Howe, Texas 75459

June 30, 2011







Life jacket or toe tag? It's your choice

TULSA – If you are planning to visit a lake during the upcoming Independence Day weekend, you must ask yourself, "Do I want to wear a life jacket or a toe tag?" Ultimately, only you can decide.

Last year 15 people drowned in Tulsa District lakes. This year, only halfway through the recreation season, that number has been exceeded and all but one of them could have been prevented with the use of a life jacket.

As you head to a lake, there are several important choices that must be made:

*You must choose to wear a life jacket. State law requires that a lifejacket is available for every person on board a boat, and children 12 and under must have it on while underway. Loaner jackets are available at most Corps Lakes.

- 1. Be sure it's right for you- The National Safe Boating Council recommends that it should be a PFD suited for your size and weight, is properly zipped and buckled, and fits snugly.
- 2. Be sure it's right for your activity- There are jackets designed especially for fishing, water sports, personal watercraft, hunting and paddling. There are even PFDs for pets.
- 3. Be sure there is a PFD for each person on board -- State law requires that the PFD's are out and accessible on a boat and not stored out of reach.
- 4. Be sure it's right for children -- Use the weight of the child to find the proper fitting PFD. If the jacket is too big the child can slip out of it when they jump in the water; if it is too small it may not have enough buoyancy to float them.
- *You must choose not to mix alcohol and water. More than half of all drowning deaths are related to alcohol consumption.
- *You must choose to watch your children. It only takes a child an average of 20 seconds to drown. Be a water watcher and designate someone to always watch children or any person with special needs while on or around the water.
- *You must choose to make good decisions. Don't give in to peer pressure about jumping off a bluff or swimming farther than you should. Recognize your limitations and stay within them.
- *You must choose to practice safe boating. Take a boating safety course. Know the law and rules of the road before you boat. The U.S. Coast Guard reports that the majority of boating-related fatalities involve operators who have not received any boating safety instruction.

2011 is on track to have the highest number of drowning fatalities within the last ten years at Corps' lakes in Oklahoma, southern Kansas, and northern Texas. This is a record that we do not want to see broken.

Don't become a statistic. Which will you wear, a toe tag or a life jacket? It's your choice.

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Howe, Texas 75459

GCC Policy Academy graduates pass state licensing exam

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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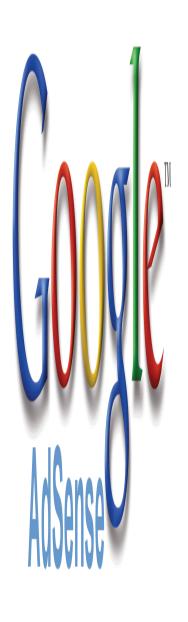
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Howe's That

by Lana Rideout

Last week actor Peter Falk passed away at 83. My husband and I enjoyed watching him in the TV series Columbo.

Colombo was the only name we knew him by. I think one of my kids said his first name was Lt.

It was fun to watch that show as the slick murderer dismissed Colombo as someone with little intelligence who bumbled around wearing a raincoat and asking strange questions.

Columbo would ask his questions and then start to leave. He turned back to the murderer and said, "Oh, just one more thing!"

Columbo would come back several times and exasperate the murderer with the next question that needed to be answered.

Surely this rumpled detective would never catch the murderer ... but Columbo always got his man or woman.

Falk was in a number of movies and plays over the years. He was a key person in one of my favorite movies, *The Princess Bride*. Falk played the grandfather who read the story to his sick grandson. The grandson thought a story about a princess bride was for sissies. But once he got into the story he enjoyed the pirates and sword fights, etc.

Recipe



Vegetable Bread

3 (10 ounce) cans biscuits

1 cup butter

3/4 cup chopped onion

3/4 cup chopped green or red bell pepper

3/4 cup chopped celery

3/4 cup grated Cheddar cheese or fresh Parmesan cheese

1/2 pound bacon, fried and crumbled

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut biscuits into quarters and place in a large bowl. Saute the onions, bell pepper and celery in the butter for 5 to 10 minutes. Do not drain. Mix the grated cheese, bacon, and sauteed vegetables into the quartered biscuits. Spoon into a bundt cake pan. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until biscuits brown. Invert onto a plate. Watch for dripping butter.

Serves 8-10.



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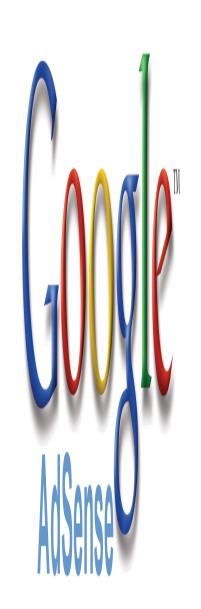
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Howe, Texas 75459

Howe City Council Meeting

Howe Council Holds Regular Meeting

The Howe City Council held their regular meeting on June 21, 2011.

Mayor Jeff Stanley called the meeting to order with members present: Dale Rideout, Georgia Richardson and Jack Leavenworth.

Council actions included:

*Approval of the Consent Agenda which included the April 2011 Finance statements, the minutes of the May 17, 2011 and May 31, 2011 council meetings, and Resolution 11-004 designating bank signatures.

*Wellspring Insurance Agency presented information on trying to get better rates for health insurance.

*No action was taken on the nomination for appointment to the Board of Directors of the Red River Groundwater Conservation District.

*Tabled election of Mayor Pro Tem.

*Approved appointment of current council members to the Board of Adjustments.

*Officer Matt Whitworth presented information on the possible name change from Farmington Road to Billy Dobbins Drive.

Whitworth noted that there are three Farmington Roads in the immediate area which causes confusion to emergency responders. Whitworth told about the help he received from advice of Dobbins was very helpful to him as a young man who was experiencing some difficulties. - The council will hold other meetings on this item and obtain feedback from area residents.

*Approved appointment of Michael G. McGraw as Municipal Judge.

*Appointed Laura Wheeler as Municipal Prosecutor. Motion carried 3 Yes 0 No.

The Council met in closed session at 6:50 pm pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 551, Government Code Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated in accordance with the authority contained in Section 551.087 – deliberation regarding economic development negotiations.

Steve Davis of Don's Smokehouse addressed the council on a utility grant for a new business to be located in Howe.

The closed session of the Howe City Council ended at 7:17 pm.

The Council returned to open session at 7:18 pm and tabled the request by Steve Davis for a utility grant.

Dobbins who served Howe as a police officer. Whitworth felt the

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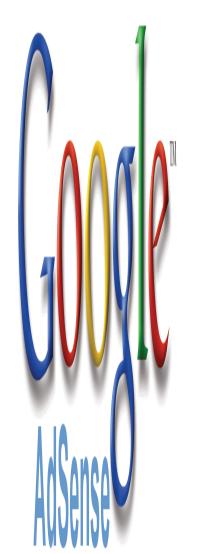
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Jennifer Diane Finney (1980-2011)

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 Clif 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

Hope you are looking forward to a great Independence Day weekend. Be sure to come out for the Friends of the Library breakfast Saturday morning (7 - 10 am) to start off your day with a hearty meal.

Thanks to these great folks for supporting the upcoming Friends of the Library Book Sale with donations of items. Keith Clark, Laura Hornbeck, and Rusty Haddock.

Remember we'll be closed on Monday, July 4 in honor of Independence Day. Then we have these great programs for the rest of the week.

Tuesday – Crafts for ages 6-13, 11 am-12 noon. Bilingual Story time at 4 pm.

Wednesday - Preschoolers will learn from our own Juanita Hazelton about her favorite dogs and what a great friend dogs can be to a child.

Thursday is our children's movie starting at 4 pm. This week we are showing *UP* by Disney Pixar Studios.

Saturday, July 9 is the last day to turn in your completed summer reading logs. Come claim your prizes. Between June 6 and July 9 if you read 5 books you get a free circus ticket and if you read 25 books you get a free backpack. Everybody gets a certificate and something from the prize treasure chest. After July 9 we'll start Reader's Bingo – complete a whole line of the grid, reading one book to match each square, and win a flying disc.

Watch for a date to Meet the Policemen of Van Alstyne.

Nyoming 110 E. Haning Ave. Howe, TX 75459 903-814-2128 Fine Dining





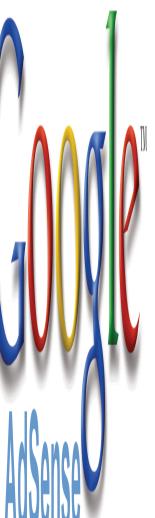
Van Alstyne Voices Toastmasters

Van Alstyne Voices Toastmasters June 27 meeting was called to order by M.J. Presley with a prayer and the pledge. VAV Toastmasters needs to have new officers turned in to Toastmasters International by June 30. Presley outlined the duties of each office. A slate of officers will be emailed to members who will respond with their votes by Wednesday, June 29, in order to have the proper paperwork entered at Toastmasters International by the deadline. TLI, District 50's officers training, will be July 9 at Presbyterian Hospital at 75 and Greenville in Dallas. The theme is "Developing the Leader Within You." All officers are urged to attend. There was discussion about whether to meet during July as many area Toastmasters clubs are closing down their July meetings and planning to resume August 1. VAV's next meeting will be July 11, at Independent Bank's meeting room, at 7 pm to finalize the officers elections.

M.J. Presley gave an impromptu speech, "Taking the Polar Bear Plunge," about his experiences on a recent cruise to Alaska. Members need to let vice-president of Education Allsion Presley know which roles they will be able to fill at the July 11 meeting so she can email the schedule.

Toastmasters International is a not-for-profit educational organization whose mission is to help people develop their communication skills. Toastmasters can help people build their self-confidence and develop speaking skills in a friendly, positive environment. Van Alstyne Voices Toastmasters meets each Monday at 7 pm in temporary quarters at Independent Bank in Van Alstyne. Visitors are welcome. Call Public Relations Officer Juanita Hazelton at 903-433-3093 for more information.





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Help Find Miss Nelson at the Honey McGee Playhouse

Beginning Friday, July 1st at 7 p.m. you can help Theatricks find Miss Nelson by attending their 2011 summer The production of MISS NELSON IS MISSING! Can't make it Friday--then the other opportunities will be July 2,8,9 at 7 p.m. and July 3,9,10 at 2 p.m.

The SCP Box Office will open Monday June 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Theatricks season members and Tuesday, June 28 for the general public. To make reservations call the SCP Box Office at (903)892-8818 or visit the daytime box office located at 313 W. Mulberry in Sherman, TX inside the Honey McGee Playhouse. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students.

Based on the book by Harry Allard and James Marshall, playwright Jeffrey Hatcher has caught all the fun and adventure from the book pages and transferred them to the stage. Miss Nelson can't control her crazy classroom because she's just too nice. But when she disappears, her replacement is the hard-as-nails, detention-loving, recess-canceling, homework-overloading substitute teacher Viola Swamp! With the Big Test approaching, the kids suddenly realize how much they miss Miss Nelson and they'll do anything--including hiring a private eye--to solve the mystery of her disappearance and bring her back.

The cast includes 10 talented members of our community who portray the amusing characters of Miss Nelson, Miss Swamp, Principal Humleker, Detective McSmogg, Kimberly, George, LaVita, Mouse, Phoebe, Regina, and Elvis from this favorite children's book.

Theatricks is also currently selling 2011-2012 season memberships for \$18 and PINOCCHIO, CHARLOTTE'S WEB, and SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL.

include the shows of MY SON

For more information contact Webster Crocker Theatricks Director at 903-893-8525 or visit our website www.theatricks.org. Don't miss this opportunity to help find Miss Nelson, and enjoy a great family production!

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5th Annual National Child Centered Divorce Month recognized with free ebooks, coaching, teleclasses

Boynton Beach, FL: July is National Child-Centered Divorce Month, dedicated to alerting parents about the harm to their children when divorce isn't handled effectively. Repeated studies show that it isn't divorce per se that damages children. It's the mistakes that unaware parents make before, during and after divorce that does the harm.

Throughout July divorce attorneys, mediators, therapists, financial planners, coaches, educators, clergy and other professionals concerned about the effects of divorce on children will be sharing their advice and insights on the topic. Their goal is to educate parents about the choices they do have before moving into divorce to prevent negative consequences for children of all ages.

During July parents are encouraged to visit a special web page at which they can download a variety of free ebooks, audio presentations, services and other gifts from divorce professionals throughout North America. They can also access a series of free teleclasses presented by 'child-centered' divorce experts providing sound advice on divorce and parenting issues. The complimentary information is available at www.childsharing.com/childcentereddivorce.

In addition, divorce experts from coast to coast will also be announcing local educational events including teleseminars, workshops, discussion groups, coaching and other activities designed for divorced parents and those contemplating divorce.

National Child-Centered Divorce Month was initiated by divorced parent and author Rosalind Sedacca, a certified corporate trainer and Relationship Coach who is recognized as The Voice of Child-Centered Divorce. Sedacca founded the Child-Centered Divorce Network for parents and works closely with concerned divorce experts around the globe who are focused on providing ways to

create the most positive and harmonious outcomes for families transitioning through divorce.

'My goal is to catch divorcing parents before they make mistakes they will regret when it comes to their children's emotional wellbeing,' says Sedacca. 'By bringing the nation's legal, therapeutic and educational communities together we can reach out with messages designed to encourage peaceful divorce outcomes.'

'We want to discuss the painful consequences of parental alienation, encourage respectful co-parenting, teach effective communication skills, and guide parents away from litigation-based solutions,' she adds. Sedacca, a divorced and later remarried parent, is the author of the internationally acclaimed ebook, How Do I Tell the Kids about the Divorce? A Create-a-Storybook Guide to Preparing Your Children -- with Love! Her now grown son wrote the book's foreword. Sedacca is also the founder of the Child-Centered Divorce Network which provides a free newsletter, blog, articles, coaching services and other valuable resources for parents at http://www.childcentereddivorce.com

'We can never overemphasize how dramatically parental decisions about divorce can affect and scar our children – for years – and often for a lifetime,' says Sedacca.

Parents and divorce professionals interested in learning more about activities related to National Child-Centered Divorce Month can get involved by contacting Rosalind through her Child-Centered Divorce Groups at Facebook and LinkedIn, which are free for parents and divorce professionals to join, or by visiting www.childcentereddivorce.com.

For more information about Child-Centered Divorce Month in July contact Sedacca directly at

Rosalind@childcentereddivorce.com or visit her website at: http://www.childcentereddivorce.com Click on the BLOG button. The gifts for parents during July can be found at: http://www.childsharing.com/childcentereddivorce

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Music by Kevin McCloud

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Science Hill

By Bob Bowman

Sitting atop a scenic hilltop in southwestern Henderson County, Science Hill lasted only a few decades, but its reputation as a center of education is well-remembered by descendants of its founders and builders.

So is its violence in the early days of the Civil War.

The earliest settlers arrived at the hill in 1846. D.M.Thompson and J.D. Jaggers built the community's first industry, a cotton gin, and carried the cotton as far away as Navasota and Calvert.

But the town's greatest step forward was the establishment of the Science Hill Academy in 1848 through the efforts of Andrew J. Fowler, Robert Hodge, John Tanner and other members of the Science Hill Masonic Lodge.





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



By Dorothy N. Fowler

During the almost 40 years I taught government, my students came up with many schemes to improve the government. One of them involved putting prison inmates in the armed forces so that law abiding citizens would not have to serve. "My daddy said," they explained.

I couldn't say, "Your daddy is an idiot," but I did ask, "Do you really want to give someone who can't follow the ordinary rules of society access to assault tanks and AK 47's?" The students usually went away thinking about the implications of that.

I also did my best to teach the Law of Unintended Results, which is as follows: Any action, no matter how well planned and how well intended and how well executed will have some unintended results and some of those will be unpleasant."

That, of course, is another way of stating Murphy's Law, which is as follows: "If anything can go wrong, it will."

A friend from the big city of Dallas sent me these addenda to Murphy's law, which I share with you now for your evaluation.

Law of Mechanical Repair

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

& Law of Gravity

Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

& Law of Probability

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

& Law of Random Numbers

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

& Law of the Alibi

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

& Variation Law

If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

& Law of the Bath



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BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

Located on the lodge's ground floor, the academy was ahead of its time for the 1850s with courses that included orthography, Latin, Greek and natural sciences.

Four well-known ministers lived at Science Hill, using their leadership skills and intellect to shape the community. They were Hezekiah Mitchum, who organized the First Methodist Church of Henderson County in 1852; Robert Hodge, who organized the First Presbyterian of Henderson County in 1855; Harrison Rushing, another Methodist minister; and Wes Jackson, a Baptist preacher.

Science Hill Academy lasted only until 1872, the result of the Civil War and its aftermath.

With the eruption of the war, the town found itself caught up in issues such as slavery, which in the 1860s provided the labor on East Texas cotton plantations. As the war exploded, the plantation owners saw their prosperity facing extinction.

As fires erupted in a number of East Texas cities and communities at the peak of the Texas secession crisis, a violent mob rode into southwestern Henderson County and killed three men suspected of being involved in a conspiracy against Science Hill.

It was reported that a slave named Bob belonging to a slaveowner was meeting with two men from Tennessee Colony, who had been harboring escaped slaves and selling liquor to them.

During a community "inquiry," Bob supposedly said the two white men had supplied him with poison and phosphorous matches and told him the time had come for the blacks to "rise up against their masters."

Bob was quickly found guilty in a hastily-arranged trial and hanged. The two other men suffered the same fate.

Following the Civil War, Science Hill's fortune skidded. Its post office, established in 1859, was closed in 1866.

Science Hill's families began moving away from the hilltop. By 1936, there was nothing left to identify the site of Science Hill except for Patterson Cemetery, which was organized in 1861 on a plot of land owned by John Patterson.

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





BELLS, TX 75414 V PHONE (903) 965-7700

Dot's Dashes, continued

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

& Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

& Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

& Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

& Law of the Theater

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

& The Starbucks Law

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

& Murphy's Law of Lockers

If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

& Law of Physical Surfaces

The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.

& Law of Logical Argument

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

& Brown's Law of Physical Appearance

If the shoe fits, it's ugly.

& Oliver's Law of Public Speaking

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

& Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

& Doctors' Law

If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

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The Sullivan Law Firm, P.C. Phone (903) 482-0099

Fax (903) 482-0098
E-mail matt@sullivanlawfirm.biz

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-oflife preferences that their spouse understands what their endof-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 its 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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Insight

He who is carried on another's back does not appreciate how far off the town is. -- African Proverb

There are no shortcuts to any place worth going. -- Beverly Sills

Listen

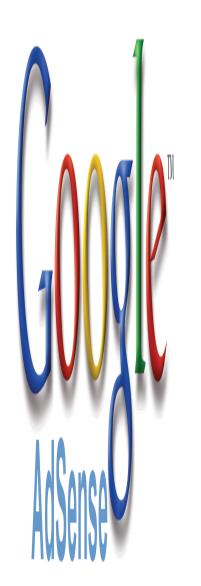
People love to talk but hate to listen. Listening is not merely not talking, though even that is beyond most of our powers; it means taking a vigorous, human interest in what is being told us. You can listen like a blank wall or like a splendid auditorium where every sound comes back fuller and richer. -- Alice Duer Miller

A competent professional listens well, probes, asks questions, and thinks before he speaks. This is easy to say, but hard to do. --Jeffrey G. Allen

Proverbial Wisdom

Long is not forever. German proverb





Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



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.

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.

This Page is a Work in Progress

Howe Public Schools

Class Tools - for classroom use - games, tests, timer, tools.

Howe Public Library

Library information, Language courses, Student events

Quotations Page

Spanish Dictionary

Van Alstyne Public Library

Library information, Library Catalog, Library Calendar, Online information, Research tools, Resume Maker

Royalty Free Music

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<u>Texas Records and Information Locator (TRAIL)</u> searches and locates information from over 180 Texas state agency web services.

<u>The Handbook of Texas Online</u> is a multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, geography, and culture sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and the General Libraries at UT Austin.

<u>Texas Online</u>: The official website for the Great State of Texas and provides instant access to almost 800 state and local government services.

<u>Library of Texas</u>; 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 9:00am 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 6:30pm 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.



CANNON BAPTIST CHURCH

RFD 1, Rev. John Wade, pastor,

George Seevers, 903/364-2942

BAPTIST CHURCH, 6335 FM 1753, Denison

Sun School 9:45; worship, 11, evening 6; Wednesday,

Cannon

903/482-6761

SOVEREIGN GRACE

Dennis Stewart, pastor,

DORCHESTER BAPTIST

CHURCH Hwy. 902W,

CHURCH OF CHRIST

304 E. College, 903/433-4835

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays - 9:30 AM Worship

300 Pecan, 903/433-3335

BAPTIST CHURCH

Cherry Mound

7pm

Dorchester

903/476-5525

COLLEGE HILL

GRACE BIBLE

FELLOWSHIP

Brooks Plaza

Pastor Bruce Stinson

Gunter



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.

The next Texomaland Summer Youth Series will be Tuesday July 5 at the Morton St. church of Christ in Denison. The theme this year is "Faithbook" with services beginning at 7:30 pm. Travis Bookout will bring a lesson on "Photos."

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

The Gospel of Christ news letter can be athttp://www.thegospelofchrist.com/newsl

Take Heed **Lest Any Man Deceive You** Jesus Christ 30 A.D.

By Willie Sofey June 19, 2011 A.D.

Jesus said to them: "Take heed lest any man deceive you." (Mark 13:5)

As a part of Jesus' Olivet discourse, Jesus was describing times concerning the future after His departure from earth in the book of mark, Chapter 13. Answering Peter, James, John, and Andrew privately, Jesus was describing the destruction of Jerusalem that would take place in 70 A.D. and some yet to be fulfilled times leading up to the last days of tribulation preceding His second coming.

"Wars and rumors of wars ... Nation will rise against nation... Kingdom against kingdom... earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginnings of birth pains" (Mark 13:7-8). "Do not let anyone deceive you... He who

does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning" (1John 3:7-8).

In Paul's 2nd letter to the Thessalonians, he is describing the epitome of the man of lawlessness (the antichrist) when he is revealed when "the rebellion occurs..." (2 Thess. 2:3). This will be the climactic times of this age of when mankind will revolt against God and will prepare the way for the appearance of the man of sin (man of lawlessness)... (1 Tim. 4:15; 2 Tim. 3:1-5).

However, Paul continues to express lawlessness was present then and would continue right up to the end of the age (2 Thess. 2:7).

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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, Luella

903/532-6032

SUMMIT CHURCH Howe Middle School Cafeteria,

903/815-1472; Kevin 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

continued

IDA BAPTIST CHURCH, 903/813-3263. S-School 10 am, Worship 11 am

Charles Morris, pastor

LUELLA FIRST

BAPTIST CHURCH 3162 St. Hwy. 11,

Harvey Patterson,

903/893-2252

A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, 150 Fellowship Ln,

Mike Ball, 903/870-0219

Tom Bean

CHURCH OF CHRIST 903/546-6620

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

903/546-6231 FIRST UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH 903/546-6898

INSPIRATION POINT COWBOY CHURCH

FM 2729, 2.5 miles

South of Tom Bean

Duane Peters,

903-815-2278 PILOT GROVE

Howe, Texas 75459

Take Heed, continued

The entire 6000 years of civilized history has experienced lawlessness from Cain on. The kingdoms and nations of the world have only experienced relative peace... less than 9% of the time. Presently, the world is experiencing the prophetic words of Jesus in Mark 13:7-8.

President Obama has expressed in his speeches that all the Civil strife in Libya, Syria, Egypt, Yemen, Chad, and even the Arab Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel are quite in order and compares these uprisings to the revolutionaries of America against England in the 1700's. I don't see any leaders like Washington, Adams, Jefferson, etc. behind these terrorist groups.

These revolting citizens are being deceived and being inspired by radical Muslims, namely Hamas, in their ultimate goal of destroying Israel and any Jews or Christians in that part of the world as well as in the entire world.

America's revolution was based on Judeo-Christian principles and the God ordained pursuits of man. Any historically knowledgeable person knows the history of these descendants of the rebellious Ishmael some 4000 years ago, that currently have become the nations of North Africa and the anti-God religion of Muslims.

My personal observation of our President is that he and his speech writing staff are actually ignorant of world history and lack Godly knowledge and wisdom of what the great deceiver, Satan, is up to in his ultimate goal of destroying God's people. I would also describe our President as having a Machiavellian philosophical mindset, even though he lacks the educational aspects of this Renaissance man, but more in line with a man out of the "dark ages" (566-1095 A.D.). The Dark Ages were embodied with image worship, ceremonialism, and superstition contrary to apostolic Christianity... albeit Constantine and Augustine had previously softened this tide of idol worship... (however instilling impure paganistic traits into Christianity that eventually produced the Roman Catholic Church. This type of worship is in violation to God's Word (see Deut. 4-16).

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527) was an Italian philosopher, humanist, and writer based in Florence during the Renaissance who held many political positions but was subsequently removed from all positions of responsibility.

Machiavelli's early educational interests were of early classical Roman history and he became enamored with Titus Livy from which Machiavelli published his "Discourses of Titus Livy" describing the superiority of a republic over a principality with concepts of checks and balances. This became one of the central texts of "Republicanism"... a worthy treatise for governments, perhaps.

Niccolo later became enamored with Caesar Borgia, a nobleman, politician, and cardinal (1475-1507). "From that moment Caesar Borgia became the hero of Machiavelli's philosophy, as Bismark (1815-1898) would be of Nietzsche's (1844-1906)... here, in this embodied will to power, was a morality beyond good and evil, a model for

supermen" (The Story of Civilization" Will Durant Vol. 5 Pg. 548-549)/.

Borgia's cunning craftiness was the epitome of the chess of power in the game of politics. Six years younger than Machiavelli, Borgia had overthrown dozens of tyrants, ruled over many cities, and strangled or caged many men who conspired against him.

Machiavelli wrote "The Prince" in 1513 and was published in 1532, five years after his death. The philosophical conclusion to "The prince" is a theme of accepting the aims of princes, such as glory, and indeed survival, can justify the use of immoral means to achieve those ends. From this treatise the coined adjective "Machiavellian" came into wide usage as a pejorative (derogatory) term used as a negative connotation of politics and politicians in Western countries. Webster defines this word as "crafty and deceitful".

I doubt seriously if Obama knows this history, however, in his ignorance he has become another victim of Satan inflicting a spirit of deceitfulness in him as our leader to deceive the citizens of America into believing he can deliver another humanist, Godless solution to the world's sinful problems.

It seems that America and the world are "reaping" the consequences of their failure to abide by Almighty God's Words... "They set up kings (and princes) without My consent"... God to the Prophet Hosea in 710 B.C. (Hosea 8:4).

From a small voice in the wilderness, Willie Sofey

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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

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

return

206 Waco, 903/482-5515, Gary Giibbs, pastor

FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

903/482-6646,

Rev. J.R. Thornhill, pastor FIRST UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH 301 S. Preston,

Rev. Jack Wallace, minister

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, $903/\!482\text{-}5664$, Rev. Arnold Baker,pastor





Howe, Texas 75459

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 ½ 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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Howe, Texas 75459

Saying Thank You in a Time of Tragedy

Real animal welfare walks through Texas wildfires/

By Matt Felder

Traveling around the state this year I have seen one of Mother Nature's greatest furies. Wildfires have consumed much of Texas and have not discriminated on where or when to spark. North, South, East, West and Central -- all parts of Texas are burning.

Since the wildfire season ignited in mid-November, more than 12,779 fires have burned more than 3,251,365 acres. Those numbers increase every day.

I have talked and visited with people of all demographics who have suffered losses from these wildfires. I have seen the burnt carcasses of cattle, piles of ash where homes once stood and the lifeless land the wildfires have left behind. But out of these dark days comes a bright spot: the men and women who serve in the volunteer fire departments across our state.

Did you know the 30,000 volunteer firefighters account for 70% of the firefighters in this state? I didn't until a couple of months ago.

While the headlines and breaking news around the state focus on the losses, pain and suffering these wildfires have caused, I think we need to take a moment to focus on what wasn't lost.

While we hear plenty about the 544 homes and 1,477 structures that burned, what we don't hear about are the 19,413 homes and 9,314 other structures that were saved due to firefighter efforts. You can't put a price on the pain and suffering of those who have suffered loss. But it's hard to imagine how much worse it could have been, had it not been for the heroic efforts of our state's firefighters.

Let's not forget that those efforts come from a majority of firefighters who are volunteers. They put their lives and livelihoods on the line to protect their neighbors. In many cases they've spent two to three weeks on the frontlines non-stop. Want to hear more about why they do it? Read The Heart of a

In any case it's time to say thank you.

County Farm Bureaus are taking notice -- recognizing the commitment and dedication of these local heroes and offering financial support to local departments. Texas Farm Bureau is matching county Farm Bureau donations to individual departments on a \$3 to \$1 basis, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per fire department.

These donations are examples of Farm Bureau membership dues at work in local communities. Rural and urban Farm Bureau members are making sure the sacrifices of volunteer firefighters do not go unnoticed.

Donations are starting to pile in. Events are being held across the state to raise funds.

The effort couldn't come at a better time as these volunteer fire departments are in desperate need of cash.

Trucks have been banged up and burned; equipment has been destroyed. Let's not forget the fatigue on the bodies and spirit of these brave men and women.

Monetary donations will ensure these local fire departments have the funds to keep rolling. But don't forget a simple thank you. Show these local heroes gratitude for a job well done.

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

Volunteer.





Jim Smith, Proprietor

224 E. Jefferson

903.482.6171

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jim@bucksnortbbq.com

Van Alstyne, TX 75495

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Howe, Texas 75459

Texans' Grocery Bills Show Slight Increase In June

Texas Farm Bureau's Grocery Price Watch reports \$44.54 for 16 food staples

(WACO, Texas) - Amidst concerns of rising food and fuel prices, Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) Grocery Price Watch recorded a 59 cent increase-just over 1%-with a \$44.54 total for a 16-item basket of common food products, as compared between March and June of this year.

"The latest Grocery Price Watch shows food prices starting to level," said TFB President Kenneth Dierschke. "Even through challenging financial times, though, we are fortunate to have access to healthy, safe food at reasonable prices."

Based on the informal quarterly survey, Texans may get some relief in the check-out line as the cost of six of the 16 items decreased. The largest savings came from tomatoes, down 49 cents per pound from last quarter. Other items that cost less include rice, lettuce, sliced turkey, vanilla ice cream and center loin boneless pork chops.

The survey also showed 10 items, including meat, dairy and dry goods, increased in price during the same period. Prices for top sirloin steak (up 5.1%), cheddar cheese (up 9.9%) and reduced-fat milk (up 11.5%) increased from historic lows in 2009. High production costs, combined with the current extreme drought, have caused Texas dairy farmers and cattle ranchers to remain cautious, avoiding expansion and keeping production levels low.

Bread, corn flakes, cake mix and other processed foods posted price increases, as well. Pre-packaged food products require additional processing, packaging and transportation, all of which are impacted by the cost of fuel. According to the June 15 Consumer Price Index (CPI) released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of fuel has increased 21.5 % in the past year. As the cost of fuel rises, additional input costs to food manufacturers often are passed on to the consumer.

"Texas farmers and ranchers are feeling the strain on their wallets, too, as they pay higher fuel and production costs. However, the farmers' and ranchers' share of the grocery dollar remains steady at just 16%. That's equivalent to only \$7.13 of this Grocery Price Watch basket," Dierschke added.

The TFB Grocery Price Watch is conducted quarterly by volunteer shoppers at grocery stores across the state of Texas. The current survey data was collected by 40 shoppers from June 2-10, 2011.

TFB has released its Grocery Price Watch survey of basic food staples since March 2009.

Texas Farm Bureau works to provide a voice for Texas farmers, ranchers, rural citizens and everyone interested in preserving and protecting this way of life. More on the Web at:

Texas Farm Bureau website http://www.txfb.org/>

Texas Farm Bureau _____

2011 Grocery Price Watch

hom	Size	Brand	Q1 2011	02 2011	Change
Lattyce	1 head	na	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.33	4.79%
Grapetruit	1 85.	n/a	\$ 0.72	\$ 0.78	9.56%
Fresh Tomatoes	¥ ltz.	n/a	\$ 2.06	\$ 1.57	-23.84%
White Bread	24 cz ·	Generic	8-1-94	\$ 13E	1,67%
Corn Flakes	18 oz.	Kellogg's	\$ 2.89	-\$ 3.07	6.25%
Rice-Long Grain, Standard Pres.	1.60.	Generic	\$.0.97	\$ 0.86	-11.60%
Dried Pinto Beans	2 lb.	Generic	\$ 1.72	\$ 1.81	5.31%
Vanila Cake Mix	18.25 pz.	Betty Crocker	\$ 1,18	\$ 1.27	9.12%
2% Milk	1 gal.	Generic	6 3.18	\$ 3.55	11.53%
Sloed Turkey	16 oz.	Oscar Mayor	\$.4.11	\$ 4.08	-1.14%
Cheddar Cheese	Rook so 6	Kraft	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.90	9.92%
Vanilla loe Crasm	1/2 gal.	Blue Bell	\$ 5.76	\$ 5.67	-1.60%
80% Lean Ground Beef	1 lb.	Generic	\$ 3.16	\$.3.30	4.84%
Chicken Bressts, Screens, Serv	ess. 1 lb.	Generic	6 3.17	\$ 3.38	5.91%
Beef Top Sidoin Steek	16.	Generic	\$ 5.30	\$ 5.57	5,10%
Center Loin Bonesees Pork Cl	nops 1 lb	-Generic	3 4.37	8-4.34	-3.06%
Total (average of 16 items)			\$ 43.95	\$44.54	1.33%
Marker Physiotherite oth	mental supply	naminto avinna de	ons (3± 202	11 10 000	1011

'Note: Quarterly change represents prices from Q1 2011 to Q2 20







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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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Howe, Texas 75459

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 duplexs 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 Stepgrandchildren. 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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