mask order now active in Dawson County

LAMESA - With Dawson County now exceeding 20 active cases of COVID-19, the county is now under the face mask order issued last week by Governor Greg Abbot.

The requirement will last for a minimum of 30 days, even if the county's active case count drops below 20 during that time period.

The announcement was made Monday, July 6, by Lamesa Mayor Josh Stevens and Dawson County Judge Foy O'Brien. Stevens said Dawson County now has 23 active cases of COVID 19.

The order issued by the governor last week states, in part, "Every person in Texas shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household."

— from the Lamesa Press Reporter

Cruise, car show slated in Slaton

SLATON - The Slaton Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Rock & Roll Nostalgia Car Show and Cruise this weekend, July 17-18, on the town square in Slaton. The event is free to the public.

The Cruise will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday, with an entry fee of \$10 per car (or free for participants in Saturday's Car Show). On Saturday, the Car Show is set for 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on the town square, with awards at 4:30 p.m. The Best of Show will be awarded a \$1000 prize, with \$100 prizes going for Best Engine, Best Interior, and Best Paint.

The show is open to classic and refurbished cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Raffles, special displays, and food trucks/vendors will also be at the square.

— from The Slatonite

Shooting reported Saturday, man OK

LAMESA - Alcohol may have played a part in a local resident shooting himself in the foot early Saturday morning, according to Lamesa Police Chief Josh Peterson.

Police received a call at 1:33 a.m. reporting that a male was in the emergency room at Medical Arts Hospital with a gunshot wound to his foot.

Investigating officers determined the shooting apparently was the result of an accident by the 52-year-old man while he was handling a .38Special revolver, Peterson said.

"He was trying to unload his weapon and was somewhat

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