April 26, 2012



Top Dogs





Humor





Tea Party



Earth Day



FFA





Howe, Texas 75459

Austin College Students Shave Heads for Cancer Research

SHERMAN, TEXAS-A large group of young men and women, all with shaved heads, likely will get some second looks and perhaps be asked some questions.

That's exactly the response a group of Austin College students hope to get.

Twenty-five students had their heads shaved at Rotaract's fourth annual St. Baldrick's event April 12 in support of children's cancer research. Volunteers sought donations individually in advance of the event and Rotaract also collected donations on campus. The group raised more than \$3,000. Local stylists Eric Mitchell Ross and Julia Anderson donated their time to shave the heads of the students.

Freshman Anika Nichols-Payne was the most successful fundraiser among the women. She took part on behalf of two children with cancer, Tracy and Ryan, whom she knows. Other student and faculty participants were David Aiello, Abdurrahman Allawala, Katy Allen, Lance Barton, James Benson, Jordan Benson, Thomas Boyanton, Christopher Burke, Brittnay Connor, Matthew Coppola, Andrew Delgado, Andrea Hernandez, Edgar Hernandez, Paul Hess, Matt Johnstone, Katie Jolet, Christopher Joseph, Shruti Nabar, Tajin Perez, Anika Payne, Lety Pilar, Eric Ross, Igor Soares, and Anthony Tatar.

In addition to fundraising, the bald heads display solidarity with kids who are battling cancer-who usually don't have a choice about their hairstyles. Several of the Austin College participants had grown their hair out so that having their heads shaved benefitted two organizations-St. Baldrick's and one of various charities that accept hair donations to create and provide hairpieces to individuals who have lost their hair due to medical conditions.

All funds raised support the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which funds more in childhood cancer research grants than any organization except the U.S. government. Since 2000 when the organization began from within a group of friends, more than 183,000 volunteers-including over 16,400 women-have shaved their heads in solidarity with children with cancer at events in dozens of countries and every U.S. state. The volunteers have raised more than \$100 million.

Junior Bethanie Livernois of Coppell, Texas, was the Rotaract coordinator for the event. Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30.

Austin College is a leading national independent liberal arts college located north of Dallas in Sherman, Texas. Founded in 1849, making it the oldest institution of higher education in Texas operating under original charter and name, the college is related by covenant to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Recognized nationally for academic excellence in the areas of international education, pre-professional training, and leadership studies, Austin College is one of 40 schools profiled in Loren Pope's influential book Colleges That Change



Photo: Anika Nichols-Payne after shaving her head for cancer research funding.

Austin College Concert Band Performs "Americana"

SHERMAN, TEXAS-The Austin College Concert Band, directed by Bob Archer, will perform "Americana" in its spring performance on Wednesday, April 25, at 7:30 pm in Wynne Chapel. The performance is free and open to the public.

"Americana is an amalgam of roots music formed by the confluence of the shared and varied traditions that make up the American musical ethos; specifically those sounds that are merged from folk, country, blues, rhythm and blues, rock and roll and other external influential styles," said Archer, an adjunct instructor in music at Austin College.

The concert program will include "American Folk Rhapsody" by Clare E. Grundman; "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" by Timothy Rea; "To Challenge the Sky and Heavens Above" by Robert W. Smith; "Second American Folk Rhapsody" by Clare E. Grundman; "La Madre de los Gatos" by Brian Beck; "Dusk" by Steven Bryant; and "See Rock City" by Brant Karrick.

Archer said the Concert Band is dedicated to reading and performing traditional and contemporary band literature. Now in its ninth season, the band is a joint effort of Austin College and community musicians. Band members include Austin College students-music majors and non-music majors, Austin College faculty, area high school band directors, music professionals, and community members who enjoy playing music.





Rachel Schroeder, Blake Rice and Andrew Steele take the stage in Grayson College's production of "Exhibit This! The Museum Comedies" for mature audiences. Performances are scheduled for April 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. and April 29 at 2:30 p.m.



Grayson College students Rodney Hudson and Jessica Huffstetler make museum items come to life in the Theatre Department production of "Exhibit This! The Museum Comedies" for mature audiences. Performances are scheduled for April 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. and April 29 at 2:30 p.m.

GC Theatre Presents "Exhibit This!" April 26-29

One doesn't have to wait for closing hours to enjoy the antics of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art's inhabitants. Grayson College's theatre students help paintings, sculptures, antiquities, drawings and fertility gods emerge from their frames, molds and displays during "Exhibit This! The Museum Comedies" April 26-29.

Written by playwright Luigi Jannuzzi, the production is a fast-paced series of seven comedic plays and six monologues based on more than 50 works of art at the Met as well as the artists, guards, critics, lovers and curators who work with them. The comedy, which includes mature content, explores life from the perspective of the museum pieces as well as the impact they have on the people around them.

"It is art appreciation with a comedic twist, and the majority of 'Exhibit This!' is student-designed and student-directed," said Robin Robinson, GCC's theatre director and professor of theatre and speech. "The multiple sub-plays make this a challenging piece for our students, but it's fun to watch them grow creatively as they prepare to make this a production the audience will enjoy and remember."

While Robinson directed three of the sub-plays, most feature student directors. Tenna Matthews, GC professor of theatre and technical director, designed the set. Painted in an impressionist style but with more vivid colors familiar to works from the Renaissance era, the set also incorporates the various art pieces featured in each sub-play.

Costumes for the entire production were designed last fall by students in the costume class taught by Thea Albert, GC professor of theatre. J.J. Battles, Tom Bean sophomore, is costume design coordinator.

Other student production staff members include: Skylar Fulton, Tom Bean sophomore, make-up designer, master carpenter and projections designer; Fabian Garcia, Nevada sophomore, stage manager; Blake Rice, Savoy freshman, sound designer; and Justin Roberts, Bells sophomore, prop master. As lighting design coordinator, Cumby freshman Andrew Steele works with the sub-play lighting designers and Lexi Lehberg, Frisco sophomore, who is master electrician.

Most of the "Exhibit This!" cast and crew appear in more than one of the sub-plays. Cast and crew are listed by sub-play, and sub-plays are noted in order of presentation.

"1-555-HELP-ART" includes cast members: Judson Wall, Whitewright sophomore; Jessica Huffstetler, Whitesboro sophomore; and Dillon Wooten, Trenton freshman. Crew members are: Kasy Poindexter, Whitewright freshman, director; and Maggie Bergener, Denton sophomore, light designer.

"Love Among the Impressionists" includes cast members: Rebecca Carter, Sherman freshman; Rice; Rachel Schroeder, Denison freshman; and Steele. Crew members are: Levi Hardin, Denton freshman, director; and Lehberg, light design.

"Dating in the Planetarium" is a monologue featuring Lori Stewart, Whitesboro sophomore. Crew members are Albanie Knight, Denison sophomore, director; and Hardin, light design.

"The Forgery or Boating with the Spanish Singer, a Woman with a Parrot, and Manet" includes cast members: Wes Hayes, Howe

freshman; Knight; Leah Maxson, Denison freshman; Roberts; Wayne Ryan, Bells freshman; and Noah Scheibmeir, Sherman sophomore. Crew members are: Huffstetler, director; and Steele, light design.

"The Penitent Magdalen" is a monologue featuring Carter. Crew members are: Elizabeth Holland, Trenton sophomore, director; and Bergener, light design.

"The Curator" includes cast members: Mason Butler, Leonard freshman; and Wooten. Crew members are: Roberts, director; and Holland, light design.

"Fertility God Fugue" includes cast members: Bergener; Amber Patrick, Colbert sophomore; Hayes; Ryan; Schroeder; Stewart; and Wall. Crew members are: Huffstetler, director; and Steele, light design.

"Oh, Those Antiquities!" includes cast members: Butler; Rodney Hudson, Sherman sophomore; Huffstetler; and Scheibmeir. Crew

members include: Battles, director; and Roberts, light design.

"The Self-Portrait" is a monologue featuring Wall. Crew members are Scheibmeir, director; and Garcia, light design.

"Hanging with the Tapestries" includes cast members: Maxson, Patrick, Rice, Roberts and Stewart. Crew members are Scheibmeir, director; and Steele, light design.

"The Drawing Room Guard's Big Lie" is a monologue featuring Wall. Crew members are: Robinson, director; and Huffstetler, light

"Misguided Tour" is a monologue featuring Huffstetler. Crew members are Robinson, director; and Garcia, light design.

"Framed" includes cast members: Rice and Scheibmeir. Crew members are Robinson, director; and Poindexter, light design.

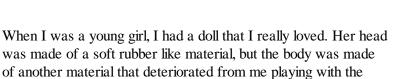
Evening performances of "Exhibit This!" begin at 7:30 p.m. on April 26-28; a matinee performance on April 29 begins at 2:30 p.m. All performances are in the Black Box Theatre in GC's Arts & Communications Center on the college's Main Campus in Denison.

Tickets are \$3 or free with college ID for the 90-minute production, which includes mature content. Reservations are strongly recommended since the Black Box is configured to accommodate 90 audience members. For reservations or more information about "Exhibit This!" contact the GC Theatre Department at 903-463-8609 or theatre@grayson.edu .



Howe's That

by Lana Rideout



Her name was Susie; and I loved her so much that when my mom made me throw her out, I kept the head and stored it in my closet.

I don't know if my mom ever found out about the fact that I kept the head, but I am sure that somewhere down the line, the Susie doll's head was disposed of in the trash.

Those of you who know me well, know that I have a daughter named Susie. Her formal name is Roni Sue (named for her dad and my favorite doll – also one of my favorite aunts). Her brother, who older than she is, called her "Baby Sue" and that led to her being called "Susie."

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Guacamole

2 ripe avocados, peeled (Haas avocados -- the ones with bumpy

2 tablespoons fresh lime or lemon juice

2 tablespoons minced white onion

1 jalapeño, seeded and minced (optional)

1/2 teaspoon salt

Roughly mash the peeled avocadoes in a bowl. Leave lumps. Stir in the lime or lemon juice. Add all remaining ingredients. Adjust seasonings to taste. Serve at once.

If you must refrigerate guacamole, cover it with plastic wrap, placing the wrap directly on the surface. Contact with air will darken the guacamole. Use, however, as quickly as possible.

Guacamole heat preferences range from none to plenty. Obviously, the heat depends upon the quantity of jalapeños used. Some chiles are hotter than others, so experiment to determine your favorite proportion of ingredients.

Guacamole Recipe Variations Substitute serrano chiles for jalapeños Add 1 small tomato, seeded, pulp removed, chopped Add 2 tablespoons finely chopped cilantro Add 1 small clove garlic, minced Add freshly ground black pepper

Makes four servings. (c)texascooking.com – used with permission

ELM HOUSE ANTIQUES

Doris Hayes, formerly of Elm House Antiques (at 710 N Elm in Sherman) is now located in A Touch of Class Antique Mall on the Square in downtown Sherman, Booth 115. Same fine quality & eclectic collections of fine art, glass, china & pottery.



Howe School Board Meeting

Board Members attending were Leonard Huntsman, Greg Akins, Pat Stewart, Mark Abner, Brad Anderson and Brue Dawsey. Absent was Scott Renfro.

The Invocation was given by Pat Stewart.

The Pledges to the American and Texas flags were led by Clay Wilson.

No one signed up for or participated in public forum.

Reports included:

Tracy Blum and Josh Vincent recognized students for their participation and success in area stock shows. The students were Jennifer Vincent, Denise Bailey, Riley Walters, Evan Walters, Mati Abner, Tori Abner, Brook Blum, Garrette Griffin, Carter Akins, Lane Rodgers and Cooper Akins.

Jenny Martin recognized teachers Josh Vincent and Tracy Blum for their service to Howe ISD as high school teachers and the Teachers of the Month for April.

Mrs. Martin reviewed enrollment data, athletic and FFA activities. She recognized individual students for their extracurricular achievements.

Darla Williams provided the elementary report. She noted the employee and students of the month. She spoke about various assessments and student activities that would be taking place in the next few weeks.

Ritchie Bowling reported enrollment numbers, athletic and UIL events and provided attendance information. He recognized the students and teacher of the month. He also noted the STAAR tests, student activities and athletic events.

In addition, Supt. Kevin Wilson reviewed enrollment and attendance numbers. He recognized the resignations of Elizabeth Dobbs and Shawn Martin. He also updated the Board on the search for a high school principal.

Board actions included:

A) The Board reviewed the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on March 22, 2012. Mr. Wilson made the recommendation to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on March 22, 2012 as presented.

A motion was made by Pat Stewart and seconded by Bruce Dawsey to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on March 22, 2012 as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

B) Mr. Kevin Wilson and Mrs. Julie Snapp reviewed the Monthly Financial Report. Mr. Wilson made the recommendation to approve the Monthly Financial Report.

A motion was made by Greg Akins and seconded by Mark Abner to approve the Monthly Financial Report.

The motion carried 6-0.

C) Mrs. Snapp reviewed the proposed Budget Amendments. Mr. Wilson made the recommendation to approve the Budget Amendments as presented.

A motion was made by Bruce Dawsey and seconded by Brad Anderson to approve the proposed Budget Amendments as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

D) Mrs. Snapp reviewed the Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Wilson made the recommendation to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented.

A motion was made by Mark Abner and seconded by Greg Akins to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

E) Mr. Wilson reviewed the proposed District Goals for 2012-2013 and made the recommendation to approve the 2012-2013 District Goals as presented.

A motion was made by Pat Stewart and seconded by Mark Abner to approve the 2012-2013 District Goals as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

F) Clay Wilson presented information on the 2012-13 Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification. Mr. Kevin Wilson made the recommendation to approve the 2012-2013 Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification.

A motion was made by Bruce Dawsey and seconded by Mark Abner to approve the 2012-2013 Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification. The motion carried 6-0.

G) Mr. Wilson provided information on Policy Update 93 and made the recommendation that the Board adopt the changes in Update 93 to Local Policies DAB, DAC, DH, EFA and FDB effective immediately and Local Policies FFH and FFI effective August 1, 2012.

A motion was made by Brad Anderson and seconded by Bruce Dawsey to adopt the changes in Update 93 to Local Policies DAB, DAC, DH, EFA and FDB effective immediately and Local Policies FFH and FFI effective August 1, 2012. The motion carried 6-0.

A Budget Workshop began at 6:40. Kevin Wilson and Julie Snapp provided information on revenue and expenditures including a draft employee compensation plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Events coming up

Howe Founders Day April 28, 8 am to 1:30 pm in downtown Howe. Includes the Fire Department Annual Car Show, food, booths and lots of fun for everyone.



Howe Elementary "Top Dogs" for the week ending April 20, 2012 are: Sarah Martin, Madison Kenney, Lizzy Robertson, Destiny Wood, Caytie Coco, Stanley Bik, Eli Wilson, Zoey Moore, Jordan Brunner, and Ebenezer Chawn.

Click Here for more Howe



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Texoma Enterprise

Tea Party held at the Howe Library

The Friends of the Howe Community Library hosted a "Grandma, Mom & Me Tea Party" this past weekend. Those attending dipped tea bags to create their own cups of tea. An assortment of food was served including cucumber sandwiches, cupcakes, cheese and build your own fruit kabobs.

The little girls decorated paper fans with ribbon, beads, and feathers. They also personalized miniature candy boxes that were filled with sweets from the candy bar. This was the fourth year for the Friends Group to host a tea party. Many of those attending have been every year for this fun multigenerational event.



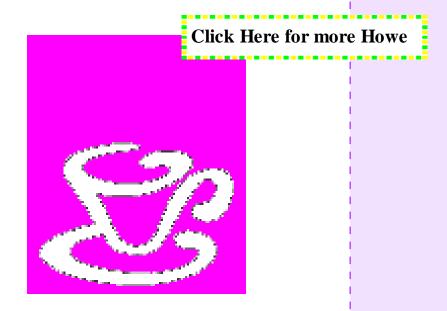
Klearysa Feist builds her very own fruit kabob.



Mother and daughter, Jennifer and Hayden Adkins



Mother and daughter, Chassity and Klearysa Feist





HES A Honor Roll - 5th Six Weeks

Kindergarten: Braden Bahr, Shianne Freeman, Kolin Murphy, Sandra Nitchman, Emry Woods, Kenneth York, Madilynn Douglas, Caden Garner, Cooper Jones, Kayley Laubhan, Jace Martin, Brooklyn McCaleb, Lucas Mitchell, Jenna Roper, Jonathan Smith, Gage Troxtell, Riley Troxtell, Courtney White, Mia Wilson, Mary Burris, Kendall Griffin, Casie Adams, Kelcey Ireland, Alex Jones, Carter Layton, Zeb Montgomery, Jacob Ortega, Autumn Owens, Emery Snapp, Mahlon Walker

First Grade: Bryan Crees, Bettye Delavan, Matthew Hayes, Korben Kemp, Dalton Laisy, Donna Mendoza, Madison Morrow, Linda Segura, Kolby Smith, Teagan Stubblefield, Yair Ayala, Mackenzie Bryant, Jentrie Doty, Austin Haley, Tate Harvey, Ryan Hough, Janna Nitchman, Keira Robertson, Ethan Strunc, Jacob Upchurch, Korie Bouse, Ethan Duer, Audie Martin, Emma Sutherland, Leo Becerra, Kaylyn Bryant, Ayden Burris, Kelly Caballero, Hayden Calhoun, Breana Cole, Alex Huerta, Trey Phillips, Dakota Tinker, Gabrielle Vera

Second Grade: Jessica Bastida, Harley Brockelman, Jared Brussow, Zakry DeFrange, Will Fleming, John Griffin, Parker Pecina, Avery Snapp, Benjamin Speed, Caleb Wahrmund, Eli Wilson, Caytie Coco, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Paige Gifford, Colby Hopper, Kailyn Ireland, Brooke Potter, Aiden Roulette, Ethan Turner, Jaden Bryant, Ethan Conrad, Ashley Crees, Jaicob Husband, Ramie Mosse, Ethan Tindell, Trinity Williams, Kevin Bateman, Cierra Brussow, Luke Catching, Luis Gonzalez, Emma Harvey, Austin Jones, Luke Lopez, Zoey Moore, Ryan Murphy, Alyssa Sharp, Niko Longoria

Third Grade: Jackson Adkins, Alexandra Blount, Sierra Copeland, Alex Hernandez, Lizzy Robertson, Camryn Adams, Kriston Harris, Mason Moreau, Leah Butcher, Korbyn Thompson, Ava Bader, Katie Grogan

Fourth Grade: Lane Griffin, Bailey Bond, Zoie DeFrange, Mack Freeman, Jenna Honore, Madison Kenney, Kacie Morgan, Molly Wilson, Paetyn Ford,

HES A/B Honor Roll 5th Six Weeks

Kindergarten: Dax Foster, Emma Hitesman, Cassie Morrison, Kade Murphy, Nathan Wooten, Clayton Duree, Dakota Fetzer, Ryleigh Jenkins, Cheyenne Mathews, Gracie Max, Paris Menjivar, Railyn Murphy, Dakota Smith, Cody Adams, Camryn Boatman, Ryleigh Craven, Ainsley Denham, Mikaylah Komorowski, Zadrian Morris, Morgan Pitt, Thomas Roberson, Catelyn Armstrong, Ebenezer Chawn, Anthony Gardner, Garrett Gibbs, Jaycie Grisham, Jaeden Howard, Kolton Mitchell, Payton Stapleton

First Grade: Bryce Crosby, Caleb Fetzer, Daniel Gonzalez, Danielle Hargrove, Jacob McGill, Faith Stallings, Kaidence Varnell, Korie Bouse, Carson Daniels, Jalie Hill, Connor Martin, Brody McCollum, Landon Oswalt, James Richardson, Sergio Rico, Antonio Tapia, Leo Becerra, Kaylyn Bryant, Ayden Burris, Kelly Caballero, Hayden Calhoun, Breana Cole, Alexander Huerta, Trey Phillips, Samantha Lowder

Second Grade: Sabian Acevedo, Ethan Lopez, Katie Parker, Ricky Ramirez, Riley Griffith, Samantha Lemley, David Rocha, Kaleb Strong, Jennifer Torres, Stanley Bik, Michelle Caballero, Jaryn Grisham, Conner Record, Gavin Richardson, Caleb Searcey, Trinity Williams, Haven York, Lindsey Hymel, Caleb Maddison

Third Grade: Erin Catching, Jacob Fabacher, Karrah Gardner, Tatum Hartsfield, Cameron Lankford, Kameron Hopper, David Huerta, Brooke Robinson, Pablo Segura, Chase Sellers, Grace Brennan, Holly Cavender, Hannah Dwyer, Kamryn Gardner, Cam Bell, Brett Burnett, Courtney Hopper, Joseph Hymel, Seth Key, Grace Lankford, Brennan Speed, Kobi Zolfaghari

Fourth Grade: Hally Bollier, Ethan Chambers, Layton Elvington, Lane Griffin, Catherine Switzer, Colton Thurman, Bethany Van Deren, Kirsten Wheeler, Karsyn Fleming, Ally Harvey, Jarron Ing, Kolbe Lappin, Sarah martin, Braden Monroe, Matthew Robison, Jamie Taylor, Hailey Upchurch, Cassidy Anderson, Jacob Roper, Cindy Torres, Magi Watson, Jackson Wilson, Kolby Windon, Kaden Bateman, Garrett Grigg, Kylie Hopper, Zane Hughes, Caden Stewart, Riley Underwood







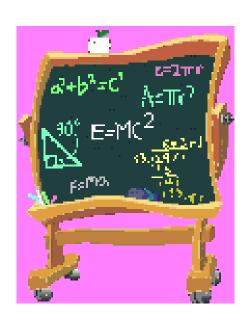
Texoma Enterprise





Tom Bean Elementary Student of the Month -- Ray Young

Brandon McLain - All State Academic



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Tom Bean High School Student of the Month -- Mary Cogbill





Book Shelf

By Tracy E. Luscombe

Last week I attended the Texas Library Association annual conference. Despite what my friend Ray thinks this is not where librarians practice ways to shelve books. As with any profession, these conferences are full of classes for professional growth in the various areas of the information sciences and management of libraries. Topics included cataloging and metadata, collection development and management, digitization, disaster preparedness, and future trends. Authors are there anxious to tell you about their newest book and many of them will sign it for you. Vendors fill the exhibit hall to sell you on their latest technology, furniture, books in multiple formats, learning games, and services to make your library run faster and jump higher. (actually that last one was from my P.F. Flyers when I was a kid).

I always come home from these conferences with renewed energy and the belief that I have chosen the right profession. The world of information is growing daily. The purpose of the librarian, a.k.a. information professional, is to help the non-librarian sift through the many resources and find the specific information they need, in whatever format it may be found. By staying in touch with authors, publishers, and book reviews I can make reading suggestions. By spending time in databases I can know which ones might have the information a student or other researcher needs. The best thing about being a public librarian is I don't check your income level or credit record before I do all these things for you.

May is almost upon us and that means summer reading programs are just around the corner. We'll have a reading program for the kids to earn prizes under this year's theme: Get a Clue. Teen Life & Literature will continue monthly through the summer with a new book to read each month. For adults we're trying something fun -- A Blind Date with a Book. You'll check out the book in a plain brown wrapper so that you don't know what it is. Inside the book will be a Rate Your Date card. Read the book, fill it out, and drop your rate card in a box at the library. At the end of the summer a rate card will be drawn from the box and a lucky reader will win dinner for two. Be adventuresome this summer and give it a try.

Hope to see you around the Van Alstyne Public Library.

Candidate Forum

Van Alstyne City Council, County Commissioner Precinct 1, Tax Assessor/Collector

May 1, Tuesday, from 7 to 9 pm

Van Alstyne Community Center, 262 N. Preston Ave, Van Alstyne

Van Alstyne City Council Place 1: Kaaren Teuber and Robert Lewis

Van Alstyne City Council Place 2: Jim Smith (incumbent) and Adam Wise

County Commissioner Precinct 1: Billy Hamilton, Ralph Renshaw III, and Jeff Whitmire

Grayson County Tax Assessor/Collector: Janis Hall and Bruce Stidham

Come meet the candidates and learn more about them, why they are running, and their goals if elected



Texoma Senior Expo Saturday April 28

A free Health and Wellness event for Texoma seniors will be hosted by Texoma Medical Center on Saturday, April 28 from 9 am until 1 pm. Over 30 vendors will be present to answer questions about services and supplies offered in the Texoma region for seniors and offering door prizes.

The event will kick off at 9 am with an area Boy Scout troop posting the colors followed by the keynote speaker, Dr. Deborah G. Estes who will speak about "Aging Gracefully". At 10 am, Dr. Stafford A. Conway will speak about "Dementia, Alzheimer's and Aging". 11 am, Tracey Fugett, MSW, LBSW "Uncovering the Mystery of the Power of Attorney" and at 12 noon Roylyn Selvey, RD will speak about "Seniors and Diabetes."

Free health screenings will include vision screening by Dr. Clint Long, dental screening by Dr. Stephen McAnaney and blood pressure, blood glucose and other basic wellness screening by staff of Texoma Medical Center.

This event is free for the public to attend. Vendor fees and "Friends of the Expo" donations collected for this event will all go toward helping Texoma area seniors with needed dental services through the Texoma Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging. Several area agencies, nonprofit and for profit have worked to organize and conduct this event. Join us from 9 am til 1 pm on Saturday, April 28 at the Texoma Medical Center.

Click Here for More Area Events

After Easter Gospel Show

After Easter Gospel Show at the Chrystal Opry House April 26-28

Our potluck/social/jamming event will be Thursday night, April 26, at 6 pm. Camping on Thursday night is free! Doors will open at 5 and we will eat and fellowship at 6. Jamming will follow.

We will host a jam on Friday, April 27 from 2-5. At 6:30 we have an Open Mic. Gospel Fare will perform at that time. At 7, George Dickerson will perform. After him we have Circle Unbroken, Friends of Myrtle Hood, and Melody Ranch Ramblers.

Saturday, April 28 jamming begins at 2 pm. At 6:30 we have an Open Mic. At 7, George Dickerson will perform followed by the Melody Ranch Gospel Band, Bluefield Express, and Copper Canyon.

On Sunday morning we will host a devotional time at 9 am.

Doors open at 6 pm for a 6:30 pm performance. Admission to this event is \$18 for 2-day events, or \$10 each evening for adults with children under 12 admitted free. The concession area has brisket sandwiches and hot dogs as well as coffee, soda, water, popcorn, and candy.

The Chrystal Opry House is located 1.5 miles west of Tom Bean or 6 miles east of Howe on FM 902 and a half mile south on White Mound Road. No alcohol is permitted and there is no smoking inside the building.

Individuals or bands interested in performing at the Chrystal Opry House should contact Bill Hayes at 903-546-6893 or http://www.chrystalopryhouse.com



UNITE's Arrive Alive Tour 2012 Program To Educate on Dangers of Texting While Driving and Drunken Driving

Mt. Vernon High School is offering a distracted driving and drunken driving education program for students. The Arrive Alive Tour from UNITE will visit Mt. Vernon High School, in Mt. Vernon, TX, on May 1, 2012, from 8:25 am to 3:25 pm. UNITE's Arrive Alive program uses a high-tech simulator, impact video, and a number of other resources to educate students about the dangers of texting while driving. The simulator allows students to experience, in a controlled environment, the potential consequences of distracted or drunken driving.

One of the most commonly recognized driving distractions is cell phone use. About 89 percent of all Americans have a cell phone, according to CTIA – The Wireless Association. Drivers under 20 years old have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Their lack of driving experience can contribute to critical misjudgments if they become distracted. Not surprisingly, they text more than any other age group and the numbers of young drivers who text is only increasing.

UNITE brings health and wellness programs to high school and college campuses across the nation. Their programs are designed to heighten awareness to the dangers and consequences of drunk driving and distracted driving. Their follow-up programs have a powerful impact on students to reinforce the subjects that schools and parents teach them daily.

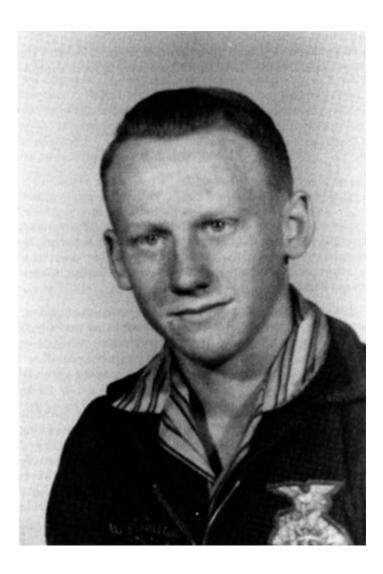
Annual Recycling Fund-raiser

Another recycling fund-raiser benefiting Texoma Community Center (formerly Mental Health Mental Retardation Services of Texoma) will be held on Saturday, May 19, 10 am-2 pm, at 510 South Mirick, Denison. The Volunteer Services Council and the Keep Denison Beautiful Committee are conducting the event. For more information: call 903-957-4865. If you call and no one answers, please be sure to leave a telephone number on the voice mail.

It is time to clean out the house and garage and get rid of those items that are no longer useful to you. You do not have to be a Denison resident to recycle at this event. There is no charge to recycle. Items can be in any condition: damaged, obsolete, non-working or fully operational. Instead of putting them in the trash, donate them. Collections will include the following items: Computer Equipment, Cameras, Apparel, Scrap Metal, Large and Small Appliances, Office Equipment, Entertainment Electronics, Multimedia, Portable Electronics, Video Games, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments, Home and Garden, Non-Fiction Books, Vehicles, ATVs, Toys, Collectibles, Pottery, Cookware, Glass, Dinnerware, Large and Small Appliances, Televisions, Jewelry, and Gold and Silver.

Harold Wright, VSC Chairman, states, "This is the community's chance to recycle all types of products and equipment. We are taking several new items this year that have not been taken in the past. Your donations help ensure proper recycling of e-waste and save valuable landfill space. Donations forms for tax purposes will be distributed to donors. The VSC is working with Bubb Fund-raising. Bubb Fund- raising conducts this type of event throughout the metroplex and then safely recycles the items. For your peace of mind, delete personal information from your computers and cell phones. This event is not a garage sale. Nothing will be for sale the day of the event. Anyone wishing to donate a vehicle must go to www.bubbfundraising.com and register the vehicle. Please do not bring a car, boat, RV, etc. without registering it on-line."





LET'S REMINISCE: Kids And Livestock

By Jerry Lincecum

I'm happy to see the attention given to horticulture and stock shows for youth nowadays. When I was in school in the late 50s, a 4-H meeting was a rare event, occurring only when the county agricultural agent had time to visit our small-town school.

Future Farmers of America was given more emphasis, since all boys in Marquez high school took vocational agriculture for a couple of years. Our teacher was Mr. Roe Jackson, and we had a shop in which we practiced carpentry skills by building a calf feeder from scratch. With his guidance, I earned the Lone Star Farmer ranking. Those royal blue corduroy jackets were cool.

Mr. Jackson took us to regional meetings occasionally, and one year they were handing out 2-pound sacks of a new type of hybrid white corn. I proudly took mine home and Daddy helped me plant it in a small patch that was off to itself. We planted it early with a good amount of fertilizer and I watched it closely.

It germinated really well and seemed to be maturing earlier than the rest of our corn crop. I talked so much about it that my grandfather asked me to take him over to see it. He was underwhelmed, but that didn't bother me.

It looked promising right up to the time when the ears were being formed, which again was ahead of the yellow corn we had planted. One fateful morning I went over to check on my crop, only to find that the raccoons had staged a massive raid.

The fact that I had the early corn, white and sweet, had drawn those varmints from miles around, and in a few nights they stripped every stalk. I never gathered an ear of that wonderful new hybrid corn. Chalk it up to another lesson learned.

But wait, let me tell you about my wonderful Tamworth sow named Beautena. Mr. Jackson convinced me that the era of fat hogs was coming to an end, and he found a breeder of lean bacon-type pigs who sold me a registered Tamworth gilt for \$50.

I raised her like a pet, and she was pretty. This prodigious mother hog gave birth to 21 piglets in Jan. 1958, and another 19 in June. Not all of them survived, of course, but from each of those two litters I raised 15 weaning pigs.

Now comes the unbelievable part. In late Dec. of that same year, she produced another litter, only 15 this time, which made for a total of 55 pigs in one calendar year. But she also broke my heart by developing milk fever that ended her life, despite the best efforts of Mr. Arch Hancock. None of the pigs survived either. When I buried them, it ended my experience (and interest) in hog raising.

Just to dream for a minute, if there had been a livestock show for teenagers in April of 1958, I would have exhibited a lean, bacon-type pig and undoubtedly won a prize.

-30-

Jerry Lincecum is a retired English professor who now teaches classes for older adults who want to write their life stories. He welcomes your reminiscences on any subject. Email address: jlincecum@me.com



Who? Hoo Hoo. That's Who.

by Bob Bowman

Separated by more than 200 miles, Gurdon, Arkansas, and Lufkin, Texas, share a unique legacy: the Concatenated Order of the Hoo Hoo, an international fraternity of lumbermen.

In 1892, five lumbermen waiting for a train at Gurdon decided to walk around the town and finally stopped to rest on a stack of lumber beside the railroad.

Armed with frequent libations to ward off the chill of the night, they decided that lumbermen needed a fraternity and came up with the Order of the Hoo Hoo, using Egyptian lore for the order's titles, customs and rituals.

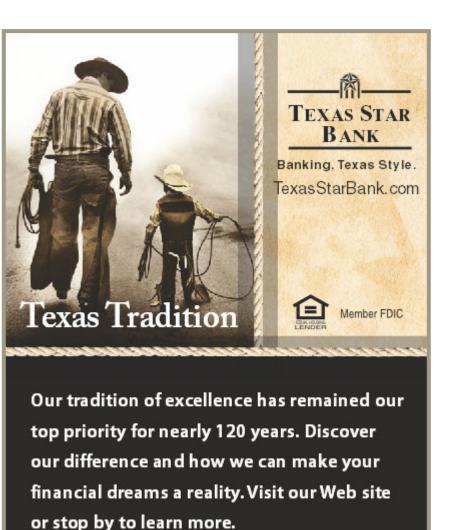
'Concatenated,' said newspaperman Bolling Arthur Johnson, meant chained or linked, symbolizing the closeness of members of the order. As their symbol, they adopted a black cat with his tail curled to form the figure nine, indicating it had nine lives.

The club would have nine officers, nine directors, meet at nine minutes past 9 pm on the ninth day of the ninth month. The order limited its membership to 999 with monthly dues of 99 cents and, as the organization grew into an international fraternity, the limitation was increased to 9,999.

The words Hoo Hoo came from Johnson's description of a tuft of hair on the otherwise bald head of Charles H. McCarer, a fellow newspaperman.

Instead of having a president, the Hoo Hoo order elected a Snark, a name taken from Lewis Carroll's book, *The Hunting of the Snark*.





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Dot's D-A-S-H-E-S



By Dorothy N. Fowler

Last fall a gray striped tabby cat appeared at my front door asking for food, which I provided. Two days later another striped tabby arrived, clearly related to the first because they looked just alike.

Before the second cat arrived, I took the first one to the veterinarian. He pronounced her to be in good health and said that she had been spayed. Somehow or other, when the second cat arrived, I assumed that if their previous owners had provided a spay for one, they would have done so for the other.

Of course, all this was based on an assumption I could not prove. It seemed reasonable to me that they came as a pair, since they look so much alike and since they arrived about the same time. My assumption was that they were litter mates or perhaps mother and daughter.

In any case, I was negligent and did not take the second cat, now named Mehitabel and called Bel, to the veterinarian. In March, she presented me with five kittens, which were, as most kittens are, the cutest things on four legs.

My association with those kittens taught me why people become cat hoarders. I kept thinking about what might happen to them if they fell into the hands of people who think they want a kitten but wear out with its antics, its tendency to scratch things that they don't want scratched, and their sharp little claws over which they have almost no control until they are closing in on all grown up. I kept thinking about a lot of things that can happen to kittens that you don't need to clutter up your mind with.

Bel proved to be a wonderful mother. She had the kittens in the designated closet on the designated towels and plastic. As they grew, she got tired of the closet and tried to move them into the bedroom, but I moved them into the guest bathroom and fixed a bed for them.







BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

Johnson said in 1912 that the "whole scheme of annual meetings of lumbermen was a bore." The Hoo Hoo order, he said, would be "a war on conventionality."

But, ironically, it wasn't a lumbermen who brought the Hoo Hoo order to Lufkin in East Texas, although the town was heavily dependent on lumbering.

In the 1890s, Lufkin had a community band sponsored by the *Lufkin Weekly Tribune*. The "Trib Band" often performed on Lufkin's downtown Cotton Square.

Around 1903, Johnny Bonner, a Lufkin native living in Houston, contacted Tom Humason, a member of the Trib Band, and invited the band to accompany the Texas Hoo Hoo delegation to an international meeting in Milwaukee.

The band's performances, featuring ragtime music, were greeted with such wild enthusiasm by the Hoo Hoo members that the Trib Band was named the official band of the order.

"After that, everywhere we went, we were known as the famous Hoo Hoo Band of Lufkin, Texas," recalled Sam H. Kerr in a 1953 interview with the *Dallas Morning News*.

Today, the Hoo Hoo Band is no more, but is remembered by a mural on Cotton Square and a nearby Texas Historical Marker.

Gurdon, Arkansas, however, remains the home of the International Hoo Hoo Order and occupies a building near the one-time stack of lumber where the Order's beginning was conceived in 1892.

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of 40 books about East Texas, including "Making Music for the Snarks," a history of the Lufkin Hoo Hoo Band. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com)

Dot's Dashes, continued

They quickly discovered the toilet paper roll and pulled every last sheet onto the floor, romping it to pieces until they decided it was the perfect litter box. Since it was easier for them to find and use the toilet paper litter, I kept them supplied with all the paper they wanted.

I also got them a box that had once held paper so they could have something to climb and chew. That was a mistake. I found one of them had climbed into a notch on the box and had hanged himself. I thought he was dead and I, screaming like a banshee, grabbed him up and blew on him and shook him and he blinked his eyes and grabbed my hand with his sharp little claws. They were enjoying the box so much that I cut the notch out so that it was too big for a kitten to catch its head in.

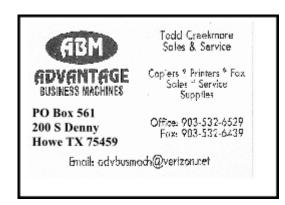
While I was cleaning up scattered kitten chow and other things on the floor, I put them in the bathtub on a nice soft towel. The thought was that they couldn't climb the smooth sides of the tub, which was probably accurate. I underestimated Bel, however. She stood on her back legs, reached into the tub and retrieved her babies, pulling them out by the napes of their necks. One she got by grabbing its whole head in her mouth.

I knew from the beginning I had to give them up, so I was surprised when I took them to an adoption center -- not the pound -- and cried all the way home after leaving them.

There is no accounting for fools, my mother used to say, and I guess I fall into that category. I'm on my way to pick Bel up after having her spayed. I probably should have given her to someone who could provide a better home, but in the end, I just couldn't give her up. But at least we will be out of the kitten business.









Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Texas Department of Insurance

Over the next few weeks, I will be writing about the duties of various departments within the Texas Department of Insurance. The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) not only regulates insurance, it also contains the Office of the State Fire Marshall, Workers' Compensation Division, the Office of the Injured Employee Counsel, and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel.

The Department's functions and services are aimed at regulating insurers fairly and protecting consumers. Services include assisting and educating consumers and the public; resolving insurance-related complaints; conducting windstorm inspections; licensing insurance agents/agencies and adjusters; licensing insurance companies and HMOs; certifying utilization review agents (URAs), independent review organizations (IROs), workers' compensation networks and assigning requests to IROs; registering viatical and life settlement entities; financial monitoring and intervention; assuring fair and efficient regulation; enforcing insurance laws; combating insurance fraud; fire prevention, fire safety, and fire industry regulation; and regulating and administering the Texas workers' compensation system and preventing occupational injuries and illnesses.

The Department's website,

www.tdi.texas.gov<http://www.tdi.texas.gov>, contains useful information for consumers, including price comparisons for auto and home insurance. The website also provides contact information for the companies listed, a financial rating, and a complaint index. The site also has information for licensed insurance agents and adjusters, and information for those seeking to get licensed.

For more information on the Texas Department of insurance or any other matter of state government, please contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by emailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us. My district office phone number is



Brandon G. Dyer graduated

Air Force Airman Brandon G. Dyer graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Dyer is the son of Toni Dunn and Teddy Dyer of Perry Street, Sherman. He is a 2011 graduate of Sherman High School.



We believe that your local news provided should provide you with news, information, facts, and sources to further study that information. Here are some websites that are providing those facts, at least at the time of their listing on our page. If you know of others that our readers would enjoy send them to us. Or if some of these are no longer working let us know.

This Page is a Work in Progress

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Library information, Library Catalog, Library Calendar, Online information, Research tools, Resume Maker

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Selected Sites

<u>Texas Records and Information Locator (TRAIL)</u> searches and locates information from over 180 Texas state agency web services.

<u>The Handbook of Texas Online</u> is a multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, geography, and culture sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and the General Libraries at UT Austin.

<u>Texas Online</u>: The official website for the Great State of Texas and provides instant access to almost 800 state and local government services.

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Dennis Stewart, pastor,

Sun School 9:45; worship, 11, evening 6; Wednesday, 7pm

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903/476-5525

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903/532-6828; Roger Roper,

S-school, 9:30, worship 10:45 BETHEL BAPTIST

Hwy. 902 E & Ponderosa Rd, Weldon Hutson, pastor,

903/532-6032 SUMMIT CHURCH

Howe Middle School Cafeteria,

903/815-1472; Kevin Bouse

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N. Collins Frwy,

903/532-6441;

Toby Socheting

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100 E. Davis,903/532-5504;

Roger Tidwell, pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 810 N. Denny,

903/532-6718;

Tom Medley, minister

IDA BAPTIST CHURCH,

903/813-3263. S-School 10 am, Worship 11 am

Charles Morris, pastor

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Psalms 98:1-9 (KJV)

 $1\ O$ sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

2 The Lord hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

3 He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

4 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

5 Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

6 With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the

7 Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

8 Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

9 Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Christian **Fellowship**

Each Sunday morning A Christian Fellowship starts the morning with coffee and doughnut fellowship at 9 am followed by Sunday School classes for all ages from the cradle to adult classes at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30. This week's service is led by Dan Kemp. Dress is casual.

Praise and worship is led by David Ellis and is a contemporary style service.

Each Sunday morning the congregation celebrates The Lord's Supper during the worship service.

The church host's a "movie night" every month. This "free" event includes free hot buttered popcorn, candy, and drinks. The movie in May will be on May 18 @ 6:30 pm. The movie to be shown will be announced at a later day, but promises to be something fun and totally enjoyable. Join them for a great movie! Bring your family out for a free night of fellowship and fun.

C R Men's Step Study group has been put on hold for now. This class is for recovering alcoholics that would like to reconnect with God. Please contact Jesse @ 903-744-2716 for more information on this program.

Wednesday night begins at 6:30 pm with a pot-luck dinner followed by praise and worship and a devotional.

The church will be hosting VBS July 16-20 from 6:30-8:30 pm. So mark your calendar for this event.

For more information about any event please contact myself, Cathy Hossle @903-814-5381 or Mike Ball @903-870-0219. Our church is located on the West side of Hwy 11 in Luella. Look for the red brick building with the green metal roof on the hill. The cross will light the way for you.



Tom Bean Church of Christ

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us. Services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9 am and worship at 10 am. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord's Supper is given each Sunday. The morning and evening lessons are brought by Kerry King with congregational singing lead by Charles Counts. Wednesday, we have bible classes for all ages beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX.

We have two radio programs each Sunday at 7:30 am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Quinn.

"A Woman's Choice" a WEB video concerning a woman's pregnancy can be seen on www.PregnancyDecisions.org.

The Gospel of Christ news letter can be found at http://www.thegospelofchrist.com/newslet

click for more Church News



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601 Hwy. 1417, Pastor,

Rev. Mack Rogers

RED RIVER

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3800 Hwy. 691 (w of Hwy. 75); Novice Northington, 903/463-5840

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105 Hopson,

Shannon Jackson, minister,

903/482-6033 EAST SIDE

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PO Box 141, Larry Shead,

minister; worship 11am

ELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

FM 121 W, Elmont;

Jim Poole, pastor,

903/482-6356

FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH, corner of Pearl & Nash,

Pastor Kenneth L. Price, 972/547-0243,

LIFE CHURCH,

201 W. Marshall,

Pastors - Lance/ Mary Baker

903/433-8089

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102 E. Marshall, 903/482-6334,

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Mega Millions

Many Americans were gobbling up tickets for a chance to win a recent record-setting \$640 million Mega Millions jackpot. The lucky winner stands to win a lump sum of \$462 million before taxes using the cash option.

However, as Fox News reports, "winning the Big One isn't a guaranteed ticket to the good life, as these previous winners can attest":

Jack Whittaker: This West Virginia businessman won \$315 million in the Powerball lottery in 2002, the largest jackpot ever from a single ticket in American history at the time. After being robbed of \$545,000 in cash while at a strip club, Whittaker's granddaughter and daughter were later found dead, and Whittaker was sued by Caesars Atlantic City casino for bouncing \$1.5 million worth of checks to cover gambling losses.

Juan Rodriguez: This New York City parking attendant was earning less than \$30,000 in 2004 when he won \$149 million in a Mega Millions drawing. But soon after taking the lump sum option of \$88 million, his wife filed for divorce and was awarded half of his winnings.

Fred Topous, Jr.: Topous won \$57 million, the seventh-largest jackpot in Michigan state history in June 2008, but eventually took a \$33 million lump sum. The convicted sex offender, who was released from prison in 2006, needs to register as a sex offender until 2024.

Billy Bob Harrell, Jr.: This preacher working as a stockboy at Home Depot struck it rich in 1997, winning \$31 million in Texas' lottery. Some 20 months later, after divorcing his wife and buying a half-dozen homes for relatives, he committed suicide using a shotgun.

Jeffrey Dampier: In 1996, Dampier and his wife won \$20 million in Illinois' lottery and used the money to buy relatives homes and to start a gourmet popcorn shop in Florida. Nine years later, Dampier was kidnapped and killed by his sister-in-law and her boyfriend who targeted him for money.

No, "winning the Big One isn't a guaranteed ticket to the good life," because money is not the key to the good life, much less eternal life!

Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

WHY NOT not store up treasures on earth? Because Jesus warned us that earthly treasures are subject to rust, decay, and theft. In fact, this WORLD and ALL of its possessions will one day be GONE (2 Peter 3:10)!

The GREATEST Treasure is to recognize that Jesus Christ paid the debt for our sin by dying on the cross for our behalf (2 Corinthians 5:21) and to accept His offer of salvation and eternal life on His terms.

Jesus will save those who place their faith and trust in Him (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

The odds of winning the Mega Millions jackpot are 1-in-176 million. The odds of those millions satisfying your deepest longings and keeping those millions for eternity is ZERO!

However, the Greatest Treasure -- the One that truly satisfies and gives eternal life – is available to you today FREE OF CHARGE if you will accept His offer on His terms.

Won't YOU?

David A. Sargent, Minister davidsargent1@comcast.net

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Information gleaned from Fox News: "Lottery's Biggest Losers: Big Wins Don't Equal Better Lives." http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/03/29/lott erys-biggest-losers-big-wins-dont-equalbetter-lives/print#ixzz1qapgCQmi Thanks to Gary Davis for sharing the article with us!

Please visit our Web site http://www.creekwoodcc.org AND share a drink of "Living Water" with a friend!





Texoma Enterprise



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LEGAL TIPS:

Estate Planning & Resolutions

By Matt Sullivan, J.D., LL.M. Attorney & Counselor at Law

Many people resolve to improve themselves for each New Year. For example, they promise to change their diet, lose weight, and avoid voting for liberal politicians. Shouldn't estate planning be on your list of resolutions?

First, what would happen to your kids if something happened to you? Have you taken the time to have your estate planning documents properly prepared and executed? Some of the most important documents to consider are a Will, Durable Power of Attorney, Directive to Physicians, Medical Power of Attorney, HIPAA Release, and a Declaration of Guardian. Each document plays an important part in the overall plan. The Will can be used to dispose of your property upon your death. Within it, you can also establish trusts and appoint guardians for your kids. A Durable Power of Attorney will authorize someone to act on your behalf if you are unable to do so. The Directive to Physicians is also known as a Living Will and is your opportunity to state in writing how you want to be treated in an end-of-life situation. The Medical Power of Attorney will allow someone to make most medical decisions for you if you can't. The HIPAA Release will allow your representative to obtain your medical information. The Declaration of Guardian can be used to appoint or prevent someone from being appointed as your guardian and it can be used to appoint a guardian for your children.

Second, when was the last time you reviewed the title to your assets or the beneficiary designations of assets you own? These can be extremely important issues in the event of a person's death. Assets that have properly filled out beneficiary designations will be paid to the beneficiary regardless of what is stated in the owner's Will. Such assets include life insurance, IRAs, and 401(k)s to name a few.

Third, what would happen to your pets if you died or became disabled and weren't able to care for them? Pets are extremely important to many people and should be considered when preparing an estate plan.

While estate planning may not be the most fun or exciting undertaking, it can be extremely important and beneficial for your family.

Matt Sullivan, J.D., LL.M., Attorney & Counselor at Law, can be reached at 903-482-0099 or through his law firm's web site, www.mattsullivanattorney.com.

This article is not intended as specific legal advice and you should consult with your own attorney.





Earth Day is 365 Days a Year For Farmers and Ranchers

By Mike Barnett

Earth Day was celebrated with great fanfare last weekend.

This annual observance serves as a reminder of the fragility of the earth's resources. Each of us must do our part to ensure we have a clean and healthy planet for generations to come. The problem I see is that the commitments many make for a better environment are a lot like New Year Resolutions. They last for a week or two and then tend to fall by the wayside.

Farmers don't have that luxury. They must use earth-friendly practices every day of the year. Their ability to keep farming depends on it. And so does your ability to have a full plate of food.

Many activists like to pooh-pooh the idea that farmers are environmental stewards. These facts suggest otherwise:

- •Farmers do more with less. Farm and ranch productivity has increased dramatically since 1950 while the use of labor, feed and fertilizer has declined markedly.
- •Dramatic yield increases. Total U.S. crop yield has increased more than 360 percent since 1950.
- •More efficient land use. U.S. land used for crops has declined by 70 million acres since 1982.

•Careful stewardship. There's been nearly a 50 percent decline in erosion of cropland by wind and water since 1982. Conservation tillage -- a way of farming that reduces soil erosion on cropland while using less energy -- has grown from 17 percent of acreage in 1982 to 63 percent annually.

Are agricultural practices 100 percent perfect? No. But modern production tools such as global positioning satellites, biotechnology, conservation tillage and integrated pest management enhance farm and ranch productivity while reducing the environmental footprint.

Huge strides have been made over the history of agriculture to increase food production while conserving resources. Many marvels are yet to come.

It takes awareness, commitment and research. It also takes incentive.

Farmers and ranchers know that enhancing their land and water resources will allow them to grow a crop next year and will allow their great grandchildren to grow a crop 100 years from now.

Earth Day? It happens every day on the farm and ranch.

Mike Barnett is Director of Publications; Texas Farm Bureau 'T'm a firm believer that farmers and ranchers will continue to meet the needs of a growing world population by employing equal measures of common sense, conservation and technology."



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Bruce E. Maniet, D.O., P.A.

Texoma Enterprise

Dear Editor.

It's funny that you should run a story about eccentrics written by Jerry Lincecum. He is one of the most eccentric people I know! But then, he comes from a long line of eccentrics.

I just finished reading "Adventures of a frontier naturalist: The life and times of Dr. Gideon Lincecum." Jerry Bryan Lincecum (a direct descendant) and Edward Hake Phillips (both professors at Austin College) edited this entertaining man's account of his life as a hunter, explorer, philosopher, and physician.

It is as witty, thought-provoking, and full of good humor as our current Dr. Lincecum. If you have ever had the opportunity to catch the living Lincecum portray his ancestor, you would gain a new appreciation of eccentricity.

Thank you for publishing the reminisces of this Texoma treasure.

Don Mathis, San Antonio, TX

Letter to the Editor:

The Closure of U.S. Oil Refineries

I recently wrote a letter on exported fuels by U.S. oil companies who reap higher prices paid overseas.

Another reason for our high gasoline prices is the closure of U.S. oil refineries and the movement of our oil overseas to foreign refineries, "Sunoco is closing two refineries in July 2012 in Philadelphia and Marcus Hook, PA. Conoco Phillips announced the closing of two plants in Trainer, PA and Bayway, NJ, and is closing its facility in Alaska. Hess is closing the third largest U.S. oil refinery, laying off 2,000 workers and impacting 950 contractors."

The oil companies, with profits of tens of billions of dollars each year, are closing U.S. refineries due to environmental and other government regulations and union demands. Refineries are being built in Columbia, Mexico and Brazil due to low construction and operating costs. Plus our government unconsciously promotes this construction by providing foreign aid to the countries.

Hopefully, it isn't too late for our government and the unions to wake up and evaluate the impact of their policies and decisions on the oil refining industry. Otherwise we will continue to see rising fuel prices that could reach historic highs, including gasoline at or above \$5.00 per gallon.

Donald A. Moskowitz Londonderry, NH





Cornyn Op-Ed: Let's Seek Justice for Women

By Senator John Cornyn

'The Justice for Victims Amendment would go a long way toward alleviating the rape-kit backlog, giving victims the justice they deserve, and keeping dangerous criminals off the streets'

Since it became law in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has helped millions of victims break free from the terrible cycle of domestic violence - including hundreds of thousands of victims here in Texas - and it has always enjoyed broad bipartisan support. Yet some folks are now trying to use VAWA as a partisan football to score cheap political points and raise campaign funds.

This is shameful. The law was enacted to protect and serve the interests of crime victims, not to help a political party fire up its base. Moreover, to argue that a minor policy disagreement indicates a lack of sensitivity toward battered women is simply beyond the pale.

I have been a passionate advocate of VAWA-related causes for many years. During my time as Texas attorney general, we greatly expanded the number of grants available to Texas crime victims, and we consolidated various service programs into a new Crime Victims Division.

Those of us who care deeply about VAWA's mission understand that it must remain a bipartisan cause. To that end, the Texas Council on Family Violence and the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) have issued a statement calling on members of Congress to avoid divisive tactics during the current reauthorization process. I hope we embrace their advice, because VAWA is much too important to be dragged through the mud of election-year politics.

The overwhelming majority of Republicans believe it should be reauthorized, and I have cosponsored legislation to do just that. Our bill contains some commonsense proposals that would bolster VAWA and also remove a series of controversial provisions from the Democratic alternative.

Unfortunately, due to partisan politics, it will not become law. That's why I have introduced a stand-alone Justice for Victims Amendment that would: (1) increase the funds available to reduce the rape-kit backlog; (2) create a national sexual-assault forensics registry to help with audits of untested evidence; (3) strengthen penalties for domestic violence, sexual abuse and child-sex trafficking; (4) make it easier for the U.S. Marshals Service to track down and apprehend fugitive sex offenders; and (5) urge the website BackPage.com to eliminate its "adult entertainment" section, which has been used to facilitate child prostitution.

These reforms would improve VAWA and fix some deficiencies in our criminal-justice system. For example, the rape-kit backlog is a major problem that has exasperated victims, delayed justice and jeopardized the safety of Americans across our country. Consider Carol Bart, a courageous Dallas woman who recently recounted her ordeal to the Associated Press in hopes of helping other victims. Carol's rape kit was performed in 1984, but it was not tested for nearly a quarter-century. When the test finally happened, authorities were able to identify her attacker.

Nationwide, the number of untested rape kits is estimated to be at least 180,000 and perhaps as high as 400,000. In Dallas alone, there are roughly 12,000. In Houston, there are more than 6,000. These numbers are unacceptable. When rape kits are left untested for years, victims are denied justice and many decide not to report their attacks. Meanwhile, perpetrators believe their crimes have no consequence.

The Justice for Victims Amendment would go a long way toward alleviating the rape-kit backlog, giving victims the justice they deserve, and keeping dangerous criminals off the streets. It would not add to the federal budget deficit, but it would add to the tools that law enforcement can use to protect ordinary citizens. That's why it has been endorsed by a range of victim advocacy groups, including TAASA, PROTECT, and the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network.

Congress has an opportunity to make VAWA stronger and more effective. But we won't be able to produce a genuine bipartisan agreement until Democrats stop exploiting the issue for political gain. The American people deserve results, not reckless demagoguery.

Cornyn, a Republican, is the junior U.S. senator from Texas.



Texoma Enterprise

Religious Symbols on the Rocks

Three children were talking about their religions.

"I'm a Catholic," said one, "And our symbol is the cross."

"I'm Jewish," said the second, "And our symbol is the Star of David."

The third child said, "I'm a Unitarian Universalist and our symbol is a candle in a cocktail glass!"





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Texoma Enterprise is owned and operated by Dale and Lana Rideout. They have been doing this since 1978. The picture on the left is about 5 years old, with Dale shown as "Santa" Rideout at Christmas, 2009. The family shot on the right includes all our grandchildren, plus a couple of Stepgrandchildren. It was taken at Elves Christmas Tree Farm. This farm opened to the public in 1990 when Jordan was only 2 months old and he went there with us. Every year since we have taken every grandchild with us. This year was our 20 year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.



Dale & Lana Rideout



"Santa", Amber, Dominique, Timothy, Jordan, Rachel, Caleb, Chris, Cassie, Brianna, Lana



"Santa" Rideout



Grandkids singing at the Christmas Tree Farm 2007