

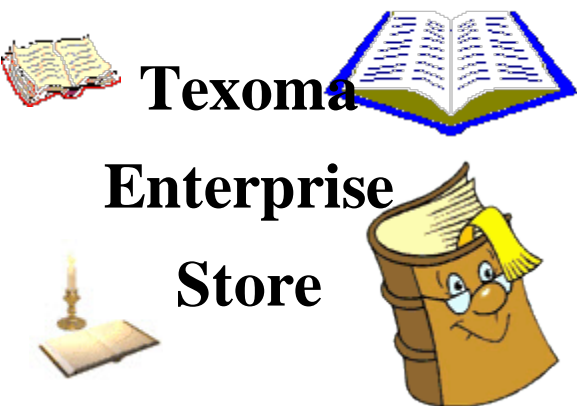
Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

December 8, 2011



College



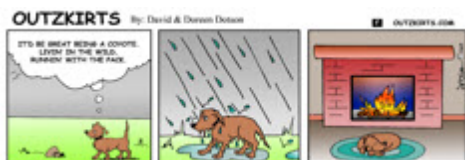
Haggerman



Santa at Library



Hutchison



HUMOR



Church



Howe's That

Recipe

by Lana Rideout



Christmas is a joyous time for many folks who eagerly look forward to the event each year.

However, there are many folks who are sick or lonely. Maybe they are grieving the loss of a loved one.

We must remember them and try to find ways to help. Be sure to watch for signs that someone needs some kind words or time spent talking about their sadness ... or just being together for a while.

We have our family Christmas on a Saturday before Christmas so each family can spend time with their own unit. We have soup and sandwiches. We exchange gifts. We often to a Chinese Christmas exchange.

It is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus for us. But we celebrate that birth every day of our lives.

May you have a great Christmas this year.

Turkey Tortilla Soup

- 1 onion, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 corn tortillas, sliced up
- 1 cup cooked turkey meat, spoon size
- 1/2 gallon rich turkey stock
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice (Key limes preferred)
- 1 15-oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1/4 cup mild chili powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Approximately 1 tablespoon cornstarch mixed with water
- Garnish: Tortillas, cut into thin strips and fried crisp, or crushed chips, diced avocado, Monterey Jack cheese.

Sauté the vegetables and the tortillas in a little oil until tender. Add the remaining ingredients and bring to a simmer. Season conservatively with salt and pepper. (You want it to taste like it needs a little salt at this point.) Cook, stirring occasionally, until the tortillas are dissolved and broken up into the soup and the vegetables are very soft and partially dissolved, about 30 minutes. At this point, I like to do a little cornstarch mixed with water to give additional viscosity to the soup. This will allow the small particles of tortilla and veggies to stay slightly suspended in the soup. You don't want it thick like a sauce. You want to add a little body to the watery consistency. It should take about 1 tablespoon of cornstarch mixed with 1 tablespoon of water, depending on how much liquid has evaporated. Check the seasoning again at the end and adjust as necessary.

To serve, ladle into a bowl over the crispy tortilla strips, and garnish with a happy portion of avocado and cheese.

Makes one half gallon of soup.
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Saturday 8 am to 2 pm
After hours call:
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Jack Strickland - 903-482-5830

(903) 482-5279

209 E. Jefferson -- Van Alstyne





90th annual Candlelighting

DURANT, Okla. - Southeastern Oklahoma State University celebrated the holiday season with the community Monday, Dec. 5, by hosting the 90th annual Candlelighting ceremony and concert. The event was held in Montgomery Auditorium and featured the Southeastern Symphonic Choir, the Southeastern Brass Ensemble, and members of the Southeastern Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble. Candlelighting is the oldest tradition at Southeastern, with its origins dating back to Dec. 18, 1921.

Orientation for Clinical Medical Asst. To Be Held Dec. 10

Grayson County College's Center for Workplace Learning (CWL) in partnership with Boston Reed College of Southern California is offering another Clinical Medical Assistant Class starting January 21, 2012.

There will be two orientation sessions: Saturday, December 10, 2011 and Saturday, January 7, 2012 from 9 to 10 am, both held on the GCC Main Campus.

Orientation will cover program requirements and objectives, student pre-requisites, and financial assistance options. The Clinical Medical Assistant program trains students to help the physician carry out procedures, care for patients, perform basic lab tests and administer medications. Students will receive 134 hours of comprehensive instruction over 14 weeks through lecture, labs, demonstration, one-on-one instruction, individualized study, large- and small-group discussion, and independent research. The students also will complete a 160-hour externship to get practical, hands-on experience.

Upon graduation, qualified clinical medical assistants can work in a physician's office, a clinic and other healthcare settings. The U.S. Department of Labor reports a national starting-pay average of \$10 to \$16 per hour.

Orientation sessions are free, but reservations are encouraged to ensure that adequate materials are available for prospective students. Upon acceptance into the program, students will meet from 9 am to 4:30 pm on Saturdays from January 21 to May 12, 2012. Cost is \$2,800; financial aid is available through Boston Reed.

To reserve a seat for the orientation or for more information about the program, visit the CWL website at www.cwlgcc.org or by phone at 903-463-8765. You also may register in person at the CWL office on GCC's Main Campus.



Students of the Month



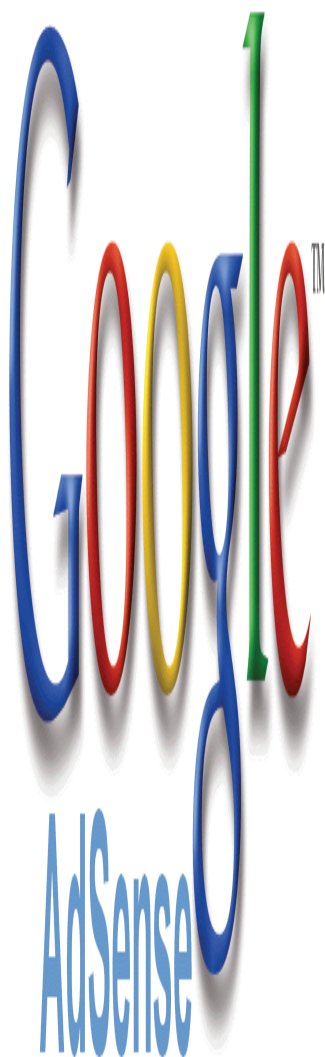
TOP DOGS



Howe Elementary Students of the month are: 1st row: Willie Husband, Riley Troxtell, 2nd row: Zack DeFrange, Trinity Williams, Yair Ayala, Donna Mendoza, 3rd row: Zane Hughes, Cassidy Anderson, Brooke Robinson, Mason Bearden



Howe Elementary "Top Dogs" for the week ending December 2, 2011 are: Sarah Martin, Kirstin Wheeler, Jackson Wilson, Morgan Dyer, Reagan Troxtell, Aubreh Winegarden, Ethan Sanders, Colby Hopper, Ethan Tindell, Harley Brockelman, Daniel Gonzalez, Colton Little, Christina Harper, Kelsey Ireland, Lucan Mitchell, Cheyenne Freeman, and Marcos Tapia



[Click for more Howe news](#)

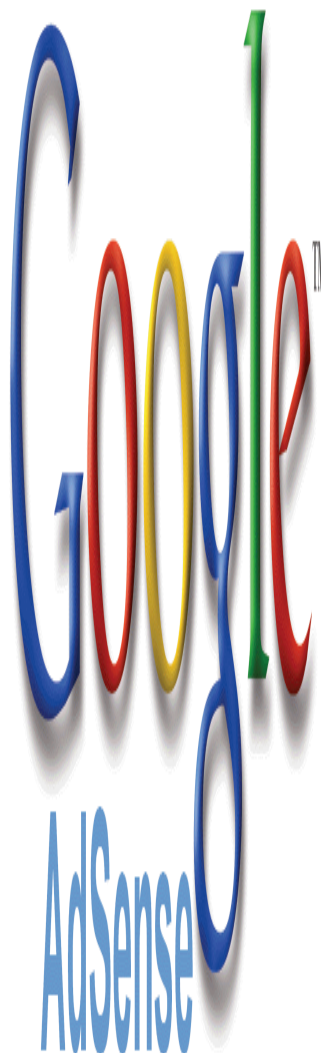


Santa's Appearances

Santa visited the Howe Community Library on Saturday, Dec. 3. He read *The Night Before Christmas* and posed for photos with the children who wanted to tell him what they want for Christmas.

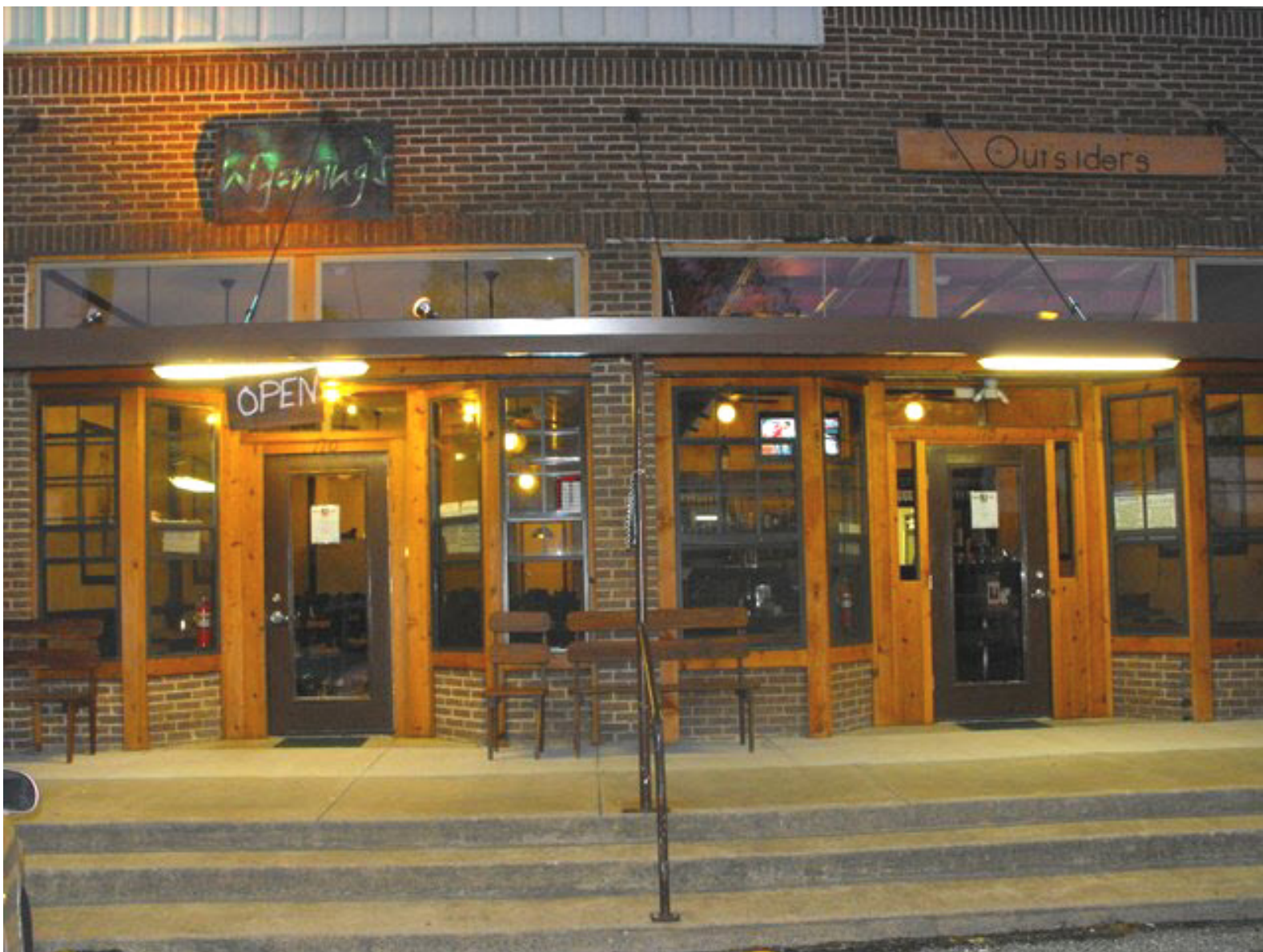
The library also provided a craft where the children made a hat with reindeer antlers. Parents and children enjoyed taking photos and visiting Santa.

Santa will also visit Howe on Saturday, Dec. 10, for Breakfast with Santa from 7 to 9 am at the Howe Middle School Cafeteria. Also Santa will appear at the Howe Christmas Parade at 10 am in downtown Howe.



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Wyoming's Welcomes New Additions

For some time now we have been enjoying the pleasures afforded by Wyoming's Restaurant. How many small towns can brag that they have a restaurant with a fully trained chef as well as beer and wine available for their meals. Those of you who have enjoyed these pleasures know of the delicious choice of meals and the offering of some items not found anywhere else. I have enjoyed shark steak as well as bison burgers here in Howe, Texas.

Now we are bragging about some changes that should improve what was a tremendous restaurant to begin with.

We begin with a new owner and general manager, John Leavenworth. John lives in Dallas, but has close ties here in Howe. His parents live here, and until recently his sister lived here, too. John graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1991 with a degree in math and computers. He has worked in Dallas for PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and for IBM. He also has experience in a major games, bar, and fast food restaurant. John continues to work in Dallas with contract work in IT while spending some time here in Howe during the week and on weekends with his restaurant.

At the same time, a new Executive Chef has been hired for Wyoming's. Andrew Shaffer was born in Keokuk, Iowa but moved to the Howe area while still only about 4 months old. His grandparents are Bob and Dorothy Young who owned and operated Dorothy Bobs Bakery in Sherman from about 1993 until 2000. Andrew grew up in their restaurant and learned to love the business. He graduated from Howe High School in 2005.

Continuing his education, Andrew graduated in February, 2011 from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Dallas. He has worked in the Old Hickory Steak House at the Gaylord Texas Hotel in Grapevine. Andrew has over 12 years experience cooking. Eight of those years are professional cooking. He recently accepted his position in Howe with Wyoming's.

Wyoming's is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 2pm for lunch and 5:30pm to 10pm for dinner. They will also stay open on Fridays after home football games for your enjoyment.

They are now open on Monday nights for Monday Night Football. Doors open at 6:30pm and remain open until the game is over. You can watch the game on either of two large screen TVs and enjoy your dinner, or hors d'oeuvres and drink specials. When football season is over there will be other special occasions celebrated.

Menus will be changed quarterly. Being a seasonal restaurant, some of your favorites will continue to be on the menu but seasonal dishes will be featured as they become available.

Your waiters and waitresses will be spruced up with new uniforms. They will be wearing black slacks with wine colored shirts and "Wyoming's" embroidered on them.

John also wants to recognize area artists of all kinds. Perhaps an artist's works will be featured for a month, with a new artist the next month. Perhaps the works will be both on display and/or for sale. Perhaps your art work is painting, or wood work, or jewelry, or whatever. You can have a place to show off your talent.

Stop by and try the local delights you have right here in Howe, Texas. Wyoming's is located at 110 E. Haning Ave, downtown Howe.



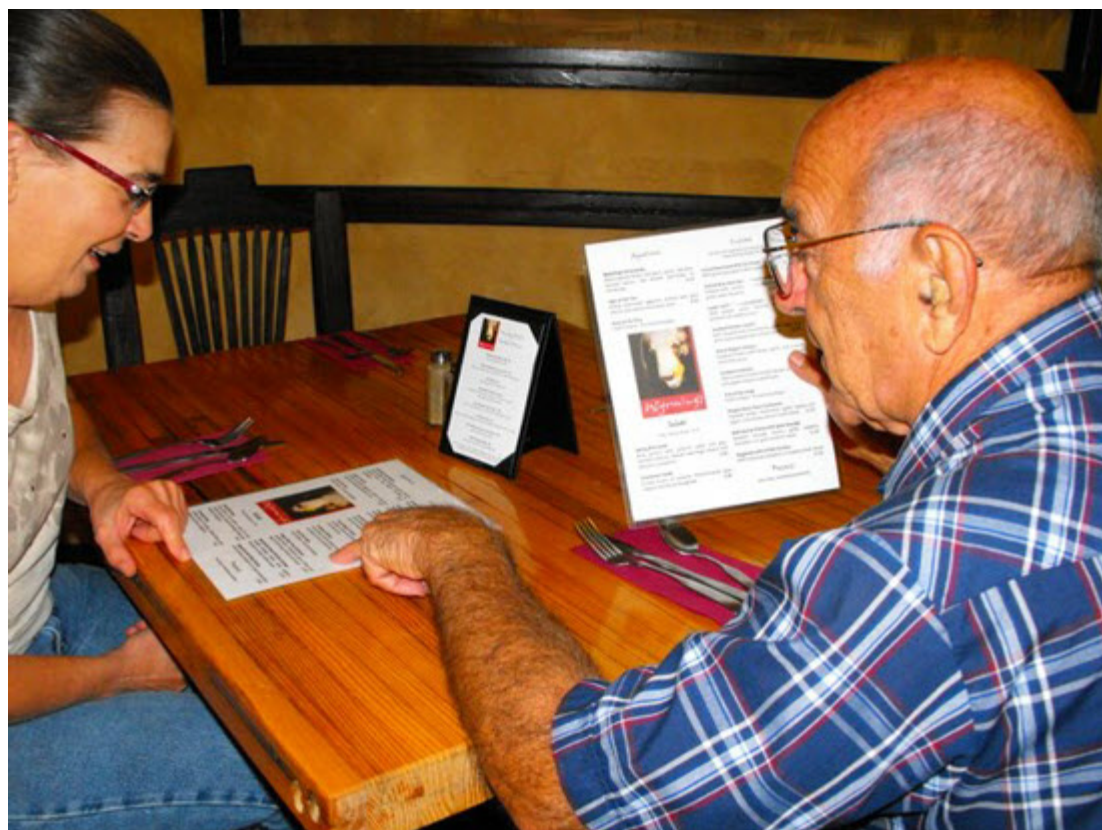
Order your favorite beer or wine at the bar



Sit with your family in the dining room.



Myka Reeder, John Leavenworth, Justin Bailey, and Mechele Carver



Scan the menu to choose your favorite entree



Andrew passes through a fresh from the stove order.



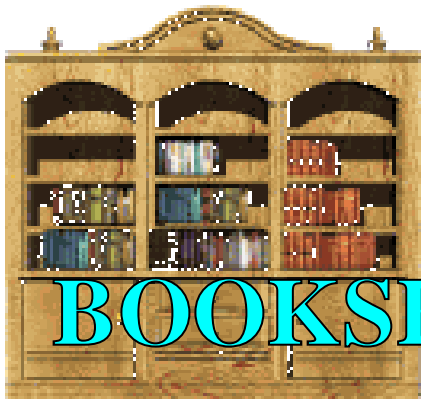
Come in with a grin to join the fun.



Treat yourself to delicious appetizers.



Mechele Carver, John Leavenworth, Andrew Shaffer, and Myka Reeder



BOOKSHELF

By Tracy Luscombe

More than twenty guests gathered at the library December 1 for the Friends of the Van Alstyne Public Library Christmas party. Plenty of delicious food, great people, and fun games ensured everyone had a good time. The Van Alstyne Public Library and The Friends of the Library would like to thank everyone who supports our library with their time and/or donations.

The Friends of the Library are a dynamic group who has supported our library for many years with countless hours of service given freely. The 2012 slate of officers are Shirley Houx, President, Nancy Stutzman, Vice President, Audrey Price, Secretary, and Nancy Webb, Treasurer. Outgoing President, Bob Hendricks and his mother, Pat Hendricks, were presented with engraved clocks as a “thank you” gift for their years of dedicated service. Thank you Bob and Pat for your time, your dedication, and making sure our library had the best Friends group in North Texas.

We join with the other departments of the City to welcome Mr. Philip Rodriguez to the position of City Manager. I will be meeting with him weekly to keep our library serving the community with existing services and materials, and to plan new services and materials to keep us meeting the needs of our patrons.

Story time is over for the 2011 year. Join us December 19 for Craft Hour with your children ages 6-12 at 11 am.

New titles on our shelves this week include:

Texas Almanac 2012; ***Cold-blooded: a true story of love, lies, greed and murder*** by Carlton Smith; ***Not Lost Forever: my story of survival*** by Carmina Salcido; ***The Power of Simple Prayer*** by Joyce Meyer; ***Proven Guilty*** by Jim Butcher.

Hope to see you around the Van Alstyne Public Library.



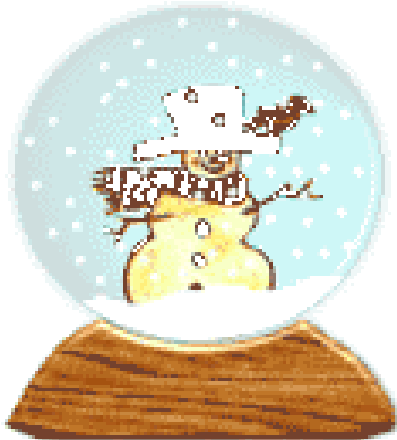


Christmas Events

Christmas time is getting underway in Tom Bean! The annual Christmas Parade kicks off at 10:30 on Saturday, December 10th. Parade lineup starts at 10 and the ladies at KC Foods Deli have worked hard this year to get things rolling on the parade event. Judging the parade this year includes Maureen Kane (Anchor and Executive Producer--KXII), Mike Crist (Deputy Mayor Pro-tem of Anna), Bill Farmer (Councilmember of Melissa) and Greg Pittman (Executive Director of Meals on Wheels Texoma). The parade will start at the Tom Bean Middle School parking lot and go directly down Garner Drive and turn back onto FM902 and then to King Street and back to the school parking lot.

Leading off the parade will be the Tom Bean Police followed by the local 4-H Color Guard, Mayor Sherry E. Howard and TBISD Superintendent Kathy Garrison in the Mayor’s car, Tom Bean Volunteer Fire Department, Tom Bean Public Works, local politicians, Tom Bean Tomcats Band, other school organizations, several churches with their floats, cars, other floats, and last but not least will be Mr. and Mrs. Santa.

After the parade, the children are invited to visit with Santa at KC Foods. The City of Tom Bean and all businesses invite all to attend the event. See you there!



Tom Bean 8th Grade Boys Basketball Dec. 5

The 8th grade Tomcat Boys came away with their first victory of the year in a thriller last night versus the S&S Rams. The Tomcats jumped out front with an early offensive explosion, but the Rams steadily battled back to make the final score a nail-biting 27-25, Tomcats.

The Tomcats put together a great full-team effort in their win. The offensive attack for the Tomcats was spread out between 4 players. Lane Williams hit a bucket early to urge the ‘Cats forward, whereas Jacob Marshall hit his shot late in the game to help preserve the Tomcat win. Daniel Jackson led all scorers with another high-octane performance, pouring in 13 points to go along with his 3 steals. Clayton Stephens also played a career best game, putting in 10 points on the night, including 6 in the first quarter to help the Tomcats go ahead early. On the defensive side of the ball, Stephens contributed with a steal and 3 blocked shots, and Austin Wilson pulled down 9 rebounds to go along with his power play in the paint.

The boys are back in action next Monday night (December 12th), when they host the Callisburg Wildcats at Tom Bean. -Coach Wilson

Tom Bean 7th Grade Basketball Results at S&S Dec. 5

Both of the Tom Bean 7th Grade Boys basketball teams played games last night in Sadler against the S&S Rams.

It was the second game of the season for the “B” team, and although they came away with the loss, they improved in every statistical category. Offensive standouts for the team were Josh Goss, Gervie Stone, and Tyler Hunt. Defensively, the Tomcats were led by Ryan Webster and Connor Hall.

Overall it was a much improved performance for the 7th Grade “B” Team.

The 7th Grade “A” Team got off to a slow start offensively against the Rams and found themselves down 6-1 at the end of the first quarter. The team bounced back in the 2nd period and were leading the contest 14-12 going into halftime. The S&S Rams came out after the break and shot extremely well from the field outscoring the Tomcats 20-14 in the 2nd half. Ultimately, the Tomcats fell just short in the comeback effort and received their first loss of the season.

Payton Jones led the Tomcats in scoring with 13 points, and Garrett Gomez did a tremendous job on the defensive side of the court throughout the entire game. Their record is now 2-1 and they look to get back on track Monday, December 12th against Callisburg. -Coach Chapman

click for **more Tom Bean News**

Tom Bean Varsity Boys Basketball Roster

- 10 Luke Parrish, 5’7, Jr.
- 12 Logan LeDane, 5’10, So.
- 14 Justin Morrison, 5’9, So.
- 20 Nathan Shipman, 5’8, So.
- 22 Sam Ellis, 5’10, Sr.
- 24 Stephen Kinney, 6’0, Sr.
- 30 Cody Miller, 5’11, Sr.
- 32 Caden Gomez, 6’0, So.
- 34 Hunter Book, 6’1, Fr.
- 40 Nathan Kennedy, 5’9, So.
- 42 Lucas Hagan, 6’1, Jr.
- 44 Brandon McLain, 6’2, Sr.
- 52 Nathan Banks, 6’0, So.

Tom Bean Varsity just finished 3rd in the Savoy Tournament improving their record to 4-4, JV finished 4th improving their record to 2-6.

Tom Bean JV Boys Basketball Roster

- 2 Dalton Burrough, 5’4, So.
- 4 Payton Hall, 5’8, Fr.
- 5 Gray Trentman, 5’10, Fr.
- 12 Dylan Ashlock, 5’10, Fr.
- 20 Tanner Ellis, 6’1, Fr.
- 21 Nathan Kennedy, 5’9, So.
- 22 Jacob Thompson, 6’1, So.
- 30 Sheldon Roberson, 6’1, Fr.
- 40 Colby McKay, 5’7, Fr.
- 44 Nathan Banks, 6’0, So.

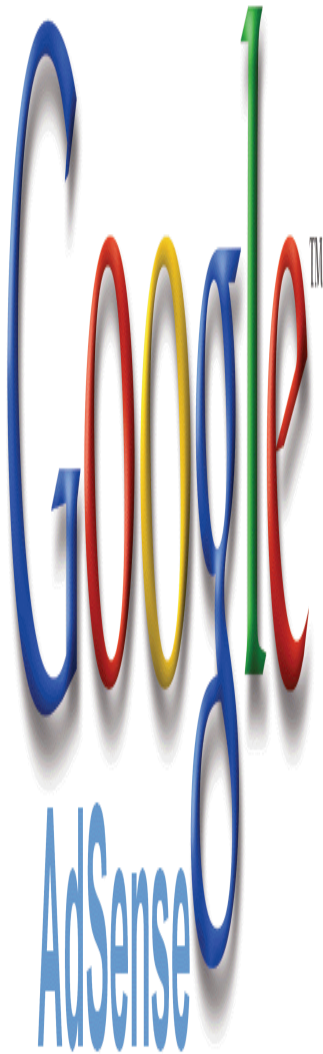
Tom Bean Boys Basketball

Dec. 6 - The Tomcat Varsity and JV both came up short in 2 closely fought games at perennial 3A power Quinlan Ford.

The JV overcame an early 12 point deficit and came within 3 late in the 4th quarter before succumbing.

Leading the way on offense were Nathan Kennedy and Dylan Ashlock, with superb defense provided by Justin Morrison. The JV record stands at 2-6 as they continue to show improvement and compete in every game.

The Varsity record dropped to 4-5 as the game saw 12 lead changes with neither team's lead going beyond 8 points until the final minute of the 4th quarter. After surging to retake the lead at 53-52 with 4:30 to go, the Tomcats couldn't cash in on multiple good shot attempts as the game wound down. Meanwhile the Panthers managed to get a few key shots to fall, adding free throws in the final minute to extend the lead to its final margin of 63-55. The Tomcats were led by Logan LeDane and Sam Ellis offensively, and Stephen Kinney and Luke Parrish defensively.





Bruce Stidham files for Tax Assessor Collector post

Bruce Stidham, a Sherman Realtor, has thrown his hat into the political ring by filing for a place on the ballot in the March 6 Republican Primary for the office of Grayson County Tax Assessor Collector.

“I’m running to make a difference in our county’s government,” Stidham said in his announcement.

Stidham said that as vice president of Residential Sales with Virginia Cook Realtors, he works with property taxes and property values every day.

“The Tax Assessor-Collector’s office includes not only tax collections, but also vehicle and voter registration, and is the one office that more people have direct dealings with than any other in the county,” said Stidham. “It is the customer service department of the county and, as tax assessor collector I intend to make customer service Job number one. And we’ll strive to achieve that goal each and every day with a plan I call Smart Government, that makes county government more responsive, innovative and efficient. It’s all about working smarter and wasting less.”

Stidham said his campaign would focus on three main issues: fight on behalf of taxpayers for property tax relief; saving taxpayers money by reducing operating costs; and increasing and improving customer service.

“The National Taxpayers Union estimates that between 30 and 60 percent of all property owners are paying taxes on over-assessed property,” Stidham said. “We all realize that property taxes are important and that they help pay for the many services that we rely on. But today we see rising costs, fuel prices going up and it’s more expensive to put food on the table for our families. On top of that, many homeowners here in Grayson County are seeing their property taxes go up as well,

making it more difficult for them to meet their financial obligations.”

Stidham continued, “As we all feel this economic crunch and are tightening our belts, we see government at all levels trying to dig deeper in our pockets. Well, I guess, I’m old fashioned, but I believe that we should be keeping more of our money than the government.”

His plan to fight for property tax relief, Stidham said, calls for working with the appraisal district to make the appraisal process transparent. “I also want to ensure that appraisals are fair and accurate and reflect true market value and to make certain taxpayers are treated courteously and professionally.”

“The Smart Government plan,” Stidham added, “really kicks in when we start saving the taxpayers money by reducing operating costs.” Stidham said that goal is achieved by streamlining office operations which maximizes efficiency and reduces costs. He said the workload can be reduced and costs can be cut by utilizing new innovative technology.

“I also want to improve the overall efficiency of collections, including delinquent taxes, which will save the tax payer money.” Stidham said he thinks the employees in the Tax Assessor’s Office will make a good resource in helping to come up with ideas to make the office more efficient and provide additional ways to cut costs. “It’s all about working smarter and wasting less.” he added.

“I am committed to increasing and improving customer service all the way down the line from the various offices to the on-line services available from the convenience of your home.” He added that two of the things he wants to do to provide better customer service are to provide after hour retail locations to renew auto registration (window sticker only) at no cost to the county and to extend office hours on a limited basis for customer convenience.

“By increasing services, without increasing costs, we make our county’s government more responsible to the needs of the taxpayers.”

Stidham said, “This election is about making a difference. Three of the most powerful words in the English language are ‘We the People’ and it’s we the people who can make a difference.”

“Putting taxpayers first is not just a campaign slogan,” Stidham said. “It’s my promise to the people of Grayson County.”

Stidham and his wife, Karen, have two grown sons, David and Matthew, and daughter-in-law Jennifer. He is a graduate of Harding University. Stidham and his family are members of the Western Heights Church of Christ in Sherman, where he is a Sunday School teacher and song leader. He is also a founding member and the first president of the Grayson County Fair Association and is a member of the Sherman and Denison chambers of commerce, the Greater Texoma Association of Realtors, the Sherman Kiwanis Club.

Stidham was recently appointed to the Grayson County Rehabilitation Center’s board of directors. Last year, Stidham appeared on stage with the Sherman Community Players production of “Greater Tuna” and “Beautiful Star: An Appalachian Nativity.”

click for **more Area Events**



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Chrystal Opry House Presents Jill Brown Studios

Jill Brown Studios will be in concert on Friday night, December 9, 2011, at the Chrystal Opry at Melody Ranch. This will be a "Christmas in the Country" concert performed by students of her vocal studio. Admission is \$6 with children 3 and under admitted free.

The concession area has brisket sandwiches and hot dogs as well as coffee, soda, water, popcorn, and candy. Doors will open at 6 and the performances begin at 7 pm.

Upcoming events at the Opry include our Christmas event on Saturday night, Dec. 10th at 6 pm. There will not be a concert as such this year. We invite patrons to bring finger foods and those who wish to will play and sing afterwards. Admission to this event is free but we are asking for donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the Downtown Mission pantry. Come and enjoy an evening of socializing and music.

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

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



Read about Wyoming's new Chef, new menu, new hours. [Click here.](#)





December at Hagerman NWR

Yes, the winter birds have arrived at Hagerman NWR, creating a lot of excitement for visitors and offering many great birding and photo ops.

On Second Saturday, the programs - both the general program led by Dr. Wayne Meyer and the youth program led by Katie Palmer - will include guided field trips along Wildlife Drive aboard TAPS buses to view the geese. (Reservations required for youth program, 903 786 2826) See this month's edition of the Featherless Flyer<<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsOfHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/872e0ab94d>>for dates, times, plus info on the Christmas Bird Count and more.

December 3 will be the last chance for High on the Hawg 2011, serving wild hog BBQ at the Refuge from 5:30 - 8 pm. Purchase tickets at the door, \$10/person, \$5 for age 12 and under.

Holiday hours for the Refuge Office and Visitor Center are posted on the FOH website.

Corina Garayua - December Photographer of the Month

[image: Scissortailflycatcher_CorinaGarayua]A sample from Corina's virtual album is shown at right, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. To view her album, please go to [allery<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsOfHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/7de1fb03e6>](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsOfHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/7de1fb03e6)

A big Thank You to all the Photographers of the Month for 2011. And we already have many committed for 2012. If you are interested in this program, see [tails<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsOfHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/ab959e0e4e>](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsOfHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/ab959e0e4e)on the FOH website.

The next Nature Photo Club meeting will be January 14, at 12:30 pm, at the Refuge.

Time for Adopt a Nest Box 2012. We have 20 boxes available for the 2012 nesting season. Adopters help provide a home for nesting bluebirds, warblers, chickadees and more. You may request adoption forms by email (friendsofhagerman@gmail.com) or in the Nature Nook at the Refuge. See the Featherless Flyer<<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsOfHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/46f50fe633>>.

If you would like to have more information about the Refuge and the Friends activities, see our Facebook Page<<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsOfHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/d4a15da895>>and our weekly blog<<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsOfHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/cf146ebf72>>

As we begin the final month of 2011 we want to extend best wishes to all for the holidays and thank all the Friends members and other friends who have visited and supported the Refuge and our activities. To become an "official" Friend, you can download a form at Membership<<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsOfHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/a4967d790e>>or pick one up in the Nature Nook.

Friends of Hagerman NWR
6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, TX 75092
www.friendsofhagerman.com
Refuge - 903-786-2826

Read more about Hagerman NWR on the Friends' Blog at <http://www.friendsofhagermannwr.blogspot.com/>

Find us on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Hagerman-National-Wildlife-Refuge/157317297471>



Sam’s Home

By Bob Bowman

Most East Texans under forty know little about Sam Rayburn, the man whose name is attached to a giant reservoir on the Angelina River.

But in his heyday, “Mister Sam” helped the nation through the Great Depression, World War II, and into the prosperity of the 1950s.

A visit to Bonham should start with a stop at the Sam Rayburn House Museum on U.S. Highway 82 on the west side of town. Operated by the Texas Historical Commission, the museum is unique in that it preserves furnishings and other possessions just as the Rayburn family left them--including Mister Sam’s 1947 Cadillac--when his sister passed away.

The two-story house is of distinctive Southern styling and modest by modern standards. Rayburn himself was somewhat retiring, when compared with the pomp of today’s politicians, and lived a simple life.

Fiscally conservative and middle-of-the-road on most social issues, Rayburn never forgot his rural heritage. He came to Texas from Tennessee with his parents when he was only five and grew up on a cotton farm in Fannin County.

After serving in the Texas House six years, he moved on to the U.S. Congress in 1912 and spent the next 48 years in Washington, including 17 as House speaker, one of the most powerful positions in Washington.

“Any fellow who will cheat for you will cheat against you,” he once said, and then helped pass regulatory laws that led to the formation of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Communications Commission to protect the public’s interests.



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Dot's DASHES



By Dorothy N. Fowler

Some of the high school seniors I taught believed with all their hearts that they knew more about life than I would ever know.

When I warned girls who were dating boys whom I knew to be as sorry as clods of dirt that parenthood is a lifetime deal, they emphatically told me that I didn’t know what I was talking about. No amount of persuasive logic or example made any difference. Their having grandparents who were deeply involved in their lives indicated only that the old folks had no lives of their own.

When the girls got pregnant and the clod of dirt disappeared in a cloud of dust, the enormity of a lifetime commitment of single parenthood was overwhelming for them. “I’ll be 34 when this baby is graduating from high school,” more than one of them told me. “I could be a grandmother by the time I’m 32 if this kid makes the same mistake I’ve made.”

It was hard not to say, “I told you so,” but I always resisted, opting instead for these words: “Your life is not over. Your plans may be a delayed a little bit, but you’ve got this wonderful new human being to love and to take care of while you work on your dreams. You can still be a lawyer or a doctor (fill in the blank) if you will.”

My mother often said that kids don’t pay any attention to school until going gets so hard that no one in the world could do it. “Then they go to school even though the flames of hell try to deter them.” She often wondered why kids couldn’t go to school when it was easy to go, when they only responsibility they had was to go and do well.

That was a question I certainly couldn’t answer. I finished my associate’s degree at Odessa College and promptly eloped, went to Beaumont and enrolled at Lamar State College of Technology, which is now Lamar University. I took 18 to 21 hours a semester and worked part time in the parts department at a major car dealership. Even before I became pregnant, there was no time for what one usually thinks of as “college life.”

I did go to a dance or two, once with my hair dyed blue to match the color of my dress. It might have been a great dance if I hadn’t spent the evening fretting about whether the baby was all right with the sitter.

We were as poor as church mice, part of what would now be called the working poor. We worked hard, but we just didn’t make enough money to meet basic expenses and our expenses were minimal. It should have gotten better when I got my first teaching job in 1959, but the salary was only \$3254 a year and by the time I had paid income tax, Social Security (that was before the state pretended it was giving us a raise by stopping its contribution and therefore our contribution to Social Security) and six percent to the teacher retirement system, there wasn’t a lot left.



BOB BOWMAN’S

EAST TEXAS, continued

He also pushed for federal funding for farm-to-market roads, veterans hospitals, and rural electrification, all of which helped the ordinary family.

Rayburn helped convince Franklin D. Roosevelt to choose fellow Texan John Nance Garner as his vice-president and, although he and Garner didn’t always see eye to eye, they were responsible for many of FDR’s New Deal programs in the 1930s. He also pushed Lyndon B. Johnson’s ascent to power.

Mister Sam was responsible for creating the Civilian Conservation Corps, which built Bonham State Park southeast of the city. He also played a role in helping the federal government buy eroded land and replace native grasses and vegetation The result is the Caddo National Grassland.

When Rayburn died in 1961--a year after Sam Rayburn Lake was named for him-- and his funeral was attended by three presidents.

Not far from the Rayburn House Museum is the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. Opened in 1957, the library is one of four divisions of the University of Texas’ Center for American History. Along with exhibits of photographs, art and personal items, the centerpiece of the museum is a replica of Rayburn’s office of Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. The entrance foyer includes the white marble speaker’s rostrum that stood on the House floor from 1857 until 1950.

In the park next to the library is a replica of a cabin from old Fort English, the original settlement of Bonham. In Rayburn’s day, Bonham didn’t change much and Mister Sam was often seen shopping alone at a local grocery store.

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of more than 50 books about East Texas history and folklore. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com)

Dot’s Dashes, continued

There was one memorable month when I had to have neighbor check my addition and subtraction because after the rent, utilities, and car payment were made, I had a little more than \$100 left for food, medical expenses, and perhaps an item of clothing. Most of the time I was lucky to have \$85 for all that. I taught six years before I made enough money to have \$300 net pay.

People say, “But money went so much further then,” a statement that is almost as stupid as telling an 18 year-old that he is living the best days of his life. When the life expectancy is 90, that means his life will be going downhill for the next 72 years.

If you’ve got \$300 and your rent is 25 percent of that (\$75) and your car payment (you have to have a car if you live in a town too small to have public transit) is 17 percent (\$51) you’ve already spent 42 percent of your income and haven’t yet paid for electricity, natural gas and water. You also haven’t paid anything for food or clothing and heaven help you if you or your kid gets sick. There was no such thing as health insurance for teachers in those days.

I understand what people are up against when they are living from pay check to pay check. I’ve been there and done that and if I were a young teacher now, I would be doing it again. Teachers work hard and get paid once a month. By the middle of that last week before pay day, the pickins can get pretty slim, especially if there happens to be any trend toward inflation.

What brought all this on was the assertion by an acquaintance that it is so much harder for young people to raise a kid because things are so much more expensive now. In terms of raw dollars, I agree, but in terms of percentage, I don’t think things are much different in terms of cost of living than when I was a young mother.

And I surely don’t think kids have any more sense or any less sense than they did 50 years ago. What they do have is greater access to the world because of the wonders of technology. It remains to be seen whether that access will make them more aware of personal responsibility or convince them that parenthood really is forever.





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Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



2011 Capitol Ornament Unveiled

An annual tradition at the capitol is the unveiling of the capitol ornament. This year's ornament was unveiled by Julie Straus, wife of the House Speaker, and John Sneed, the executive director of the State Preservation Board. The 2011 ornament features the ornate chandeliers that hang in the legislative chambers of the Texas Senate and House of Representatives. The ornament is finished in 24k gold. This is sixteenth in a series of capitol ornaments, which began in 1996. The capitol ornaments have featured some of the most recognizable symbols of our state; more recently, the ornaments represent an architectural or decorative aspect of the capitol building. Past ornaments have depicted the state flag (1998); the lone star (1999); the state seal (2000); the famous rendering of the state capitol by architect Elijah E. Myers (2001); the capitol gates (2003); the interior of the capitol dome (2004); the great seal as it appears in the capitol rotunda (2008); and historic capitol doorknobs and plates (2009).

Over \$5 million has been raised from ornament sales over the past fifteen years. Proceeds from the sale of these ornaments go toward programs such as brochures for self-guided tours of the capitol and grounds; creating historical and education exhibits at the capitol visitors' center; restoration and maintenance of capitol historic artifacts such as original artwork and furnishings; and other necessary preservation needs. The 2011 ornament is available online at www.TexasCapitolGiftshop.com and in the Capitol Visitors Center, the Capitol Gift Shop or in the Texas State History Museum Store. The ten most recent ornaments (2002-2011) are also available. Ornaments may also be purchased by calling 1-888-678-5556.

For more information regarding any matter of state government, please contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by emailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us. My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297.

Letter to Editor

What Europe And America Have In Common

Europe and the USA have many things in common, one of which noted currently is the massive debt crisis both are experiencing because of politicians who fail to learn from history. George Santayana noted that those who fail to learn from the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them. In both Europe and the United States, power-hungry politicians have been trying to buy votes with money we don't have, taxing not only this generation but every generation in the future, guaranteeing a lower standard of living for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. These short-sighted politicos, thinking only of the present, seem to think they can go on forever, steadily increasing the public debt, by just printing more and more money without an equal increase in goods and services, hoping to find someone to buy our consequently less and less valuable bonds. As history has repeatedly shown us, this does not work. Every society that has tried this has collapsed. A prime example is the Soviet Union. If socialism were a better system, we would all be speaking Russian. Previously democratic civilizations and nations that have tried this have collapsed into dictatorship. Some noteworthy examples are the Greeks, the Romans, and the post-World War I Weimar Republic of Germany, the latter printing so much money that its currency became virtually worthless, bankrupting the country, and resulting in the establishment of Hitler's Nazi (National Socialist) party dictatorship that brought on the horrors of World War II.

It is time to rid ourselves of such history-ignoring, out-of-touch-with-reality, power-mad politicians, ousting them from power, and never let them in office again.

Harold Bob Jones
Blair, OK 73526



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

This Page is a Work in Progress

Howe Public Schools

Howe Public Library

Library information, Language courses, Student events

Van Alstyne Public Library

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

Search Engines-

Yahoo

Alta Vista

Google

Ask Jeeves

Class Tools - for classroom use - games, tests, timer, tools.

Quotations Page

Royalty Free Music

Spanish Dictionary

Selected Sites

[Texas Records and Information Locator \(TRAIL\)](#) searches and locates information from over 180 Texas state agency web services.

[The Handbook of Texas Online](#) is a multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, geography, and culture sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and the General Libraries at UT Austin.

[Texas Online](#): The official website for the Great State of Texas and provides instant access to almost 800 state and local government services.

[Library of Texas](#); Immediately start searching multiple Texas library catalogs and other knowledge collections in one sitting.

Local 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
Dennis Stewart, pastor,
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

Luke 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, **27** To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary. **28** And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women. **29** And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. **30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. **31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. **32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: **33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Christian Fellowship

Merry Christmas from A Christian Fellowship in Luella! ACF would like to invite you to join them during this holiday season, they begin the week on Sunday morning at 9 am with coffee and doughnut fellowship followed by classes for all ages at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30. This week’s speaker is Palmer Miller. Come on out and join them for praise and worship. Praise and worship is led by David Ellis and is a contemporary style service. Also dress is casual. The church celebrates “The Lord’s Supper” each Sunday morning during worship service.

C. R. Men's Step Study class meets every Saturday night at 6:30 pm.

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

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 Mike Ball @ 903-870-0219 and remember don’t take “Christ” out of Christmas!

When Lightning Flashes

For what are you thankful today - for your family, your friends, your health? Are you thankful for LIGHTNING? You should be!

Lightning is one of nature’s most awe-inspiring and dangerous phenomenon. According to the National Weather Service, “the average lightning flash could light a 100-watt light bulb for more than 3 months! The temperature of a lightning bolt may reach

Tom Bean Church of Christ

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us. Services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9 am and worship at 10 am. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord’s Supper is given each Sunday.

The morning and evening lessons are brought by Kerry King with congregational singing lead by Charles Counts. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX.

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

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

50,000 degrees Fahrenheit, [a temperature that] is hotter than the surface of the sun!” On average, lightning is responsible for about 73 deaths per year in the United States. Therefore, we need to take cover in a lightning storm! *

But lightning also has a positive effect on our world; in fact, it helps to SUSTAIN life! The human body has to have nitrogen to live. It is a key component of amino acids and DNA, both of which are essential to life. Nitrogen is the most common element in Earth’s atmosphere (79%), but in its gaseous form, it is unusable to plants, animals, and



click for **more Church News**

Local Churches

Duane Peters,
903-815-2278
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



When Lightning Flashes, continued

humans. In order for the nitrogen in the atmosphere to be “made available” to plants, animals, and humans, it has to be “fixed.” Two natural forces are responsible for “fixing” gaseous nitrogen; one of these is...
LIGHTNING!

The enormous energy of lightning breaks nitrogen molecules and enables their atoms to combine with oxygen in the air forming nitrogen oxides. These dissolve in rain – forming nitrates – that are carried to the earth. Plants take up nitrates through their roots, and convert them into proteins and other compounds. Animals get their nitrogen from plants. And humans get their life-sustaining nitrogen when they eat plants (fruits, vegetables) or meat (of animals that have eaten plants). **

The amazing design of the Nitrogen Cycle is evidence of our Creator Who “made a law for the rain, And a path for the thunderbolt” (Job 28:26).

Because of His love for us, God has also provided the essential “Ingredient” for ETERNAL LIFE. Our sins bring the penalty of death and destruction (Matthew 7:13-14), but God sent His Son to die for our sins on the cross, so that we might have forgiveness and eternal life (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:7).

God will give eternal life to those who will: place their faith and trust in Jesus

(Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38).

There are so many reasons for us to be thankful: friends, family, -- even lightning! But the GREATEST reason for gratitude is the Gift of God’s Son, Who gave His life for us so that we might live!
Won’t YOU express your gratitude to God by accepting His offer of salvation on His terms?
-- Eric Gray and David A. Sargent

Church of Christ at Creekwood, 1901 Schillinger Rd. S., Mobile, Alabama

* National Weather Service,
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ddc/swaw/lig ht.php>
** Information gleaned from discussions on “The Nitrogen Cycle” from www.teachersdomain.org/ and the Carnegie Mellon University website, telstar.ote.cmu.edu/

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



Back to first page of Church News



Neighborhood Genealogist - In The Cemeteries

By Dale Rideout

In an earlier article I suggested that you should always be ready to do research. This means to have your list of names, places, etc. always with you in some form. You never know when the perfect opportunity will arise to do research.

This past weekend my wife and I took a short vacation. We stayed in a motel in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Our visit was not primarily to Mt. Pleasant, but that was just where we stopped. One morning we were “sight seeing” and stopped in the Mt. Pleasant library. They had an historical museum in their basement along with genealogy books.

As we finished looking through the museum, I sat down at a table with an open book on it. This book was an index to the cemeteries of Titus County, Texas. My wife's great-grandparents had lived in Titus county, so we took time to research the book.

We found the family name and began to take notes on various family members and the cemeteries they were buried in. This is where we were not totally prepared. My wife's grandmother had many brothers and sisters. Of course the brothers last names were the same as the great-grand parents, but we could not remember the married names of all the sisters. Because of that we were limited in our research.

After making notes of all the “Landrums”, we looked at the individual cemeteries for each name we found.

Now, let me explain something. These books were one of a kind. They were hand made and likely there was only one copy available anywhere. Books like this are difficult to find. Sometimes there will be handmade copies of these book in other libraries but there will not be hundreds of copies available in many different location. The main index told us the name of the individual, and the cemetery he was buried in. The second group of books gave an index by cemetery of the individual buried there, along with the birth and death dates from their marker, and name of spouse if both were buried in the same cemetery.

As I said, when we finished in the first book, we looked up all the other cemeteries to get the birth and death dates and spouse names and dates. This filled in a lot of information we did not have for those family members.

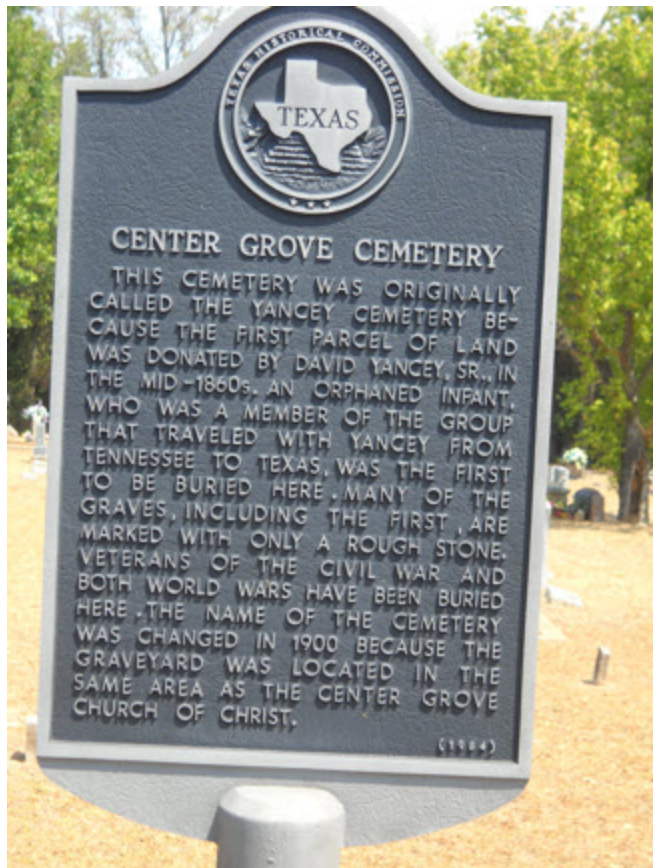
Now came the fun part. We chose the closest cemetery with the most family members buried there and visited that cemetery. The temperature was about 104 degrees. My wife took her umbrella for shade, and we began walking that cemetery looking for the markers, and photographing those of her family members. This gave us a good record of information necessary in completing your genealogy.

We had three extra surprises that we enjoyed. First, as we were walking, my wife saw a familiar name. It was the married name of the youngest sister. So we now had her information along with her husbands information, and a photo of the tombstone.

While back in the library reading about the cemeteries, I had read the name of the man who gave the land for a cemetery and church. Our second pleasant surprise was to find his family plot in this cemetery. We photographed that as well to add to our records.

Our third surprise was the church building we found. My wife's family history shows that many of her family were members of the Church of Christ. The cemetery was the Centergrove Cemetery. Across the street from the cemetery was the Centergrove Church of Christ. This was an old building with only the church name on it. There were no other signs. It was difficult to tell whether it was still in use. It was new enough to have air conditioning, and the yard area was mowed. The front door was locked with a chain and pad lock which is unusual for a building that is being used. The electric power lines were still connected, but we could not tell whether they were being used.

We feel that we found a real treasure of information. We also probably missed a lot because we did not know the married names of some of the women. We will have to make a trip back sometime after preparing better with a complete list of family names to look for.





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3 Ways a Spouse Can Boost Your Social Security

By Jonnelle Marte

Married couples can boost their lifetime benefits further if they time their retirements carefully, analysts say.

These spousal benefits allow one spouse to receive half of the retirement amount awarded to their husband or wife. Benefits can be greater for both spouses if they can wait at least until full retirement age before they start collecting payments. But both spouses don't have to collect at the same time.

Here are some tips for getting the most out of your marriage when it comes to Social Security:

Lower earner gets a boost. A married person could see their benefits grow thanks to spousal benefits if one person earned much more than the other. For example, even if the lower earning spouse worked and is eligible for their own retirement benefits, their minimum benefit should be equal to at least half of the benefits awarded to the higher earning spouse. So if their full benefits fall short of that, they could get a combination of benefits that add up to the higher amount.

One spouse delays benefits, the other collects. Individuals can boost their retirement benefits by up to 32% if they wait until age 70 to start collecting Social Security. But married couples

don't have to go without income while they wait: one spouse can start collecting spousal benefits, even while the other is holding off payments. Say a husband decides to put off collecting full retirement benefits until age 70. He can still apply for retirement benefits and then ask to have payments suspended. That way his wife can receive a benefit one she reaches full retirement age of up to half of his regular retirement benefit would be, not including the boost he should get for delaying retirement. When he reaches age 70, he can collect his bigger check, and she can keep collecting her spousal benefits.

Collect while you wait. In a similar scenario, a person who has reached full retirement age and is eligible for spousal benefits and his or her own retirement benefit can choose to collect spousal benefits and to delay receiving their own retirement benefits. When they decide to collect their own retirement benefits at a later date, they can receive larger benefits if they've waited beyond their full retirement age. It doesn't matter if the other spouse is collecting retirement benefits or also delaying payments past retirement age.

But readers should keep in mind that regular benefits as well as spousal benefits are reduced if you start collecting them early at age 62. And once you reach age 70, there is no added incentive to either spouse to keep putting off payments.



Hutchison first U.S. senator To receive Distinguished Service Award *Texas Farm Bureau honors Sen. Hutchison for decades of support for Texas agriculture*

CORPUS CHRISTI - For her years of support for Texas agriculture and the Farm Bureau cause, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison received the organization's highest honor at Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) 78th Annual Meeting today in Corpus Christi. Hutchison is the first U.S. senator to receive this prestigious award.

"Kay Bailey Hutchison has been long-time friend to Texas Farm Bureau and our members. For the past 18 years, she has been a leader in Washington to whom every Texan could turn," said TFB President Kenneth Dierschke. "We are delighted to honor her with the Distinguished Service Award."

The TFB Friends of Agriculture Fund (AGFUND), Inc., first endorsed Hutchison in her candidacy for state treasurer in 1990. In 1993, she won a special election for U.S. Senate-a post she has held until announcing her retirement this year. During her years of political service, Hutchison worked to preserve Texas' natural resources, financial health and educational future.

"Sen. Hutchison has delivered results for Texas and for Texans," Dierschke said. "She did things, not for publicity, but for the benefit of the entire Lone Star State."

Hutchison worked alongside TFB members and leaders to protect the rights of all Texans. She regularly attended the organization's annual meetings and often made presentations to members at various forums.

"Throughout her nearly two decades in the Senate, Sen. Hutchison has attended more Farm Bureau annual meetings than she has missed. She has become a regular at our meetings, and we will miss her," Dierschke said. "As she prepares to retire from political service, this award recognizes and expresses our gratitude for her years of friendship and assistance."

TFB's Distinguished Service Award is presented to individuals who demonstrate significant contributions to both Texas agriculture and to the Farm Bureau cause. Recipients are chosen through a unanimous vote of the TFB board of directors.

Over the course of TFB's 78-year history, only 28 individuals have been recognized with the Distinguished Service Award-formerly called the Meritorious Service Award. Past winners include current American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President and past TFB President Bob Stallman, as well as several other past TFB presidents, a Texas governor and state senators.

About The Texas Farm Bureau - The Texas Farm Bureau works to provide a voice for Texas farmers, ranchers, rural citizens and everyone interested in preserving and protecting this way of life. More on the Web at: Texas Farm Bureau website<<http://www.txfb.org>>



Texas Farm Bureau President Kenneth Dierschke presents the Distinguished Service Award to Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison at the 78th TFB Annual Meeting.

[More Editorials](#)



TFB president hails victories, discusses challenges

(CORPUS CHRISTI) - Texas farm and ranch families face a time of change and great challenges, the president of Texas Farm Bureau said during his address at the organization’s 78th annual meeting.

“Ours is a time of change, but many of the answers we seek are rooted in the rural values of the past. That story is about hard work, faith and determination,” TFB President Kenneth Dierschke said. “If there’s one thing farmers and ranchers know how to do, it’s survive.”

Dierschke addressed the TFB’s assembly of delegates in the “City by the Sea” and recognized a year of remarkable achievement, noting the victories in Austin, the support given to local volunteer fire departments during a year of wildfires and a new partnership with the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance.

Although the organization reached many of its goals this year, Dierschke recognized the devastating drought conditions plaguing Texas farmers and ranchers. The latest figure from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service estimates more than 5 billion agricultural dollars lost to drought. He also recognized volunteer firefighters for their efforts in 2011 defending lives and property.

More than 150 county Farm Bureaus and Texas Farm Bureau donated more than \$1.5 million to help replenish rural Texas volunteer fire department resources this year.

“More than three million acres have burned,” Dierschke said. “If not for the efforts of the volunteer fire departments of Texas, it would have been much worse. These courageous firefighters put their lives on the line to protect property and life all across the state.”

The 2011 Texas legislative session yielded some landmark decisions on eminent domain, water policy, sales tax, grain indemnity and repeal of the Trans-Texas Corridor. Yet, the budget shortfall leaves many challenges for agriculture, Dierschke said.

“The session was not without some heartburn,” he added. “The state’s budget shortfall was some \$20 million and we knew we’d have to let trusted friends in the state government do what they had to do to manage within budget constraints.”

The 2012 Farm Bill is still in debate in Washington, D.C. as lawmakers decide what course of action to take. Dierschke called the environment “toxic.”

“It’s safe to say there will be fewer dollars for the farm bill because of whatever deficit reduction that moves forward,” he said. “To us, the farm bill is a national security issue and the rest of the country should view it that way, too.”

In the address, Dierschke pointed to activists and the anti-agriculture groups as a shadow of the past. He encouraged farmers and ranchers to start conversations about agriculture.

“America is hungry for more than the food we grow. Americans crave knowledge about agriculture and farm life,” he said. “The best days of America and of Texas Farm Bureau still lie ahead of us as we continue to build a strong organization to support and defend Texas agriculture.”

About The Texas Farm Bureau - The Texas Farm Bureau works to provide a voice for Texas farmers, ranchers, rural citizens and everyone interested in preserving and protecting this way of life. More on the Web at: Texas Farm Bureau website<<http://www.txfb.org/>>



TELLING OUR STORIES

Many Ways To Bag A Turkey

By *Jerry Lincecum*

Recently news programs and talk shows have been filled with disheartening chatter about holiday meals overdosed with salt and turkeys so broad-breasted they can hardly walk. Fortunately, I have heard and read a few good reminiscences from the past about alternatives to buying the Thanksgiving bird.

In a local history column there was an account of a “turkey shoot” held at Grayson County College in 1971. The competition included slingshot, bow and arrow, shotgun, and skeet shooting as well as rifle. Ten 20-pound turkeys were on offer to men and women contestants, with entry fees (one dollar each) going into a scholarship fund.

From the same era roughly, one Sherman physician’s wife recalled 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.

Remember when your mother killed a chicken to serve when the preacher came for Sunday dinner? In this case, however, the story did not end well. Lesson learned: Dr. X might still buy a pig in a poke (sack), but no more gift turkeys (sight unseen)!

For the best story of all, go back several decades with Nina Marshall Garrett, to rural Oklahoma, around 1930: “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 to 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 their 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.

“I think we had chicken for dinner that Thanksgiving.”

Dr. Jerry Lincecum is professor of English emeritus at Austin College and director of Telling Our Stories.



Crazy English

For those who speak English well, you will find it amusing. For those who don't, then this is an eye-opener. Can you read these right the first time?

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

 OUTZKIRTS.COM



Cat Chat



by C. Cat Jr.

¿ Que es ¿

I have been very busy the past few weeks. Old Man is now volunteering three days a week at an elementary school. He works with 5 kindergarten classes.

Several days ago, old man was teaching Spanish to his hispanic kids. Yep, that's right. He has not yet learned Spanish and these kids all speak Spanish, but that's what he was doing. The kids are now into their fifth week and beginning to write. While Old Man has learned a lot of Spanish in the past year he still struggles. But in writing, the teacher gives them three words and then asks them to select a fourth to complete their sentence. For example they might have to write, "Yo soy un_____." Then they can fill in the blank with, "gato, perro, nino, or mono." This makes it simple for Old Man because he knows all these word.

Something else Old Man is learning in the Spanish is that rules for capitalization are different. Of course you capitalize a persons name, but you do not capitalize their title. For example in English we would capitalize Mister Smith. In Spanish it is mister Smith. Unless you choose to abbreviate to Mr., then in Spanish you would capitalize - not because of the name but because of the abbreviation. Same goes for the days of the week and the names of the months.

While you try to remember all that, you must remember that there is a different vocabulary and even punctuation. The period and comma remain the same. But if you use an exclamation or question mark, you turn it upside down and place it both at the beginning and the end of the sentence. Confused yet? Well, we do have fun. Will visit you again in a few days.



Classified Ads

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

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Texoma Enterprise is owned and operated by Dale and Lana Rideout. They have been doing this since 1978. The picture on the left is about 5 years old, with Dale shown as "Santa" Rideout at Christmas, 2009. The family shot on the right includes all our grandchildren, plus a couple of 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 20 year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.



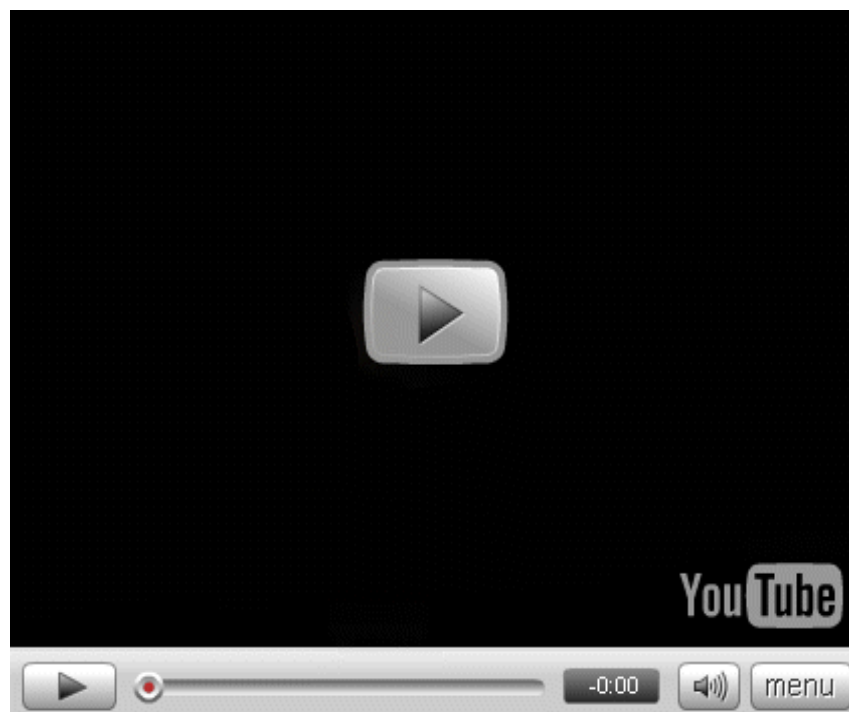
Dale & Lana Rideout



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



"Santa" Rideout



Grandkids singing at the Christmas Tree Farm 2007

