

June 23, 2011

Severe Drought, Wildfires Threaten Texas Agriculture

By Texas Agriculture Commissioner
Todd Staples

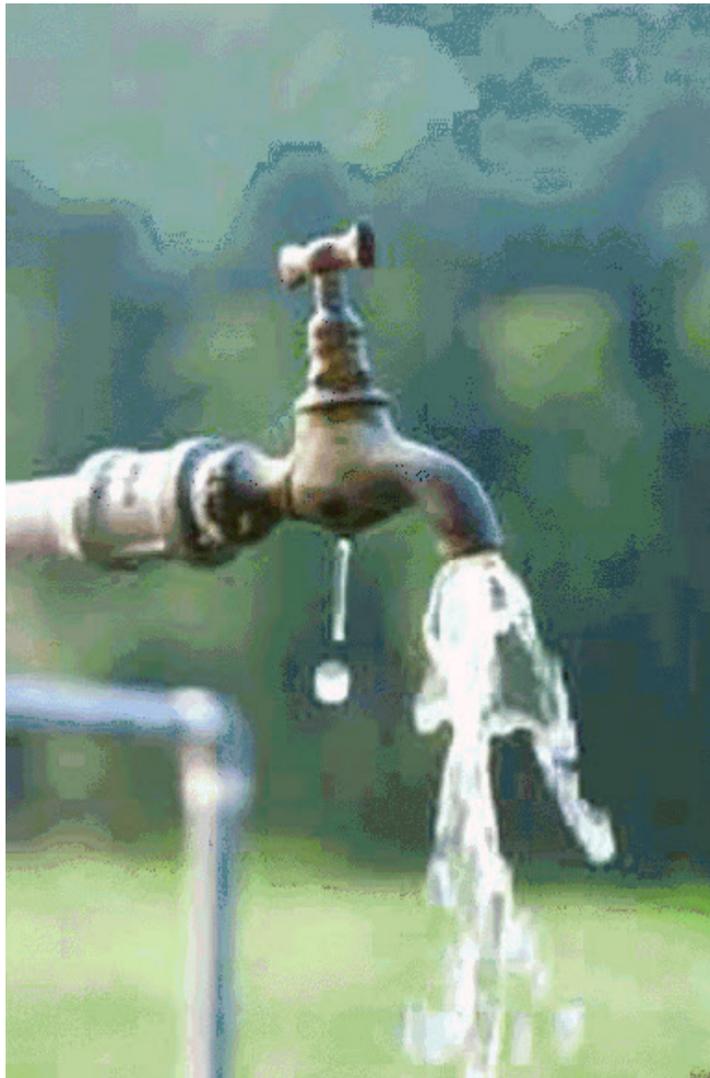
With more than three-quarters of the Lone Star State in extreme or exceptional drought conditions, the state climatologist reports Texas is in the grip of the third-worst dry spell on record. To make matters worse, the Texas Forest Service reports more than 2.9 million acres have been scorched by more than 11,780 wildfires since wildfire season began in November.

In an effort to assist farmers and ranchers in recovering from the losses of cattle, structures, fences and other necessities, I created the State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund, or STAR Fund, to collect monetary donations from private individuals and entities. STAR Fund donations will be used to rebuild the fences that exist today as only charred remains of once-bustling and productive ranches.

Texas is the national leader in the production of cattle, cotton, hay and other agricultural goods. If the devastating toll of drought and wildfires forces farmers and ranchers out of business, all Americans will be impacted by increased prices and decreased availability of the food and other agricultural products on which we rely.

In this time of severe drought and wildfires, let's help the hardworking men and women who provide us with the safest, most abundant and most affordable food supply in the world.

To make a donation, visit www.TexasAgriculture.gov and click on STAR Fund under Most Popular Links. Impacted ranchers can also utilize the Hay Hotline to locate, sell or donate forage supplies. To access the Hay Hotline, call (877) 429-1998 or visit www.TexasAgriculture.gov.



Drought in Texas is forcing a rethink on water use

By Mike Barnett

There's nothing like a drought in Texas to get folks thinking about water.

It's constantly on the minds of farmers and ranchers. Failed crops, burnt pastures, empty ponds and hungry livestock are regular reminders of the last eight months, the driest stretch for this time period on record. Little moisture means no paycheck for many in agriculture this year.

For Texans in the city, it's a different story. Water is an unlimited resource. We keep our lawns lush, golf courses green, cars shining and swimming pools filled. Water magically appears when we turn on the faucet. I should know better. But I plead guilty.

Reality set in when I opened my current water bill. The truth is about to hit millions of other Texans as well.

Lakes Travis and Buchanan, which fill the needs of many Central Texas cities including Austin, are well below their long-term averages. The most onerous Stage 3 water restrictions are expected soon for the Edwards Aquifer, which supplies the needs for 2 million people in San Antonio and surrounding areas. The reservoirs which serve Midland and Odessa are literally drying up—forcing curtailment of water use, backed by fines for those who break the rules. It's a story that repeats in many cities and towns as this relentless drought tightens its grip.

The mirage of unlimited water for Texans is about to end.

Short-term, the drought means higher water bills, the inconvenience of watering on a schedule, restrictions on use, scraggly lawns and brown shrubs. It means a Fourth of July without fireworks in many communities.

Long-term, this drought will force a fundamental change in the way Texans view water. As our population soars and supplies dwindle, water will become more expensive. Farmers will seek more efficient irrigation methods to conserve this precious resource. Cities will seek new sources, as well as strengthen efforts to conserve and recycle. Homeowners will rethink the importance of lavish landscapes and brimming swimming pools. It affects us all.

Water is a finite resource. If the drought in Texas continues, the spigot could well run dry. The lesson of the summer of 2011 is plan for the worst and hope for the best.

A little prayer for rain wouldn't hurt either.

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

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Local Students Named to Dean's List at Texas State

SAN MARCOS, Texas (Grassroots Newswire) June 21, 2011 - Texas State University-San Marcos has announced that the following students have been named to the dean's list for the Spring 2011 semester:

Stephanie R Calhoun, Andrew P Spurlin, and Whitford K Thomas, all residents of Sherman.

Texas State is a doctoral granting university located in the Austin-San Antonio corridor on the edge of the Texas Hill Country. With an enrollment of 32,586 students, it is the largest campus in the Texas State University System and has been named one of America's Best Value Colleges by the Princeton Review.

Texas State is a diverse campus community with minority students comprising more than 28 percent of total enrollment. It is one of the top 13 producers of Hispanic baccalaureate graduates in the nation.



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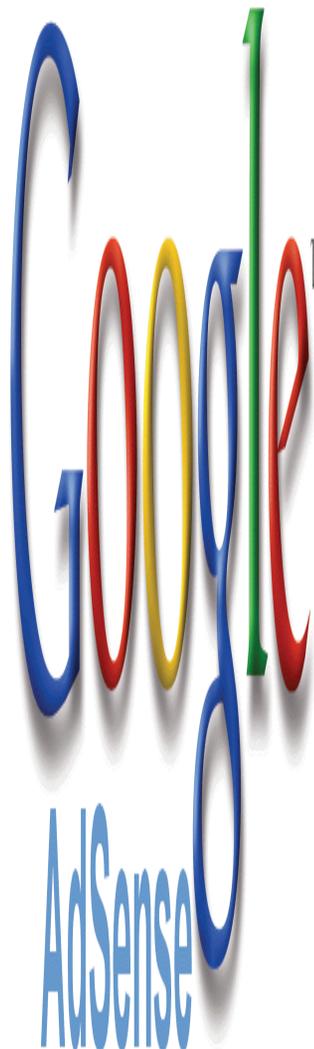
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Howe's That

by Lana Rideout

When I was a teenager, I had a crush on a boy whose last name was Turner. I like him for several years, but we never dated. However, I dreamed about marrying him some day. That did not turn out to be the case.

Some of you who are reading this may not remember a beautiful and talented actress of the 1940's and 50's. Her name was Lana Turner. In fact, my mother named me "Lana" after this actress.

When I was young, I did not particularly like my name. I wanted to be named Laura. But as I grew up, I found I like the name. There are a few young ladies around who are named Lana; but it is not as common a name as Mary or Linda. (Not that those names are not lovely names!)

Actress Lana Turner was married at least 8 times and her daughter stabbed to death one of her lovers. She had a lot of scandal and tragedy in her life. I am sorry for her because I do not believe that she was a very happy person.

But I am now glad my mother gave me that name.

Note on another matter: One of my grandmothers used to say after a big family meal that next came the saddest part of the meal ... washing the dishes. Today we have automatic dishwashers that help relieve some of that sadness!

Recipe



Almond Joy Cake

1 (2-layer) butter chocolate cake mix
1 cup milk
1 cup sugar
24 marshmallows
1 (14-ounce) package shredded coconut
1-1/2 cups sugar
1 cup evaporated milk
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
Whole almonds, lightly toasted (optional)

Bake the cake using package directions for a 9 x 13-inch cake pan. Bring the milk and 1 cup sugar to a boil in a saucepan. Boil for 1 minute; reduce the heat. Stir in the marshmallows and cook until blended, stirring constantly. Stir in the coconut and pour over the hot cake.

Bring 1-1/2 cups sugar, the evaporated milk and butter to a boil in a saucepan; reduce the heat to low. Add the chocolate chips and mix well. Cook until blended, stirring frequently. Fold in the almonds. Pour the chocolate mixture over the warm layers. Let stand until set and cut into squares. You may freeze for future use.

For neat slices, chill for several hours before cutting. 1 to 2 dozen squares

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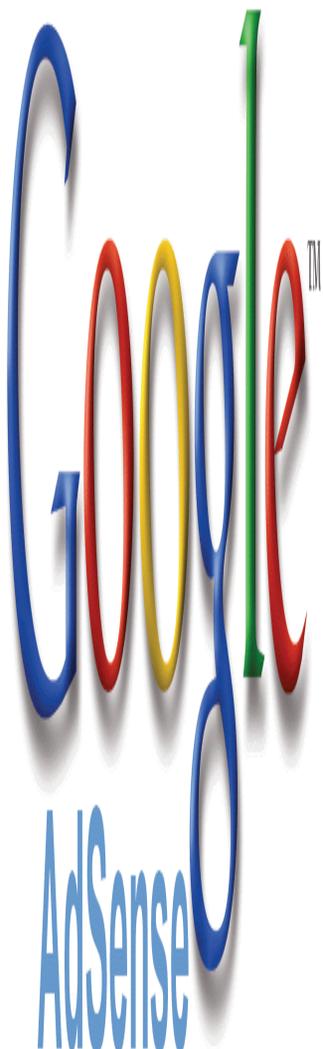
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Howe School Board Meeting

The Howe Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6 pm on Thursday, June 30, 2011 in the Howe ISD Board Room located at 105 W Tutt St, Howe, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax = \$1.04/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters = \$0.3215/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Note: total proposed tax rate is \$1.36150/\$100

The regular monthly meeting of the HISD Board was held Thursday, June 16, with the following board members present: Board president Leonard Huntsman, Vice president Greg Akins, Secretary Pat Stewart, and board members Brad Anderson, Mark Abner, and Scott Renfro.

Supt. Kevin Wilson gave several reports including positive enrollment numbers and a financial update.

Howe Mayor Jeff Stanley addressed the board concerning the use of the Bulldog Stadium facilities for a July Fourth fireworks display on July 4 beginning when it becomes dark. Stanley noted that last year's city fireworks held at the high school fields was successful, but he felt the stadium would provide more parking.

The board approved the request stipulating that the Bulldog grass field not be available and that the city provide security and cleanup.

The board approved the following items:

*Minutes from Regular Meeting on May 19, 2011, Budget Workshop on June 1, 2011, and Budget Workshop on June 8, 2011

*Monthly Financial Reports

*Budget Amendments

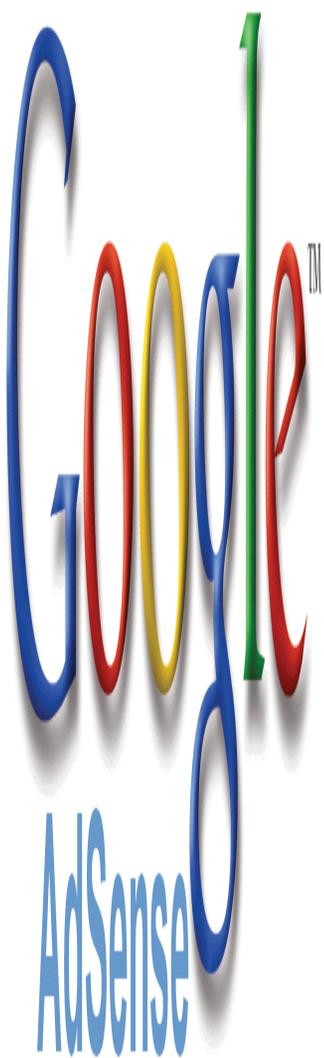
*Annual Review of Investment Policy and Investment Strategies and Resolution

*District Goals for 2011-12

*Employee Retention Stipend of \$400 for professional personnel and \$200 for non-professional.

In addition, a Staff Development Waiver exchanging three student days for three teacher development days. They also approved a Vendor List for 2011-12 and a possible action regarding approval of reduction in force due to a program change that requires the discharge of one or more employees in accordance with Board Policy DFF (LOCAL). They also took action regarding identification of the employment areas to be affected by the RIF approved by the Board on June 16, 2011, pursuant to DFF (LOCAL).

The board approved Proposal of Tax Rate for 2011-12 and called a Public Hearing on June 30, 2011 to Discuss Proposed 2011-12 Budget and Tax Rate (as noted in top paragraphs).



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Texas Crusaders 14u select baseball team - Front L-R: Jonah Gilmore, Colton Sanford, Brennan Walser, Grant Jones; Back L-R: Tyson Jones, Tanner Stubblefield, Tyler Vance, Treyson Jones; (not shown Tyler Danner and Zach Blevins). Coaches L-R: Phil Gilmore, Jeff Sanford. Brayden Tanner (not shown)

The Texas Crusaders USSSA Champions!

The Texas Crusaders 14u select baseball team centralized in Sherman won the Championship in the USSSA SYSA Select League this season. They came in first place in the league and then took the Championship in the end of season select league tournament. They pulled past the Texoma Baseball Academy 14u select team out of Denison in an exciting big hit and winning run in the bottom of the 6th inning, the Crusaders winning 5-4. The team is coached by Jeff Sanford, Phil Gilmore, and Bobby Danner. The Crusaders consist of players from Sherman, Bells, Tom Bean, and Howe. Sponsored by AAAA Automotive, Alpha Transmissions, GCEC, Angels of Care, and Life Time Designs. They are off to Big League Dreams in Mansfield to wrap up the season in the USSSA World Series Warm-up. Congratulations to the Texas Crusaders 14u!!!



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Tom Bean Independent School District

The Board of Trustees of the Tom Bean Independent School District held a regular monthly board meeting on Monday, June 20, 2011. President, Brian Trentman called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Steve Book led the invocation.

The Oath of Office was administered by Marsha Sprowl to the new board members, Shane Pennell, Steve Book, and Stan Woodruff.

The election of officers took place with Jimmy Jones being chosen President of the Board, Stan Woodruff as Vice-President, and Jinger Peeples as Secretary. Brian Trentman, outgoing President, received a plaque on behalf of the Board of Trustees and TBISD for his superb service and dedication to the children of Tom Bean.

The minutes of May 16th and May 23rd, 2011 along with the Financial Reports were approved as presented.

Each of the campus principals gave a report with the total enrollment, attendance, discipline, number of walk-through evaluations, number of teacher absences, newsletters, and current events. The administrators also gave a report of the TAKS preliminary results. The curriculum director also gave insight into the District's SHAC Council and the Safe and Drug Free School Survey annual report.

Coach Price, Athletic Director, gave the Board a summary of the summer workouts and the field house renovations from the flood.

The Board approved the SHAC committee for 2011-2012 along with the budget amendments for 2010-2011.

Legal and Local policy Update 90 was approved except for EI and FMH Local. The two local policies will be brought to the board at a later date.

A new boiler which provides hot water to the Middle School has been purchased and no action was taken on the local graduation procedures.

Mrs. Garrison explained to the Board of Trustees the 2010-2011 School Safety Audit. In addition, she explained the portable building has been moved in the process of being connected.

There will be a Budget Workshop for the Superintendent and the Board on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 6:00 followed by a special called board meeting to discuss the air conditioning problem at the Middle School.

The Board of Trustees will attend a Legislative Update on September 1, 2011 at Whitewright ISD for board training hours. TBISD shared with the Board regulations and procedures concerning service animals on campus. Area TAKS scores were shared with the Board to show the comparison of TBISD to other school Districts. Mrs. Garrison was elected by the Commissioner of Education, Robert Scott, and the Director of UIL, Charles Breithaupt, to serve on the UIL legislative board as a 2A representative for a one year term. Lastly, the Board received protocol concerning the Texas Open Meetings Act.



New board members, Shane Pennell, Steve Book, and Stan Woodruff.



Brian Trentman, outgoing President, received a plaque on behalf of the Board of Trustees and TBISD for his superb service and dedication to the children of Tom Bean.



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Jennifer Diane Finney (1980-2011)

HOWE - Jennifer Diane Finney died June 15, 2011 at Baylor Hospital, Garland at the age of 31.

She was born May 31, 1980 to Harold and Janie Finney of Howe. She attended Howe Public Schools and graduated in 1998. She graduated with in 2006 with a bachelor degree in business management and marketing from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Okla. She worked briefly for a travel agency but quit to follow her passion for teaching American sign language. She taught high school students for three years in Garland Independent School district. She was a member of First Baptist Church and was very active during her teen years.

She loved traveling, photography, crafts of all kinds, riding her motorcycle and most of all, being around people.

She is survived by her parents of Howe; brother Jeremy and fiancé Melisa Long of Anna as well as two nephews, Grayson and Cooper Finney; grandmothers, Louise Finney of Howe and Mary Thompson of Longview; her aunts and uncles, Vickie and Jerry White of Sherman, Jimmy and Judy Finney of Howe, Davis Finney of Howe, Jana and Michael McDaniel of Howe, Alma and Scott Hayes of McKinney, Tommy and Kay Thompson of Duncanville, Sammy and Sarah Chumbley of Longview; two special young ladies, Morgan and Courtney Calvert, numerous loving cousins and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her two grandfathers, J.D. Finney and Lowell Thompson of Howe as well as her maternal grandmother, Lucille Thompson.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 18, 2011 at First Baptist Church of Howe under the direction of Waldo Funeral Home in Sherman. Rev. Roger Tidwell of the church will officiate and pallbearers will be her uncles and male cousins.

Memorials in Jennifer's honor may be made to the Grayson County Women's Crisis Center at 4200 N. Travis, Sherman, Texas 75090 or to the organization of your choice. The online register book can be signed at waldofuneralhome.com.

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Anthony L. Geer (1915-2011)

Anthony L. Geer, 95, passed away peacefully on June 14, 2011 at Stonefield Assisted Living in McKinney with Elnora, his wife of 72 years, by his side

Anthony was born on Nov. 18, 1915 in Westminster to Carl W. Geer and Avis Carmichael Geer. He graduated from McKinney High School in 1933 and from Metropolitan Business College in 1934. He had a long career in banking and real estate, but his main mission in life was helping others. He taught many young people the banking business and he believed in and loved people. He lived his life for others. He was a Godly man and beloved by his family and friends. Anthony never retired. He believed in working and staying busy.

Anthony married Elnora Horn on April 22, 1939. Four years after they graduated from high school, they attended a reunion together and two years later were married. At the time, Anthony worked for the Federal Land Bank in McKinney, Dallas and Kaufman. When World War II began he was drafted into the Navy and was stationed in the Philippines. When he returned from the war he started working at the First National Bank in Anna. At that time he and Elnora moved to Anna where they raised their family and have lived since 1946.

He was preceded in death by his parents, C.W. and Avis Geer, brother Carl Edward Geer, sister Shirley Wallis and husband Wilbur, a granddaughter, Leslie Geer, and a great grandson, Chris Cawthon.

He is survived by his wife, Elnora of Anna; son, Clyde A. Geer and wife Lu of McKinney; daughters, Camille Cawthon and husband Scotty of Henderson, Amoret Cain and husband G.G. of McKinney, and Avis Gibbs and husband Harry of Georgetown; brother, Gene Geer and wife Polly; sister-in-law Mildred Geer; eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; one great-greatgrandson; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Services were held Saturday, June 18 at the First Christian Church of Anna, with interment at Elm Grove in Westminster immediately after the service. Memorial donations may be made to the First Christian Church of Anna, P.O. Box 365, Anna, TX 75409.

Turrentine-Jackson- Morrow in McKinney had charge of arrangements.

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Kyle Haigis (1988-2011)

Funeral services for Kyle Raymond Haigis, 22, of Sherman were held at Thursday, June 23, 2011 at Sherman Bible Church. Burial will follow at Akers Cemetery in Sherman. Arrangements are under the direction of Waldo Funeral Home in Sherman.

Kyle passed away suddenly on Sunday, June 19, 2011.

He was born on Aug. 22, 1988 in Sherman, the son of John Haigis and Reneta Barnett Haigis. Kyle was baptized Aug. 18, 1996 at Fairview Baptist Church. He graduated from Sherman High School in 2007. While at Sherman High, Kyle played soccer and baseball. He continued playing baseball at Arkansas Tech University after graduation. He loved playing golf, listening to music but mostly he had a passionate love for people.

Kyle is survived by his parents John and Reneta, both of Sherman; two sisters, Jessica Haigis of Houston, and Alicia Haigis of Sherman; grandparents, Sam and Mary Ann Haigis of Howe, and Cliff and Sue Barnett of Lubbock; uncle, Brooks Haigis and wife Valerie of Mesquite; aunt, Judy Rayburn and husband Art of Howe; uncle, MSGT Robert Haigis and wife Audrey of Bedias; aunt, Cindy Bradshaw and husband John of Lubbock; aunt, Jolyn Berryman and husband Brad of Phoenix, Ariz., aunt, Kristi Hahn and husband Kevin of Lubbock, and uncle, Scott Ford and wife Paola of Port Aransas. He is also survived by numerous cousins and many friends.

Kyle was preceded in death by his grandmother Marge Barnett.

Pallbearers are Eric Sinclair, Jared Dooley, Kyle Fuller, Adam Vrla, Patrick Sexton, Jeff Dick and Jett Sarrett. Honorary Pallbearers are Jon Brown, Tim Dooley, Riley Nix, Rusty Sarrett, Josh Harris, Tyler Thomas, Taylor Phelan, and Tommy McGovern.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Kyle Haigis Memorial Fund at American Bank of Texas.

The online register book may be signed at www.waldofuneralhome.com.

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Van Alstyne Library News

By Tracy Luscombe

We've had a fun week with our summer programs. Hope you'll join us for some of these next week.

Tuesday – painting and planting will be our craft for ages 6-13 on Tuesday at 11 am.

Bilingual Story time is at 4 on Tuesday. Children ages 6-9 will be learning English and Spanish through stories and activities.

Wednesday – Our beloved recently retired library director, Juanita Hazelton, will delight us with stories about her favorite dogs at 10:15 am.

Could it be magic? Come find out on June 30 as James Wand presents his Top Secret Magic Show at 2 pm. James was born in England and apprenticed with a local magician after graduating college. He's been entertaining audiences with his wholesome family-friendly shows since 1992.

Independence Day is upon us. Be sure to bring the whole family for the Friends of the Library breakfast on Saturday July 2 (7-10am). Only \$4 for adults and \$3 for children for pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits with gravy, juice and coffee, and smiles all around. A great start to the Van Alstyne Chamber's events including a flag raising at 9 am, kids bike parade at 9:30 am, and a city-wide parade at 10:15. Then stay for lots of fun to follow with live music, stagecoach rides, and antique car show, bounce houses, and fireworks.

Hope to see you around the library.



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Chrystal Opry House Gospel Event

Our Gospel event is the fourth Saturday night at 7 pm. Saturday night, June 25, the Melody Ranch Gospel Band will perform. Members of the band are Archie Shearer, lead guitar and vocals, Al Guinn, guitar and vocals, George Kirby, fiddle, Charles Woolly, mandolin and vocals, Tom Hackney, guitar and vocals, Debra Leake, vocals, Judy Ziola, piano and vocals, Keith Francis, steel guitar, Mike Vaughn, drums, and Bill Hayes, guitar and vocals.

Doors will open at 6 pm and the program will begin at 7 o'clock. Admission for this program is \$6. Children under 12 are admitted free with an adult. A concession area with brisket sandwiches, hot dogs and refreshments is available.

The Chrystal Opry House is located one and a half miles west of Tom Bean (or 6 miles east of Howe) on FM 902 and a half mile south on White Mound Road. No alcohol is permitted and no smoking is allowed inside the building. Contact Bill Hayes (903-546-6893) for more information.



June 24th, 7 pm
SUZANNA HUPP
519 W Main St
Denison, TX
(Images of Dance Studio)

Where were you October 16, 1991?

On that date in Killeen, TX, George Pierre Hennard "Jo Jo" drove his pickup truck into a Luby's Cafeteria and shot 23 people to death while wounding another 20. The Luby's massacre was the deadliest shooting rampage in American history until 2007.

Our speaker, Suzanna Gratia-Hupp, was there. Her parents were killed by this madman. Her gun was in her car because legislators had taken away the right to carry. She ran for and was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and was a leading advocate of an individual's right to carry a concealed weapon.

Come hear her story. Then join your neighbors & fellow patriots for an evening of fun and dancing to Southern Cross band. We will hold a raffle and silent auction to help cover the costs of this event. Please be generous.

Put on by the Texoma Patriots, a tea party organization serving Grayson & Fannin counties – kaarent@verizon.net.

Event sponsors are: Red River Firearms LLC, Spear's Shooters Supply, Michael Munn, Ellen Koehne, Bev & Royce Naud, Ron Clayton, Lou Keating, Harley-Davidson, Rep Larry Phillips, Sen Craig Estes, BuckSnort BBQ, TX Border Volunteers, ACT! for America,



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AND THE Big Country Show

"a bonafide hillbilly music extravaganza"

COMING FRIDAY, JULY 1ST

Inside the air conditioned
Chrystal Opry House

7:00PM \$10 admission

Purchase tickets online at www.ticketderby.com

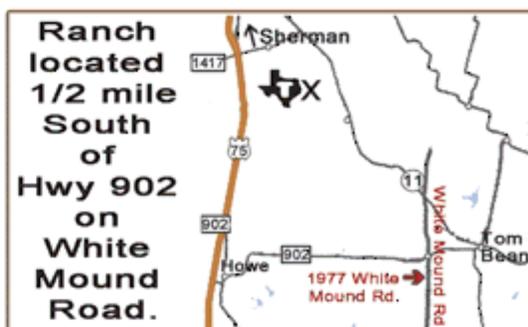
www.karlshiflett.com



Don't miss
Saturday, July 2nd:
Doors open at noon for jamming
Potluck at 6:00 pm
Round Robin Band at 7:00

Camping:
Pay for Friday night and
stay Saturday night
FREE!

Electric and Water Hookups
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Reforestation of the Texas National Forests

By Bob Bowman

President Theodore Roosevelt established four Texas National Forests in 1936. By 1937, the federal government had acquired more than 613,000 acres from private landowners at an average price of \$4.62 an acre.

One of the most persistent myths concerning these acquired National Forests is that they were denuded, treeless and barren wastelands.

Unpublished Forest Service documents describe the entire Angelina unit (primarily in Jasper and San Augustine counties) as "cut over" and "culled."

A small amount of land (five percent) on the Sabine and Sam Houston units still supported "virgin" timber while 25 percent of the Crockett unit (Houston and Trinity counties) was in "virgin" condition with the vast majority of the unit supporting extensive stands of second growth timber.



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By Dorothy N. Fowler

The new warnings on cigarette packaging are graphic enough that people who see them for the first time have a tendency to gag. However, the shock is likely to wear off and people who are addicted to cigarettes will soon be able to ignore the pictures. I am willing to bet that it won't be long before covers for cigarette packages come into fashion so that smokers can put the pack immediately into the cover and throw it out without ever seeing the picture.

I am also willing to bet that at some point, Leno and Letterman make jokes about the pictures.

These observations do not mean that I am opposed to the pictures. Indeed, I support anything that has a remote chance of discouraging smoking. My mother and father discouraged me; they were non-smokers who told me they knew they could not keep me from smoking, but if I did I would have to pay not only for the cigarettes, but also for room and board, clothing and transportation. Of course, the truth is, it never occurred to me to smoke because smokers stink and smelling good was always important to me.

I do believe, however, that this advertising campaign should be extended to containers of alcoholic beverages. Placing pictures of mangled dead bodies lying on gurneys in the hall of a hospital emergency room, or pictures of people who are permanently disfigured or maimed as a result of an accident caused by a person who has been consuming alcohol probably wouldn't have any more effect than the pictures on the cigarette packages, but at least people couldn't say, "I just didn't realize..."

Please note that I didn't say the accident was caused by someone who was drunk, but by someone who was consuming alcohol. Research shows that as soon as you put alcohol in your mouth, it begins to have an effect on your brain. You don't have to swallow it before it begins to dull your response time, perhaps not by much, but some. It is such a powerful depressant that if you drink enough of it, you will stop breathing even if you don't have an accident.

Of course, I know that none of this information makes a difference to the 60% of people in the United States who drink alcoholic beverages; I take that back. Saying any of these derogatory things about consuming alcohol brings out every defense mechanism in those who drink them. I have found over the years that nearly the quickest way to start a fight with a group of people is to say, "No thanks, I don't drink."

You don't have to say more than that, don't have to make any other statement. The assumption is either that you are a recovering alcoholic or that if you would just loosen up and take a drink, your life would improve. Some people just can't



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BOB BOWMAN'S
EAST TEXAS, continued

Dot's Dashes, continued

Some of these trees were very large. An early timber sale on the Crockett unit included removal of a 54.5 inch diameter loblolly pine and a 40 inch shortleaf pine.

Reforestation work was planned for sites which had been almost completely denuded by "cut-and-get-out" logging practices. Initial inventories indicated planting needs on approximately 40,000 acres.

Nearly 90 percent was in just two counties: Jasper and Sabine.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided much of the labor for early reforestation programs. Eight CCC crews of 17 men each, based in five different camps, worked under supervision of a junior forester. Crew members received \$1.50 for each planting day.

Planting began on a broad scale in 1936, with 3,622 acres completed. Four pines species were planted, each in discrete plantations, with an average of 1,008 trees per acre. Seedlings came from Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and Arkansas.

Starting in 1936, CCC crews began harvesting ripe cones to develop local planting stock. More than 1,000 bushels of cones were collected in 1936, nearly all from felled trees in nearby logging operations. Thirty-nine percent were longleaf pine.

Planting work continued in 1937 with an additional 12,287 acres planted; more than 7,000 acres were in the vicinity of Boykin Springs in Jasper County.

Between 1940 and 1942, the planting job changed. There were few new plantations. Most efforts were concentrated on restocking previously established sites with survival problems.

Examinations of existing plantations found an average of 60 percent mortality with most losses attributed to drought, rabbits and ants. Losses to Razorback hogs or "pineywoods rooters" were minimized by installing "hog proof" fences around all longleaf plantations and "hog riders" who were paid to eliminate hogs inside fenced plantations.

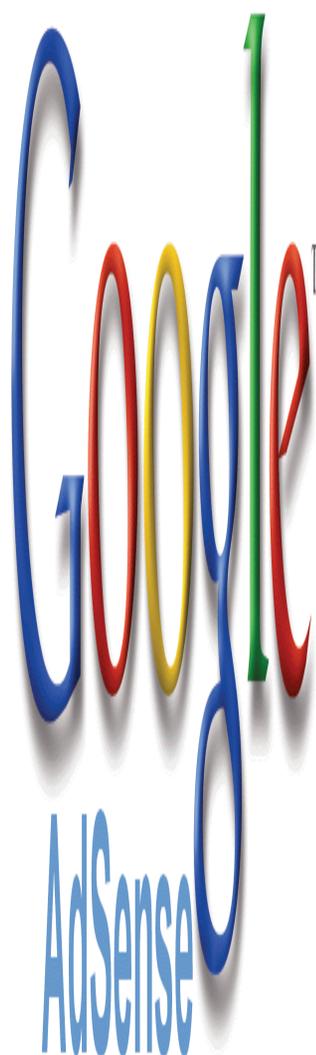
(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of more than 50 books about East Texas history and folklore. He can be reached at bob-bowmn.com)

leave it alone and stay after you all night to "try it, you'll like it."

During the nearly 40 years I taught government, I took my senior students to a trial every year. Of course, they wanted to see a trial that involved a murder. One of the members of the church I attended was a district judge and it was in his court that we usually saw the first day of the goriest trial on his docket.

In all but one of those trials, the words we heard from the defense were, "They were at a bar drinking beer and they drank too much," as if that were a valid defense against whatever they were charged with. It isn't.

I have just never seen one positive result of anyone's drinking any kind of alcoholic beverage, including wine. Put me down as a tee totaler who knows prohibition doesn't work, but who thinks maybe graphic pictures of wasted lives on the alcohol container might discourage a few from drinking the contents.




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How to Ensure Your Last Wishes Are Carried Out

By Philip Moeller

Retaining control over life decisions and maintaining dignity as the end of life approaches are top priorities for nearly everyone. These objectives can be achieved by good planning and the preparation of the proper directives under your state's laws. These safeguards have been greatly improved in many states in recent years. Still, experts say, few seniors have the right tools to make sure their end-of-life wishes are followed by family members and caregivers.

"There is some research out there that indicates that 90 to 95 percent of people think advance directives are a great idea," says Karen B. Hirschman, a research assistant professor who specializes in aging at the University of Pennsylvania. However, she adds, at most, 30 to 35 percent of people have actually developed such directives, and the total may well be less.

"Part of that is that in our society, we don't want to have these conversations," Hirschman says. "We don't want to talk about death and dying. Putting together a plan to some people seems very morbid."

People often think of such matters only when they or a family member are seriously ill. But if a stroke, dementia, or another incapacitating event occurs, it may be too late. If people cannot make decisions for themselves and do not have directives or a power of attorney in place, decisions may be made for them that they would never have agreed with if they had been able to decide.

Michael A. Kirtland, an elder care attorney in Colorado Springs, Colo., says there are two ways to make sure your final wishes are followed: One is through legal documents, and the second is by communicating your wishes to anyone who might be involved in carrying out those wishes should you become incapacitated.

"Everybody ought to have either a will or revocable living trust," he says, with the preferred document depending largely on applicable state law. "Everybody ought to have a medical power of attorney ... and everybody should have a living will." Several elder care lawyers in other states interviewed by U.S. News were not always in favor of living wills. But they all advocated a power of attorney for healthcare reasons, also called a healthcare proxy in some states. And some attorneys said they also recommended a separate power of attorney for property matters in addition to a healthcare proxy.

"The most important document they can have is the power of attorney for healthcare," says Kristi Vetri, who practices in O'Fallon in downstate Illinois and also in South Dakota. In creating this directive, "you have to rationalize in your own mind, if you can't make these decisions, what is the quality of life that you expect when you wake up? Once you get that quality-of-life decision made, that goes into the quality of care you want."

"Then I tell them, now I want you to put down what you want your loved ones to know," she says. Vetri recommends that people record their final wishes, on video if they're comfortable. Other attorneys stressed that people should communicate their wishes broadly. "It does no good to do these legal documents if you then hide them in a safety deposit box or put them on a shelf," Kirtland says. "By telling your loved ones your feeling on the subject," he explains, "you are more likely to get the kind of medical treatment you would prefer if you were making the decision."

"A lot of these documents have different names in different states," says Wendy Sheinberg, who practices on Long Island. In New York, the power of attorney cannot be used to make medical choices, she says, so a healthcare proxy is needed. "The healthcare proxy becomes effective at the time when you are unable to make medical decisions for yourself." However, the proxy is not limited to end-of-life situations. A living will, by contrast, does speak to end of life decisions, she explains. As such, it may include very specific wishes in the event a patient's condition is terminal and they are unable to speak for themselves.

The healthcare proxy, or power of attorney, leaves more specific decisions in the hands of the healthcare agent or advocate who you designate as your proxy. For this reason,

attorneys say, you should find someone (usually a family member) you trust who either agrees with your wishes, or at least promises to carry them out. Often, the agent is required to sign the healthcare proxy as well, to acknowledge an understanding and acceptance of his or her role.

"People have kind of an alarming tendency to believe after they've had a discussion with the spouse about their end-of-life preferences that their spouse understands what their end-of-life preferences is," says Sara M. Moorman, an assistant professor at Boston College's Department of Sociology and Institute on Aging. "It remains to be seen whether that is the case, and it probably isn't."

Moorman says seniors who confront end-of-life issues often discover that their wishes turn on whether their death is more about them or the loved ones they leave behind. "Do you care more about what happens to you?" she asks. "Or do you care more about what happens to your loved ones when you're about to die in a few days? It turns out that a lot of people's preferences for end of life have to do with not wanting to be a burden to somebody else."

The first, and often hardest, step toward creating final directives, experts agree, is having an extended conversation about how you want to be treated at the end of your life. Elder law attorneys say they may devote many hours to helping people not only select the right healthcare advocate but open up and seriously think about how they want to end their life. The discussion usually begins between spouses and spreads to other family members. But in the case of an older parent whose spouse has died, an adult child often triggers the discussion.

"They are very hard conversations to have, and they are important to have," Sheinberg says. "This can't be over the phone. You have to sit down with these people and say, 'I trust you, I love you, and I'd like you to be the person to make medical choices for me.' You have to really sit there and have that conversation." Family dynamics often make choosing the best advocate difficult, and a spouse or child simply may not agree with a person's final wishes or be able to carry them out when the time comes.

"Clients have weird thought processes," says Will Lucius, an elder law attorney who works at Paul A. Sturgul Law Offices in Hurley, Wisc. "Sometimes they will think child 'A' is too compassionate to make the tough health issues. Sometimes they go in order of age. Sometimes they try to balance them out."

Gregory S. French, an elder law attorney in Cincinnati, says he favors separate powers of attorney documents for healthcare and property because they require different attributes in an effective agent. "I often find the best advocate for care and wellbeing may not be the best person to manage finances, and vice versa," he says.

"The sad cases I see are people with debilitating conditions, and they wait and wait and wait," says Kirtland. "If people would come to me as their health issues are first discovered by their physicians ... then I can provide some help." If they wait until their decision-making abilities are compromised, however, they may not even be able to execute advance directives, and key decisions will be taken out of their hands.

"When their spouse is suffering from advanced dementia and they're looking at the door of a nursing home," Lucius notes, "they're not terribly interested in having a will or doing estate planning. They're trying to figure out how to come up with \$7,000 a month to afford the nursing home."

"I don't think you can ironclad final-care wishes," sums up Howard Krooks, who practices elder law in Boca Raton, Fla. "I think you can state what you want but then [you have to] cross your fingers. It's a question of whether the healthcare providers are on board with what you say you want done." The medical profession's goal to preserve and extend life may still be in conflict with end-of-life wishes.

"I think that that is starting to get stripped away, and the concept of dying with dignity is starting to take hold," Krooks says. "But it's going to take some time."

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Special Session

This week, the legislature continued to meet and debate legislation in the first called special session of the 82nd Legislature. This session ends on June 29. The House passed House Bill 79, pertaining to the judicial branch of state government, on Wednesday. HB 79 is one of several bills that relate to the fiscal matters of the state and that are intended to save the state money through greater efficiency. Currently, the trial court system in Texas contains courts with overlapping jurisdiction that differs depending on the county. Various administrative provisions are inconsistently applied to certain courts to the exclusion of others. Courts presently do not have the ability to garner additional resources for cases that require special attention. H.B. 79 seeks to simplify matters relating to the operation and administration of the judicial branch of state government.

The governor also added "legislation relating to prosecution and punishment for the offense of official oppression of persons seeking access to public buildings and transportation" to the list of items that can be taken up by the legislature during this special session. Two bills, House Bill 41 and Senate Bill 29, would classify certain invasive and inappropriate conduct used in certain searches as official oppression. These bills stem from the criticisms of the new search procedures enacted by the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA). There have been allegations that travelers have been touched inappropriately by TSA employees, and that individuals with disabilities have had to remove prosthetics and have been detained while wheelchairs, crutches and other equipment are scrutinized. A similar bill passed the House during the regular session, but did not pass the Senate.

Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



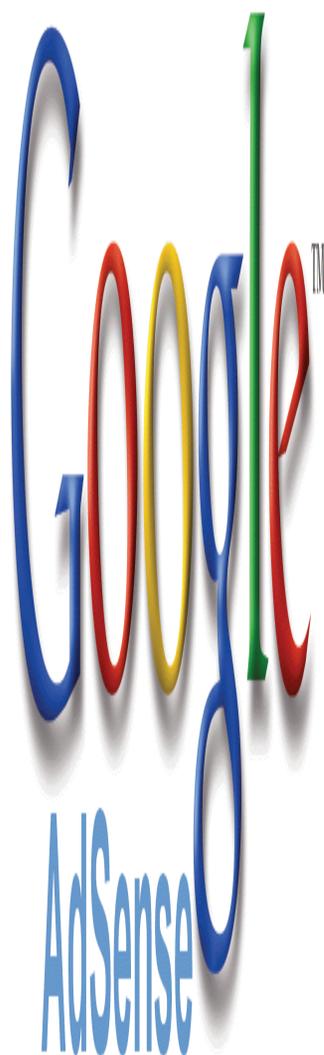
Special Session

This week, the legislature continued to meet and debate legislation. The House passed Senate Bill 4, the congressional redistricting map, on Wednesday. The House made a few changes to the Senate version of the bill, and now **Senate Bill 4** returns to the Senate; the senators can either concur with the changes made by the House or go to a conference committee to work out the differences between the two bills. Texas gained 4 congressional seats, which brings our total congressional representation to 36. Under the map as it is currently, Fannin and Grayson County remain in Congressional District 4, which is currently represented by Congressman Ralph Hall.

This week the House also debated and passed **House Bill 3**, which makes substantial changes to the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association. The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association, or TWIA, is the insurer of last resort for coastal residents who cannot otherwise get windstorm insurance. HB 3 has been sent to the Senate, and is expected to be taken up next week.

The House also passed **House Bill 5** this week. House Bill 5 would establish that the state legislature has the primary responsibility to regulate health care within its borders. Federal funding for healthcare programs would essentially be provided to the state as block grant programs, giving the state far more flexibility in how it chooses to allocate those funds. The compact would also allow a member state to suspend by legislation the operation of all federal laws, rules, regulations, and orders regarding health care that are inconsistent with the laws and regulations adopted by the member states under the compact. This legislation was also passed by the House during the regular session, but failed to be taken up in time by the Senate before the session ended. HB 5 now goes to the Senate for consideration.

You can 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.

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[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

A Christian Fellowship begins each Sunday morning with coffee and doughnut fellowship at 9 am followed by classes for all ages at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30. This week's service is led by Mike Ball, come join them for a very inspirational service.

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 service. The church also has home study groups throughout the week.

Wednesday night service begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30 pm followed by praise and worship and a devotional. The children will be having children's church during the summer months, so bring your small children and enjoy some worship with them.

The church will be having a 4th of July bash at the church, there will be dinner, games, water balloon toss, along with fireworks after dark, so bring your family out for some good food and fun times, the public is invited to attend.

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 Church of Christ

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us.

Services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9 am and worship at 10 am. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord's Supper is given each Sunday. The morning and evening lessons are brought by Kerry King with congregational singing lead by Charles Counts. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX.

We have two radio programs each Sunday at 7:30am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Quinn.

The next Texomaland Summer Youth Series will be Tuesday June 28 at the 7th & Beach church of Christ in Durant, Oklahoma. The theme this year is "Faithbook" with services beginning at 7:30pm. Seth Fairchild will bring a lesson on "Messages".

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>.

The Journey Home

On April 6, 2008, pet owner Doug Dashiell was driving through Nevada with his three dogs on a weekend trip. He let his Siberian husky, Moon, out of his truck for a moment near Railroad Valley. Moon broke free from her chain and was last seen running in a northwesterly direction. After searching for Moon and contacting the local authorities, Dashiell returned home to Ely, Nevada, a distance of 77 miles.

After seven days, a resident of Ely found Moon searching the streets for her master. With the help of the veterinarian's tags on her collar, the Samaritan was able to reunite her with Dashiell. During her week astray, Moon had negotiated miles of desert, crossed the White River, and traversed the Ward Mountain range.

Moon returned entirely unscathed, except for a strong odor of skunk. Dashiell reported that he had all but given up hope for her safe return.*

Observe some lessons we can learn from Moon's experiences...

* There is within each of us a longing for home. We are never "at home" until we are united with our Creator, the Heavenly Father. Augustine once said, "God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you."

* In the course of our journeys, each of us will "break off his or her chain" and become lost in the wilderness. "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6).

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The Journey Home, continued

This is what the Bible calls SIN, and every one of us is guilty (Romans 3:23).

* Our journeys cause us to “stink” of sin. But, we can wash away the stench in the baptismal pool. Ananias instructed Saul to “Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

* We are all wandering across treacherous terrains (cf. John 16:33), but Jesus has shown us the way to a Heavenly home. He said, “I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14: 6). In order to provide the way home, Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins (Ephesians 1:7).

* We all belong to the same Master. “The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1). The Master wants us to come home. “[God our Savior] desires ALL men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

We can all get home to the Master, free of sin, by: putting our faith and trust in

Him (Acts 16:30-31), turning from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confessing Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (immersed) in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

Are you lost in the wilderness and searching for home? Have you encountered “skunks” and smell of sin? Jesus is The Way home! Won’t YOU follow Him today?

Brian Overstreet & David A. Sargent, Church of Christ at Creekwood 1901 Schillinger Rd. S., Mobile, Alabama 36695

* Information gleaned from <http://www.elynews.com/articles/2008/04/17/lifestyle/life01.txt> Archived issues of “Living Water” can be viewed and accessed from our website at: www.creekwoodcc.org Searching For Truth? Learn more about God and His will for your life! Download “Searching For Truth” videos. They’re FREE -- visit: www.searchingfortruth.org

Red River Unitarian Universalist

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church welcomes Reverend Pam Watt, minister at the Denton UU Fellowship, back to the pulpit this Sunday at 11:15. Reverend Watt’s sermon is titled, “Dancing With Buddha.” When the laughing Buddha (or happy Buddha) twinkles his eye, he speaks to us more about humor or joviality. What wisdom does he impart to those who dare to listen?

Adult Forum meets at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. The discussion group will complete examining the book “The Four Agreements, A Toltec Wisdom Book” by Don Miguel Ruiz. We will focus on The Third Agreement - Don’t Make Assumptions and The Fourth Agreement - Always Do Your Best. Attendees are asked to read chapters four and five prior to the discussion. Beginning July 2, Adult Forum will start examining the book “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life” by Karen Armstrong.

RRUU is a sanctuary for religious liberals celebrating compassion, diversity, and spiritual growth. The church meets at 102 W Harrison St in Denison.

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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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Us Against Them

Is the Administration Trying to Tear Down Texas?

By Bill Hammond, President & CEO of the Texas Association of Business

There are enough examples of the Obama Administration's attacks on Texas to make a David Letterman Top Ten list. But, there's really nothing funny about the full frontal assault that's come out of Washington against our state in recent months.

Texas versus Washington talk is popular political chatter, but if you move beyond the rhetoric there's substantial evidence that President Barack Obama's Administration is waging a strategic and sustained campaign against lives and livelihoods in the Lone Star State.

With all due respect, the President and his Administration's hell-bent determination to tear down Texas could be better focused on more pressing matters like reining in debt and reforming entitlements.

The moves against Texas are well documented, some are more bold and brazen than others, and they amount to a war by regulation and executive order that's aimed at knocking Texas off its leadership position.

And, lead Texas does. Chief Executive's seventh annual ranking on the best and worst states in which to do business put Texas on top for the seventh year in a row. Less business-friendly states like the President's home state of Illinois (#48) and others sympathetic to his politics and anti-business policies (New York, #49 and California #50) languish in the bottom three spots of the annual survey of the country's CEOs.

I suppose being an economic powerhouse makes Texas an easy target. It's easier to tear down others, than to focus on rebuilding America's greatness.

So, I suppose that would explain -- but by no means excuses -- the Administration's insufficient action in response to the Texas wildfires.

And, I suppose it's just Lone Star paranoia that, in spite of the Administration's assertions to the contrary, politics didn't play a role in the decision to pass over "Mission Control" and the

Johnson Space Center in Houston for the home of a retired space shuttle.

Then, there's the litany of executive orders and regulatory actions by the Administration that that are job killers and unabashed attacks on our economic livelihood.

The EPA's war against Texas on the greenhouse gas and air quality front is well documented and ongoing. Texas businesses and industries have made significant investments of billions of dollars in pollution controls and achieved unprecedented emission reductions. Yet, the Administration chooses to ignore existing law and wants to throw Texas' long-standing flexible air permitting program out, jeopardizing countless jobs in our energy and manufacturing sectors.

From the controversial decision to shift production of military tactical vehicles after 17 years from Sealy, Texas' BAE plant to Wisconsin-based OshKosh Corporation to the more recent actions from the National Labor Relations' Board that shows the Administration's strong preference for union states against right-to-work states like Texas and South Carolina.

And, in the Administration's job-killing arsenal of federal overreach against Texas is an unlikely weapon: the three-inch Dunes Sagebrush lizard.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to move forward with its proposal to list the lizard as an endangered species. Doing so would effectively shut down oil and gas production in the affected West Texas counties surrounding Midland and Odessa and greatly hamper farming and ranching business in the area, too, for a minimum of two years.

Yet, in New Mexico, the Administration has allowed companies and landowners to enter into voluntary agreements to help conserve the lizard's habitat while allowing reasonable and responsible use of the land for energy and agricultural production. Why doesn't the same standard and approach apply here in Texas? Makes you wonder.

How about we put an end to this Washington assault on Texas? Instead of tearing down Texas, Mr. President, might I suggest you could learn a great deal from our economic and job creating success.

Bill Hammond is President and CEO of the Texas Association of Business. TAB is online at www.txbiz.org or Twitter @txbiz.

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Gov. Rick Perry Signs Legislation Protecting Texas Workers' Right to Self-Defense

Fairfax, Va. – Governor Rick Perry signed a National Rifle Association backed measure that allows employees to store legally owned firearms in their locked, privately owned motor vehicles while parked at workplace parking lots into law.

“I’d like to thank Gov. Perry for signing this bill and for recognizing that a worker’s individual and constitutional right to self-defense does not end when they drive onto their employer’s property,” said Chris W. Cox, executive director, NRA Institute for Legislative Action. “This common-sense effort has been a top legislative priority for the NRA, because it is good public policy that provides workers with a means of viable self defense while commuting between their homes, their workplace and anywhere in-between.”

Senate Bill 321 prohibits employers from adopting and enforcing policies against employees who safely and lawfully store a firearm in their privately owned, locked vehicle while on an employer’s parking lot. This includes concealed handgun licensees who carry their firearm during their commute to and from work for personal protection, Texas sportsmen who hunt before or after work and competitive and recreational shooters who stop at the local shooting range before heading home for the day. The effective date of this legislation is September 1, 2011.

“Thanks to Governor Perry and bill sponsors Sen. Glenn Hegar and Rep. Tim Kleinschmidt, Texans now have the option to have a firearm in their car for self-defense, for recreational pursuits after work or for any other lawful purpose,” concluded Cox.

Established in 1871, the National Rifle Association is America’s oldest civil rights and sportsmen’s group. Four million members strong, NRA continues its mission to uphold Second Amendment rights and to advocate enforcement of existing laws against violent offenders to reduce crime. The Association remains the nation’s leader in firearm education and training for law-abiding gun owners, law enforcement and the military.



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Watch Out for Old People

I made a traffic stop on an elderly lady the other day for speeding on U.S. 166 Eastbound at Mile Marker 73 just East of Sedan, KS.

I asked for her driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.

The lady took out the required information and handed it to me.

In with the cards I was somewhat surprised (due to her advanced age) to see she had a conceal carry permit.

I looked at her and ask if she had a weapon in her possession at this time.

She responded that she indeed had .45 automatic in her glove box.

Something, body language, or the way she said it made me want to ask if she had any other firearms.

She did admit to also having a 9mm Glock in her center console.

Now I had to ask one more time if that was all, she responded once again she did have just one more, a .38 special in her purse.

I then asked her what was she so afraid of?

She looked me right in the eye and said, "Not a damn thing!"



OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson



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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 priviledge.

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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