

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

July 21, 2011



Col. Thruston (life size image) stands with Lana Rideout outside his home in Mr. Vernon. Thruston was the tallest soldier in the Civil War, standing 7 feet, 7 ½ inches.

Historic Mt. Vernon Texas

The town of Mt Vernon, Texas is located in Franklin County, about 100 miles from Howe. The Wright-Vaughn home is the oldest surviving home. There are two ante-bellum homes in the county (the other one is the Rogers-Hammond House erected in 1852) . Over 60 Pre-World War I homes are marked with attractive signs by the Franklin County Historical Association.

The first courthouse was on the north side of the square followed by one built in the middle of the square and torn down in 1912. The present southern Georgian colonial style courthouse cost \$55,000.

There are several parks in the area:

*Little Creek Park for volleyball, tennis, baseball, etc. and picnic area.

*RV parks include Dogwood Park, Walleye Park, Overlook Park, Mary King Park and W.D. Guthrie Park. 850 acres (903-860-7799)

*Dupree Park is a 57-acre natural area with pavilion. Nature trail is mark by 65 sign posted and printed guide to the flora and fauna, open dawn to dusk. (903-537-4760)

*City Lake Park is open for hiking and affords a great opportunity for viewing waterfowl from Oct-March.

Nearby lakes include Cypress, Bob Sandlin, Monticello, and Mt. Vernon City Lake.

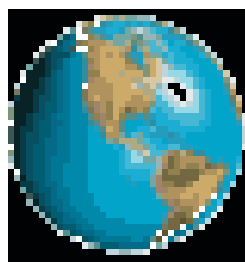
Historic highways include The Cherokee Trace, The Choctaw Trail, and Bankhead Highway (there is speculation that LaSalle passed through on this highway in the late 1600s),

A number of antique stores dot the area. The Franklin County Genealogical Association (www.mt-vernon.com/~skelly) located in downtown Mt. Vernon has excellent files on births, deaths, newspaper items, county records, etc.



Rogers - Drummond House circa 1852 in Mt. Vernon, Texas.

Carved antique cabinet displays antique glassware at the old Methodist Church - now a private residence/museum in Mt. Vernon.



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We are printing the full text of President Obama's and John Boehner's speeches from Monday night, July 25.

Obama's Speech on National Debt, July 25, 2011

Good evening. Tonight, I want to talk about the debate we've been having in Washington over the national debt - a debate that directly affects the lives of all Americans.

For the last decade, we have spent more money than we take in. In the year 2000, the government had a budget surplus. But instead of using it to pay off our debt, the money was spent on trillions of dollars in new tax cuts, while two wars and an expensive prescription drug program were simply added to our nation's credit card.

As a result, the deficit was on track to top \$1 trillion the year I took office. To make matters worse, the recession meant that there was less money coming in, and it required us to spend even more - on tax cuts for middle-class families; on unemployment insurance; on aid to states so we could prevent more teachers and firefighters and police officers from being laid off. These emergency steps also added to the deficit.

Now, every family knows that a little credit card debt is manageable. But if we stay on the current path, our growing debt could cost us jobs and do serious damage to the economy. More of our tax dollars will go toward paying off the interest on our loans. Businesses will be less likely to open up shop and hire workers in a country that can't balance its books. Interest rates could climb for everyone who borrows money - the homeowner with a mortgage, the student with a college loan, the corner store that wants to expand. And we won't have enough money to make job-creating investments in things like education and infrastructure, or pay for vital programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

Because neither party is blameless for the decisions that led to this problem, both parties have a responsibility to solve it. And over the last several months, that's what we've been trying to do. I won't bore you with the details of every plan or proposal, but basically, the debate has centered around two different approaches.

The first approach says, let's live within our means by making serious, historic cuts in government spending. Let's cut domestic spending to the lowest level it's been since Dwight Eisenhower was President. Let's cut defense spending at the Pentagon by hundreds of billions of dollars. Let's cut out the waste and fraud in health care programs like Medicare - and at the same time, let's make modest adjustments so that Medicare is still there for future generations. Finally, let's ask the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations to give up some of their tax breaks and special deductions.

This balanced approach asks everyone to give a little without requiring anyone to sacrifice too much. It would reduce the deficit by around \$4 trillion and put us on a path to pay down our debt. And the cuts wouldn't happen so abruptly that they'd be a drag on our economy, or prevent us from helping small business and middle-class families get back on their feet right now.

This approach is also bipartisan. While many in my own party aren't happy with the painful cuts it makes, enough will be willing to accept them if the burden is fairly shared. While Republicans might like to see deeper cuts and no revenue at all, there are many in the Senate who have said "Yes, I'm willing to put politics aside and consider this approach because I care about solving the problem." And to his credit, this is the kind of approach the Republican Speaker of the House, John Boehner, was working on with me over the last several weeks.

The only reason this balanced approach isn't on its way to becoming law right now is because a significant number of Republicans in Congress are insisting on a cuts-only approach - an approach that doesn't ask the wealthiest Americans or biggest corporations to contribute anything at all. And because nothing is asked of those at the top of the income scales, such an approach would close the deficit only with more severe cuts to programs we all care about - cuts that place a greater burden on working families.

So the debate right now isn't about whether we need to make tough choices. Democrats and Republicans agree on the amount of deficit reduction we need. The debate is about how it should be done. Most Americans, regardless of political party, don't understand how we can ask a senior citizen to pay more for her Medicare before we ask corporate jet owners and oil companies to give up tax breaks that other companies don't get. How can we ask a student to pay more for college before we ask hedge fund managers to stop paying taxes at a lower rate than their secretaries? How can we slash funding for education and clean energy before we ask people like me to give up tax breaks we don't need and didn't ask for?

That's not right. It's not fair. We all want a government that lives within its means, but there are still things we need to pay for as a country - things like new roads and bridges; weather satellites and food inspection; services to veterans and medical research.

Keep in mind that under a balanced approach, the 98% of Americans who make under \$250,000 would see no tax increases at all. None. In fact, I want to extend the payroll tax cut for working families. What we're talking about under a balanced approach is asking Americans whose incomes have gone up the most over the last decade - millionaires and billionaires - to share in the sacrifice everyone else has to make. And I think these patriotic Americans are willing to pitch in. In fact, over the last few decades, they've pitched in every time we passed a bipartisan deal to reduce the deficit. The first time a deal passed, a predecessor of mine made the case for a balanced approach by saying this:

"Would you rather reduce deficits and interest rates by raising revenue from those who are not now paying their fair share, or would you rather accept larger budget deficits, higher interest rates, and higher unemployment? And I think I know your answer."

Those words were spoken by Ronald Reagan. But today, many Republicans in the House refuse to consider this kind of balanced approach - an approach that was pursued not only by President Reagan, but by the first President Bush, President Clinton, myself, and many Democrats and Republicans in the United States Senate. So we are left with a stalemate.

Now, what makes today's stalemate so dangerous is that it has been tied to something known as the debt ceiling - a term that most people outside of Washington have probably never heard of before.

Understand - raising the debt ceiling does not allow Congress to spend more money. It simply gives our country the ability to pay the bills that Congress has already racked up. In the past, raising the debt ceiling was routine. Since the 1950s, Congress has always passed it, and every President has signed it. President Reagan did it 18 times. George W. Bush did it 7 times. And we have to do it by next Tuesday, August 2nd, or else we won't be able to pay all of our bills.

Unfortunately, for the past several weeks, Republican House members have essentially said that the only way they'll vote to prevent America's first-ever default is if the rest of us agree to their deep, spending cuts-only approach.

If that happens, and we default, we would not have enough money to pay all of our bills - bills that include monthly Social Security checks, veterans' benefits, and the government contracts we've signed with thousands of businesses.

For the first time in history, our country's Triple A credit rating would be downgraded, leaving investors around the world to wonder whether the United States is still a good bet. Interest rates would skyrocket on credit cards, mortgages, and car loans, which amounts to a huge tax hike on the American people. We would risk sparking a deep economic crisis - one caused almost entirely by Washington.

Defaulting on our obligations is a reckless and irresponsible outcome to this debate. And Republican leaders say that they agree we must avoid default. But the new approach that Speaker Boehner unveiled today, which would temporarily extend the debt ceiling in exchange for spending cuts, would force us to once again face the threat of default just six months from now. In other words, it doesn't solve the problem.

First of all, a six-month extension of the debt ceiling might not be enough to avoid a credit downgrade and the higher interest rates that all Americans would have to pay as a result. We know what we have to do to reduce our deficits; there's no point in putting the economy at risk by kicking the can further down the road.

But there's an even greater danger to this approach. Based on what we've seen these past few weeks, we know what to expect six months from now. The House will once again refuse to prevent default unless the rest of us accept their cuts-only approach. Again, they will refuse to ask the wealthiest Americans to give up their tax cuts or deductions. Again, they will demand harsh cuts to programs like Medicare. And once again, the economy will be held captive unless they get their way.

That is no way to run the greatest country on Earth. It is a dangerous game we've never played before, and we can't afford to play it now. Not when the jobs and livelihoods of so many families are at stake. We can't allow the American people to become collateral damage to Washington's political warfare.

Congress now has one week left to act, and there are still paths forward. The Senate has introduced a plan to avoid default, which makes a down payment on deficit reduction and ensures that we don't have to go through this again in six months.

I think that's a much better path, although serious deficit reduction would still require us to tackle the tough challenges of entitlement and tax reform. Either way, I have told leaders of both parties that they must come up with a fair compromise in the next few days that can pass both

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Obama's Speech, continued

houses of Congress - a compromise I can sign. And I am confident we can reach this compromise. Despite our disagreements, Republican leaders and I have found common ground before. And I believe that enough members of both parties will ultimately put politics aside and help us make progress.

I realize that a lot of the new members of Congress and I don't see eye-to-eye on many issues. But we were each elected by some of the same Americans for some of the same reasons. Yes, many want government to start living within its means. And many are fed up with a system in which the deck seems stacked against middle-class Americans in favor of the wealthiest few. But do you know what people are fed up with most of all?

They're fed up with a town where compromise has become a dirty word. They work all day long, many of them scraping by, just to put food on the table. And when these Americans come home at night, bone-tired, and turn on the news, all they see is the same partisan three-ring circus here in Washington. They see leaders who can't seem to come together and do what it takes to make life just a little bit better for ordinary Americans. They are offended by that. And they should be.

The American people may have voted for divided government, but they didn't vote for a dysfunctional government. So I'm asking you all to make your voice heard. If you want a balanced approach to reducing the deficit, let your Member of Congress know. If you believe we can solve this problem through compromise, send that message.



Speech by US Speaker of the House John Boehner, July 25, 2011

Good evening. I'm John Boehner. I serve as Speaker of the whole House -- of the members of both parties that you elect. These are difficult times in the life of our nation. Millions are looking for work, have been for some time, and the spending binge going on in Washington is a big part of the reason why. Before I served in Congress, I ran a small business in Ohio. I was amazed at how different Washington DC operated than every business in America. Where most American business make the hard choices to pay their bills and live within their means, in Washington more spending and more debt is business as usual. I've got news for Washington - those days are over. President Obama came to Congress in January and requested business as usual -- yet another routine increase in the national debt limit -- we in the House said 'not so fast.' Here was the president, asking for the largest debt increase in American history, on the heels of the largest spending binge in American history. Here's what we got for that spending binge: a massive health care bill that most Americans never asked for. A 'stimulus' bill that was more effective in producing material for late-night comedians than it was in producing jobs. And a national debt that has gotten so out of hand it has sparked a crisis without precedent in my lifetime or yours. The United States cannot default on its debt obligations. The jobs and savings of too many Americans are at stake.

What we told the president in January was this: the American people will not accept an increase in the debt limit without significant spending cuts and reforms.

And over the last six months, we've done our best to convince the president to partner with us to do something dramatic to change the fiscal trajectory of our country. . .something that will boost confidence in our economy, renew a measure of faith in our government, and help small businesses get back on track.

Last week, the House passed such a plan, and with bipartisan support. It's called the 'Cut, Cap, and Balance' Act. It CUTS and CAPS government spending and paves the way for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, which we believe is the best way to stop Washington from spending money

America, after all, has always been a grand experiment in compromise. As a democracy made up of every race and religion, where every belief and point of view is welcomed, we have put to the test time and again the proposition at the heart of our founding: that out of many, we are one. We have engaged in fierce and passionate debates about the issues of the day, but from slavery to war, from civil liberties to questions of economic justice, we have tried to live by the words that Jefferson once wrote: "Every man cannot have his way in all things...Without this mutual disposition, we are disjointed individuals, but not a society."

History is scattered with the stories of those who held fast to rigid ideologies and refused to listen to those who disagreed. But those are not the Americans we remember. We remember the Americans who put country above self, and set personal grievances aside for the greater good. We remember the Americans who held this country together during its most difficult hours; who put aside pride and party to form a more perfect union.

That's who we remember. That's who we need to be right now. The entire world is watching. So let's seize this moment to show why the United States of America is still the greatest nation on Earth - not just because we can still keep our word and meet our obligations, but because we can still come together as one nation. Thank you, God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.

it doesn't have. Before we even passed the bill in the House, the President said he would veto it.

I want you to know I made a sincere effort to work with the president to identify a path forward that would implement the principles of Cut, Cap, & Balance in a manner that could secure bipartisan support and be signed into law. I gave it my all.

Unfortunately, the president would not take yes for an answer. Even when we thought we might be close on an agreement, the president's demands changed.

The president has often said we need a 'balanced' approach -- which in Washington means: we spend more. . .you pay more. Having run a small business, I know those tax increases will destroy jobs.

The president is adamant that we cannot make fundamental changes to our entitlement programs. As the father of two daughters, I know these programs won't be there for them and their kids unless significant action is taken now.

The sad truth is that the president wanted a blank check six months ago, and he wants a blank check today. That is just not going to happen.

You see, there is no stalemate in Congress. The House has passed a bill to raise the debt limit with bipartisan support. And this week, while the Senate is struggling to pass a bill filled with phony accounting and Washington gimmicks, we will pass another bill - one that was developed with the support of the bipartisan leadership of the U.S. Senate.

Obviously, I expect that bill can and will pass the Senate, and be sent to the President for his signature. If the President signs it, the 'crisis' atmosphere he has created will simply disappear. The debt limit will be raised. Spending will be cut by more than one trillion dollars, and a serious, bipartisan committee of the Congress will begin the hard but necessary work of dealing with the tough challenges our nation faces.

The individuals doing this work will not be outsiders, but elected representatives of the people, doing the job they were elected to do as outlined in the Constitution. Those decisions should be made based on how they will affect people who are struggling to

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get a job, not how they affect some politician's chances of getting reelected.

This debate isn't about President Obama and House Republicans ... it isn't about Congress and the White House ... it's about what's standing between the American people and the future we seek for ourselves and our families.

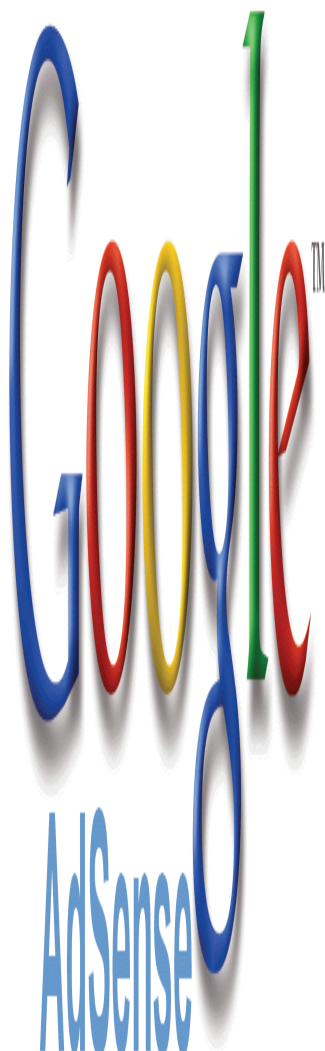
You know, I've always believed, the bigger government, the smaller the people. And right now, we have a government so big and so expensive it's sapping the drive of our people and keeping our economy from running at full capacity.

The solution to this crisis is not complicated: if you're spending more money than you're taking in, you need to spend less of it,

There is no symptom of big government more menacing than our debt. Break its grip, and we begin to liberate our economy and our future.

We are up to the task, and I hope President Obama will join us in this work.

God bless you and your families, and God bless America.



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Southeastern ranks 6th nationally in producing Native American graduates

DURANT, Okla. – Southeastern Oklahoma State University continues to earn high marks from “Diverse Issues In Higher Education” magazine.

Each year, the magazine publishes its top 100 rankings of minority graduates.

According to the latest rankings, released this summer, Southeastern ranks sixth in the nation in awarding undergraduate degrees to Native American graduates in all disciplines combined. In addition, Southeastern is ranked 17th nationally in awarding master’s degrees in all disciplines.

In the undergraduate rankings, Southeastern was ranked in the top 10 in nine different majors; in the master’s category, Southeastern was ranked in the top 10 in two majors.

Southeastern held the top three rankings on the undergraduate list in Engineering Technologies and Engineering-related fields (Occupational Safety & Health), Education, and Psychology. In the master’s rankings, Southeastern was ranked first in Engineering Technologies and Engineering-related fields (Occupational Safety & Health), and second in Engineering (Aerospace Administration & Logistics).

“We are very pleased to be recognized nationally for our work with Native American students,” said Southeastern president Larry Minks. “I think it is particularly impressive when you look at the number of different fields of study that are represented in the rankings. We have a number of programs in place, including the Native American Center for Student Success, to assist these students as they strive to reach their educational goals. We are

also very fortunate to have tremendous support from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation. Partnerships have been established with both nations to truly benefit students and we look forward to continued success.”

The report is based on preliminary data from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2009-10 school year. In the undergraduate category, Southeastern had 170 Native American graduates that year (28 percent of the total undergraduate class to earn degrees).

Last year, Southeastern ranked seventh nationally in the publication’s rankings for undergraduate degrees in all disciplines combined.

The Southeastern Native American Center for Student Success provides advisement and assistance in accessing external funding for Native American students. The center also houses staff from the Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program and the Chickasaw Nation Education Services and offers a College Success course for new freshmen.

The Center is home to the “Native American Excellence in Education” grant funded by the Office of Indian Education to assist with preparing future Native American educators.

Southeastern also offers a Native American Studies minor, Native American management option and four courses in Choctaw Language and Culture.

Each year, Southeastern partners with the Choctaw Nation to sponsor “Native American Visitation Day,” in which high school students experience the college setting.

Among other activities, the University hosts the Native American Symposium and Film Festival.



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Howe's That

by Lana Rideout

Someone must have been throwing a big party. I read a news item this week about 21 tons of mustard and ketchup being stolen. That's a lot condiments for hot dogs, hamburgers, and French fries.

Of course summertime is the time for lots of backyard cookouts, but surely 21 tons would take a long time to be used up even if it were a block party in Beverly Hills, California.

The article said the trailer was probably the target of the robbery not the mustard and ketchup!!

Item noted in the **Huffington Post** President Obama has been fined nearly a \$200 fine for not paying London's congestion charge when his motorcade drove through the city in May.

According to Transport for London, the City of London charges a toll of between \$14.50 and \$19.30 (£9-£12) to drive on weekdays in certain parts of the city, according to Transport for London.

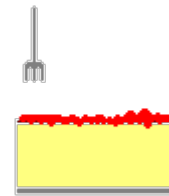
Cameras that the city uses to enforce the fee captured the license plate of one of the cars in the President's motorcade, the **Daily Mail** reported. Other cars in the motorcade, including Obama's armored Cadillac that's nicknamed "The Beast," escaped the fines because they were traveling so close together cameras couldn't capture their plates.

President Obama isn't the only American government official to break the rules. According to the **London Standard**, the U.S. has collected over \$8 million (£5 million) in unpaid congestion fees since the toll was introduced 8 years ago.

The London Evening Standard reports that the city's mayor, Boris Johnson, discussed the unpaid fees at the state dinner at Buckingham Palace. "We had a very friendly conversation," Johnson told the Evening Standard. "Suffice to say discussions will be ongoing."

From the **New York Times**, The American Embassy defended its refusal to pay the charge, insisting it was "wholly in accordance" with the 1960 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. A spokesman said the treaty "prohibits the imposition of this sort of tax on diplomatic missions."

Recipe



Cherry Cheesecake Pie

- 1 box (15 oz) refrigerated ready-to-bake pie crusts
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 bricks (8 oz each) 1/3-less-fat cream cheese (Neufchâtel), softened
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 tsp almond extract
- 1 can (21 oz) cherry pie filling
- 1 large egg, in a small bowl
- 1/3 cup sliced almonds

Heat oven to 350°F. Have ready a 9-in. pie plate.

Fit 1 crust into pie plate. Unroll or unfold remaining crust on a cutting board; cut in 1/2-in.-wide strips. Cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate.

Mix sugar and cornstarch in a medium bowl. Add cream cheese; beat with mixer on medium speed until smooth. On low speed, beat in egg and extract until just blended.

Spread batter evenly in crust; spoon pie filling evenly over top. Beat egg white with a fork until foamy. Brush on pastry strips. Arrange about 8 strips evenly spaced across pie filling. Place 8 more strips diagonally over first strips to form a lattice (discard remaining strips). Trim and press ends to bottom crust. Brush rim with egg white; press on almonds.

Bake 50 to 60 minutes until crust is golden brown and cherries bubble. Remove to a wire rack to cool. Serve warm, at room temperature or cold.

Can be baked up to 4 days ahead; refrigerate covered.



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Change Your World By Hosting An Exchange Student

Nonprofit seeks volunteer host families for foreign exchange students before August 15.

Chicago, IL-(June 14, 2011)-Center for Cultural Interchange (CCI), the well-respected, nonprofit student exchange organization, seeks volunteer host families to host exchange students for the 2011-12 school year. Each year, CCI provides over 1000 exchange students from over 50 countries the opportunity to study in local public high schools for a five-month semester or a 10-month Academic High School Year.

"Host families make all of the difference," said Allison Graham, Outreach and Training manager. "They influence a young adult's life, changing world views and making dreams come true. When the family is so willing to give, they have just as many rewarding and enriching experiences as the student."

Volunteer host families come from varied economic, religious and racial backgrounds and include working parents, empty nesters, singles and single parents. They are to provide:

*Open communication, encouragement, patience and sound advice

*A separate bed, which can be in a shared room with a host sibling of similar age and same gender and a quiet place to study

*Three daily meals

*Local transportation (students are not permitted to drive while in the program)

*Treatment as a member of the family, which may include household rules, responsibilities and privileges

While host families are not compensated, the Internal Revenue Service has authorized families to claim a \$50 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns.

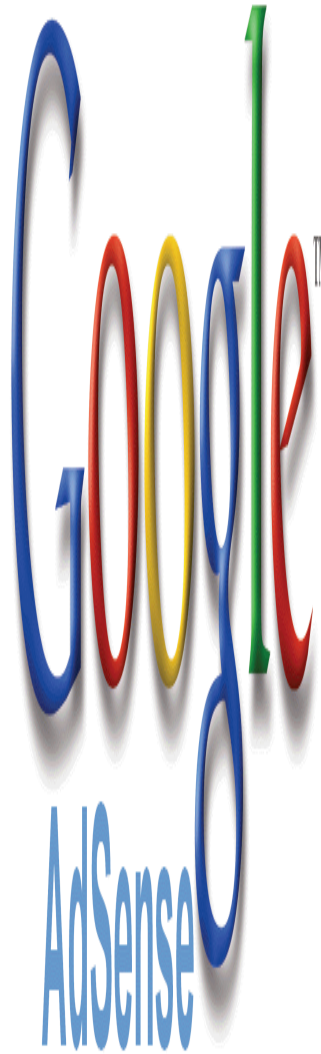
Students have their own accident and health insurance and bring their own spending money. Students are encouraged to participate in school-sponsored activities, community service and environmental programs. CCI provides regular communication and support to both host families and students. Host family applications are being accepted now through August 15.

For more information, visit

<<http://www.cci-exchange.com/usprograms/host.aspx>>

<http://www.cci-exchange.com/usprograms/host.aspx>, email

<<mailto:ayp@cci-exchange.com>> ayp@cci-exchange.com or call 800-634-4771.



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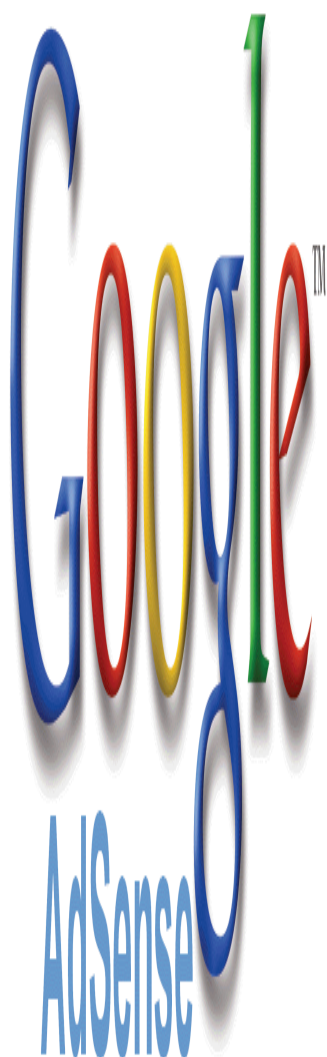
Dinner Theatre Comedy

Sherman Community Players are presenting *“You Know I Can’t Hear You When The Water Is Running!”*

Friday and Saturday evening at 6:30 pm, and Sunday matinee at 12:30 pm.

July 29, 30, 31 and Aug. 5, 6, &7. at the Honey McGee Playhouse.

Reservations a Must - Call Darlene at 903-893-7652



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Van Alstyne Library News

By Tracy Luscombe

Are you supposed to read **Ender's Game** by Orson Scott Card for your AP English class this summer? If so, come on by and check out one of our copies. We have 2 in the collection.

Define "new". Does it mean newly added to the collection? Newly published? Never used by anyone else before? Our "new items" shelf has become rather robust lately because we've typically added to that area any item that is actually new to our collection, regardless of publication date. However, that doesn't really give you the best use your library's entire collection. There might be a new book on a subject that compliments an existing item in the collection; but you won't find the existing item if you just go to the new shelf. So now we'll just be putting a selection of items on the "new" shelf. If you want a book, audiobook, or movie, and do not see it on the shelf just ask a staff member. If you know you want something on a particular topic but don't know where to browse, just ask a staff member. We're here to help you find the materials you need.

Reader's Bingo is going on now for children. Pick up a bingo page at the library and read toward a prize. Turn in these pages by August 9.

We have one more week of summer programming before we take a break in August. Tuesday, July 26 – Crafts for ages 6-13 11am-noon, Bilingual story time 4-5pm, Wednesday, July 27 – preschool story time, Thursday, July 28 – The movie this week is Finding Nemo starting at 4 pm

Save the dates of these future events:
Tuesday, August 16 – Fall Vegetable Planting with Master Gardener Trudy West – a free family event, 6:30 – 7:30pm.
September 15-17 – Annual Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Van Alstyne Public Library.



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Juanita Hazelton congratulating Garrett Shaw

Van Alstyne Voices

The July 18th meeting called to order by Juanita Hazelton, President.

The Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were led by Dorothy Bishop.

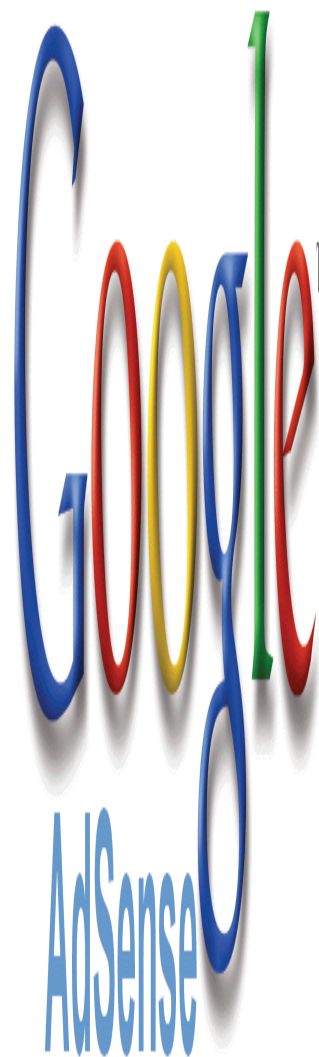
MJ Presley spoke on Skia, The Whale, describing the 30 story deep Blue Hubbard Glacier, and the Tale of an Indian in a canoe!

Garrett Shaw gave his Icebreaker, which is the first speech to get one started on the road to Public Speaking with confidence!

Dorothy Bishop led Table Topics with Allison describing her Best Dog Ever, Pam Shaw describing the White Lie, and Bob Bishop describing how a Jack Rabbit cools with his ears!

Our General Evaluator was Katherine Presley; Timer was Lamon Shaw. Evaluators were Allison Presley and Bob Bishop.

Winners for this meeting: Best Table Topic: Allison Presley.
Best Evaluator: Bob Bishop. Best Speaker: Garrett Shaw, with a fantastic Icebreaker!



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PBR Built Ford Tough Series will visit Thackerville

The WinStar World Casino Invitational will be held in outdoor venue on July 29-30

THACKERVILLE, Okla. - The Professional Bull Riders will bring the nationally-televised Built Ford Tough Series to Thackerville, Okla., for The WinStar World Casino Invitational on July 29-30.

The event will be different from other BFTS events in that it will be held outdoors. The arena and seating will be constructed on a location adjacent to the WinStar World Casino.

Tickets can be purchased at www.WinStarWorldCasino.com or by telephone at (800) 622-6317. Bull riding will begin at 8 pm on Friday, July 29, and Saturday, July 30.

The event is the 20th stop on the nationally-televised Built Ford Tough Series schedule. Money and points earned in the event will count toward qualification for the PBR Built Ford Tough World Finals, and determination of the PBR World Champion.

Each of the 40 riders will ride on Friday and Saturday. Following Round 1 on Friday, the riders with the 10 highest scores will each compete with one more bull. Following Round 2 on Saturday, the riders with the 10 highest cumulative scores will advance to the Built Ford Tough Championship Round where they will compete with one more bull. The overall event winner will be the rider with the highest combined score.

Oklahomans will be able to cheer home-state favorites and Top 10-ranked riders L.J. Jenkins of Porum, Austin Meier of Kinta, and Ryan McConnel of Atoka.

"The events in Oklahoma are special, because it is nice to know that all your family and friends can be there rooting for you in person instead of watching on TV," Meier said.

Valdiron de Oliveira leads the BFTS with 7,714 points and a riding percentage of 66.7 percent, while earning more than \$200,000. He has held the No. 1 ranking for 16 consecutive weeks, and 17 of 19 weeks overall. 2010 PBR Rookie of the Year Silvano Alves is only 386 points behind Oliveira, and tied with him for the lead with eight Top 5 finishes. Robson Palermo is ranked third, and despite missing three events, leads the BFTS in wins with four, while winning almost \$240,000.

The first 19 events of 2011 have produced 12 different winners, and less than 2,100 points separate the Top 5 riders. There are 1,100 possible points at each two-day BFTS event, and 1,400 possible points at each three-day BFTS event. Three of the 10 remaining regular season events are three-day events. The BFTS regular season resumes on July 29-30 with The WinStar World Casino Invitational in Thackerville, Okla.

The action will be televised in HD on VERSUS at 8 pm ET on Saturday, July 30, and Sunday, July 31. BFTS telecasts are produced for the PBR by David Neal Productions, a Los Angeles-based production company led by 30-time Emmy(r) Award winner and Peabody Award winner David Neal, who serves as executive producer and creative lead.

The WinStar World Casino Classic will be the 20th of 29 stops on the 2011 BFTS schedule, which began at world-famous Madison Square Garden in January. The season concludes Oct. 26-30 in Las Vegas with the PBR Built Ford Tough World Finals, and the crowning of the 2011 PBR World Champion. The World Finals are the richest bull riding event on the planet with the winner receiving the World Championship PBR Buckle and a \$1 million bonus.



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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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The murdered sheriff

By Bob Bowman

A few weeks ago, Doris and I spent a couple of days at Waco, attending a history conference.

One of the speakers made a presentation on Texas lawmen who died in the line of duty. One of the lawmen -- Angelina County Sheriff William Reed (Bill) McMullen -- caught my attention.

McMullen was one of the men who was killed during a feud between the Gilley and Windham families at Homer, the county seat of Angelina County in the 1860s.

The seeds for the feud were sown by two incidents. On August 1, 1865, John D. Windham and Isaac Gilley met on the streets of Homer, exchanged threats and Gilley shot Windham with a double-barreled shotgun loaded with buckshot.



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Dot's

D-A-S-H-E-S



By Dorothy N. Fowler

This week's column is potpourri, a collection of random thoughts about this and that and the other. It starts with the haunting memory of woman who called KERA, the National Public Radio station in Dallas, to say something very much like this: "I can't tell you how much I resent paying taxes so some other person's child can have a free breakfast at school."

I am pretty sure that she is neither Christian, Jewish nor Muslim because one of the tenets of all three faiths is that faithful adherents be faithful about caring for people, especially children, who, for whatever reason, cannot care for themselves.

Several years ago a public debate about the role of religion in public policy began with this hypothesis: "Resolved: Religion plays too great a role in policy decisions in the United States." The intended focus of the debate was to explore whether conservative evangelical Christians wield too much influence on public policy. (For the record, there are liberal evangelical Christians. I know, because I am one.)

As in all legitimate debates, the participants drew for sides. The team that drew the negative side, turned the debate upside down by offering a counter resolution: "In fact, religion does not play enough role in policy decisions because if it were a significant force, the problem would not be whether to feed the hungry, care for the sick, house the homeless, clothe the naked, treat the prisoners with respect, but how to accomplish those things." Put succinctly, the negative team said conservative evangelicals had lost sight of their own faith by concentrating on tax policy instead of on doing what Jesus said to do, i.e., feed the hungry, care for the sick, house the homeless, clothe the naked, treat the prisoners with respect.

During my nine years as pastor of the small United Methodist church in Wink, Texas, it was my privilege to work with some of the most interesting, energetic, dedicated and right-minded people in the world. One of them was Doris Dodd, who was the school nurse for the Wink Independent School District. WISD may have been the richest school district in the state at that time because the school district in Loving County, which has the smallest population in the state and the lowest population density, did not have enough students to maintain a school district and so sent its students and its very considerable wealth to WISD.

J. L. Dodd, husband of Doris, was the high school principal. Between them, they knew where everybody in Winkler County was buried, which, for the ones of you don't speak Texan, means they knew all there was to know, good and bad, about nearly every person in Wink and in Kermit, the county seat.

Doris and I were visiting in her front yard early one mid-July morning as we prepared for a church sale. She lived across



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BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

Windham recovered from his wounds and Gilley was indicted for attempted murder in 1866.

But that didn't end the feud. In the spring of 1866, Gilley rode into Homer with a Texas flag, hoisted it on a pole on the courthouse square near the Hudiburg Hotel, and dared any man to take it down.

Gilley was addressing the jayhawkers and night riders who were seeking to gain control of the county in an upcoming June election.

Gunfire rang out from the hotel and Gilley and his men took cover as the town square exploded with pistol and rifle shots from the doors and windows of the hotel.

Someone rode for Sheriff McMullen, who was eating supper at his home a mile away. He hurriedly rode into Homer with his son Foster.

As he approached the hotel, he was killed instantly with a bullet to his chest. Eli Windham was also killed.

Seeing that McMullen had fallen, men on both sides scrambled for their horses and rode out of town.

Several wounded men were treated by Dr. W.W. Manning on his store porch. The Gilley gang rode to the home of Dr. D.H.L. Hogg to have their wounds treated.

The instability of the county's government was worsened by the Homer shootout. In an election on July 25, 1866, voters elected new county officials, and the mood was to kick out the unionists.

Sheriff McMullen, meanwhile, had been buried at Homer Cemetery.

In 1885, after Gilley had fled to Louisiana, he was hunted down and returned to Homer for the murder of Eli Windham. However, he was found not guilty.

On March 12, Gilley cleaned his pistol, loaded it with new shells, placed the barrel under his chin, and pulled the trigger. He died instantly.

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



Dot's Dashes, continued

the street from the park, which was filled with huge trees that had been stripped of their leaves by a particularly vicious hail storm in late May or early June. By the day of our visit, most of the trees had grown new leaves, clean and clear green, that sparkled in the morning sunshine.

In mid-sentence, Doris suddenly said, "Do you feel that?"

Of course I did feel the feathery light breeze blowing as the sun rose higher in the summer sky. It was a fall breeze, a promise that in a few weeks the heat would abate and cooler days would follow even cooler nights.

This past Tuesday morning, as I stood in my backyard, I felt that same breeze. It lasted only a moment, but it was unmistakable, with its promise that the present heat will abate, that the rain will come again, and that the basic rhythm of life will go on no matter what policy decisions are made in Austin, Washington, or Grayson County. The present heat will not last forever.



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Capitol Watch
By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Caylee's Law

In the wake of the verdict in the Casey Anthony murder trial, state elected officials have received hundreds of emails requesting new legislation to make it a felony for someone not to report a child missing within 24 hours of the child's disappearance. This legislation is referred to as "Caylee's Law," in reference to Anthony's 2-year old daughter who was found murdered. Although the Texas Legislature will not reconvene in a regular session until January 2013, a senator from Arlington, Chris Harris, has already agreed to sponsor legislation pertaining to the reporting of missing children.

Current Texas law requires that any person who knows of the death of a child under six to report the death immediately to either the county medical examiner or justice of the peace (JP), unless the cause of death is a result of a motor vehicle accident. A medical examiner or JP who is notified of such a death is required by law to conduct an inquest. If, as a result of the inquest, the cause of death is unexpected or is due to suspected abuse or neglect, the medical examiner or JP must immediately notify local law enforcement of such. Failure to report a child's death is a Class C misdemeanor.

It is a state jail felony if a person abandons a child in any place under circumstances that expose the child to an unreasonable risk of harm, even with intent to return to the child. It is also a second degree felony if a person abandons a child under circumstances that a reasonable person would believe would place the child in imminent danger of death, bodily injury, or physical or mental impairment. There are no laws at this time regarding the failure to report a child missing. I expect that when the legislature does convene in 2013, legislation will be introduced requiring any person who knows that a child is missing to report the missing child to authorities.

For more information on 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.



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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

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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.

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Christian Fellowship

Each Sunday morning begins at 9 am with coffee and doughnut fellowship, followed by classes for all ages at 9:30. Worship begins at 10:30, this week's speaker will be Mike Ball, come on out and see what fun we have at our family oriented place of worship and don't forget that dress is casual.

Praise and worship is led by David Ellis and is a contemporary style service, also the church celebrates The Lord's Supper during worship time.

The church has home study groups throughout the week and prayer night on Thursday night at the church.

Wednesday night begins with a pot luck dinner followed by praise and worship and a devotional. The younger children will attend a Vacation Bible School class throughout the summer months.

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 @ 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.

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



The Love of Many Shall Wax Cold

By Willie Sofey

"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of many will wax cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved," Jesus Christ from His Olivet Discourse concerning the end of the age (Matt. 24:12-13).

Because the world has not stood "firm" on the Word of God, wickedness has continued to increase in the hearts of men.

"For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect" (Matt 24:24 and mark 13:22). Are we not seeing precursor types of these "false prophets" working their satanic inspired doctrines on the peoples of the nations. These anti-God doctrines are being persuaded and legislated in the fabric of western civilization nations as well., e.g. Great Britain, America, etc..

The mindset of individuals and nations has made the gluttony of their flesh... their god (idol). They have chosen to compromise their Godly morals and ignore the fact that many of their leaders are dictating and legislating laws contrary to the laws and statutes of Almighty God.

Paraphrasing Isaiah 57:1-3...the people are no better than their leaders and are rebuked (suffer the wrath of God) for being insensitive to righteousness, for idolatry (including sex orgies and infant sacrifices (abortions) and for lack of trust in God.

Brothers and sisters of the faith, do not be misled by those who profess their belief in

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

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VALLEY
CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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
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The Love of Many Shall Wax Cold, continued

Christ, but deny His power, and do not confess their belief in Christ that He was and is the only Son of God, co-creator of the universe, born of the Virgin Mary, came to earth as the Savior of mankind and is "The Way, The Truth, and The Life" (John 14:6) and by this confession of faith, they live His way through their testimony, obedience, and live and conduct their lives according to His commandments.

"There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, no

lovers of good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having a form of Godliness but denying its power" (Apostle Paul to Timothy 65 A.D., 2 Tim. 3:2-5).

Unless you are spiritually blind... you can see this not only around your own community but in glaring detail from our world-wide high tech communications and delivery systems. These times remind me back when God was so disgusted with Israel after leading them out of Egypt and they were celebrating festively and sexually with a golden calf idol they had made while Moses was convening with God with the establishment of the Ten Commandments.

God to Moses, "I have seen these people and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my wrath may wax hot against them and that I may destroy them" (Exodus 32:9-10).

Yes, the cold wax hearts of men towards God's laws will cause God's heart to deliver wrath from His wax hot heart.

A small, voice in the wilderness, Willie Sofey, Sherman, TX



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

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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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The Horse Slaughter Ban: 'A case study in unintended consequences'

By Gene Hall

French novelist Albert Camus once said, "The evil that is in the world almost always comes of ignorance, and good intentions may do as much harm as malevolence if they lack understanding." In other words, you can do a lot of harm with good intentions.

Such is the case with the horse slaughter ban of 2006. A lot of people warned about the unintended consequences of this ban, including me. We predicted that horses would be worse off after the ban than before. Sometimes, you just hate being right. Now, a study by the General Accounting Office (GAO) seems to indicate that we were right, and that horses are suffering much more now than prior to the ban.

I have owned, cared for and loved horses for much of my life, though I own none now. It is a given that equines are expensive to own. They eat a lot and require frequent veterinary care. Sometimes, most expensive of all, is the decision on what to do with them when they are no longer wanted. Options like euthanasia and disposal are very costly. So is keeping a horse when you're struggling to feed your children.

This situation is exacerbated in a down economy with high unemployment. Some bought the animals in the good times and now can't afford to continue to feed and care for them, or dispose of them properly. A dead horse in the pasture can annoy the neighbors.

Of course, the market is awash in unwanted horses. If you actually want one, you can have it for a song. There is a glut in the market that has hurt reputable horse breeders.

Prior to 2006, the market and the horse meat market took care of this situation. Americans don't like horse meat, but people eat

it with relish in some parts of the world. It is, in fact, considered a delicacy. This once gave erstwhile U.S. horse owners an option to dispose of their unwanted animals.

Enter the 2006 ban, forced on a horse industry that knew better by horse lovers who did not consider unintended consequences.

Now, horses travel many hundreds of miles in crowded trailers to Mexico and Canada, where no slaughter bans exist. And when they are dispatched there, there are no humane laws and guidelines that are in place here in the U.S.

Of course, some desperate folks, seeking to become "former" horse owners, simply turn their animals loose to fend for themselves. They roam the public roads, national forests and other public lands, searching for food that can be difficult to find and often causing traffic accidents. Too often their end is starvation or on the bumper of a family vehicle or 18-wheeler. Saddest of all, many just keep them -- far beyond the owner's ability to feed them anything at all. These are the stories you see on the evening news.

The GAO report is pretty clear. It seems to me a well-managed slaughter program with plenty of humane supervision might be a better way -- for horse owners and for horses. We would be producing a product that's in demand and providing a quiet and dignified end for animals that would otherwise suffer a long and disturbing death.

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



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Tips to Avoid Online Scams

Like the TV commercials say, "Free is better." The only problem with the Internet is that it's not always free, and sometimes the price can be steeper than you'd ever want to pay.

That's the warning offered from Todd Drowlette, Chairman of classified listing site Move That Block (www.movethatblock.com). Drowlette said that his research into the consumer-to-consumer advertising space on the Internet revealed a wide variety of practices that exist for the sole purpose of deceiving the consumer.

"We all tend to have faith in the 'truth in advertising' laws protecting us from bait and switch scams," Drowlette said. "The problem is that the Internet is so saturated with bait and switch sites, the government would never have enough resources to prosecute them all. So, it's really up to consumers to beware and be aware of the kinds of sites that are out to get their money, get their email addresses or just flat out rip them off."

His tips include:

***Free or Premium** – Before signing up with a listing site, surf it carefully to ensure that all their user listings are free. It's common for them to charge companies for display ads and banner, but that's only one of their revenue models. Many sites advertise free user listings, but in reality, only the first one is free and only after you sign up for a paid membership. Make sure you understand exactly what you will be getting for free before you sign up.

***Credit Card for ID Purposes** – Some sites will ask for your credit card information to determine that you are of legal age to place an ad. Don't believe it. If someone wants your credit card information, it's because they want your money, not your ID. In some cases, you'll find an unauthorized charge on your card,

but because you didn't read the fine print when you signed up, it's impossible to get the charge reversed.

***The Fine Print** – When you register on a classifieds or pay-to-use site, don't just click through all the registration procedures. Each click constitutes an agreement with the site, so read the Terms of Service and Privacy Policies carefully. This is not just fine print. These documents spell out your legal rights, and the site you're visiting is counting on the fact you won't read them. In addition, the privacy policy spells out whether they will sell your email address to spammers once you sign up. Sure, the ads are free, but you're actually paying with your email address and personal information, which may be sold to spammers and other promotional companies who will inundate you with junk mail.

***Free to Post** – Sure, it might be free to post, but that may be all you can do. Many sites use that as the come-on, and then advise you that only premium (paid) members can see your listing, or that you cannot get responses until you pay for a premium membership yourself. Make sure everything is free before you post. After all, what's the point of posting if you can't communicate with anyone who sees it?

About Todd Drowlette - Todd Drowlette began his entrepreneurial career at age 11 with a morning paper route in the Canadian border town of Malone, New York. In 2003, he went on to graduate from Siena College with high honors before becoming a member of Siena College's Associate Board of Trustees. In 2010, Todd authored the book "Everything I Needed to Know About Real Estate, I Learned on my Paper Route." He has spent the last four years running IKON Realty Group, LLC, one of the country's premier boutique commercial real estate firms, specializing in retail real estate. Todd's firm has represented some of the nation's largest property owners and tenants. It was from this career that the idea emerged to create the world's first premium quality, free-to-post and search site, MoveThatBlock.com.



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HOLY HUMOUR

**A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, " It stands for 'Basic I nformation Before Leaving Earth.'"

=====

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country..

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

=====

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

=====

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years.. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

=====

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

=====

While driving in Pennsylvania , a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

=====

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

=====

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

=====

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

=====

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed.

Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

=====

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building.. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner.."

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

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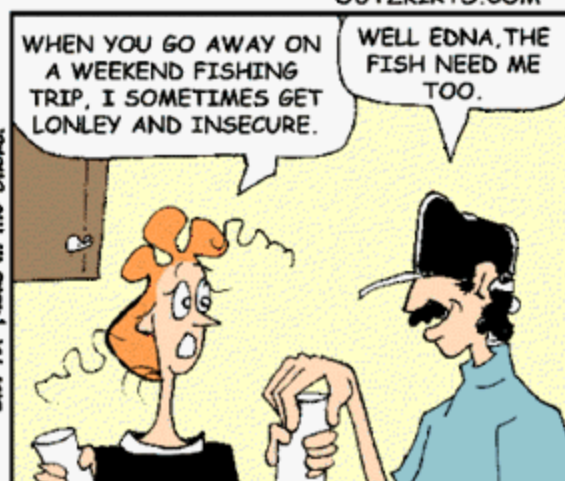
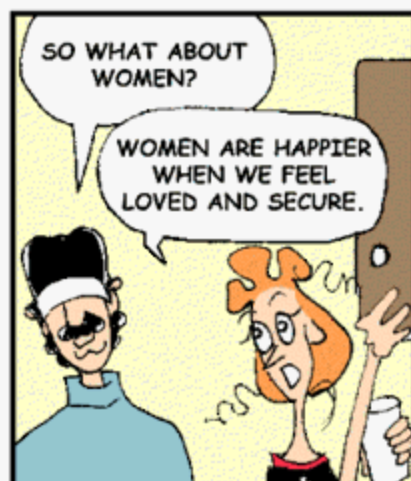
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OUTZKIRTS



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.

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Texoma Enterprise is owned and operated by Dale and Lana Rideout. They have been doing this since 1978. The picture on the left is about 5 years old, with Dale shown as "Santa" Rideout at Christmas, 2009. The family shot on the right includes all our grandchildren, plus a couple of Step-grandchildren. It was taken at Elves Christmas Tree Farm. This farm opened to the public in 1990 when Jordan was only 2 months old and he went there with us. Every year since we have taken every grandchild with us. This year was our 20 year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.



Dale & Lana Rideout



"Santa", Amber, Dominique, Timothy, Jordan, Rachel, Caleb, Chris, Cassie, Brianna, Lana



"Santa" Rideout

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