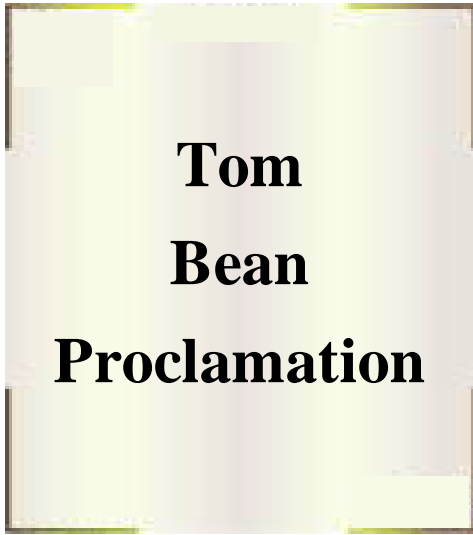


Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

January 12, 2012



**Howe Teacher, Student
of the Month**



***Stonebarger
Golden
Anniversary***



Hagerman

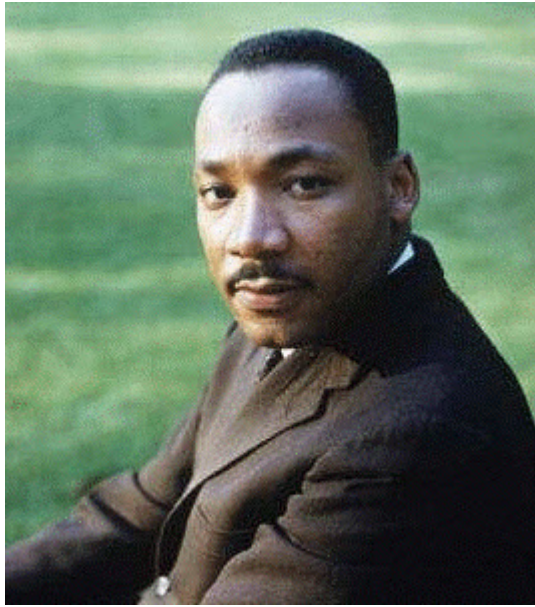


Church



Humor





Austin College To Host MLK Celebration

SHERMAN, TEXAS - The eighth annual Grayson County Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Celebration Breakfast will be held at 7:30 am, Monday, January 16, in Mabee Hall of the Robert J. and Mary Wright Campus Center at Austin College. Grayson County Rotary groups and Austin College co-sponsor the event. Members of the community may attend at a cost of \$10 per person, payable at the door.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson of the Texas Supreme Court. Jefferson is the 26th chief justice in Texas, appointed in 2004 by Gov. Rick Perry. Last year he served as president of the Conference of Chief Justices, an association of chief justices from all 50 states and U.S. territories. He also chaired the National Center for State Courts board of directors, a policy and resource organization.

He joined the Court from private practice in San Antonio, after an appointment by Gov. Perry in 2001. As a partner in the appellate-specialty firm Crofts, Callaway & Jefferson, he successfully argued two cases before the United States Supreme Court. He is a graduate of the James Madison College at Michigan State University and the University of Texas School of Law.

Chief Justice Jefferson is a member of the American Law Institute and is certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He was San Antonio Bar Association president in 1998-99 and was the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer in 1997.

He is the namesake for the Wallace B. Jefferson Middle School in San Antonio. He has served as a director of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, of the Alamo Area Big Brothers/Big Sisters and on the education committee of the San Antonio Area Foundation.

Dr. Marjorie Hass, president of Austin College, will welcome guests. Sophomore Chastity Liner, of Katy, Texas, and president of Austin College club Black Expressions will provide a student address. The Sherman Federated Choirs, led by Priscilla Mask and Tonia Childs, will provide special music.

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

Austin College's Unique Jan Term Offerings Open

SHERMAN, TEXAS - Austin College students begin courses in Ethnomusicology, The Bicycle, and The ABC's of Serial Killers, or one of the other 59 in-depth courses offered.

Students take only one course during the January 3-24 term, and many courses are designed to take advantage of the opportunity for travel and field work. Courses are available on campus, some include travel nationally and internationally, and others are offered at Ghost Ranch in northwestern New Mexico.

Many students take courses outside their major during the unique term offering. Students must complete three January Term <<http://www.austincollege.edu/academics/jan-term/>> courses, or one January Term course for each fall term as a student at Austin College.

International courses include trips to China, Scotland, Japan, Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, France, England, and Costa Rica. Students are also traveling to New York City, the Florida Everglades, and Washington, D.C.

Many students are spending the term in internships or independent study projects in the local community, students' hometowns, or around the globe.

On-campus courses include: Your Financial Future; Molecular Gastronomy; Greeks/Romans in Modern Sci-Fi; Reading Dostoevsky; Medical Qigong; Bridge for Scholars; The Vietnam War on Film; Science of Solving Crimes; and Algorithmic Trading.

Ghost Ranch is an education and retreat center of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), located in Abiquiu, New Mexico, approximately 90 minutes from Santa Fe. Courses offered at the center include: Black and White Landscape Photography; Introduction to Silversmithing in the Southwest Tradition; Southwest Pottery; and Triassic Park.

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SE Live set for February 8

DURANT, Okla. - High school seniors and juniors, plus their parents and families, are invited to attend SE Live Open House hosted by Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

SE Live is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, on the Southeastern campus in Durant, Oklahoma.

“SE Live is a great day for high school seniors and juniors to visit Southeastern’s campus and envision themselves as college students for a day. It’s a chance for students to see our campus and the great opportunities Southeastern provides as a University,” said Marcus High, University Recruiter.

SE Live Open House is an excellent opportunity for high school students to experience what life is like as a Southeastern student. Students will attend workshops on Scholarships and Financial Aid, Southeastern Traditions and a College Success class. Campus tours will also be available in the afternoon.

Other highlights of the day will include entertainment by several of Southeastern’s performing groups, including the Sparks Dance Team. The choir and band will also hold early auditions for scholarships. In the afternoon, students will have an opportunity to visit Eaker Field, home of the Southeastern Aviation Program.

All students attending will receive an SE Sackpack and one free lunch ticket. Lunch is sponsored by First United Bank.

SE Live is an annual event on campus. Last year more than 500 students attended.

To view an event schedule, get directions and register, go online to www.SE.edu/SELive or <http://www.SE.edu/SELive> or contact the Office of University Recruitment at 580-745-2060.

Recordkeeping plays integral role in management decisions

ARDMORE, Okla. - One of the most important, but often overlooked aspects of managing a profitable agricultural enterprise is recordkeeping.

To assist farmers and ranchers in enhancing their recording keeping skills in the new year, agricultural consultants with The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation will host “Recordkeeping for Agriculture Producers.” The workshop will take place from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012, at the Noble Foundation Kruse Auditorium (located at 2510 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore, Okla., 73401).

This seminar will discuss that importance of financial and production records to making management decisions that drive profitability, as well as how to properly store and keep these files. Participants will also learn the steps necessary to prepare a net worth statement.

“Recordkeeping is vital to making informed management decisions, but it’s also one of the most overlooked aspects of being an agricultural producer,” said Job Springer, Noble Foundation agricultural economist. “Attendees of this workshop will have the opportunity to learn what records to keep for their operation and how they can be utilized to better their business.”

The workshop costs \$20, which includes lunch. To register, contact Tracy Cumbie at 580.224.6411 or tcumbie@noble.org, or visit www.noble.org/agevents or <http://www.noble.org/AgEvents>.

For media inquiries concerning the Noble Foundation, please contact J. Adam Calaway, Director of Public Relations, at 580.224.6209 or by email at jacalaway@noble.org.

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc. (www.noble.org), headquartered in Ardmore, Okla., is an independent, nonprofit institute conducting plant science research, plant breeding and agricultural programs to enhance agricultural productivity, which influences agriculture regionally, nationally and internationally. The Noble Foundation also provides grants to nonprofit charitable, educational and health organizations.

Howe's That

Recipe



by Lana Rideout

Have you heard of the Occupy Wall Street protesters? In recent months groups of people protested outside various community parks and other places they could vent their anger.

A lot of politicians on the left who did not agree with the 2009 Tea Party Movement jumped to their feet when this movement began.

I was and still am a part of the Tea Party Movement. It involved numerous groups of folks opposed to some of the policies of Democrats in Congress and the White House. All our meetings were civil and we always cleaned up the sites we used for our rallies. In fact, when I was conducting an event, we made sure the courthouse lawn was cleaner than it had been before we arrived.

From what I heard, the OWS groups were rowdy. They urinated and worse on the property. They left debris all over the place.

Now they have a right to protest. They have a right to march in rallies. But I think protests should be civil and the folks should clean up after themselves.

I noted that at an elementary school in Virginia, a group of third graders were made to perform a Pro-Occupy song during an assembly.

School board officials defended the school, saying they do not censor songs the children write or try to influence what subjects the children compose songs.

Does the song's theme sound like something a third grader would come up with? Do the words to the song sound like something that were written by a third grade student? You decide.

Part of the 99%

Some people have it all But they still don't think they have enough They want more money A faster ride They're not content Never satisfied Yes — they're the 1 percent I used to be one of the 1 percent I worked all the time Never saw my family Couldn't make life rhyme Then the bubble burst It really, really hurt I lost my money Lost my pride Lost my home Now I'm part of the 99

Some people have it all But they still don't think they have enough They want more money A faster ride They're not content Never satisfied Yes — they're the 1 percent I used to be sad, now I'm satisfied 'Cause I really have enough Though I lost my yacht and plane Didn't need that extra stuff Could have been much worse You don't need to be first 'Cause I've got my friends Here by my side Don't need it all I'm so happy to be part of the 99

Texas Rio Star No-Bake Grapefruit Cheesecake

1 grapefruit (Texas Rio Star preferred)
1/2 cup water
1 envelope unflavored gelatin
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup brown sugar
8-ounce package whipped cream cheese
1/2 cup sour cream
1/4 cup fresh squeezed grapefruit juice (Texas Rio Star recommended)
1-2/3 cups whipping cream, whipped
9-inch graham cracker crust
fresh mint sprigs, optional garnish

Peel and section grapefruit. Set aside.

In a small saucepan, sprinkle gelatin over water; let stand 1 minute. Cook over low heat 3 minutes or until gelatin is completely dissolved; cool.

In a large bowl, beat the sugar, brown sugar and cream cheese until smooth. Add sour cream, dissolved gelatin and grapefruit juice; beat well. Stir in whipped cream. Pour into prepared piecrust. Chill until firm, about 4 hours. Top with grapefruit sections, strawberry glaze and fresh mint.

Makes 1 cheesecake. Total Time: 4 hours 30 minutes

Graham Cracker Crust


6 tablespoons butter, melted
1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs (about 24 graham crackers)
1/4 cup sugar

In a medium bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs and sugar. Stir in butter and mix well. Mixture will resemble coarse sand.

Press the mixture in the bottom and up the sides of a 9-inch springform pan. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in a preheated 350°F degree oven. Cool completely before adding filling.

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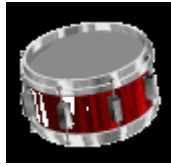
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209 E. Jefferson -- Van Alstyne



Howe ES/MS Menus

Jan 16-20

Breakfast

Monday – Teacher’s workday

Tuesday – Biscuit & sausage, cereal/toast, diced peaches, orange juice

Wednesday – Pancake on a stick, cereal/toast, graham crackers w/yogurt, Shamrock applesauce, grape juice

Thursday – Blueberry muffin/toast/ cereal/toast, rosy applesauce, orange juice

Friday – Eggs/toast/sausage, cereal/toast, fruit cocktail, orange juice

Lunch

Monday – Teacher’s workday

Tuesday –Chicken rings or small chef salad, gravy, squash casserole, wheat roll, diced peaches, gelatin jewels

Wednesday –Hot dog/chili dog or fish strips, steamed mixed vegetables, Mac & cheese, Shamrock applesauce, chocolate chip cookie

Thursday –Cheese pizza or ravioli casserole/toast, garden salad, carrots & celery stick, rosy pears, frozen fruit bar

Friday – Chicken crispeto or fajita quesadilla, tossed salad, refried beans, fruit cocktail, orange halves, Spanish rice

December Teacher and Student of the Month

Howe High School recently selected a teacher and students of the month for December. Receiving the teacher award was four-year Howe High School American Sign Language instructor **Renaë Heilman**. Mrs. Heilman attended Texas Christian University and graduated with a degree in Deaf Education. She taught in several multi-level elementary Deaf Ed classrooms and as an itinerant Deaf Ed teacher for eight years. Mrs. Heilman also holds a Masters in School Counseling from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She and her husband, Casey, have three sons, ranging in age from 14 down to 4 months. Mrs. Heilman enjoys spending time with her family, crafting, scrapbooking, photography, and reading. HHS principal Shawn Martin says of Mrs. Heilman, “I admire her dedication to the deaf community in our area. For example, her students recently signed Christmas songs to our elementary and middle school students and to the Sherman Deaf Education department. Activities like these make ASL applicable to the lives of our students.”

Representing the freshmen and sophomores is sophomore **Delainey Paige Oliver**. The daughter of Beth and Steve Oliver, Delainey has attended Howe schools for seven years and currently participates in band, cheerleading, and art. Outside of school, her hobbies include reading, sewing, and water color art. The junior-senior representative is senior **Sam Sloan**. The son of Mindy and Troy Sloan, Sam has attended HISD since kindergarten and participates in football, baseball, ASL Club and is a member of The National Honor Society. In his spare time, Sam enjoys hanging out with friends.



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December students of the month for January are: Kendall Griffin, Kenneth York, Kaylyn Bryant, Ethan Duer(not in pic.), Paige Gifford-Lamb, Luiz Gonzales, Destiny Wood, Seth Key, Alli Gleason, and Lukas Peacock.



Stonebarger -- 50th

HOWE - Jesse and Mary Stonebarger of Howe will be honored on Jan. 15 with a 50th wedding anniversary celebration. The come-and-go reception will be from 2 pm until 4 pm at Howe High School. Hosts will be their children and grandchildren.

The Stonebargers were married on Dec. 22, 1961 at Marietta, Oklahoma. Officiating was Norman Northrup, minister of the First Christian Church.

Mary Stonebarger was born in Leon, Oklahoma, the daughter of Elmore and Georgia Stofel. She graduated from Leon High School, attended Grayson County College, and retired from the Howe Independent School District after 26 years of service.

Jesse Stonebarger was born in Caddo, Oklahoma, the son of Luther and Shuba (Cooper) Stonebarger. He served in the United States Navy and graduated from Grayson County College. He worked for Burlington for 26 years until the plant closed, then went to work for Oscar Mayer, retiring in 1999. He has been employed with the Howe ISD for the past 11 years.

Both are members of the Howe Church of Christ.

The Stonebargers' children are Mark Stonebarger and Robin Campbell and her husband, Chris. There are five grandchildren.

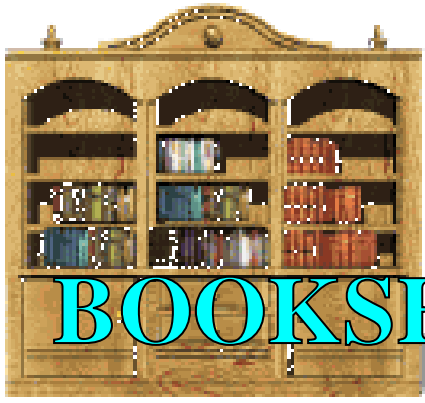


Howe Elementary "Top Dogs" for the week ending January 6, 2012 are: Danaeja Harvey-Toney, Kolby Windon, Caden Stewart, Riley Insall, Kelynn Jaresh, Tony Howard, Blain Nuncio, Caleb Wahrmond, Luis Enriquez, Emma Sutherland, Emery Snapp, Gage Troxtell, and Nita Olivarez. Not pictured are: Jackson Adkins and Dakota Campbell.



Texoma Enterprise

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BOOKSHELF

By Tracy Luscombe

Did you come for a Bedtime Story at the library this week? Remember to join us Thursday nights at 7 pm for a short story for the whole family. Come with the kiddos in pajamas if you want.

Friday, January 13 is Gaming Night at the Library, 6 – 10 pm. The cost is \$3.00 for general play and \$2.00 (per tournament) if you want to get into the competition. Anyone under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult throughout the evening.

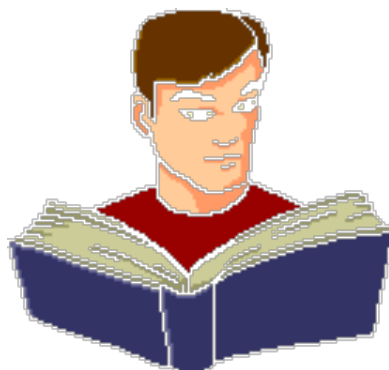
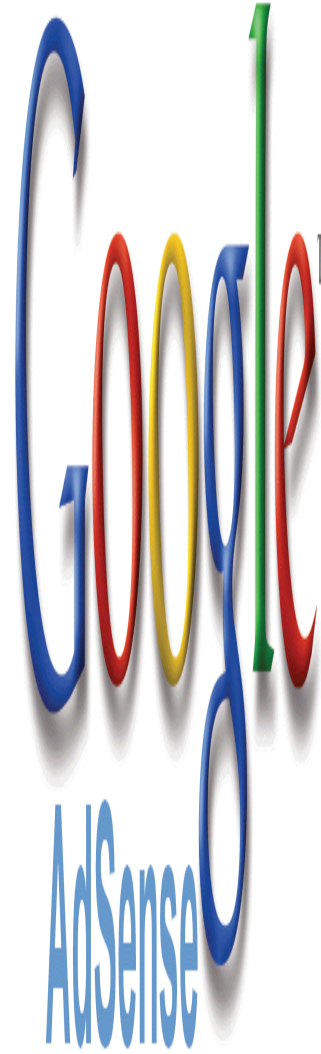
Monday, January 16 brings two happenings to the Van Alstyne Public Library.

11 am-12 noon is Craft Hour for ages 6-12

12 noon – 1 pm is Book Club – bring a sack lunch and join in the discussion of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson.

The IRS forms have begun to arrive. As we receive them we will place them out for you to pick up. We have no way of knowing when particular forms or instruction booklets will arrive, so we'll just keep them going out on the shelf as soon as we receive them. Those we haven't received are available for printing at www.irs.gov.

Hope to see you around the Van Alstyne Public Library.



FCCLA Week, February 12-18, 2012

“Raising the Bar”

WHEREAS,

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, the national nonprofit student organization for Family and Consumer Sciences students through grade 12, helps youth assume their roles in society through Family and Consumer Sciences education in areas of personal growth, family life, vocational preparation, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS,

the organization extends classroom learning through chapter projects that develop leadership and initiative and helps young men and women learn how to plan, make decisions and carry out and evaluate programs of action as they work with other youth and adults in their school and community; and

WHEREAS,

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, offers members an opportunity to work together for common purposes for the improvement of themselves, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS,

The week of February 12 through 18, 2012, has been designated NATIONAL FCCLA WEEK with the theme, *“Raising the Bar”*.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Sherry E. Howard, hereby proclaim the week beginning February 12th as NATIONAL FCCLA WEEK in Tom Bean and urge all citizens to acquaint themselves with the activities and values of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, to show interest in it and give help and encouragement to these young men and women who are working to achieve knowledge and experience that will help prepare them for future responsibilities as active and concerned adult members of society.



Tom Bean 7th Grade Basketball Results 1/5/12

Both of the 7th Grade Basketball teams from Tom Bean Middle School played games in Pottsboro on Thursday night. It was the first game for both teams since the end of Christmas break.

The 7th Grade "B" Team got off to a rough start in the first half, and found themselves down by a wide margin at halftime. In the second half, the Tomcats played significantly better and were able to make things much more difficult for the Cardinals. The Tomcats ultimately came up short but showed great character in the loss and continued to play hard throughout the contest.

The 7th Grade "A" Team played against a previously undefeated Pottsboro team in what was the most exciting game of the season to date. The Tomcats started off strong but due to a lackluster performance in the second quarter they trailed at half-time by a score of 16-12. In the 2nd half, the Tomcats came out on fire from 3 point land and managed to regain the lead 23-20 going into the 4th quarter. Pottsboro had a 3 point lead with 6 seconds left before Point Guard Keoni Puana hit a deep three pointer right before the buzzer to send the game into overtime. In overtime, the Tomcats were able to finish the game on a 12-6 scoring run and win the game by a final score of 46-40.

Offensively the Tomcats were led by Payton Jones with 17 points, Keoni Puana with 10 points, Garrett Gomez with 9 points and Tyler Goff with 8 points. Defensive standouts were Carter Khoury, Jacob Miller, Ben Peeples, and Josh Goss.

Both of the 7th Grade teams will be back in action January 12th at home against Gunter.

Boys Basketball

Over the Christmas Holiday the Varsity Tomcats stayed busy playing 4 hard fought games.

Fighting to overcome injuries and sickness the boys came up short against Savoy in OT, Boyd, and their first district game at Whitewright. They did experience some success defeating a tough Avery team earning a 6th place finish at the Ector Tournament.

Leaders were Luke Parrish (assists), Hunter Book (scoring and rebounding), along with Stephen Kinney and Sam Ellis providing good all-around efforts.

The Tomcats record stands at 5-11 (0-1), with games this week at Bells Tuesday (Jan. 3) and Home vs. Gunter Friday (Jan. 6).

The Tomcats came up short in both the Varsity and JV games at Bells Tuesday night. The Varsity falls to 5-12 (0-2) on the season with the JV record at 2-7 (1-1). The Tomcats try to get back on track at home this Friday vs. Gunter.



Tom Bean ISD Receives Energy Grant

(Tom Bean, Texas) – Tom Bean ISD is a recent tentative recipient of a Texas Cool Schools grant through the state comptroller's office in the amount of \$975,241.00. Grant money will allow the district to replace heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems and increase energy efficiency throughout Tom Bean ISD.

"This money will definitely help stretch our maintenance budget and help reduce utility bills in the years to come. Words can't express the joy in our hearts and the appreciation our board and employees are feeling after we heard about the grant award. Staff at the Texas Association of School Boards was of immense help along with Tom Bean's maintenance department. We compiled information and completed the grant application," said Kathy Garrison, superintendent.

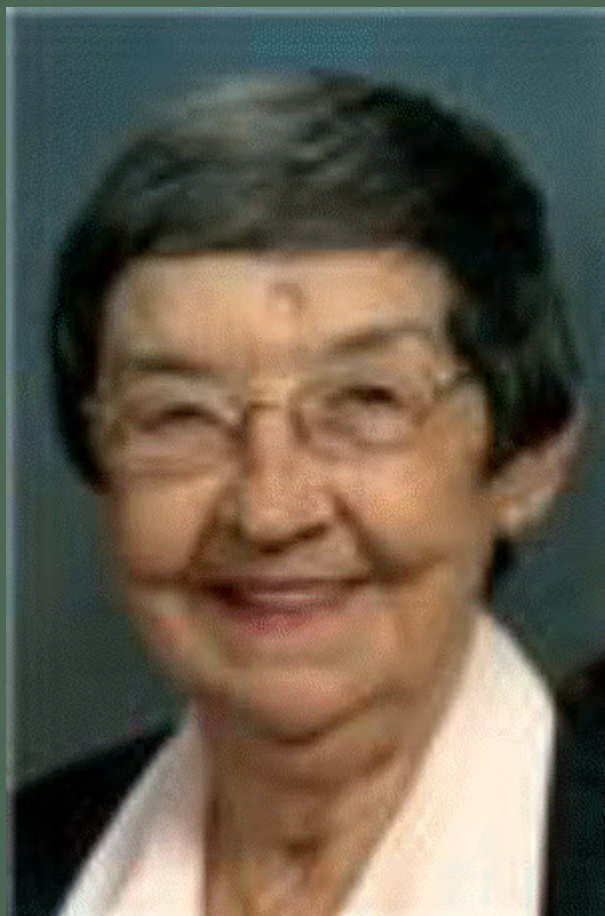
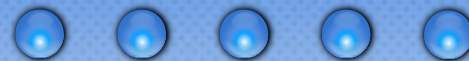
"Mrs. Garrison and the district really took every step necessary to make sure the district was in the best place to apply for and win a grant," said Jeff Clemmons, director of TASB On Site Services. "We knew that the application process was complicated and the time

period was short, so we were happy to help the district, who worked so hard, navigate the process successfully," he said.

"Across the state, many public school districts are facing smaller budgets and increased operating costs," said Susan Combs, state comptroller. "Energy cost is the third largest budget category for schools, and aging heating and cooling systems are the biggest contributor to this problem," she said.

More than 400 school districts applied for Texas Cool Schools grants, however only a portion of the applications were awarded grants. Tom Bean ISD was able to successfully negotiate a contract which was awarded on January 10, 2012. The grants are funded in federal stimulus money for energy efficiency programs offered by the Comptroller's State Energy Conservation Office.





Lillie Mills (1927-2012)

Lillie Mills (1927-2012)

HOWE - Funeral services for Lillie Mills, 84, of Howe was held Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012, at the Scoggins Funeral Home Chapel in Van Alstyne, Texas under the direction of Scoggins Funeral Home. Rev. Roger Tidwell officiated. Burial followed at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney.

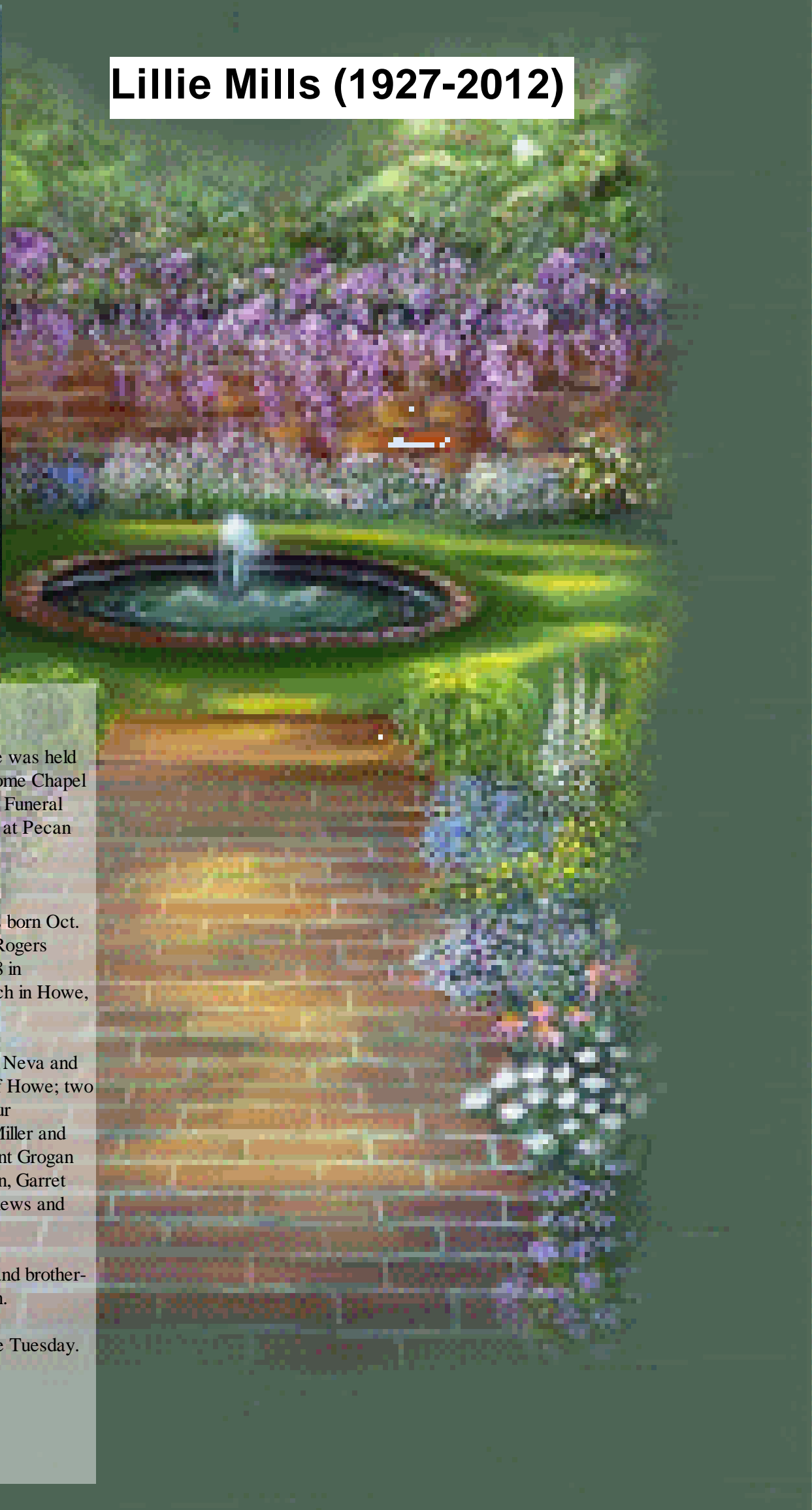
Ms. Mills passed away, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012, at the Meadowbrook Care Center in Van Alstyne. Lillie was born Oct. 23, 1927, in Melissa, the daughter of Earl and Bessie Rogers Orenduff. She married Duward Mills on June 15, 1968 in McKinney. Lillie was a member of First Baptist Church in Howe, and she retired from Texas instruments in 1982.

Lillie is survived by two daughters and their husbands, Neva and Gary Miller of Palmer, and Donna and Butch Mayo of Howe; two sisters, Edna "Foxye" Williams and Freida Turman; four grandchildren, Scott Grogan and wife Jennifer, G.R. Miller and wife Jennifer, Melanie Rankin and husband David, Clint Grogan and wife Suzanne; great-grandchildren, Carson Grogan, Garret Sims, Katie Grogan, Katie Miller; one niece; two nephews and many friends.

Lillie was preceded in death by her parents, husband and brother-in-laws, Clarence "Blackie" Williams and Ted Turman.

The family received friends at Scoggins Funeral Home Tuesday.

You may sign the online register at www.scogginsfuneralhome.com.



NFSA Warns Families of Increased Fire Risk during Winter Months

Provides Winter Fire Safety Tips

PATTERSON, N.Y. (January 9, 2012) – The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), the longest-tenured fire sprinkler advocacy organization in the U.S., reminds families to take time during the winter months to review the dangers of fire with their loved ones. Incidents of fire occur frequently during the winter months, largely due to heating sources in homes.

“With the increased use of fireplaces and home heating systems during the winter months, families need to take the proper precautions to prevent potentially dangerous fire situations,” said John Viniello, President of the NFSA. “We believe that if everyone takes a few moments to review fire safety techniques and protocols with their loved ones, lives will be saved and potential tragedies avoided.”

With winter just beginning, the NFSA provides the following fire safety tips to keep families and loved ones safe all season long:

Keep a watchful eye on space heaters, and make sure there is at least three feet of clear space around them when in operation. Do not leave a space heater on unattended.

Keep flammable liquids free from heating sources, and store them in a cool location. Also, keep them separate from other stored items such as paper products and cloth materials.

Check smoke detectors to ensure they are working properly and have full battery power. It’s recommended that you check the batteries in your smoke alarms when it’s time to turn the clocks forward or backward.

Keep an up-to-date list of emergency fire, police, and medical phone numbers near your telephone. Show every member of your family where this information is kept and teach all children how to call for help in case of an emergency.

Develop an escape plan with your family from multiple rooms within your home, both upstairs and downstairs. Take time to review the escape plan with your family, including a practice fire drill.

Consider installing residential fire sprinklers to protect your family and property. To date, there has never been a multiple loss of life in a structure that had a competently installed and properly-maintained fire sprinkler system.

Make sure windows of children’s rooms are well marked to indicate them to firefighters.

For more information on how to protect yourself and loved ones this winter from the dangers of fire and to learn more about the life saving benefits of residential fire sprinklers visit www.NFSA.org.

About the National Fire Sprinkler Association -- Established in 1905, the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is the voice of the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA leads the drive to get life-saving fire sprinklers into all buildings; provides support and resources for its members – fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers and suppliers; and educates authorities having jurisdiction of fire control matters. Headquartered in Patterson, N.Y., NFSA has regional operations offices throughout the country.

Tioga PD Chief retires

Tioga Mayor Rodarmer announces retirement of Tioga Police Chief Dick Rodgers

After many years of service in Law Enforcement, our Police Chief in Tioga, Dick Rodgers has decided to hang up his guns as they say. Dick is a great guy and has been a friend to many of us and a great guy to have around.

We are putting together a little farewell reception for him and would be honored for you to attend. The time and date are as follows:

Sunday January 15, 2012

2-4 pm

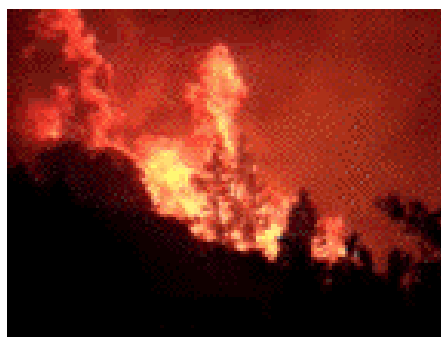
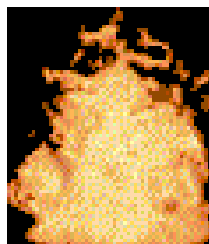
**Tioga Methodist Church Community Center
Corner of Porch and Cutler Streets, Tioga,
TX.**

Light refreshments and soft drinks will be available. Anyone who would like to bring a dish or snack (cookies, crackers and dips etc.) is encouraged to do so and it will be very much appreciated. Gifts are not expected but anyone wishing to do so may feel free to do so at their own discretion.

Feel free to share this invitation with anyone that knows Dick and would like to wish him well.



Wyoming's
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Fine Dining**



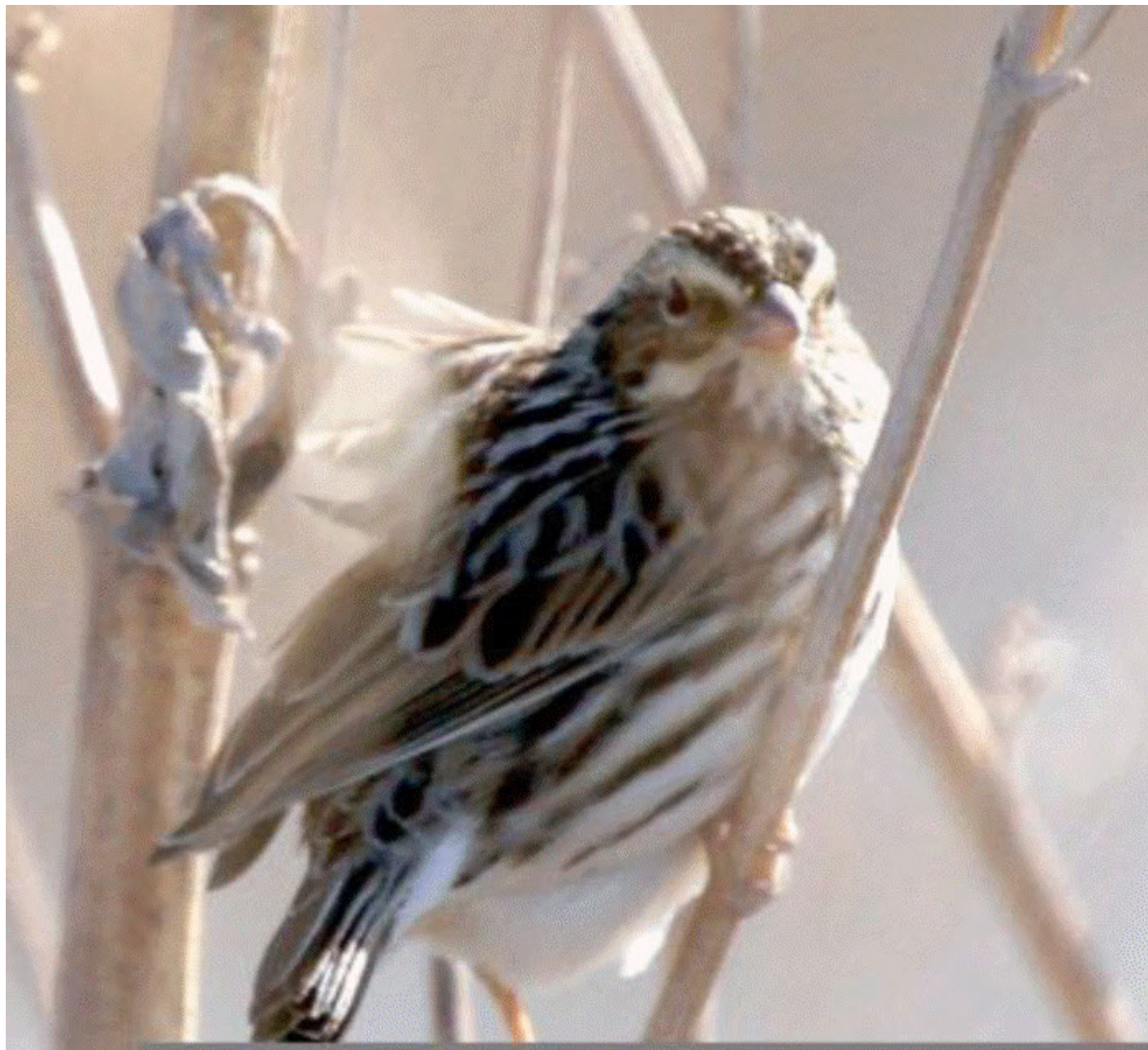
click for **more Area Events**



Poem by Don Mathis San Antonio, TX

Year in Review, 2011

Twenty Eleven had its ups and downs.
The news of the year caused smiles and frowns.
Same sex marriage in New York is now legal.
But sex abuse at Penn State is a scandal.
Gabrielle Giffords was the lucky one.
Six people died from an assassin's gun.
Arab Spring introduced Middle East changes.
Europe's economy had rearranges.
Japan was rocked by a dual calamity –
nuclear nightmare and massive tsunami.
It was a bumper year for crops of 'taters.
Consider the deaths of the world's dictators.
Moammar Gadhafi and bin Laden both were killed,
And then in December, the death of Kim Jon Il.
Amy Winehouse's death, many people cried,
but nothing like the day Steve Jobs died.
We will never hear Andy Rooney complain again
or see Liz Taylor, Peter Faulk, or Harry Morgan.
The Dallas Mavericks won the basketball crown
but the baseballing Cardinals beat Texas Rangers down.
Planet Earth was prophesized to end last May
but it survived (barely) to live another day.
Missouri and Alabama each had a tornado.
Dust Storm Arizona, Snowpocalypse Chicago.
Chile's volcano interrupted air trafficking.
Were quakes in D.C. and Texas caused by oil fracking?
Earthquake damage in New Zealand was the worst they've seen.
Ditto North Carolina for Hurricane Irene.
Texas fires and summer heat were a major pain.
The situation was made worse by a dearth of rain.
A dog lies by a casket of a slain Navy SEAL.
The end of war in Iraq will stop more from being killed.
Riots and violence rolled from Norway to London
while we had the 10th anniversary of Nine One One.
The image of a Stanley Cup riot went around the world
when an Australian boy kissed his Canadian girl.
But the major cause of the biggest protest –
the disparity of Haves and Have-Not's caused unrest.
Occupy Wall Street began in a New York Park.
And a movement started from that little spark.
Criminal behavior in the financial industry
ignited demonstrations here and overseas.
The response to "Occupy" is a big disgrace.
Activists receive pepper spray in the face.
They may be busted but they always make bail.
We'll see what happens next in Twenty Twelve.
So to the old year we bid a Good Night
as we say goodbye to the last shuttle flight.



Sparrows to be topic of Second Saturday program

This song sparrow is one of many species of sparrows that can be found at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. The sparrow population will be the topic of this week's Second Saturday program at the refuge.

Sparrows will be the topic of this week's Second Saturday program at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. The free lecture will begin at 10 am in the meeting room of the refuge's visitor center, followed by a short field trip on the refuge, weather permitting. Attendees may want to bring binoculars and field guides and dress for the weather.

Presenting the program will be Dr. Wayne Meyer. He will discuss the many kinds of sparrows that migrate to Texomaland during the winter months. He will focus on sparrow identification tips for birders of all levels of ability, including the importance of habitat and recognizing species. Meyer groups the species by habitat such as grasslands or trees and brush, then by physical characteristics such as zebra head, red cap, streaky fronts with stickpins and others.

Meyer earned his doctorate from the University of California, Davis, in 1993 and is an associate professor of biology at Austin College in Sherman. Before joining the Austin College in 1993, Meyer taught field biology courses at Sierra College and Ornithology with Dr. Peter Marler at the University of California, Davis. At AC, he teaches anatomy and physiology, cell biology, systemic physiology, and birds, humans and the environment.

For youngsters, Second Saturday for youth will offer "Recyclerama," a morning of hands-on crafts and activities to encourage recycling. The youth program is for ages 4 to 10, with those six and under to be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Advance registration is requested to insure space for each child and can be made by calling the refuge at 903-786-2826. This program will be from 10 am until 11:30 am in the Friends of Hagerman audio visual classroom at the refuge. Leaders for the event will be Katie Palmer and Sue Malnory.

Also this Saturday at 12:30 pm, the Friends of Hagerman Nature Photo Club will meet for a program by Dale Thoreson. The program is entitled "The Physiology of Photography: Why We See Things the Way We Do," and winter is the theme for photo sharing at the meeting. This session will be held in the audio visual classroom. For photo sharing details, send an email to fohphotoclub@gmail.com.

Second Saturday nature program and the Nature Photo Club are sponsored by Hagerman NWR and the Friends of Hagerman NWR. Programs are free and open to the public. There are nominal dues for the photo club. Hagerman NWR is located at 6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, Texas, 75092. For more information, call the refuge or visit www.friendsofhagerman.com.

Photo courtesy of Carol Ann Sowell

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

A 1912 Road Trip

By Bob Bowman

Today, an automobile road trip across East Texas is a delight for many families, largely because roads are well-paved, signs mark the towns and distances, and there are ample gas stations and eating places. But in 1912, Woodson Nash and C.G. Smith, accompanied by their wives, three Nash sons, and a friend, Sam Krauss, hopped in Nash's touring car -- a seven-passenger Abbott Detroit 40-horsepower vehicle -- in Dallas and started to Galveston, a distance of 288 miles by way of Terrell, Marlin and other small towns.

Nash had contemplated making the trip in his Chalmers touring car, but decided that it might not be up to the task.

The party stopped at Sanger's, a store in the Dallas area, where Nash bought a cap because his western hat kept blowing off. Mrs. Nash wore a large Queen Victoria hat, held on with a heavy veil.

In 1912, roads were often impassable and ran across farms and ranches. The Nash-Smith party stopped frequently to open and close gates, some of which were made of barbed wire.

"On the second day, leaving Marlin, we began having lots of sand, and I had to lower the tires' pressure down to 45 pounds which helped some," said Smith.

Only two cars passed the party on the way south -- a Marton Hanley and a Pierce Arrow. They were enroute to automobile races on the Galveston beach.

On the second day, the Nash and Smith party stopped at Navasota and spent the night in a small brick hotel. "It was hot and the mosquitoes and bedbugs made sleeping, or trying to sleep, pretty miserable," said Smith.



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



By Dorothy N. Fowler

When did the words "moderate" and "compromise" become obscenities? During the nearly 40 years I taught government, one of the guiding principles was that when demands/wants/opinions become non-negotiable, the only result is violence with might making right.

Now, I am not crazy about Mitt Romney for any number of what I think are valid reasons, but to reject him as a candidate for public office because he is a "moderate" is absolute insanity.

I am a teetotaler; my friends who drink alcoholic beverages remind me that St. Paul said, "take a "little" wine for the sake of your stomach." My more erudite friends remind me of the "golden mean," i.e., "all things in moderation," which dates back to the ancient Greeks. Their point is well taken, and while I am still a teetotaler, I think they have a right to their alcohol and I have a right to my iced tea.

Bin Laden was not a moderate; Kim Jong was not a moderate and his son is not likely to be; Ghadafi was not a moderate; Hitler was not a moderate, nor was Mussolini. Neither were the Catholic bishops who burned Lutherans at the stake nor the Lutherans who returned the favor by burning Catholics at the stake when they got a chance. Our Puritan ancestors who hanged Quakers who would not doff their hats in the presence of Puritan clergy were not moderates.

St. Paul, aka Saul, was not a moderate when he was holding the coats of the people who stoned Stephen.

Which one of these non-moderates do you admire most? Which one would you choose to make the rules that govern your life?

Come on, folks. Use a little sense!

On a lighter note, think on this for a minute.

The year is 2020 and the United States has just elected the first woman as well as the first female Texan as president.

A few days after the election the president-elect calls her father and says, "So, Daddy, I assume you will be coming to my inauguration?"

The father says, "I don't think so. It's a 27 hour drive, your mother isn't as young as she used to be, and my arthritis is acting up again."

The daughter says, "Don't worry about it Daddy, I'll send Air Force One to pick you up and take you home. A limousine will pick you up at your door."

The father answers, "I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy. What would your mother wear?"



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

BOB BOWMAN'S EAST TEXAS, continued

On the third day, the party reached a white shell road out of Houston, but, like all the other roads, it was one-way and "we lost time in passing." The bridges, observed Smith, were also one-way.

The party rolled into Galveston on the evening of the third day "with everyone tired but happy." The return trip to Dallas also took three days.

(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. Thanks to Andy Bergfield for clippings from a 1912 newspaper

Dot's Dashes, continued

"Oh, Daddy", replies the president-elect, "I'll make sure she has a wonderful gown custom made by the best designer in Washington."

"Honey," Dad complains, "you know I can't eat those rich foods you and your friends like to eat."

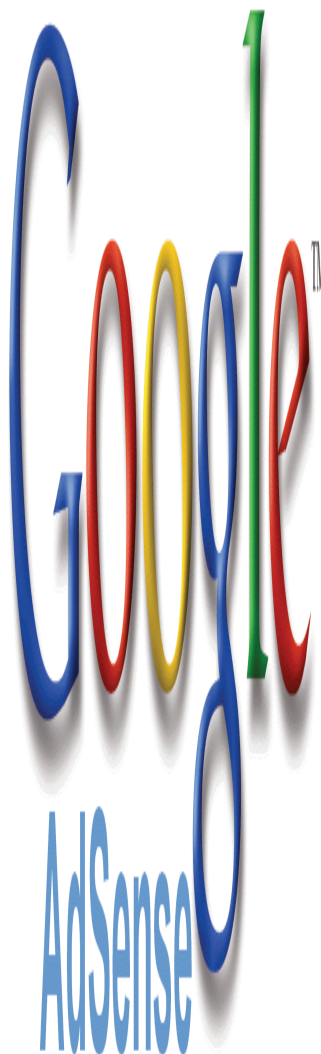
The President-to-be responds, "Don't worry Daddy. The entire affair is going to be handled by the best caterer in Washington. I'll ensure your meals are salt free. Daddy, I really want you to come."

So Dad reluctantly agrees, and on January 20, 2021, the first woman Texan is being sworn in as President of the United States. In the front row sits the new president's Dad and Mom.


Dad notices the Supreme Court Justice sitting next to him and leans over and whispers, "You see that woman over there with her hand on the Bible, becoming President of the United States?"

The Justice whispers back, "Yes, I do."

Daddy says proudly, "Her brother played football for the Texas Longhorns!"




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Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Interim Charges for House Committees

This week I will discuss the interim charges recently issued to the House Committee on Environmental Regulation. Interim charges are the issues that the Speaker asks committees to study during the time between regular legislative sessions in order to make recommendations for legislation for the following legislative session. The charges are good indicators of what legislation the legislature will take up during the next session. Legislators rely on public input when crafting legislation, and it is important that they hear from people during the interim.

House Committee on Environmental Regulation

*Examine the federal eight-hour ozone standard under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards program and its impact on the State Implementation Plan. Identify counties expected to be in nonattainment, the state's proposed designations of those counties, the timelines for meeting the applicable standard, and the status of the state's ability to attain the standard.

*Examine the effectiveness of the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) since its inception in 2001. Determine whether the emissions reduced justify the amounts that have been appropriated since 2001. (Joint with the House Committee on Appropriations)

*Examine the impact on dam safety of provisions passed in HB 2694 (82R) and develop recommendations, if any, regarding risk to downstream property and life.

*Examine new and proposed Environmental Protection Agency rules that may impact permits for Texas facilities. Make recommendations, if needed, for changes in state regulatory programs or potential incentives to comply with federal mandates.

*Study the environmental review process for transportation projects and monitor the implementation of reforms newly passed by the 82nd Legislature. Continue to work with all stakeholders to develop any necessary changes. (Joint with the House Committee on Transportation)

The House Committee on Environmental Regulation can be reached at 512-463-0776. For more information on these charges or any other matter of state government, please contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by emailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us. My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297.

Phillips recognized as 'Friend of Education'

Texas State Rep. Larry Phillips (R-Sherman) has been selected as the Texas Classroom Teachers Association 2011-12 Friend of Education in the public official category. Texas Classroom Teachers Association presents the award annually to honor a public official who has made a significant contribution to public education in Texas. Founded in 1927, the association is an independent, nonunion association for Texas teaching professionals and serves 50,000 members across the state.

A member of the Texas House since 2003, Phillips is a key member of the House leadership team by virtue of his high profile chairmanship of the Transportation Committee. He also is a member of the General Investigating & Ethics, Border & Intergovernmental Affairs and Redistricting committees.

In nominating Phillips for the award, the Whitesboro Classroom Teachers Association described him as "a true supporter of education, demonstrated through his efforts to put common sense back into education." The nomination specifically credits his close working relationships with local teachers and his efforts to remove or modify harmful provisions in the "deregulation" bills of the 2011 legislative session. Phillips was named a Texas Classroom Teachers Association Legislative Star in 2011 because of his work in offering and defending what became known as "the Phillips amendment" to preserve important protections for students and teachers.

The Friend of Education awards have been presented since 1976. Recipients must be judged to be true friends of education, educators and students as demonstrated by their leadership, actions and support. Texas Classroom Teachers Association will honor Phillips on Feb. 10 during the first business meeting of the association's annual convention in Houston. Retired Army Gen. Robert M. Shoemaker, a resident of Killeen and recipient of TCTA's Friend of Education award in the private official category, also will be honored. Educators from across the state will participate in professional development seminars, elect Texas Classroom Teachers Association leaders for statewide and district positions and discuss current education issues.

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

The waters of Jordan are divided

14 And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; 15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) 16 That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. 17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

Josh 3:14-17 (KJV)

Christian Fellowship

A Christian Fellowship begins each Sunday morning with coffee and doughnut fellowship at 9 am followed at 9:30 with classes for all ages. Worship service begins at 10:30. This week's service is led by Mike Ball. Come join them for an inspirational service.

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 6:30pm at the church building, this program helps those that may be struggling with such things as alcohol abuse, drug abuse, family problems, just to name a few.

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

The church is planning a VBS for the week of July 16-20. The times will be 6:30-8:30, so mark your calendar for this fun filled week.

The church offers home study groups throughout the week.

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 at 903-870-0219.

He Died for Them

David Nanney planned to return home to Baltimore, Maryland, on December 18 to spend the holidays with his family and friends, but he didn't make it.

Nanney had come to Denver to attend the Colorado Center for the Blind. 10 years earlier, he had begun losing his eyesight, which he and his family later learned was due to a disease (retinitis pigmentosa) which damages the retina, leading to a loss of vision. He had joined 24 other students at



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>.

click for **more Church News**

the CCB for training in life skills and Braille reading – training which typically spans a nine-month period.

But on Friday morning, December 17, Nanney was waiting for a bus with two other visually impaired students to attend a Christmas party at the CCB, when an out-of-control car slid on the icy road toward them. As Nanney heard the car skidding onto the sidewalk where the three of them were standing, he “pushed the two women out of the way and took the brunt of the hit” (9News.com as quoted by Neal Pollard).



Local Churches

He Died for Them, continued

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

The other two students were injured, but Nanney was killed in the accident. This 47-year-old man is remembered as being thoughtful, charitable, and a natural leader by his family and fellow students at the CCB. These wonderful traits moved him to give his life in order to save two of his friends and classmates.

Nanney's selfless sacrifice reminds us of the Ultimate Sacrifice that was made for each of us as we faced an even greater danger...

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."
– John 15:13

Due to our sins, each of us is destined for destruction... (Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 6:23). But because of His great love for us, God sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins. As Neal Pollard has written, "He was perfectly sinless (2 Corinthians 5:21), but was purposefully sent for our sins (Galatians 4:4-5)," as payment for our redemption (Ephesians 1:7).

Jesus' atoning sacrifice will cover the sins of those who will: place their faith and trust in Him (Acts 16:30-31) in turning from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confessing Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

In the words of Neal Pollard: "Nanney is an unqualified hero because he shoved two friends out of harm's way. Jesus is the Unparalleled Hero of Calvary because His death saves us [each and every person who accepts His offer] from eternal condemnation."

Won't YOU accept His offer on His terms?

David A. Sargent, Minister, Church of Christ at Creekwood, Mobile, Alabama 36695

* Information gleaned from article by Howard Pankratz and Carlos Illescas of the Denver Post (www.denverpost.com, 12-18-10) and Neal Pollard's article, "He Died for Them" in his Daily Bread of 12/20/10. Neal is the capable minister of the Bear Valley church of Christ in Denver, CO.

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LEGAL TIPS:

Estate Planning & Resolutions

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

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

First, what would happen to your kids if something happened to you? Have you taken the time to have your estate planning documents properly prepared and executed? Some of the most important documents to consider are a Will, Durable Power of Attorney, Directive to Physicians, Medical Power of Attorney, HIPAA Release, and a Declaration of Guardian. Each document plays an important part in the overall plan.

The Will can be used to dispose of your property upon your death. Within it, you can also establish trusts and appoint guardians for your kids. A Durable Power of Attorney will authorize someone to act on your behalf if you are unable to do so. The Directive to Physicians is also known as a Living Will and is your opportunity to state in writing how you want to be treated in an end-of-life situation. The Medical Power of Attorney will allow someone to make most medical decisions for you if you can't. The HIPAA Release will allow your representative to obtain your medical information. The Declaration of Guardian can be used to appoint or prevent someone from being appointed as your guardian and it can be used to appoint a guardian for your children.

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

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

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

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

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





Hawaiian proverb holds truth for American agriculture

By Mike Barnett

Ho'okahi ka 'ilau like ana.

That's Hawaiian, y'all. It means "Wield the paddles together."

How fitting as we gather in Honolulu, Hawaii, for the 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Farmers and ranchers from all 50 states and Puerto Rico are here to do the business of agriculture.

Ho'okahi ka 'ilau like ana.

The ocean set the tempo of life and death for the ancient Hawaiians. Times were tough -- even in this tropical paradise. When the ocean was gentle, life was good. When seas got rough, only by cooperating -- wielding the paddles together -- could the Hawaiians thrive. And survive.

Ho'okahi ka 'ilau like ana.

This Hawaiian proverb fits American agriculture. True, we are multi-faceted. One size does not fit all. The cotton grower doesn't always agree with the soybean farmer. The corn farmer is at odds at times with the cattleman. But when times get tough, we pull together toward common goals. That's the beauty of Farm Bureau.

Ho'okahi ka 'ilau like ana.

Many challenges face farmers and ranchers as we navigate our way through 2012: a new farm bill; immigration reform; excessive regulation; developing opportunities to keep agriculture profitable. We'll have to get our hands wet to chart these rough waters.

Let me leave you with this thought.

Komo mai kau mapuna hoe.

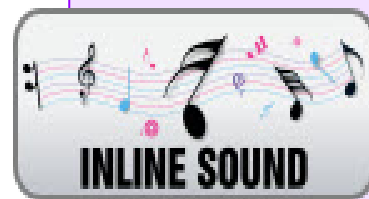
"Dip in your paddle." Join in the effort. Don't be a canoe filler.

Wield the paddles together and agriculture will remain strong.

Visit the Texas Farm Bureau website at www.txfb.org.

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TELLING OUR STORIES

By Jerry Lincecum

In two decades of listening to elderwriters sharing reminiscences, I have noticed that the Christmas season has often been the setting for unforgettable childhood memories. They are as precious as gold nuggets or polished gems.

One TOS writer who lived more than a century treasured a tiny cup and saucer set she had been given at a Christmas program around 1915. What made it special was her memory of getting there: her grandfather hitched his team of horses to a wagon, they all piled in and jostled their way to the country schoolhouse.

Others recall a tradition of celebrating Christmas by traveling to the home of the children's grandparents on Christmas Eve. Only when all children were asleep did adults put up the cedar tree and other decorations.

Can you imagine the magical feeling experienced by a child waking up on Christmas morning to find a beautiful tree that had appeared overnight, complete with gifts delivered by Santa Claus?

On the other hand, one gentleman remembers the unfortunate year when days of rain on muddy roads made the Christmas Eve journey very doubtful. Then Papa came up with a brilliant solution. He had a sled the horses could pull, and he placed the wagon box on top of it.

With warm lap-ropes to shelter them from the cold, the little family set off through the woods. Then Papa decided he wasn't sure he had securely locked up the corncrib. He was obliged to leave Mama and the children alone in the dark woods while he briskly walked back to make sure. It is no surprise that 80 years later his five-year-old son can revisit his anxiety on that Christmas Eve long ago.

Around 1930 two little girls discovered something amazing: new toys in the smokehouse. A quick-thinking mom advised them that she felt sure Elves from the North Pole had stashed them there. Moreover, this wise adult had heard that children who meddled in Santa's business would receive nothing good on Christmas morning. Mystery solved and lesson learned: stay away from that smokehouse.

Often a child was amazed to receive a gift that had been seen and coveted but seemed too expensive. Somehow a parent knew the child's desire and managed to find a way to pay for it. Mary Ann Wright of Sherman received a suede fringed jacket for Christmas in 1946, and she still remembers how much it cost.

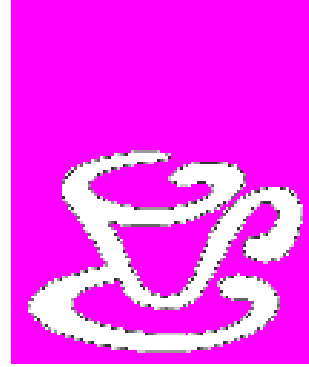
Coming from a large family, I have memories of a very orderly system of taking turns opening gifts. Then chaos ensued and almost inevitably some important tag or leaflet disappeared amid the wrapping paper.

At least one adult would lose patience as the trash had to be sorted a couple of times. Incidentally, these little episodes occurred after WWII, when wrapping paper was cheap and plentiful.

I'm sure you are already remembering your own little nuggets and gems of Christmas past. The scenes we can revisit at will with the mind's eye easily surpass all the digital photos and movies that will be made this holiday season.

-30-

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



Warning: Pun Ahead

Some friars needed to raise more money for books for the school, so they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds.

Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the good brothers to close down, but they would not. He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to “persuade” them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store, saying he’d be back if they didn’t close up shop.

Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that “Only Hugh can prevent florist friars.”

Bring What You Can Carry

Once there was an old rich man who was afraid of dying and leaving all his wealth behind on earth. So, he took up the matter with God. He pleaded day and night to be able to take all his earthly possessions with him.

Finally, God conceded. He said the man could take as much as he could fit in one suitcase. The old man immediately went out, bought a huge suitcase, sold all he owned and filled the suitcase with gold bars.

Shortly after that, the old man died. Awkwardly dragging the big, heavy suitcase, he approached St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter stopped him, asked him to open his luggage, and then told him he couldn’t bring his gold bars into Heaven. The man was irate. “You don’t understand,” he said. “I got permission directly from God himself for this. He told me whatever I could fit into one suitcase, I could bring with me.”

St. Peter, shrugged his shoulders and simply said, “Fine with me. But we’ve already got plenty of pavement here.”

The Carpenter’s Son

One day Jesus was out for a walk, strolling near the walls surrounding heaven, when he heard an old man’s voice call from the other side.

“Hello? Hello?”

Jesus replied, “Who is it?”

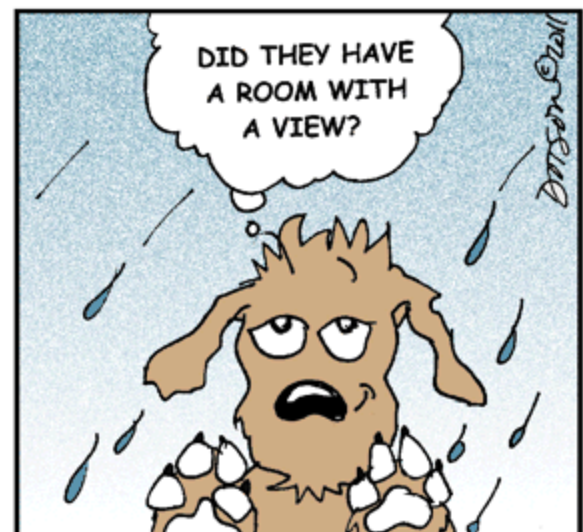
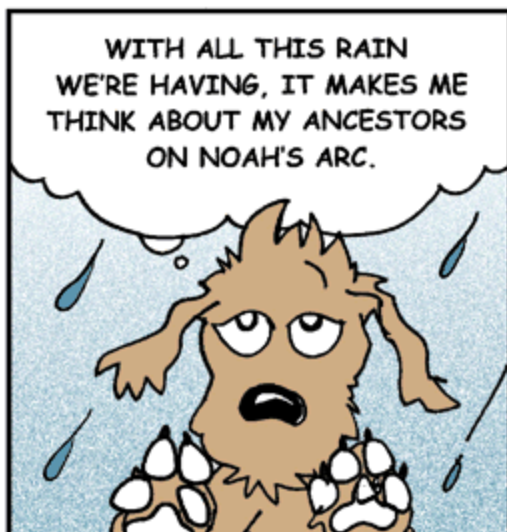
“Just a poor, old carpenter searching for his son,” the old man replied.

Jesus’ heart leapt with joy and he called out, “Joseph?”

The voice answered back, “Pinocchio?”

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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

