

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

January 9, 2014



ebay
Business Classes

Capitol Watch



Gifted and Talented Dioramas



Texoma Patriots

Our next meeting . . .

Monday, January 13th, at 7 p.m.

BUCK SNORT BBQ in Van Alstyne, 224 E. Jefferson St.

CANDIDATE FORUM

Candidates for County Commissioner Precinct #2

Gary Cox has confirmed

Justice of the Peace Precinct #4.

Rita Noel and Jeff Stanley have confirmed

Each candidate will have between 8 to 10 minutes to give personal background information and his/her ideas on the main issues of the job. We will also have time for audience questions for the individual candidates.

Please invite your friends, neighbors, church goers, and relatives. Local politics is where it all begins.

Everyone is welcome

Our events are free to the public

Other Texoma Patriot events . . .

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.



Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



New Laws for the New Year

Most bills that pass during a regular legislative session take effect on September 1 of that same year. A bill can take effect immediately if it receives a 2/3 vote in both the House and Senate. However, it is sometimes necessary to delay the date the new law becomes effective. This week, I will write about a few laws that took effect on January 1, 2014.

Currently all Texas employers must report quarterly to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) the number of workers in their employment who are considered employees under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act (Act). The employer must then pay unemployment insurance (UI) taxes on the workers who are classified as employees each quarter in accordance with the Act. If an employer is found to have workers who are employees but are not being reported as such, TWC requires the employer to pay any retroactive UI taxes as well as any future UI taxes that are due for the employees. House Bill 2015 amends the Labor Code to establish that an employer (general contractors and subcontractors or person) awarded a contract for public works must ensure that any individual performing services under such contract (including individuals working for subcontractors) are properly classified as an employee or independent contractor. If it is found that a worker has been misclassified, the employer can be fined \$200 per employee. This law went into effect on January 1, 2014.

Senate Bill 1611, known as the Michael Morton Act, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise provisions relating to discovery in a criminal case. Previous law required the state to disclose certain evidence in a pending criminal action only on a good cause showing by the defendant and on notice to the other parties. The new law instead requires the state to produce and permit the inspection and the electronic duplication, copying, and photographing of certain evidence by the defendant or his attorneys. Under SB 1611, the state is required to disclose to the defendant any exculpatory, impeachment, or mitigating document, item, or information in the possession, custody, or control of the state that tends to negate the defendant's guilt or would tend to reduce the punishment for the offense charged. If at any time before, during, or after trial the state discovers any additional exculpatory, impeachment, or mitigating document, item, or information, the state must promptly disclose its existence to the defendant or the court. Additionally, before accepting a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or before trial, each party must acknowledge in writing or on the record in open court the disclosure, receipt, and list of discovery provided to the defendant.

For more information regarding these laws 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.

Texas Historical Markers

Over the holidays I had the opportunity to visit an old cemetery while in East Texas (Anderson County) to learn more about my family that settled there. While driving back from the cemetery we came across an old farm house that had a historical marker in the front yard. Taking a chance that it might provide insight regarding my family, we stopped to read the marker. We were rewarded for our efforts by finding out more about my family and their settlement from the information on the marker.

Historical markers are one of the best-known programs of the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The markers commemorate diverse topics, including: the history and architecture of houses, commercial and public buildings, religious congregations, and military sites; events that changed the course of local and state history; and individuals who have made lasting contributions to our state, community organizations, and businesses. Historical markers can be found in all 254 Texas counties. Age, significance, and architectural requirements govern the eligibility of topics and sites when applying for either a subject marker, Historic Texas Cemetery marker, or a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker.

The Historical Commission also has a feature called the Texas Historic Sites Atlas. The Atlas features nearly 300,000 site records, including data on Official Texas Historical Markers and National Register of Historic Places properties in Texas. Also included are courthouses, museums, and sawmills across the state. You can search by Historic Designation, Keyword, County, Address, or Site Name to get instant access to detailed textual descriptions, historic photographs, and interactive maps to help you discover what makes Texas and your areas of interest unique. The Texas Historical Commission's website, www.thc.state.tx.us, provides a wealth of other information on Texas Historical Markers, including how to apply for a marker.

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



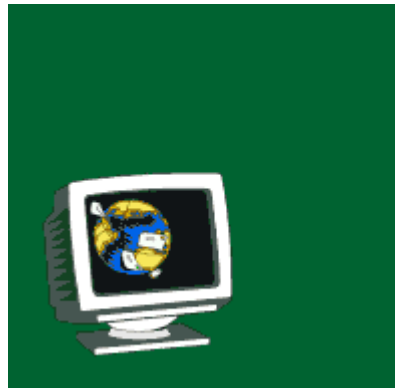
GC offers How to Start an eBay Business seminar

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



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

Proverbs 1:1-19 (KJV)

- ¹ The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;
- ² To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;
- ³ To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;
- ⁴ To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.
- ⁵ A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
- ⁶ To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.
- ⁷ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- ⁸ My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
- ⁹ For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.
- ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.
- ¹¹ If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:
- ¹² Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:
- ¹³ We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:
- ¹⁴ Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:
- ¹⁵ My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:
- ¹⁶ For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.
- ¹⁷ Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.
- ¹⁸ And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives.

Christian Fellowship

Luke Palmer 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 or David Ellis at 903-815-1333.

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.



More Church Page



LIVING WATER

An Outreach Publication of the Church of Christ

The Geese

"Incarnation" – n. Literally, "en-flesh-ment" (Latin carnis—"flesh"); the doctrine that the Son of God became human (John 1:14). Incarnation, in the Christian understanding, means that Christ was both God and human. – The Shaw Pocket Bible Handbook

There was once a man who didn't believe in the Incarnation and was skeptical about God. He and his family lived in a farm community. His wife was a devout believer and diligently raised her children in her faith. He sometimes mocked her faith and her religious observances.

One snowy morning around Christmas time, she was taking the children to a church service. She pleaded with him to come, but he firmly refused. He ridiculed the idea of the incarnation of Christ and dismissed it as nonsense. "Why would God lower himself and become a human like us?! It's such a ridiculous story!" he said. So she and the children left to worship while he stayed home.

After they left, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As he looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening.

Then he heard a loud thump, something hitting against the window. Another thump. He looked through the window but couldn't see. So, he ventured outside. In the field near his house he saw a strange sight: a flock of geese! They had apparently been flying south to a warmer climate when they got caught in the snow storm. The snow had become too blinding and the wind too violent for the geese to fly or see their way. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They fluttered their wings and flew around the field in circles blindly and aimlessly.

The man had compassion for them and wanted to help them. He thought to himself, "The barn would be a great place for them to stay! It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm." He tried many things to get them to go into the barn. In frustration, he went over and tried to run after them and chase them toward the barn. They only got scared and scattered into every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where there was warmth, safety, and shelter.

Feeling totally frustrated, he exclaimed, "Why don't they follow me! Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm! How can I possibly get them into the one place to save them!" He thought for a moment and realized that they just won't follow a human. He said to himself, "How can I possibly save them? The only way would be for me to become like those geese. If only I could become like one of them! Then I could save them! They would follow me and I would lead them to safety."

Then he began to understand the Incarnation... We are like the geese -- blind, gone astray, perishing. God became like us so He could show us the way and make a way available to save us. That is the meaning of the Incarnation, he realized in his heart. *

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, And we beheld His glory, The glory as of the only begotten of the Father, Full of grace and truth." – John 1:14

Jesus came to save us! To accomplish this mission, He not only had to become a man, He also had to die on the cross for our sins (1 John 2:2).

Jesus WILL save those who place their faith and trust in Him (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 their sins (Acts 2:38).

He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

The Incarnation: God became one of us so that He could show us the way to eternal life.

Won't YOU follow Him?

David Sargent, Minister
davidsargent1@comcast.net
Church of Christ at Creekwood
<http://www.creekwoodcc.org>

* Unknown Author; slightly adapted from "The Geese" as it appears at <http://www.opossumsal.com/Birds/TheGeese.html>

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

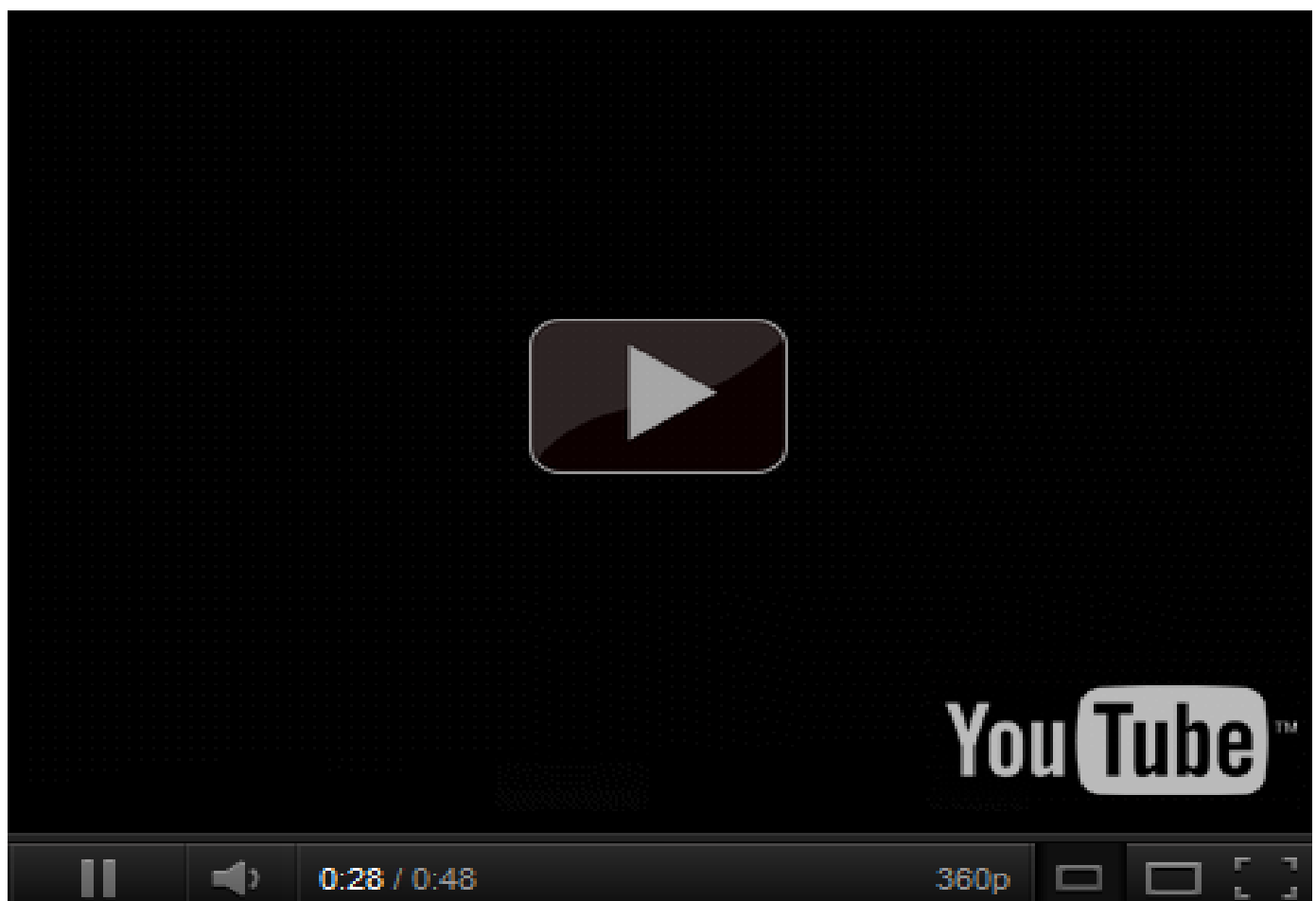
Howe, Texas 75459-3587

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

Cornyn: Senate Dems Blocking Ideas to Get Americans Back to Work

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) called on Senate Democrats to stop blocking an open amendment process that would allow all Senators to propose legislation to help grow jobs and the economy.

“As the Republican Leader said yesterday we actually used to have committees that voted on amendments, then passed bills that came to the floor. And we used to actually have an open amendment process where people would offer their amendments and then we would debate them and vote on them. What a novel idea. That’s, of course, called legislating.

“...[T]he Majority Leader, who basically is the traffic cop for the Senate floor, he’s the one that determines whether or not we have an opportunity to have this sort of fulsome debate to offer these constructive, bipartisan in many instances, ideas to try to reform our unemployment compensation system and help grow the economy, help the private sector create jobs and get more people back to work so they don’t have to depend on extended unemployment insurance.”

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

Cornyn Calls on Obama to Abandon Failed Big-Government Policies Keeping Americans Out of Work

WASHINGTON— U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) called on President Obama to move on from his failed policies that have led to high unemployment across the nation.

“The President continues to blame Republicans for failing to pass unemployment insurance, and yet he refuses to take responsibility for his failed big-government policies that have put us in this position.

“The President has been in office for five years, and the Democrats have controlled the Senate for seven. In that time, President Obama has pushed out-of-control spending and a government takeover of healthcare that will hit American wallets for years to come.

“It’s time for the President to stop playing the blame-game and step up to the responsibilities of leadership with policies that will actually grow our economy.”

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.

Gov. Perry Touts Progress in Texas Transportation

Namesake award recognizes dedication to infrastructure investments

SAN ANTONIO – Gov. Rick Perry today touted the important strides Texas has made in bolstering transportation infrastructure in the state since 2001. The governor spoke at the Ninth Annual Texas Transportation Forum, where the Texas Transportation Commission announced the creation of the Governor Rick Perry Leadership in Transportation Award. Beginning next year, the award will be presented annually to recognize leaders who have shown a commitment to advancing transportation infrastructure in Texas.

Under Gov. Perry’s leadership, the Texas highway system has grown by more than 6,600 new miles from 2001 – 2012, more than any other state over that time, and invested more than \$59 billion in transportation projects. This includes crucial projects across the state, from I-35 in Central Texas to I-10 in Houston, I-69 in the Rio Grande Valley and the Dallas-Fort Worth Connector. Texas has also implemented effective methods to fund new roads and highways, giving more control to local authorities who can best address their region’s needs and expanding public-private partnerships, all without raising taxes.

“Transportation fuels the economy that’s making it possible for families to build lives, but transportation is also essential to help families enjoy the lives they’ve built,” Gov. Perry said. “That’s a simple fact of life that we need to keep in mind moving forward. That’s why we’ve taken so many steps over the past decade to improve our roads, while remaining true to the essential Texas value of fiscal responsibility.”

To further advance transportation projects in the state, Gov. Perry called on lawmakers in the 83rd Legislative Session to pass House Bill 1, which pending voter approval this fall, will allow the state to direct surplus severance tax revenue to critical infrastructure projects. Without raising taxes, this investment will secure funding for crucial transportation improvements across the state for years to come.

Texas’ strong job creation and quality of life have attracted families and businesses to the state, with recent census data showing Texas grew more than any other state in 2013. This rapid population growth poses unique challenges for maintaining a safe and efficient road and highway system, increasing capacity and making it easier for Texans to travel, commute and move goods throughout the state.

Investments in roads and infrastructure directly impact Texas’ economic competitiveness and companies’ ability to do business in the state. Texas has remained the top exporter in the U.S. for 11 years in a row, and Texas’ transportation system continues to receive national attention, ranking the number one state for infrastructure and transportation for three years in a row by CNBC. Safety on Texas roads has also increased with initiatives like the Safety Bond Program, which Gov. Perry supported in 2003, and Click it or Ticket helping raise awareness and save lives across the state.



[More Editorial](#)

In Case You Missed It: Magpul Industries to Move Headquarters to Texas

AUSTIN – Firearm accessories manufacturer Magpul Industries has announced it is relocating its corporate headquarters from Colorado to Texas. Magpul began a nationwide relocation search following the passage of anti-Second Amendment legislation in Colorado this summer that made it difficult for the company to do business.

“In Texas, we understand that freedom breeds prosperity, which is why we’ve built our economy around principles that allow employers to innovate, keep more of what they earn and create jobs,” Gov. Perry said. “I’m proud that Magpul is the latest employer to join the ranks of companies that call Texas home.”

“Excessive government regulation undermines a culture based on personal responsibility and creates a detrimental business environment,” Magpul CEO Richard Fitzpatrick said. “Texas supports personal freedoms and our company will thrive in that environment.”

Gov. Perry has reached out to more than 30 firearm manufacturers in states across the country that are considering restricting sales and manufacturing in the industry. Magpul cited the Lone Star State’s business-friendly environment, predictable regulations and consistent respect for the Second Amendment as key elements in its decision to relocate.

Keep Free Speech in America

By Glenn Mollette

Arts and Entertainment television was out of line for suspending Phil Robertson for a recent statement that the network executives did not appreciate. They may not have liked his Bible quote but he was stating his personal belief and not speaking on behalf of the network. I realize that he is employed by the network, but that should not prohibit him from stating his opinion.

Every American in most circumstances has an opinion and many will disagree or agree depending on the subject. Because someone states something does not mean that it is reality, except in that person's mind. However, there are many circles of shared belief throughout our world. I happen to believe some are right but some are also wrong...in my opinion.

My opinion is based on my background, upbringing, Bible reading, education, personal studies, media, folktales and even common sense.

I don't like everything I see on television, read in the paper or hear on the radio. However, I have yet to eliminate any of the three from my life. I don't like everything I see and hear in church but I still go. Yet, I believe in the freedom of religion just like I believe in the freedom of people to state their opinions and quote their favorite books whether it's the Bible or Reader's Digest.

As a free society our task is to muddle through the free speech and make a sensible determination. Free speech encourages or offends people. However the goal of speech should never be to limit human rights to anyone. A worthy goal for us all is to use our free speech to make America better even though words can burn as in the case of Robertson's statements. Again, just because somebody makes a statement does not mean that it is reality, except in the mind of the person who made the statement. The statement simply is a window into that person's soul.

I may not agree with what you say or even like it but let's please preserve the First Amendment. A good America is a free America and a free America means free speech.

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 Harold Simmons

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 30 issued the following statement regarding the death of Harold Simmons:

“Harold Simmons was a true Texas giant, rising from humble beginnings and seizing the limitless opportunity for success we so deeply cherish in our great state. His legacy of hard work and giving, particularly to his beloved University of Texas, will live on for generations. Anita and I send our thoughts and prayers to the Simmons family.”





Howe 3rd and 4th grade Gifted and Talented Students with the dioramas they created after reading the book "The Boxcar Children".

Kneeling: Kaitlyn Fuhr, Caleb Fetzer. Sitting: Henry Gill, Janna Nitchman, Austin Haley

GT students recently read the book The Boxcar Children. They did research to discover facts about the author, Gertrude Chandler Warner, searched the internet for ideas for their dioramas and enjoyed sharing with each other what they learned. They each did an outstanding job!



Howe Elementary Students of the Month For December

Eli Stoner, Haley White, Elijah Morrison, Presley Shockey, Jacob Campbell, Catlyn Armstrong, Austin Haley, Jana Nitchman, Trinity Willams, Luke Catching



Humor

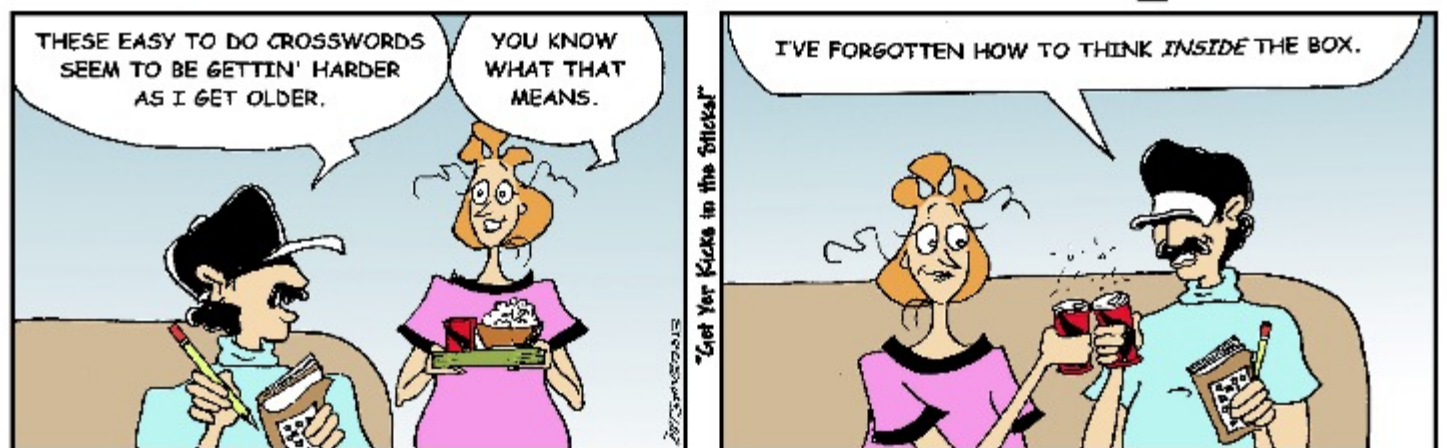
OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

f OUTZKIRTS.COM



OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

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A young brunette goes into the doctor's office and says that her body hurts wherever she touches it.

"Impossible," says the doctor. "Show me."

She takes her finger and pushes her elbow and screams in agony. She pushes her knee and screams, pushes her ankle and screams and so on it goes.

The doctor says, "You're not really a brunette are you?"

She says, "No, I'm really a blonde."

"I thought so," he says. "Your finger is broken."



YET ANOTHER SOMETHING (PAID)-FOR-NOTHING (GOTTEN) SCAM

By Joe Klock, Sr.

"Just pay additional processing and handling!" crows the TV huckster, as he offers you ladies three more brassieres, in addition to the three proper-uppers for which you are already being charged a full processing and handling fee.

Never mind, mind you, that you more than probably have no more than two proppable breasts and routinely launder your undies more frequently than every six days.

The offer, therefore, is about as beneficial to you as would be "free" birth control to your great-grandmother, who hasn't been bedridden since great-granddad bought the farm many years ago - but we digress.

The first proposal mentioned was three bras for \$59.99, plus \$12.99 "processing and handling," a subtotal purchase price of \$73.00, if you'll forgive a two-cent rounding up.

But wait! The buyer of that sextuple set of chest protectors is not given the option of buying just these three mammary holsters and paying a single P&H fee.

Instead, the irreducible package consists of six bras and two P&H fees, for a rounded-up total of \$86.00; note that the additional \$12.99 is for popping six, instead of just three, proper-uppers into the outgoing package.

Still with us?

Our expert research staff found that the same brand of bandeau* was available at a local Walmart for 10 bucks each, which came out to a less-grand total of sixty simoleons.

*Aside: Regular readers know that we like to throw in a touch of Frenchified palaver here and there for snob appeal.

Buyers who bite on the TV offer may request a refund of (ONLY) the purchase price, if they are dissatisfied, leaving them about \$26.00 out-of-pocket, PLUS the cost of return shipping, probably another \$3-\$5, further plus a non-fun trip to the post office.

That \$26 retained by the vendor more than likely more than reimburses them for the cost of the failed transaction, and they additionally profit from the probability that many dissatisfied customers just won't bother applying for the refund.

By contrast, the Walmart (or elsewhere) shopper can see the identical product, try it on for size and continue looking if it doesn't fit the bill (and build).

This example is but one of the many too-good-to-be-true enticements that lurk in the shadows as we surf the Internet, randumbly punch the channel selector and/or stray into the uncensored columns of classified ads in the daily newsbladder.

Second Aside: Lest we be accused of a sexist putdown in the example used here, we hasten to cite a popular commercial which promises to get an underperforming Lothario out of one beachfront bathtub and actively into the adjoining one, which is conveniently furnished with a presumably preheated female - but here we digress again.

If you are long enough in tooth and memory, you may recall a TV pitchman named Sid Stone, who was featured on Milton Berle's "Texaco Star Theater."

His signature presentations featured undisguised scams, followed by the come-on, "You say you're not satisfied? You say you want more for your money? Tell you what I'm gonna do....!"

He then followed each thin veneer of half-truth with yet another thin veneer of the same quality, until chased off-screen by a police whistle.

The difference between Sid's charades and much of today's television advertising is barely discernible when exposed to the harsh light of full disclosure and commonsense skepticism.

Third Aside (A new record here, by the way): If Sid Stone's weekly gig rings a bell, you are a prime target for the half-truths and unproven claims that pervade modern merchandising

My late father was fond of saying that "you'll never hear a huckster yell 'rotten fish'", and nowhere is this advice more applicable than among the rants that are rampant in modern "badvertising," wherein the headline giveth and the fine print taketh away.

Dad also used to say that if something looks too good to be true, it probably is.

These are axioms that hold up in foundation garments as well as having a foundation in fact.

Freelance wordworker Joe Klock, Sr. (joeklock@aol.com) winters in Key Largo and Coral Gables, Florida and summers in New Hampshire. More of his "Klockwork" can be found at www.joeklock.com.





LET'S REMINISCE: HOMEMADE ENTERTAINMENT

By Jerry Lincecum

While browsing in a department store recently, I spotted a commercially manufactured playhouse complete with tall legs. It could be installed in a backyard as a substitute for a treehouse. The price was close to one thousand dollars! Instantly images flooded my mind of the treehouse my brother and I made from scrap lumber and leftover nails.

Doing a little research on homemade toys, I discovered a book the Folklore Society put together in 1989 on "Texas Toys and Games." With many photos as well as "how to" directions and reminiscences from dozens of older folk, the book stimulated my own memories.

Soon I was recalling a host of simple things and activities that kept us entertained for many hours. What memories do you have of entertainment that came from pieces of old innertubes, forked sticks, corn husks and cobs, an old tire or buggy wheel, old barrels, and so forth? Can you put a price or value on the things you made or the time spent by an adult helping you build a homemade toy?

Just think about wheels for a bit. I loved to walk on top of an empty barrel, struggling to keep my balance. In contrast, rolling a tire or a wagon wheel by means of a stick (paddle and hoop, it was called) didn't interest me much, but my father said he and his brothers enjoyed that a great deal.

Recess time in elementary school was voluntarily segregated by gender, and the girls seemed to have more games, like hopscotch, jacks and jump-rope. With a teacher looking on, sometimes boys and girls would play dodgeball or red rover. Marbles was a highly competitive boys' game which a few teachers discouraged to the point of shoving marbles into a hole in the floor of the school building. Playing school with someone as the teacher trying to keep order among mischievous pupils appealed more to girls.

I had tinker toys and an Erector set, so the homemade spool tractor did not appeal to me as it did to an older generation. Some of you will recall this self-propelled toy made from an empty sewing-thread spool, a rubber band, matchsticks and a bit of hard soap. If you wanted traction to enable your tractor to climb over barriers, notching the flanged edges of the spool ends would do it.

Making a car with shoe polish cans for wheels was far beyond my ability, but I have seen pictures of one and also instruction for making it, using the spool tractor model. To make your car sporty, one could add a couple of bottle caps to the front for headlights and attach an extra shoe polish can on the back like a spare tire. I suppose this was the Lincoln Continental version.

I've seen some very fancy homemade dolls put together from materials as modest as corn shucks and cobs, as well as elaborate doll houses with furniture crafted from materials found in the home. Mothers and daughters could collaborate to produce extensive wardrobes of doll clothes, and sometimes the doll and its owner had matching outfits made from feed sacks.

The common element in all these toys and games was children using their own imagination and ingenuity to entertain themselves.

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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.

LET'S REMINISCE: FOOT OF A RABBIT

By Jerry Lincecum

After assuring my wife that we must have some blackeyed peas to eat on New Year's Day, I pondered the question, "Am I superstitious?"

As a boy in the 1950s, I knew some people who carried the foot of a rabbit because they believed it would bring good luck. Deciding to check it out on Wikipedia, I discovered the rabbit's foot is held in high regard in many different cultures. Historically, this belief has been traced back as far as Celtic tribes in 600 BC.

Here's where it really gets interesting. In variations of this superstition, the donor rabbit must possess certain characteristics, or have been killed in a particular place, or killed by a particular method, or by a person possessing unusual attributes (e.g., by a cross-eyed man). I began to recall Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer, who demonstrated that Mark Twain knew more about this kind of folklore than most American writers.

First, not any foot from a rabbit will do: it is the left hind foot of a rabbit that works as a charm. Second, not any left hind foot of a rabbit will do; the rabbit must have been shot or otherwise captured in a cemetery.

Third, at least according to some sources, not any left hind foot of a rabbit shot in a cemetery will do: the phase of the moon is also important. Some authorities say that the rabbit must be taken in the full moon, while others insist the rabbit must be taken in the new moon.

Other sources say the rabbit must be taken on a Friday, or a rainy Friday, or Friday the 13th. According to some, the rabbit should be shot with a silver bullet, while others contend the foot must be cut off while the rabbit is still alive. No doubt the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would not approve of that last point.

But why is a rabbit's foot better than that of some other animal, such as a raccoon or possum? Here we get into the realm of superstition associated with shape-shifting, a common element of the uncanny. The various rituals suggested for acquiring the lucky limb, though they differ widely one from another, share a common element of reversing what is usually considered good-omened and auspicious. So we are into the dark world here.

A rabbit is a trickster animal into which shape-shifting witches often claimed to be able to transform themselves. Moreover, witches were said to be active in the full moon or new moon. Silver bullets, of course, are reputed to be the weapon of choice against uncanny creatures.

Needless to say, the rabbit's foot has to be dried out and preserved. Considering that rabbit's feet are frequently sold by curio shops and even in vending machines, there must have been a lot of bunnies sacrificed, right?

Think again: many of these good luck charms are made from fake fur and latex "bones."

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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.

LET'S REMINISCE: FROM RATTLETRAP TO QUIET

By Jerry Lincecum

As a boy I rode in my grandfather's steel-tired wagon a few times, and on a gravel road it was so noisy that you couldn't carry on a conversation. In that era the term "rattletrap" was commonly used in describing the older cars and pickups that many people drove. Even when you bought a new pickup, driving it on gravel roads and across pastures would soon give it plenty of rattles.

What brought this to mind is a TV commercial I saw recently for the 2014 Chevy Silverado pickup, which devoted 30 seconds to boasting about the lack of noise in its cabin. A quiet ride used to be a bragging point exclusive to the luxury-car world, a sign of a car's refinement. But nowadays the quest for silent rides has moved into the mainstream of cars and even pickup trucks.

To accomplish the quiet Silverado, General Motors added enhanced baffling inside the doors and thicker, better-sealed windows. To cut down wind noise, their engineers inlaid the cab doors so their top edges no longer curve over the rooftop.

A decade ago, most interior noises couldn't be heard because of the engine and road noise. Now you may notice even the tiny motor that runs the vent door that opens and closes in a heater or air conditioner.

Car noise is becoming a big problem for the manufacturers. That's because more owners are bringing in their new vehicles for repairs after hearing noises—even when nothing is really wrong. These trips drive up warranty costs and hurt the reputation of a car's quality.

It's frustrating for the owner of a new car to come back and report a sound, only to be told by the dealership that it's "normal" and there is nothing they can do about it. To reduce the frustration, carmakers are creating "Quiet Labs."

One company spent more than a million dollars to develop a sound-testing facility, which includes two acoustic rooms built on shock absorbers to stop noise from bleeding in through the ground.

They have compiled a database of more than 1,000 noises caused by the motor and blowers inside a car's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit, ranging from low throaty rumbles to a high-screaming whistle or chirp tone. The database is used with computer software to help identify which sounds need muffling.

To develop a quiet blower for the HVAC system, for example, engineers have tried geometrically rearranging the blower's blades. Imagine a hamster wheel lying on its side spinning around in the middle of a fat soup can. To reduce the sound they changed the distance between the blades on which the hamster's feet run.

Noises and sounds are always going to be produced by a car or truck. The trick is turning down or masking the ones that the human ear doesn't like. It's a paradox of today's advanced car design: The more automakers succeed in muting sounds coming from outside, the more drivers are hearing the annoying little chirps, rattles and drones on the inside.

Few people know or care about the noisy wagons or rattletrap cars we used to be happy with.

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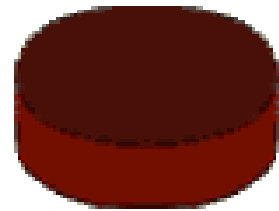
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Earth Quake Cake

- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 1 c. shredded coconut
- 1 German chocolate cake mix
- 1 (8oz) pkg cream cheese
- 1 small box powdered sugar
- 1 stick oleo
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Grease 9x13 inch pan or spray with cooking oil. Spread pecans and coconut on bottom of pan, Mix cake according to package. Mix cream cheese, powdered sugar, oleo and vanilla. Spoon this on top of cake mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 – 45 minutes.



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Storybook tea party

Tom Bean – a “Storybook Tea Party” for girls, their mothers and grandmothers is set for 10 am on Jan. 18 at Tom Bean High School. Hosting the even are the school's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and the Theatre Arts Department.

Attendees can come as the are or dressup as their favorite storybook character. There will be entertainment, tea party, snacks, door prizes games and more.

Advance tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under age 12 and are available at the high school office. On the day of the event, tickets will be \$10 for all.

For more information, contact Sharon Stephens at 903-546-6319.

