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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 11

TAHOKA, LYNN COUNTY, TEXAS

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010

6 PAGES PLUS INSERT

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Final registration set for Tahoka Little League

Last chance to sign up to participate in Tahoka Little League program is Tuesday, March 23 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Lyntegar Meeting Room. Registration fee is \$35. Little League is for youth ages 5-14. For more information contact Drew Stone, 773-9960

Mark your Calendars:
The Lynn County Hospital District

Fun/Food Festival

will be held
April 24
sponsored by
Tahoka Rotary Club
Proceeds benefit our local hospital.
Call Julia Allen at LCHD to donate an auction item

Weather

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Mar. 10	62	41	
Mar. 11	48	34	
Mar. 12	63	31	
Mar. 13	74	33	
Mar. 14	65	34	
Mar. 15	43	37	2.32"
Mar. 16	57	33	
Precipitation for Mar:			3.53"
Precipitation for Feb:			2.48"
Precipitation for Jan:			1.91"
Total Precip. year to date:			7.92"

Lynn County News

P.O. Box 1170 • Tahoka, TX 79373
Phone: 806-561-4888
Fax: 806-561-6308

E-mail address:
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in Tahoka

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9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
(Open During Lunch Hour)

CLOSED FRIDAYS
(Drop Box available by front door)

DEADLINE: Noon Tuesdays



Driver injured ... Lynn County EMS and Tahoka Fire Dept. were called to the scene of an accident at the FM 400 overpass at U.S. 87 just north of Tahoka in the snow and rain on Monday afternoon. An 18-wheeler jackknifed as the truck was coming off the overpass, and the driver (unidentified) was taken by Lynn County EMS ambulance to a Lubbock hospital for treatment of undetermined injuries. In this photo, Fire Chief Steve Sanders leans through the passenger window, as EMT Vondell Elliott and Deputy Pete Vallejo approach with a gurney. (LCN PHOTO by Juanelli Jones)

Truck accident injures driver at FM 400 overpass

The driver of an 18-wheeler which jackknifed Monday just north of Tahoka at the FM 400 overpass at U.S. 87 was taken by Lynn County EMS ambulance to a Lubbock hospital for treatment of undetermined injuries. No other information was available at press time on the incident.

A 42-year-old San Angelo man was arrested after a traffic stop in Ta-

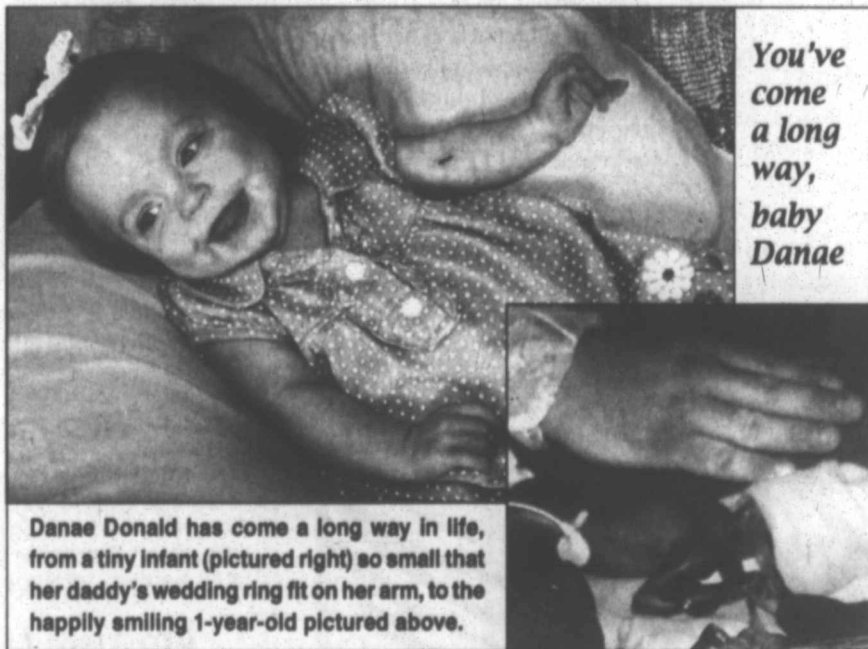
hoka Sunday, when it was discovered that he was wanted for driving while license was suspended, enhanced, and for failure to identify to a peace officer. It also was later determined that the 1998 Chevrolet pickup he was driving had been reported as stolen.

Robert Gutierrez of Tahoka advised police that someone had tried to break into his home last Friday, leav-

ing pry marks on a door. Apparently entry was not gained, and nothing was reported missing.

Only 31 persons were in Lynn County jail this week, with five of those held for Lubbock County.

Latest arrests were for possession of marijuana, driving while intoxicated, warrant on criminal mischief, warrant on deadly conduct plus warrant on open container law violation, and parole violation plus failure to identify to a peace officer.



You've come a long way, baby Danae

Danae Donald has come a long way in life, from a tiny infant (pictured right) so small that her daddy's wedding ring fit on her arm, to the happily smiling 1-year-old pictured above.

Baby Danae celebrates 1st birthday; family celebrates miracle of her life

Wilson's "littles miracle," baby Danae, celebrated her first birthday on Sunday, and the rest of her family celebrated the medical miracles that the little girl has come through to get to this milestone. Doctors told her parents, Casey and Nikki Donald of Wilson, that their little girl had only a 10 percent chance of survival when she was born 16 weeks prematurely on March 14, 2009. The tiny infant weighed only 1 pound and 6 ounces, and was only 12 inches long, at birth.

During the first few months of her

proof that there is a God and He does answer prayers," said Nikki.

Danae lived the first five months of her life in the neo-natal intensive care unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. When the family was finally allowed to bring her home, they brought home an array of medical equipment and instructions for assisting with Danae's care. Since then, her parents and older sister, Brook, have learned how to care for the newest member of their family.

"Baby Danae is proof that there is a God and He does answer prayers... I can't believe it has been a year already, but she is doing great - such an amazing little blessing."

— NIKKI DONALD

life, Danae underwent heart surgery, a lumbar puncture to relieve bleeding on the brain, two intestinal surgeries, a chest tube to relieve fluid in the cavity of her left lung, and laser eye surgery.

Today, Danae is doing quite well, and the family credits her remarkable life story to faith, prayer and medical miracles.

"She is absolutely the most amazing being we have ever seen, quite the miracle," says her mother. "If it hadn't been for all the continued prayers from family, friends and people we have never met, we believe Danae wouldn't be where she is today. Baby Danae is

"We have adjusted quite well, better than we thought," explained her mother. "It has helped though, that she is not hooked up to cords and machines all day. She has been off of oxygen during the day since the new year and only gets an eighth of a liter on occasion at night. She is still on her apnea monitor at night but has been cut back on the medication for apnea and still has not had any episodes."

Danae was supposed to have had stomach surgery at the beginning of the year but her problems have, for the moment, resolved. "The doctors still think

(See BABY DANA, page 6)

No request made for ballot recount

No request was made last week for an official recount of ballots in the Precinct 4 Commissioner election in the March 2 Republican Primary, after the official canvass of the election was held last Thursday. No changes in any races on the Republican Primary election were reported by the canvass.

One candidate had indicated to Lynn County Republican Party Chairman John Baker that he planned to file an official request for a recount to be conducted in the Pct. 4 commissioner race, but the 2 p.m. Friday deadline passed without any request being filed, negating the need for a recount.

The count will stand as reported in the Pct. 4 commissioner race, with Danny Martin leading the ticket with 94 votes, Toby Taylor with 89 votes, and Brad Hammonds with 86 votes. The top two vote-getters, Martin and Taylor, are scheduled for a runoff election on April 13 to determine the Republican candidate for the November General Election.

Early voting for the April 13 runoff will be held April 6-9. Registered voters who live in Commissioner Precinct 4 are eligible to vote in the Republican runoff if they did not vote in the Democratic Primary.

In addition, there is a state runoff on the Republican ticket for Supreme Court Justice Place 3, between Rick Green and Debra Lehmann, in which all Lynn County residents may vote, as long as they did not vote in the Democratic Primary.

woodwork

by dalton



I READ IN a daily newspaper a couple of weeks ago that going to church regularly will make you fat. That was the conclusion reached by an independent study conducted by some organization supposedly connected to some religious organizations (sounds like Muslim terrorist propaganda to me).

Anyway, the article said this study group "followed 5,500 people for four years" and concluded that those who went to church regularly were more obese than those who just went occasionally or not at all. Sounds like the last year of the study, most of those 5,500 people were easier to follow than at first, because by then they must have been moving a lot slower.

I don't know about any of the other denominations, but if you want to get a Methodist to attend a meeting, you feed him. Attendance is a lot better at the meetings that include meals, and those women really know how to cook. A few of the guys, too, are good at cooking, especially big juicy chunks of meat.

Not me, though. I just eat, because that's what I do best.

Maybe those church meals are what make regular churchgoers fat. Surely it's not the sermons, although sometimes preachers give you some pretty heavy stuff.

Of course, there are a lot of sweet people in churches, sweet words, and sweet songs. Just being around all that sweetness could make you bigger, and diabetics have to be especially careful. My blood sugar goes up 20 points when they sing "In the Sweet Bye and Bye."

I have to say, though, that I don't believe the conclusion reached by the study group. This is just somebody going to great lengths to find an excuse for not going to church. I seriously doubt that those who attend church regularly are any fatter on the average than anyone else. Happier, yes; fatter, no.

ANOTHER THING I read in the daily paper recently that I'm skeptical about was a half page ad about some "miracle" substance which reverses memory loss, obviously designed to attract people whose loved ones have Alzheimer's, a terrible condition usually associated with aging.

I hope that there really is something which will help cure that condition, but I would be very cautious about buying the product without further investigation. I noticed that the ad had an 800 number to call, but never did say how much the substance costs.

I also noticed one section of the ad entitled "Two things you need to know about memory loss" (or something like that; I've lost the copy of the newspaper), but when you read that section, only one thing is mentioned.

Maybe they couldn't remember the second thing.



A Dying Generation

In recent news articles it has been stated that the generation of children now is the first generation to not live as long as their parents. 1 out of 3 kids is now considered overweight or obese.

Experts say that obesity increases the risk of serious health conditions like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol—all considered adult diseases. So what is the BIG deal? The BIG deal is that our children are now at a higher risk for these adult diseases and are not expected to live as long as we will.

What is the cause? Contributing factors include many kids spending less time exercising and more time in front of the TV, computer, or videogame console. And today's busy families have fewer free moments to prepare nutritious, home cooked meals. From fast food to electronic, quick and easy is the reality of life. Portion size has increased greatly. Supersize is the enemy of our children.

What can be done? First, turn off that TV or computer and the cell phone, and get them moving. Current guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that kids over 2 years of age get at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical

activity every day of the week. 60 minutes sounds like a lot but just think, walking to and from school will take up a great deal of that time. As the weather gets warmer this should be a goal for us all. We live in small enough towns that walking is a great option. Riding bikes, playing ball, washing the car are all ways to get them up and out from in front of the TV.

Secondly, experts say we need to make sure we are teaching good healthy nutrition. The key, says Kidshealth.org, is to have a family approach to nutrition and always "practice what you preach." You cannot eat poorly yourself and not have an effect on your child's habits. Make good nutrition a family affair. Get them to help plan the meals, leading them into making good food choices. Let them help pick out the fruits and veggies at the store. When you are at the grocery store stick to the outside aisles, experts say that is where most of the natural foods are.

The big issue is ... do we want our children to live such unhealthy lives and to possibly die way before they should? It is up to us as loving parents to make the changes for us and for them.

Deadline for each week is
NOON TUESDAY
for all news and advertising
The Lynn County News
Ph.: 806-561-4888
LynnCoNews@poka.com

*Happy Birthday
Baby Danae!!*



*You are such a blessing
to our family
Love -- Mom, Dad and
Big Sister Brook*



Rotary Club donates to City-County Library... The Tahoka Rotary Club qualified for a matching grant through the Rotary District #5730 in the amount of \$500 to donate to the local City-County Library. Presenting the grant from left are Ray Don Box, Gigi Fillingim-Rotary President, Claudia Guin-Librarian, Nikki Box-Rotary Club Sweetheart, Susan Tipton and Peter Wierzb, Assistant District Governor for District #5730.

Obituaries

Tiodora C. Salinas

Tiodora Salinas beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother of Tahoka departed this life on March 10, 2010 at the age of 73.

She was born February 17, 1937 in Charlotte to Antonio and Luisa Calvillo. She married Rumaldo Garcia Salinas in O'Donnell.

Survivors include two daughters Ricarda C Salinas and Rosita S. Resendez, both of Tahoka; one son, Ruben C. Salinas of Tahoka; three grandchildren, Regina Resendez, Rosalinda Gutierrez, and Eusevio Resendez; four great-grandchildren, Cayden Sigle, Jacob Gutierrez, Noe Gutierrez, and Jazmie Gutierrez.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Rumaldo Garcia Salinas.

Rosary was held Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at White Funeral Home in Tahoka.

Mass services were held 10 a.m., Friday, March 12, 2010, at St. Jude Catholic Church in Tahoka with Father Teo officiating.

Interment followed at Tahoka Cemetery in Tahoka.

Arrangements were under the personal care of White Funeral Home in Tahoka. To register or send condolences online, please visit www.whitefuneralhome.com. (PAID)

Dogs on chains:

Animal Control to enforce laws regarding unlawful restraint of dogs

by JUANELL JONES

It is illegal to keep a dog chained as a means of keeping it on your property, and beginning this week Lynn County Animal Control will begin enforcing the state law. Abbey Redman, Director of Animal Control, says she is giving 60 days notice as of this week for animal owners in Lynn County to be aware that if they are tying their dog to a stationary object by rope, chain or other tether they will have until May 18 to comply with the state law. After May 18, she says she will begin removing chained animals and issuing citations to owners.

"We will be enforcing this state law, and owners should be aware that after May 18 an animal owner will only get a 24-hour warning to comply before getting a citation and/or removal of the animal from the property," said Redman.

Chapter 821 of the Texas Health and Safety Code defines unlawful restraint of dogs, and dictates that an owner may not leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint that unreasonably limits the dog's movement, according to a list of conditions. There are exceptions to the law that state that a dog may be restrained to a running line if it is not restrained by a prong-type, choke-type or improperly fitted collar; or restrained for a reasonable period not to exceed three hours in a

24-hour period and no longer than is necessary for the owner to complete a temporary task that requires the dog to be restrained.

Unlawful restraint restricting a dog's movement also includes cases of extreme weather conditions, such as temperatures below 32-degrees Fahrenheit, or in areas where a heat advisory has been issued, or a tornado warning has been issued by the National Weather Service.

"These laws are made to protect animals, and the Lynn County Animal Control is committed to the humane treatment of dogs and cats," said Redman. "If you own a dog, please keep it on your property by a fenced yard, dog kennel run, or a running line that allows the dog to move freely in an area."

DONATIONS

to the Lynn County Hospital District EMS are greatly appreciated.
**LCHD EMS, Box 131
Tahoka, Tx 79373**

Hospital grants tax break for wind farms

Lynn County Hospital directors Monday night signed contracts to allow tax abatements for two Lynn County wind farm projects planned by Wind Tex Energy.

The action means another step forward in plans for the wind projects scheduled for an area including much of the eastern and southern portions of the county.

Construction on at least one of the two wind farms has been projected to begin by late this year. One is called the BorLynn Wind Farm and the other Lynn County Wind Farm. The two projects could result in about 175 wind turbines being erected, according to papers originating with the energy company.

The hospital action Monday followed a public hearing at a called meeting to adopt guidelines and criteria for granting tax abatements in reinvestment zones. The guidelines were adopted by unanimous vote of the board members present.

President Jerry Ford presided at the hospital board meeting. Other members present were Jannis Horwood, Nancy Guillem, Cal Huffaker and Dalton Wood. Absent were members Virginia Griffing and Frances Truehart. Hospital Administrator Jim Morris also was present, plus three visitors, Dean and Lana Daniell and Bobby Guillem.

Donate Items for Lynn County Hospital's Fun/Food Fest

Saturday, April 24
at Lynn County Show Barn!
Sponsored by Tahoka Rotary Club
(Proceeds benefit our local hospital)
For more info, contact
Julia Allen • 998-4533, ext. 333

Don't get hit with a penalty! "Render" your taxable property by April 15.

A "rendition" is a report to your county appraisal district that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year.

Who must file a rendition?

You must file a rendition if you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income—such as the inventory and equipment used by a business. If you render late, don't render or file an incomplete or false rendition, a 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed.

Are there any advantages to you?

The advantages of filing a rendition are:

- You give your opinion of your property's value. The appraisal district must notify you in writing of any value change and explain how you can protest that value to the appraisal review board.
- You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address. If your bill is mailed to the wrong address, the law still holds you responsible for paying your taxes on time or paying extra charges for late payments.
- You can also file a "report of decreased value" to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of the value of your property in 2009. The district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2010.

What's the deadline?

The last day for filing 2010 renditions is April 15. You can get an automatic extension to May 15 (or the next business day if a weekend) if you ask for it in writing on or before the April 15 deadline. The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after May 15 for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

Where do you file?

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:

LYNN COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
1615 Main Street • Tahoka, TX 79373
806-561-5477

Or contact:



Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
Property Tax Assistance Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, Texas 78711-3528
or call: (800) 252-9121, Ext. 1

or on the Web at: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

STOP SOME OF YOUR MONEY FROM FLYING AWAY TO IRS WITH AN IRA FROM FIRST NATIONAL BANK!

*You may still be able to save on your 2009 taxes with an
Individual Retirement Account. Come by or call us for details.*

First National Bank offers many services, including:

- Online Banking with Online Bill Pay • Savings Accounts
- Safe Deposit Boxes • Checking Accounts • Certificates of Deposits
- Bank by Mail • Direct Deposit
- Loans -- Farm, Commercial, Auto and Installment



**First National Bank
of Tahoka**

808 / 561-4511 • Member F.D.I.C.

HOURS: Lobby - 9:00-3:00 Monday-Friday; Drive-Thru - 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday
ATM - available at Stripes Convenience Store, Tahoka

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Ribbon cutting ... Tahoka Mayor John Baker and others look on during ribbon cutting ceremonies at the Grand Opening of the Big Blue Coin Op Laundromat Saturday afternoon. Cutting the ribbon are owners Kent Powers and his daughter and son-in-law, Melissa and Todd Hoemer. The new facility is located at 1631 Ave. J in Tahoka, open 7:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday thru Saturday, and 12-6 p.m. Sundays. Drop-offs, ironing, and alterations are also available. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)



Nice place ... Frances Thomas, Jerlean Martin and Helen Bookman visited the Big Blue Coin Op Laundromat during Grand Opening ceremonies Saturday afternoon, looking over the new facilities after the official ribbon cutting. The new laundromat is located at 1631 Ave. J in Tahoka. (LCN PHOTO by Juanell Jones)

Senior Citizens MENU

MARCH 22-26

Monday: Chicken tacos, Mexican rice, black bean & corn salad; fruit
Tuesday: Hungarian goulash, salad, biscuits, cookies
Wednesday: Smothered steak, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, bread, birthday cake
Thursday: Creamy baked chicken, egg noodles, spicy green beans, rolls, chocolate cloud

Friday: Chicken strip salad, chips, crackers, fruit
Reminders and Activities:
• Wed., March 24, we celebrate March birthdays: Pat Adams, Delores Akin, Eldon Akin, Eusebia Alonzo, Belja Alvarado, Dortha Flynn, Virginia Griffing, Alice Hatchett, Jim Morton, Edward Zavala, Betty Blevins and Clarissa Henderson, both of Wilson. *Happy Birthday!*
• Also on Wednesday, Maureen, courtesy of Calvert Health Care, will perform over the dinner hour.

Phebe K. Warner CLUB NEWS

Phebe K. Warner club met March 9, at the Tahoka City Hall with 10 members and a guest. John Baker, Mayor of Tahoka, spoke to the group about his first year serving as mayor. The city has received many grants: South Plains Community Action for five new homes to be built, funding for a new tanker fire truck, new police car and bullet proof vests. These are just a few the city grant writers have received. Other big projects for the city are the landfill project with the advantages of the alternative cover being used and work on replacement of 80 percent of the waterlines in the city. Mr. Baker prints his email address in the Lynn County News and is always available to the citizens of Tahoka. Baker said he has yet to regret a day of serving as mayor this past year. Mary Belew, scholarship chairperson, reported receiving nine applications for the annual scholarships the club awards. The next meeting will be March 23, at the First Baptist Church for the winners of the youth writing contests to present their winning entries.

Complete selection of *Gift Items*

Starting at under \$5 -- perfect for secret pals, birthdays, baby showers, special occasions and more!

STOP IN AND SEE OUR AMSCAN GIFT ITEMS AND SELECTION OF CROSSES!

Remember, your prescription card plan requires you to pay the same co-pay at ALL pharmacies ... so, when choosing your pharmacist, make your choice based on our friendly, knowledgeable staff and hometown convenience!

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LITTLE LEAGUE® REGISTRATION

Final Registration

Tahoka Little League

LAST CHANCE: March 23rd / 7:00-8:30 pm
Lyntegar Meeting Room

For Ages 5-14

- 5 & 6 year old division • 7 & 8 year old division
- 9 & 10 year old division • 11 & 12 year old division
- Senior League: Ages 13-14

REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00

Players must be 5 by April 30th and not older than 14 on April 30th in order to register for Little League.

For more info, contact Drew Stone, 773-9960.

For each participant to be registered, please bring one proof of age document. Please also bring three or more documents that show the address of the legal residence of the parent(s) or court-appointed guardian(s) for the player(s).

USDA to conduct CRP signup

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA has approved an additional 300,000 acres for conservation projects under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). These additional areas include 150,000 acres for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative; 50,000 acres for the Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative; and 100,000 acres for the Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds Initiative.

Vilsack also announced that USDA would conduct a general CRP signup later this year, with program details and the specific signup start date to be announced upon completion of an Environmental Impact Statement.

"It is my goal to ensure that we maximize CRP enrollment - and holding a general CRP signup is an additional step we can take to enroll acres in this program," said Vilsack.

Currently USDA's SAFE portfolio includes 75 approved projects in 22 states covering up to 500,000 acres. With these additional acres, SAFE projects may now cover up to 650,000 acres. SAFE helps state and regional agencies, non-profit organizations and others address local wildlife objectives by part-

nering with farmers and ranchers to restore wildlife habitats. Restoring an additional 50,000 acres of wetland ecosystems for the Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative will provide nesting ducks with critical habitat, food and nesting cover as well as security from predators.

The Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds Initiative was created to provide 250,000 acres of early successional grass buffers along agricultural field borders. With these additional acres, upland bird habitat under the initiative may now total up to 350,000 acres.

CRP is the nation's largest private land conservation program with authority to enroll 32 million acres. CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit your local FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

New Home SCHOOL MENU

MARCH 22-26
Breakfast

Monday: Pizza
Tuesday: Burritos
Wednesday: Cinnamon pastry
Thursday: Sausage, biscuit
Friday: Tortilla omelet

Lunch

Monday: Soft tacos, trimmings, pinto beans, apple
Tuesday: Corn dog, Calif blend veggies, pork-n-beans, peaches
Wednesday: Hamburger/cheeseburger, French fries, trimmings, cookie
Thursday: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce
Friday: Grilled cheese sandwich, carrots/cucumbers, fruit, chips



Zach Garcia recognized for Superior Achievement

The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) announced that Tahoka High School sophomore Zachariah Wayne Garcia, has been selected for membership. The Society recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Zach has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said NSHSS Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel. "He is now a member of a unique community of scholars, a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

"Our vision is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources and opportunities," stated NSHSS President James Lewis. "We aim to help students like Zach Garcia build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community."

Membership in the NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items, and publicity honors.

He is the son of David and Susie Garcia of Tahoka.

HONEST ★ DEPENDABLE ★ RELIABLE

★ Familiar with county issues.
★ Managed a financially successful business in Lynn County for 14 years.



ELECT

Danny W.

MARTIN

for Lynn County Commissioner, Pct. 4

in the April 13 Runoff Election in the Republican Primary

(EARLY VOTING - APRIL 6 - 9)

I will sincerely appreciate your Vote!

Pol. Adv. paid by Danny W. Martin, 1896 FM 211, Wilson, TX 79381

Tahoka ISD Board considers wind energy issues, teacher contracts

The Tahoka ISD Board of trustees met in regular session at p.m. Wednesday, March 10, the 1st board meeting for interim superintendent Gary Harrell to attend, as it is expected that new superintendent Steve Burleson will be on board by the April board meeting. Wind energy issues and teacher contracts were considered, including presentations from wind energy representatives and school attorneys on tax limitation agreements.

Four staff resignations were accepted, from Jordan Criswell, Joe Martinez, Debbie Engle, and Stephen Fancher, effective at the end of the school term. Mrs. Engle, an elementary teacher, is retiring after 33 years with the school district. Fancher is head girls' basketball coach who has been with the district for nine years, taking the Lady Bulldogs to the playoffs every year since 2001. He also taught history and government at Tahoka High School. Criswell and Martinez are assistant coaches, with Criswell teaching high school science, and Martinez teaching middle school science.

The Board took action to offer term contracts to 47 teachers, term dual-assignment contracts to two teachers, probationary contracts to nine teachers, and probationary dual-assignment contracts to four teachers for the 2010-11 school year.

Trustees heard presentations concerning a possible tax limitation value agreement under Chapter 313 of the Texas Economic Development Act for a proposed wind turbine project in the eastern part of Lynn County. Making presentations on behalf of Alternity Wind Power were Rich Ken-

nel, vice president of finance, and James Ansell, chief development officer. Making presentations on behalf of Underwood Law Firm, Tahoka ISD's school attorneys, were Fred Stormer and James Wester.

Unlike most taxing entities such as the county and hospital district, school districts can no longer give tax abatements to wind energy companies. The Texas Legislature eliminated the tax abatements option for school districts several sessions ago. However, Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code does permit school districts to grant a tax value limitation agreement.

"In the past, these types of agreements have been very lucrative for school districts in Texas and have generated rather large revenue windfalls for those districts," Supt. Harrell said in his board report. "However, due to recent legislative changes that took effect the past summer, those incentives for school districts have all but been eliminated. The only incentive specifically defined in the new legislation is a credit of \$100 per average daily attendance (ADA). For Tahoka ISD, that would only generate about \$56,000. However, if the school district chooses not to grant the tax limitation agreement, the District stands to generate as much as \$737,000 in additional Tier II state and local revenue from the additional tax base of the project."

Harrell added, "The new legislation may make it difficult for school districts statewide to agree to tax value limitation agreements unless the school attorneys can determine that the new law allows for some provision to chan-

nel additional funds or capital improvements to the community as a whole through the other taxing entities. Even though a school district is limited on the amount of revenue it can receive from a tax value limitation agreement with a wind energy company, one way a school district can take advantage of the additional tax base of the wind farm project is to increase its tax rate to maximize its Tier II state and local funding. To take advantage of this unique opportunity, voters would have to approve the tax rate increase through a tax rate ratification election, more commonly known as rollback election. This wind farm project can be a great opportunity for the citizens of Lynn County, but it will require cooperation between all of its taxing entities in order to maximize the amount of money that will stay in the county," he explained.

Following approval of the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the previous meeting, the financial report, and reports from the principals and athletic director, the board went into closed session to discuss personnel, returning to open session to take action on teacher contracts and consider other agenda items.

Most school districts in Texas contract with the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) to maintain their required school board policies. Periodically, and especially after legislative sessions, TASB will send out updated policies as a result of changes in federal and state laws, court rulings, etc. The Board approved TASB Localized policy Update 87. All of these policy updates resulted from bills enacted during the recent 81st Legislative Session. Also approved was the Texas Education Agency textbook adoption certification form for 2010. New instructional materials being adopted this year are English Language Arts for all grades.

Title 7, Chapter 791 of the Interlocal Cooperation Contracts Act of the Texas Government Code allows school districts to enter into cooperative agreements for procurement of certain products in order to obtain substantial savings through volume purchasing. An interlocal agreement with the West Texas Food Service Cooperative through Region 17 Education Service Center was approved for the purchase of food products for the 2010-11 school year.

State statute requires public schools to develop, evaluate, and revise annually, both district and campus improvement plans. The purpose of the improvement plans is to guide district and campus staff in the improvement of student performance for all student groups in order to attain state standards in respect to the academic excellence indicators approved by the State Board of Education. The Board approved the annual district and the three campus improvement plans as presented by Jenni McLelland, District Curriculum Coordinator.

In non-action items, the Board was given information concerning the school trustee



Champions ... This group of 6th grade girls won the championship in the little dribblers practice tournament in O'Donnell this past weekend, putting together a team just for the practice tournament since the season has not yet begun. They competed against O'Donnell, Wellman and Kingdom Prep from Lubbock. Pictured from left are Asst. Coach Ashley Lam, Kelsi Hilger, Clarissa Lopez, Leslie Resendez, Coach Michael L. DeLeon; and in front, Tari'Anna Pena, Andrea Garcez, Kayla Miller, Miranda DeLeon, Taylor Morin, and not pictured, Haley Stephens.

Pleasant Grove MENU

Sunday, March 21 menu:
Fried catfish, chicken fried steak, baked chicken, okra & tomatoes, mashed potatoes, cabbage, sweet potato casserole and dessert. 561-1019.

Hardwood, windbreak trees still available at local SWCD

The Tahoka SWCD office still has trees available, including seedling hardwood Bur Oaks, Red Oaks, Green Ash, Desert Willows, and Red Buds. Windbreak trees available are Eastern Redcedars. The District is also taking orders for one and five gallon trees.

Come by the SWCD Office at 1602 South 2nd St. to purchase these trees or call Helen Saldaña at 998-4507 Ext. 3 for more information.

election to be held on Saturday, May 8 at the Life Enrichment Center for the purpose of electing one trustee from each of the Tahoka ISD Districts 1, 2, and 5. The current trustees whose terms expire are: Kent Kahl, District 1, Joe Calvillo, District 2, and Antonio Garcia, District 5.

In District 5, Antonio Garcia is unopposed. Kent Kahl and Scott Dimak have applied for a place on the ballot for District 1. Beth Huffaker, Abraham Vega, and Martin Hammonds have applied for a place on the ballot for District 2. Early voting is April 26-May 4 at the Lynn County Courthouse.

The Superintendent also gave an enrollment report through Friday, March 5. Currently, there are 560 students enrolled in kindergarten thru grade 12, down 13 students from the February report. There were also 58 students enrolled in the Federal Head Start program. The total enrollment for the two programs is 618.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for April 15.

Winter precipitation improves 2010 pre-plant soil moisture conditions

Winter precipitation has improved pre-plant soil moisture conditions within the 15-county High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 service area. In fact, rain, ice, and heavy snowfall resulted in muddy roads and soggy fields that made some data collection impossible during the annual pre-plant soil moisture survey conducted in January/February 2010 by High Plains Water District and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) personnel.

Approximately 176 soil moisture monitoring sites were read; 22 sites were unable to be read due to wet conditions.

"At the time of the survey, our data indicated 2.98 inches of water was needed to fill the upper three feet of the soil profile. A total of 4.78 inches was needed to fill the upper five feet of the soil profile. Of course, this has likely changed since

Feb. 2," says USDA-NRCS Soil Scientist Gerald Crenwelge.

The 0-3 foot values are of specific interest to producers with irrigated farmland that are primarily concerned with soil moisture management in the upper portion of the soil. The 0-5 foot reading gives an overall soil moisture value and is useful to those with dry land farming operations.

Soil moisture availability and deficit maps can be found at <http://www.hpwd.com/programs/MoistureSurvey.asp>. The annual pre-plant soil moisture survey indicates general trends in soil moisture. Because of this and especially with the wet conditions-producers should check soil moisture conditions in their own fields prior to planting.

A step-by-step procedure to determine soil moisture is available free: call (806) 762-0181. A PDF file is available on-line at www.hpwd.com/downloads.

WARNING: All Animal Owners

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW: DOGS ON CHAINS

It is against the law under certain circumstances to restrain an animal by rope/chain or other tethering device as a means of restraining them on your property. (Chapter 821, Tx Health & Safety Code) Beginning March 18, Lynn County Animal Control will enforce this law, and is giving this notice to comply within 60 days, by May 18. Dogs may be restrained by a fenced yard, kennel or running line.

- YOU HAVE 60 DAYS TO COMPLY -

After May 18, Lynn County Animal Control will begin issuing citations and warnings to comply within 24 hours. Failure to comply will result in removal of the animal and legal action.

Lynn County Animal Control
Abbey Redman, Director • 806-561-4056



DC track meet ... Kyle Reno ran a leg for Tahoka on the Big Man relay to open the track meet at Denver City on March 5th. (LCN PHOTO by Tina Wuensche)

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HOUSE FOR SALE
2504 N. 2nd Street
3/2/2 Brick has backyard w/ waterfall and new fence.
Call for appointment:
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HOUSE FOR SALE
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Completely remodeled 2700-2800 square foot home in Country Club addition in Tahoka.
3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths.
All new appliances-built in microwave, reverse osmosis water treatment system and black glass-cooktop in kitchen. Remodeled from floor to ceiling in 2007-2008 with large sunroom added in back. Large storage building in back yard with cellar.
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HURRY FOR FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS TAX CREDIT!
1829 N. 8th - Tahoka:
This home is over 2000 sq. ft. brick 3/2/2 with circle driveway, 2 car garage, low maintenance landscaping, replace, office, w/ hardwood floors throughout the house. A great home for anyone in a quiet neighborhood.

1625 Ave. P - Tahoka:
A lovely brick home 3/2/0 with double carport. Home has new windows, 2 newly updated bathrooms, new sink and faucets. Home has a new water heater and back up sump pump system. This home is a must see!

1807 S. 2nd - Tahoka:
1,944 sq. ft. 3/1/2 with extra house, water well and new air conditioning.

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Lynn County Animal Shelter
Abbey Redman, Director
806-561-4056

Make comments/suggestions to **John Baker, Mayor of Tahoka** by emailing to: TahokaMayor@poka.com.

Classified ads DEADLINE is NOON TUESDAYS. Call 561-4888.

Card of Thanks

We would like to express our sincere appreciation during our loss of our beloved mother, Tiadora Salinas. Thank you to our friends and family for all the prayers, food, flowers and words of encouragement. Special thanks to White Funeral Home and staff, Vista Care of Carillon in Lubbock, and to the St. Jude Catholic Church, Father Teo and Deacon Fransisco Aguilera.
Mr. and Mrs. Eusevin Resendez & family
Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Salinas
Ricarda Salinas
11-1tp

Words cannot express our thanks to everyone for all the prayers, food, and expressions of love to us during the loss of our loved one. To the EMS, doctors and hospital staff -- you do a wonderful job and all are so dedicated. We are truly blessed to have this in our community. We give a special thanks also to our church family for the wonderful meal served us on Sunday. God bless each of you.
Milton Ehlers family
11-1tp

Donate Items for Lynn County Hospital's Fun/Food Fest
Saturday, April 24
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FOR SALE: Only one left -- 9-week old male Beagle puppy. Call 806-327-5655 or 575-399-4285. 11-1tp

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Regional medalist...

Joel Lowdermilk, a junior at Tahoka High School, placed fourth in regional Powerlifting competition at Sundown, the only Tahoka powerlifter to win a medal at the event. He lifted a total of 885 pounds, including 300 lbs. in squat-lift, 205 lbs. in bench press, and 380 lbs. in deadlift. Kyle Reno also competed at Regionals, placing 6th.

Poka Lambro sets Annual Meeting

Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is set to host their 59th Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 25, at Poka Lambro's main business office located 11.5 miles north of Tahoka, on US Hwy. 87.

Member registration will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:00 noon. The business meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. One important item of business on the agenda will be the election of two directors of the Cooperative.

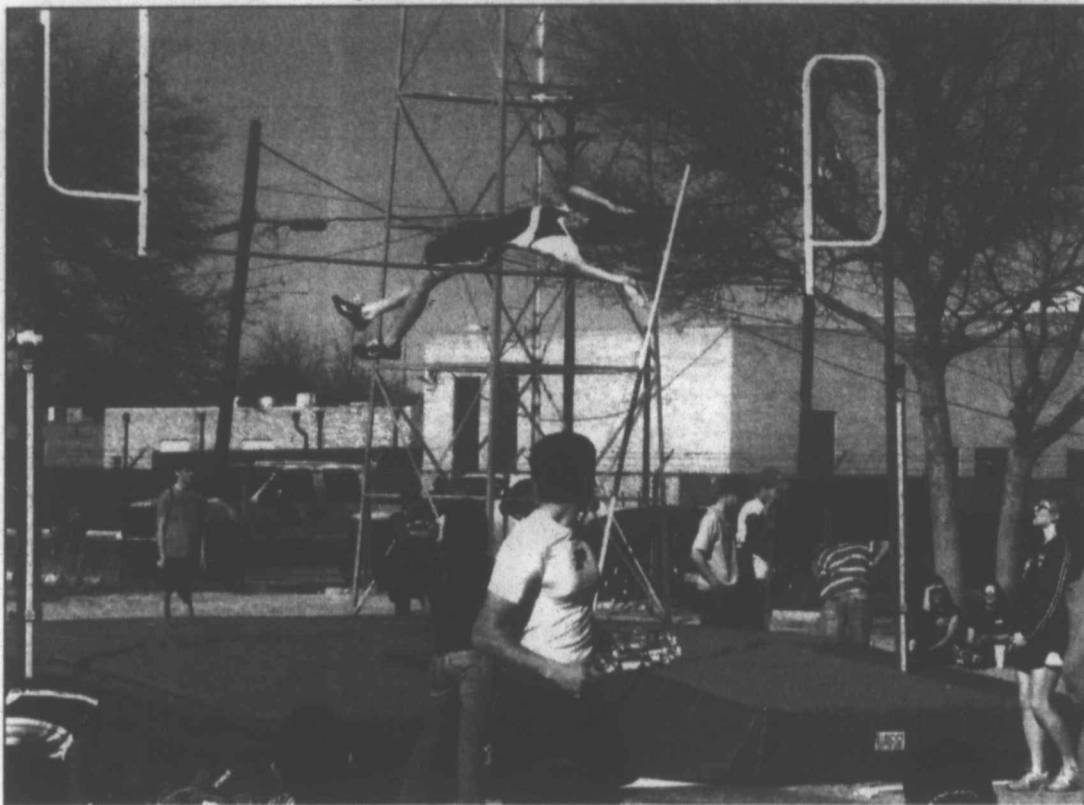
Other meeting highlights will include the reports of officers and directors and the presentation of Poka Lambro scholarships. All Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative members are encouraged to attend the meeting. Members may pick up door prize cards when registering at the meeting. Members must be present to win door prizes.

For additional information contact Amy Preston at 1-800-422-2387.



Good start ... Tahoka Girls Softball team beat Seagraves 20-0 as district play started off on a good foot last week. In this photo, batter Brittany Garcia hits a double and lands an RBI from #13 Kadi Carpenter scoring from second base on this play.

(LCN PHOTO by Tina Wuensche)



Up and away ... Tahoka's Tanner Hall cleared the opening height of 8½ ft. then the second height of 9 ft. on the pole vault at the Denver City Track Meet.

(LCN PHOTO by Tina Wuensche)

Baby Danae ...

(continued from page 1)

she will have to have the surgery but will put it off as long as possible. She will have to have eye surgery, probably by the time she is two years old, to correct her eyes from going outwards at times but she is able to see very well. She is smiling constantly, cooing all the time and can roll over from her tummy to her back," added Nikki.

"Danae is also strong enough to stand as long as we help her with her balance. So far, we have not seen any deficits from her bleeding on the brain when she was 5 days old. It seems that since Christmas time, she has really started to develop and try to catch up on lost time. As you may recall, she weighed 1 lb 6 oz and was 12 inches long at birth. Now she weighs over 12 lbs and is almost 24 inches long.

"I can't believe it has been a year already but she is doing great — such an amazing little blessing," said her mother.

Danae's grandparents are Lonnie and Connie Donald of Wilson and Jim and Barbara Bulen of Lubbock, and her great-grandparents are John and Evelyn Zalman of Hermleigh, and Jim and Ruby Bulen of Lubbock.

County golfers play in Loop tournament

The Loop Golf Tournament was held at the Gaines County Golf Course on Wednesday, March 10. Eight teams participated in the tournament including New Home and Wilson.

Winners of the tournament were: Garden City-first, Whitharral-second, and New Home-third. New Home individual scores were as follows: Heath Link 92, Josh Tello 105, Cody Cross 111, Zach West 117, and Zach English 126.

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Wilson SCHOOL MENU

March 22- 26
Breakfast

Monday: Pancakes
Tuesday: Burritos
Wednesday: French Toast Stick
Thursday: Sausage, biscuits & gravy
Friday: Eggs, hash brown, toast

Lunch
Monday: Salisbury steak, fries, gravy, steam broccoli, roll, frozen cherry bar
Tuesday: Sausage wraps, pinto beans, baked chips, pineapple orange salad
Wednesday: Chicken nuggets, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, roll, fruit
Thursday: Pork rib, potato salad, pinto beans, onions, oranges
Friday: Pizza, salad, carrots, banana

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Learn how to manage Type 2 Diabetes by participating in a 3-part program series called Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes, hosted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Classes are free, on Wednesday, March 24, 31, and April 7, 2-5 p.m., at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office, 1601 Ave J, Tahoka.

Topics you'll learn about include: What is Diabetes, Managing Your Blood Glucose (Sugar), Dietary Treatment of Diabetes and Different Types of Diets, Diabetes and Exercise, Understanding Nutritional Labels, Health Checkups, Preventing Problems, Diabetes Medicines, and Eating Out.

In the classes, you will get the facts from diabetes educators, make new friends who have the same concerns you do, ask the questions you want answered and learn in a supportive, caring environment, take home recipes and references you can share with friends and family, get the encouragement you need to make positive changes, learn how you can do well and be well with diabetes.

Please register now by contacting Amy Baugh, Lynn

County Extension Agent, 1601 Ave J (PO Box 669), Tahoka, TX 79373, 806-561-4562, e-mail: ar-erwin@tamu.edu.

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