



THE

Lynn County News

NEW PRICE:

\$1

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Serving Lynn County since 1903

Tahoka, Lynn County Texas

email: LynnCoNews@poka.com

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Now that's funny!

"Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know."

-- Daniel J. Boorstin

"Everyone with telekinetic powers, raise my hand."

-- Emo Philips

"What the world needs is more geniuses with humility; there are so few of us left."

-- Oscar Levant



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 for free 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
 (Include names and location please)

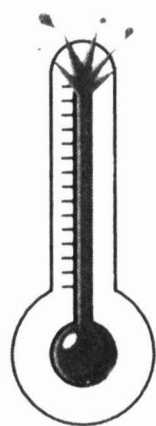
WHAT'S OUTSIDE

NWS official readings for Tahoka

Date	High	Low	Precip.
July 26	99	72	
July 27	100	75	
July 28	99	73	
July 29	98	73	
July 30	98	70	
July 31	101	72	0.02"
Aug 1	98	73	

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

Total Precip for Jan:	0"
Total Precip for Feb:	0.19"
Total Precip for Mar:	0.19"
Total Precip for Apr:	0"
Total Precip for May:	0.60"
Total Precip for June:	1.19"
Total Precip for July:	0.65"
Total Precip. for 2022:	2.82"



Hot, but not a record-breaker ...

Tahoka marks 30 days of 100+ temperatures

by JUANELL JONES

It comes as no surprise to local residents that it is extremely hot outside – as in triple-digits hot!

The mercury has risen above the 100-degree mark for 30 days this summer, actually starting in early May when temps climbed to 101 degrees on May 7, which turned out to be a harbinger of the heat to come.

Six days in May recorded triple-digit temperatures, and eight

days in June had 100+ temps. Sixteen of the 31 days in July recorded 100+ temps as well, and the summer heat may not yet be over.

Factor in a year that is among the worst of Texas droughts in recent history, and the news is not good.

Officially, according to the

National Weather Service data for Tahoka, only 2.8 inches of precipitation has fallen as of August 1 in 2022. And, actually, the month of June was the first time since August 2021 that recorded more than an inch of rain during a month's time.

It's bad, but it has not reached the epic heat and drought this area experienced in 2011.

Tahoka officially recorded 57 days of 100+ temperatures in 2011, along with only 5.23 inches of rain throughout the year.

But it's bad enough this year, with mostly failed dryland cotton crops throughout the county due

to the lack of moisture and the extreme heat. The irrigated acreage is struggling as well, without Mother Nature's assistance.

According to information this week from the USDA Farm Service Agency in Tahoka, there were 320,649 acres certified in Lynn County, of which 210,757 acres are failed – including both dryland and irrigated cotton acreage.

Those figures indicate 66 percent of the cotton acreage in Lynn County have failed (mostly dryland), which means that the 2022 cotton production will be bleak compared to last year's bounty.

Four traffic accidents in law reports during week

by JUANELL JONES

Four traffic accidents occurred in Lynn County during the past week, one of which was a head-on collision on US 87 about 11 miles north of Tahoka at 7:30 a.m. Aug. 1. Lynn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), DPS, Lynn County EMS, and Wilson and Tahoka Volunteer Fire Departments all responded to the scene. There were possible injuries to at least one person, but no driver or vehicle information was available.

A one-vehicle accident occurred in the 100 block of Stadium Drive in New Home just before midnight on July 25. According to call sheet reports, the vehicle had struck a power pole and the male driver was being transported to a Lubbock hospital for treatment of unknown injuries.

An SUV occupied by three people overturned at 1251 FM 2053 at 8 p.m. July 29. LCSO, DPS, O'Donnell Police, and Lynn County EMS all responded to the accident. All three occupants refused transport by EMS, according to the

call sheet report.

At 6:39 a.m. July 28, a vehicle struck a deer in the northbound lanes of US 87 at CR 13. The vehicle's side airbags deployed, but the vehicle was reportedly still drivable, and no injuries were reported. The impact killed the deer.

A couple of hours later that day, at 8:57 a.m., a woman called LCSO to report that a baby deer was following her as she was walking near FM 213 and FM 1054, and she wasn't sure what to do about the deer. The Game Warden was notified.

An injured deer was reported in the median about a half mile north of O'Donnell at 8:46 a.m. July 29 on US 87. The deer had possibly been struck by a vehicle. Deputies contacted the Game Warden to dispatch the deer.

Several welfare concerns were called in to LCSO, including a report of an individual seen walking in the middle of the northbound lanes on US 87 north of Tahoka at 9:39 p.m. July 25, whom officers were unable to locate. A male was

reported to be lying in a ditch beside by the southbound roadside park on US 87 north of Tahoka at 1:28 p.m. July 31. A deputy located the man, who said he was just looking for water. The deputy checked over the individual, and then left him some bottles of water.

At 9:52 a.m. July 30, a caller reported that sometime during the night or earlier that morning someone had tampered with his key pad at his barn, on CR 25. He reported he had two gallon gas cans that had been full of gas that are now empty, but nothing else appeared missing. A close patrol was placed on the area.

An electrical fire was reported as a transformer on fire at FM 1054 near FM 213 at 8:56 p.m. July 29. Just before midnight on July 29 a windmill was reported to be on fire on CR 130. O'Donnell VFD responded to both incidents.

A Tahoka Police officer on patrol discovered an open door at a motel room at the old Tahoka Motel Saturday evening, but did not find any damage or missing items.

On July 26, police responded to a vacant residence in the 2400 block of Lockwood at 2:40 p.m., when the owner discovered someone had appeared to try to gain entry through a locked door. The door was damaged but no entry was gained, according to the report.

Police arrested a male on charges of domestic assault at 1 p.m. July 28 after a female reported he had assaulted her at a local residence.

A gas leak on the west side of the Tahoka Elementary building was reported at 12:30 a.m. July 30, with Tahoka VFD and Atmos Energy responding to the scene.

Police responded to the 1300 block of Ave. E at 10:40 p.m. July 26, for a report of fireworks being set off in the area, but were unable to locate a source.

Numerous other calls during the week were for domestic disturbances, loud music/noise, welfare concerns, civil standbys, business/residential alarms that were from operator error, and assisting stranded motorists.

2022 Property Tax

TISD Board sets public hearing for budget, proposed tax rate

The Tahoka Independent School District Board of Trustees will meet Wednesday, Aug. 3 at 6 p.m. for a special meeting which will include a public hearing for citizens to give input on a review provided by school officials on the 2022-23 budget and proposed tax rate.

The current tax rate is \$1.3364, which includes a Maintenance and Operating (M&O) rate of \$1.0426, and an Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate of \$0.2938 to pay for bonded indebtedness.

As of press time Tuesday afternoon, school officials had not released information about the proposed tax rate.

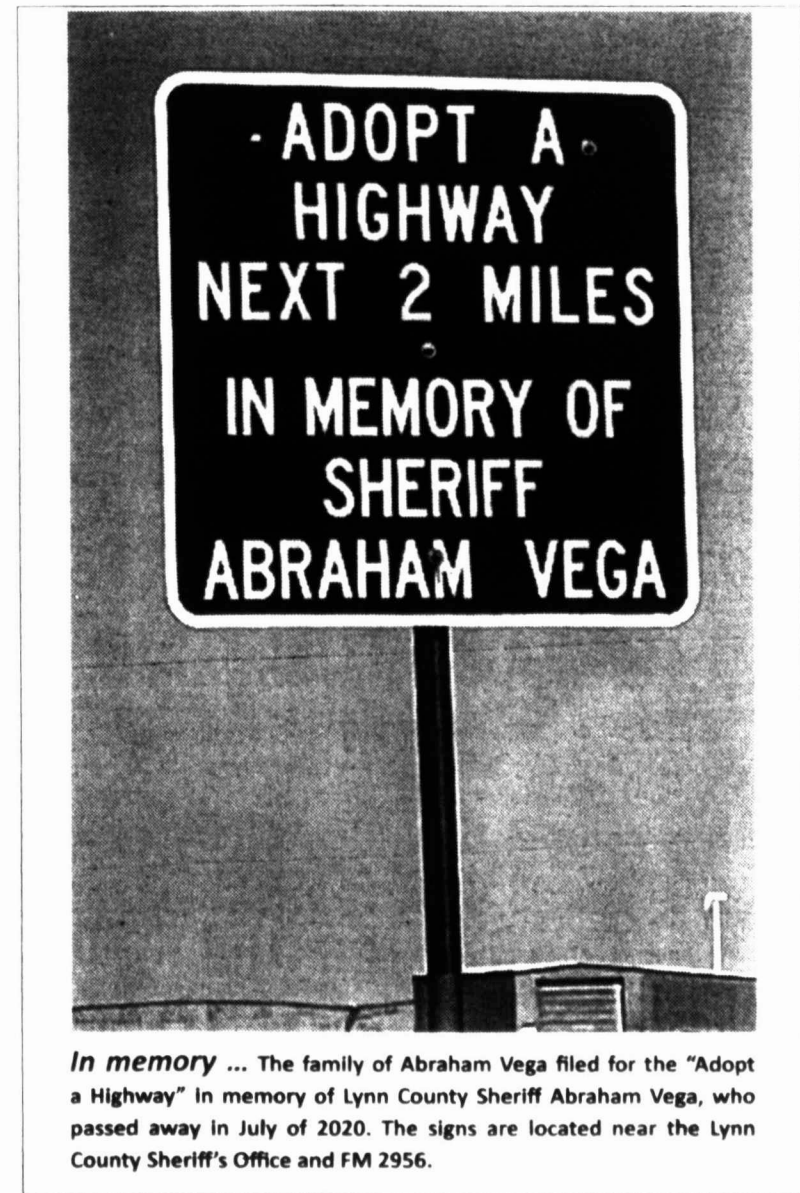
According to the Aug. 3 agenda, trustees were to consider adopting the 2022-23 budget, consider to adopt the M&O tax rate and consideration that sets the I&S tax rate.

According to figures from the Lynn County Appraisal District, Tahoka ISD's total certified gross

market value of all property is \$644,101,474. That is an increase of \$180,029,769 from the current year's gross market value of \$464,071,705, a figure which was provided by the school district last August for the current year's values.

With wind energy abatements figured in (which is allowed on the M&O rate), the M&O net value for this year is \$197,717,635. The I&S net value for this year is \$398,615,755, because abatements are not allowed for taxing purposes on I&S tax rates for repaying bonded indebtedness.

With the constitutional amendment approved for a tax break of an additional \$15,000 homestead exemption for homeowners, this year's homestead exemptions have been raised from \$25,000 to \$40,000. Those homestead exemptions total \$27,888,120 for TISD, as compared to the previous year's homestead exemptions of \$19,989,710.



In memory ... The family of Abraham Vega filed for the "Adopt a Highway" in memory of Lynn County Sheriff Abraham Vega, who passed away in July of 2020. The signs are located near the Lynn County Sheriff's Office and FM 2956.



NOW THAT'S FUNNY!

“ My definition of an intellectual is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of the Lone Ranger. ” -- BILLY CONNOLLY

The Lynn County News

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Senior Citizens LUNCH MENU

August 8-12

Join us for exercises on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday from 11 a.m. - Noon! The dining area is open to visitors! Come see us!

Monday: Chicken spaghetti, carrots, zucchini, bananas/vanilla pudding

Tuesday: Beef fajitas, refried beans, Spanish rice, vegetable salad, peach cobbler

Wednesday: Pork chop, black eyed peas, spinach, baked apple slices

Thursday: Turkey pot pie, seasoned corn, tossed salad, ambrosia

Friday: Shepherd's pie, stewed okra & tomatoes, coleslaw, butterscotch pudding



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Obituaries



Kenny Hensley

Kenny Hensley, 72, of Lubbock, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, July 29, 2022. Kenny was born on September 29, 1949, in Tahoka, Lynn County, Texas to the late Pat Hensley and Jo (Williams) Hensley.

He grew up on a farm and attended Borden County High School, graduating in 1968. Following high school graduation, he attended Texas A & M University, graduating in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture and Economics. He returned home to West Texas to pursue his dream of farming and starting a family. He met the love of his life during high school, Carla Shoemaker, and they were married on May 20, 1972, in Ralls, Texas. He and Carla celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May 2022.

Kenny was a loving husband, father, and friend. He was one of four children and was a life-long resident of West Texas, where he was a cotton farmer with a servant's heart. His devotion to the land, to his family and steadfast faith guided his path in life. He was just as at home plowing the fields as he was ministering to prisoners or leading school board meetings.

He put his keen intelligence and leadership skills to good use during his life as he volunteered with various community organizations. He served on the Borden County School Board for 16 years. He was also a member of Borden County Livestock Association and Borden County USDA.

Kenny was happy serving others. His compassionate spirit drew others to him, and he was passionately involved with many Christian ministries. Closest to his heart was Kairos Prison Ministries, and he was an active member of his church, Aldersgate Church. Devoted to his family, he loved spending time playing with his grandchildren.

Those left to honor and cherish his memory include his wife, Carla; daughter Mendy Briley and her husband Brian of Borden County; daughter Laura Huchzermeyer and husband Erick of Houston; two brothers, Rusty Hensley and wife Mary of Rockwall and Randy Hensley and wife Donelle of Borden County; one sister, Lesa Enlow and husband Bill of Wichita Falls; four grandchildren, Colbin, Logan and Brianna Briley, and Philip Huchzermeyer. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation for Kenny will be on Wednesday evening, August 3, 2022, from 5 to 7 PM at Combest Family Funeral Home in Tahoka. Funeral services will be at 10 AM on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at Aldersgate Church, 10306 Indiana Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79423. Final rites and interment will follow at 2 PM in the Gail Cemetery, in Gail, Texas. Pastor Ryan Smallwood will be the officiant.

Pallbearers will be Colbin Briley, Logan Briley, Bryan Hensley, John Hensley, Brady Enlow and Randy Adcock. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the Lamesa Kairos Prison Ministry, c/o Jackie Warren, 207 Juniper Drive, Lamesa, TX 79331, the Gail Cemetery or "Love the Hub" at Aldersgate Church, 10306 Indiana Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79423.



Gayla Hohn

Gayla Jean Fisher Hohn, age 87, passed away July 26, 2022. She was born to Ernest and Martha (Staggs) Fisher in Brownwood, TX on July 25, 1935. She grew up in Lubbock, graduating from Lubbock High in 1953.

Gayla married Harold Hohn on July 31, 1953 in Lubbock, TX. Harold took her from the big city to the farm in O'Donnell. She was a perfect homemaker, wonderful cook, outstanding

seamstress and artist.

Her greatest love was children and she was the greatest "Gra'Mommie/Grammie" in the world. Grand children and great grands adored her, and she spent hours playing games, painting, and watching movies with them. Her love for children extended to the families of First Baptist Church, showing the Love of Jesus to the babies and toddlers.

Gayla and Harold traveled after retirement visiting grandchildren and welcoming great grandchildren. Genealogy was a passion, traveling across the country, and to Scotland and Germany, discovering members of their family trees and connecting with newfound relatives. Harold preceded her in death in March of 2022. She is survived by daughters: Debbie Reed of Lubbock and Linda (Tommy) Rodgers of O'Donnell; one sister, Dorothy Moore of Colorado, and one sister-in-law, Elaine Pearson of O'Donnell. Grand children: Aimee (Kevin) Richardson of Double Oak, TX, Hans (Erin) Mensch of San Angelo, TX, Natasha (David) Goggin of Orange Grove TX, Tae (Becca) Reed of Memphis TN, and Kailee (Patrick) Spear of Lubbock; and much-loved great grandchildren: Carson Richardson, Drew Goggin, Oliver Mensch, Kate Mensch, Adam Goggin, Paxton Spear, Allison Goggin, and Peyton Spear. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Jim Fisher and Horace Fisher; two sisters, Louise Deering and Bobbie Bryant.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 30, 2022, at the O'Donnell Cemetery, under the personal care and direction of Combest Family Funeral Home. The family greeted friends and family immediately following at First Baptist Church O'Donnell.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to a charity of one's choosing.



Joy Brookshire-Tippit

Joy Brookshire-Tippit, 89, a life-long resident of Lynn County, was lifted into Heaven by her Lord and Savior, on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. Joy was born on October 21, 1932, in Lubbock, to the late Albert and Gussie (Parsons) Williams.

She married the love of her life, James Brookshire,

A look back at ... **Woodwork**

by Dalton (Reprinted from the past)

Dalton Wood



WATCHING the queen of our kitchen prepare a meal one day last week, I noticed she was using a wooden rolling pin and I asked her how long she had owned that thing. She told me it was a wedding present from the attorneys she worked for at the time we married.

"That was a good wedding present, since you're still using it," I said (trying unsuccessfully to remember how many years had passed). I wondered if young housewives who cook these days still use rolling pins, and she said, "They do if they make pie crusts." Ready-made pie crusts can be bought now, but the cook at our house, who is a really great cook, likes to make her own crusts. (I remember our son, who now has his own kids, telling her once when he was about 12, "Momma, you're the best cooker in the whole world.")

Watching her roll out that crust brought to my mind the only time I ever tried to make a pie crust (or pie), a year or so after I finished college and before we married.

I was living in a Dallas apartment with a guy I had attended college with, and one night we decided we wanted a chocolate pie. I told him I had seen my mother bake pies, and maybe I could make one. We bought the pie filling, which was smart, but decided we would make the crust, which was dumb.

I told him I thought the crust was made of flour and water and maybe baking powder and possibly Crisco, so we stopped by a store and bought some stuff. At home I realized we had no rolling pin or anything to roll the crust on. So we improvised. I cleaned the surface of a round mirror we used to shave by, and my friend came up with a bottle to use as a roller.

We mixed up some things, guessing at the portions, and started rolling, but the mixture kept sticking to the bottle. Finally we got something flattened out and put it in a pan for baking, thinking we would add the chocolate later. After a little while, I opened the oven to see how it was doing, and the crust had shrunk up inside the pie pan.

I tried pulling the edges back up to the edge of the pan with a fork, while my buddy just staggered around the kitchen laughing like an idiot. This made holes in the crust.

We finally finished the whole thing and even tasted it, but it was awful.

That was the only pie I ever made.

~July 25, 2011

and they raised two children, Jan and David. James farmed at Draw, Texas and later worked for the U. S. Post Office in Tahoka. Mr. Brookshire preceded her in death in December of 1994. She later married Beryl Tippit, a high school classmate, and relocated to Lubbock. They enjoyed many happy years together before he passed away.

Joy started working at the ASCS office in Tahoka, before working at Lynn County Hospital for Dr. Richard Wright. When Dr. Wright retired, she managed Bluebonnet Savings and Loan. After retirement, she went back to work at the Justice of the Peace Office and Municipal Court. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend to all. Joy was an avid golfer and

was very good at it, having won many trophies at T-Bar Country Club in Tahoka and other locations. She also enjoyed fishing.

Those left to honor and cherish her memory include one daughter, Jan Brookshire; three grandsons, Ryan Hamblin and wife Kami, Stephen Brookshire and wife Brandi, Dustin Brookshire and wife Savannah; four great-grandchildren, Taylor and Harper Hamblin, and MaKInlee and Kyson Brookshire; two sisters, Linda Landrum of Lubbock and Sue Willhoit of Lubbock; one brother, Jimmy Williams of Tahoka; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by both husbands, her son, David Brookshire in 2017, one brother, Marshall Williams and two sisters, Helen Douthit and Jo Hensley.

Visitation for Joy will be from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2022, at Combest Family Funeral Home in Tahoka. Graveside services will follow at 3 p.m. in the Nevels Cemetery under the personal care and direction of Combest Family Funeral Homes. Reverend L. J. Wright, of New Home Baptist Church, will be the officiant.

Pallbearers will be Ryan Hamblin, Stephen Brookshire, Dustin Brookshire, Kyson Brookshire, Jimmy Williams and Mark Tekell.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials in Joy's memory be made to the Draw Methodist Church, 2749 FM1054, Tahoka, TX 79373 or to the Children's Home of Lubbock, 4404 Idalou Road, Lubbock, TX 79403.

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Six New Home players named to 2A All-State baseball team

Six players from the New Home Independent School District high school baseball team have been named to the Class 2A All-State Baseball Team by the Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association.

Three players were named on the First Team, including Brody Emert (junior) as first baseman, Logan Addison (sophomore) as third baseman, and Ashton Lucio (sophomore) as an outfielder. Zach Blizel (senior) was

named as a pitcher on the Third Team, and Hunter Watkins (senior) was named as an outfielder.

Honorable Mention outfielders included Jackson Raines (junior).

All are members of the New Home Leopards 2022 team that made it six rounds through the postseason playoffs, all the way to the state tournament, where they were edged out in the semifinals.

Area News News items from area newspapers

Farmers Market opens in Post

LAMESA – The first Post Farmers Market of the year was held Saturday (July 23). Though organized rather quickly, the market went off without a hitch.

Eleven vendors set up tables and canopies on West Main Street from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Twenty-three more people expressed interest in selling, but the timing was inconvenient for them on such short notice.

After Saturday's market, even more people have inquired about becoming a vendor.

Organizers and vendors collectively decided to hold the Post Farmers Market every other weekend through October, or as long as produce and interest continue. The next market will be on Saturday, Aug. 6.

-- from the Post Dispatch

School board hears about safety, Guardian programs

SLATON – The Slaton Independent School District Board of Trustees heard an update about efforts to institute a Guardian program in the district Tuesday evening (July 19) during its regular board meeting.

Supt. Jim Andrus said the district has a safety and security committee, with standard response protocol taught to teachers so there was a common language.

He added Gov. Greg Abbott and others put out June 1 some additional safety measures for each school to include in their programs before the start of the year.

Those new measures, brought in light of the Uvalde shooting, include a study and check up on security on all buildings and creating a detailed system to ensure all safety items are in place.

Supt. Andrus added he also would be attending a Secret Service workshop for superintendents on safety.

He added the district has set a date for the Guardian program training, Aug. 14-15, and 24 people in the school district had signed up.

-- from The Slatonite

SHOP Local!

SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT ARE HERE FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR.

TAHOKA I.S.D. Middle/High School Registration

Parent/Guardians

Registration for returning students must be completed each school year. This year, part of TISD's registration is online through the Parent Portal. Registration is required to be completed for each student enrolling in High/Middle School.

The deadline for enrollment will be Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

All student registration must be completed prior to any student receiving their schedule. When registering, please ensure that all contact information is correct. Contact information is vital for emergencies as well as being notified with your child's important academic updates. Emails, phone numbers, and addresses need to be updated as changes occur throughout the school year as well. If you are unable to get into the Parent Portal, please contact me at btomlinson@tahokaisd.org

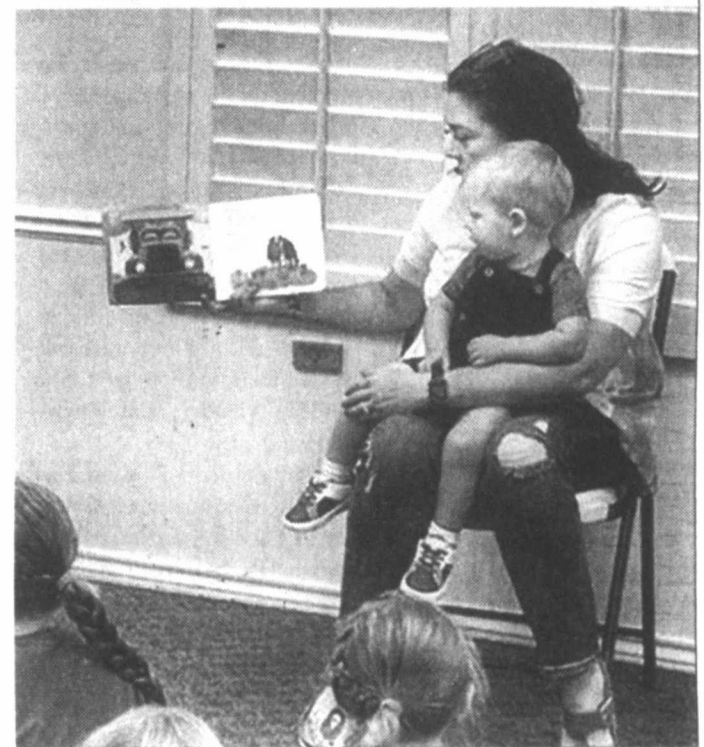
Thank you for your cooperation in the registration process. Please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance. I look forward to another great year.



Go Bulldogs!
Emily Tomlinson
Tahoka HS/MS Registrar
(806)561-4119



Reading is fun ... Celinda Moore (bottom right) holds a little one as she read Little Blue Truck at the City/County Library's Storytime last week. Also reading was Suzanne Baker, (above) who read Eloise And The Big Parade. She also made yankee doodle hats for all the kids and then they had a yankee doodle parade singing and marching to the song.



Area News

High fuel prices result in Snyder business shutting down

SNYDER – Grimmett Brothers Inc. closed down in Snyder recently. Reese Grimmett, Grimmett Brothers general manager, said they have two contracts to finish up and then operations will stop. He said they will remain open for another month to close things down.

Reese said increasing operation costs drove them out of business. He said they spent \$130,000 on fuel every month, twice the amount six months ago. He said maintenance costs have doubled and parts are hard to find.

Haily Grimmett, Grimmett Brothers owner, said the company lays caliche and creates dirt roads for oil companies. She said 98-percent of their contracts are oil field locations.

"There's plenty of work out there, it's just not profitable," said Haily.

Haily said Grimmett Brothers also has lots in Andrews and Sterling City. Reese said they employ 50 people across their three locations. He said their employees were notified a month before and 90 percent of them have a job lined up.

-- from the Snyder News

Deadline for News / Advertising is NOON TUESDAY at the Lynn County News 806-561-4888

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Farmers Co-op Association
No. 1

Lynn County Farm Bureau



Roadrunner license plate ... A greater roadrunner conservation license plate is now available from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The plate will raise money to help support and expand wildlife viewing programs and habitat conservation work in Texas. All TPWD conservation specialty plates cost \$30 a year, with \$22 supporting various programs and efforts. Plates can be purchased for vehicles, RVs/travel trailers, trailers and motorcycles.

New roadrunner license plate now available for Texas drivers

AUSTIN — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) launched the long-awaited greater roadrunner conservation license plate recently. The plate will raise money to help support and expand wildlife viewing programs and habitat conservation work in Texas. "The greater roadrunner is an iconic image for Texans that can be seen in every county of the state and is one of the toughest birds around—it's even known for eating rattlesnakes," said Shelly Plante, TPWD's Nature Tourism manager. "It's also one of the few birds people recognize and remember the first time they see it, given its unique profile—all of which makes it the perfect symbol for Texas wildlife viewing and nature tourism."

The public was invited to vote for their favorite design for the new roadrunner license plate last April and the winning design is on the new plate. The design shows the roadrunner in a proud, confident stance, a signature look

for this Texas bird. Texas wildlife photographer Hector Astorga has generously donated the image appearing on the plate. In 2020, Hector was named one of the "We Will Not Be Tamed" ambassadors for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. "Wildlife photography opens people's eyes to what we need to protect," Astorga says. "That leads to conservation and preserving the habitat that these wild creatures need to survive."

Funding from sales of the roadrunner conservation license plate will help support and expand programs such as the Great Texas Wildlife Trails, Texas Paddling Trails and Great Texas Birding Classic, making it easier to find great places for Texans to view wildlife and enjoy nature.

The TPWD Conservation License Plate Program has raised \$10.5 million in the last 22 years for wildlife and habitat conservation in Texas, according to program marketing lead, Janis Johnson. The 11 conservation plate designs include a horned lizard, large-mouth bass, hummingbird, white-tailed deer, bluebonnet, desert bighorn sheep and others. These plates benefit Texas fisheries and rivers, state parks, big game research and management and non-game wildlife species management. All TPWD conservation specialty plates cost \$30 a year, with \$22 supporting various programs and efforts. Plates can be purchased for vehicles, RVs/travel trailers, trailers and motorcycles. To buy a roadrunner plate or for more information on TPWD's conservation license plates, visit www.conservationsplate.org/roadrunner, or visit your local county tax office to order.

It's big, but it's not a 'murder hornet'

Texas A&M AgriLife experts say Texans mistakenly identifying cicada killer wasps

Each summer since the release of information about Northern giant hornets being found in Washington state in 2020, Texas A&M AgriLife entomologists have been inundated with questions and reported sightings.

But these sightings of Northern giant hornets, which were formerly named the Asian giant hornet and commonly called "murder hornet," are nothing more than cases of mistaken identity, said Molly Keck, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service integrated pest management specialist and entomologist, San Antonio.

Keck and other AgriLife Extension entomologists said people are most likely mistaking cicada killers, which are large

native Texas wasps, for Northern giant hornets.

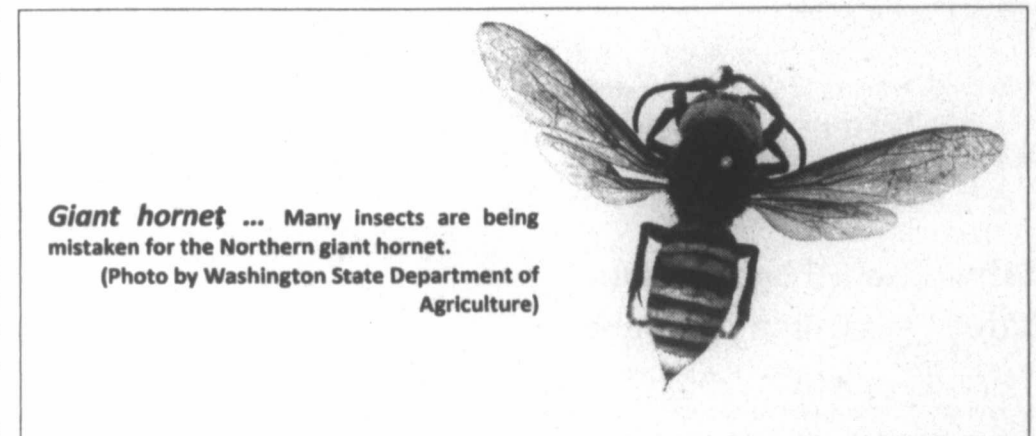
"Northern giant hornets are not in Texas, and from reports, agencies in Washington state have done a very good job of controlling their numbers and preventing their spread," she said. "It would be a far leap for them to be in Texas." Keck said she is mostly receiving phone calls about sightings. But she also receives photos of native cicada killers, also known as ground hornets, submitted as suspected Northern giant hornets.

The Northern giant hornet was recently renamed by the Entomology Society of America and added to the group's Common Names of Insects and Related Organisms List. While state agencies

want to encourage Texans to be vigilant in watching for the Northern giant hornet, also known as murder hornet, they also want to help provide guidance that will help narrow the focus.

Northern giant hornets are native to Japan and South Korea and have only been found in parts of British Columbia, Canada and the northwestern corner of Washington state.

When the Northern giant hornet was reported in Washington in May 2020, the concern was enough to prompt Gov. Greg Abbott to request a task force be mobilized to prepare Texas against the hornet's arrival. But there have been no confirmed reports of these hornets outside of Whatcom County, Washington.



Giant hornet ... Many insects are being mistaken for the Northern giant hornet. (Photo by Washington State Department of Agriculture)

Area News ... reprinted from area newspapers

Big increase in property values will allowcut in Dawson County's tax rate

LAMESA — It appears local taxpayers could see a sizable decrease in their (Dawson) county tax bills this fall unless their property values have risen significantly. That's because the certified taxable property values in Dawson County came in much higher than had been anticipated.

The appraisal district report shows the total taxable property values for Dawson County this year will be about \$891 million, Dawson County Judge Foy O'Brien said. That figure is up from about \$675 million last year.

During a budget workshop by the Dawson County Commissioners Court last week, O'Brien said that means the county might be able to lower its property tax rate by around 8 cents per \$100 property valuation.

"We believe we can now lower our tax rate to 88 cents, from around 97 cents last year, and still cover everything that's in the budget," he said.

An 88-cent tax rate, he said, would generate enough funds to provide a proposed 8-percent pay raise for all county employees, fund requested increases in the budgets for the district court and juvenile probation office, and restore funding in some areas that had been cut below state recommendations last year.

-- from the Lamesa Press-Reporter

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Wells Farmers Cooperative Gin, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 54889, which would authorize continued operation of a Cotton Gin located at 990 Farm to Market 213, O'Donnell, Lynn County, Texas 79351. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

Notice of Public Hearing on Lynn County Appraisal District Budget

The Lynn County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2023 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, August 17, 2022** at 8:30 a.m. at the Lynn County Appraisal District office, 1615 Main St., Tahoka, TX

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed appraisal budget	\$344,705
The total amount of increase from the current year's budget	\$ 30,333
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget	4
The number of employees compensated under the current budget	4

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

LYNN COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
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Job Description
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Duties & Responsibilities
 Facilitate the development of short and long term economic and community goals.
 Serve as a liaison with local, state, and federal governments for businesses in the community.
 Present information regarding economic development issues, programs, services and/or plans, to boards, commissions, civic groups, businesses, individuals, and the general public.
 Become familiar with inventory of available properties or business in Tahoka.
 Complete grant proposals and applications.
 Work with TEDC to create and implement marketing and business strategies.
 Monitor laws, regulations, and legislations relating to economic development.
 Maintain strong working relationships with the public, area businesses, and board members.
Training & Experience
 Individuals must demonstrate great communications skills, ability to work independently, and a strong understanding of businesses in this area. Must be someone who is energetic and enthusiastic about the future of Tahoka.
 Submit resumes to: tahokaedcboard@gmail.com 24-tfc

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