

July 14, 2011

In Need of Relief: Volunteer First Responders Deserve Our Support

By Chris Barron

It's hard to wrap your head around the far-reaching devastation inflicted on land, lives and livelihoods caused by this year's wildfires and drought.

Since January, more than 11,000 blazes fueled by a drought and tinderbox conditions all across Texas have burned more than 3 million acres of Lone Star land and destroyed more than 1,300 structures.

Drenching rains from Hurricane Alex last July delivered considerable plant growth that was killed off by the repeated blasts of arctic air and ice that hit Texas earlier this year. Add in the driest March in state history, and together you have the perfect storm to fuel a wildfire outbreak.

Unless you witness the destruction first hand, as I have done, it may seem too remote or too far removed from your own home, but there is most certainly justification in calling this year's wildfires the worst in our state's history.

The situation is so dire in our state that it quickly became all hands on deck. Communities battling fires saw a full range of our state resources, including the Texas Forest Service and the Division of Emergency Management, mobilize and join the fight.

But, it's the men and women of Texas' volunteer fire departments that earned a hero's recognition for their valiant efforts on the front lines of these blazes. And, these volunteers are also people and organizations that desperately - and quite deservingly - now need our help.

A great majority of our firefighting resources in Texas take the form of volunteers, and while their courage and commitment is unlimited and unwavering, their resources are strapped.

Of the 1,400 volunteer fire departments in Texas, 86 percent of these volunteer firefighters must use personal funds to meet the day-to-day equipment and supply needs of their fire departments.

That's why the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas recently announced the formation of the Texas Wildfire Relief Fund (www.txwildfirerelief.org), a non-profit entity created to raise funds and awareness about the work of these volunteer first-responders.

When we evacuate and move to safety, our volunteer firefighters answer the call to protect our lives and property, and Texans owe a debt of gratitude to them for the job they've done this wildfire season.

The relief fund will help properly equip our volunteer firefighting departments with the tools and materials they need to battle these and future fires-while ensuring they're also able to protect themselves.

And, Texans are already stepping up to the plate. The Texas Farm Bureau has pledged to match county Farm Bureau donations on a \$3 to \$1 basis, up to \$1,000 per volunteer fire department through November. The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas seeded our fund with an extremely generous \$100,000 donation, but much more is needed to support these first responders now and to prepare them for future fire seasons.

Many volunteer fire departments operate with lean budgets in the best of circumstances, and the wildfires only make their work more challenging and stretch their already limited resources to the bone.

That's why I hope that every Texan, even if those not been touched directly by a wildfire this season, will stand in solidarity with these men and women who have gone in first and early and work until the fires are out, year after year.

Chris Barron is executive director of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, the state's oldest and largest fire and EMS service association in the state. To learn more about the Texas Wildfire Relief Fund, please visit www.txwildfirerelief.org.



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

GCC Police Academy graduates pass state licensing exam

When the 18 graduates of Grayson County College's Texoma Regional Police Academy walked across the stage June 10, they earned two of the three criteria for becoming Texas peace officers: complete training and pass the state licensing exam. Once they are hired by a policy agency - as municipal police officers, constables, sheriff's deputies, etc. - they will be licensed peace officers.

Achieving a 100 percent pass rate on the state licensing exam is another feather in the cap of the GCC program and its new director, Brad Blankenship.

'Brad and the instructors have worked selflessly with the class to prepare them for a career in law enforcement,' said Dwayne Barber, chair of GCC's Career Services Division and professor of criminal justice. 'We are so proud of the men and women of this graduating class. They have distinguished themselves in their training, which is further enhanced by the 100 percent pass rate.'

TRPA is a certificate program specifically designed for those who want to be Texas peace officers. It is a regional academy that serves Grayson, Cooke and Fannin counties. As such, 95 percent of the peace officers in these counties were trained at the GCC academy.

Students graduate TRPA after completing 850 hours of training through lectures, homework, written tests and hands-on exercises. Course work covers a variety of topics including the Texas Penal Code, mechanics of arrest, driving, shooting, decision-making, property and vehicle searches, using force and deadly force and more.

'They are trained in all aspects of police work in the classroom,' Barber said. 'They get practical experience in the field as well. In addition to shooting and driving, they have been on the receiving end of a Taser electroshock weapon and pepper spray. All of the classroom and hands-on training is designed to prepare them for what they will face in the line of duty.'

The GCC program offers three classes per year. The two daytime academies finish after four and a half months. The night academy finishes after approximately 10 months. Applications are being accepted now for the Fall 2011 course, which begins July 18.

For more information about the GCC Texoma Regional Police Academy, call 903-463-8711 or visit <http://www.grayson.edu/trpa>



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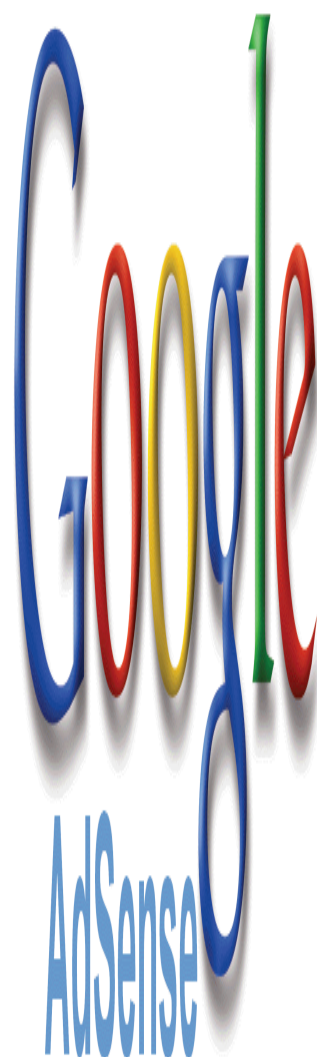
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Howe's That

by Lana Rideout

Last weekend my husband and I spent a few days vacationing at the city of Mount Vernon, Texas. About a two hour drive from Howe, it is located on Interstate 30 between Sulphur Springs and Mt. Pleasant. There were many museums and points of interest to see. It was fun to get away for a few days and see some new scenery.

We visited some antique stores also and stopped by their Saturday around the square fruits and vegetables weekly sale by local farmers. This also included kittens being given away and a group of young ladies seeking funds for an upcoming competition.

We also stopped in to see the local library which is housed in a historic building - it used to be the bank. The library was fun to see -- some of the heavy metal doors were featured in the rooms.

I also noted that their summer reading program was in full swing -- Miki the Monkey is scheduled to appear this week.

We will be featuring stories this week and possibly next week on some of the sights we saw.

Recipe



Black Walnut Fudge Brownies

3/4 cup flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup butter
3/4 cup light brown sugar, packed
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon butter flavoring
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups quick cooking oats
12 ounces sweetened condensed milk
1 Tablespoon vegetable shortening
4 squares semi-sweet chocolate
2 squares unsweetened chocolate
1/4 teaspoon black walnut extract
1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sift together flour, salt and baking soda. Set aside.

Combine butter, sugar, egg, butter flavoring and 1/2 teaspoon of the vanilla. Add flour mixture and oats. Reserving half of the mixture, press remaining half into greased 8-inch square pan. Set aside.

Heat milk, shortening and chocolate over low heat until chocolate is melted. Remove from heat and stir in remaining teaspoon vanilla, black walnut extract and walnuts. Spread over oat mixture in pan. Place small spoonfuls of reserved oat mixture over chocolate layer and smooth together to cover.

Bake for 20-25 minutes. Cool completely and cut into 2-inch squares. Makes 16 brownies.





Howe ISD Approves 2011-12 Budget

Howe ISD Board met Thursday, June 30 in a special meeting. Trustees in attendance included Board President Leonard Huntsman, Vice President Greg Akins, Mark Abner, Pat Stewart and Brad Anderson.

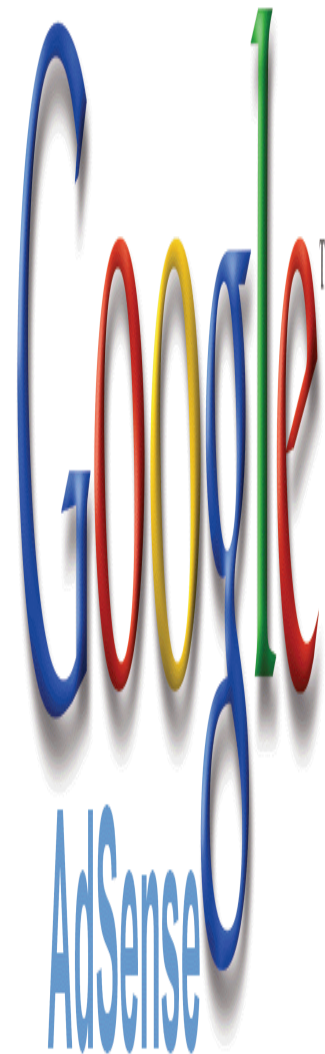
Supt. Kevin Wilson in a Public Hearing presented information regarding the 2011-12 Proposed Budget and Tax Rate. No public residents attended the meeting; thus there were no comments or questions.

The board voted to adopt the budget for 2011-12 as presented by Supt. Wilson. (Note: The tax rate will be adopted in an August meeting.) The vote was 5 for and none against.

Another action item included a Resolution Establishing Fund Balance Policies as Required by GASB 54. This resolution concerns keeping the various fund balances at an adequate level: it was passed with 5 for and none against.

Persons wishing more information on the budget may contact the Howe ISD Administration Office.

The Howe High School Marching Band's outgoing drum major, Ashley Krueger, poses with Travis Fulton who was recently selected for the position for the upcoming school year.



Charles Nash



Charles Louis Nash (1928-2011)

Charles Louis Nash was born Feb. 14, 1928 at Tom Bean to Louis Rayfield Nash and Ina Keener Nash. He died Saturday, July 9, 2011 at Wilson N. Jones Hospital in Sherman at the age of 83. He was a resident of Tom Bean.

Charles served his nation as a Sergeant First Class in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War and the Old Time Fiddlers Association. He was a member of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by sister, Helen Hensley of Tom Bean; brother, Jack Robert Nash of Denison; son, James Nash of Sherman; son, Gary Dale Nash of Whitemound; grandson, Charles (Charlie Bob) Nash of Sherman; granddaughter, Aaron M. Nash of Whitemound; granddaughter, Angela Rose Nash of Conroe; granddaughter, Abigail Diane Nash of Spring; great-grandson, Elijah Louis Nash of Spring; great-granddaughter, Briana J. Nash of Conroe. He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis Rayfield and Ina Keener Nash; and his sister, Betty Nash LaRue.

Funeral Services were held Tuesday, July 12 at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Chapel in Whitewright. Burial followed at Whitemound Cemetery in Whitemound.

Arrangements are with Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home, Whitewright, Texas. An online registry may be signed at www.tjmfuneral.com



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
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Van Alstyne Library News

By Tracy Luscombe

If you didn't bring your kids to the library last Friday they missed a treat. The 34 first year students of Hogwarts School of Witches and Wizards learned about potions, tea leaf reading, charms, and defense against the dark arts. They ate chocolate frogs and drank butter beer and tested their knowledge of spells and other Harry Potter trivia. Channel 12 news came out too. You can watch their story at

http://www.kxii.com/home/headlines/Dozens_spend_A_day_at_Hogwarts_at_Van_Alstyne_library_125254039.html

Summer fun continues as we're extending our programs through the end of July. Bring your child's reading log in this week to collect the prizes. Then pick up a Reader's Bingo form and keep your child reading to get another prize.

Programs the week of July 18-21 are:

Tuesday – Crafts for ages 6-13 beginning at 11 am and Bilingual story time beginning at 4 pm.

Wednesday – Meet the Van Alstyne Police at 10:15 am.

Thursday – Children's movie beginning at 4 pm – We're showing Over the Hedge.

Save the Date: Tuesday, August 16 at 6:30-7:30 pm we'll host Master Gardener Trudy West for a family event about Fall Vegetable Gardening. Hope you'll all join us.



Wyoming's

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Fine Dining

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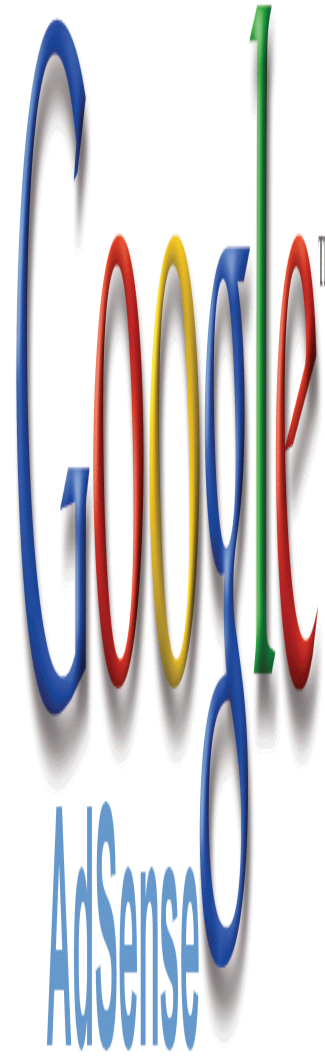
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Van Alstyne Voices Toastmasters

July 11, 2011 - The regular meeting of the Van Alstyne Voices Toastmasters was called to order by Sergeant-at-Arms MJ Presley. Presley reported on the Toastmasters Leadership Institute for District 50 on Saturday July 9. The Institute was attended by Juanita and Merrill Hazelton and M.J. Presley. Four VAV officers have now been trained, completing one of the basic requirements for Distinguished Club status. Jack Rabbit Dash, the District 50 membership drive, runs July 31 – August 31. Requirements still to be filled are the addition of three new members and completion of two Competent Communicators awards, two Advanced Communicator awards, and two Leadership awards. On August 17, Toastmasters International will be announcing a massive media blitz, with new branding and logo as well as reprinting of all education manuals. Watch for more information about changes of Toastmasters International in August. Garrett and Lamon Shaw were guests at Monday's meeting

Juanita Hazelton chaired a short business meeting. The Club Contest for Tall Tales and Humorous Speeches will be August 8. All members are requested to be in attendance to vote on candidates who will advance to the Area contest. Juanita Hazelton and M.J. Presley will be competing for Tall Tales advancement. Merrill Hazelton and M.J. Presley will be competing for humorous Speech contest. Other contestants are requested to contact Juanita Hazelton.

Toastmasters International is a not-for-profit educational organization whose mission is to help people develop their communication skills. Toastmasters can help people build their self-confidence and develop speaking skills in a friendly, positive environment. Van Alstyne Voices Toastmasters meets each Monday evening at 7:00. The meeting is currently in the Independent Bank Building. Visitors are welcome. Call President/Public Relations Officer Juanita Hazelton at 903-271-5190 for more information.



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
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Texoma Patriots July Meeting

AGENDA 21 aka Sustainable Development and Smart Growth

I hope you will join the Texoma Patriots for our next town hall meeting on Friday, July 29. We will be back at Grandy's in Sherman, 3201 Texoma Parkway. The meeting room is beside the dining room. The meeting starts at 7 pm, but come early and eat dinner or dessert to help defray the cost of the room.

A growing number of people at all levels – local, state, and federal – are latching on to the idea of globalism. The groundwork is being laid right now for government control on a global level. It's happening right before our eyes and so much of it sounds real good. Our speaker, Robert Semands, from Edmond, Oklahoma, will tell us from his first-hand experience how we can recognize these policies, regulations, and laws and stop them from being implemented in our communities.

The term Sustainable Development was first introduced to the world in the pages of a 1987 report (Our Common Future) produced by the United Nations World Commission on Environmental and Development, authored by Gro Harlem Brundtland, VP of the World Socialist Party. The term was first offered as official UN policy in 1992, in a document called UN Sustainable Development Agenda 21, issued at the UN's Earth Summit, today referred to simply as Agenda 21.

To help prepare for the meeting, let me give you some links to read and view that introduce you to this United Nations concept. Glenn Beck TV Show (June 15) had about an 18 minute segment on Agenda 21:

<http://thedailybeck.com/2011/06/15/glenn-beck-tv-show-june-15-2011/>

Then read:

<http://americanpolicy.org/sustainable-development/agenda-21-in-one-easy-lesson.html>

and

<http://americanpolicy.org/sustainable-development/how-to-fight-back-against-sustainable-development.html>

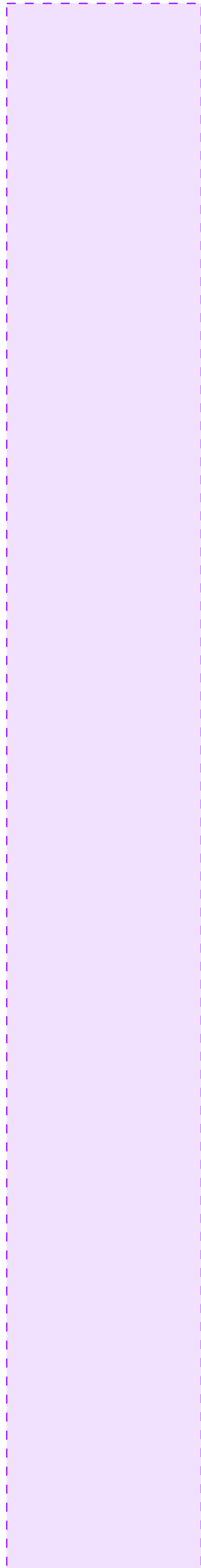
Together we can stop this hidden agenda. See you at the meeting.



*Be Beautiful.
Naturally.*

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The Second Saturday at Hagerman July 9 -- photo was taken by Jack Chiles and shows Bocanegra holding dragonfly for participants to inspect (Photo received too late for last week)

--
Friends for TODAY support programs and activities for TOMORROW and ensure that the Refuge will be here for wildlife AND people in the FUTURE!

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Music by Kevin McCloud

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Legalizing noodling

By Bob Bowman

In the midst of a session that dealt with taxes, Medicare fraud and other serious issues, the Texas Legislature finally dealt with an issue of concern to East Texans -- noodling.

I have to admit that, in my seventy-five years of living in East Texas, I did not know what noodling was.

So I consulted a Webster Dictionary, but it wasn't of much help.

I found nooky, which means sexual activity; nooning, which means having a meal at noon; and a definition of noodling that means playing an instrument in a "desultory manner."

But I couldn't imagine the Legislature banning musical instruments.

Then, in an East Texas newspaper, I read Jacksonville Senator Robert Nichols' report to his constituents.



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



By Dorothy N. Fowler

I grew up in the inferior position of living on the wrong side of the tracks with working class parents, who, although both had graduated from high school, had not been able to attend college. What is worse, they were not among the fortunate people who lived through the Depression of the 1930's unscathed. They seemed doomed to failure in everything they undertook, including an attempt at turkey farming in Tulia, Texas.

Why Daddy thought he could become a farmer of any kind, much less a turkey farmer, remains a family mystery. In any case, he talked Mama into moving out on a turkey ranch in the middle of nowhere with a flock of turkeys. Mama hated those turkeys. She said they were so stupid that if it rained they would turn their heads up and hold them up until they drowned.

The farm's electricity came from a small windmill that, when the wind was blowing during the day, powered the electric lights and the radio. But on the high plains, the wind has a tendency to die down after the sun sets, and so, after dark, the wind mill quit turning and the lights and the radio went off.

I suppose they might have been able to hold out a while longer than they did, but when Mama discovered that the ranch house was infested with rat mites and that the mites had got on me and into my baby clothes, she told Daddy that she was going to town one way or the other and set out to walk however many miles to get there. Daddy knew she meant business, so he followed her with the car until she got into it and took her to town. I don't know how or whether they got anything out of that ranch house.

Mama and Daddy had such a bad time of it partly because Daddy was a union organizer and was blackballed by the oil companies for whom he wanted to work. Mama told me about the time when he went to work for one of them and they moved to the desert of W. Texas, to the tiny town of Itan. He had worked about a week and was loving it. But he came home one night and asked her to walk out into the pasture with him and when they were walking, he began to cry because he had been called in by the boss and fired because he was "a known trouble-maker."

I don't think he ever fully recovered from that. It left him shattered somewhere deep inside because he had always tried to do the right thing, work hard, stand up for the downtrodden, and none of it paid off for him. It left him scared of life and its exigencies.

Until WWII started, the only job he could find was milking cows by hand for Cabell's Dairy in Grapevine, Texas. He milked twice a day. It was such hard work that his fingernails literally fell off. We were living on the dairy, in a company house, when the war started. I remember hearing the radio broadcast telling us that the Japanese had bombed Pearl



BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

After reporting on new budget estimates, Medicare fraud, reauthorizing the Texas Forest Service and insurance for dependents of state employees, Senator Nichols reported on the noodling issue.

Noodling, it seems, is catching catfish with your hands. And until this year, noodling was illegal in Texas. Just why this practice was illegal is beyond my comprehension.

If you can catch catfish with hooks and lines, why would grabbing them with you bare hands be illegal?

Anyway, Senator Nichols persuaded the Texas Senate to pass legislation that allows individuals with a valid fishing license to practice noodling.

“While this is not a practice I would necessarily recommend, those with valid fishing license should not be prevented from enjoying this activity.” said Senator Nichols

He added a footnote: “To limit individual pursuit of happiness in such a way would be a little fishy.” The senator is a good lawmaker, but a lousy punster.

In a second East Texas newspaper, I read another fishy story. The writer, a county extension agent, said fish “can see color under the water and, frankly, they see better under the water than we can.”

Marion County Extension Agent Brock Fry said, “When fishing a jig in muddy water, you probably want to use a larger profile bait that makes noise or even smells”

“For the most part, you will find that the more active fish are associated with clearer water, yet not fish bowl clear,” said Fry.

Now that you know what noodling is and that fish can see underwater, perhaps it's time to stop reading and go to the lake.

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



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Dot's Dashes, continued

Harbor. I was a little more than five years old and hearing that broadcast is my clearest early memory.

Not long after that, we moved to the wilds of West Texas again, to Odessa, where, for a while, we lived in what had been a chicken coop on Muskingum Street. Some people were living in tents and I suspect that some may have been living in cardboard boxes because the need for labor was so great and the supply of housing so small as the oil field filled up with men who had been without work for so long came running for the jobs created as a result of the war effort.

I don't know how long we lived in the chicken coop before Mama found a three room apartment on South Grant Street. Anything south of the railroad track was the wrong side of town even then, but it didn't matter to my parents in their haste to get away from the smell of chicken manure.

Unfortunately, Daddy, even though he went to work immediately on one of the oil drilling rigs and was making what was then fairly good money, couldn't see beyond the south side. He saved enough money to pay cash for a little house at 515 W. Ada and that's where we lived until I was a junior in high school. He was determined, He often said, not to ever be in a position again where he could lose his house. He paid cash for everything, a habit that came back to haunt him 20 years later.

The result of his determination was both good and bad. My brother and I always had money in our pockets and had new shoes and clothing, but when I got into the junior high school, which was on the north side of town, I was subject to some considerable discrimination, as were all the Anglo kids from the south side. One of our seventh-grade teachers told one of our classes that the teachers knew they just couldn't expect much from kids who lived on the south side.

My brother, eight years younger than I, never faced that particular discrimination because by the time he was in junior high, we had moved to the north side, although still on the wrong side of town, because this time we were on the west side of Dixie Avenue instead of the east side.

As stigmatizing as it was to live on the south side of Odessa and then the west side, it was worse to live in Odessa at all. The rich, the well-born and the well-educated folk lived in Midland, 20 miles east of Odessa. The people who lived there were upper tier folk. They knew it and neither they nor their kids ever quite got over it.

When I was teaching at Midland Lee in the 1960's, the City of Odessa was acquiring a new building for its library. There was some controversy over it, a controversy covered by the local television stations. My students asked me one day why people in Odessa wanted a library. “They can't read over there, anyway,” one of them said. They were not in the least embarrassed when they learned that I had grown up in Odessa and still lived there. “You're the exception,” they said.

Be that as it may, my experience as a social and intellectual inferior during my childhood served as good preparation for dealing with intellectual and political snobbery. I have found that my Master of Arts Degree, my long years of experience as a high school teacher at a prestigious high school, my seminary education and my experience in the pastorate have rendered me inferior to many intellectually and politically superior folk.

Do not be deceived. My inferiority has not made me humble. It has made me able to endure, with a certain amount of good humor, the pretensions of intellectual and political snobs, who by their own admission, find it a burden to be forced to live with us lesser folk.

For one thing, they hate the plain speech that we lesser folk employ. They talk about bioethics committees that meet and have always met at hospitals and we talk about the death panels on which they serve.

They talk about making deep cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security in order to balance the budget and we talk about throwing granny under the bus. They talk about keeping tax rates low for the rich, who are supposed to be creating jobs with the money thus saved, and we ask, “Where are the jobs?”

They talk about “deficit spending” and we want to know why refusing to tax wealthy people is not a back door way to provide welfare for the rich? I guess the truth is, we, the intellectually and politically inferior, just can't overcome our upbringing. 2



Cornyn Comments on U.S. Shuttle Program Final Mission

WASHINGTON – (July 8) U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, issued the following statement regarding the launch of Atlantis, the final mission of the U.S. shuttle program:

“Today’s launch represents a bittersweet milestone for the 30 year-old U.S. program. While many of us are sad to see the era of the shuttle come to a close, we can take pride in the many accomplishments of the men and women at Johnson Space Center and those of the contractors and greater Texas community who provided critical support to the program over the past three decades.

“While today marks the end of the shuttle’s chapter, we know this is not the end of human space exploration. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Texas congressional delegation to ensure our state remains at the helm of a robust human space program, which will help the U.S. maintain its competitive edge and stand as a source of pride for all Americans.”

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance, Judiciary, Armed Services and Budget 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.



Summary of the 82nd Legislative Session

The regular legislative session lasts 140 days, during which the legislature considers thousands of bills, constitutional amendments, and resolutions. The most recent legislative session ended on May 30, 2011; the state legislature will not convene in a regular session again until January 2013. Because of the limited time the legislature convenes and the great number of bills that are filed, most legislation does not pass. Of the 5796 bills filed in either the House or the Senate this session, 1379 passed both chambers.

This session, there were 3865 bills introduced in the House and 1931 in the Senate; 154 constitutional amendments filed in the house and 53 constitutional amendments in the Senate. Of the 1379 total bills that were passed, 797 were House bills and 582 were Senate bills. Only 10 constitutional amendments were passed by both chambers.

As a comparison, during the 81st Legislative Session, there were 7419 bills and 190 constitutional amendments filed by both chambers. Of the bills filed, 1459 bills were passed and 9 constitutional amendments were passed.

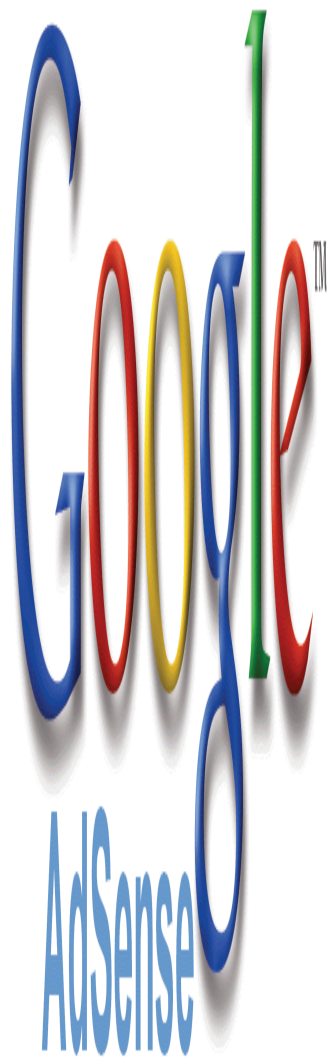
There were 1623 more bills filed during the 81st Session than in the 82nd, however only 62 more bills were passed in the 81st. Over the last 10 years, the average number of bills that pass during a regular session is 1418. While the number of bills filed may greatly vary from session to session, the actual number of bills that are passed remains roughly the same.

Upon receiving a bill within the last 10 days of the session, the governor has until 20 days after final adjournment in which to sign the bill, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature. The governor recently issued proclamations vetoing 24 bills from the 82nd session. Comparatively, there were 35 bills vetoed during the 81st session, not including line-items in the budget.

The veto of House Bill 242 has probably received the most attention. HB 242 would have prohibited a driver from using a hand-held wireless device to read, write, or send a text message, instant message, or e-mail unless the vehicle was stopped. The governor stated in his veto proclamation for HB 242 that, “Texting while driving is reckless and irresponsible. I support measures that make our roads safer for everyone, but House Bill 242 is a government effort to micromanage the behavior of adults. I believe there is a distinction between the overreach of House Bill 242 and the government’s legitimate role in establishing laws for teenage drivers who are more easily distracted and laws providing further protection to children in school zones.”

Occasionally, the authors of bills that have passed will request that the governor veto their bill. This happened this session when three, nearly-identical bills relating to the expunction of a person’s arrest in a criminal history record passed both chambers and were sent to the governor. To avoid conflicting language and confusion within the statutes, the authors of two of the bills requested that their bills be vetoed.

For more information on the recent session 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.



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.

Christian Fellowship

Each Sunday morning begins with coffee and doughnut fellowship at A Christian Fellowship church in Luella at 9 am, followed by classes for all ages at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30 with this week's speaker to be Denis Gray

Praise and worship is led by David Ellis and is a contemporary style service. Dress is casual. The church celebrates The Lord's Supper each Sunday morning during worship time.

Each Wednesday night begins at 6:30 pm with a pot-luck dinner followed by praise and worship and a devotional. There is a special class for the children that will go throughout the summer months.

The church also has 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



Tom Bean

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 7:30am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Quinn.

We invite everyone to our Vacation Bible School July 11 thru 15 each night at 7:30 pm. We have classes for all age groups. This year theme is "Soldiers of Christ."

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



Plan Your Departure

In the spring of 1981, a young man was flown into the desolate north country of Alaska to photograph the natural beauty and mysteries of the tundra. He took along photo equipment, 500 rolls of film, several firearms, and 1400 pounds of provisions. As the months passed, the entries in his diary, which at first detailed his wonder and fascination with the wildlife around him, turned into a pathetic record of a nightmare.

In August he wrote, 'I think I should have used more foresight about arranging my departure. I'll soon find out.' ... He waited and waited, but no one came to his rescue.

In November he died in a nameless valley, by a nameless lake, 225 miles northeast of Fairbanks. An investigation revealed that he had carefully mapped out his venture, but had made no provision to be flown out of the area.

ALL of us need to make specific plans for OUR departure from this life. If we don't, we can be left in a predicament worse than that young man!

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." – Matt 7:13-14

The Way to ETERNAL LIFE is through Jesus Christ, the Son of God: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Because of His great love for us, Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that

Local Churches

continued



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
Duane Peters,
903-815-2278
PILOT GROVE



Click to continue

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Plan Your Departure, continued

we might live with Him for an eternity (1 Thessalonians 5:10).

We accept the gift of eternal life - (Romans 6:23) by: placing our faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turning from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confessing Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (immersed) into Christ so that our sins can be washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

THEN... we are to “live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13-14).

Long ago, Moses bemoaned the sinful idolatry of the people of Israel and where it would lead them, saying: “Oh, that they were wise, that they

understood this, That they would consider their latter end!” – Deuteronomy 32:29

Have YOU considered your latter end? Have YOU planned your departure? Trusting and obeying Christ is the only Way to be prepared...

Won't YOU?

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



Local Churches Continued

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



Neighborhood Genealogist - How to Preserve Records

by Dale Rideout

By now you have started to gather a fair bit of information. You have many names with their relationship to you along with birth and death dates and places. You have marriages and children and with some luck you are beginning to gather family stories. This is all your history and important to you and your family. How do we keep it all in order.

The most obvious choice is with a computer. There are many computer programs that are designed specifically for genealogy. Most of them range from about \$30 to over \$100. They all do about the same thing, but each one will have its own bells and whistles. Let me suggest that you not buy any one until you know which would suit your needs best. Do a lot of study about each one and just what you want your computer program to do for you. Check the bells and whistles so that you learn just what you want most in your program before purchasing any of them.

In the meantime, you can download Personal Ancestry File from FamilySearch.org. Got to the website. Click on "Go to Previous version." on the right-hand side about 1/2 way down the screen. When the new page opens, look on the right hand side for "Free PAF Family History Software." Near the bottom of the paragraph click on the words, "download PAF." Answer the questions and register for FamilySearch.org. You will download the software free and can begin your lifelong quest.

You should also keep a paper copy of everything you collect. I suggest using a simple three ring notebook with dividers. All of your Family Group Sheets, and Ancestry Sheets can be punched with a three hole punch and saved in that notebook. You will also have a minimum of eight sections for family names (surnames.) I suggest eight because that will take you back through your great-grandparents. As you have

success with your research, you can add more dividers for more surnames.

Choose you own method of organizing the records as you find out which information you most easily can acquire. You may want to file them by last name, alphabetically and then by year of birth with the newest records first and oldest ones last. This is all just a matter of choice and you may change it as you gain more information over the years.

When your binder gets full, then simply add another one, dividing the information between them. You can continue to add binders almost forever. One thing I would suggest is that you invest in some acid free paper, and pens designed for long lasting images. As you are doing your research you will find pages that have faded and the paper and ink have a lot to do with this fading.

Another thing to keep in mind is to "back-up" your work. I have my family history on four computers and several websites. I must admit that I have not made extra copies of my paper files. Do as I say not as I do. Keep a set of the files as well as your computer records at some location away from where you keep your research. I do not wish to scare folks, but a house fire could wipe out all your work. While some things can be replaced, your photos and records cannot, unless you have duplicates somewhere else.

As for your computer, let me tell you a little story. I have a friend who was working on her doctorate degree. She had all her information on her computer, including her dissertation. None of it was backed up and none of it was in paper form. One day a thief broke in and stole her computer. It was easy to get a new computer, but there was months of work in the research and writing of her dissertation. It all had to be done over. Back up your files. See you next month with more ideas about genealogy.

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What Happened to the Patriotic Hymns?

By Steve Casey

“We sang beautiful patriotic hymns that only the adults knew because the songs are no longer taught at school.”

This was part of an email describing the wonderful patriotic services held in a rural church in central Kentucky. The songs they were speaking of were basics to American patriotism: “My Country ‘Tis Of Thee,” “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” “America the Beautiful,” and “God Bless America.” I spoke with young people in my home area of northwest Louisiana and they confirmed also that patriotic songs are not taught in their schools.

We, the American taxpayers, are paying for public education where patriotism is considered politically incorrect! This is doubly true when patriotism involves mentioning God as in the songs listed above.

Several years ago, I saw a chart of the history of the national averages on the ACT and SAT scores. These scores peaked and began their downward spiral very close to the occurrence of one major American

educational event. That event was the establishment of the national Department of Education.

As the control of education has been taken away from local and state governments and given to the federal government, our educational systems have declined. History books have totally eliminated unedited copies of original documents like the Declaration of Independence since it speaks of “unalienable rights” endowed by a Creator God. The text of the Mayflower Compact is excluded because it is way too religious. Local PTAs are usually involved with fundraising and other school benefit projects, but have little or no input into what is taught in the classroom.

There are many movements today to “Take America Back” from those who are destroying her. But until we take back the educational system, we will not be able to take back the nation.

Steve Casey is the author of In God We Trust -- The Faith of the Men on Our Money, Stonewall, LA



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On Eve of Historic Final Launch, Chairman Hall Reflects on Space Shuttle Program

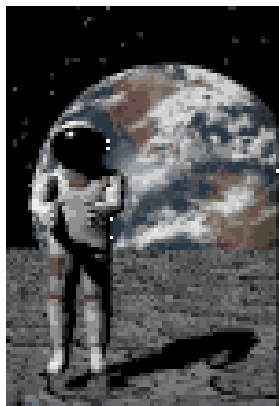
Washington D.C. – Friday, July 8, Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairman Ralph M. Hall (R-TX) made the following statement, reflecting on the Space Shuttle Program and all of its successes:

“Having served on this Committee since I was first elected to Congress in 1980, I have had the pleasure of being involved with the Space Shuttle Program since Columbia’s maiden voyage back in April, 1981. It has been an honor to have attended several launches, every time feeling the anticipation of the countdown and lift-off. We have watched in awe as the Shuttles rocketed into space, and we have felt the shock and sorrow when Columbia and Challenger ended in tragedy. We will always remember those brave Astronauts who lost their lives, and we should honor their courage and sacrifice by continuing their work to better America through space exploration and scientific discovery.

“Along with being a source of pride and inspiration for the last thirty years, the Space Shuttle Program has also helped to preserve America’s role as the global leader in innovation and engineering. The Space Shuttle is the first manned spacecraft ever developed that can achieve orbit, land back on earth, and then be reused. Including tomorrow’s launch, the Program will have launched 355 different individuals from 16 countries, ferrying astronauts into earth orbit to build and utilize the International Space Station, possibly the most challenging engineering project ever undertaken. The Program has also delivered a multitude of scientific satellites and instruments into orbit that have expanded humanity’s understanding of the universe.

“The talented men and women of NASA’s Space Shuttle team have done an extraordinary job, continually pushing the boundaries of science and engineering. They deserve tremendous credit for their accomplishments and their continuing commitment to the success of our nation’s endeavors in space. The Space Shuttle has been a remarkable national capability that will be missed once the STS-135 mission crew returns safely to earth from its final voyage, and Atlantis is retired along with the rest of the fleet. I salute the four brave astronauts, led by Commander Doug Hurley, as they depart on this historic mission.

“With the retirement of the Space Shuttle, NASA will face a critical period and will need Congress’s support and direction to focus its limited resources on sustaining America’s leadership in space. We are in a challenging budget environment, but I believe that ensuring U.S. access to space is vital to our national interests. I believe human space exploration should be a national priority. In order for the U.S. to remain a leader in space exploration Congress has given NASA a blueprint in last year’s authorization bill, which is now law. The Space Launch System and Multi Purpose Crew Vehicle are important priorities that can also ensure the U.S. achieves assured access for American crews, in case commercial ventures do not materialize or our international partners become unable to provide access to the Space Station. As Chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I will continue to make sure that NASA follows this path, so that America will remain the preeminent leader in space exploration.”



No NURSING HOME FOR me!!!

No nursing home for us. We'll be checking into a Holiday Inn!

With the average cost for a nursing home care costing \$188.00 per day, there is a better way when we get old and too feeble. I've already checked on reservations at the Holiday Inn.

For a combined long term stay discount and senior discount, it's \$59.23 per night.

Breakfast is included, and some have happy hours in the afternoon.

That leaves \$128.77 a day for lunch and dinner in any restaurant we want, or room service, laundry, gratuities and special TV movies. Plus, they provide a spa, swimming pool, a workout room, a lounge and washer-dryer, etc. Most have free toothpaste and razors, and all have free shampoo and soap.

\$5 worth of tips a day you'll have the entire staff scrambling to help you.

They treat you like a customer, not a patient. There's a city bus stop out front, and seniors ride free.

The handicap bus will also pick you up (if you fake a decent limp).

To meet other nice people, call a church bus on Sundays.

For a change of scenery, take the airport shuttle bus and eat at one of the nice restaurants there.

While you're at the airport, fly somewhere. Otherwise, the cash keeps building up.

It takes months to get into decent nursing homes. Holiday Inn will take your reservation today.

And you're not stuck in one place forever -- you can move from Inn to Inn, or even from city to city.

Want to see Hawaii? They have Holiday Inn there too. TV broken? Light bulbs need changing? Need a mattress replaced? No problem. They fix everything, and apologize for the inconvenience.

The Inn has a night security person and daily room service. The maid checks to see if you are ok. If not, they'll call an ambulance . . . or the undertaker. If you fall and break a hip, Medicare will pay for the hip, and Holiday Inn will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life.

And no worries about visits from family. They will always be glad to find you, and probably check in for a few days mini-vacation. The grandkids can use the pool. What more could I ask for?

So, when I reach that golden age, I'll face it with a grin.

AIDS WARNING!

To all of you approaching 50 or have REACHED 50 and past, this email is especially for you.....

SENIOR CITIZENS ARE THE NATION'S LEADING CARRIERS OF AIDS!

HEARING AIDS BAND AIDS

ROLL AIDS WALKING AIDS

MEDICAL AIDS GOVERNMENT AIDS

MOST OF ALL MONETARY AID TO THEIR KIDS!

Not forgetting HIV - (Hair is Vanishing)

OUTZKIRTS

By: David & Doreen Dotson

OUTZKIRTS.COM



Cat Chat



by C. Cat Jr.

Change the street name

OK. So Old Man is on the City Counsel again. There was an interesting meeting this week. One of the items on the agenda was an information item concerning the changing of a street name.

Background information is that there are three streets in our immediate area named "Farmington." Only one is in the city limits so we do not have any jurisdiction on the others. This one is a short street with only 35 homes on it. Several of those homes are duplexes with only short term families living in them.

A street name change would require a degree of inconvenience to the ones living there. Our local post office assured us that they could handle this small change with no problems. Our police and fire departments have agreed the change could be helpful.

Our 911 system does have some problems. Just a few weeks ago a lady went into labor at home and they called for an ambulance. Because of the three streets with basically the same name, the ambulance was delayed - it went to the wrong "Farmington." The baby was born at home before the ambulance could get there. The good news is that everyone is fine and the baby is healthy. The bad news is, "What if this had been a heart attack, or major bleeding that needed immediate care?"

This street name problem has caused delay several times in the past when emergency help was needed.

There was one elderly couple who attended the meeting. They do not want the street name changed. I overheard the comment from the lady, "We have lived there for over 50 years and never had a problem. I don't want to make all those changes."

It is fine to disagree. I understand that this lady is now going to go to all the homes and try to get a petition together to not make the street name change. Again that is her privilege.

I just wonder? Is that petition going to be more work than notifying folks about her new address. What if she or her husband had fallen and couldn't get up, would she like to wait maybe 30 minutes or more while help was going to a different "Farmington" road and trying to find her?

This old cat just thinks the old woman is totally selfish and doesn't want a little inconvenience that might save the lives of some of her neighbors. It will be interesting to see what happens.

Have a good week.



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.

TILLET GROCERY

102 S. Waco (Hwy. 5),
Van Alstyne, TX , 903-482-5494
Fresh Cut Meat (never frozen), Complete line of groceries, Fishing Equipment & Bait, Great Beer & Wine selection.

EMPLOYMENT AD

Tom Bean I.S.D.

Athletic Director/Head Football Coach Position
Applications are available at the Superintendent's
Office

at 7719 State Hwy. 11 or at www.tombean-isd.org
Job details are available on the Tom Bean website

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Howe, Texas 75469

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Saturday 9am - 1pm 903-546-0024

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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 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

