

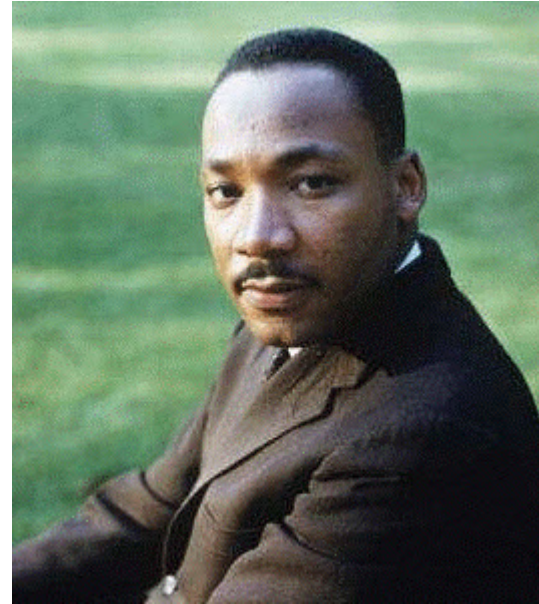
Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

January 5, 2012



Tom Bean Basketball



MLK Breakfast



**Clayton
Odom
Obit**



**Church
News**

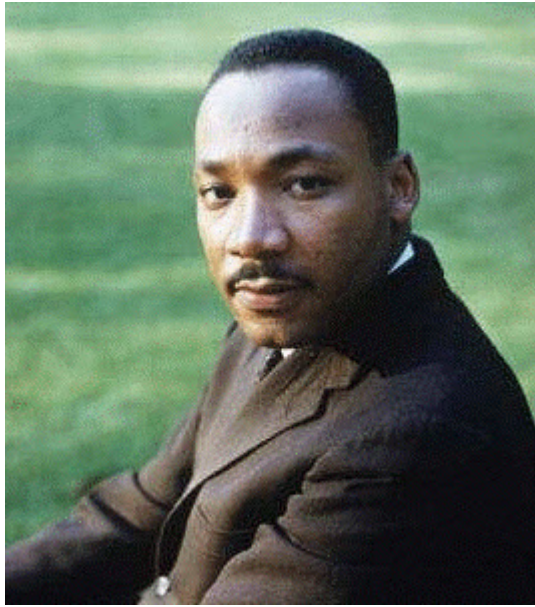


Hagerman



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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GCC SBDC Offers Tips for Selling on eBay

Learn the basics of selling on eBay by attending “Someone Else’s Treasure (Selling on eBay).” The class is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012 from 1:30-4:30 at Grayson County College. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Denison Chamber of Commerce and Sherman Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring the event.

“Many small business owners, particularly those located in small towns and rural areas find that selling on eBay is a great way to reach new buyers, clear returned merchandise and reduce excess inventory, which is why the SBDC and area chambers are interested in sponsoring this class,” explained Dr. Karen Stidham, director of the SBDC at GCC. “Of course others just want to learn the process for personal use and they are welcome to attend also,” continued Dr. Stidham.

The trainer for the program will be Astrid Gulley of Dallas. Ms. Gulley is a former SBDC counselor, experienced trainer and owner of a small business. She has presented this program in other locations with great success. Topics she will cover include basic steps for beginners such as setting up an account, preparing the actual listing, payment methods and shipping of items sold via eBay.

Those wishing to register for the class or secure additional information should call the SBDC office at 903-463-8787 or e-mail <<mailto:jeffcoatsh@grayson.edu>> jeffcoatsh@grayson.edu. A fee of \$29, which covers the cost of the class and all student materials, is due prior to the class date.

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<<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

Back in the good old days of the 1950's, when I was a kid, there were dozens of cowboy shows on TV.

Kids of that era followed the exploits of Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. There were others who came along a little later such as the Lone Ranger, Maverick, Cheyenne and many more.

RFD TV is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Roy Rogers' birth with the replay of many of his 30 minute and 60 minute programs or movies. Earlier this week my husband and I watched *Don't Fence Me In* which also starred Dale Evans (Roy's wife) and Gabby Hayes.

I remember how much my sister and I enjoyed the antics of Gabby Hayes. He was the comic relief as they called it back then.

I still like to see cowboy movies. John Wayne movies rank on the top of my list: *The Searchers*, *Red River*, and *The Sons of Katie Elder* come in my favorite John Wayne movies.

Spinach and Berries Salad with Dill

Ingredients for Salad Dressing: 1/2 cup olive oil; 1/4 cup red wine vinegar; 1/4 cup sugar; 2 garlic cloves, crushed; 1/4 teaspoon salt; 1/4 teaspoon pepper; 1/4 teaspoon dry mustard; 1/4 teaspoon onion powder

Ingredients for Salad: 1 cup slivered almonds; 1 pound baby spinach leaves, trimmed; 1 pound baby butterhead lettuce; 1 bunch green onions, chopped; 1/2 pint fresh strawberries, sliced; 1/2 pint fresh raspberries; 1/2 pint fresh blueberries; 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill weed

For the vinaigrette, combine the olive oil, vinegar, sugar, garlic, salt, pepper, dry mustard and onion powder in a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Shake to mix. Chill until serving time.

For the salad, spread the almonds on a baking sheet. Toast at 350 degrees for 5 to 7 minutes or until golden brown, stirring after 3 to 4 minutes. Let stand until cool. Toss the almonds, spinach, lettuce, green onions, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and dill weed in a large salad bowl. Add the vinaigrette just before serving and toss to coat.

Note: To remove berry stains, rub them with a wedge of lemon.



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Howe Students Qualify for Regional Band

Howe Middle School and High School students recently competed for spots in the Regional Bands. The students are selected through an audition process. Many of the students begin practicing during the summer because of the difficulty of the music and busy fall schedules. The earlier the start, the better their chances for making one of the top bands. The members of the symphonic band are the top players in the region. They ranked the highest in the scoring of their audition. The concert band is the next highest ranked musicians.

Students selected will be participating in a clinic/concert to be held at Prosper High School the weekend of January 13-14, 2012. Students will start off with seating in each band and rehearsals on Friday afternoon followed by an all morning rehearsal on Saturday. Students will then rehearse briefly Saturday afternoon and with a performance that afternoon. The concert will start with the middle school concert band followed by the middle school symphonic band. Next will be the high school concert band and conclude with the high school symphonic band. The first concert will start at 4 pm with all other concerts to follow.

Middle School students competed on December 2 at Leonard HS. Students that were selected for the Symphonic Band include: Jessica Robison, Jessica Doty, Kaylee Dwyer, and Darci Foster - clarinet, Sofia Roberts - bass clarinet, and Airianna Smith - trumpet. Those making the Concert Band include: Holly Cowin - flute, Clara Shearer - clarinet, Lindsey Krueger - french horn, Hunter Morrow - tuba.

High School students auditioned on December 5 at Whitesboro HS. Those qualifying for the Symphonic Band include: Karlie Niehus - flute, Katie Niehus and Katie Hogenson - clarinet, Kristin Ross - tenor trombone, Dylan Guthrie - percussion. Those making the Concert band include: Billy Roberts and Travis Fulton - tuba.

Katie Niehus, Kristen Ross, and Dylan Guthrie earned top chairs in the high school Symphonic Band. With top chair placements, they are eligible to compete in the area audition at Argyle High School the first weekend in January for a spot in the 2012 Association of Texas Small School Bands All-State Band.

Howe ES/MS Menus

Jan. 9-13

Breakfast

Monday – Cinnamon roll, cereal/toast, Shamrock pears, apple juice

Tuesday – Sopapilla, cereal/toast, rosy applesauce, orange juice

Wednesday – Breakfast burrito, cereal/toast, graham crackers w/yogurt, spiced apples, grape juice

Thursday – Breakfast pizza, cereal/toast, diced peaches, orange juice

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

Lunch

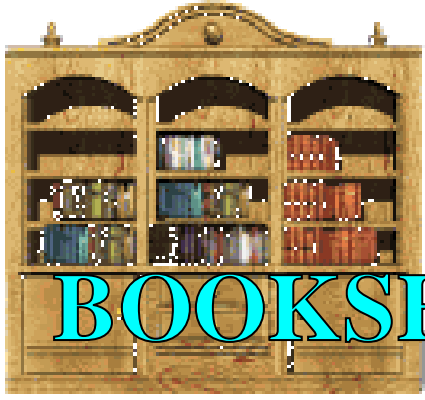
Monday – Hamburger or corn dog, burger fixins, potato rounds, baked beans, Shamrock pears, vanilla pudding

Tuesday – Beef fingers or turkey, mashed potatoes, country gravy, green peas, hot roll, rosy applesauce, orange sherbet

Wednesday – Chicken sandwich or cheese sandwich, pinto beans, carrot & celery sticks, spiced apples, rice krispy treat

Thursday – Pepperoni pizza or spaghetti/w/meat sauce, garden salad, broccoli w/cheese, diced peaches, Texas toast, frozen fruit bar

Friday – Beef & cheese nachos or burrito, cheese sauce, steamed corn, fruit cocktail, Spanish rice,



BOOKSHELF

By Tracy Luscombe

Bedtime stories at the Library! New for 2012 will be a short bedtime story for the whole family on Thursday nights at 7 pm. Come in your pajamas if you want and bring that special bedtime blanket or toy. We'll read a nice story, or two, to you and then send you home to tuck the kiddos safely into bed. This new program starts January 12.

By the time you read this article Christmas will be past and we'll be headed quickly toward 2012. Seems only yesterday we were frightened about computer crashes and mass chaos coming as we came up to January 1, 2000. Thankfully there was no chaos and here we are 12 years later thinking about new year's resolutions once again. This is where your library can help. Resolve to come get a library card – it's free. Then borrow books, movies, music, or surf the web. Here are a few new titles: *Guinness World Record Book 2012*, *Catherine the Great* by Robert K. Massie, *Knitting Stitches Visual Encyclopedia*, *V is for Vengeance* by Sue Grafton.

Some of you may have gotten e-readers for Christmas. Many of you have asked if we'll be adding downloadable e-books to our collection. The answer is - I sure hope so. There is one company that dominates the market on these books, and one newcomer on the scene. Both companies are quoting us a starting price of about \$2000, of which two-thirds of that actually goes to the price of the books. If you figure the average cost of an e-book is \$28 we could get about 50 books. The companies require a minimum 3-year commitment. This is actually for just borrowing the books. When/if we ever leave that service the titles we have paid for in the past go away. Like any library book, e-books can only be used by one reader at a time, and they are checked out to that reader, in a virtual world, for a limited time. Unlike the print book, they cannot be renewed. I have my own e-reader and find it conveniently lightweight to carry. However, I also know that it has a battery that has to be recharged so I make sure I have the print books in my life too.

The Book Club selection for January is *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. We own a regular print and a large print copy of this title. The group will meet for a brown bag lunch on Monday, January 16 at noon at the library. Hope you'll join us.

Have a safe and happy New Year's Eve. Hope to see you around the Van Alstyne Public Library.





Lady Cats

The Lady Cats played in the Ector Tournament over the holidays, we played Savoy first and came up with a lost (73-39), then played Rivercrest JV winning (61-16), and winning the Consolation game against Blue Ridge (49-42). Katie Jones was named to the All Tournament.

Last night (Jan 3) we played in Bells, 1st QTR we were behind 8-21, then came back in the 2nd and the score was 27-29 at the half, but we fail short at the end losing 67-46. Amber Davis, Katie Jones, Ashley Selman all had 10 points each, Sarah Langford had 6, Raechel VanHorn and Sarah Henderson had 4 each. Alex Hendry had 2 points. We play Friday here against Gunter at 6:30. Our record is 8-11.

Katie Jones, right



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 School Board Meeting for December

The Board of Trustees of the Tom Bean Independent School District held the regular monthly board meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2011. President, Jimmy Jones called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Shane Pennell led the invocation.

The minutes of November 28, 2011 along with the Financial Reports were approved as presented.

Student of the Month recognition and plaques were presented to the recipients from each campus. Teachers selected the candidates based on their attitude, behavior, and character. The recipients included: Jack Lifsey (EL); Mary Cox (MS); and Sarah Henderson (HS).

John Orozco gave the Adequate Yearly Report (AYP) for 2011. Two campuses made AYP while one did not meet the AYP requirements. The Tom Bean District did meet the requirements of AYP.

The regular scheduled January board meeting was moved from January 16, 2012 to January 23, 2012 because of a holiday.

The Board of Trustees of Tom Bean ISD approved the Superintendent's Evaluation Form.

The Board of Trustees also approved the Policy Update 92 concerning the local policies DFAA, DFFB, and DFFC.

The replacement of the high school ceiling in the gym was recommended and approved as presented.

Kathy Garrison, Superintendent





Clayton Odom (1920-2012)

SHERMAN - Thomas Clayton Odom, was born August 20, 1920, at Howe, the only son of Clarence and Victoria Clayton Odom. He passed from this life Monday, January 2, 2012, at Texas Health Presbyterian-WNJ, Sherman.

Graveside services will be held at 2 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012, at West Hill Cemetery in Sherman. Joe Ed Furr of Western Heights Church of Christ will officiate.

After graduation from Sherman High School, Clayton attended Austin College and Texas Christian University. He married Norma Gene Ball Sept. 11, 1948, at Tom Bean. He retired from the Frisco Railroad after 40 years, rising from the position of fireman to locomotive engineer. A U.S. Army veteran, he served in the Philippines during World War II. He was a member of the Western Heights Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Norma Gene Odom of Sherman; grandson and wife, Scott Clayton and Yasmin Elizabeth Odom of Arlington; daughter-in-law, Karen Odom of Arlington; sister-in-law, Eddy Hall of Henderson; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, John and Joan Ball of Sherman; several cousins and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Tommy Clayton Odom, who died in 2007; two brothers-in-law, Ray Hall and Russell Ball; and a sister-in-law, Mary Lou Ball.

Descended from the Haning family who were members of the Peters Colony on his father's side and the Clayton family who were among the earliest settlers in the White Mound, Jamison, Celtic and Cannon Communities on his mother's side, he was proud of his ancestry. One of his Haning ancestors gave the land for the City of Howe.

Clayton loved to travel and after his retirement he and his wife did a lot of roaming in their travel trailer and became "snowbirds" in the Rio Grande Valley during many winters. He was interested in the welfare of others and continued to inquire about friends and acquaintances after his own health began to fail. A consummate story teller he will long be remembered by those who knew him well.

Arrangements are under the direction of Waldo Funeral Home in Sherman.



Self-Therapy for the Stutterer

Self-Therapy for the Stutterer is the classic self-help guide by the founder of The Stuttering Foundation. It is written to and for the many adults and teens who stutter. The book is available at most public libraries. If you stutter, you do not need to surrender to your speech difficulty because you can change the way you talk. You can learn to communicate with ease rather than with effort. There is no quick and easy way to tackle the problem, but with the right approach, self-therapy can be effective.

This book outlines a self-therapy program which describes what the person who stutters can do to work towards better communication. It is often used as a supplement to speech therapy. A timely feature on page 164 is information about King George VI and how inspirational his speeches were during WWII as depicted in the movie, *The King's Speech*.

Writes Charles Van Riper, Ph.D., about this book: "There are always some who stutter who are unable to get professional help and others who do not seem to be able to profit from it. There are some who prefer to be their own therapist. In this book, Malcolm Fraser has provided guidance for those who must help themselves. Knowing well from his own experience as a stutterer the difficulties of self-therapy, he outlines a series of objectives and challenges that should serve as a map for the person who is lost in the dismal swamp of stuttering and wants to find a way out."

The book is available free to all public libraries. If your library doesn't have it, ask them to contact the Stuttering Foundation toll-free at 800-992-9392 for a copy.

Note: This book was offered to all the public libraries in Grayson County. Here is the list of the libraries that received the free book and agreed to shelve it:

Howe Community Library; Howe, TX
Pottsboro Area Public Library; Pottsboro, TX
Sherman Public Library; Sherman, TX
Van Alstyne Public Library; Van Alstyne, TX



Paris District Announcement

TxDOT announces the appointment of Bradley L. Martin, P.E. as the Paris District's Director of Construction effective January 1, 2012. Brad has spent his entire 23 year TxDOT career in the Paris District. A native of Sulphur Springs, Texas, Brad graduated from Texas A&M University in December 1988 with a BS degree in civil engineering. He worked one summer with TxDOT in 1988 at the Greenville Area Office prior to graduation. Upon graduation, he began work in the Bonham Area Office as an Engineering Assistant.

In 1994, Brad moved to the Sulphur Springs Area Office where he served as Assistant Area Engineer until May 2009. At that time, the Sulphur Springs Area Office was merged with the Greenville Area Office where Brad continuing serving as Assistant Area Engineer. Brad was promoted to his current position as Paris Area Engineer in November 2009 with responsibility for Lamar, Delta and Red River Counties. In August 2010, Hopkins and Franklin Counties were added to the Paris Area Office.

Brad and his wife, Kristen, have three daughters, Abbey (13) and twins Emily and Mallory (16). In his spare time, he enjoys raising cattle and attending his children's many activities. Brad and his family reside in Hopkins County.



[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.



Ron Varley named Hagerman 'Photographer of the Month'

The photo above taken at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge by Ron Varley is one of 12 of his works being featured at the Friends of Hagerman website. Varley has been selected as the refuge's January "Photographer of the Month."

Retired airline pilot Ron Varley has been named as the January "Photographer of the Month" by the Friends of Hagerman. Twelve of Varley's photos taken at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge will be featured at www.friendsofhagerman.com/Gallery for the next month.

Varley is a member of the Friends board of directors and of the Nature Photo Club. He says, "I have been involved in photography as an interest and subsequent hobby since age 8. My first camera was a Kodak Hawkeye Brownie. This was followed by a couple other point and shoot film cameras, such as the Kodak Instamatic. My dad was instrumental in interesting me in photography and I used to help him develop black and white photos in his home darkroom. I bought my first 35mm SLR, a Mamiya/Sekor DLT1000 while stationed in Vietnam and learned how to develop slide transparencies at the base photo hobby shop."

With the advent of digital photography, Varley expanded his photo hobby to include underwater photography to complement his scuba diving hobby. This experience led him to switch totally to the digital medium. He used several

point and shoot digital cameras before buying his first DSLR, a Canon 50D with an EF 24-70 lens, as a retirement present to himself in early 2009. Since then, he has acquired a Canon 5D as well as additional lenses, filters and other gear.

Over the years, most of Varley's photography has been family pictures and vacation-related photography with emphasis on landscapes. These photos were then organized into albums by his wife. After the switch to digital, the album routine gave way to slide shows put to music and burned on a DVD. Since acquiring DSLR cameras, he has started printing his own photos and sharing them with his family and friends. He has also expanded his photography to include panorama and high definition resolution (HDR) photography.

Recently, Varley has started trying nature photography. He says, "I find it very challenging as here things move and you cannot always get the composition you want. I find Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge a very good place to work on nature photography."

Hagerman NWR is located at 6465 Refuge Road in Sherman. Photographers interested in learning more about Hagerman are welcome to attend photo club meetings at the Refuge, held bimonthly. The next meeting will be at 12:30 pm on Jan. 14. In addition, a Guide to Hagerman NWR for Photographers is available on the Friends website.



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Babe Ruth in East Texas

By Bob Bowman

Imagine, if you can, baseball slugger Babe Ruth walking around a field and shoveling cow manure.

In 1923, Ruth joined fellow baseball players for a series of exhibition games in Texas, including three which were played at Corrigan, 22 miles north of Livingston, in a pasture owned by Mrs. P.B. Maxey.

Corrigan was chosen, according to a story in the *Corrigan Times*, because it had railroad transportation, hotels, saloons and other amenities for the players. It was also a convenient midway point between other towns.

Mrs. Maxey's field was chosen because it was one of the few open areas in town. When promoters of the games offered to rent the field, Mrs. Maxey refused payment, asking only that her family be allowed free admission.

Other baseball fans watched the games from wooden bleachers, which accommodated about thirty people, or stood around the infield.

At the time of Babe Ruth's exhibition games, cows, sheep and other livestock were allowed to run free and before each game members of the teams cleared the field of manure.

Nell Braziell, of Corrigan, then the sixteen-year-old granddaughter of Mrs. Maxey, remembered seeing three games. "I didn't pay much attention to Babe Ruth. He was just another big, husky guy but I thought he was a good player," said Nell.



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Dot's

D-A-S-H-E-S



By Dorothy N. Fowler

A friend who is a retired teacher sent this to me several months ago.

"Last week I purchased a burger at Burger King for \$1.58. The counter girl took my \$2 and I was digging for my change when I pulled 8 cents from my pocket and gave it to her. She stood there, holding the nickel and 3 pennies, while looking at the screen on her register. I sensed her discomfort and tried to tell her to just give me two quarters, but she hailed the manager for help. Why do I tell you this?"

Because of the evolution in teaching math since the 1950s:

1. Teaching Math In 1950s: A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100... His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price. What is his profit?

2. Teaching Math In 1960s: A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price, or \$80. What is his profit?

3. Teaching Math In 1970s: A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80. Did he make a profit?

4. Teaching Math In 1980s: A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80 and his profit is \$20. Your assignment: Underline the number 20.

5. Teaching Math In 1990s: A logger cuts down a beautiful forest because he is selfish and inconsiderate and cares nothing for the habitat of animals or the preservation of our woodlands. He does this so he can make a profit of \$20. What do you think of this way of making a living? Topic for class participation after answering the question: How did the birds and squirrels feel as the logger cut down their homes? (There are no wrong answers, and if you feel like crying, it's ok.)

6. Teaching Math In 2000s: If you have special needs or just feel you need assistance because of race, color, religion, sex, age, childhood memories, or criminal background, then don't answer and the correct answer will be provided for you. There are no wrong answers."

Obviously this progression is a little overblown, but maybe not by much. A couple of years ago, I discovered quite by accident that scientific notation has changed. I was confident that 2 with a small 2 just to the top and right meant 2×2 .

It does still mean that, but in another context it can mean something else. While I am not sure exactly what it means in that other context, I am sure of this: When I took a sheet of paper with the number 3 on it, followed by a smaller 3 to the right and at the top of the big 3 to several different elementary teachers, none of



BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

After his games in Corrigan, and his ensuring fame with the New York Yankees, Ruth's career was watched closely by Nell. Each time she found a newspaper story about the legendary hitter, she clipped it and stored it away.

On the days of the exhibition games, early automobiles lined the road leading to the Maxey pasture. Those who did not have a car would come afoot or ride horses, which were tied to trees around the field.

While most of the baseball players arrived by train, Ruth may have driven his own car, a black Moon manufactured in the 1920s. Ruth bought the car for \$2,350 with a grill attachment reading, "San Antonio," a gift from San Antonio Mayor John Tobin.

Ruth's career was a legend in its infancy in the 1920s and he went on to build a home record that stood until 2006 when it was broken by Barry Bonds.

Meanwhile, another link to Babe Ruth's visit to Corrigan exists in Polk County. Greg Ogletree of Livingston bought the slugger's black Moon vehicle in 1975 and still owned it in 2006.

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



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Dot's Dashes, continued

them knew what that small three meant, not even in the old context, when it meant 3 x 3 x 3.

I am the first to admit to being math challenged, a condition caused by the excessive interest in quick computation instead of accurate computation when I was in elementary school. I did earn high school credits in Algebra I and Algebra II and earned the highest grade Nell Taliaferro gave in her geometry class. I loved geometry. Mrs. Taliaferro wanted me to retake Algebra II with her as my teacher because she was convinced she could help me understand it. I wish now that I had taken her up on it.

Instead, I waited until after I had earned my Master's Degree and then went to Odessa College to take college algebra for the second time (I passed the first time but didn't understand anything about it). This second time I had a great teacher, Thomas Slater, who understood what he was teaching well enough to teach it.

Everyone who knows me knows I am generally an enthusiastic supporter of teachers, but I fail to understand how anyone can teach what he or she does not know. Even if all you are doing is reading a prepared script, as some approved curricula now requires, you need to understand what it is saying so you can work the problems yourself and answer questions.

One of my sustained battles with the last principal at Permian High School before I retired was my contention that he in particular -- and the current "teacher appraisal" system in general, -- emphasizes teaching technique instead of the teacher's knowledge base. In a fast moving world -- where even scientific notation is subject to change without notice -- teachers need to be constantly learning, not how to entertain or keep students happy or build their self-esteem, but actual subject matter to teach.

That's what in-service days ought to be about, a series of "Did you know what words were added to the dictionary this year?" "Have you heard about the Supreme Court's decision about money in political campaigns?" "Do you know why Pluto was downgraded?" The peripheral information in gathering the answers to those questions makes whole units of potential learning.

Those things are worth knowing and kids will recognize them. It won't matter a bit whether they are right brained or left brained or the room is painted green or pink or the aroma in the room is menthol or dirty tennis shoes when the subject matter has substance and the teacher who is presenting it is a person with substantive knowledge.



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 Election and the House Committee on Energy Resources. 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 Elections

*Examine the benefits and risks of using mobile voting stations in Texas.

*Examine ways to more clearly define a residence address for voter registration purposes, giving special consideration to college-age students.

*Monitor the implementation and impact of the MOVE Act on the state and on municipalities. Make legislative recommendations, as needed, to ensure a smooth implementation of the law. (Joint with the House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs)

House Committee on Energy Resources

*Review current state and federal laws and regulations and make recommendations to encourage additional energy production in Texas. Focus on the impact energy production has on our state's economy.

*Examine state regulations governing oil and gas well construction and integrity and pipeline safety and construction and determine what changes should be made, if any, to ensure that the regulations are adequate to protect the people of Texas and its natural resources.

*Study and make recommendations on the current process for the submission of well logs to the state by oil and gas operators. Specifically, identify changes that could be made in statute or agency administrative rules that would result in increased production through a more efficient system of collecting well logs.

The House Committee on Elections can be reached at 512-463-0772, and the House Committee on Energy Resources can be reached at 512-463-0774. 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

They pray for deliverance

55 I called upon thy name, O Lord, out of the low dungeon. 56 Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry. 57 Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not. 58 O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life. 59 O Lord, thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause. 60 Thou hast seen all their vengeance and all their imaginations against me. 61 Thou hast heard their reproach, O Lord, and all their imaginations against me; 62 The lips of those that rose up against me, and their device against me all the day. 63 Behold their sitting down, and their rising up; I am their musick. 64 Render unto them a recompence, O Lord, according to the work of their hands. 65 Give them sorrow of heart, thy curse unto them. 66 Persecute and destroy them in anger from under the heavens of the Lord.

Lam 3:55-66 (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 Palmer Miller. 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 6:30 pm at the church building.

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

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.

A Party To Die For

By Willie Sofey

January 01, 2012 A.D.

Yes, we are somewhat past the times of 2011 and entering into the new year of 2012. For the rich and famous and want-to-be, high society seekers and such, it is not such a grand time, beginning a new year.

Many are sad that the frivolity of the holidays are past. What joy there was in the partying and social gatherings that were



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>.

attended, and a sort of sadness on the must attend social events we were not invited to.

However bleak this New Year is starting out to be, with the settling in of working and taking care of business and such, there is always the looking forward to the next best social event to attend. However, to get that special invite that was not received last year, it is going to require some planning. You know what I mean, we are going to have to do a little hob-nobbing ourselves. Perhaps to throw a little party ourselves would be in order. Perhaps even seek out a membership to a social club or country club where these



click for **more Church News**

Local Churches

A Party To Die For, continued

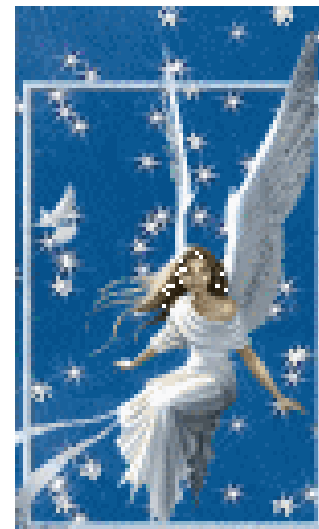
Duane Peters,
903-815-2278
PILOT GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH
1271 Pilot Grove St.
903/450-3708
Sherman/Denison
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER
DAY SAINTS
1900 Lamberth Rd, Sherman.
FRIENDSHIP UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
RFD 2 off Hwy. 56; 903/892-8450
WESTERN HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST
800 Baker Park Dr.,
903/892-9635, 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

elite hang out, even start attending the church where these folks attend might be in order.

The richest person around has invited us all to the grandest party of all, and yes, it is that party to die for. I'm talking about that upcoming Wedding Party and Feast that Jesus Christ has invited us all to. And yes, we will have to die to ourselves and live for Him to be invited to this party.

The nice thing about this party is we don't have to worry about being shunned or overlooked when the invitations are being made out, like when our so-called friends or relatives fail to include us in their social circle.

King Jesus has invited all mankind to attend His party and all we have to do is accept Him and His invitation. Thanks, Jesus, for inviting me to the Party-To-Die-For.



[Back to first page of Church News](#)



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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.



Letter to the Editor

Regarding Rick Santorum's near victory in Iowa:

U.S. Republican presidential nominee Rick Santorum's near victory in Iowa signals a huge victory for America. It indicates that she is on the road to moral recovery.

The U.S. is experiencing a serious crisis of morality. It lacks strong political and moral leadership. The only candidate seriously capable of altering this sad state of affairs and re-establishing America as a nation in touch with its democratic roots and moral foundation is Rick Santorum. He is militantly pro-life, morally consistent and politically courageous.

Santorum once stated: "America is first and foremost a moral enterprise that will not remain free without a good strong moral compass." When morality disappears, when men begin treating

each other as mere commodities through the practice of contraception, abortion, genetic manipulation, and homosexual marriage, then everything else, including the economy, falters.

President Obama promised Americans great things. He challenged the people to have "The Audacity of hope" and put their faith in his anti-life, anti-family policies. In return he brought economic and moral despair to the people.

Americans are now bursting at the seams to have a leader in whom they can believe and who, in turn, believes in them and the country. That man is Rick Santorum.

With respectful and cordial best wishes I remain,
Sincerely yours,
Paul Kokoski,
Hamilton, Ontario. Canada



Fearless ag predictions for 2012

By Mike Barnett

2011 was a tough year for Texas farmers and ranchers. Will this year be any better? Here are my fearless ag predictions for 2012.

January: Oscar Mayer names Anthony Weiner as chief spokesperson.

February: Local food movement suffers disenchantment as Minneapolis residents discover vegetables don't grow in snow.

March: Rain in Texas. Widespread and plentiful.

April: 2012 Texas primaries cancelled as courts still cannot reach consensus on redistricting lines.

May: Beef consumption surges as BOLD new study shows a daily dose of beef does the heart good.

June: National Bean Eaters Association gets indigestion over EPA proposed rule to limit human flatulence.

July: Congress curbs EPA rule making authority after investigation reveals EPA procedures suffer from lack of regulation.

August: PETA suffers funding disaster after actor Alec Baldwin poses naked in ad protesting animal cruelty.

September: As jobs become more plentiful and economy improves, Occupy Wall Street shifts focus to Operation Easy Street.

October: Vegetarian Paul McCartney writes theme song for Meatless Monday entitled Let it Bean.

November: Meatless Monday dies from lack of interest.

December: Multimillion dollar government study shows the chief cause of obesity in America is overeating.

Happy New Year!

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



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.

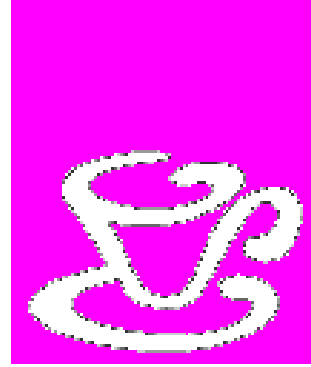
Coming from a large family, I have memories of a very orderly system of taking turns opening gifts. Then chaos ensued and almost inevitably some important tag or leaflet disappeared amid the wrapping paper.

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.



The Mule, the Monkey & The Man

God created the mule, and told him, "You are mule. You will work constantly from dusk to dawn, carrying heavy loads on your back. You will eat grass and lack intelligence. You will live for 50 years."

The mule answered, "To live like this for 50 years is too much. Please, give me no more than 20."

And it was so.

Then God created the dog, and told him, "You are dog. You will hold vigilance over the dwellings of Man, to whom you will be his greatest companion. You will eat his table scraps and live for 25 years."

The dog responded, "Lord, to live 25 years as a dog like that is too much. Please, no more than 10 years."

And it was so.

God then created the monkey, and told him, "You are monkey. You shall swing from tree to tree, acting like an idiot. You will be funny, and you shall live for 20 years." The monkey responded, "Lord, to live 20 years as the clown of the world is too much. Please, Lord, give me no than 10 years."

And it was so.

Finally, God created Man and told him, "You are Man, the only rational being that walks the earth. You will use your intelligence to have mastery over the creatures of the world. You will dominate the earth and live for 20 years."

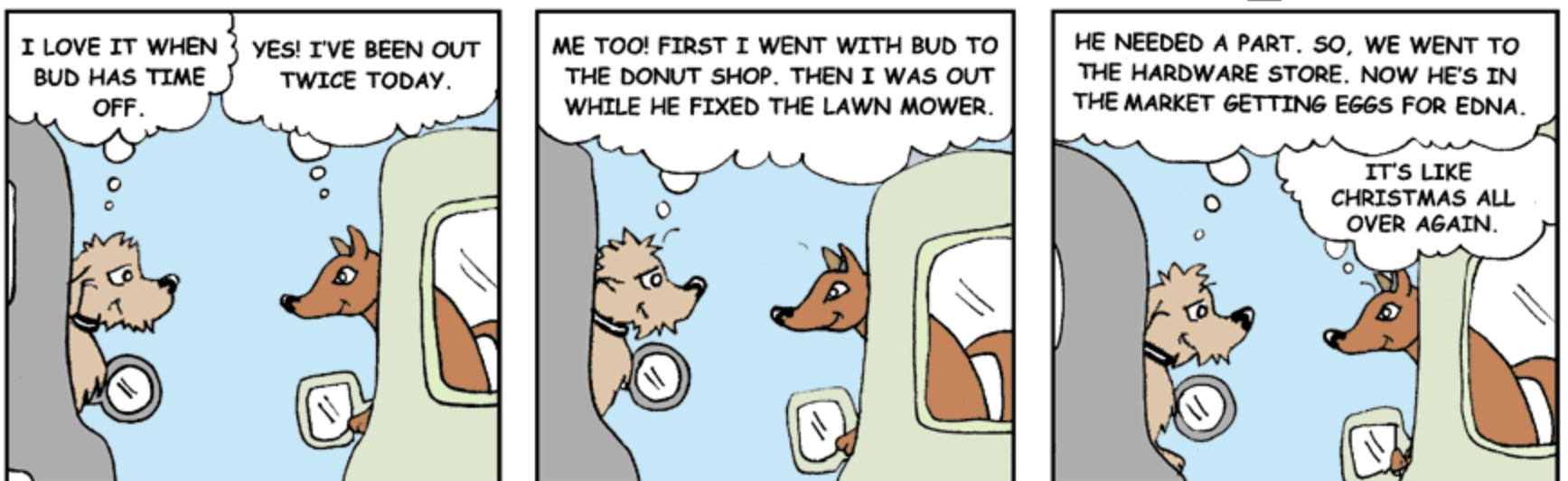
The man responded, "Lord, to be Man for only 20 years is too little. Please, Lord; give me the 20 years the mule refused, the 15 years the dog refused, and the 10 years the monkey rejected."

And so God made Man to live 20 years as a man, then marry and live 20 years like a mule working and carrying heavy loads on his back. Then, he is to have children and live 15 years as a dog, guarding his house and eating the leftovers after they empty the pantry; then, in his old age, to live 10 years as a monkey, acting like an idiot to amuse his grandchildren.

And it is so ...

OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

 OUTZKIRTS.COM



Classified Ads

ELM HOUSE ANTIQUES

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

WHO HAS?

Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: PO Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201.

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automobiles and pick-ups, etc.
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aaaaautoparts.com for lower prices for our new
items and our monthly specials.
Monday - Friday 8am - 5:30pm **Rob Hunt**
Saturday 9am - 1pm **903-546-0024**

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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

