

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

December 5, 2013



Annual Christmas Tree Farm Visit



Overpass Demonstration



Humor



Chrystal Opry House Bluegrass Events

“Bluegrass Day” this month is December 7th. A bluegrass jam begins at 5 pm. Donations will be accepted to defray expenses. For those staying for the show, we have scheduled an open mic at 6:30 pm. It is a good opportunity to get some stage experience. Our regular show will then begin at 7 pm.

The Melody Ranch Ramblers have been working for several weeks to bring you a good show. Members are Judy Ziola, vocals, George Kirby, fiddle, Charles Woolly, mandolin and vocals, Flavil George, banjo and vocals, Dale Anderson, bass and vocals, and Bill Hayes, guitar and vocals.

Saturday’s performance will be the last event for this year at the Opry. The Band decided to donate any monies they would receive to Meals on Wheels. Please come out and enjoy a good show. Your donation will provide meals to the needy that are served by this program.

The doors and concession area will be open at 6 pm, with brisket sandwiches and hot dogs as well as coffee, soda, water, popcorn, and candy.

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. Persons interested in performing at the Chrystal Opry House should contact Bill Hayes at 903-546-6893 or <http://www.chrystalopryhouse.com>. (“Like” us on face book--chrystalopryhouse and (www.melodyranchbluegrassfestival.com))

Historic Loft Tour Coming To Downtown Denison

Downtown Denison Inc. is sponsoring a historic loft tour on Saturday, December 7. Properties may be toured from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and visitors are encouraged to start early to enjoy all sites.

The event will have a 1940’s feel and begin with a Pearl Harbor Memorial at Heritage Park at 9:30 a.m. The public is welcome to this free portion of the day. Military vehicles will be stationed surrounding the park at 324 W. Main in Denison.

Five spectacular upstairs spaces have been chosen for the Loft Tour. The Barrett Building apartment at 531 W. Main and the Denison Hotel at 117 S. Burnett will be on display as will 404 W. Main, 421 W. Main, and 428 W. Main. Climbing stairs will be required with the exception of the Barrett Building and the Hotel.

Tickets are only \$10 in advance and can be purchased at Kaboodles or the Chamber of Commerce. Ask any Downtown merchant about tickets. The day of the tour, tickets can be purchased at any of the lofts for \$15.

To enhance the experience, many businesses will be having open houses with special activities. Santa Claus will be at My Friend’s House at 313 W. Main from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Denison Dance Academy will be performing in Heritage Park throughout the day.

The Wall of Honor and McVey’s Navy (WWII model ship display) will be at the Katy Depot. Dave McVey will be available to give history on the ships, and Navy Vets will be on hand for the final day of the exhibit. The exhibit is free and can be accessed through the Red River Railroad Museum (trackside) at 101 E. Main.

For more information on the Historic Loft Tour, call 903-464-0441.



Barry Smitherman

Texoma Patriots News Update

On November 30, members of the Texoma Patriots met in Sherman and participated in our first Overpasses to Impeach Obama movement that is sweeping across our nation. We met on the bridge crossing Highway 75 by Albertson’s in Sherman at 11 a.m. It was such a thrill to be greeted with horns honking, lights flashing, and waves galore.

Overpasses for Obama’s Impeachment has a simple goal . . . the removal of the corrupt and criminal President of the United States of America – Barack Hussein Obama. His actions go unimpeded, our pleas through petitions unanswered, our calls and letters to Congress are left ignored. So we are taking to the streets and overpasses of America. We are DEMANDING that our nation be returned to **We the People**. We want this President held accountable for his actions while serving as President.

Our next regular meeting is Tuesday, **December 3rd**.

Barry Smitherman, who is running for Texas Attorney General, will be our speaker.

We are meeting again at **Buck Snort BBQ** in Van Alstyne, 204 E. Jefferson

The buffet line will be open so come early and eat with us. Meeting starts at **7 p.m**

Barry Smitherman was appointed to the Railroad Commission of Texas in July 2011. He has a unique blend of private and public sector experience and has long served the people of Texas with honor and distinction. In 2004, Smitherman was appointed to the Public Utility Commission. Since his appointment at the Railroad Commission, Barry has instituted an agency-wide review of agency processes and procedures with an eye towards increasing efficiency, promoting transparency, and being more responsive to the needs of Texans. Previously he served on the Department of Energy Electricity Advisory Committee and as an Adjunct Professor of Public Administration at St. Thomas University. www.BarryForTexas.com.





Grayson College's Associate Degree Nursing Program

Grayson College's Associate Degree Nursing Program achieved a 90.8% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX-RN). While the program consistently has received high pass rates since its inception, this marks the 10th year in a row the program earned 90% or above.

GC's program graduated 121 candidates who took the exam in the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013; 109 passed the exam on the first attempt.

According to the Texas Board of Nursing NCLEX Report for Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013, Grayson's ADN program was one of only 12 ADN programs and 10 bachelor of science degree nursing programs to obtain pass rates of 90% or above. The report gives results of 63 associate degree programs and 38 BSN programs in the state of Texas. GC's achievement denotes a commendation from the Texas Board of Nursing.

"Grayson College has always maintained a high success rate due absolutely to the highly professional and dedicated nursing faculty as well as academic faculty that prepare the students prior to their first nursing course," said Joanna Barnes, GC's ADN program director. "These faculty members are highly educated, very experienced in their field, and maintain a high level of expertise. They also care deeply for each and every student and are here to ensure their success."

Passing the national licensure exam is critical to beginning a career in nursing. Once students graduate from nursing school, they have a nursing degree but cannot practice as a nurse until passing the NCLEX-RN. Developed and administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the exam determines that entry-level nurses possess the competencies needed to perform safely and effectively as a registered nurse. A nursing license is not issued by the Board of Nursing until the exam is passed.

Every three years, a practice analysis is conducted by the national council to evaluate the currency of nursing practice and determine if the current exam reflects that practice. Every state in the United States uses the NCLEX-RN as a determination for licensure, and each state requires the same passing standard.

"After considering all available information, NCSBN determined that safe and effective entry-level registered nurse practice requires a greater level of knowledge, skills, and abilities than was required in 2009 when it implemented the current standard," Barnes said. "Effective April 2013, the passing standard was increased in response to changes in U.S. health care delivery and nursing practice that have resulted in the greater acuity of clients seen by entry-level RNs."

GC's graduates met the new standard competently as Grayson nursing graduates scored higher than their counterparts across the country. Barnes said that the pass rate is down by 9.74% nationally over all, and the national pass rate for the second quarter of 2013 was 83%.

"I am so very proud of our graduates and the faculty who prepared them," Barnes said.





Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Implementation of Bills

Most bills, unless passed by a 2/3 vote, take effect the September following the most recent legislative session. It often falls to a state agency to develop rules in order to implement the legislation. Such is the case with House Bill 5, which was the omnibus public education curricula and testing reform bill passed earlier this year. HB 5 reduced the number of mandatory assessments required by the state, and also changed the requirements for high school graduation. Currently the State Board of Education (SBOE) is working to draft rules to implement portions of this bill.

The SBOE held hearings this past week to hear from stakeholders such as local school districts, business associations, and parent groups on how to best enact this new legislation. Most of the discussion centered around high school graduation requirements, with some parties wanting to keep a more stringent math course requirement for all students, and others wanting to leave the option to the local school district.

The State Board of Education is composed of 15 members who are elected from equally populous districts across the state. The SBOE adopts rules and establishes policies that govern educational programs and services provided by Texas public schools. Together, the board and the Texas Education Agency facilitate the operation of Texas' public school system, which consists of 1,237 school districts and charter schools, more than 659,000 educators and other employees, and more than 4.8 million schoolchildren. The SBOE is the only governing state agency board other than the Railroad Commission whose members are elected by the public.

If you have any questions regarding any matter of state government, please contact me by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by e-mailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us.

Following the 2011 Legislative Session, several groups filed suit against the state, claiming that the way in which the state funds public education violates the Texas Constitution. The groups include school districts, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), business associations, and parents on behalf of their children. The Texas Constitution requires the state to provide efficient and adequate funding for public schools, and that school districts must have meaningful discretion to choose how they spend money they bring in from property taxes.

Speaking broadly, the lawsuits contend that the state does not fund education adequately, and that the school districts have no choice but to raise local property taxes. The groups argue that because the rate at which school districts can tax property is capped, and that a majority of the school districts tax at the maximum rate, the result is effectively a state-wide property tax. The Texas Constitution expressly prohibits a state-wide property tax. Each group has particular claims regarding the current school funding system that differ slightly from one another, but the cases have been consolidated and are now moving forward as one case. Notably, one group asks the court to consider the efficiency of the school funding system in addition to its adequacy.

In the fall of 2012, the case went to trial before Judge John Dietz, who presides over the 250th District Court for the State of Texas. Judge Dietz has also presided over previous school finance litigation. In February of 2013, Judge Dietz issued a preliminary decision that the school finance system was in violation of the Texas Constitution. However, because the legislature was in session at the time, he did not issue a final decision. During the 2013 legislative session, the legislature restored some funding to public education, and reduced the number of required student assessments. In light of these changes, Judge Dietz ordered that the case be reopened, and that testimony regarding the impact of the changes made by the legislature be presented before the court in January, 2014. It is anticipated that regardless of the judge's final decision, the case will be appealed to the Texas Supreme Court.

If you have any questions regarding this or any matter of state government, please contact me by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by e-mailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us.



Psalm 40:1-17 (KJV)

- ¹ I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.
² He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.
³ And he hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.
⁴ Blessed *is* that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.
⁵ Many, O LORD my God, *are* thy wonderful works *which* thou hast done, and thy thoughts *which are* to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: *if* I would declare and speak *of them*, they are more than can be numbered.
⁶ Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.
⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book *it is* written of me,
⁸ I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.
⁹ I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.
¹⁰ I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.
¹¹ Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.
¹² For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.
¹³ Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me: O LORD, make haste to help me.
¹⁴ Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil.
¹⁵ Let them be desolate for a reward of their shame that say unto me, Aha, aha.
¹⁶ Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.
¹⁷ But I *am* poor and needy; *yet* the Lord thinketh upon me: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

Christian Fellowship

Angie Howery will be leading worship service this week at A Christian Fellowship in Luella. Come join them for coffee and doughnuts beginning at 9:00 a.m. followed by classes for all ages at 9:30 and worship service at 10:30.

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

In Da Zone for Jesus is a class for children ages 2-10 and takes place during worship service. Children learn bible verses and play games and have puppet shows.

Wednesday night begin at 6:30 p.m. with a pot-luck dinner followed by praise and worship and a devotional.

The church celebrates The Lord's Supper each week during worship service.

The 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. For more information contact David Ellis at 903-815-1333 or Mike Ball at 903-271-1870.

Tom Bean

Church of Christ

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us. Our services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9:00 am and worship at 10:00 am with congregational singing. The evening worship service begins at 6:00 pm. The Lord Supper is given each Sunday. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7:00 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 8:00 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 ; Kevin 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



Of Eternal Significance

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...”

These are the opening words of Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. November 19, 2013, will mark the 150th anniversary of this famous speech.

U.S. President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address during the American Civil War, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On this same site four and a half months earlier, the Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Abraham Lincoln's carefully crafted address, secondary to other presentations that day and only a little over two minutes in duration, came to be regarded as one of the greatest speeches in American history.

But it hasn't always been regarded as highly...

This week a Pennsylvania newspaper confessed that it should have recognized the greatness of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address at the time it was delivered. The Patriot-News of Harrisburg, about 35 miles northeast of Gettysburg, retracted a dismissive editorial penned by its Civil War-era predecessor, The Harrisburg Patriot & Union. The retraction said the newspaper's November 1863 coverage was wrong when it described the speech as "silly remarks" that deserved a "veil of oblivion." The paper now says it regrets the error of not seeing its "momentous importance, timeless eloquence and lasting significance." *

There is a “document” that should be recognized for its momentous importance, timeless eloquence, and ETERNAL significance. That document is the BIBLE, God’s Word. What makes the Bible so valuable is the content of its message: The very words of God. It is a priceless treasure!

Consider the words of an unknown author as he gave tribute to the Word of God:

Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions immutable.

READ it to be wise, BELIEVE it to be safe, and PRACTICE it to be holy!

The Word of God reveals the state of man: we are sinners, and unless our situation is remedied, we are doomed to destruction (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Mat 7:13-14)

The Word of God reveals the Way of salvation: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus is the Way of salvation (John 14:6), for He paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross on our behalf (Eph 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

To access the Way of Salvation... the Word of God teaches us that we must place our faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). Then, as we walk in the light as He is in the light, then the blood of Jesus continues to cleanse us from all sin (1 John 1:7)

Never underestimate the value of God’s Word! It is of ETERNAL significance!

Won't YOU “read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy” by trusting and obeying Christ today?

David Sargent, Minister
davidsargent1@comcast.net

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

* Information gleaned from Wikipedia and the Associated Press

Archived issues of "Living Water" can be viewed and Archived issues of "Living Water" can be viewed and accessed from our website at: www.creekwoodcc.org

**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



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Texoma Enterprise

805 N. Hughes

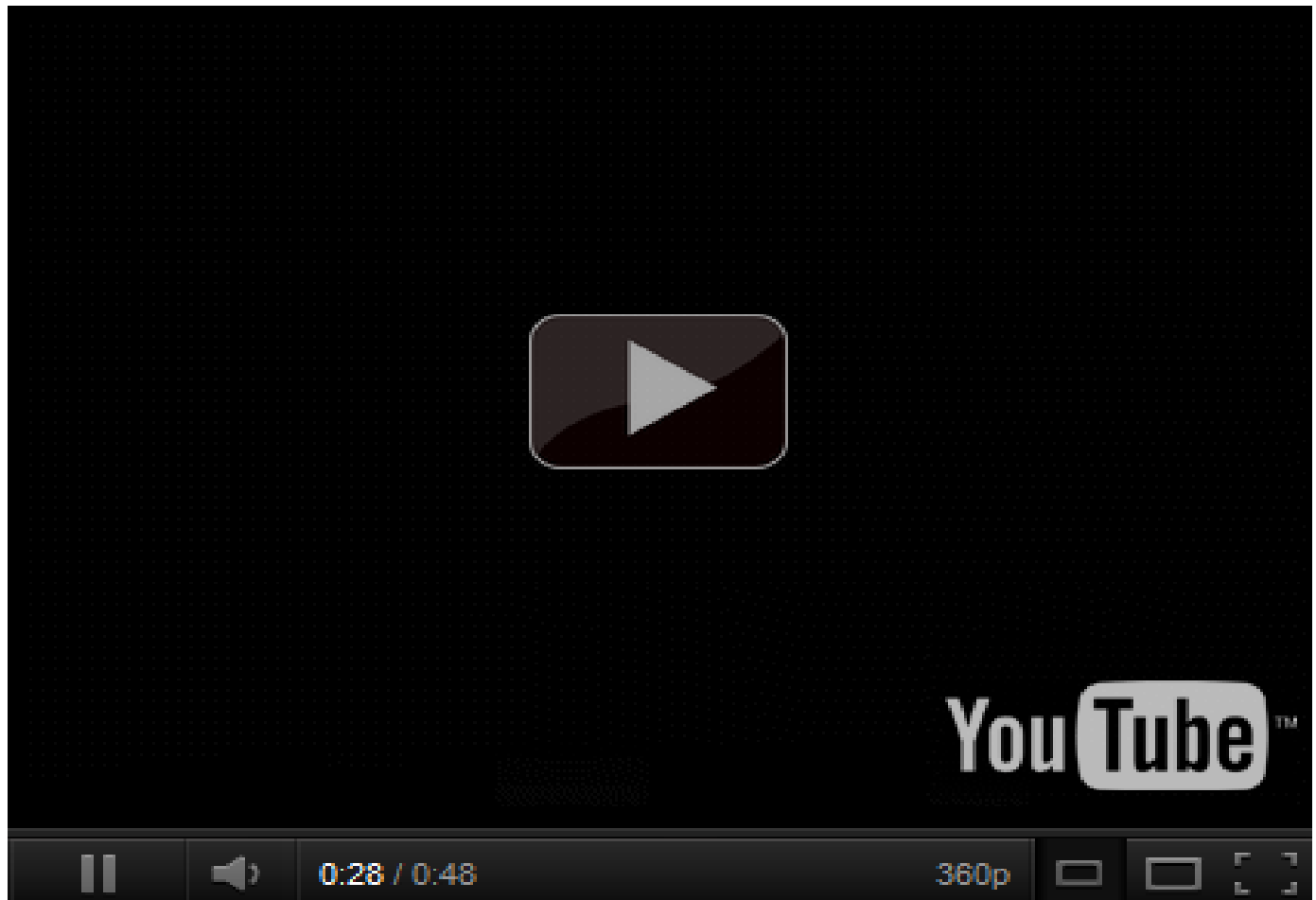
Howe, Texas 75459-3587

903-487-0525

dalerideout@cableone.net

lanarideout@cableone.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



Dots Dashes

By Dorothy N. Fowler

Thanksgiving is upon us, preceded by a plethora of Christmas decorations that preceded Halloween. The Black Friday sales have been pre-empted by merchants who intend to start the traditional sale Thursday afternoon. However, those early birds have also been pre-empted by merchants who are offering Black Friday sale prices with Thanksgiving still a week away.

This is not a lamentation about holiday commercialism. People should expect that in a competitive, free enterprise economy, merchants will seize the day and offer their goods and services in a way that will produce the most revenue and the most profit. Consumers, also caught up in a free enterprise, competitive economy, naturally want to maximize their purchasing power, to get the biggest bang for their bucks. That's why they are already attending the "sales," and will continue to do so.

The yearly expressions of outrage over the commercialism of Christmas are not only ludicrous, but also Grinchy. Some people seem to believe that Christmas can't/ won't come because merchants and shoppers are in the market place, compelled there by Adam Smith's "invisible hand of self-interest."

The Grinch believed Christmas wouldn't come for the people of Whoville if they were deprived of all the commercial trappings of Christmas, so he stole them. The theft, of course, saddened the people of Whoville, but Christmas came anyway.

It will come this year also, even in a world beset by manmade wars, by natural calamities and by desperate commercialism.

It will come even though some people may harden their hearts against its coming.

It will come and it will make a positive difference in the lives of the people whose hearts are softened by the memory of Mary, Joseph and their baby, born in a barn. Perhaps those people will be moved by their memory to make life a bit easier for contemporary Marys, Josephs and barn-born babies.

The last scene in the cartoon production of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* shows all the Who's of Whoville standing in a circle, holding hands, singing their Christmas songs. As the Grinch and his little dog Max appear, the circle opens for them and although we may not hear it, they join in the song.

The coming of the Christ child is a reminder to us to open the circle of our lives and to let in those who will come.

Edwin Markham an American poet of the 19th and 20th centuries wrote these words that can serve as words of wisdom for us in all the seasons of our lives, but especially at Christmas

"He drew a circle that shut me out

Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.

But love and I had the wit to win.

We drew a circle that took him in."



Cornyn Introduces Bill To End Disenfranchisement Of Military Voters

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) joined with Senate colleagues today to introduce *The Safeguarding Elections for our Nation's Troops through Reforms and Improvements (SENTRI) Act*, S.1728. The bill will expand access to voting for military voters and improve voting assistance opportunities.

“It is unacceptable that our service members and their families are facing hurdles when attempting to exercise one of the most fundamental rights they fight and sacrifice to protect—the right to vote.

“These brave Americans put their lives on the line for our democracy, so the least Congress can do is meet its obligation to safeguard their voting rights by ensuring that the Defense Department implements common sense reforms to improve access and assistance for voting.”

The bill is co-sponsored by Sens. Schumer (D-NY), Blunt (R-MO), Warner (D-VA), Wicker (R-MS), and Brown (D-OH).

Background on the SENTRI ACT

Improves voter registration and voting opportunities for service members through use of online systems and by requiring voter assistance as a routine part of service members' annual training.

Ensures requests for absentee ballots are valid for one full federal election cycle.

Strengthens protection of voting rights of military and overseas voters.

Requires reporting on implementation and effectiveness of new voter assistance obligations.

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 Statement on Nuclear Option

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) issued the following statement after Sen. Harry Reid proposed changing the Senate rules for confirming executive and judicial nominees.

“The Democrats' attempt to pivot at a time when we should be focused on protecting the American people from dropped health care coverage makes their true motives clear. They will do anything to take the attention off the failure that is Obamacare, even if it means breaking the rules of the Senate in a raw exercise of partisan political power.”

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.

November 20, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the federal navigator program.

In August 2013, Health and Human Services (HHS) distributed a total of \$67 million in taxpayer funded grants to 105 organizations for the creation of navigator programs. As mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), navigators are to provide education and enrollment assistance to individuals in 34 states enrolling through the federal exchange. Navigator programs are responsible for hiring, training and certifying navigators to assist Americans purchasing insurance on the federal exchange. However, the Administration established only minimal federal requirements for individuals who could be certified as navigators.

During the Senate Committee on Finance hearing on health insurance exchanges, Secretary Sebelius acknowledged that there were no federal requirements that navigators undergo a criminal background check and agreed it was “possible” for navigators to be convicted felons. According to the HHS Navigator Standard Operating Procedures Manual, as navigators assist individuals with enrolling on the exchanges they will have access to consumers' personally identifiable information, such as date of birth, social security number, and tax information. Recent news reports have revealed navigators with criminal backgrounds have been certified calling into question the safety of vulnerable Americans' personal information as they attempt to comply with the law.

Reports have also recently surfaced of navigators encouraging individuals to misreport their taxable income in order to receive higher subsidies than they are legally eligible to receive. These navigators are not only condoning tax fraud, they are actively encouraging consumers to illegally obtain federal health care subsidies and defraud American taxpayers.

Given these concerns, I ask that you bring an end to the troubled navigator program. Americans must be protected, and this program should stop before any more harm is done.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN

United State Senator

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.



In Defense Of Sarah Palin

In recent days Sarah Palin has been viciously attacked for comparing Obamacare to economic slavery. An MSNBC host, Martin Bashir, crudely attacked Palin for making the comparison.

The truth is her comparison rings true in many respects. In the culture of the Confederacy, a strict social structure existed with the gentrified plantation owner sitting at the top of the social register and the slave occupying the lowest rung on the ladder. Playing a significant role in maintaining the equilibrium in the social structure was the plantation overseer, a man charged with maintaining order on the plantation and ensuring the Master's wishes were fulfilled.

The plantation owners...the ruling elite...often expressed a condescending view of the slave population...viewing them as children unable to fend for themselves and dependent on the benevolence of their masters for the essentials of life. Obviously the plantation owner knew what was best for his slaves...I mean, my of my, whatever would they do without his kind guidance and oversight.

In the current culture of big government domination, we see the same social structure emerging. The White House plays the role of the plantation owner condescendingly taking care of his "children" who are incapable of fending for themselves and in need a benevolent master to care for them.

Playing the role of plantation overseer, so vividly described by Bashir, is the Majority Leader of the Senate who is charged to maintain order and ensure the master's wishes are fulfilled even to the point of inflicting maximum pain and degradation on those uppity tea party people that don't know their proper place.

In this drama, the citizens become more and more dependent on the benevolence of government for the necessities of everyday life. Consider the implications of our current president embracing the title "Food Stamp" president.

This emerging social order is also evident in the unfolding of Obamacare...when we are condescendingly reminded that we're incapable of making complex decisions like what healthcare insurance meets our family's needs. And, when 93% of us (according to a recent CBS poll) say we don't want this massive intrusion into our daily lives and are told to sit down, shut up and learn to appreciate what the ruling elite is doing for us...it is a stark reminder of how close "we the people" are to becoming subjects rather than citizens.

So Palin's comparison of Obamacare to slavery is not completely inaccurate. Remember, she was the first one to warn us of the death panels embedded in the law. Perhaps we should listen to her before we listen to the Martin Bashirs of the main stream media.

Capt Jim Kinney USN (ret)

Killing Conspiracy

by Don Mathis

It's hunting season but I'm not going after deer. If there is one thing I'd like to kill this November, it's the notion of a conspiracy to kill John F. Kennedy. On this, the 50th anniversary of his death, we should begin to realize it was coincidence, not conspiracy, that killed JFK.

Lee Harvey Oswald had a friend of a friend who helped him find a job at the book depository shortly before Kennedy's visit. It was not planned that he held employment on the presidential tour route. It was a coincidence that Jack Ruby was able to kill Oswald. Unforeseen delays prevented Oswald from leaving the police station on schedule. Ruby was downtown that day and just decided to stop by after his errand. Countless other coincidences have produced countless conspiracy theories.

Despite what Jacqueline Kennedy said in Dealey Plaza ("They've killed my husband"), despite what Jesse Ventura titled his new book (*They Killed Our President*), despite the testimony Abraham Zapruder gave to the Warren Commission ("They killed him, they killed him"), despite what the hawkers and barkers on Elm Street say, "they" didn't do it. It was a lone gunman that killed Kennedy.

In the 1970s, almost 90 percent of Americans believed there was a conspiracy to kill JFK. Today, it's closer to 50 percent – and that number is shrinking. The battle between Conspiracy Theorists (CT) and De-Bunkers (DB) will likely continue but it will lessen.

Skepticism is a healthy notion in a civilized society. And we should be skeptical of conspiracies as well. Why would one want to believe there's more to JFK's death than an insignificant malcontent with a \$12 rifle? Answer: Balance.

We know terrorists conspired to create the events of Nine-Eleven. Multiple hijackers, funded by multi-millions of dollars, crashed several planes on the same day. This was a catastrophic tragedy and it came about by a consortium of evil. In a sense, there was balance. Our human minds are repelled by the tragedy but are satisfied with the equilibrium.

Six million Jews were exterminated in World War Two. And it took a massive effort utilizing the latest in technology and streamlined processes to accomplish this annihilation. Our logic can understand the equation between this destruction and the nefarious entities behind it.

But there are times when we seek a reason for coincidence. We say a tsunami was caused by an act of God. Such a monumental catastrophe can be understood and accepted if we believe there was an omnipotent force behind it. Some philosophers may claim there are no accidents. Some religious folks may say everything happens for a purpose. But discerning minds can recognize the coincidences in everyday life.

Some of the conspiracies surrounding JFK's assassination are more bizarre than others. One theory would have us believe that Officer [J.D. Tippit](#) conspired with Oswald in an escape plan. They had similar builds so Tippit even had a spare police uniform in his patrol car. But the plans went awry so Oswald shot him.

A related theory was that Tippit had a similar build as Kennedy. And Kennedy wasn't really killed. Their identities were switched and Officer Tippit is actually buried in JFK's tomb! If this theory is true, I guess old Jack is down in Cuba, smoking cigars with Fidel Castro and Che Guevara.

But the wildest conspiracy theory is the one that Jacqueline Kennedy killed her husband. Yup, right there on Dealey Plaza. One wacko website even includes an excerpt from the Zapruder film that shows Jackie climbing on the trunk of the limousine; purportedly to hand over the murder weapon to the secret service agent she conspired with. I guess she must have learned about her husband's many affairs. According to this theory, she probably had an affair with the agent as well.

No scenario of the conspiracy theorist is too extreme to gain a following of faithful adherents. Because the head of the Warren Commission did not find evidence of a conspiracy, some believe he must be in on the conspiracy. Same goes for reporter Peter Jennings. He produced a documentary, "The Kennedy Assassination - Beyond Conspiracy," and a viewer wonders why Jennings would have been a part of the conspiracy.

Some conspiracy theorists do not even provide a motive. Most are doubly contradicted. Generally, they deny all evidence of a lone gunman. Secondly, they cannot prove evidence to the contrary.

True, the 888 page report from the [Warren Commission](#) is flawed. It contains errors because it was written by humans – and humans are flawed. Have you ever been intimate with the details of a lengthy article in the newspaper? Then you have probably seen incorrect details, read incorrect quotes, or discerned other wrong information. Most reputable publications have no problem printing corrections if evidence is presented and the matter is consequential.

There have been many challenges to the Warren Commission but no consequential items of evidence have been presented. What's more, three other investigations have substantiated the Commission's findings. The 1968 panel set by Attorney General [Ramsey Clark](#), the 1975 [Rockefeller Commission](#), and the 1978-79 [House Select Committee on Assassinations](#) all came to the same conclusion – that two shots from the same source killed Kennedy

Most CTs change their suspect when presented with facts but still insist there was a conspiracy. The individual – and society as well – may change their theory according to the fear of the day. If our greatest fear is the communists – as was the case from WWII to Vietnam – then it's easy to blame Khrushchev or Castro. If our distrust in our own government is high – as was the case during the Watergate years – then it's easy to blame the CIA, FBI, or LBJ. The Mafia, the Military Industrial Complex, a disenfranchised participant of the Bay of Pigs – all have all been in the sights of the CT; anybody but a lonely and deranged gunman.

What most CTs do not figure is the fallibility of the human organization – and a conspiracy is nothing but an organization of individuals. The truth will out. Somebody brags to a buddy, a girlfriend, or a cell-mate. Somebody breaks under questioning. Someone rats out a confidant. Someone feels remorse and confesses. But in the 50 years since the assassination, no one has admitted being part of a conspiracy.

Watergate, for example, brought about an investigation into the highest levels of government. But the facts were eventually uncovered. Three decades after the fact, we learned who "Deep Throat" was. Yet the search for who killed Kennedy was more far reaching than any Nixon inquiry.

The movie by Oliver Stone was a great film. But it was fiction nonetheless. The de-bunker for many was the 2003 documentary by Peter Jennings. Using modern technology, Dale Myers created a 3D computer module of Dealey Plaza as it was in 1963. Images from the Zapruder film were fed into this program frame by frame. The resulting images can be rotated to show the assassination from any viewpoint.

Would a bird's eye view of the assassination change the mind of a CT? What about a view from the other side of Dealey Plaza? Suppose you were a bug ON the street – with X-ray vision? Viewing multiple angles of the trajectory of a bullet from the Sixth Floor to the X on Elm Street is enough to diminish the CT rate to below 50 percent.

There are countless pieces of evidence that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy. With time and advances in technology, the concept of a conspiracy will continue to diminish.





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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.

A Honor Roll 2nd Six Weeks

Kindergarten:

Haelie Atkinson, Gage Carr, Vincent Castellanos, Lauren Catching, Noah Christman, Kelton Denham, Dustin Green, Zoie Kemp, Lilly Martin, Maelee McBride, Colt Parker, Kamryn Robertson, Aidric Smith, Tanner Terry, Easley Zolfaghari, Remington Barker, Nowlin Langford, Anthony Mendoza, Amarise Morris, Andronica Morris, Kamryn Powless, Elijah Stoner, Jalyn Devore, Faridy Gonzalez, Kyler Heilman, Alysiah Mathenia, Vincent Molina, Dallas Peavey, Aubri Pittman, Preston Reeves, Elias Roberts, Clayton Stallings, Zoe Thompson, Brooklyn Upton, Lysa Feist, William Ingram, Addelyn Leakey, Sage Weatherly, Gradin Weinmann

First Grade:

Alizabeth Banda, Addison Barber, Nathan Hernandez, Kai Hudson, Garren Lankford, Hunter Shaw, Beau Stephens, William Fuhr, Anthony Lowder, Presley Shockey, Allie Armstrong, Stephanie Bastida, Parker Daniels, Macy Douglas, Noah Fowler, Ozziel Gutierrez, Talan Haley, Kenzlee Jones, Tyler Luelf, McKinzy McCollum, Bailey McDonough, Kiefer Phillips, Harlee Shue, Kamry Snapp, Braden Ulmer, Mia Wilson, Benjamin Garibay, Elijah Morrison, Brynn Riley, Emaleigh Sweeden

Second Grade:

Caden Garner, Lucas Mitchell, Zeb Montgomery, Sandra Nitchman, Haley Richardson, Jonathan Sanderson, Makayla Smith, Jake Snodgrass, Payton Stapleton, Kelcey Ireland, Carter Layton, Jace Martin, Kolin Murphy, Autumn Owens, Kynlee Ray, Matalee Stewart, Isaac Vidales, Madilynn Douglas, Emma Hitesman, Alexander Jones, Jacob Ortega, Jesse Portman, Jonathan Smith, Emery Snapp, Courtney White, Jacob Campbell, Daxton Foster, Kendall Griffin, Jaycie Grisham, Noah Riley, Logan M. Smith, Riley Troxtell, Mahlon Walker

Third Grade:

Madison Morrow, Teagan Stubblefield, Korie Bouse, Janna Nitchman, Trey Phillips, Donna Uriostegui, Jentrie Doty, Austin Haley, Ryan Hough, Christian Moody, Dakota Tinker, Yair Ayala, Mackenzie Bryant, Jaggar Courtney, Ethan Duer, Landin Duty

Fourth Grade:

Zakry DeFrange, Trinity Williams, Niko Longoria, Jordan Sanderson, Avery Snapp

A-B Honor Roll 2nd Six Weeks

Kindergarten:

Brayden Bell, Brandon Caballero, A J Johnson, Tristyn Rackel, Logan Smith, Christian Beisel, Syren Eaton, Ayla Jones, Rhyin Navidad, Colten Smiley, Savannah Smith, Tori Williams, Aris Fox, Arianna Howard, Jackson Moreau, Harper Park, Ridley Carter, Elizabeth Cross, Jaydon Kindle, Gentry Morrow, Dillon Patterson, Bryce Pieper, Deakon Reed

First Grade:

Aviana Acevedo, Hayden Adkins, Christopher Garcia, Eduardo Gonzalez, Slayden Martin, Jaedyn Nance, Charlie Turner, Jackson Zorger, Andrew Crane, William Fuhr, Seth Lea, Anthony Lowder, Gavin Rodgers, Tristan Trivette, Annalys Turci, Claire Wilkins, Rian Cox, Logan Duty, Ashton Sider, Tristin Smart, Colton Tinker, Triston Williams

Second Grade:

Camryn Boatman, Clayton Duree, Jayde Harris, Kayley Laubhan, Colton Little, Jenna Roper, Britton Burt, Shianne Freeman-Williams, Jaeden Howard, Evan Leakey, Kolton Mitchell, Cameron Pugh, Isaac Vidales, Catelyn Armstrong, Brayden Bahr, Ryleigh Jenkins, Rowdy Kuykendall, Zadrian Morris, Cassaundra Morrison, Ian Ponce, Montgomery Sebolt, Navaeh Thornhill, Davian Williams, Cody Adams, Angie Burris, Mary Burris, Ryleigh Craven, Ainsley Denham, Garrett Gibbs, Cooper Jones, Cheyenne Mathews, Railyn Murphy, Gage Troxtell

Third Grade:

Julie Castellanos, Bettye Delavan, Daniel Gonzalez, Keira Robertson, Linda Segura, Addisyn Smith, Jordan Brunner, Bryce Crosby, Jalie Hill, Colby Hopper, Alex Huerta, Kenzie Jensen, Jeslie Toral, Abby Earnhart, Korben Kemp, Faith Stallings, Emma Sutherland, Ayden Burris, Matthew Hayes, Andra Jones, Audie Martin, Noah Miller, Grace Morrison, James Richardson, Ethan Strunc

Fourth Grade:

Harley Brockelman, Cierra Brussow, Michelle Caballero, Luke Catching, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Emma Harvey, Riley Insall, Katie Parker, Abigail Alvarez, Ethan Conrad, Ashley Crees, Kailyn Ireland, Brooke Potter, Gavin Richardson, Rylee Smith, Caleb Wahrmond, Eli Wilson, Kevin Bateman, Jared Brussow, John Griffin, Zoey Moore, Ramie Mosse, Alyssa Sharp, Jessica Bastida, Jaden Bryant, Caytie Coco, Austin Jones, Luke Lopez

Perfect Attendance 2nd Six Weeks

Kindergarten:

Haelie Atkinson, Lauren Catching, Noah Christman, Zoie Kemp, Kamryn Robertson, Aidric Smith, Nowlin Langford, Anthony Mendoza, Aris Fox, Arianna Howard, Dallas Peavey, Aubri Pittman, Preston Reeves, Clayton Stallings, Zoe Thompson, Lysa Feist, William Ingram, Dillon Patterson, Bryce Pieper, Audrie Thompson

First Grade:

Nathan Hernandez, Kai Hudson, Garren Lankford, Travis Watson, Jackson Zorger, Garrett Rodgers, Tristan Trivette, Harlee Shue, Shelby Gard, David Grant, Luke Miller

Second Grade:

Jayde Harris, Lacy Hymel, Kayley Laubhan, Zeb Montgomery, Makayla Smith, Payton Stapleton, Dakota Campbell, Shianne Freeman-Williams, Gracie Max, Autumn Owens, Catelyn Armstrong, Brayden Bahr, Madilynn Douglas, Jacob Ortega, Emery Snapp, Navaeh Thornhill, Davian Williams, Angie Burris, Mary Burris, Jacob Campbell, Ryleigh Craven

Third Grade:

Kaden Dunn, Caleb Fetzer, Keira Robertson, Addisyn Smith, Stone Trevino, Alex Huerta, Janna Nitchman, Carson Daniels, Danielle Hargrove, Tate Harvey, Korben Kemp, Chesnee Lawson, Landon Money, Emma Sutherland, Yair Ayala, Landin Duty, Hunter Hance, Matthew Hayes, Noah Miller, Grace Morrison

Fourth Grade:

Cierra Brussow, Michelle Caballero, Zakry DeFrange, Emma Harvey, Riley Insall, Ethan Tindell, Trinity Williams, Ethan Conrad, Jaryn Grisham, Rylee Smith, Caleb Wahrmond, Kevin Bateman, Micaiah Franklin, Samantha Lemley, Niko Longoria, Avery Snapp, Jessica Bastida, Stanley Bik, Jaden Bryant, Louis Gonzalez, Lindsey Hymel, Austin Jones, Adrianna Money



Exceptional Behavior 2nd Six Weeks

Kindergarten:

Haelie Atkinson, Brandon Caballero, Gage Carr, Vincent Castellanos, Lauren Catching, Kelton Denham, A J Johnson, Zoie Kemp, Lilly Martin, Maelee McBride, Colt Parker, Tristyn Rackel, Kamryn Robertson, Logan Smith, Syren Eaton, Beaudy Kuykendall, Nowlin Langford, Amarise Morris, Andronica Morris, Savannah Smith, Elijah Stoner, Tori Williams, Jalyn Devore, Faridy Gonzalez, Kyler Heilman, Alysiah Mathenia, Vincent Molina, Jackson Moreau, Aubri Pittman, Elias Roberts, Clayton Stallings, Zoe Thompson, Ridley Carter, Marisa Kehrer, Addelyn Leakey, Marely Meneses, Dillon Patterson, Deakon Reed, Sage Weatherly, Gradin Weinmann

First Grade:

Aviana Acevedo, Hayden Adkins, Alizabeth Banda, Addison Barber, Hayden Brunner, Eduardo Gonzalez, Nathan Hernandez, Kai Hudson, Garren Lankford, Slayden Martin, Jaedyn Nance, Wyatt Renfro, Hunter Shaw, Beau Stephens, Charlie Turner, Travis Watson, Elizabeth Word, Jackson Zorger, William Andrews, Kennadi Barrett, Mariah Caudill, Andrew Crane, Olivia Dimayuga, Payton Ewing, William Fuhr, Brianna Graham, Anthony Lowder, Grace Randall, Garrett Rodgers, Gavin Rodgers, Presley Shockey, Ariel Uriostegui, Allie Armstrong, Stephanie Bastida, Parker Daniels, Macy Douglas, Ozziel Gutierrez, Talan Haley, Kenzlee Jones, Tyler Luelf, Bailey McDonough, Harlee Shue, Kamry Snapp, Marcos Tapia, Braden Ulmer, Devon Wallace, Mia Wilson, Logan Duty, Benjamin Garibay, Hali Howard, Elijah Morrison, Brynn Riley, Emaleigh Sweeden, Colton Tinker

Second Grade:

Camryn Boatman, Jesika Capps, Clayton Duree, Dakota Fetzer, Caden Garner, Kimberly Gonzalez, Jayde Harris, Lacy Hymel, Kayley Laubhan, Colton Little, Gabby McMillen, Lucas Mitchell, Zeb Montgomery, Kade Murphy, Sandra Nitchman, Haley Richardson, Jenna Roper, Jonathan Sanderson, Makayla Smith, Jake Snodgrass, Payton Stapleton, Bobby White, Britton Burt, Dakota Campbell, Shianne Freeman-Williams, Kelcey Ireland, Carter Layton, Jace Martin, Kolton Mitchell, Kolin Murphy, Autumn Owens, Cameron Pugh, Kynlee Ray, Thomas Roberson, Matalee Stewart, Isaac Vidales, Catelyn Armstrong, Brayden Bahr, Madilynn Douglas, Emma Hitesman, Ryleigh Jenkins, Alexander Jones, Rowdy Kuykendall, Zadrian Morris, Cassandra Morrison, Juanita Olivarez, Jacob Ortega, Ian Ponce, Jonathan Smith, Emery Snapp, Navaeh Thornhill, Courtney White, Angie Burris, Mary Burris, Jacob Campbell, Ainsley Denham, Daxton Foster, Garrett Gibbs, Kendall Griffin, Jaycie Grisham, Cooper Jones, Railyn Murphy, Noah Riley, Logan Smith, Gage Troxtell, Riley Troxtell, Charles Vera, Mahlon Walker

Third Grade:

Kaylyn Bryant, Kelly Caballero, Julie Castellanos, Madison Morrow, Keira Robertson, Linda Segura, Addisyn Smith, Teagan Stubblefield, Korie Bouse, Jordan Brunner, Edith Hernandez, Colby Hopper, Alex Huerta, Samantha Lowder, Cody McGill, Janna Nitchman, Trey Phillips, Jeslie Toral, Donna Uriostegui, Carson Daniels, Jentrie Doty, Abby Earnhart, Austin Haley, Tate Harvey, Ryan Hough, Chesnee Lawson, Christian Moody, Dakota Tinker, Khalid Trotter, Yair Ayala, Mackenzie Bryant, Ayden Burris, Ethan Duer, Landin Duty, Matthew Hayes, Audie Martin, James Richardson, Ethan Strunc, Gabrielle Vera

Fourth Grade:

Harley Brockelman, Michelle Caballero, Luke Catching, Zakry DeFrange, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Garrett Rudd, Kaleb Strong, Trinity Williams, Chloe Scoggins, Eli Wilson, Sabian Acevedo, Kevin Bateman, Jared Brussow, Micaiah Franklin, John Griffin, Zoey Moore, Ramie Mosse, Jordan Sanderson, Alyssa Sharp, Avery Snapp, Jessica Bastida, Jaden Bryant, Caytie Coco, Lindsey Hymel, Austin Jones, Luke Lopez, Ricky Ramirez

Math Blast Goal 2nd Six Weeks

Kindergarten:

Haelie Atkinson, Brandon Caballero, Gage Carr, Vincent Castellanos, Lauren Catching, Noah Christman, Kelton Denham, Dustin Green, A J Johnson, Zoie Kemp, Lilly Martin, Maelee McBride, Colt Parker, Tristyn Rackel, Kamryn Robertson, Aidric Smith, Logan Smith, Tanner Terry, Eislez Zolfaghari, Remington Barker, Christian Beisel, Nathan Brashear, Beaudy Kuykendall, Nowlin Langford, Anthony Mendoza, Amarise Morris, Andronica Morris, Rhyin Navidad, Hailey Rangel, Colten Smiley, Savannah Smith, Elijah Stoner, Dakota Wilkinson, Tori Williams, Jalyn Devore, Aris Fox, Faridy Gonzalez, Jackson Moreau, Dallas Peavey, Aubri Pittman, Preston Reeves, Elias Roberts, Clayton Stallings, Zoe Thompson, Brooklyn Upton, Ridley Carter, Elizabeth Cross, Lysa Feist, William Ingram, Jaydon Kindle, Addelyn Leakey, Gentry Morrow, Dillon Patterson, Bryce Pieper, Deakon Reed, Audrie Thompson, Sage Weatherly, Gradin Weinmann

First Grade:

Hayden Adkins, Alizabeth Banda, Jaiden Davis, Christopher Garcia, Eduardo Gonzalez, Nathan Hernandez, Kai Hudson, Garren Lankford, Slayden Martin, Jaedyn Nance, Hunter Shaw, Beau Stephens, Mariah Caudill, Andrew Crane, Payton Ewing, William Fuhr, Seth Lea, Anthony Lowder, Grace Randall, Presley Shockey, Ariel Uriostegui, Stephanie Bastida, Parker Daniels, Macy Douglas, Noah Fowler, Ozziel Gutierrez, Talan Haley, McKinzy McCollum, Harlee Shue, Mia Wilson, Benjamin Garibay, Elijah Morrison, Ashton Sider, Tristin Smart, Emaleigh Sweeden, Triston Williams

Second Grade:

Caden Garner, Kayley Laubhan, Lucas Mitchell, Zeb Montgomery, Sandra Nitchman, Haley Richardson, Jenna Roper, Jonathan Sanderson, Jake Snodgrass, Shianne Freeman-Williams, Jaeden Howard, Kelcey Ireland, Evan Leakey, Jace Martin, Kolton Mitchell, Kolin Murphy, Autumn Owens, Cameron Pugh, Kynlee Ray, Matalee Stewart, Isaac Vidales, Brayden Bahr, Madilynn Douglas, Emma Hitesman, Ryleigh Jenkins, Alexander Jones, Rowdy Kuykendall, Zadrian Morris, Cassandra Morrison, Jacob Ortega, Ian Ponce, Jesse Portman, Montgomery Sebolt, Jonathan Smith, Emery Snapp, Courtney White, Davian Williams, Angie Burris, Jacob Campbell, Ryleigh Craven, Daxton Foster, Garrett Gibbs, Kendall Griffin, Jaycie Grisham, Cooper Jones, Noah Riley, Gage Troxtell, Riley Troxtell, Charles Vera, Mahlon Walker

Third Grade:

Kaylyn Bryant, Kelly Caballero, Bryan Crees, Caleb Fetzer, Madison Morrow, Taylor Reynolds, Linda Segura, Addisyn Smith, Teagan Stubblefield, Leo Becerra, Korie Bouse, Colby Hopper, Janna Nitchman, Cody Richards, Jeslie Toral, Carson Daniels, Jentrie Doty, Abby Earnhart, Austin Haley, Danielle Hargrove, Tate Harvey, Ryan Hough, Korben Kemp, Landon Money, Caleb Otlewski, Demarcus Smith, Faith Stallings, Dakota Tinker, Yair Ayala, Mackenzie Bryant, Jaggart Courtney, Ethan Duer, Luke Hardy, Matthew Hayes, Grace Morrison, James Richardson, Ethan Strunc

Fourth Grade:

Cierra Brussow, Michelle Caballero, Luke Catching, Zakry DeFrange, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Riley Insall, Katie Parker, Trinity Williams, Ethan Conrad, Drew Cowin, Ashley Crees, William Fleming, Kelynn Jares, Gavin Richardson, Caleb Wahrmond, Eli Wilson, John Griffin, Niko Longoria, Fenix Lugo, Jordan Sanderson, Avery Snapp, Luis Gonzalez, Austin Jones, Luke Lopez, Adam Lozano



Accelerated Reader Goals

2nd 6 weeks

Kindergarten:

Haelie Atkinson, Brandon Caballero, Gage Carr, Vincent Castellanos, Lauren Catching, Noah Christman, Kelton Denham, Dustin Green, A J Johnson, Zoie Kemp, Lilly Martin, Maelee McBride, Colt Parker, Kamryn Robertson, Aidric Smith, Logan Smith, Tanner Terry, Easley Zolfaghari, Remington Barker, Christian Beisel, Nathan Brashear, Syren Eaton, Ayla Jones, Beaudy Kuykendall, Nowlin Langford, Anthony Mendoza, Amarise Morris, Andronica Morris, Rhyin Navidad, Kamryn Powless, Hailey Rangel, Colten Smiley, Savannah Smith, Elijah Stoner, Tori Williams, Jalyn Devore, Brianna England, Aris Fox, Faridy Gonzalez, Kyler Heilman, Alysiah Mathenia, Vincent Molina, Jackson Moreau, Harper Park, Dallas Peavey, Preston Reeves, Elias Roberts, Clayton Stallings, Zoe Thompson, Brooklyn Upton, Ridley Carter, Elizabeth Cross, Lysa Feist, William Ingram, Jaydon Kindle, Addelyn Leakey, Marely Meneses, Gentry Morrow, Deakon Reed, Audrie Thompson, Sage Weatherly, Gradin Weinmann

First Grade:

Aviana Acevedo, Hayden Adkins, Alizabeth Banda, Addison Barber, Christopher Garcia, Kai Hudson, Garren Lankford, Hunter Shaw, Charlie Turner, Travis Watson, Kennadi Barrett, Andrew Crane, William Fuhr, Seth Lea, Anthony Lowder, Presley Shockey, Ariel Uriostegui, Travis White, Allie Armstrong, Stephanie Bastida, Parker Daniels, Macy Douglas, Noah Fowler, Ozziel Gutierrez, Talan Haley, Kenzlee Jones, Tyler Luelf, McKinzy McCollum, Bailey McDonough, Harlee Shue, Kamry Snapp, Annalys Turci, Braden Ulmer, Claire Wilkins, Mia Wilson, Rian Cox, Benjamin Garibay, Elijah Morrison, Brynn Riley, Emaleigh Sweeden

Second Grade:

Camryn Boatman, Dakota Fetzer, Caden Garner, Jayde Harris, Kayley Laubhan, Colton Little, Zeb Montgomery, Sandra Nitchman, Jonathan Sanderson, Jake Snodgrass, Bobby White, Shianne Freeman-Williams, Carter Layton, Jace Martin, Gracie Max, Kolin Murphy, Autumn Owens, Cameron Pugh, Isaac Vidales, Catelyn Armstrong, Brayden Bahr, Anthony Gardner, Emma Hitesman, Alexander Jones, Rowdy Kuykendall, Cassandra Morrison, Jacob Ortega, Ian Ponce, Jesse Portman, Montgomery Sebolt, Jonathan Smith, Emery Snapp, Navaeh Thornhill, Courtney White, Davian Williams, Cody Adams, Angie Burris, Mary Burris, Jacob Campbell, Ryleigh Craven, Ainsley Denham, Daxton Foster, Garrett Gibbs, Kendall Griffin, Rilyn Murphy, Noah Riley, Gage Troxtell, Riley Troxtell

Third Grade:

Julie Castellanos, Bettye Delavan, Caleb Fetzer, Connor Gauntt, Daniel Gonzalez, Madison Morrow, Taylor Reynolds, Sergio Rico, Keira Robertson, Linda Segura, Addisyn Smith, Teagan Stubblefield, Antonio Tapia, Stone Trevino, Leo Becerra, Korie Bouse, Henry Gill, Colby Hopper, Alex Huerta, Kenzie Jensen, Janna Nitchman, Landon Oswalt, Trey Phillips, Jeslie Toral, Donna Uriostegui, Jentrie Doty, Abby Earnhart, Austin Haley, Danielle Hargrove, Tate Harvey, Ryan Hough, Korben Kemp, Brody McCollum, Landon Money, Caleb Otlewski, Faith Stallings, Emma Sutherland, Dakota Tinker, Yair Ayala, Mackenzie Bryant, Jaggart Courtney, Ethan Duer, Landin Duty, Luke Hardy, Jacob McGill, Noah Miller, Kolby Smith, Ethan Strunc

Fourth Grade:

Luke Catching, Katie Parker, William Fleming, Caleb Wahrmund, Eli Wilson, Sabian Acevedo, John Griffin, Samantha Lemley, Niko Longoria, Zoey Moore, Ramie Mosse, Jordan Sanderson, Alyssa Sharp, Avery Snapp, Jaden Bryant, Austin Jones, Skyler Petty, Ricky Ramirez



A mother took her little boy to church.

While in church the little boy said, "Mommy, I have to pee."

The mother said to the little boy, "It's not appropriate to say the word 'pee' in church. So, from now on whenever you have to 'pee' just tell me that you have to 'whisper'."

The following Sunday, the little boy went to church with his father and during the service said to his father, "Daddy, I have to whisper."

The father looked at him and said, "Okay, just whisper in my ear"

Tom, Dick and Harry went to a party. After the party they returned to the hotel. The hotel was 600 stories high.

Unfortunately for them, the elevator was not working. They made a plan for the first 200 stories, Tom will crack jokes.

The second 200 stories Dick will tell a happy story and lastly Harry will tell a sad story. They then started up the steps

After 2 hours it was Harry's turn. He turned to the other two and said "Ok guys, here's my sad story. I forgot the keys downstairs. my ear."

OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

OUTZKIRTS.COM





LET'S REMINISCE: DOOMAFLATCHIES AND THINGAMAJIGS

By Jerry Lincecum

One of my elderwriters, Lulu Bengfort of Gainesville, shared a story about words invented to fill a hole in our vocabulary. Sometimes you are looking for the right word, and you just can't find it. In desperation you use a placeholder term: "It's the doomaflatchy in the kitchen that does X."

Unfortunately, some members of the younger generation have never heard these very important words. The grocery store checker may know about thingamajigs and perhaps even a dillybobber but he can't help you find a doomaflatchie.

Since country singer Tim McGraw used that word in one of his songs (something about "flipping the switch" on it), we might expect young males to recognize the term.

Lulu started thinking about the silly words she knew and made a list of them on her computer. Her spellchecker underlined the words to show they were misspelled, but it didn't have a suggestion for the proper spelling. When she did a google search for them, however, all but one came up with definitions and proper spelling: "whozamadoozis" didn't turn up anywhere. Maybe she can apply for a patent on that one.

Actually, I would wager that without knowing the meaning for these words, most of us could get the drift. Doomaflatchies, thingamajigs, doohickies, dillybobbers, and whatchamacallit are all substitutes for the proper term when we can't think of it. Lulu was surprised to learn that "dooмаflatchy" is also a term used to describe a person who can predict a natural disaster, making it a synonym for the word "doomsayer."

There is a Free College Essay on the internet arguing: "All Dillybobbers are Thingamajigs; No Whatchamacallit is a Dillybobber; therefore No Whatchamacallits are Thingamajigs." I'm glad none of my students ever turned in that one for me to grade. Sounds like a lot of blahdeblah and flapdoodle.

Remember when you purchased a Christmas toy for the kids that had to be assembled, and after working an hour or two, you got all discombobulated and bumfuzzled trying to figure it out? All of a sudden you were hollering at the cockamamie thing, maybe using nonsense words: dadgummit, dagnabbit, doggonit, durnburnit. The swear words you really wanted to say were not fit for the children's ears.

Lulu also remembers her Grandma Bengfort, who liked to use the words dingleberry and nichtsnutz. They have very similar meanings, referring to a person who's incompetent, foolish, feckless. She often used these terms in reference to her grandchildren.

I have purposely avoided some obvious silly words like "whatshisface." There's a slightly more esoteric one I want to leave you with: Hellzapoppin. Among its meanings are: chaotic, action-packed, powerfully exciting, flamboyant. It came from the phrase "hell is (a)popping," which meant "events are evolving in a chaotic manner." After becoming popular as the title of a 1938 musical review starring a then-famous comedy team, in 1941 it was immortalized in a movie title.

-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 subject: jlincecum@me.com.

LET'S REMINISCE: TURKEY TALES

by Jerry Lincecum

Now that Turkey Day is past, I want to share some humor about the unfortunate bird. Let's begin with a call received by the Butterball Turkey Hotline. A woman asked how long it would take to roast her turkey. To answer the question, the Hotline home economist asked how much the bird weighed. The woman responded, "I don't know, it's still running around outside."

That reminds me of hearing one Sherman physician's wife recall her shock and dismay on Thanksgiving eve when the "free turkey" promised her husband by a patient was delivered. It was a live bird.

Recognizing how unprepared they were, the farmer walked the turkey to the backyard. There and then he guided the physician in butchering and cleaning the large bird. Meanwhile, the Missus was bringing large pans of water to a boil, in preparation for plucking the plumage.

Now let's review some ways "turkey" is used metaphorically. To "talk turkey" is to cut the small talk and get serious about the business at hand. No doubt some of you remember the "turkey trot," a ragtime dance of the WWI era.

But that name was given to a different kind of event around 1930. Nina Garrett, who grew up in rural Oklahoma remembers: "Mom and Dad planned to go to a community Turkey Trot, and I was the one who got to go with them. I remember it was not too far from where we lived and Dad said, 'Mom's going to do the trotting.'

"I knew there was a dance called the 'Turkey Trot,' but I couldn't imagine what her part would be. A lot of people came and we sat around visiting until time for the event. Each one who was to take part paid to enter and the host explained the rules.

"When the time came to start, they all lined up, east to west, and each one had a wheelbarrow in front of them. The host told them: 'All of you look ahead at the turkey that's in a pen about 150 yards in front of you; also look from side to side, and remember what's behind you.'

"A helper then blindfolded each contestant, and they were instructed to pick up the wheelbarrow in front of them and do their best to trot up to the turkey's pen. First one there was the winner.

"Well, after they were blindfolded the helpers took hold of each one's shoulders and turned them around twice. The host told them to 'GO' when they heard the shot.

"It was fun to watch them, as they were somewhat disoriented and undecided which way to go. Each family began to cheer their loved one on, but were told NOT to tell them which way to trot. For a little while this was a fun time.

"Mom didn't win, so I was really disappointed. In fact she was a long way from the turkey. However, they were each given a small consolation prize for entering, and we applauded for their entertaining us."

-30-

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“A/B” HONOR ROLL:

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TB Middle School Boys Basketball

The middle school boys basketball B teams hosted the Bells Panthers last night. The 7th grade dominated from start to finish as they shut out the Panthers 31-0. Jonisun Comola and Chris Garrison ran the point and scored fourteen and six points for the Tomcats. Nick Valecilla contributed five points under the basket. Cade Higgins netted four points, while Ethan Ramey contributed with a bucket. Parker Steele played good defense in the victory. Their season record is 1-1.

The 8th grade struggled to keep up with the Bells squad, after keeping the game close for most of the first half. Hunter Knight was the leading scorer for the Tomcats. Tristan Punzel and Kakana Puana played well defensively by providing much needed energy up and down the floor. Their record stands at 0-1-1. The squads will have the Thanksgiving week off before resuming play the following week. Congratulations on the improved play of both teams.

Coach Boykin

Good Bye to Old Gym

Built in 1993 our elementary gym was the home of Tom Bean basketball for over 55 years and has been the host site of many historic games/events over the course of its existence. Tuesday, Nov. 26, the boys and girls basketball teams bade farewell to this historic venue by playing a regular game against Savoy at this location.

Both boys and girls teams, as well as cheerleaders wore the old uniforms, and there was music from the past during halftime and pre-game warm-ups. The community of Tom Bean helped us say good-bye to this great place and came out to support our teams on what was truly a very special night of basketball. Thank you for your continued support of our basketball programs.

Coach Wes Chapman



