

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

January 16, 2014



Howe Elementary Students of the Month



Tom Bean Fire Services Improves



MLK Day Celebration



AMBER Alert Awareness Day

Monday, January 13, is National AMBER Alert Awareness Day. The AMBER Alert program is a nationwide system of alerts in response to the abduction of a child. AMBER stands for "America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response," and was named for of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped and murdered in 1996 in Arlington, Texas. In response to Amber Hagerman's death, law enforcement and media representatives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area created the first AMBER Alert program, which has served as a model nationwide for alerting the public about abducted children.

Every state now has an AMBER Alert program, as do several other countries. Although the programs are managed individually by each state, the criteria for issuing an AMBER Alert are as follows: there is reasonable belief by law enforcement that an abduction has occurred; the law enforcement agency believes that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death; there is enough descriptive information about the victim and the abduction for law enforcement to assist in the recovery of the child; and the abduction is of a child aged 17 years or younger. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) manages the AMBER Alert program in Texas.

From 2002 through the end of 2013, 124 children have been recovered during 109 DPS activations of the Texas AMBER Alert Program. Activation of the Texas AMBER Alert Network involves resources from local, state, and federal resources, including the Texas Department of Public Safety; the Office of the Governor; the National Weather Service; the Texas Department of Transportation; the Texas Association of Broadcasters; the Independent Bankers Association of Texas; the Texas Lottery Commission, and the the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

DPS currently offers an email notification system that distributes AMBER Alert information. Anyone wishing to become a subscriber can register online with a valid email address and zip code at www.dps.texas.gov/dem/amberalert/amberregister.aspx.

For more information regarding the AMBER Alert Program or 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 <<mailto:larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us>>. My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297.

2013 Rest In Peace

Don Mathis

Some leaders of the world have gone to the hereafter,
such as Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

Then there was Margaret Thatcher and Nelson Mandela.

There are country stars we will not see again.

We'll never see Ray Price's grin,
cry with George Jones or hear Slim Whitman.

Elmore Leonard's books we would read at night,
and Tom Clancy's novels would give us a fright.

But I will miss Seamus Heaney, [the Irish poet and playwright](#)

Rock & Roll went from Annette Funicello on TV
to the Doors' Ray Manzarek on the organ keys.

And who can forget the great Lou Reed?

The classic voices could really croon.

Patti Page and [Patty Andrews](#) could sing a tune.

And [Eydie Gormé](#) could fly me to the moon.

Roger Ebert kept us informed of film.

David Frost's insight, I'll really miss him.

And no more advice from Dear Abigail Van Buren

You know an era has come to an end
with the death of Jean Stapleton, a great comedian,
and [Jonathan Winters](#), master of improvisation,

Paul Walker drove 'Fast and Furious,'
Peter O'Toole had talents prodigious,
and James Gandolfini made the Sopranos serious.

C. Everett Koop was the nation's health inspector,
Ed Koch was New York's famous mayor,
and Bum Phillips was a heck of a football player.

We now have only their memory.

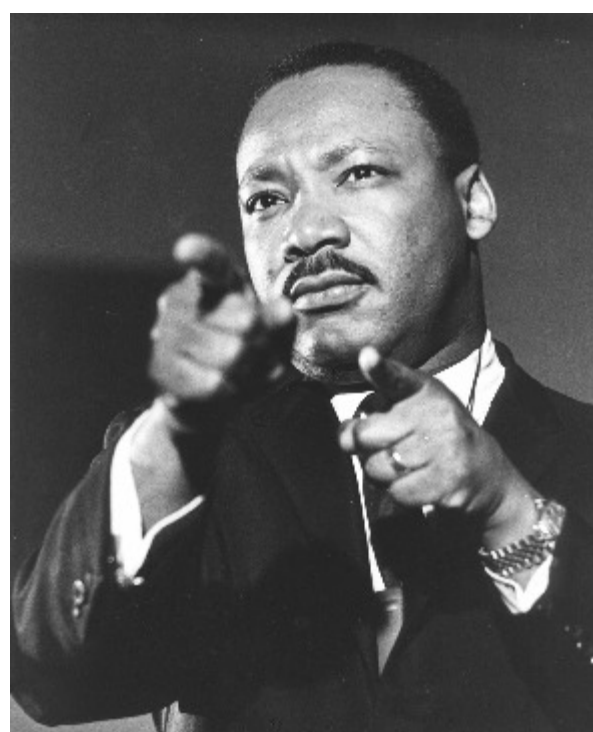
And we'll have to wait a while to see
who the movers of the future might be.

Texoma Patriots

Saturday, January 25th, at 11 a.m.

OVERPASSES TO IMPEACH OBAMA

We'll meet at 11 a.m. at Albertsons, 100 E. Taylor St, Sherman. We will hold our signs on the overpass of Highway 75. Meet in the far corner of the parking lot nearest to the highway. Bring signs or we will have some available for you to wave. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.



Community Martin Luther King Celebration Upcoming

SHERMAN, TEXAS—The tenth annual Grayson County Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Community Celebration Breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. Monday, January 20th, 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 \$15 per person, payable at the door.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Keron L. Jackson, a musician, actor, and evangelist who has performed in opera houses, national singing competitions, conventions, and theatres. Jackson is also a motivational speaker and is currently writing his first book, *Unlearning What My Parents Taught Me*.

Jackson has performed in many dramatic and musical stage productions, including *Moby Dick*, *Showboat*, *Cotton Patch Gospel*, *Side Show*, *Big River*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Handel's Messiah*, *Gershwin's Porgy and Bess*, and *Roberto Devereux*. He has been the Grand Winner of the Bel Canto Aria Competition among other prestigious singing competitions.

Additionally, Jackson performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the investiture services of Priscilla Owen and Jennifer Walker Elrod, nominees to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Jackson has also spoken and performed at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Baylor University Bible Conferences, Park Cities Baptist Church, the 2010 Baptist General Convention, and other spiritually oriented establishments.

Dr. Marjorie Hass, president of Austin College, will welcome guests. Senior Tiffany Collins of Garland, Texas will provide a student address. The Sherman Federated Choirs, led by Priscilla Mask, 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](#).

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Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Comptroller Issues New Water Report

Most people know that the Comptroller of Public Accounts serves as the state's chief accounting officer and tax collector. The Texas Constitution requires the Comptroller to certify the state budget and to ensure that the budget is balanced. However, the Comptroller is also charged with a number of other duties, including conducting performance reviews of state agency programs; handling franchise taxes, tax abatements, sales tax and other business tax issues; issuing a release each year of the names of people with unclaimed property; auditing school districts, colleges, and universities and issuing school performance review; and issuing reports on issues that will have a significant fiscal impact on the state's economy.

This week, the Comptroller issued a new report on water: "Texas Water Report: Going Deeper for the Solution." This report builds on a 2012 report examining the economic impact of the Texas drought, and contains recommendations for filling state water needs. It details water scarcity issues that threaten the economic health of the state, and examines promising approaches for growing our water supply. The report also proposes that the state should develop an award system that would encourage the development of practical solutions for meeting the water needs of this state. The full report can be found on the Comptroller's website at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/water/>.

For more information regarding this report or 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.

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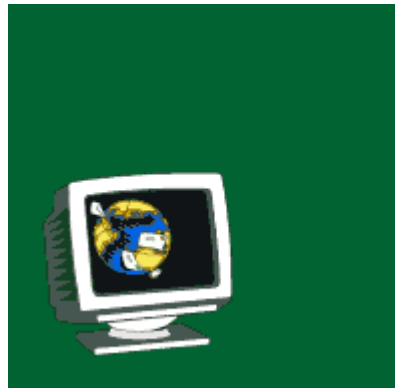
GC offers How to Start an eBay Business seminar

The Small Business Development Center at Grayson College is offering a free seminar on "How to Start an eBay Business" on Jan. 25 from 10:00 am- 4:30 pm. The class will be held at the Grayson College Career and Technology Center on the Main Campus. Special SBDC funding through the Jobs Act is making this opportunity available free for participants.

The course is comprehensive and covers essential information needed to start and succeed in an eBay business, including everything from registration on eBay and PayPal, digital photography and photo editing, to packing and shipping. Upon completion of this course, participants will be ready to launch an eBay business. The seminar is packed full of eBay best business practices and based on the eBay University curriculum.

Stephanie Inge, an adjunct eBay professor at a local college and education specialist trained by eBay, will be the instructor. Inge started her online store in 1999, and is founder of the original and largest of all eBay sellers meet-up groups in the world, was eBay's first PowerSeller, and has just completed a book entitled "Meetup Organizer Step-by-Step Success Guide: Road Map to Success for Meetup Organizers and Their Leadership Teams."

Seating is very limited. Contact Helen Jeffcoats at 903-463-8787 or email jeffcoatsh@grayson.edu to reserve a seat in the class.



HOT!

NEW!



Pamela S. Egner, D.D.S.
Family Dentistry



217 E. Jefferson St.
P.O. Box 729, Van Alstyne, TX 75495
Ph: 903-482-6339 Fax: 903-482-1313



Proverbs 2:1-22 (KJV)

- ¹ My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
- ² So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;
- ³ Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;
- ⁴ If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;
- ⁵ Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
- ⁶ For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.
- ⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.
- ⁸ He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.
- ⁹ Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.
- ¹⁰ When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;
- ¹¹ Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:
- ¹² To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things;
- ¹³ Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;
- ¹⁴ Who rejoice to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked;
- ¹⁵ Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:
- ¹⁶ To deliver thee from the strange woman, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words;
- ¹⁷ Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.
- ¹⁸ For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.
- ¹⁹ None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.
- ²⁰ That thou mayest walk in the way of good *men*, and keep the paths of the righteous.
- ²¹ For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.
- ²² But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

Christian Fellowship

Mike Ball will be leading services this week at A Christian Fellowship church in Luella. Come join them each Sunday morning beginning at 9:00am for coffee and doughnut fellowship, followed by classes for all ages at 9:30.

Worship service begins at 10:30. Praise and worship is led by David Ellis and is a contemporary style service.

They have a class for children called Kidz in Da Zone for Jesus. Ages for that class are 2 years up to 10 years old. They learn about stories in the bible, memory verses, they have puppet shows, lots of fun things. Bring the kids and come on out.

Wednesday nights begin at 6:30pm 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 at 903-271-1870

Tom Bean Church of Christ

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us. Our services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9:00 am and worship at 10:00 am with congregational singing. The evening worship service begins at 6:00 pm. The Lord Supper is given each Sunday. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7:00 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX..

We have radio programs each Sunday at 7:30 am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Quinn. Also there are two other programs; the North Side church of Christ is on at 8:00 am, and Leonard church of Christ is on at 8:30 am both on KFYN 1420 AM.

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

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

Area Churches

Cannon

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

Cherry Mound

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

Dorchester

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

Gunter

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

Howe

APOSTOLIC LIFE UPC
405 S. Collins Frwy,
Jerry Pentecost, 903/821-9166;
Sun. 10am & 6pm
NEW BEGINNING FELLOWSHIP/AG,
912 S Denny St.
903/532-6828; Roger Roper,
S-school, 9:30, worship 10:45
BETHEL BAPTIST
Hwy. 902 E & Ponderosa Rd,
Weldon Hutson, pastor,
903/532-6032
SUMMIT CHURCH
Howe Middle School Cafeteria,
903/815-1472 ; Kcvin Bouse
CHURCH OF CHRIST
N. Collins Frwy,
903/532-6441;
Toby Socheting
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
100 E. Davis,903/532-5504;
Roger Tidwell, pastor
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
810 N. Denny, 903/532-6718;
Tom Medley, minister

Ida

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

Luella

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

Tom Bean

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



More Church Page



LIVING WATER

Bonehead Merkle

On September 23, 1908, at the Polo Grounds in New York City, there were two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning. The New York Giants and the Chicago Cubs were battling for the National League pennant, with the score tied at 1-1. The Giants had two men on base: 19-year-old Fred Merkle on first and Moose McCormick on third. Al Bridwell slapped a single up the middle, scoring McCormick.

The game seemed to be over. But instead of tagging second base, Fred Merkle trotted off the field to the Giants' locker room. The Cubs threw the ball to second, forcing out Merkle. The run didn't count, the Giants lost the pennant, and Fred Merkle picked up the name, "Bonehead Merkle." *

ALL of us can relate to Fred "Bonehead" Merkle for "ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Our sinful mistakes carry much greater consequences than Merkle's because "the wages of sin is DEATH" (Romans 6:23).

But because of God's great love and mercy, our "bonehead" mistakes don't have to DEFINE us nor DESTROY us! We can be forgiven AND receive the gift of eternal life!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Because of His great love for us, God gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Through Jesus, we can have forgiveness and receive the gift of eternal life.

God will save those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). God will continue to cleanse of sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

By the way, there is more to Merkle's story....

Fred Merkle got another chance and went on to play for 14 more seasons, including FIVE trips to the World Series.

Because of Jesus, we CAN have a "second chance" and enjoy forgiveness and the promise of eternal life!

Won't YOU accept His offer on His terms?

David Sargent, Minister
davidsargent1@comcast.net
<http://www.creekwoodcc.org>

* Today in the Word, December 27, 1994 as quoted in www.bible.org
Archived issues of "Living Water" can be viewed and Archived issues of "Living Water" can be viewed and accessed from our website at: www.creekwoodcc.org

HTML version: subscribe-livingwater@lyris.dundee.net
TEXT version: subscribe-livingwater-text@lyris.dundee.net

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

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

**Van Alstyne
COMMUNITY BIBLE
CHURCH**

Northwest corner Hwy 5 &
County Line Rd.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

105 Hopson,
Shannon Jackson, minister,
903/482-6033

EAST SIDE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

PO Box 141, Larry Shead,
minister; worship 11am

ELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

FM 121 W, Elmont;

Jim Poole, pastor,
903/482-6356

FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH,

corner of Pearl & Nash,

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

LIFE CHURCH,

201 W. Marshall,

Pastors – Lance/ Mary Baker
903/433-8089

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

102 E. Marshall, 903/482-6334,

Jimmy Tarrant, pastor

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

206 Waco, 903/482-5515,

Gary Gibbs, pastor

FIRST PENTECOSTAL

CHURCH

903/482-6646,

Rev. J.R. Thornhill, pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH

301 S. Preston,

Rev. Jack Wallace, minister

GREYWOOD HEIGHTS

WORSHIP CENTER

On Hwy. 75 just north of Dairy

Queen, 903/482-6700;

Chris Jones, pastor

HOLY FAMILY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Stephen W. Bierschenk,

972/562-0752

MORNING CHAPEL

CHRISTIAN METHODIST

EPISCOPAL

103 Bowen, 902/482-5431

SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH

702 E. Fulton, 903/482-5664, Rev.

Arnold Baker, pastor



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Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Texoma Enterprise

805 N. Hughes

Howe, Texas 75459-3587

903-487-0525

dalerideout@cableone.net

lanarideout@cableone.net

Texoma Enterprise is owned and operated by Dale and Lana Rideout. They have been doing this since 1978. The picture on the left is about 5 years old, with Dale shown as "Santa" Rideout at Christmas, 2009. The family shot on the right includes all our grandchildren, plus a couple of Step-grandchildren. It was taken at Elves Christmas Tree Farm. This farm opened to the public in 1990 when Jordan was only 2 months old and he went there with us. Every year since we have taken every grandchild with us. This year was our 23rd year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.



Grandkids singing at the Elves Christmas Tree Farm, 2007



Dots

Dashes

By Dorothy N. Fowler

When I received the following from Tony Beaverson, who received it from Jack Kennedy, I wondered how many people's lives were made more difficult by e-mails that covered the following subjects.

"As we progress into 2014, I want to thank you for your educational e-mails over the past year. I am totally screwed up now and have little chance of recovery.

I can no longer open a bathroom door without using a paper towel, nor let the waitress put lemon slices in my ice water without worrying about the bacteria on the lemon peel.

I can't sit down on a hotel bedspread because I can only imagine what has happened on it since it was last washed.

I have trouble shaking hands with someone who has been driving because the number one pastime while driving alone is picking one's nose.

Eating a little snack sends me on a guilt trip because I can only imagine how many gallons of trans fats I have consumed over the years.

I can't touch any woman's handbag for fear she has placed it on the floor of a public toilet.

I must send my special thanks for the email about rat poo in the glue on envelopes because I now have to use a wet sponge with every envelope that needs sealing.

ALSO, now I have to scrub the top of every can I open for the same reason. I can't have a drink in a bar because I fear I'll wake up in a bathtub full of ice with my kidneys gone.

I can't eat at KFC because their chickens are actually horrible mutant freaks with no eyes, feet or feathers.

I can't use cancer-causing deodorants even though I smell like a water buffalo on a hot day.

Thanks to you I have learned that my prayers only get answered if I forward an e-mail to seven of my friends and make a wish within five minutes.

Because of your concern, I no longer drink Coca Cola because it can remove toilet stains.

I no longer buy fuel without taking someone along to watch the car, so a serial killer doesn't crawl in my back seat when I'm filling up.

I no longer use Cling Wrap in the microwave because it causes seven different types of cancer.

And thanks for letting me know I can't boil a cup of water in the microwave anymore because it will blow up in my face, disfiguring me for life.

I no longer go to the cinema because I could be pricked with a needle infected with AIDS when I sit down.

I no longer go to shopping centers because someone will drug me with a perfume sample and rob me.

And I no longer answer the phone because someone will ask me to dial a number for which I will get a huge phone bill with calls to Jamaica, Uganda, Singapore and Uzbekistan.

Thanks to you I can't use anyone's toilet but mine because a big black snake could be lurking under the seat and cause me instant death when it bites my butt.

And thanks to your great advice I can't ever pick up a dime coin dropped in the car park because it was probably placed there by a sex molester waiting to grab me as I bend over.

I can't do any gardening because I'm afraid I'll get bitten by the Violin Spider and my hand will fall off.

If you don't send this e-mail to at least 144,000 people in the next 70 minutes, a large dove with diarrhea will land on your head at 5:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon, and the fleas from 120 camels will infest your back, causing you to grow a hairy hump. I know this will occur because I was told in an email that it actually happened to a friend of my next door neighbor's ex mother-in-law's second husband's cousin's best friend's beautician!

Oh, and by the way...

A German scientist from Argentina, after a lengthy study, has discovered that people with insufficient brain activity read their e-mails with their hand on the mouse.

Don't bother taking it off now, it's too late!!

P. S. I now keep my toothbrush in the living room, because I was told by e-mail that water splashes over 6 ft. out of the toilet.

NOW YOU HAVE YOURSELF A VERY GOOD DAY!!"



Cornyn: Emails Make It Clear EPA Has It Out For Domestic Energy Producers

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, today (Jan. 16) issued the following statement after internal EPA [emails](#) requested under the Freedom of Information Act reveal the EPA has been collaborating with environmental organizations, helping these organizations gather signatures for petitions that support the EPA's position, and giving these groups advance notice of efforts to regulate domestic energy producers:

"If it wasn't clear enough before that this Administration has it out for domestic energy producers in Texas and the across the country, these emails make it crystal clear. For the EPA, overregulating energy producers is one big political game where every move blocks job creation."

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

Sen. Cornyn Introduces Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) today introduced the *Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2014*, which would allow individuals with concealed carry privileges in their home state to exercise those rights in any other state that also has concealed carry laws. The legislation is cosponsored by U.S. Sens. Thune (R-SD), Vitter (R-LA), Graham (R-SC), Boozman (R-AR), Inhofe (R-OK), Crapo (R-ID), Burr (R-NC), Cochran (R-MS), Johanns (R-NE), Enzi (R-WY), Moran (R-KS), Roberts (R-KS), and Portman (R-OH).

"This bill strengthens two of our nation's most fundamental rights, ensuring law-abiding gun owners can lawfully carry their weapons into like-minded states, while respecting the rights of states to adopt laws that are best-suited for the people of that state. This is an important affirmation of the Second Amendment and one that has been a top priority of law-abiding gun owners in Texas for some time. It is time to get this done."

The Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2014 would treat state-issued concealed-carry permits like drivers' licenses, allowing law-abiding citizens with concealed carry privileges to concealed-carry in any other states that also permit it by law.

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney

Cornyn: Obama should focus on creating jobs, opportunity in U.S.

Boosting economic growth will reduce income inequality

DALLAS—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, authored the following opinion piece in today's [Houston Chronicle](#): Jan 13

Cornyn: Obama should focus on creating jobs, opportunity in U.S.

By John Cornyn

In recent weeks, President Barack Obama has used his office to focus the nation's attention on income inequality and unemployment insurance.

In a certain sense, one might expect him to be an expert on these issues. After all, according to one measure of the income gap cited by the New York Times, inequality has increased about four times faster under President Obama than it did under President George W. Bush. Meanwhile, our country has suffered through its longest period of high unemployment since the Great Depression.

Unfortunately, President Obama's expertise seems more focused on political theater and less on practical results. He's quick to blame Republicans for nearly anything, but reluctant to admit that any of his policies could be responsible for the economic malaise that has settled over the country.

You won't hear him talk about the fallout of his signature health care law: soaring premiums, dropped coverage and full-time jobs transforming into part-time jobs. Nor will you hear him talk about the medical device companies laying off workers and canceling plans for new factories as they buckle under the weight of Obamacare's taxes.

You won't hear him talk about the thousands of well-paying jobs he's withholding from Americans by refusing to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, nor will he acknowledge the burdens of his regulatory regime that are sapping billions of dollars from American businesses.

And you certainly won't hear him talk about the trillion-dollar stimulus package of 2009, which the White House told the American people would bring the unemployment rate down to 5 percent by 2014. That turned out to be about as true as: "If you like your healthcare plan, you can keep it."

In fact, you won't hear President Obama talk much at all about the responsibility he bears for the state of the economy.

Nevertheless, these are the realities of the Obama economy, and the results are tragic: persistently high unemployment, declining incomes and a national debt that has eclipsed the total economic output of our country.

Here's another reality: If we want to reduce inequality, we need to boost economic growth. After all, incomes are always going to be unequal so long as so many people have little to no income. This is the debate that we should be having - a debate over how to create jobs and expand opportunities for all Americans. That means addressing the issues above by reversing bad policies and mending the president's broken promises.

In many ways, it means making the United States a little bit more like Texas. In Texas, we don't punish job creators with burdensome taxes and onerous regulations. We're not ashamed of our abundance of oil and natural gas, nor are we apologetic about encouraging its development.

As a result, people are flocking to our state in pursuit of good jobs and brighter futures.

There's no reason the rest of the country can't have a similarly bright future. But in order to get there, it's going to take some self-reflection on President Obama's part. He needs to stop playing the blame game and start recognizing that he doesn't have a monopoly on good ideas.

These political games may boost poll numbers, but they don't boost the prospects of millions of struggling Americans. We should all be concerned with the latter.



Cornyn: Administration Must Take IRS Scandal Seriously

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) issued the following statement expressing disappointment with the Obama Administration's handling of the IRS investigation.

"Despite an investigation that may continue for months, I am disappointed in the announcement that criminal charges have already been ruled out as a response to the IRS targeting probe.

"From the beginning, it appears that this Administration has refused to take these charges seriously. Last month, President Obama wrote off abuse from the IRS as the result of bureaucratic streamlining, and claimed to be surprised by the American people's response, saying, 'they've got a list, suddenly, everybody's outraged.'

"I was outraged, Mr. President. I was outraged on behalf of the Texans who wrote to me about targeting they experienced. I believe the FBI owes them a thorough and complete investigation before making decisions about the appropriate response.

"If they have determined that no charges are necessary, I hope the FBI will swiftly complete the investigation and present their findings. Otherwise I would request that they withhold judgment and treat this investigation with the serious attention the American people deserve."

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

Learn English! This Is America!

By Glenn Mollette

My son and I got into a taxi in Louisville, Kentucky a few nights ago. We were going to the theatre during a downpour and didn't want to arrive drenched. When the taxi driver pulled up he couldn't understand a word I was saying. I tried to explain that we were just going a few blocks away. I pointed, talked slowly and even tried to help him figure out the GPS attached to his visor. I was sensitive and kind because I know what it's like to be in a foreign country. The conversation was almost impossible.

Give me a break. He has moved to America, has a driver's license, works for a taxi company and is trying to drive people around Jefferson County, Kentucky. He did not speak much English!

Finally, I was able to understand that he had moved here from South Africa and this was his second day of working as a taxi driver. I explained to him that I had been to South Africa, loved his country and welcomed him to America. I didn't say it but I wanted to shout "Learn the English language!"

I am happy for people who come to America. He is trying to work. I wonder how many people need a job but would never consider driving a cab? My hat is off to the people who are coming to America legally and working jobs that average Americans won't work.

One big problem is that these well meaning new residents need to learn English. I realize this is tough to enforce since many Americans have trouble passing an English class.

The national language for South Africa is English. Unfortunately there are at least ten other official languages and a multitude of unofficial languages. Many people in the country never become fluent in speaking English. They are brought up to learn the language of their tribe and struggle with English throughout their lives. This scenario makes it tough for everyone to be on the same level when it comes to national communication.

I love South Africa, Mexico and a lot of other places but this is still America. Let's keep the conversation in English.

Glenn Mollette is an American columnist read in all fifty states. Contact him at GMollette@aol.com. Like his facebook page at www.facebook.com/glennmollette.

He is the author of American Issues and numerous other books.

Statement by Gov. Perry on Death of Ariel Sharon

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry today issued the following statement regarding the death of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon:

"Ariel Sharon was a proud and strong defender of the nation of Israel, an uncompromising patriot who faced down the multiple enemies surrounding his young country with selfless determination and unflinching courage. We stand with the Israeli people as they mourn his passing. Anita joins me in sending our prayers and sympathies to Sharon's friends and family, as well as everyone ever inspired by his courageous example of love of country."





Howe Elementary January Students of the Month

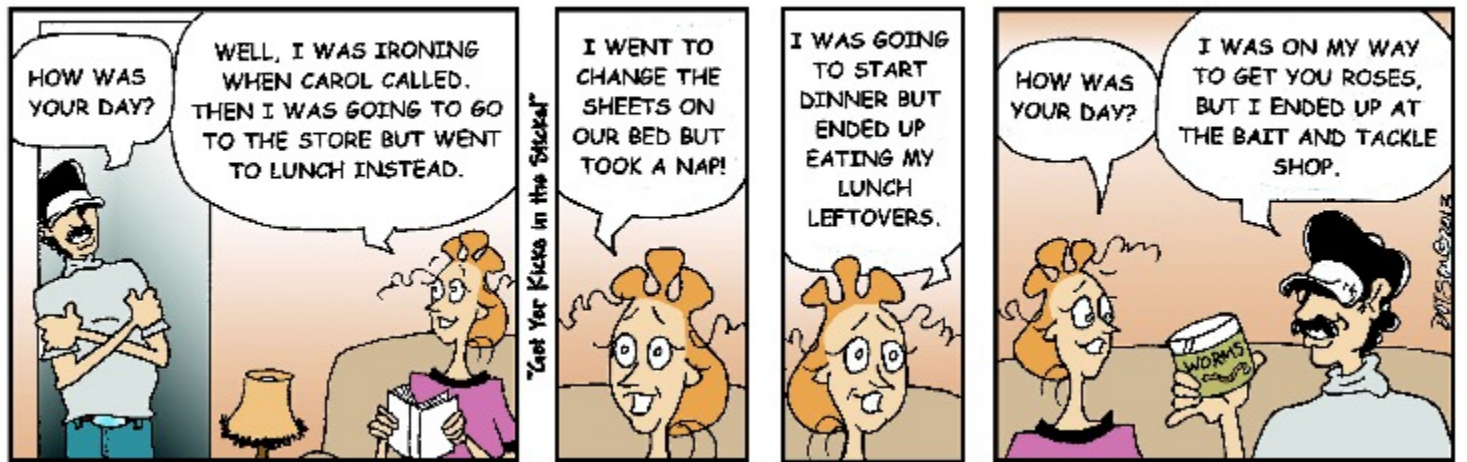
1st Row: Gage Carr; 2nd Row: Cameron Pugh, Haley Richardson, Mia Wilson, Eduardo Gonzales; 3rd Row: Yair Ayala, Alyssa Sharp, Madison Morrow, Ryan Murphy; Not Pictured: Syren Eaton



Humor

OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

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Mountain Tech Talk

1. LOG ON: Makin a wood stove hotter.
2. LOG OFF: Don't add no more wood.
3. MONITOR: Keepin an eye on the wood stove.
4. DOWNLOAD: Gettin the farwood off the truk.
5. MEGA HERTZ: When yer not kerful gettin the farwood.
6. FLOPPY DISC: Whatcha git from tryin to carry too much farwood.
7. RAM: That thar thing whut splits the farwood.
8. HARD DRIVE: Gettin home in the winter time.
9. PROMPT: Whut the mail ain't in the winter time.
10. WINDOWS: Whut to shut wen it's cold outside.
11. SCREEN: Whut to shut wen it's blak fly season.
12. BYTE: Whut them dang flys do.
13. CHIP: Munchies fer the TV.
14. MICRO CHIP: Whut's in the bottom of the munchie bag.
15. MODEM: Whut cha did to the hay fields.
16. DOT MATRIX: Old Dan Matrix's wife.
17. LAP TOP: Whar the kitty sleeps.
18. KEYBOARD: Whar ya hang the dang keys.
19. SOFTWARE: Them dang plastic forks and knifs.
20. MOUSE: Whut eats the grain in the barn.
21. MAINFRAME: Holds up the barn roof.
22. PORT: Fancy Flatlander wine
23. ENTER: Northerner talk fer "C'mon in y'all"
24. RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY: Wen ya cain't 'member whut ya paid fer the rifle when yore wife asks.
25. MOUSE PAD: That hippie talk fer the rat hole.



LET'S REMINISCE: HOW A SPECIES BECAME EXTINCT

By Jerry Lincecum

Recently I have read about a number of animal species making a comeback from being at risk of extinction. The Gray Wolf, for example, has gone from only a few scattered survivors in 1995 to a population of 1,000. The Whooping Crane is another endangered species slowly making a comeback.

In contrast, consider the Passenger Pigeon, a bird native to North America that went from numbering billions in the 19th century to becoming extinct in 1914, a century later. At their peak the numbers and behavior of these birds (similar in size to a rock pigeon) was astonishing. A single flock was estimated to contain more than two billion individuals. Here's the way a flight over Columbus, Ohio, was described in 1855:

"As the watchers stared, the humming sound increased to a mighty throbbing. Now everyone was out of the houses and stores, looking apprehensively at the growing cloud, which was blotting out the rays of the sun. Children screamed and ran for home. Horses bolted. A few people mumbled frightened words about the apocalypse, and several dropped on their knees to pray."

Foraging like giant grasshoppers, the birds were voracious eaters, with a hinged jaw that enabled them to swallow large acorns whole. In their wake they left behind denuded fields and ravaged woods.

A major concern in Texas was their consumption of the "mast" of oak acorns that early settlers depended on to fatten their free-ranging hogs in the fall. Thus arrival of the pigeons gave rise to considerable anxiety. In 1872, pigeons were consuming the mast in Cherokee and Madison counties. During 1874 Grayson, Houston, Smith, and Titus counties were affected.

Observers in East Texas wrote that the roosts of Passenger Pigeons often contained millions of birds and their evening arrival in vast numbers presented an almost indescribable spectacle. The combined weight of the enormous numbers of birds often broke even the stoutest branches, leaving trees stripped of limbs and foliage as if a tornado had passed.

Smaller trees and saplings were sometimes crushed to the ground and broken off at the roots. Their droppings, which accumulated to depths of a foot or more at roosts such as the one on Wolf Creek north of Palestine, completed the devastation by killing off all ground level vegetation.

While living in Columbus, Mississippi, my ancestor Dr. Gideon Lincecum visited and explored a breeding colony of Passenger Pigeons in 1832. It occupied thirty square miles, and every twig, leaf and scrap of trash had been gathered to make up the nests. He commented on the huge appetites of the squabs and the way their parents could vomit up food for them.

Speaking of appetite, it was man's taste for pigeon meat that wiped out the species. They were too easy to capture and eat. "Big Bread" was the name given them by one Indian tribe, and the arrival of a flock was always the occasion for a feast. By 1910 there was only a single pair of Passenger Pigeons in the Cincinnati zoo, given the patriotic names "George and Martha Washington." When Martha died on Sept. 1, 1914, the species was extinct.

-30-

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



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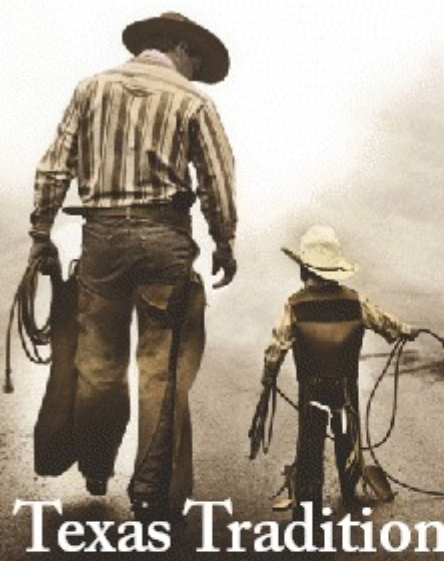
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Clam Chowder

3 (6.5 ounce) cans minced clams
1 cup minced onion
1 cup diced celery
2 cups cubed potatoes
1 cup diced carrots
3/4 cup butter
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 quart half-and-half cream
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
ground black pepper to taste

Drain juice from clams into a large skillet over the onions, celery, potatoes and carrots. Add water to cover, and cook over medium heat until tender.

Meanwhile, in a large, heavy saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Whisk in flour until smooth. Whisk in cream and stir constantly until thick and smooth. Stir in vegetables and clam juice. Heat through, but do not boil.

Stir in clams just before serving. If they cook too much they get tough. When clams are heated through, stir in vinegar, and season with salt and pepper.

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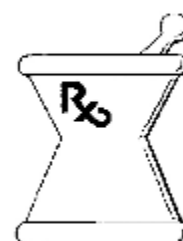
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"A/B" HONOR ROLL: Kelsi Achimon, Hayley Adcock, Mariah Adcock, Kaycee Alexander, Dylan Ashlock, Annie Bailey, Triston Bannister, Megan Barron, Anna Battles, Hailey Behrend, Breeanna Benson, Amber Blasingame, Noah Boyd, Katelin Britton, Dwayne Bruce, Caitlin Capps, Paige Carter, Ashlie Cass, Samantha Chapman, Randi Cole, Danielle Dean, Madison DeBerry, Haley Dodson, Nicole Dudley, Xiomara Diaz, David Dickison, Sierra Edwards, Emily Ellis, Kristian Enbysk, Tripp Fritts, Lexis Fuller, Jordan Gardner, Tyler Goff, Abigail Gross, Kelli Gross, Shelby Harris, Taylor Haston, Caroline Henderson, Alex Hendry, Sasha Hopper, Alexis Jones, Katie Jones, Lillian Jones, Payton Jones, Sydnee Kane-Rolen, Garrett Morris, Kaleb Patterson, Ben Peeples, Meredith Pennell, Bradley Presson, Carrington Robinson, Devan Rose, Ashlyn Royal, Desirea Salazar, Madison Shehan, Brok Shields, Cheyenne Shipp, Ashley Shrum, Courtney Smith, Madison Smith, Clayton Stephens, Macey Stephens, Haley Stofa, Isabel Tormos, Gray Trentman, Kelsey Ulmer, Taylor Van Norman, Caylan Vickers, Morgan Walker, Kristen West, Lane Williams, Lee Winslett

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**COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION IMPROVES IN LATEST
EVALUATION BY INSURANCE-INDUSTRY ADVISORY FIRM**

TOM BEAN, TEXAS, January 15, 2014, — The fire-protection services of Tom Bean, as rated by an insurance industry advisory company, has improved to **Class 5** from a **Class 8**, the city announced today. The classification by Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), known as the Public Protection Classification (PPC) program, assesses the fire-protection efforts in a particular community. Mayor Sherry E. Howard, TBVFD Chief James Dixon, TBVFD Assistant Chief Jason Lankford, TBVFD member Robert Dixon, and Public Works Supervisor Kenneth Ramsey met with the ISO representatives back in January 2012 to start the reevaluation process since the last evaluation was done back in 1995. This will affect most every home and business within five road miles from either the Fire Station and within 1000' of a fire hydrant. The PPC for those residents outside these two criteria will remain a Class 9.

“Our ability to improve our PPC classification was positively influenced by our increase in training activities, handling and receiving fire alarms, staffing and additional equipment,” said TBVFD Chief James Dixon. “The City increased the volume of the water supply which also added to the improvement for the evaluation and with this improved rating, it is expected that qualifying homeowners could see around 12%-13% reduction in their insurance premiums starting in March 2014.” said Mayor Sherry E. Howard.

ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data using its Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The company then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

By classifying communities' ability to suppress fires, ISO helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. And by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services.

ISO is a leading source of information, products and services about property and liability risk. ISO provides statistical, actuarial, underwriting, claims, and related information and analyses to insurers, reinsurers, agents, insurance regulators, and other government agencies. For more information, visit the ISO mitigation website at www.isomitigation.com.

