

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

June 7, 2012



New GCC President



TB Students of the Month



Howe HS Honor Graduates



Denison Concert



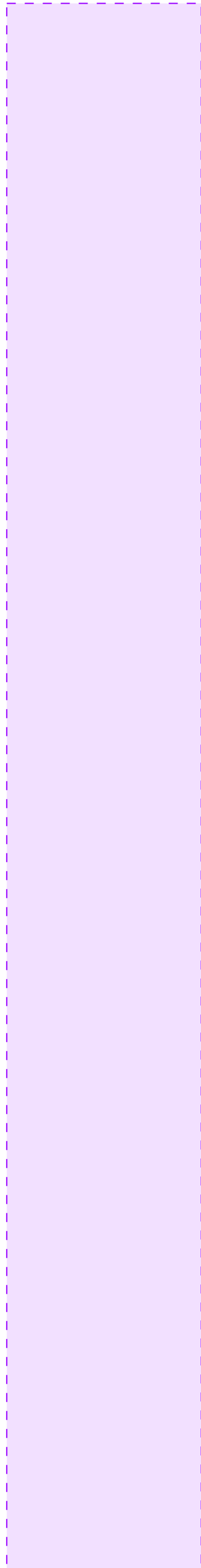
**Ike Returns to Denison D-Day
Commemorative Reenactment**



Humor



Church





Grayson College Chooses new president

Grayson College Board of Trustees announces that Dr. Jeremy McMillen has been named to serve as the college's fifth president. Dr. McMillen was selected from a field of more than 40 applicants, resulting in four finalists who were interviewed for the position.

Grayson College Board President Janet Gott stated that the decision was unanimous.

Dr. McMillen is a graduate of Bonham High School and holds a bachelor's, a master's and a doctorate from Texas A & M-Commerce. He is current the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas.

Retiring President Alan Scheibmeir, who has been the college president since 1996, has agreed to work with Dr. McMillen to ensure a smooth transition in leadership. It is expected that McMillen will report to campus in July to begin his presidential role.

GC Dog Obedience Training rescheduled for June 12

Dog Obedience Training through Grayson College's Center for Workplace Learning has been rescheduled to begin June 12. Two separate classes are offered; the Puppy Class is geared to dogs that are six weeks to 12 months, and the Canine Class is for dogs 12 months and older.

Trainer Gerry Alblas says the sessions will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays beginning June 12. Puppy Class participants may choose from two course offerings: Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. starting June 12 through July 19, or Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m. beginning June 16 and ending July 21.

Those interested in the Canine Class have two options as well: Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. starting June 14 through July 19, or Saturdays from 11 a.m. to noon beginning June 14 and concluding July 19.

Both classes gather at the west parking lot of the Silver Wings Building on GC's West Extension in Denison. Cost for each class is \$85. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required at the first class. In addition, needed class supplies include comfortable walking shoes for human participants; a six-foot

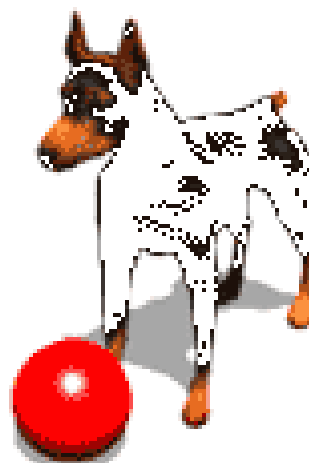
leash, water, and treats for rewarding correct behavior should be brought for canine participants.

"Dogs are pack animals and as such are only comfortable when their role within the pack has been established," Alblas said. "Basic obedience helps to establish pet parents in the role of pack leader, and lays down clear behavior guidelines that the pack can follow. This allows the dog to relax since it knows what behaviors earn what types of attention."

During class, participants learn how to teach their dogs basic commands including heel, sit, stay, down, off, leave it, come, and wait. Each command provides the dog with an understanding of what is expected at a particular moment and reinforces a strong bond between the pet and its owner.

"In addition, it's fun learning the proper way to interact with your dog," Alblas said.

Registration may be completed online at <http://www.cwlgcc.org> or by phone at 903-463-8765 if paying with MasterCard, Discover or Visa credit cards.



Howe's That

Recipe



by Lana Rideout

While reading a mystery book, I learned that the word "lady" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lafdig" – meaning "she who makes the bread."

Could that mean in today's English, a lady is one who provides the money? (i.e. bread) Just a thought.

As I said last week in this column, granddaughter Dominique is the Howe High School Valedictorian. Her friend Dylan Guthrie is the Salutatorian. When it was time at the graduation on June 2, Dominique and Dylan took the podium together.

Each one took turns giving parts of their combined speech. It was very good and funny and all the things that make you cry when you come to a new part of your life. And it put a few tears in my eyes as I sat there listening to their words.

It seems impossible that my granddaughter has reached this milestone. Wasn't it just a few days ago, her daddy had just been born.

My best wishes to all the local graduates and to those in other communities.

Iced Almond Tea

- 3 T. instant tea
- 2 c. boiling water
- 1 lg. can frozen lemonade
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 c water
- 1 T. vanilla extract
- 1 T. almond extract
- Add enough water to make a gallon.

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"Valedictory Address"

photo courtesy of Randy Hayes



Howe High School 2012 Honor Graduates

Howe High School recently announced the 2012 Honor Graduates. Dominique Rideout was named Valedictorian. Dominique is the daughter of Kirby Rideout and Gina Morrison. During high school she was a member of the band, earning All-Region honors two years and participating in the State Solo and Ensemble team for three years. She was also a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, and BPA, where she served as president. She also competed in UIL Spelling, Literary Criticism, and Ready Writing for four years. In the fall, Dominique will attend Abilene Christian University and major in youth ministry.

Dylan Guthrie was named Salutatorian. Guthrie is the son of Graham Guthrie and Veronica Guthrie. During high school he participated in band, where he was a four-year All-State Band Member and participated in the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Competition, where he was named an Outstanding Soloist four times. He also participated in Academic UIL, where he placed 11th at the State competition in Spelling and Vocabulary and 7th in Headline Writing. He served on the Band Council as a reporter and vice president. He was also President of the Student Council and a member of the NHS and the NSHSS. In addition, he was chosen to attend the 2011 Juilliard Summer Percussion Seminar. Dylan plans to attend Southern Methodist University, where he will double major in Piano Performance and Percussion Performance.

Other 2012 honor graduates are Katie Niehus, Madison Wilson, Jennifer Vincent, Travis Fulton, Courtney Pearson, Kalynn Hudman, Katelyn Kirby, and Sam Sloan.



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Howe Elementary

A Honor Roll - 6th Six Weeks

Kindergarten: Casie Adams, Jaycie Grisham, Jaeden Howard, Kelcey Ireland, Alex Jones, Carter Layton, Zeb Montgomery, Jacob Ortega, Autumn Owens, Emery Snapp, Mahlon Walker, Madilynn Douglas, Clayton Duree, Caden Garner, Ryleigh Jenkins, Cooper Jones, Kayley Laubhan, Jace Martin, Cheyenne Mathews, Gracie Max, Brooklyn McCaleb, Lucas Mitchell, Rilyn Murphy, Jenna Roper, Riley Troxtell, Courtney White, Braden Bahr, Daxton Foster, Shianne Freeman-Williams, Emma Hitesman, Cassandra Morrison, Kolin Murphy, Sandra Nitchman, Haley Richardson, Fisher Robertson, Matalee Stewart, Emry Woods, Kenneth York, Ainsley Denham, Kendall Griffin, Willie Husband, Morgan Pitt

First Grade: Donna Mendoza, Madison Morrow, Linda Segura, Teagan Stubblefield, Yair Ayala, Mackenzie Bryant, Jentrie Doty, Austin Haley, Tate Harvey, Ryan Hough, Janna Nitchman, Jacob Upchurch, Korie Bouse, Ethan Duer, Audie Martin, Kaylyn Bryant, Hayden Calhoun, Alexander Huerta, Trey Phillips, Cody Richards

Second Grade: Jaden Bryant, Ethan Conrad, Jaicob Husband, Ramie Mosse, Ethan Tindell, Trinity Williams, Jessica Bastida, Harley Brockelman, Zakry DeFrange, John Griffin, Avery Snapp, Benjamin Speed, Caleb Wahrmond, Elijah Wilson, Cierra Brussow, Luke Catching, Louis Gonzalez,, Emma Harvey, Austin Jones, Luke Lopez, Caleb Maddison, Zoey Moore, Alyssa Sharp, Abby Alvarez, Niko Longoria, Caytie Coco, Paige Gifford, Kailyn Ireland, Brooke Potter, Aiden Roulette, Kaleb Strong, Ethan Turner

Third Grade: Jackson Adkins, Alexandra Blount, Sierra Copeland, Alex Hernandez, Lizzy Robertson, Camryn Adams, Kriston Harris, David Huerta, Mason Moreau, Brooke Robinson, Austin Thurman, Leah Butcher, Brett Burnett, Katie Grogan, Seth Key

Fourth Grade: Taylor Hinkle, Valerie Langford, Lukas Peacock, Jamie Taylor, Lane Griffin, Cassidy Anderson, Zoie DeFrange, Jenna Honore, Jacob Roper, Molly Wilson, Kolby Windon, Paetyn Ford

Howe Elementary

A/B Honor Roll - 6th Six Weeks

Kindergarten: Ebenezer Chawn, Anthony Gardner, Garrett Gibbs, Kolton Mitchell, Payton Stapleton, Dakota Fetzer, Jonathan Smith, Gage Troxtell, Mia Wilson, Kimberly Gonzalez, Kade Murphy, Juanita Olivarez, Jesse Portman, Ashton Trevino, Charlie Vera, Nathan Wooten, Cody Adams, Camryn Boatman, Mary Burris, Dakota Campbell, Ryleigh Craven, Mikaylah Komorowski, Zadrian Morris, Thomas Roberson, Gabby McMillen

First Grade: Angie Burris, Bryan Crees, Bryce Crosby, Morgan Gifford, Daniel Gonzalez, Danielle Hargrove, Matthew Hayes, Korben Kemp, Dalton Laisy, Jacob McGill, Kolby Smith, Faith Stallings, Kaidence Varnell, Matthew Bearden, Cody McGill, Keira Robertson, Ethan Strunc, Samantha Lowder, Jordan Brunner, Carson Daniels, Kaden Dunn, Christina Harper, Jalie Hill, Connor Martin, Brody McCollum, Landon Oswald, Taylor Reynolds, James Richardson, Sergio Rico, Emma Sutherland, Antonio Tapia, Leo Becerra, Ayden Burris, Kelly Caballero, Breana Cole, Luke Hardy, Andrew Harper, Tinley Sisemore, Stone Trevino

Second Grade: Stanley Bik, Michelle Caballero, Ashley Crees, Jaryn Grisham, Blain Nuncio, Conner Record, Gavin Richardson, Caleb Searcey, Hagen York, Sabian Acevedo, Jared Brussow, Will Fleming, Ethan Lopez, Katie Parker, Ricky Ramirez, Kevin Bateman, Lindsey Hymel, Ryan Murphy, Justin Whitaker, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Riley Griffith, Colby Hopper, Samantha Lemley, David Rocha, Aiden Roulette, A'Niyah Shaw, Jennifer Torres

Third Grade: Erin Catching, Jacob Fabacher, Karrah Gardner, Tatum Hartsfield, Cameron Lankford, Kameron Hopper, Riley Insall, Pablo Segura, Chase Sellers, Aubreh Winegarden, Grace Brennan, Holly Cavender, Hannah Dwyer, Kamryn Gardner, Korbyn Thompson, Cam Bell, Ava Bader, Courtney Hopper, Grace Lankford, Jason Ortega, Brennan Speed, Crista Timmons

Fourth Grade: Karsyn Fleming, Ally Harvey, Mikayla Hudek, Jarron Ing, Kolbe Lappin, Sarah Martin, Braden Monroe, Hailey Upchurch, Maci Watson, Nayely Ayala, Hally Bollier, Ethan Chambers, Layton Elvington, Kaleigh Smith, Catherine Switzer, Colton Thurman, Bethany Van Deren, Bailey Bond, Mack Freeman, Madison Kenney, Kacie Morgan, Cindy Torres, Magi Watson, Jackson Wilson, Kaden Bateman, Garrett Grigg, Kylie Hopper, Zane Hughes, Waylon Knowles, Kaley Norton, Ethan Sloat, Caden Stewart, Riley Underwood, Arturo Lowder



Students of the Month



Elementary - Natalie Henderson

Middle School - Kelsey Ulmer (no picture)



High School - Dwayne Bruce

Tom Bean School Board

The Board of Trustees of the Tom Bean Independent School District held the regular monthly board meeting on Monday, May 21, 2012 at 7 pm. President, Jimmy Jones called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and David Harrison led the invocation.

Patricia Williams, Notary Public, swore in the new board members, David Ellis and Jimmy Jones. There was an election of the new officers for 2011-2012: Jinger Peeples, President; James Harris, Vice-President; and Shane Pennell, Secretary.

The minutes of April 16, 2012 along with the financial reports were approved as presented.

Reports were presented by Lonnie Jones, Facility Committee Chairman and Steve Risser, from the firm of BWA Architects. In addition, A curriculum and athletic report was given.

Student of the Month recognition and plaques were presented to the recipients from each campus. Teachers selected the candidates based on their attitude, behavior, and character. The recipients included: Natalie Henderson (EL); Kelsey Ulmer (MS); and Dwayne Bruce (HS).

The Board approved budget amendments as presented along with the 2012- 2013 student transfer list. JC's Landscaping was approved for the District's lawn service after the previously selected Joe Perkins resubmitted his bid.

Morgan & Davis was selected as the Tom Bean ISD's auditing firm. Mr. Stephen Blassingame was employed as a teacher/coach to replace Alan Gann on a one year dual probationary contract. The board approved the resignation of Flint Weed, MS band director.

Tom Bean ISD elected not to approve the resolution of the Grayson Central Appraisal District to purchase real property.

The regularly scheduled board meeting for June 18, 2012 has been moved to June 25, 2012 beginning at approximately 7pm. The board meeting will follow a Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate and Budget for 2012-2013 held that same evening beginning at 6 pm.

Mrs. Garrison gave a Superintendent's report which included the resignation of Trice Veazey and Ruby Barnes. The at-will employees were approved as presented.

The district purchased a lift for \$6900 instead of renting one each time.

Mrs. Garrison had an audit of the TBISD's taxes for 2008 – 2011. Over the past four years, Tom Bean has lost approximately 6 million dollars in market values. The state has approved the losses which means an approximation of \$20,000 due to Tom Bean ISD. She shared with the board that the Texas Education Agency has given the school district a clear audit over the 2010-2011 budget. In September, 2012, the TASA/TASB convention will be held in Austin, Texas. This convention is for professional growth for the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees.





Wanda Lee Moses (1924-2012)

HOWE - Funeral services for Wanda Lee Moses were held at 10 am, Monday June 4 at the First Methodist Church of Howe. Rev. Tom Medley of the church officiated. Burial followed at Hall Cemetery with Murray Akins Jr., Bob Cavender, Lynn Cavender, Chris Cavender, Eric Akins, Kent Akins, Greg Akins, and Dub Hall serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Delano Cavender and the Wesley Class of the First Methodist Church of Howe. Mrs. Moses, 87, passed away Thursday May 31 at Texas Health Presbyterian-WNJ.

Wanda was born July 2, 1924 in Dorchester to the late Lawrence and Minnie (Goldston) Cavender. She graduated from Dorchester schools and married Nathaniel Davis Moses on April 2, 1944 in Van Alstyne. She and Mr. Moses had been married over 66 years when he passed away on October 25, 2010. Mrs. Moses worked at Kress' Dept Store, Quaker Oats, Fant Milling Co, and the Howe Post Office. She was a lifelong resident of Grayson County and a faithful member of the First United Methodist Church of Howe for 57 years.

Mrs. Moses only had one child, but she was affectionately considered "Momma" to a large extended family. She is survived by her daughter, Donna Wormsbaker of Howe; two grandchildren, Julie Bearden and husband Herb of Gunter and Josh Wormsbaker and his wife Dawn of Durant, Okla.; five great grandchildren, Megan, Mason, and Matthew Bearden, all of Gunter and Ava and Ella Wormsbaker of Durant, Okla.; brother, George Cavender and wife Frankie of Howe; sister, Lois Miller of Sulphur Springs; three sisters-in-law, Inez Cavender of Katy, and Anna Gay and Mary Dee Thompson, both of Coatesville, Pa.; brother-in-law, Charles Thompson of Altoona, Pa.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Moses was preceded in death by her parents, husband, eight siblings, and son-in-law, Jimmie Wormsbaker.

The family received friends from 2 -4 pm, Sunday June 3 at Waldo Funeral Home. The register book can be signed online at waldofuneralhome.com. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Howe at 810 N. Denny, Howe, TX 75459.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff at Grayson County Home Health and Dr. Maneeb Mellem for his compassionate care.





Denison concert

Nationally known guitarist/songwriter David Roth will perform June 15 at Red River Unitarian Universalist Church, 515 Burnett Ave. in Denison.

Doors open at 7:00 pm, and the program is at 7:30. A \$15 donation is suggested, but no one will be turned away.

Roth is known for his powerful singing and subject matter, offbeat observations, moving stories, and sense of the hilarious.

“David and his music will touch you to the very depths of your soul. He’ll make you laugh and cry, inspire you to rise and fly...,” says Jack Canfield, co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

Roth’s songs (including “Rising in Love,” “Earth,” “May the Light of Love,” “Spacesuits” and “Rocket Science”) have been performed at Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, the Kennedy Center, and Peter, Paul & Mary concerts.

He has earned top honors at premier songwriter competitions, including Kerrville (TX) and Falcon Ridge (NY), and has served as a songwriting judge at Kerrville, Napa Valley (CA), Tumbleweed (WA), the Avalon Festival (WV), and the South Florida Folk Festival.

Roth has taught singing, songwriting, and performance in workshops across the country, and has performed in a wide variety of venues, both in the United States and in other countries, over a period of two decades.

A Chicago native, he has twice sung the national anthem at Chicago Bulls games.

Ronnie McDowell in Concert

Ronnie McDowell will perform a concert at the Chrystal Opry House on June 9 at 7:30 pm. Tickets may be purchased online at www.dickersonproductions.com or by phone at 254-498-3564. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

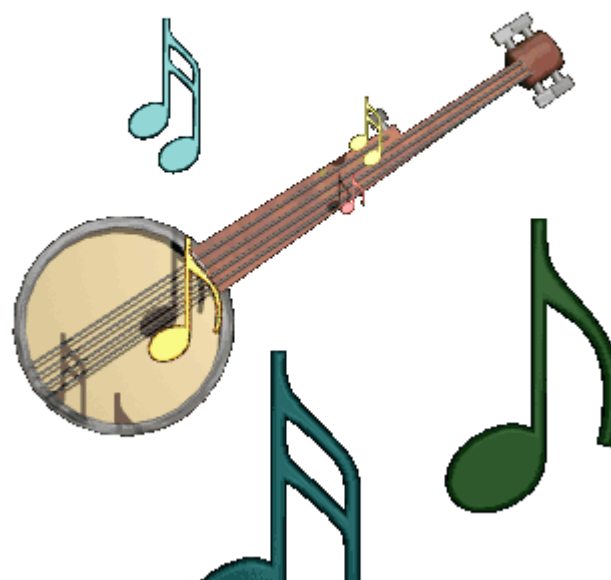
Best known for his visual and vocal resemblance to Elvis Presley, Ronnie McDowell enjoyed a series of Top Ten hit during the first half of the ‘80s. He was born in 1950 and raised in the small town of Portland, TN. He started singing publicly while serving in the Navy in the Philippines. He hit big in 1977 with “The King Is Gone”, a tribute to Presley written immediately after the singer’s death. McDowell capitalized on the exposure to land another hit, “I Love You, I love You, I Love You” in 1978. The following year he was tapped to sing the vocals for an Elvis movie starring Kurt Russell. Other hits by Ronnie include “Older Women”, “Wandering Eyes”, “Watchin’ Girls Go By”, “You Made a Wanted Man of Me”, “In a New York Minute” and “You’re Gonna Ruin My Bad Reputation”.

The concession area will be open with brisket sandwiches and hot dogs as well as coffee, soda, water, popcorn, and candy.

The Chrystal Opry House is located 1.5 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 there is no smoking inside the building.

Individuals or bands interested in performing at the Chrystal Opry House should contact Bill Hayes at 903-546-6893 or <http://www.chrystalopryhouse.com>

(“Like” us on face book--chrystalopryhouse and melodyranchbluegrassfestival)



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Ike Returns to Denison D-Day Commemorative Reenactment

On Saturday, June 9, 2012, Ike will return to Denison to commemorate his leadership in the successful D-Day invasion of WWII. Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site will host Bruce Hoff portraying General Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces. The public is encouraged to join honored guests including WWII veterans of the 297th Combat Engineers.

In order to replicate the first visit of General Dwight D. Eisenhower to the birthplace in 1946, there will be a picnic lunch (hot dogs, chips, and drinks) served from 12-1 p.m., which will be hosted by American Bank of Texas, with General Eisenhower's presentation to follow. It will be free admission, and there will be a military vehicle display as well.

Bruce Hoff is an esteemed and highly regarded impersonator of General Eisenhower. He has given speeches at both Mount Rushmore and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library. Hoff will speak about World War II, the after effects, and D-Day. He will also have a Q & A portion at the end of the presentation where visitors are encouraged to ask relevant questions.

Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, as the presentation will take place on the lawns of the Birthplace. This event is meant to honor the veterans of World War II, and provide everyone who attends a unique perspective of the events of D-Day and World War II.

June 6, 1944, a date that is commonly referred to as D-Day, was the day that the Allied Forces invaded Normandy during World War II. It was the largest amphibious invasion in world history and was executed by land, sea, and air. This is a very important day in the lives of the men and women who were alive in time of the war, and it is also very important for those who were not alive during that time to have an understanding of the events that took place.

Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site preserves the birthplace home of Dwight D. Eisenhower and interprets his life from his humble origins to his rise to international military and political leader. It is a Texas Historical Commission property, and the mission of the THC is to protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

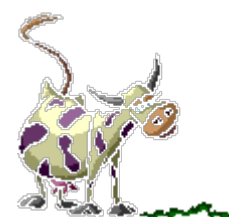
The Birthplace is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 am until 5 pm and Sunday 1 until 5 pm. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for ages 6-18, students with ID, and adult tour groups. Ages 5 and under are free. The site is located at 609 S. Lamar Avenue in Denison, Texas. The phone number is 903-465-8908 and website is www.visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com.

Livestock and Pasture Management

Friday, June 15, Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd floor Assembly Room, Sherman, TX

Jason Banta, Texas AgriLife Beef Specialist, will be discussing cattle expenditures and ways to reduce costs and weaning strategies to insure low stress and continued weight gain. Dr. Banta will also open the floor to questions on supplementation and cattle nutrition. The presentation will then focus on weed and brush control by David Annis, Noble Foundation Soil and Crop Consultant. Lastly, Steve Swigert, Noble Foundation Economist, will talk about the present and future cattle market. He will also discuss the economics of cow/calf and stocker operations.

The program will be held at the Grayson County Courthouse in the 2nd floor Assembly Room (100 West Houston Street, Sherman, TX 75090). Enter the south side door. The registration fee will be \$10 per attendee and will include refreshments and handout materials. Registration begins at 8 am and the program concludes at noon. One IPM ceu will be available to Private Applicators and two Beef Quality Credits will also be available to the participants. Space is limited so please RSVP by June 13th by calling Chuck at 903-813-4202.





LET'S REMINISCE: RESPECT FOR BUS DRIVERS

By Jerry Lincecum

As the school year comes to an end, I remember how important bus drivers were to my first twelve years of school. The distance from our farm to Marquez school was about 10 miles, as the crow flies. The circuitous route taken in order to pick up a couple of dozen kids probably doubled the mileage.

The morning schedule at our house was get up at 6:30 and get on the bus by 7:15, in order to reach school before 8:00. I realize now that a long bus ride was an important part of my education. Observing the language and behavior of my fellow students from first graders to seniors was interesting to say the least.

The drivers did not allow any bullying or fighting, but there were occasional ear thumpings and verbal spats (sometimes between members of one family). Some kids were habitually tardy about getting to the bus stop. Then there was that amazing morning when an angry father met the bus to cuss out the driver.

I took in some new words before the driver shut the door and drove away. My dad was on the school board, and he went with the school superintendent to visit that fellow and make sure the drama did not recur.

Most memorable of all was wading through a flood. Prior to the completion of Highway 7, we had to cross the Navasota River on a shaky old bridge, and there were several smaller bridges on the "dump" that elevated the gravel road through the floodplain. The main bridge had a steel frame, but I remember the sounds our bus made on the wooden runners.

On one occasion after several days of heavy rain, we were on our way home from school.

Anticipating trouble, the school superintendent had followed us in his car. He and the bus driver conferred when we got to the flooded river. They agreed that the busload of children should not be driven through the rising water that was just beginning to flow across the lower end of the dump.

There were also some parents waiting on the other side. Holding hands with several adults to make a chain, we children waded barefoot through the water without any problem. I always enjoyed wading, and the water was no more than an inch or two deep at that point, so a sense of adventure overcame any anxiety.

Then came the truly amazing part, as our bus driver slowly steered the empty bus through the running water. By next morning, the flood had receded and we made the routine trip without incident. But an unforgettable memory was stored in my brain.

A big "Thank You" to all those bus drivers who are responsible for transporting so many children to and from school five days a week, nine months a year.

-30-

Jerry Lincecum is a retired English professor who now teaches classes for older adults who want to write their life stories. He welcomes your reminiscences on any subject: jlincecum@me.com



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

The town of Twin Groceries

By Bob Bowman

A recent caller from Bowie County had an intriguing question: "Does East Texas have a town named Twin Groceries?"

The answer is yes and no.

Around 1850, John Arthur helped settle the town of Saltillo on the Old Jefferson wagon road sixteen miles east of Sulphur Springs in Hopkins County.

It soon became a popular place for teamsters, leading to the establishment of a post office in 1860 with Moses Russell as the postmaster.

The town also had a gristmill, a cotton gin and a store.

A second store was opened on the opposite side of the road from Arthur's grocery store and, for a time, the community was known as "Twin Groceries" for obvious reasons.

But the name didn't last long and Saltillo soon reemerged. By 1885, Saltillo had a water-powered gristmill, two churches, a school and a population of about sixty.

But what about Satillo's name?

Admittedly, it's not as colorful as Twin Groceries, but it does have an interesting history.

Saltillo, Mexico, the namesake of the one in Hopkins County, and Austin share a unique place in Texas history. Both were Texas capitals.



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Dot's

D-A-S-H-E-S



By Dorothy N. Fowler

If you are a fan of light-weight science fiction, you remember "Lost in Space." For some reason unknown to his family, my father, who rarely sat down long enough to watch any television show, loved that series and never missed it.

My favorite character in the show was Robot B-9, whose famous words can be found on various Internet sites, including one that is devoted exclusively to the show. You can also buy a replica of Robot B-9, who was usually known only as Robot, except when Dr. Smith was calling him a "bubble head booby."

In this column I am playing the role of Robot, intoning his oft-spoken line, "Danger, Will Robinson, Danger." You will probably not believe me any more than Mr. Smith did when he discounted the danger and resorted to the "bubble headed booby," epithet.

"Danger, borrowing public, danger!" The menace I'm warning you about is paying your bills before the due date. It is better to be a day late than two weeks early.

I am one of those fortunate people who normally uses a credit card only for Internet purchases and I am one of those "deadbeats" who can and does pay the whole bill every month. The credit card company with which I deal likes to get the money early, although it would like me better if I made minimum payments and it got 22 percent interest. It might like me even better if the minimum payment were late and it got to charge me \$35 plus 22 percent interest. But they don't have any trouble taking my money by phone and taking it early.

Not so several other lending institutions. I recently bought a pair of hearing aids. They cost almost exactly the same amount I paid for the 1976 Ford LTD that I drove off the show room floor in 1976. Put another way, the bill was pretty close to \$5,000. The vendor of these hearing aids -- they let me hear the birds sing, a sound I had forgotten because my hearing difficulty had crept up on me, and so were worth it to me -- has a deal with GE Capital Retail Bank. The deal is that the vendor pays interest on the loan, at a much lower rate than would be offered to the purchaser of the hearing aids, and the purchaser pays no interest as long as the payments are made on time and within a year.



BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

Saltillo was the capital of Texas when its territory was part of the Mexican state of Coahuila before Texas won its independence and Austin became the capital of the Republic of Texas.

In 1989, while I was serving on the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission, a delegation from Saltillo, Mexico, journeyed to Austin to help Texas celebrate its 150th birthday.

In 1887, the St. Louis Southwestern Railroad built a line a few miles north of Saltillo, Texas, and one of the town's two grocery stores moved to the train station site. Twin Groceries had no good reason to use its name anymore.

Saltillo opened a school in 1905 with an enrollment of eighty-four. And in 1909 the Gulf Pipe Line was laid through Hopkins County near Saltillo, further spurring its growth.

The town kept growing and by 1904 it had a population of about 350, a number of stores, several barber shops, a bank, a printing shop, and a newspaper known as the *Saltillo Signal*.

The town continued to grow during the 1920s, but the Depression years reduced its prosperity and its population fell to 250

Today, Saltillo is still an active settlement of about 200 folks and a few stores at the intersection of U.S. Highway 67, Farm Road 900, and the railroad. The town is also less than a mile from Interstate highway 30.

Sadly, there is nothing left of Twin Groceries, but a colorful old name.

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



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Dot's Dashes, continued

That's the deal I took. I agreed to pay \$176 each month for 11 months and then I planned to make a huge final payment at the end of the contract period. As soon as I received the first statement, I wrote the first check and mailed it. That was for the payment that was due on April 19. On May 1, I wrote a check for the May payment and mailed it with a note requesting that the payment be credited to the May payment. On June 1, I wrote a check for the June payment and mailed it with a note requesting that the payment be credited to the June payment.

On June 4, I received a phone call from a collection agency. The person on the phone was an Indian male -- an Indian Indian, complete with accent and script.

What follows is a pretty fair recap of the conversation.

"Your payments are two months behind," said the caller.

"What do you mean? I just checked my bank statement online and both checks have cleared and you haven't had time to get the one I mailed on the first. Tell me what your records show," I said.

"We received a check on April 11 and a check on May 10," he said.

"Then what's the problem?" I asked.

"The May check counts toward the April payment," he said.

"No," I said. "I put a note with it directing that it be credited to the May payment. You got the check in May. The April payment was current. You got the May check in May."

"You missed the May payment. Did you say you sent a check in June? That will be the May payment and then you will send another check for the June payment," he said. "Did you send it by mail?"

"No," I answered. "I sent it by carrier pigeon."

"Do you realize this call is being recorded for quality assurance?" he asked.

"Yes, and so far the conversation from my end has had more quality than the conversation from your end," I shouted and hung up.

The problem is this: GE Capital Retail Bank and Bank of America and only heaven knows how many other lending institutions, have a payment "window." If a borrower makes a payment before the "window" opens for the current month, any payment the borrower makes is marked up as the previous month's payment. That means that even though the borrower may think he/she is ahead on payments, on the bank's books he/she is behind. That gives the bank an opportunity to charge the borrower a hefty penalty, perhaps even to revoke the interest free deal (or whatever other deal was offered) and impose not only a late fee but also a 22 to 26 percent interest rate.

And why are they able to get away with this? Because there isn't a law against it. Danger, Borrowing Public. Danger!



Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Railroad Commission

The Railroad Commission of Texas was established in 1891 under a constitutional and legislative mandate to prevent discrimination in railroad charges and establish reasonable tariffs. It is the oldest regulatory agency in the state and one of the oldest of its kind in the nation.

Over the years, the Commission's jurisdiction grew to encompass many activities: oil and gas production and transportation (1919), gas utilities (1920), buses and trucks (1931), liquefied petroleum gas (1939), surface mining and reclamation (1976), and alternate fuels research (1991.) Today, the real purpose of the Railroad Commission is not related to the railroad industry, but in its authority over the oil and gas industry.

Through its Oil and Gas Division, the commission regulates the exploration, production, and transportation of oil and natural gas in Texas. Its statutory role is to prevent waste of the state's natural resources, to protect the correlative rights of different interest owners, to prevent pollution, and to provide safety in matters such as hydrogen sulfide. These roles are fulfilled through such regulatory actions as permitting for well drilling, testing of wells, and abandoned well plugging.

The Railroad Commission is governed by three commissioners elected at-large by the citizens of Texas. Railroad Commissioners are elected to six-year staggered terms with one Commissioner seeking election every two years.

The Commission's website, www.rrc.state.tx.us, provides a wealth of information for the community on oil and gas wells and pipelines. A map showing active and inactive wells, permit applications, and pipelines can be by going to the "Quick Links" section on the Commission's homepage, then to "Online Research Queries," then lastly clicking on the "Public GIS Map Viewer for Oil & Gas Wells, Pipeline Data and LP Gas Sites." Additionally, each well site should have a visible sign with the well identification number, and the name or identification number of the well operator. The public can call the Railroad Commission's toll-free number at 877-228-5740 with the well identification for more information about the well.

The website also offers information about the number of wells per county at <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/data/wells/wellcount/index.php>. At present, there are approximately 665 regularly producing oil wells and 58 producing gas wells in Grayson County. Fannin County does not have any producing wells. There is also information on non-producing wells and the number of permits issued for potential wells.

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

We believe that your local news provided should provide you with news, information, facts, and sources to further study that information. Here are some websites that are providing those facts, at least at the time of their listing on our page. If you know of others that our readers would enjoy send them to us. Or if some of these are no longer working let us know.

This Page is a Work in Progress

Howe Public Schools

Howe Public Library

Library information, Language courses, Student events

Van Alstyne Public Library

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

Search Engines-

Yahoo

Alta Vista

Google

Ask Jeeves

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

Quotations Page

Royalty Free Music

Spanish Dictionary

Selected Sites

[Texas Records and Information Locator \(TRAIL\)](#) searches and locates information from over 180 Texas state agency web services.

[The Handbook of Texas Online](#) is a multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, geography, and culture sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and the General Libraries at UT Austin.

[Texas Online](#): The official website for the Great State of Texas and provides instant access to almost 800 state and local government services.

[Library of Texas](#): Immediately start searching multiple Texas library catalogs and other knowledge collections in one sitting.

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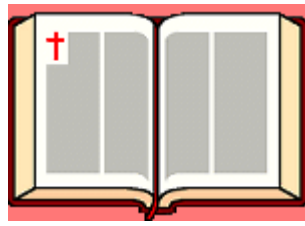
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Local Churches



Cannon

CANNON BAPTIST CHURCH
RFD 1, Rev. John Wade, pastor,
903/482-6761

SOVEREIGN GRACE
BAPTIST CHURCH

George Seevers, 903/364-2942

Cherry Mound

BAPTIST CHURCH, 6335 FM 1753, Denison

Dennis Stewart, pastor,
Sun School 9:45; worship, 11, evening 6; Wednesday,
7pm

Dorchester

DORCHESTER BAPTIST
CHURCH Hwy. 902W,
903/476-5525

Gunter

COLLEGE HILL
CHURCH OF CHRIST
304 E. College, 903/433-4835

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

300 Pecan, 903/433-3335

GRACE BIBLE

FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Bruce Stinson

Brooks Plaza

Sundays - 9:30 AM Worship

www.thegbf.com

VALLEY

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Howe

APOSTOLIC LIFE UPC

405 S. Collins Frwy,

Jerry Pentecost, 903/821-9166; Sun. 10am & 6pm

NEW BEGINNING FELLOWSHIP/AG,

912 S Denny St.

903/532-6828; Roger Roper,

S-school, 9:30, worship 10:45

BETHEL BAPTIST

Hwy. 902 E & Ponderosa Rd, Weldon Hutson, pastor,

903/532-6032

SUMMIT CHURCH

Howe Middle School Cafeteria,

903/815-1472 ; Kcvin Bouse

CHURCH OF CHRIST

N. Collins Frwy,

903/532-6441;

Toby Socheting

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

100 E. Davis, 903/532-5504;

Roger Tidwell, pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH 810 N. Denny,

903/532-6718;

Tom Medley, minister

Ida

IDA BAPTIST CHURCH,

903/813- 3263. S- School

10 am, Worship 11 am

Charles Morris, pastor

Luella

LUELLA FIRST

BAPTIST CHURCH

3162 St. Hwy. 11,

Harvey Patterson,

903/893-2252

A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, 150 Fellowship Ln,

Luella

Mike Ball, 903/870-0219

Tom Bean

CHURCH OF CHRIST

903/546-6620

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

903/546-6231

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH 903/546-6898

INSPIRATION POINT

COWBOY CHURCH

FM 2729, 2.5 miles

South of Tom Bean

Ruth 1:16-17 (ASV)

16 And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, and to return from following after thee, for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God;

17 where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: Jehovah do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.

Christian Fellowship

Mike Ball will be leading worship service this week at A Christian Fellowship in Luella. Come join them at 9 am for coffee and donuts, followed by classes for all ages at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30. Dress is casual. Praise and worship is led by David Ellis and is a contemporary style service.

The church celebrates The Lord's Supper each week during worship service. Come on out and join them for a family oriented worship service. If you're looking for a church home, you've found it.

C R Men's Step Study group has been put on hold for now. This class helps those with drug and alcohol abuse situations and the need to find your way back to Christ call Jesse @903-744-2716 and he can help you.

Wednesday night begins at 6:30 pm with a pot-luck dinner followed by praise and worship and a devotional.

The church host movie night each month that is free to the public. Also popcorn, candy and drinks are free, so come on out for some fun family time. The movie for June will on June 15 @ 6:30 and the movie to be shown this month is "Soul Surfer". So come on out of a great night of family fun.

The church will be having Vacation Bible School July 16-20 from 6:30-8:30pm so mark your calendar for this event.

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.



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

"A Woman's Choice" a WEB video concerning a woman's pregnancy can be seen on www.PregnancyDecisions.org.

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

click for **more Church News**



Texoma Enterprise

Local Churches

Duane Peters,
903-815-2278
PILOT GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH
1271 Pilot Grove St.
903/450-3708
Sherman/Denison
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER
DAY SAINTS
1900 Lamberth Rd, Sherman.
FRIENDSHIP UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
RFD 2 off Hwy. 56; 903/892-8450
WESTERN HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST
800 Baker Park Dr.,
903/892-9635, Sun. 10
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE,
601 Hwy. 1417, Pastor,
Rev. Mack Rogers
RED RIVER
COWBOY CHURCH
3800 Hwy. 691 (w of Hwy. 75); Novice Northington,
903/463-5840
Van Alstyne
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
Northwest corner Hwy 5 & County Line Rd.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
105 Hopson,
Shannon Jackson, minister,
903/482-6033
EAST SIDE
CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO Box 141, Larry Shead,
minister; worship 11am
ELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
FM 121 W, Elmont;
Jim Poole, pastor,
903/482-6356
FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH, corner of Pearl & Nash,
Pastor Kenneth L. Price,
972/547-0243,
LIFE CHURCH,
201 W. Marshall,
Pastors – Lance/ Mary Baker
903/433-8089
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
102 E. Marshall, 903/482-6334,
Jimmy Tarrant, pastor
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
206 Waco, 903/482-5515,
Gary Giibbs, 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

Grieve Not

By Willie Sofey

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30). The apostle Paul was writing to the early Christians in Ephesus from his first imprisonment in Rome in 61 A.D.; and a letter that likely circulated throughout Asia Minor (Eph. 6:21-22 & Col. 4:7-8).

The city of Ephesus was a commercial, political, and religious center that ranked with Alexandria. Paul introduced Christianity to Aquila and Priscilla on a brief stop there on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:18-19).

The Holy Spirit is the third personage of our triune God that has always existed. The Holy Spirit was at work in Old Testament history and made many visits to Godly men and women for the purposes of Almighty God.

This is the great Comforter / Counselor that Jesus Christ promised would come to indwell the individual Christ believer (Church)..., after His death and resurrection (John 14:15-21).

This event, of the birth of the Church, did in fact take place 50 days after the resurrection of Christ (first fruits)..., being on the Jewish Holy day “Feast of Weeks”..., a celebration of the wheat harvest, seven weeks following “First Fruits” (Acts 2:1-13, 1Cor. 15:23, Ex. 23:16, Matt. 16:18).

Our body is a temple wherein the Holy Spirit dwells and it’s important to keep our bodies disciplined in word and deed so as not to “grieve the Holy Spirit”.

Paul makes an exhaustive exhortation to the Christians on the importance of Godly living (Eph. 4:1-6) and in promoting the unity of the Church (Eph. 7-16). A reading of Ephesians Ch. 3 through Ch. 6 will bring you a treasure trove of wisdom and power in letting the Holy Spirit guide your life living out Almighty God’s purpose.

The Holy Spirit is our direct line to Almighty God and our Savior Jesus Christ. We now have direct access to the very presence of God without need of human resources (Matt. 27:51, Ex. 26:33, Ex. 38:18, Heb. 9:3, Heb. 10:20, Eph. 2:11-22, Acts 6:7).

You wouldn’t want to offend or hurt your friends or loved ones. Consider the Holy Spirit your earthly best friend..., who will not abandon you. He knows your heart’s desires even if you cannot intelligibly explain them to Him.

The Holy Spirit seals us and completes us as an equal member of the Family of God. There are blessings and benefits in this household. Do your part as a family member!!

Thank-you Lord for providing the comfort from The Comforter and for allowing and making The Way for me to become a son in Your household, Willie Sofey
You were and are always on my mind.



[Back to first page of Church News](#)



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LEGAL TIPS:

Estate Planning & Resolutions

By Matt Sullivan, J.D., LL.M.
Attorney & Counselor at Law

Many people resolve to improve themselves for each New Year. For example, they promise to change their diet, lose weight, and avoid voting for liberal politicians. Shouldn't estate planning be on your list of resolutions?

First, what would happen to your kids if something happened to you? Have you taken the time to have your estate planning documents properly prepared and executed? Some of the most important documents to consider are a Will, Durable Power of Attorney, Directive to Physicians, Medical Power of Attorney, HIPAA Release, and a Declaration of Guardian. Each document plays an important part in the overall plan.

The Will can be used to dispose of your property upon your death. Within it, you can also establish trusts and appoint guardians for your kids. A Durable Power of Attorney will authorize someone to act on your behalf if you are unable to do so. The Directive to Physicians is also known as a Living Will and is your opportunity to state in writing how you want to be treated in an end-of-life situation. The Medical Power of Attorney will allow someone to make most medical decisions for you if you can't. The HIPAA Release will allow your representative to obtain your medical information. The Declaration of Guardian can be used to appoint or prevent someone from being appointed as your guardian and it can be used to appoint a guardian for your children.

Second, when was the last time you reviewed the title to your assets or the beneficiary designations of assets you own? These can be extremely important issues in the event of a person's death. Assets that have properly filled out beneficiary designations will be paid to the beneficiary regardless of what is stated in the owner's Will. Such assets include life insurance, IRAs, and 401(k)s to name a few.

Third, what would happen to your pets if you died or became disabled and weren't able to care for them? Pets are extremely important to many people and should be considered when preparing an estate plan.

While estate planning may not be the most fun or exciting undertaking, it can be extremely important and beneficial for your family.

Matt Sullivan, J.D., LL.M., Attorney & Counselor at Law, can be reached at 903-482-0099 or through his law firm's web site, www.mattsullivanattorney.com.

This article is not intended as specific legal advice and you should consult with your own attorney.



Hall Critical Of May Unemployment Numbers

WASHINGTON, DC . . . Following May unemployment numbers released today, Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-04) released the following statement:

“The latest unemployment numbers continue to reflect President Obama’s failed policies and mishandling of America’s economy. Since the President took office over three years ago, unemployment has remained at or above 8%. May’s unemployment rose to 8.2% - up from 8.1%. It’s important to keep in mind that these numbers don’t include people who have stopped looking for work altogether.

“The President’s failed stimulus spending and bad economic and over-reaching regulatory policies are hurting American families and the middle class.

“According to the Heritage Foundation, this Administration has cost Americans more than \$46 billion through more than one hundred major new regulations, including blocking and delaying projects to expand domestic energy production and imposing rules that kill jobs and make energy more expensive. The Science, Space, and Technology Committee, which I chair, has identified extensive flaws in the scientific and technical justifications used by this Administration to impose these regulations. Businesses cannot create jobs in the face of this steady stream of red tape.

“House Republicans will continue to work to boost job creation by creating a more positive environment for job creators to hire workers, including efforts to help small businesses by reducing regulatory burdens and providing tax relief. We hope that the Senate Democratic Leadership will eventually join our efforts and pass legislation that will help our hurting economy.

“We need to work together to create a positive future not only for ourselves, but also for our children and grandchildren.”

Soda ban causes big gulp

By Amanda Hill

The other morning, I saw a Today Show interview with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as he explained his “soda ban” policy. In the spirit of reducing obesity rates for NYC adults (now at more than 50 percent), the mayor is proposing a ban on all “full sugar” drinks larger than 16 ounces. If the law is passed -- by the NYC Board of Health, which Mayor Bloomberg appoints -- New Yorkers will be banned from buying large sodas in restaurants, movie theaters or even at their sacred Yankees Stadium.

While I agree with Mayor Bloomberg that obesity is a serious problem in America, the rule is fundamentally flawed. Take his reasoning as I remember him explaining on the Today Show:

Matt Lauer: “Do you think this soda ban is really going to reduce the obesity problem?”

Mayor Bloomberg: “We’re not banning anyone’s right to drinking soda. If you want to buy 32 ounces of soda, the restaurant just has to serve it to you in two glasses. This isn’t taking away your freedoms. It’s just reminding you to drink less.”

You’ve got to be kidding me! I heard that response and about burned my finger on my straightening iron. (Does anyone else multi-task in the mornings?) The fact that he admits New Yorkers will circumvent this rule by ordering a second Dr Pepper or go back for a refill just proves that the government cannot force people to make lifestyle changes. “Motivate,” maybe. “Force,” no.

It’s the same as telling someone what religion they must follow. At the end of the day, each individual has the right to choose. Americans are allowed the freedom to make their own choices. Government can’t tell us what we can and cannot eat. Drinking soda on a daily basis is not healthy. We know we are much better off with a glass of water, milk or 100-percent fruit juice. But that must be a personal choice.

To me, Mayor Bloomberg should take a lesson from First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign. Instead of forcing kids (and adults) to exercise, the First Lady has motivated them to get out and get active -- and to make real lifestyle changes. Or, maybe Mayor Bloomberg should just increase the advertising buys for this public service announcement by the NYC Board of Health. It certainly motivated me.

How do we fight obesity, Mayor Bloomberg? We encourage real and permanent lifestyle changes like a balanced, moderate diet and regular exercise. But reducing America’s waistline through regulations just makes me give a big gulp.



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Environmental Working Group sings out of tune on crop insurance

By Mike Barnett

Butt out of the crop insurance debate, Environmental Working Group (EWG). Your most recent study of recipients of crop insurance is the same song, second verse of misleading and flawed analysis.

You did the same thing in the past with your controversial database of direct and counter-cyclical payments. Your interpretation of the numbers didn't pass the smell test then. You worked the numbers portraying cooperative payments as payments to individuals. Are you doing the same thing now?

Your strategy is clear. With direct payments gone and deficiency payments rendered ineffective, kick the last leg of the safety net out from under American agriculture. Leave farmers flat on their backs without any hope of help.

Farming is a high risk occupation in Texas. Our farmers have more to lose than farmers in any other state in the nation. Our weather is unpredictable. Floods, drought, hail, wind—it can happen to one crop in the same season. Crop insurance is critical. Texas suffered more than \$7 billion in agricultural losses last year due to the historic drought. Without crop insurance, there would have been no hope of recovery. It is the only thing that allowed many farmers to put seed in the ground this year.

Many countries choose import protections to provide protection for their farmers. For example, the average tariff on U.S. products entering foreign markets is 65 percent. The average tariff on foreign products entering the U.S. market is 13 percent. The U.S. chooses to assist American consumers by providing the lowest cost possible for food.

Some mechanism must be used to level the playing field so our farmers can remain competitive in world markets. Subsidized crop insurance payments are not only reasonable, but fair.

What you're not telling us, EWG, is that subsidized crop insurance is not a subsidy check to farmers. It is an insurance premium discount. Premiums go into a risk pool to pay for future losses. Producers collect only when there is a significant loss. And in instances of revenue protection, they will be compensated only during significant price declines.

Should we question how crop insurance is managed and require accountability from both farmers and providers? Sure. We should also question where our food and fiber will come from if farmers are left without protection from natural disasters.

As one South Texas farmer told me: "In my case of irrigated crops, the word insurance is really not correct anymore. We grow a crop to harvest, then have a disaster. At most, you may recoup one-half of your cost. That's not even a safety net really."

But it is better than the alternative. With a new farm bill being written, the crop insurance safety net will be all that remains to protect U.S. production.

Without it, cotton, wheat and feed grains will be grown somewhere else in the world. U.S. consumers will pay more for their food and clothing. And the food security our nation has enjoyed throughout its history will be gone.

Be careful what you ask for, EWG. Your wishes may come true.

Mike Barnett, Director of Publications, Texas Farm Bureau



Feline Heaven

A cat dies and goes to Heaven.

God meets him at the gate and says, "You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask."

The cat says, "Well, I lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors."

God says, "Say no more." And instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, 6 mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat.

The mice said, "All our lives we've had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore."

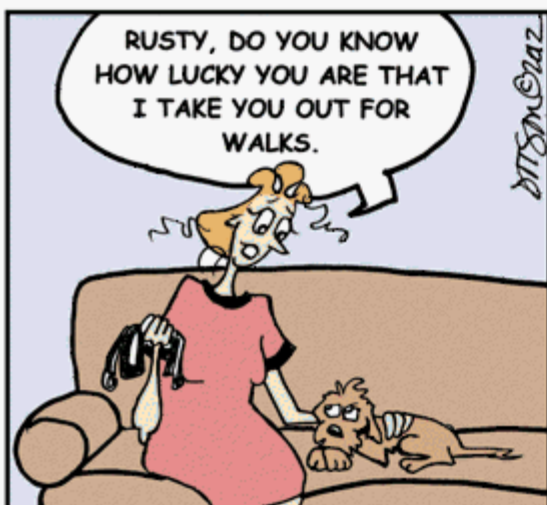
God says, "Say no more." And instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow. God gently wakes him and asks, "How are you doing? Are you happy here?"

The cat yawns and stretches and says, "Oh, I've never been happier in my life. And those Meals on Wheels you've been sending over are the best!"

OUTZKIRTS

By: David & Doreen Dotson



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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



Grandkids singing at the Christmas Tree Farm 2007