

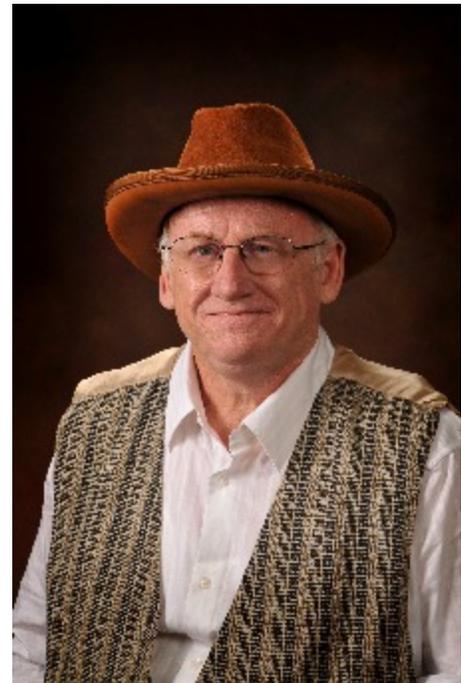
Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

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We are taking a few days off. Part of this issue has been updated but not all of it. Lana is learning a new computer with Windows 8, so we are a little behind. Will try to have a complete update next week.

August 20, 2013



Melody Ranch's Deep Summer Bluegrass Festival

We hope you have plans to attend our Deep Summer Bluegrass Festival August 21-24. We have a kick-off potluck supper on Aug. 21st. at 6 pm which is free for campers. There will be fellowship and jamming afterwards.

The gospel section of the festival is focused on Thursday evening beginning at 6 pm. We have The Pausitive Band, The Full Quiver, Prairie Night Reunion, and Triple L Bluegrass Band for that evening.

Friday's events begin at 1 pm with The Upper Grassmen, Triple L Bluegrass Band, Copper Canyon, and Tanner Young. The evening performance will begin at 6:00 pm.

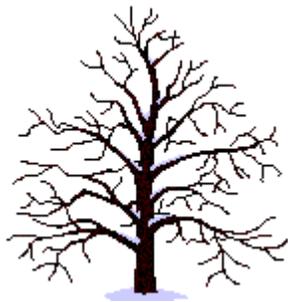
Saturday's musical events begin at 1:00 pm with Melody Ranch Ramblers, HWY 19, Copper Canyon, and Triple L Bluegrass Band. The evening performances will begin at 6:00 pm. There will be a flea market beginning at 9:00 am for those who wish to participate. Please call for information if interested.

The Chrystal Opry house is located at 1977 White Mound Road, Sherman, Texas which is 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. Seating is provided.

Food is available at the snack bar inside the Opry House during the shows. We serve hot dogs, chopped brisket sandwiches, and during the dinner hour on Friday and Saturday evening, we will serve an enchilada, beans, and rice plate.

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

("Like" us on face book--chrystalopryhouse and melodyranchbluegrassfestival





City fresh is the key to success for Springdale Farm

By Mike Barnett

City fresh.

That's the idea behind Springdale Farm, a five-acre agricultural oasis in the heart of Austin.

Owners Glenn and Paula Foore have planted seeds to support a growing local food movement in the deep, rich soils of the Colorado River bottoms, located in an East Austin neighborhood just three miles from the State Capitol. Landscapers by trade, the Foorees started growing food in 2009 when the local economy turned south.

Glenn looked to his gardening roots -- his grandfather grew tomatoes and peppers in northern Ohio -- and found a new calling. Word spread around the Austin food scene of the quality of Springdale Farm tomatoes. Local chefs soon asked if they could host dinners at the farm. The Foorees' reputation—and the variety of produce they farmed -- grew.

"We really didn't know too much about the food scene," Glenn says. "We knew a couple of chefs that had some supper clubs that wanted to have a dinner here. One thing led to another..."

Those chefs are some of Springdale Farm's best customers today. They seek not only outstanding quality, but diversity. Everything from arugula, carrots and fennel to black-eyed peas -- 75 varieties of produce sprout from the black, organic soil.

"Restaurants want different things that they can't find elsewhere. It's not always possible or practical because you know what grows here. But we'll try to accommodate or experiment," Paula says.

But agriculture in the city has its unique challenges. The farm is surrounded by single family homes. No agriculture tax exemption means property taxes shot up 800 percent last year. Local health regulations are inconsistent. It's hard for Glenn and other urban farmers to know what is permitted and what is off-limits when selling locally produced foods.

Glenn and Paula have started hosting weddings and other special events to improve cash flow. They also have a market at the farm every Wednesday and Saturday.

Their business is no hobby farm. It's a grueling, full-time, labor-intensive job for the Foorees and their crew, who work long hours in the heat and sun to ensure the freshest produce for their customers.

Maybe it would be easier to sell out and move to the country. But Glenn said he would lose that two-way communication -- that opportunity to grow trust with those who purchase his produce—that comes with selling directly to consumers.

"What we have the opportunity to do by being in an urban environment is get attention where other farmers don't have that opportunity to get people out to their farm," Glenn says. "If I moved out of town and had a hundred-acre operation, I don't think I would be able to get as much interest in the community."

Mike Barnett, Director of Publications, Texas Farm Bureau -- I'm a firm believer that farmers and ranchers will continue to



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What's Happening?

August 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Carol Kanirie	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Jamie English	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 School begins	27	28	29	30	31

This calendar is new to the Texoma Enterprise. It is our intent to include National Holidays, local events, and birthdays/anniversaries. If you wish to include an event please let us know. Email lanarideout@cableone.net with your information.



Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Third Special Session Ends

On Monday, August 5, the Third Called Special Session of the 83rd Legislature came to a close after the Legislature passed two measures that address funding for transportation projects.

Senate Joint Resolution 1 provides that a portion of oil and gas severance tax revenues be directed to the State Highway Fund for the construction and maintenance of non-tolled roadways. These funds will provide about 1/4 of the additional revenue needed to fund and maintain the state's highway system. Unlike other forms of legislation, since SJR 1 is a constitutional amendment, it required a 2/3 vote of both the Senate and House, but was not required to be sent to the governor for signature or veto. It will, however, be sent to voters for approval and will appear on the November 2014 ballot.

The House and Senate also passed House Bill 1, which was signed by the governor on Wednesday. HB1 is enabling legislation for SJR 1 and requires the Department of Transportation to identify \$100 million in cost savings before 2015. It also establishes legislative committees to study transportation funding options and to make recommendations on ways to fully fund transportation before the next regular legislative session.

For more information on any state matter, 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 (903) 891-7297.

Constitutional Amendments Election

The Texas Constitution is one of the longest in the nation and is still growing. Texas voters have the opportunity to accept or reject amendments to the Texas Constitution that are proposed and passed by the Texas Legislature. Unlike a regular bill, proposed amendments must receive a two-thirds vote from the members of both the Texas House and the Texas Senate. The governor cannot approve or veto a constitutional amendment; that right is left to the voters of the state. This process helps ensure that the basic core principles of the state, which are laid out in its Constitution remain in the hands of those who choose to be governed by those principles. As of today, 653 proposed amendments have gone before Texas voters. Of these, 474 have been approved by the electorate and 179 have been defeated. Thus, the Texas Constitution has been amended 474 times since its adoption in 1876.

This year, voters will be asked to consider 9 constitutional amendments that were passed by the legislature during the regular legislative session. The election will be held on November 5. The following is the order in which the amendments will appear on the ballot and in which I will discuss them in the following weeks:

PROPOSITION 1 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed in action."

PROPOSITION 2 "The constitutional amendment eliminating an obsolete requirement for a State Medical Education Board and a State Medical Education Fund, neither of which is operational."

PROPOSITION 3 "The constitutional amendment to authorize a political subdivision of this state to extend the number of days that aircraft parts that are exempt from ad valorem taxation due to their location in this state for a temporary period may be located in this state for purposes of qualifying for the tax exemption."

PROPOSITION 4 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization."

PROPOSITION 5 "The constitutional amendment to authorize the making of a reverse mortgage loan for the purchase of homestead property and to amend lender disclosures and other requirements in connection with a reverse mortgage loan."

PROPOSITION 6 "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas to assist in the financing of priority projects in the state water plan to ensure the availability of adequate water resources."

PROPOSITION 7 "The constitutional amendment authorizing a home rule municipality to provide in its charter the procedure to fill a vacancy on its governing body for which the unexpired term is 12 months or less."

PROPOSITION 8 "The constitutional amendment repealing Section 7, Article IX, Texas Constitution, which relates to the creation of a hospital district in Hidalgo County."

PROPOSITION 9 "The constitutional amendment relating to expanding the types of sanctions that may be assessed against a judge or justice following a formal proceeding instituted by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct."

You can view a complete list of the proposed constitutional amendments with analyses online at www.tlc.state.tx.us. For more information regarding these propositions, you can 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 (903) 891-7297.



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Psalm 27:1-14 (KJV)

The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

³ Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be* confident.

⁴ One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

⁵ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

⁶ And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

⁸ *When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

⁹ Hide not thy face *far* from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰ When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

¹¹ Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

¹² Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

¹³ *I had fainted*, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Christian Fellowship

Luke Palmer will be leading A Christian Fellowship in worship service this week. The subject for the month of August is "Prayer". Come join them for an inspirational service. Join them at 9 am each Sunday morning for coffee and doughnut fellowship followed by classes for all ages at 9:30 and worship service begins at 10:30.

David Ellis leads praise and worship and it is a contemporary style service. Also dress is casual.

The church is part of the "One" movement. Also they celebrate The Lord's Supper each week during worship service.

ACF has a class at 10:30 each Sunday morning called "Kidz in Da Zone for Jesus. Bible stories and a journey on Rt. 66 to learn the books of the Bible.

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

For more information contact Mike Ball at 903-2711870 or David Ellis at 903-815-1333.

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 with congregational singing. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord's Supper is given each Sunday. 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 radio programs each Sunday at 7:30 am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Quinn. Also there are two other programs; the North Side church of Christ is on at 8 am, and Leonard church of Christ is on at 8:30 am both on KFYN 1420 AM.

The Gospel of Christ news letter can be found at <http://www.thegospelofchrist.com/newsletter>. Their television program comes on CBS at 7:30am.

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

Area Churches

Cannon

CANNON BAPTIST CHURCH
RFD 1, Rev. John Wade, pastor,
903/482-6761
SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
George Seevers, 903/364-2942

Cherry Mound

BAPTIST CHURCH,
6335 FM 1753, Denison
Sun School 9:45; worship, 11,
evening 6; Wednesday, 7pm

Dorchester

DORCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH
Hwy. 902W, 903/476-5525

Gunter

COLLEGE HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST
304 E. College, 903/433-4835
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
300 Pecan, 903/433-3335
GRACE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Pastor Bruce Stinson
Brooks Plaza
Sundays - 9:30 AM Worship
www.thegbf.com
VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Howe

APOSTOLIC LIFE UPC
405 S. Collins Frwy,
Jerry Pentecost, 903/821-9166;
Sun. 10am & 6pm
NEW BEGINNING FELLOWSHIP/AG,
912 S Denny St.
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 ; Kcvin Bouse
CHURCH OF CHRIST
N. Collins Frwy,
903/532-6441;
Toby Socheting
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
100 E. Davis,903/532-5504;
Roger Tidwell, pastor
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
810 N. Denny, 903/532-6718;
Tom Medley, minister

Ida

IDA BAPTIST CHURCH,
903/813- 3263. S- School
10 am, Worship 11 am
Charles Morris, pastor

Luella

LUELLA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
3162 St. Hwy. 11,
Harvey Patterson,
903/893-2252
A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP,
150 Fellowship Ln, Luella
Mike Ball, 903/870-0219

Tom Bean

CHURCH OF CHRIST
903/546-6620
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
903/546-6231
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
903/546-6898
INSPIRATION POINT COWBOY CHURCH
FM 2729, 2.5 miles
South of Tom Bean
Duane Peters,
903-815-2278

More Church Page



Family

On the night of July 24, 2002 nine miners were working the second shift in the Quecreek Mine near Somerset, Pennsylvania when they unexpectedly broke through a wall and into a cavern just beyond. Suddenly a massive flow of water began to gush into their shaft; between 50 to 60 million gallons of water; frigid, 55-degree water. The miners were trapped in a dark, wet, cold prison 240 feet below the surface. The miners "decided early on they were either going to live or die as a group," so "when one would get cold, the other eight would huddle around the person and warm that person, and when another person got cold, the favor was returned." After three desperate days, they were all rescued.

"Everybody had strong moments," miner Harry B. Mayhugh told reporters after being released from Somerset Hospital in Somerset. "But any certain time maybe one guy got down, and then the rest pulled together. And then that guy would get back up, and maybe someone else would feel a little weaker, but it was a team effort. That's the only way it could have been." *

They faced incredibly hostile conditions together and they all came out alive together.

What a picture of what God envisions for the CHURCH!

Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2) and from one another! But God loves us so much that He gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:7). Through Jesus, we are reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

We are reconciled to God when we accept His offer reconciliation (and salvation and eternal life!) by placing our faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turning from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confessing Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). This is how one "obeys the Gospel" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 6:3-4). We experience the "new birth" (John 3:3-5; 1 Peter 1:23).

And when we are "born again," we are born into a family – the family of God, the Church (Acts 2:41, 47). We have God as our Heavenly Father as well as brothers and sisters in Christ to help us as we live the Christian life.

Miner Harry B. Mayhugh's words should reflect the unity and purpose that is experienced in God's Family: "But any certain time maybe one guy got down, and then the rest pulled together. And then that guy would get back up, and maybe someone else would feel a little weaker, but it was a team effort. That's the only way it could have been."

That is the way that God intends for it to be in His Family, the church: Christians helping one another in the struggles that flood our lives, awaiting the Day when Jesus will come back and take His Family home.

Won't YOU be reconciled to God by trusting and obeying Christ so that you may become a part of His Family?

David Sargent, Minister
davidsargent1@comcast.net

Church of Christ at Creekwood
<http://www.creekwoodcc.org>

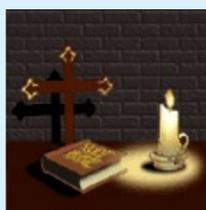
1901 Schillinger Rd. S.
Mobile, Alabama 36695

* SOURCE: Bill White, Paramount, California; source: adapted from "Teamwork Helped Miners Survive Underground," CNN.com (7-28-02) as quoted by Dan Williams in a sermon entitled, "Church? Why Bother?" (shared in Preacher Stuff, 8/7/13).

**PILOT GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH**
1271 Pilot Grove St.
903/450-3708

**Sherman/Denison
THE CHURCH OF JESUS
CHRIST OF LATTER DAY
SAINTS**
1900 Lamberth Rd, Sherman.
**FRIENDSHIP UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
RFD 2 off Hwy. 56; 903/892-8450
**WESTERN HEIGHTS
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
800 Baker Park Dr.,
903/892-9635, Sun. 10
**CHURCH OF THE
NAZARENE,**
601 Hwy. 1417, Pastor,
Rev. Mack Rogers
**RED RIVER
COWBOY CHURCH**
3800 Hwy. 691 (w of Hwy. 75);
Novice Northington, 903/463-5840

**Van Alstyne
COMMUNITY BIBLE
CHURCH**
Northwest corner Hwy 5 &
County Line Rd.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
105 Hopson,
Shannon Jackson, minister,
903/482-6033
**EAST SIDE
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
102 E. Marshall, 903/482-6334,
Jimmy Tarrant, pastor
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
206 Waco, 903/482-5515,
Gary Gibbs, pastor
**FIRST PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**
903/482-6646,
Rev. J.R. Thornhill, pastor
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**
301 S. Preston,
Rev. Jack Wallace, minister
**GREYWOOD HEIGHTS
WORSHIP CENTER**
On Hwy. 75 just north of Dairy
Queen, 903/482-6700;
Chris Jones, pastor
**HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Father Stephen W. Bierschenk,
972/562-0752
**MORNING CHAPEL
CHRISTIAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL**
103 Bowen, 902/482-5431
SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH
702 E. Fulton, 903/482-5664, Rev.
Arnold Baker, pastor



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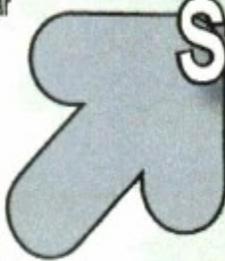
ONE day and you are **DONE!**

Fall Registration Event
Thursday, August 15
8 am - 7 pm

Apply * Skills Testing * Advising * Enroll * Pay
In person - In one day!

Careers
Start Here

- Check out the popular 8-week sessions!
Classes meet:
Aug. 26-Oct. 17 or
Oct. 21-Dec. 12
- Weekend College!
Fri-Sat classes for the busy student
- Fall classes begin August 26



All students registered will be entered into a drawing to win an iPad! Those enrolling in 15 or more hours receive an extra entry!



MAIN CAMPUS - HWY 691, DENISON
SOUTH CAMPUS - VAN ALSTYNE
www.grayson.edu

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Eligible students may enroll anytime through August 22

Last test on Aug. 15 starts at 4 pm.
Late registration fees apply Aug. 17-22



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Texoma Enterprise

805 N. Hughes

Howe, Texas 75459-3587

903-487-0525

dalerideout@cablone.net

lanarideout@cablone.net

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 Step-grandchildren. 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 23rd year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.



Grandkids singing at the Elves Christmas Tree Farm, 2007



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



By Dorothy N. Fowler

My students were almost 99 percent in favor of English only statutes that require government documents be printed only in English and that limit access to English-as-a-second language instruction at public expense.

They wanted people who live in the United States to speak “pure English.” I told them I would support their movement when they both spoke and wrote “pure English,” knowing full well that I would never have to make good on my promise.

In the first place, even though they were in honors English classes, honors math and science classes, and honors government and economics, only rarely could any one of them write a paper free of error. Some of them made spoken errors that had the same effect on my ears as a fingernail on a blackboard has.

“You see them things over there?” or “I seen that last year,” or “He done that wrong,” were among the least objectionable verbal assaults. Those errors, however, they might have eventually corrected, but there is a second impediment to speaking “pure English.”

That obstacle is that “there ain’t no such animal” as “pure English.”

Banana is a West African word. Other African words include bogus, boogie, chigger, chimpanzee, jive, jazz and mojo.

The Arabs contributed not only our number system, but also algebra, algorithm and assassin. Berserk originated in Old Iceland, cantaloupe and chapel in Italy, chocolate and lettuce in Spain.

Australians gave us kangaroo and koala, Afrikaaners provided aardvark and meerkat. The Chinese provided tea and chop suey, the Dutch, bamboo, berm, bicker, blare, block, blow, boom and cookie.

Germans provided bundt cake, frankfurter and wiener, gummi bear, lager, sauerkraut, and spritzer.

Native Americans talked of caribou, chipmunks, Eskimos, hickory and hominy.

Thousands of words Americans use every day entered American English—and British English—from the languages spoken by immigrants and by merchants and adventurers who brought the words they heard home from their travels.

“Awww, Ms. Fowler, you know what we mean,” students said after a review of “pure English.”

“Indeed, I do,” I said. “But why don’t you define it better for me so there won’t be any mistake.”

Only the most diehard KKK member, white supremacist, bigot wanted to put into words “what we mean,” and most of my students had never thought of themselves as either white supremacists or bigots. They were all horrified by the KKK.

Now it happens that I love the English language with all its peculiar difficulties and I think everyone who intends to live in the United States should learn to speak English, just as I would expect to learn to speak German if I intended to live in Germany. My conviction about speaking the language of the country in which you reside is based on my desire to communicate clearly with the people with whom I live. Communication is a two way street: I speak, you hear and understand. You speak and I hear and understand.

If I want newcomers to the United States to be able to communicate with me, I want to gently encourage them to make the effort to learn English and I need to make the opportunities for them to do so readily available.

That is a concept that is almost simple enough for anyone to understand.



Cornyn: Admin's Misplaced Priorities Impede Meal Service For Wounded Warriors At Walter Reed Calls On Hagel To Reverse Decision Immediately

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, today issued the following statement regarding reports that wounded troops recovering at Water Reed medical center have been notified their meal tickets have been invalidated and they have reduced access to the only wheelchair-accessible dining facility on the medical center campus:

“We have a serious problem of misplaced priorities when the Administration is spending nearly \$700 million a year on a PR campaign to sell the President’s unpopular and deeply flawed health care law, but our nation’s wounded warriors are having their meal tickets turned down while in recovery at Walter Reed medical center. These men and women have sacrificed everything on our behalf; the least we can assure them is a hot meal in a wheelchair-accessible facility. I call on Sec. Hagel to reverse these unacceptable changes at Walter Reed immediately.”

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Cornyn: Make Delays Permanent

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) issued the following statement today regarding the delay of the Obamacare provision placing a cap on out-of-pocket insurance costs for consumers until 2015.

“Yet another delay in the implementation of Obamacare has come to light, confirming what Texans already know – this law does not work.

“It is time for a permanent delay of Obamacare. Rather than waste any more time propping up a costly and unworkable system, we should focus on health reform that brings down costs, increases the quality, and preserves the patient-doctor relationship.”

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.



On School Accountability, Reauthorize Don't Neutralize

By Kerri Briggs

Twelve years ago, in an act of bipartisanship that now seems impossible to imagine, the Senate and House passed historic legislation reforming American education. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) bill was championed by President George W. Bush and supported by a nine-to-one ratio, including votes from Democrats Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, and the late Ted Kennedy, as well as Republicans Mitch McConnell and John Boehner. NCLB was the latest iteration of a national commitment to provide a better education for our nation's children.

NCLB was transformative for schools and life-changing for students, particularly poor and minority students, whose achievement increased. It set national goals for America's schools. It required states to test students' knowledge of reading and math annually, and expected that all students would be at grade level in these subjects by 2014. And, when schools didn't make enough progress towards meeting that ambitious goal, there were funding changes and opportunities for students to get immediate help.

NCLB marked the beginning of a new era of accountability in American education. It was an ambitious attempt to jumpstart student achievement within a global economy, and much needed given decades of stagnant achievement.

NCLB is also not perfect - no legislation ever is. There is clear interest in updating the law. Three different proposals for new legislation are under discussion in the House and Senate. And, 39 states and DC have designed new systems by receiving waivers from the Education Department. These actions could be promising developments. Instead, the actions are jeopardizing and potentially neutralizing the foundational principles of accountability.

These waiver-based systems exempt public schools from accountability standards that took decades to establish. Never before has such an important piece of legislation, with such broad and deep bipartisan backing, been so swiftly dismantled. If this trend isn't redirected, our public education system could suffer an unnecessary setback in the effort to improve student performance.

It's no secret that America's students lag far behind those of many other developed nations. The George W. Bush Institute recently released a "Global Report Card" providing a district-by-district account of how American students stack up against their counterparts abroad. The results show just how far we need to go.

Just take Portland, Oregon, a state that received a waiver. Portland has an international mathematics score of 47 percent. That means that more than half the students in the international group perform better than the average Portland student. If you limit that comparison to Portland's closest international competitor, the Canadians do even better.

These poor results were corroborated in two reports released in December by the National Center for Education Statistics. According to those studies, U.S. students ranked well below countries like Singapore in science. Countries such as Russia and Hong Kong, meanwhile, bested us in eighth-grade reading.

Oddly, as our international performance stagnates with some schools failing to live up to the goals set by NCLB, the response by the federal government and some states has been to lower expectations and lessen accountability.

Each state receiving a waiver or hoping for a more relaxed accountability system in a waiver or new law still has students - more than a few - who cannot read as well as their peers and struggle to master math.

The negative impact wrought by waivers can't be overstated. A dangerous precedent is being set: if you can't live up to agreed-upon standards, you get a pass. And, while most congressional watchers do not expect the current proposals to make it to the President's desk, some proposals focus on the wrong issues - control instead of achievement, minutia instead of high expectations. How can meaningful education reform ever take hold if teachers and administrators don't believe meaningful federal policies will actually be enforced?

In this current environment, there are foreboding signs. Eleven states are not meeting the most basic graduation rate reporting requirements, according to a new report from the Alliance for Excellent Education.

We have examples of states dramatically relaxing educational standards in response to the waiver opportunity. In Wisconsin, for instance, a mere 50 percent of students will be required to read at grade level by 2017.

Lawmakers should act and move to improve NCLB. Recognizing its flaws and acting to rectify them is a far more responsible course of action than nullifying the policy's most crucial components and putting our children at greater risk.

Preserving a strong system of comprehensive accountability in American schools is a national imperative.

The global economy grows fiercer by the day. Our students need to be equipped with the high quality education they'll need to land the jobs of the future. Lowering expectations, waiving expectations, and fighting for control takes this country back to the days before accountability. Allowing schools and educators to continue to fail to meet even basic achievement expectations is not what has made this country great and is not the pathway to a better future.

Our students deserve better.

Kerri Briggs is Director of Education Reform at the George W. Bush Institute.



Cornyn Op-Ed: Voter ID Protects Voter Equality

‘We deserve not to be insulted by a Justice Department committed to scoring cheap political points.’

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) authored the following op-ed<<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/cornyn-voter-id-protects-voter-equality/nZHXB/>> today in the Austin American-Statesman:

Voter ID Protects Voter Equality

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Austin American-Statesman

August 8, 2013

<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/cornyn-voter-id-protects-voter-equality/nZHXB/>

In June, the Supreme Court held that Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act was unconstitutional. The provision, which determined the states and jurisdictions that would have to ask the Justice Department for permission to implement any voting law, was based on outdated data from the 1960s and ‘70s. The data came from an era of obscene racial discrimination that bears little resemblance to the reality of today. In the intervening years, Texas and other states have repudiated that sad and unjust era, and made great strides towards voter equality. In today’s America, access to voting booths and voting information is broad and not subject to discrimination.

So the question must be asked: Why are President Barack Obama and his Attorney General, Eric Holder, so upset about this decision? The answer is as simple as it is disturbing: partisan politics.

Section 4 determined which states were subject to “preclearance,” a procedure under which Texas - and other covered jurisdictions - had to seek permission for any change to voting law. Until the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 as unconstitutional, Texas needed permission from the Justice Department to implement even a change in a polling place. That arrangement was good for Eric Holder.

Take voter ID as an example. In 2011, Texas adopted a commonsense voter ID law. It requires voters to present one of a number of approved forms of photo ID at the polling place, just like you have to do to buy beer or get on a plane. The state offers voter ID cards free of charge. And the law allows voters unable to present a valid photo ID to cast a provisional ballot and return within a week with proper identification. It even makes exceptions for people who have a religious objection to being photographed or lost their ID as a result of a recent national disaster.

The law is reasonable, and it is popular. Protecting the integrity of the voting process is something that benefits everyone. The Supreme Court has held that voter ID laws are constitutional. But Section 4 subjected Texas to preclearance, giving Hoder the ability to block Texas from implementing the law - which he did.

After the Supreme Court struck down Section 4, the Justice Department wasted no time announcing that it would file a lawsuit in federal court demanding that preclearance be reinstated over Texas under a rarely used provision of the Voting Rights Act. The Justice Department accused the State of Texas of “intentional discrimination” against minority voters.

That accusation is offensive, has no real basis, and will not stand up in court. It will come as no surprise to Texans that if Section 4 had been updated to rely on current data, Texas would no longer be subject to the preclearance requirement.

And consider the current facts on voter turnout: According to a Census Bureau report, 68.2 percent of registered Hispanic voters in Texas went to the polls in the 2000 general election. By 2012, with an additional 747,000 Hispanic Texans on the electoral roll, the rate had risen to 71.2 percent. Meanwhile, the rate for African-American Texans rose to over 86 percent in the same period - the highest among all racial groups tracked in the Census Bureau report.

Unfortunately, these facts mean little to a politicized Justice Department bent on inserting itself into the sovereign affairs of Texas. As Texans, we reject the notion that the federal government knows what’s best for us. We deserve the freedom to make our own laws and we deserve not to be insulted by a Justice Department committed to scoring cheap political points.

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Hall Votes To Keep IRS Out Of Americans’ Health Care

WASHINGTON, DC . . . Today, Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-04) voted in favor of H.R. 2009, Keep the IRS Off Your Health Care Act of 2013. The bill, which passed 232-185, prohibits the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) from implementing or enforcing any provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as “Obamacare.”

“The American people should be able to have the freedom to choose their own doctors and be in control of their own personal health care decisions,” said Hall. “Today’s vote is another effort to prevent the implementation of ‘Obamacare,’ a bad law that limits freedom of choice, increases health care costs, decreases quality of care, and hurts jobs.”

“Opposition to ‘Obamacare’ remains strong across the country,” Hall continued. “Even the President, with the recent decision to delay the employer mandate, recognizes his law is flawed.”

“We must provide fairness and protection for all Americans – not just employers – and the most responsible way to do this would be a full repeal of ‘Obamacare.’ I will continue to support legislation that respects the American people and work to postpone, prevent, and repeal as much of this bad health care law as possible.”

To read Rep. Hall’s press release on bills to delay both the employer and individual mandate, [CLICK HERE](http://ralphhall.house.gov/press-releases/hall-votes-to-delay-obamacare-mandates-for-employers-and-families/)<<http://ralphhall.house.gov/press-releases/hall-votes-to-delay-obamacare-mandates-for-employers-and-families/>>.



More



House and Senate Pass Bills to Increase Transportation Funding

Senator Estes votes to increase transportation funding while protecting the Rainy Day Fund

Austin - Senator Estes today voted in favor of a legislative package that will increase transportation funding while ensuring a healthy balance remains in the Economic Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund. Having finished their business, the legislature adjourned sine die.

On his vote Estes said, "It is the proper role of state government to finance transportation projects and it is critical to the future of our state that additional funding be secured. My vote today helped secure that funding and did so without a tax increase or adding to our debt. This is a commonsense conservative approach and a step in the right direction in easing traffic congestion across Texas."

Senate Joint Resolution 1 provides that 50 percent of oil and gas severance tax revenues currently allocated to the Economic Stabilization Fund be allocated to the State Highway Fund for the construction and maintenance of roads. If approved by the voters, it is estimated to increase transportation funding by \$878 million in fiscal year 2015, while leaving a balance of more than \$7 billion in the Rainy Day Fund. Transfers to the State Highway Fund as a result of SJR 1 cannot be used to finance toll roads, or to pay for old or new transportation-related debt.

House Bill 1 requires a safe balance be set for the Economic Stabilization Fund, which the legislature must approve or amend before the 45th day of each regular legislative session. If a safe balance is not set, approved by the legislature, and reached then the bill prohibits the allocation of the oil and gas severance tax revenue to the State Highway Fund.

Explaining further Estes said, "It is absolutely critical to the future of Texas that we find additional funds for transportation. Over the last decade our great state has experienced tremendous population and economic growth, and our infrastructure needs to keep pace in order for the next ten years to be as prosperous as the last ten."

Estes serves nearly 820,000 constituents across Senate District 30 which includes all of Archer, Clay, Cooke, Erath, Grayson, Jack, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Wichita, Wise, and Young counties and parts of Collin and Denton counties.

Editorial Letter to the Editor

I commend Russia for banning all gay propaganda at the Sochi games. The elevation of perversion to the level of a fundamental value that has to be nurtured and nourished and promoted is absolutely sick.

Men and women with homosexual tendencies must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Nonetheless homosexual acts must be considered wrong and intrinsically disordered because they are contrary to the natural law.

The Bible clearly and unequivocally condemns homosexual acts (Gen 1:27-28; Gen 2:24; Matt 19: 4-6; Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tim 1:10 etc.). Science too has found no "gay gene".

There is a distinction between the word 'homosexual' and 'gay.' A homosexual is a person who has, to some extent, this homosexual condition. If he honestly and quietly deals with it in cooperation with the grace of God he may come out of this difficulty and come back to normal human relationships. In contrast a 'gay' is somebody who says, 'I am like this, I will be like this, I want to be treated like this, and I want special privileges because I am like this.' Now if somebody is not only homosexual, but a gay, declaring, 'This is how I am, and I want this to be respected legally, socially and so on' – such a person will never come out of the difficulty.

Like Russia, all nations must work together to curb the danger of identifying with the homosexual condition as if it was the supreme expression of the identity of the individual which would deprive the individual of healing and happiness.

With respectful and cordial best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely Yours, Paul Kokoski.



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Should You Prepare a Medicaid Application Yourself?

Whether you should prepare and file a Medicaid application by yourself or should hire help depends on answers to the following questions:

How old is the applicant?

How complicated is the applicant's financial situation?

Is the individual applying for community or nursing home benefits?

How much time do you have available?

How organized are you?

Medicaid is the health care program for individuals who do not have another form of insurance or whose insurance does not cover what they need, such as long-term care. Many people rely on Medicaid for assistance in paying for care at home or in nursing homes.

For people under age 65 and not in need of long-term care, eligibility is based largely on income and the application process is not very complicated. Most people can apply on their own without assistance.

Matters get a bit more complicated for applicants age 65 and above and especially for those of any age who need nursing home or other long-term care coverage. In these cases, availing yourself of the services of an attorney is practically essential.

Medicaid applicants over age 65 are limited to \$2,000 in countable assets (in most states). It's possible to transfer assets over this amount in order to become eligible, but seniors need to be careful in doing so because they may need the funds in the future and if they move to a nursing home, the transfer could make them ineligible for benefits for five years. Professional advice is also crucial because there is a confusing array of different Medicaid programs that may be of assistance in providing home care, each with its own rules.

All of that said, the application process itself is not so complicated for community benefits (care that takes place outside of an institutional setting, such as in the beneficiary's home). In short, those over 65 in many cases will need to consult with an elder law attorney for planning purposes, but they or their families may be able to prepare and submit the Medicaid application themselves.

But submitting an application for nursing home benefits without an attorney's help is not a good idea. This is because Medicaid officials subject such applications to enhanced scrutiny, requiring up to five years of financial records and documentation of every fact. Any unexplained expense may be treated as a disqualifying transfer of assets, and many planning steps -- such as trusts, transfers to family members, and family care agreements -- are viewed as suspect unless properly explained. Finally, the process generally takes several months as Medicaid keeps asking questions and demanding further documentation for the answers provided.

Many elder law attorneys offer assistance with Medicaid applications as part of their services. This has several advantages, including expert advice on how best to qualify for benefits as early as possible, experience in dealing with the more difficult eligibility questions that often arise, and a high level of service through a long, grueling process. The one drawback of using an attorney rather than a lay service is that the fee is typically substantially higher. However, given the high cost of nursing homes, if the law firm's assistance can accelerate eligibility by even one month that will generally cover the fee. In addition, the payments to the attorney are generally with funds that would otherwise be paid to the nursing home -- in other words, the funds will have to be spent in any event, whether for nursing home or for legal fees.



Second Saturday Program

Bird migration will be the topic for Second Saturday program Aug. 10 at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. The 10 am free program will be in the meeting room of the refuge's Visitors Center.

Dr Wayne Meyer will discuss how and why birds migrate each year, some traveling thousands of miles, and how humans have learned to study migration. Meyer is the associate professor of biology at Austin College and has been a member of the college's biology department for 20 years.

He began birding at the age of 13 in Connecticut and has been at it ever since. He has birded extensively on both coast of North American and in Texas and Oklahoma.

"Birds have some of the most spectacular travel patterns of all animals, some of them travelling literally half-way around the world twice each year to move between breeding and wintering areas," says Meyer.

Hagerman NEW is located at 6465 Refuge Road in Sherman on the Big Mineral Arm of Lake Texoma. For more information, view www.friendsofhagerman.com or call the refuge at 903-786-2826.

Snowy egrets are just one of the several species of birds that migrate to Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge each summer.



2013 Howe Football Reserved Seating

Persons who had reserved seating from last year have until August 21, 2013 to renew their seats. On August 22, 2013 reserved seating will be open to the public for purchase. Reserved seating of \$25 per seat assures you a designated seat for the varsity games for the five home games of the season. Game admission tickets are \$5 and must be purchased at the gate.

Reserve your seating and be ready for Bulldog Football 2013!

Howe ISD Substitute Training

Howe ISD is currently accepting applications for substitute positions for the 2013-2014 school year. To be eligible for substitute placement, applicants must:

- *Be at least 18 years old.
- *Have a high school diploma or equivalent.

All applicants who meet the above criteria are required to attend a mandatory training on Wednesday, August 14th at 9 am in the Howe Elementary School before being placed on the district's substitute list. All applicants must provide the following:

- *Two forms of identification (i.e. Driver's license, social security card)
- *Completed substitute packet (packets given at training)

You may contact Pauli Stephens at 903-532-3204 for an application or additional information. Application forms can also be found at: <http://www.howeisd.net/>

A Minister Smarter Than Einstein?

At the conclusion of the sermon, the worshippers filed out of the sanctuary to greet the minister. As one shook the minister's hand, he said, "Thanks for the message, Reverend. You know, I bet you're smarter than Einstein."

Beaming with pride, the minister said, "Why, thank you, brother!"

As the week went by, the minister began to think about the man's compliment. The more he thought, the more he wondered why anyone would deem him smarter than Einstein. So the following Sunday he asked the man, "Exactly what did you mean that I must be smarter than Einstein?"

The man replied, "Well, Reverend, they say that Einstein was so smart that only ten people in the entire world could understand him. But Reverend, no one can understand you."

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LET'S REMINISCE: REMEMBERING FIRST GRADE

By Jerry Lincecum

The recent column about my experiences in First Grade activated memory circuits in several of my readers. The best reminiscences describe embarrassing moments or mischief.

Salley Meier of Quinlan recalled that in learning to sight read, she was having trouble separating "home" and "house." The teacher had pinned cards with the two words on the pockets of her dress, when the fire drill bell rang. You can imagine the teasing Salley got from other kids for having those cards attached to her dress pockets.

As the only girl in a family of boys, a Sherman lady named Gwen was very proud to have her first very own new box of crayons. When recess came, instead of leaving those crayons in her desk she stuffed the box into her bloomers. That was okay until she jumped rope After that she left her crayolas in the desk and trusted her classmates not to steal them.

Bob Rutledge, who started school in the Layne community near Denison, reminded me of some things students were allowed to do IF they were good, like go to the coal bin and fill a bucket with coal on cold days. He recalls that "many times the teacher would have to send another student after me, as I might be swinging on the rafters in the old shed."

Another "privilege" Bob enjoyed was dusting erasers. Usually two boys were sent to do this job and often they would engage in a little mischief, hitting the other guy with a dusty eraser. When they returned, it was hardly necessary for the teacher to ask: "Have you two been fighting?"

One of my elderwriters from Collinsville, Cleo Curtis, wrote about her first day of school in Nocona. It had rained the day before and she had to walk across a ditch filled with rain water on a plank. She fell off, getting her lovely orange jumper dress (with the crescent moon-shaped pearl buttons) wet and muddy.

Consequently, she had to change into a friend's dress, which was a size too large. Her plans for making a good first impression were spoiled.

As if that wasn't enough humiliation, more than a decade later, when students in the senior English class were asked to tell about a funny experience on the first day of school, another girl related her funny memory of Cleo's unfortunate fall into the ditch while wearing her orange dress. I'd say that was cruel!

Moving on to Second Grade, my wife admitted to me that her class proved to be too rowdy for a new teacher. Within a couple of weeks, the poor woman lost control of her class and resigned. The principal knew how to deal with those brats. He brought out of retirement a tough, very experienced teacher who "let the hammer down."

However, that class remained difficult to manage all through school. When their graduation ceremony came up, they even lined up out of alphabetical order, causing consternation as the diplomas were handed out. Knowing that the school principal was retiring, they gave him an embarrassing sendoff.

-30-

A retired English professor, Dr. Jerry Lincecum teaches classes for older adults who want to write their life stories. He welcomes your reminiscences on any topic: jlincecum@me.com

FALL SCHEDULE FOR TELLING OUR STORIES

Talkers as well as writers will be welcomed to reminiscence sessions as the Telling Our Stories program launches a new series of classes this fall. One class meets at 2 p.m. on Sat., Aug. 24, in Wesley Hall of First United Methodist Church in Whitesboro. On Sunday, Aug. 25, at 2 p.m. another group gathers at Austin College in Room 112 of Ida Green Center (1201 Brockett St.). The cost is \$10 per class, with monthly meetings.

You may join the class at any time. Other dates are Sept. 28, Oct. 26, and Nov. 16 in Whitesboro. Sherman dates are Sept. 29, Oct. 20, and Nov. 17.

Led by Dr. Jerry Lincecum, who writes the weekly column "Let's Reminisce," the class operates as a workshop. Participants will tell (or read aloud) a short reminiscence. Responses from the leader and others and will follow up topics raised by each piece.

For more information, call 903-893-6041 or email: jlincecum@me.com.

-30-

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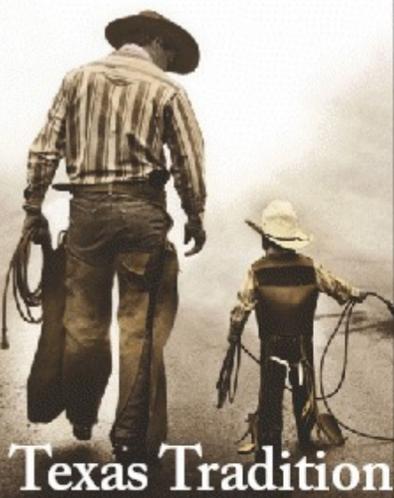
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