



THE

# Lynn County News



June 3, 2021 ■ Volume 118 No. 22

Serving Lynn County since 1903

Tahoka, Lynn County Texas

email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

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### TAHOKA CITY POOL NOW OPEN

**OPEN TUES-SAT, 12:30-5:30**  
 Admission: \$3.00 per person  
 Individual Summer Pass: \$75  
 Family Summer Pass: \$150  
 Call City Hall, 561-4211 to schedule Pool Parties  
 The Tahoka City Pool will remain open thru Labor Day

### Rain drenches area

Memorial Day weekend showers brought 3.32 inches of precipitation to Tahoka, on May 30-31. Other areas to the north received at least that much, and the good news is that the showers came without any hail or high winds. Officially, according to National Weather Service measurements, Tahoka has had 6.75 inches of precipitation in May.



**Don't forget to take your LCN on trips!**

The Lynn County News loves to travel - so don't forget to take a photo with The News when you take a trip!

Send us your "Where In The World is the Lynn County News" photos, and we will publish them as soon as space allows. This feature has proven very popular with LCN readers, and we love to see all the fabulous places that our readers travel.

Email your photos to: [LynnCoNews@poka.com](mailto:LynnCoNews@poka.com)  
 (Include names and location please)

## WHAT'S OUTSIDE

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
May 25	90	60	
May 26	89	67	
May 27	92	65	
May 28	80	58	
May 29	78	60	
May 30	79	59	0.93"
May 31	68	58	2.39"

(Precipitation/temps measured as of 6 a.m. on date reported, for the previous 24-hr period)

Total Precip for Jan:	1.23"
Total Precip for Feb:	0.15"
Total Precip for Mar:	0.10"
Total Precip for Apr:	0.51"
Total Precip for May:	6.75"
Total Precip. for 2021:	8.74"

## Water leak floods county courthouse, causes extensive damage on all levels

**W**hen Lynn County Judge Mike Braddock arrived at the basement-level entry door to the Lynn County Courthouse early last Wednesday morning, he discovered water running underneath the door. With foreboding, he opened the door, and it got worse - it looked like rain coming down the walls, he said, flooding the basement hallways and offices. Upon further hasty inspection, it was discovered that a large waterline joint to one of the pumps that are placed throughout the ceilings of the four-story building had popped off sometime during the night above the district courtroom balcony, flooding the courthouse on every level and causing extensive damage throughout the recently-renovated historical building. The amount of water in the courtrooms, halls and offices was staggering.

"It's bad," the Judge told *The News* the next day.

"I got here about 7:30, and water was running underneath the door. Above the district courtroom balcony on the third floor, one of the hoses blew off and water had been gushing out all night, reaching all the way down to the basement office level," Braddock said.

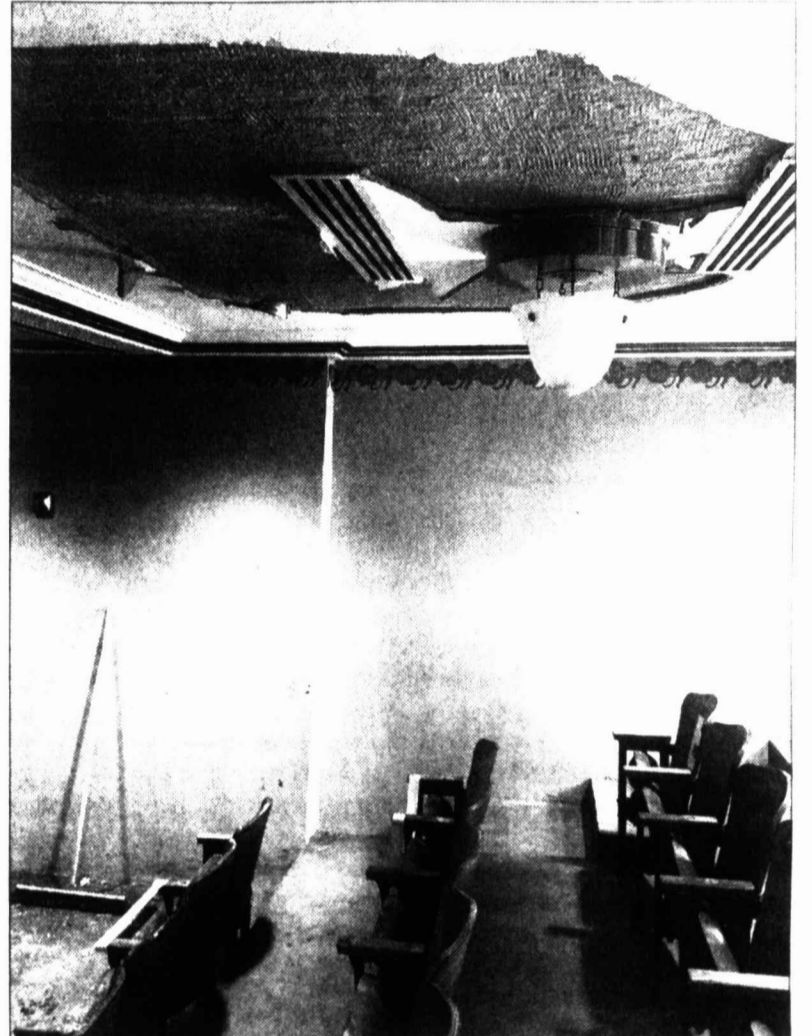
During its \$9 million restoration throughout 2017-19, a new geothermal heating and cooling system was installed in the courthouse, which included extensive waterlines running from underground pipes to an array of pumps and waterlines installed above all ceilings in every office throughout the four-story building.

The geothermal system is touted as providing great energy-efficiency savings, but since its installation there have been multiple

small leaks which required repairs. In fact, prior to last Tuesday night's catastrophic flooding, repairmen had been working on several leaks in the system in the same area as where the waterline popped off the joint to the pump.

"We had repairs being made that day in that same area. To make repairs, they first have to drain the system down to work on the leaks. After making those repairs, then they start putting water back in the lines," explained Judge Braddock. "Now, it's supposed to hold 100 pounds of pressure, but they only went to 60 pounds because they did not want to blow anything. It was tested at 60 for five minutes, then they reduced the pressure and stayed till about 6 p.m. to make sure everything was okay, and it was all good. We actually had an

(See *COURTHOUSE DAMAGE*, page 3)



**Where it started ...** The ceiling above the third-floor balcony above the second-floor District Courtroom is where the water began gushing down, flooding the balcony and gushing into the district courtroom, then running down walls and stairwells all the way to the basement level of the courthouse. Above this ceiling is where the waterline popped off the connection to one of the 54 pumps in the geothermal heating/cooling system.

## FNB to become Happy State Bank on Monday: First National Bank to end 114 years of service on June 4th

**M**ore than a century of service and commitment to the community of Tahoka and Lynn County will come to an end at 3 p.m. Friday, June 4, 2021 when the First National Bank of Tahoka will close its doors for the last time under that name. That moment in time signifies the final hour of FNB's 114-year history here. However, a new era of service and commitment will continue under a new name when the bank doors open on Monday morning, June 7, transitioning under the new ownership of Happy State Bank, who has acquired FNB through a merger.

As a result of the transaction, Happy will assume First National Bank of Tahoka's approximately \$12 million in loans and \$50 million in deposits, increasing its total assets to roughly \$5.6 billion and growing its location count to 61 branches in 45 Texas communities. Happy State Bank was founded in 1908 in Happy, Texas and today is headquartered in Amarillo.

"Tahoka is such a great community, and this is a fantastic opportunity for both banks. We can't wait to welcome FNB Tahoka and its customers to the Happy family," said Happy State Bank President and CEO Mikel Williamson.

Happy State Bank has provided information to FNB customers about the conversion schedule and other details about the transition.

While the transition signifies new growth and opportunities for local banking, it is the end of a 114-year era for First National Bank, which opened on March 16, 1907

during the pioneer days of Tahoka and Lynn County. The bank actually opened on May 4, 1906 under the name of First State Bank, but within a year, First State Bank was liquidated and the First National Bank of Tahoka was chartered in 1907 with paid up capital of \$25,000.

Frederick B. Hegi, Jr., longtime chairman of the Board of Directors of First National Bank of Tahoka, recalled some of the bank's history.

"There have been four differ-

“Looking back ... It has indeed been an honor [for FNB] to work with and support our schools, cities, hospital, county and civic organizations.

— JOHN KREY

ent ownership groups of the First National Bank of Tahoka during its 114 years in business. The first owner was Ance Lockwood, and his widow took over control of the bank after Mr. Lockwood's passing. In the 1950's, Walter Slaton

acquired control from the estate of Mrs. Lockwood. Each of these prior owners were very active and respected members of the Tahoka and Lynn County communities. After suffering a stroke in the 1950's, Walter Slaton sold control of the bank to Jim Moore of Lubbock and his father-in-law, Dr. C.M. Phillips, who lived in Levelland," said Hegi.

"The Fender family located in Tyler bought control of the bank from Jim Moore and Dr. Phillips in

1974. Recognizing the importance of local ownership of community banks, a local group including the Hegi family, Brian Wright, Charlie Louder and Natt Park purchased the Fender family's interest in 1990. That group has continued to

own the bank for the past 31 years," stated Hegi.

"Importantly, John Krey led the bank [as bank president] for 28 years during most of that time period, and members of the Hegi family have been actively involved in the direction of the bank for the past 91 years. This ownership group and directors have had close ties to the Tahoka and Lynn County communities. That close relationship helped build an understanding, trust and support for the needs of the agriculture community for many years," Hegi added.

"Having a board which is knowledgeable and actively involved with the community was critically important for the success of our agricultural customers as well as for the growth of the bank. During the past 20 years, directors Greg Henley, Jim Solomon, Don Blair, Steve Sanders, Sam Louder and Trent Leverett joined the bank

(See *FIRST NATIONAL BANK*, page 6)



### DID YOU KNOW?

“Whatcom County in the state of Washington unanimously passed a resolution declaring the region a Sasquatch Protection and Refuge Area.”

**The Lynn County News**

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**TA** Texas Press Association 2021

**Senior Citizens LUNCH MENU**

June 7-11

**Monday:** Polish sausage, red cabbage w/ sweet and sour sauce, potato salad, black forest parfait

**Tuesday:** King Ranch casserole, pinto beans, pineapple ring, sugar cookie

**Wednesday:** Smothered steak, mashed potatoes, mixed greens, peach short cake

**Thursday:** BBQ chicken breast, smothered potatoes, carrot & raisin salad, sliced apples

**Friday:** Polluck wedge w/ lemon, lima beans, coleslaw, lemon cookie

**Obituaries**



**Robert "Jingos" Hiracheta**

Robert "Jingos" Hiracheta, 58, of New Home, passed away Friday, May 28, 2021.

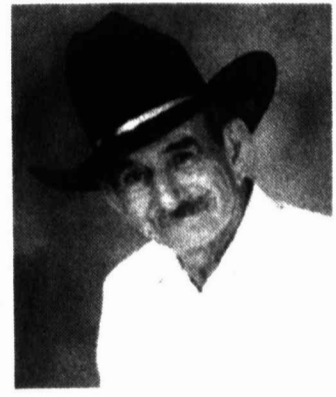
Rosary services will be at 5:00 pm Sunday, May 30, 2021 in Englund's Chapel in Slaton. Celebration of life mass will be at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in Wilson at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church under the direction of England Funeral Service of Slaton. Interment will follow in Tahoka at Nevels Memorial Cemetery.

Robert was born in Tahoka, Texas, on April 28, 1963 to Moises and Hilaria Hiracheta. He graduated from New Home High School and joined the workforce. He began working for Horn & Gladden Gin Machinery, as a foreman, for many years. Robert then started driving his own truck hauling cotton and steel. In his later years, he worked with his son's growing their own business along with farming and custom harvesting.

Robert never met a stranger. He loved to talk and joke around with everyone that he came in contact with. He spent his free time enjoying the atmosphere at Caprock Cafe along with an ice-cold Shiner.

Robert was preceded in death by his daughter, Ashley Hiracheta, father, Moises Hiracheta, and his grandparents.

He is survived by his sons, Kristopher (Lindsey) Hiracheta of Acuff and Chase (Nicole) Hiracheta of Midland; his mother, Hilaria Hiracheta of New Home; his sister Nancy (Joey) Stults of Weatherford; and grandchildren, Hunter, Kooper, Kacen, Koe, and Koleson.



**Rudy Tejada**

Rodolfo "Rudy" Rodriguez Tejada, 84, of Tahoka passed away surrounded by family Sunday, May 30, 2021. He was born May 4, 1937, to Manuel Solis and Beatrice (Rodriguez) Tejada in Falfurrias, Texas. Rudy married Mercy (Alvarado) Tejada March 4, 1957, in Lovington, New Mexico. He had a natural talent for fixing things and was a jack of all trades.

In his early years, Rudy worked as an ambulance driver, carpenter, ranch hand and he served as a police officer under Jack Miller for the City of Tahoka. In 1972, Rudy and Mercy opened Tejada's Café and owned and operated it for over 40 years until retiring. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, dancing and especially spending time with his family. Rudy was a Crusista and walked in the Catholic Crusades. He was a member of St. Jude Catholic Church in Tahoka. Rudy was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather (Diddy) and great-grandfather. He will be deeply missed by all.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sons, Rudy A. Tejada, Jr. and Daniel "Danny" Lee Tejada; and one grandson, Michael Lance Calvillo; siblings, Reynaldo Tejada, Mike Tejada, Robert Tejada, Eloy Tejada, and Ofelia Villagomez.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 64 years, Mercy Tejada; his son, Tommy Lee Tejada; daughters, Sylvia Ann Tejada, Mary Mercy Harrison and husband Mickey all of Tahoka; grandchildren, Mandi Duncan and husband Michael of Lubbock, Gary Chapa of Odessa, Mindi Condren and husband Terry of Lubbock, Lesley Harris and husband Scott of Lubbock, Jason Newdiger and wife Skylar of Tahoka; great-grandchildren, Jackquelyn,



**Sworn in ...** At the New Home City Council meeting last Tuesday, New Home city secretary Teresa Olsen swore in two new officers: Brad Emert as mayor and Jason Reyes as city council member.

**New Home Happenings**  
by Denise Sherrod

At the regularly scheduled city council meeting last Tuesday, New Home city secretary Teresa Olsen swore in two new officers: Brad Emert as mayor and Jason Reyes as city council member. Congratulations and thanks to these two citizens who are willing to serve!

In other city business, construction on the ITM for Alliance Credit Union may begin this week, barring rain delays.

If you have items to submit to New Home Happenings, email dsherrod@gmail.com by 10 a. m. on Tuesdays.

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

This is the last week for early signups for Summer Reading. Summer Reading early sign-up participants will be entered into drawing for a \$20 gift card. Drawing will be held on June 11th at 10 a.m. All participants must have signed up by June 4th and checked out a book by June 10th. Summer Reading begins on Monday, June 7th.

All are invited to join us at the kickoff party on Saturday, June 5, from 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Life Enrichment Center, 1717 Ave J. There will be a bounce house, water slide, a variety of food trucks, Science Spectrum, and train rides.

Aiden, Preslea, Averi, Addy, Dylin, Thomis, Parkir, Ella, Liam and Abigail; siblings, Rosendo Tejada Ramiro Tejada, Juan Tejada, Eloisa Lopez; and numerous extended family.

Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. with rosary to be cited at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 3, 2021 at Combest Family Funeral Homes in Tahoka. Mass of Christian burial will be at 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 4, 2021 at St. Jude Catholic Church in Tahoka with burial to follow at Nevels Memorial Park.

A look back at ...  
**Woodwork**  
by Dalton Wood  
(Reprinted from the past)

I HAVE HEARD that as a person gets older, they actually lose a little bit of height, and a nice lady I know told me just last week that she measured her height recently and discovered she was almost two inches shorter than she was 30 or 40 years ago.

To know that you are getting shorter as you get older is really depressing if, like me, you are built more like Dorf than Dirk Nowitzki to start with. If you don't know who Dorf is, he is a really short little guy featured in comic videos a few years ago (Dorf on Golf, etc.).

If you don't know who Dirk Nowitzki is, shame on you. Turn in your Texas citizenship. Anyway, he's 7 feet tall, very good at basketball and probably at painting ceilings.

People in American society (and especially native Texans) just naturally place tall men in high regard (at least until they mess up) and consider short men as lesser beings. Big men are supposed to be stronger (they are), smarter (maybe, but not necessarily), more talented, braver, more trustworthy and a lot of other things that they may well be, but which have nothing to do with how tall they are.

Heroes in almost all the books I read are portrayed as over 6 feet tall and mostly bulletproof. And the heroines are never overweight and always beautiful.

Guys like Napoleon and Audie Murphy probably realized that short men have to be super-good at something just to be considered the equal of their taller contemporaries.

I noticed years ago that when I finally got to the front of the line at concession stands during halftime at athletic events that some guy a foot taller than me standing just behind me was likely to get waited on before I did. Short people get no respect unless they throw a fit (which rarely endears you to anybody).

My taller friends are better than I am at getting things out of the top of the kitchen cabinets. But I've got them beat all to pieces when it comes to stretching out for a nap in the back seat of a Buick.

THE WISEGUY at Wilson says, "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."

~July 6, 2011

**Area News ...**  
News items from area newspapers

**O'Donnell ISD adding softball to athletics**

The O'Donnell school will be adding softball to its athletic roster starting with the 2021-2022 academic year.

In a short 15-minute special meeting Friday morning, school board members agreed to offer softball. They then did a few budget amendments to pay for the estimated \$15,000 cost of starting the program. The expenditure covers preparations for the softball field, equipment and uniforms for the players.

"We needed to start doing these improvements now," said Superintendent Dr. Cathy Palmer.

-Lamesa Press Reporter

**Vacation Bible School**  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1611 16th St. • Wilson

**"Incredible ME!"**  
June 7-10, 2021 • 6:30-8:30

Registration Form: Please complete the following and mail it to St. Paul Lutheran Church (PO Box 136 - Wilson, Texas 79381-0136) by June 5th

Family Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Child(ren)'s Name(s) and age(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Children 5 years of age through Grade 6 are invited to attend!  
Classes ... Arts & Crafts ... Music ... Games & Activities  
Snacks Provided  
June 10th will be the closing which will include a Hamburger/Hot Dog Meal.

**Headaches?**  
**Come See Us!**

We can help with recurring Headaches/Migraines, Post Covid-19 Headaches and much more!

**LCHD Rehab & Fitness Center**  
1508 S. 1st St.  
Tahoka, Tx  
806-561-1340

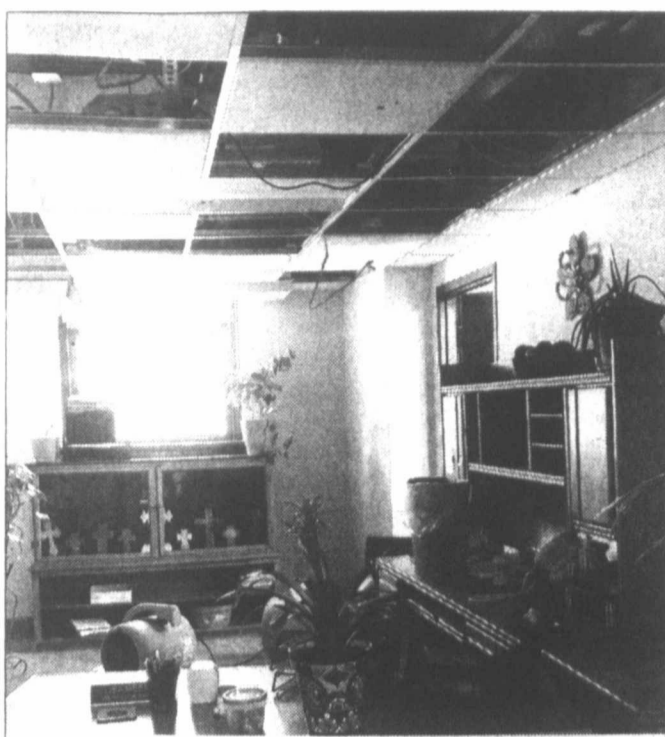
**LCH**  
LYNN COUNTY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Where in the world is  
**The Lynn County News?**

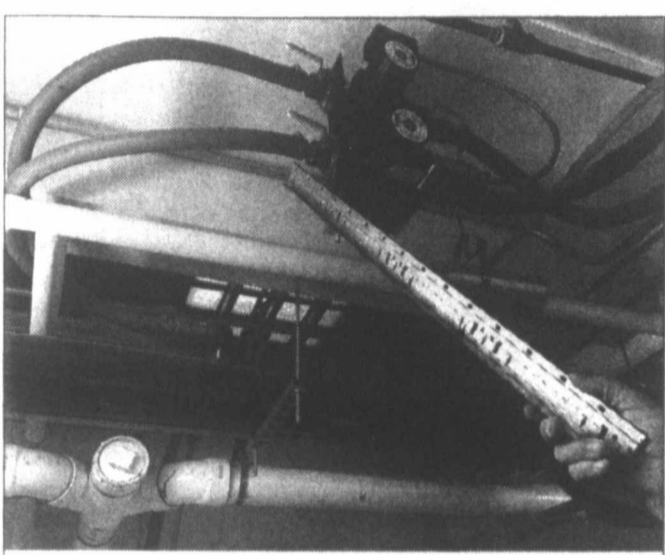
It's Free!  
It's Fun!

Take us with you on your next trip, hold up your newspaper, and snap a photo! Then email it to us: lynncnews@poka.com

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**Soggy mess ...** Soggy and crumbling ceiling tiles, some of which had already fallen or removed, are in one of the basement-level offices of the courthouse, after a gushing waterline burst in the third-floor ceiling during the night last Tuesday. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)



**Waterline connections ...** County Judge Mike Braddock is holding the piece of metal, pointing to one of the 54 pumps that were installed in the courthouse ceilings to accommodate the geothermal heating/cooling system. The bottom hose on one of these pumps in the third-floor ceiling popped off the connector, and water gushed out all during the night. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

## Three people injured in two-vehicle accident

by JUANELL JONES

Three people were transported for medical treatment after a two-vehicle accident occurred at 6:13 p.m. May 25 on US 87 northbound lanes, between CR 3 and 6. A 9-1-1 caller to the Lynn County Sheriff's Office reported that he had rear-ended a vehicle and told officers that there were three people in the other vehicle that were "bleeding from their heads." Lynn County EMS responded and also requested assistance from Lubbock Aerocare's EMS helicopter, but Aerocare was unable to assist due to weather issues. UMC EMS arrived to assist, as well Tahoka Volunteer Fire Dept., LCSO units, DPS and TxDOT. Both vehicles, a 2019 Dodge pickup and a 2018 Chevy Cruz, were towed from the scene. No information was available on the severity of injuries, or the names of drivers and passengers.

At 12:39 a.m. May 26, a 9-1-1 caller reported a truck was flipped upside down south of Lubbock on US 87. The vehicle was 100 yards inside the Lubbock County line, and Lubbock County was notified of the incident.

Another accident was reported on US 87 south of the Dawson/Lynn County line at 12:33 a.m. May 27. The caller reported that a semi cattle hauler had struck his grey Dodge pickup and said he had tried to pull over, but the semi had continued northbound on US 87 towards O'Donnell. An LCSO deputy located the pickup, and notified Lamesa PD because the accident had actually occurred in Dawson County. The pickup driver admitted later to the officer that he had agreed with the driver of the semi to accept some money for the damage done to his mirror on the pickup.

The driver of a green F-250 pickup reported that his vehicle had caught fire while driving on US 87 near CR 1, and that he was able to get out of the vehicle but it was fully engulfed in flames. Wilson Volunteer Fire Dept., LCSO, Woodrow Fire Dept., and TxDOT were all dispatched to the scene. No driver information was available.

An Arctic Cat green 4-wheeler was reportedly sto-

len from an unlocked box car at a rural location, the owner reported at 2:18 p.m. on May 28. The owner had last seen the 4-wheeler about 10 days ago.

Several reports came in between 11 p.m. May 30 and noon May 31 during heavy rain, for motorists needing assistance due to sliding off roadways or reporting water over roadways, but no accidents were reported.

A DPS officer responding to a report of a reckless driver on US 87 southbound located the vehicle between CR 31 and 32 on US 87 at 4:40 p.m. May 29, and arrested the driver for DWI. New Home Volunteer Fire Dept. was paged to a location at 11:49 p.m. May 28 for a report of an electrical pole on fire between the curves on FM 1730 and New Home, about a mile north of New Home. Lyntegar Electric Cooperative was also notified of the pole on fire.

LCSO received a call at 2:07 p.m. May 24 from a concerned individual who wanted to report an animal welfare concern at a location at CR 19 and FM 400. The report stated that several cattle and five horses were "very malnourished," and were in pens with no grass, and stagnant water, and stated that the "owner does not care for them anymore and had just left the gate open for them to get out."

Other reports during the week included unwanted persons, debris on roadways, assisting motorists, an abandoned vehicle, and a 9-1-1 hangup call.

Tahoka Volunteer Fire Dept. was paged to a location in the 1400 block of Ave. B at 4 a.m. May 31, for a report of lightning striking a breaker box on a mobile home.

Tahoka Police arrested a male for assault, after responding to a domestic disturbance at 11 p.m. May 31 in the 1200 block of Ave. O.

A fire alarm sounded at Lynnwood Assisting Living Center on Country Club Road in Tahoka at 4 a.m. May 27, but no fire was located, according to Tahoka Police reports.

Police responded to several domestic disturbances, civil standbys, unwanted persons, reports of reckless drivers, and a neighbor complaining of dogs barking during the past week.

## Courthouse damage ...

(Continued from page 1)

employee in the building that checked everything again when she left at 7 p.m., and everything was fine at that time. But sometime after that the line blew off at the connection to the pump, and when I walked in at 7:30 the next morning there was water running out the doors."

"When I opened the door and looked down the hall, it looked just like rain falling," he said, shaking his head.

"There are 54 of these pumps scattered all through the courthouse ceilings," Braddock said, pointing at a connection that was similar to the one above the district courtroom's balcony ceiling. All are hidden from view by dropped ceilings. "When we started pulling down wet ceiling tiles and checking the other pumps, we discovered that none of them were completely tight," he said.

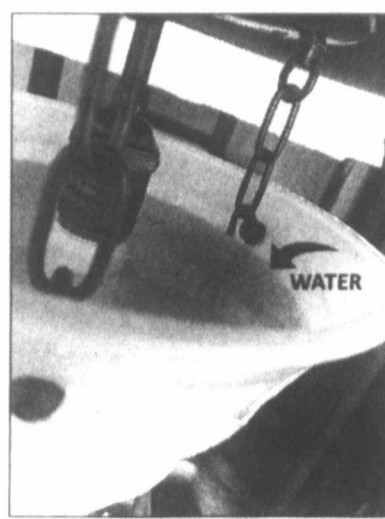
"The water ran all night throughout the entire building. There is damage to ceilings, walls, floors, carpets, light fixtures, probably some electrical issues, and some computer monitors, equipment and office furnishings

original floor tile in hallways and other areas should be okay. The restored goldleaf trim high up on the walls of the district courtroom also appear to be undamaged at this time.

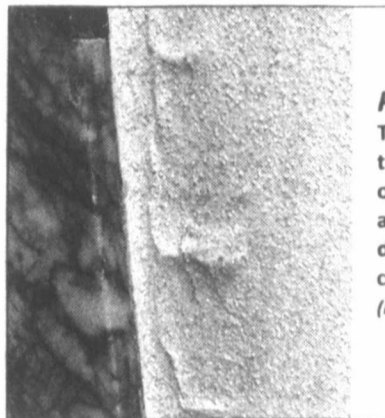
Judge Braddock visited with insurance representatives onsite last week, and damage assessments were continuing this week. The county courthouse property is insured through Texas Association of Counties (TAC).

Braddock anticipates that when repair work does begin in the coming weeks, that some of the offices will have to temporarily move out while repairs are made to ceilings and floors.

"We're not sure yet how all of this is going to work out. I'm not in any big hurry to make any repairs because I want to make sure that if anything that is going to be a problem then it could still happen in the next two or three weeks. We have soggy and crumbling ceiling tiles, and the paint is bubbling out from the concrete walls where the water got behind the paint. I want to make sure that if some more of that is going to



**Water-filled light fixtures ...** Water filled the antique light fixture bowls in the county courthouse, after a gushing waterline burst in the third-floor ceiling during the night last Tuesday. This light fixture was three floors below the burst waterline, in the ceiling of the basement level.



**Paint damaged ...** This is a closeup view of the paint bubbling up on the concrete walls, after water gushed down the walls at the courthouse. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

"Almost all of the wood floors have water damage. I'm not sure at this point, but I don't think they will have to be entirely replaced — but they sure will need to be sanded and re-finished, as they are all buckling as they dry," he added.

As the damage is more

as there are still large dehumidifiers placed throughout every level and many offices are in disarray as employees continue to try to salvage files and assess damages to equipment and furnishings.

Visitors to the courthouse are discouraged, as there are still large dehumidifiers placed throughout every level and many offices are in disarray as employees continue to try to salvage files and assess damages to equipment and furnishings. Call for availability of services.

were ruined," said Braddock.

When the rest of the courthouse staff began to arrive, they were dismayed by the extent of the water that was everywhere, but immediately began assessing the damages to their offices. In some areas, employees were actually wading through the water, to begin pulling carpets, and other ruined items out of their offices. All offices were immediately closed to the public, and remained closed for the remainder of the week and through Memorial Day, while employees were busy with the initial cleanup and sorting of paperwork and office equipment.

Rugs and carpets were pulled up and laid outside on courthouse steps and sidewalks to begin drying out, and a company experienced with flooding issues had already arrived, bringing dehumidifiers and other equipment.

"I have to say, every single employee has really jumped in and helped, without complaining about all the work that is ahead. We really have an exceptional group of people here, and I can't thank them enough for everything they are doing," Judge Braddock said with deep emotion. "They have really just been great."

Almost every office was affected by water damage, but some are not as bad as others. Portions of the ceiling collapsed over the third-floor balcony above the District Courtroom on the second floor, with water pouring out from the balcony and into the district courtroom, and spreading throughout the building, running down the stairs and walls all the way into the second floor, first floor, and basement levels. Water rained down in some offices onto furnishings, computer equipment, files and other equipment.

Soggy ceilings on each level have cracked and fallen, the antique bowl light fixtures were full of water, and paint has bubbled up and wrinkled on the concrete walls throughout the building. Wooden floors in the district courtroom, county courtroom, and many offices, that had been painstakingly restored in the historic renovation are buckling as they dry.

Fortunately, the official county and district records that are kept in the building are mostly okay. Braddock also said he believes all the

continue to happen that it does so before we start make any repairs," stated the judge.

"I don't know if the historical preservation teams will have to come back. We'll have to see, and talk to all the appropriate people. I do want to get the original subcontractors that did the work on restoring the wood floors, ceilings, and paint to come back to do these repairs," he said.

expertly assessed, and a plan is made for the extensive repairs, more information will be provided to the public as to office closures or temporary relocations.

At this time, Judge Braddock said that anyone needing the services of county offices should call that office to see if, or when, the services will become available. Visitors to the courthouse are discouraged,

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to one another

"A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal." —Steve Maraboli

"What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?" —Jean-Jacques Rousseau

"Go and love someone exactly as they are. And then watch how quickly they transform into the greatest, truest version of themselves. When one feels seen and appreciated in their own essence, one is instantly empowered." —Wes Angelozzi

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**Monday & Thursday — 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Lunch: 12 – 1:00pm)**  
**Tuesday & Wednesday — 8:00 am – 7:00 pm (Lunch: 12 – 1:00pm)**  
**Friday — 8:00 am – 2:00 pm • Saturday — 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

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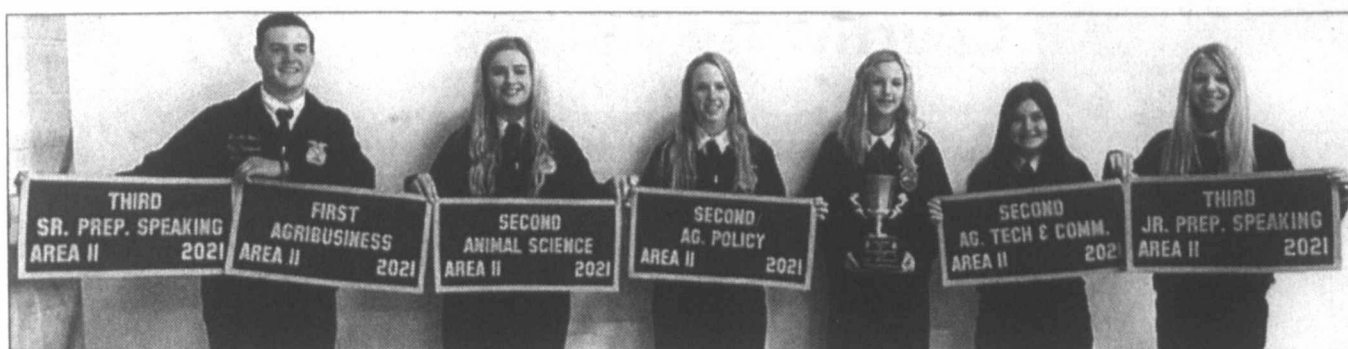
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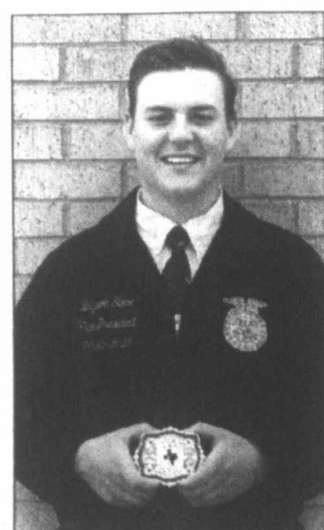
**Lynn County Farm Bureau**

**Tahoka ISD Summer Lunch Program available**

The South Plains Food Bank and Tahoka ISD will have a summer lunch program, Monday through Thursday, beginning June 1st through June 17th. Meals will be served in the Tahoka School Cafeteria from 12-12:30 for children ages 1 through 18.



**Sweepstakes Champions!** ... Tahoka High School FFA was named the Speaking Development Event Sweepstakes Champion for Area 2 FFA Association. They are, from left, Bryson Stone, Payton Easter, Nataly Taylor, Natalie Whitley, Brylee Parker, and Halle Stone.



**Area FFA Officer ...** Tahoka High School FFA member Bryson Stone has been elected to represent Area Two FFA Association and serve as an Area Vice President for 2021/22. He also qualified for STATE in Agribusiness Prepared Speaking.

**Tahoka FFA awarded Sweepstakes Champions**

Tahoka FFA was named the Speaking Development Event Sweepstakes Champion for Area 2 FFA Association, with Bryson Stone, Payton Easter, Nataly Taylor, Natalie Whitley, Brylee Parker, and Halle Stone competing for Tahoka.

In the Speaking Development Event, students write and deliver a six- to eight-minute speech about a current agricultural subject of their choice in one of the six topic areas. Participants are then rated based on

the written speech, speech delivery and their answers to judges' questions.

Bryson Stone also is a State Qualifier after winning 1st Place in Agribusiness, and he was the 3rd Place Overall Senior Speaker.

Brylee Parker earned 2nd Place Ag Tech & Communications; Payton Easter- 2nd Place Animal Science; Nataly Taylor- 2nd Place Ag Policy; Halle Stone- 3rd Place Junior Prepared; and Natalie Whitley- 6th Place Plant Science.



**District President ...** Tahoka High School FFA member Nataly Taylor was elected Mesa District President, at the District Convention that was hosted at Tahoka High School.

**Area News ...**

News items from area newspapers

**Area News ...**

News items from area newspapers

**Borden County softball going to state**

The Borden County Coyotes are heading back to the Class 1A state softball tournament.

The Coyotes secured their third trip to state in the past four years by defeating the Eula Lady Pirates, 6-3, in the Region 1 championship game on Friday afternoon in Abilene.

The Coyotes now knocked off three Top 10 opponents in the play-offs: No. 9 Claude, No. 1 Hermleigh and ula, which ranked NO. 3 when their season came to an end. Borden County finished both their 2018 and 2019 seasons at state. There wasn't a state tournament in 2020, due to Covid-19.

The Coyotes are now heading to the state softball tournament June 1 and 2 at the University of Texas' Red & Charlene McCombs Field in Austin.

Borden County is still seeking its first win in the state tournament, however, as they lost to Ector, 5-1 in the state semi-finals in 2018 and Chireno, 14-8, in 2019.

-Lamesa Press Reporter

**Four die in fiery crash near Lamesa**

LAMESA - Firefighters could see smoke rising ahead of them as they headed out of Lamesa last Tuesday morning on a call about a major traffic accident south of town.

When they arrived just a few minutes later they drove into a heavy cloud of black smoke almost obscuring the scene. To their right, flames were engulfing what appeared to be a crumpled truck on the west side of State Highway 349. Intense fire and thick smoke completely hid whatever was burning on the east side of the highway.

The scene was one of the worst that several first-responders said they have seen in a number of years.

It proved to be just as tragic.

Four co-workers from a nearby oil rig, who had been together in a pickup, died in the collision.

Another man - the driver of a truck-type wrecker - was airlifted by helicopter directly from scene to a Lubbock hospital.

According to the DPS preliminary investigation, the four men were in a pickup driving westbound on CR 24, a dirt road which intersects with Hwy. 349 from the east, which failed to yield the right of way at a stop sign at the intersection, colliding with a 2000 Kenworth truck tractor towing a trailer that was northbound on Hwy. 349. The collision knocked the pickup into a cotton field to the northeast of the intersection, the vehicle coming to rest on its top. All four of the occupants were reportedly thrown from the vehicle, with DPS stating none were wearing seatbelts.

The driver of the Kenworth truck was airlifted to University Medical Center in Lubbock with injuries described as "nonincapacitating."

-from the Lamesa Press-Reporter

**Looking For Groundwater Info? Contact HPWD!**

Want to know how much groundwater is available under a tract of land? Need to learn about aquifers for a school science project? Interested in knowing the number of domestic and/or irrigation wells in your area?

If so, High Plains Water District (HPWD)'s interactive map can help answer these and many other questions.

The interactive map (map.hpwd.org) allows the public to view groundwater information through a series of layers that can be turned on and off. Within these layers, persons can click on a location of interest to access the information.

**• WELLS:** Here you will find water level information, well logs, daily observation well data, and density/location of domestic water wells in the HPWD service area.

**• LAYERS:** This provides access to the HPWD rain gauge network. Other layers include maps illustrating the range of the Ogallala, Edwards-Trinity (High Plains), and Dockum Aquifers within the district.

**• ATLAS:** For many years, persons relied on HPWD's hydrologic atlas series for groundwater information. Here you will find contour maps illustrating the base of the Ogallala Aquifer as well as saturated thickness and water table elevation for 2019.

**• BASEMAPS:** You can select the type of basemap for viewing. The choices include: imagery, streets, National Geographic, and topography.

**• LEGEND:** The legend explains symbols associated

with the selected layer.

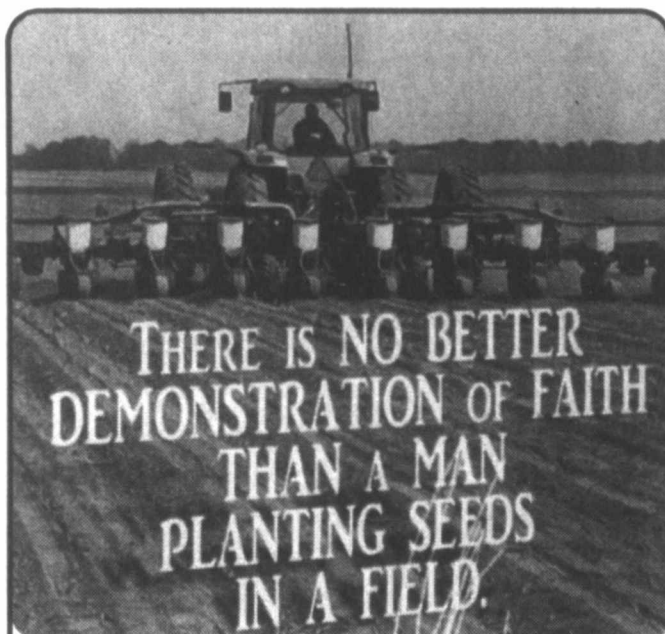
**• TOOLS:** A variety of tools are available for use. Some of these include a drawing feature, a measurement feature, print options, and a radar rainfall loop.

**• AQUIFER INFO:** This activates the-HPWD "virtual bore" for any location in the HPWD service area. Here you will find the depth to formation, formation thickness, water table elevation, and other information.

**• WELL SPACING GUIDE:** Do you plan to drill a new irrigation well—but are uncertain if the location complies with HPWD spacing requirements? If so, you'll want to use this online guide. First, select the well spacing guide for either the Ogallala/Edwards Trinity (High Plains) or the Dockum Aquifer. Just click on your location of interest and will bring up a "bullseye" of various colored rings. This shows the various well spacing requirements as well as current well locations and well permits in progress.

**• DOCKUM AQUIFER STUDY:** Be sure to visit dockumstudy.hpwd.org for specific information about the Dockum Aquifer. This includes well logs, water quality, flow tests, and water levels.

"HPWD has a wealth of information about water wells within its 16-county service area. Our staff strives to provide new, innovative ways to present this information to the public. In fact, we will have some additional updates to the interactive web map in the next few weeks," said General Manager Jason Coleman.



Lots of sacrifice and commitment in this field of profession. Please be aware of farm equipment and motorcycles on roadways. Wishing you prosperous and weather wise season.

~ Carlos Morales

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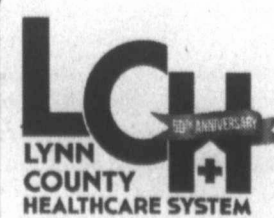
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THE STATE O

IN THE MAT/ CAUSE NO. 2

NOTICE TO:1/ CONNOR, DI

GREETINGS: N/ Estates Cod/ Independen/ Estate of MI/ \$202.052 of/ COURT of Ly/ 13TH DAY O/

All persons c/ who believe/ following pe

Failure to/ the said appl/ WITH REGAI

All name/ written answ/ of said coun/ Monday next/ of the day of/ publication t/ or any of th/ by mailing t/ 937, Tahoka,

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF SALE

Lynn County Sheriff's Office will be taking sealed bids until JUNE 17, 2021 at 5p.m., and will be opened June 28, 2021 at 10 a.m. on a 2010 Mercedes Benz C300 Sedan, silver in color with black interior. Mileage is 152,211. You can contact Chief Deputy Hester at the Lynn County Sheriff's Office, 806-561-4505 for more information. Sealed bid can be taken or mailed to Lynn County Sheriff's Office, 810 Lockwood, Tahoka, TX. 79373. Lynn County Sheriff's Office has the right to refuse any or all bids.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a (BG) Wine and Beer Retailer's On-Premise License/Permit by Pump & 211 Snack Shack, LLC, dba The Pump & 211 Snack Shack to be located at 1164 FM 211, New Home, Lynn, Texas. Partners of said LLC are Martin Gill, member and Vanessa Gill, member.

### NOTICE OF ACCEPTING BIDS

Lynn County will be taking sealed bids or proposals starting Thursday June 3, 2021 and will be accepted, until June 25, 2021, bids will be opened Monday June 28, 2021 at 9:30am. Contact County Judge Mike Braddock at 806-561-4222 for more information. Sealed bids or proposals can be taken to Lynn County Courthouse, 1501 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street or mailed to Lynn County Judge's Office, P. O. Box 1167, Tahoka, TX. 79373. Lynn County has the right to refuse any or all bids or proposals.

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS - COUNTY OF LYNN

IN THE MATTER OF: MICHAEL THEODORE CONNOR  
CAUSE NO. 2021PR0012

NOTICE TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL THEODORE CONNOR, Deceased

GREETINGS: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section §202.052 of the Texas Estates Code, that SUE DUDGEON BOUDREAUX filed an application for independent administration, heirship, and letters of administration in the Estate of MICHAEL THEODORE CONNOR, Deceased, pursuant to Section §202.052 of the Texas Estates Code in Cause No. 2021PR0012, in the COUNTY COURT of Lynn County, Texas. The said Application having been filed on the 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2021.

All persons claiming to be an heir of MICHAEL THEODORE CONNOR, Deceased, who believe that they have an interest to the said estate, should contact the following person, prior to the hearing on the said application of the estate:

GARRETT FERGUSON  
c/o FERGUSON LAW FIRM  
612 SOUTH 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
LAMESA, TX 79331  
(806)872-0827

Failure to notify the above person or failure to appear at the hearing on the said application to the estate WILL WAIVE ALL INTEREST YOU MAY HAVE WITH REGARD TO THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL THEODORE CONNOR.

All named heirs are hereby cited and commanded to appear by filing a written answer before the County Court of Lynn County, Texas, the courthouse of said county in the city of Tahoka, Lynn County, Texas, to be filed the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the date of service, exclusive of the day of such service, which day and date of service shall be the date of publication that this newspaper bears, by filing a written answer should they or any of them desire to do so, in said proceeding. Said answer may be filed by mailing the same to the County Clerk's office, Lynn County Clerk PO Box 937, Tahoka, Texas 79373, or by bringing it in personally.

This is a suit to determine the heirs of the deceased, and to distribute their assets to their lawful heirs. Issued under my hand and seal of said court, at the office in Tahoka, Texas this 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2021.

DATED the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

Huffaker & Harris, LLP  
By: /s/ Amanda Chisholm  
W. Calloway Huffaker, TBN: 10187800  
Email: nickis@huffaker-law.com  
Hunter Harris, Texas Bar No. 24087672  
Email: hunterh@huffaker-law.com  
Caroline Clark, Texas Bar No. 00793510  
Email: carolinec@huffaker-law.com  
Amanda Chisholm, Texas Bar No. 24041193  
Email: amandac@huffaker-law.com  
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## CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank our Lord Jesus Christ, and the person that donated their kidney for Todd's transplant. Todd will have to stay in San Antonio for seven more weeks during recovery process. If you would like to send cards of encouragement, the address is:

Todd & Paula Brown  
% Sonesta Simply Suites  
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9350 WI 10 • San Antonio, TX 78240.

We want to thank all of you for your support and prayers. Keep those prayers coming as they are still needed.

Thank you and God Bless!  
Jerry & Sandra Brown

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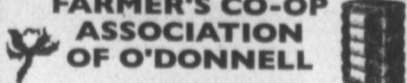
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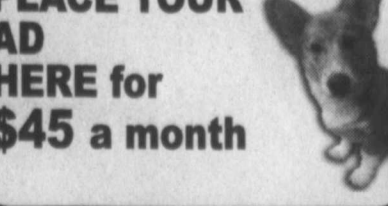
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## First National Bank changes ...

(Continued from page 1)

board and brought additional understanding of the Tahoka community and its needs to the direction of the bank," he said.

During the past decade, Hegi said that the directors saw the need for increased technology and additional services were being required to effectively support the commercial and agricultural requirements of the community and county. Additionally, increased regulation of financial institutions generally lead to higher costs in order to meet the reporting requirements from this increased regulation.

"About a year ago, the bank's directors initiated a study to see if it should remain independent in this new world of increased service requirements, expanded technology and heightened regulation. It was especially important to the directors that, if the bank were to give up its independence, we wanted a merger partner who knew the agricultural economy well, had demonstrated success in supporting relatively small towns in West Texas, could bring new and advanced services to our community and had demonstrated support for the commercial establishments, hospital system, schools and farming and ranching interests in our key market areas. We also wanted a partner who would provide additional opportunities for our bank's outstanding employees," said Hegi.

"We visited with several possible partners and found the organization which could provide everything we were looking for in Happy State Bank. Ironically, Happy State Bank was established in 1908, one year after our bank was

started. Since then, Happy State Bank's assets have grown to over \$5.6 billion and has a technology and service base that rivals some of the largest banks in Texas.

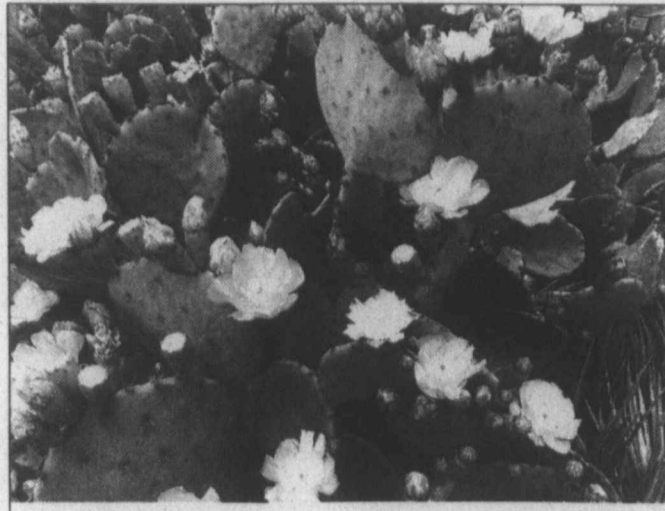
"While the current board will not be actively involved in the day-to-day operations of the bank, we will watch the continued progress of the Tahoka branch of Happy State Bank with support and confidence," said Hegi.

John Krey, bank president, was very involved with the Tahoka and Lynn County community and organizations, and now resides elsewhere but has many fond memories of his time of service with First National Bank.

"Looking back, I reflect upon the many friends and neighbors who have walked through the doors of the First National Bank of Tahoka during its 114 years of being an integral part of the communities of Tahoka, O'Donnell, New Home, Wilson and all of Lynn County. It has indeed been an honor to work with and support our schools, cities, hospital, county and civic organizations. Support doesn't end with monetary donations, it includes directors and staff giving their time to serve wherever they can.

"I remember seeing directors and bank staff hoeing weeds and hauling off trash as part of a Rotary community clean-up project. We've seen some of them cooking that wonderful fish as members of the Tahoka Volunteer Fire Department at the annual hospital fund raiser auctions. Countless hours have been spent working on church, school, hospital and other civic organizations over the many years," said Krey.

"Obviously over 114 years



**Full bloom ...** The cactus plants adjacent to the Tahoka Pioneer Museum are in full bloom, with yellow and orange tinted leaves. (LCN PHOTO)

there have been good times and some not so good times. The Great Depression, two World Wars and other wars too numerous to mention. Droughts, even floods, tornadoes, hail storms and a few sandstorms are regular occurrences in West Texas and living through those has forged a strong community of folks ready and willing to help others in need. And the First National Bank has been through it all with the strength and stability to serve its customers' needs, whether individuals, agriculture or commercial.

"All our area schools are second to none in providing a quality and well-rounded education. And how many communities like ours can still boast of having a wonderful hospital system like Lynn County Hospital District? The volunteer fire departments in all Lynn County communities do a great job and those individuals cannot be thanked enough. The local support for projects such as the stock shows continues to amaze me. Those individuals willing to give of their time to serve on school boards, the hospital board, city councils and as county commissioners

certainly deserve our thanks. We are truly blessed," stated Krey.

"It is with some sadness that the era of the First National Bank of Tahoka is coming to an end. But there is much pride in looking back on what has been accomplished with the help of our friends. The future is bright in our merger with Happy State Bank and what that will bring to Lynn County," Krey added.

### Did you know?

- Due to a discrepancy over border recognition between Egypt and Sudan, there is a region in Africa called Bir Tawil that belongs to no country.
- At 3'7", Eddie Gaedel was the smallest Major League Baseball player of all time. He walked in his only plate appearance.
- Valles Marineris, a canyon on Mars, would stretch from from Los Angeles to the Atlantic coast if it were on Earth.
- Canada has more lakes than anywhere in the world. 9% of the country is covered in fresh water.
- Serial killer Ted Bundy once received a commendation from the Seattle Police Department for chasing down a purse snatcher.

## A look back at ... Woodwork

(Reprinted from the past)

Dalton Wood



ONCE I WAS a teenager, although the memory of those days is fading fast, But I do remember that after noting that every imminent situation in a movie was accompanied by some kind of mood music (scary, happy, exciting or whatever fit the plot), that me and a kid named Donnie Walker decided we'd like to make a movie which made fun of the music.

We thought it would be neat to make a western, and when the hero was facing all those murderous Indians and the music got loud and menacing, we'd pan to a nearby boulder where you could see the trombone coming out from behind the rock, and maybe even get a glimpse of the violin and clarinet sections.

Of course, we never made any movies, and years later, I seem to recall watching a movie where they actually did show the orchestra sitting out the middle of nowhere playing mood music for the show. (It was a really forgettable movie, and I don't remember what it was).

Anyway, mood music is still a big part of every movie, and while I think I could enjoy the shows without it, it still is better than those stupid laugh tracks in sitcoms, where people appear to be laughing loud and long, often about things I don't think are funny at all.

You can tell by the music every time something meaningful is about to take place in a movie. If the boy and girl are about to meet, or about to make up, the music is happy, full of love and sweetness. If a young person is about to die of Chinese jungle rot or something unexpectedly, you hear sad violin music. If something violent is going to happen to a good person, though, the music is low and threatening, coming to a loud crescendo or crash just as she pulls back the curtain to find Godzilla standing there with a knife.

Or when the good guy is about to face some terrible force he can't possibly deal with. I wonder sometimes why the good guy doesn't hear that menacing music and know it's time to get the heck out of there.

I once knew a blind man who said he often listens to television and he claims he can pretty well tell what is happening, partly by the music.

I would be nice if every time someone comes into the office in a pleasant mood, good music would fill the air. And it would help if threatening music filled your car just before you blew out a tire or threw a rod or a highway patrolman came up behind you.

Around the house, it also would help if you suddenly heard "Old Man River" as you start to turn on your washing machine, warning that it's about to go crazy and spray water all over the utility room. And, if just before a light bulb burns out, you would hear "Darkness on the Delta."

And, when you open the refrigerator during commercials, it plays the "Baby Elephant Walk." — from July 5, 2001

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