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Austin College Allen-Head Lectures Address “The Bible and Human Rights”

SHERMAN, TEXAS-Tina Pippin of Agnes Scott College will present “The Bible and Human Rights: ‘Occupying’ Texts and Contexts” in the annual Austin College Allen-Head Lecture Tuesday, March 20, at 7 pm in Mabee Hall of Wright Campus Center. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Pippin is professor and chair of religious studies at Agnes Scott College, a liberal arts college for women, in Decatur, Georgia. As an activist educator she teaches in the areas of biblical studies, ethics and social justice, women’s studies, and human rights.

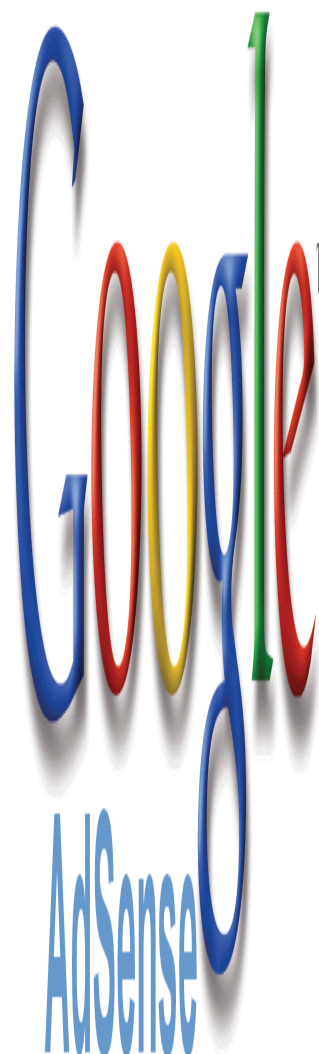
Her publications include *Death and Desire: The Rhetoric of Gender in the Apocalypse of John* (Westminster/John Knox, 1992) and *Apocalyptic Bodies: The Biblical End of the World in Text and Image* (Routledge, 1999). She was a member of the collaborative writing group *The Bible and Culture Collective* that produced *The Postmodern Bible* (Yale University Press, 1995), and a co-editor, with David Jobling and Ron Schleifer, of *The Postmodern Bible Reader* (Blackwell, Spring 2001). Tippin also is the editor, with Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, of *Mother Goose, Mother Jones, Mommie Dearest: Biblical Mothers and Their Children* (Semeia Studies, 2010).

For the past 15 years, Pippin has been involved with students at Agnes Scott in a mentoring relationship with “at-risk” young women and teen moms at Decatur High School. As part of her involvement in the Agnes Scott Living Wage Campaign, she facilitates and teaches in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program for college staff.

Pippin earned her bachelor’s degree at Mars Hill College, a master’s degree in divinity at Candler School of Theology, and a master’s degree in theology and Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Allen-Head Lecture Series was established by an endowment gift given in 1985 in memory and celebration of E. T. Allen, Sr., and Mary Bell Anderson Allen and Mr. & Mrs. E. T. Allen, Jr. and Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Head, Jr. of Whitesboro, Texas. The lectures feature nationally prominent speakers in the areas of religion, philosophy, psychology, history, and literature.

Austin College is a leading national independent liberal arts college located north of Dallas in Sherman, Texas. Founded in 1849, making it the oldest institution of higher education in Texas operating under original charter and name, the college is related by covenant to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Recognized nationally for academic excellence in the areas of international education, pre-professional training, and leadership studies, Austin College is one of 40 schools profiled in Loren Pope’s influential book *Colleges That Change Lives*<<http://www.ctcl.org>>.



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Howe's That

by Lana Rideout

Remember last spring and summer's devastating tornado season. Several communities were destroyed and others were a mess to clean up. Well, on Wednesday this week six tornados in Indiana, and Missouri destroyed a lot of property and killed several persons.

Last year our grandson Chris volunteered to go on a couple of mission trips with a group from our church to help clear out debris and furnish food and water to those in need. I was very proud of him. He has always been a young man who wants to help people, especially his friends.

On another note about a grandchild, Caleb who will be 17 later this month, is being home schooled along with his younger sister Rachel. He enjoys the home schooling, but he is thinking that next year ... his senior year ... he wants to go to school to enjoy the various end of high school events.

Recipe



Amazing Cabbage Salad

Lemon Dressing Ingredients:

- 3 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground pepper to taste

Salad Ingredients:

- 1 (16-ounce) package thinly sliced cabbage
- 2 or 3 small green onions, diagonally sliced
- 1 small carrot, coarsely shredded
- 1 Tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

For the dressing, whisk the olive oil, lemon juice, lemon zest, garlic, salt and pepper in a bowl until incorporated. For the salad, toss the cabbage, green onions, carrot and parsley in a salad bowl. Add the dressing and mix until coated. Chill, covered, until serving time. Serves: 4

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HES A – Honor Roll, 4th Six Weeks

Kindergarten: Casie Adams, Anthony Gardner, Garrett Gibbs, Jaeden Howard, Kelcey Ireland, Alex Jones, Carter Layton, Zeb Montgomery, Autumn Owens, Emery Snapp, Mahlon Walker, Madilynn Douglas, Clayton Duree, Caden Garner, Cooper Jones, Jace Martin, Brooklyn McCaleb, Lucas Mitchell, Jenna Roper, Jonathan Smith, Gage Troxtell, Riley Troxtell, Courtney White, Braden Bahr, Shianne Freeman, Kolin Murphy, Sandra Nitchman, Haley Richardson, Matalee Stewart, Emry Woods, Kenneth York, Mary Burris, Ainsley Denham, Kendall Griffin, Mikaylah Komorowski

First Grade: Bryan Crees, Bettye Delavan, Korben Kemp, Donna Mendoza, Madison Morrow, Linda Segura, Kolby Smith, Faith Stallings, Teagan Stubblefield, Yair Ayala, Mackenzie Bryant, Jentrie Doty, Austin Haley, Ryan Hough, Janna Nitchman, Keira Robertson, Ethan Strunc, Jacob Upchurch, Korie Bouse, Carson Daniels, Ethan Duer, Audie Martin, Emma Sutherland, Breana Cole, Alex Huerta, Trey Phillips, Dakota Tinker

Second Grade: Jaden Bryant, Jaicob Husband, Nicholas Miller, Zakry DeFrange, John Griffin, Avery Snapp, Benjamin Speed, Caleb Wahrmund, Elijah Wilson, Kevin Bateman, Cierra Brussow, Luke Catching, Emma Harvey, Austin Jones, Zoey Moore, Alyssa Sharp, Caytie Coco, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Paige Gifford, Colby Hopper, Kailyn Ireland, Brooke Potter, Aiden Roulette, Ethan Turner

Third Grade: Jackson Adkins, Alexandra Blount, Sierra Copeland, Alex Hernandez, Lizzy Robertson, Kriston Harris, Grace Brennan, Leah Butcher, Seth Key

Fourth Grade: Taylor Hinkle, Valerie Langford, Jerome Midthune, Lukas Peacock, Zoie DeFrange, Mack Freeman, Jenna Honore, Kacie Morgan, Molly Wilson, Lane Griffin, Payton Ford, Zane Hughes

Howe Elementary “Top Dogs” for the week ending February 24th are: Taylor Hinkle, Jada Wood, Ruvy Enriquez, Aubreh Winegarden, Clay Barnett, Ethan Turner, Conner Record, Ethan Lopez, Emma Harvey, Madison Morrow, Marcus Smith, Dabney Henry, Keyshun Toney, Charlie Vera, and Lucas Reese.

FUMC Easter Egg Hunt

First United Methodist Church will hold their annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31 from 11 am to 1 pm at Howe High School.

HES A-B Honor Roll, 4th Six Weeks

Kindergarten: Catelyn Armstrong, Jayden Bookout, Ebenezer Chawn, Jaycie Grisham, Jacob Ortega, Kayley Laubhan, Cheyenne Mathews, Gracie Max, Paris Menjivar, Railyn Murphy, Dakota Smith, Dax Foster, Emma Hitesman, Cassaundra Morrison, Kade Murphy, Nathan Wooten, Cody Adams, Camryn Boatman, Zoey Bolen, Ryleigh Craven, Willie Husband, Zadrian Morris, Morgan Pitt, Thomas Roberson

First Grade: Caleb Fetzer, Daniel Gonzalez, Danielle Hargrove, Matthew Hayes, Jacob McGill, Kaidence Varnell, Tate Harvey, Colton Little, Jordan Brunner, Christina Harper, Jalie Hill, Connor Martin, Landon Oswald, Antonio Tapia, Leo Becerra, Kaylyn Bryant, Ayden Burris, Hayden Calhoun, Chesnee Lawson, Tinley Sisemore

Second Grade: Michelle Caballero, Ethan Conrad, Ashley Crees, Jaryn Grisham, Ramie Mosse, Conner Record, Gavin Richardson, Caleb Searcey, Ethan Tindell, Trinity Williams, Hagen York, Jessica Bastida, Harley Brockelman, Jared Brussow, William Fleming, Ethan Lopez, Katie Parker, Parker Pecina, Ricky Ramirez, Louis Gonzalez, Lindsey Hymel, Luke Lopez, Caleb Maddison, Ryan Murphy, Justin Whitaker, Riley Griffith, Samantha Lemley, David Rocha, Kaleb Strong

Third Grade: Erin Catching, Jacob Fabacher, Karrah Gardner, Tatum Hartsfield, Cameron Lankford, Reagan Troxtell, Camryn Adams, David Huerta, Mason Moreau, Brooke Robinson, Kaytee Roper, Chase Sellers, Austin Thurman, Holly Cavender, Hannah Dwyer, Kamryn Gardner, Korbyn Thompson, Brett Burnett, Katie Grogan, Grace Lankford, Brennan Speed, Crista Timmons

Fourth Grade: Jade Cox, Karsyn Fleming, Ally Harvey, Kolbe Lappin, Sarah Martin, Jamie Taylor, Cassidy Anderson, Bailey Bond, Madison Kenney, Jesse Midthune, Jacob Roper, Cindy Torres, Magi Watson, Jackson Wilson, Kolby Windon, Nayely Ayala, Hally Bollier, Ireland Bryant, Layton Elvington, Kaleigh Smith, Catherine Switzer, Colton Thurman, Bethany Van Deren, Kirsten Wheeler, Kaden Bateman, Garrett Grigg, Kylie Hopper, Jodee Newland, Ethan Sloat, Caden Stewart, Riley Underwood, Arturo Uribe

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Howe City Elections

Cities all across Texas are getting ready for May elections and incumbents and first time runners are deciding, "Do I want to run?" In City Halls, the staff are busy putting together the all important election packets, that includes everything that one would need to sign up for a place on a ballot.

The City of Howe is no exception to this rule. This May, council seats held by Sam Haigis, Scott Harris and Georgia Richardson are up for election. All three seats are two year terms. Election packets can be picked up at the City Hall office at 116 E. Haning in Howe or from the Secretary of State web site at www.sos.state.tx.us.

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Friends of Howe Community Library held a successful Kid's Crafts Show on Saturday, Feb. 25.



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Gunter Library & Museum News

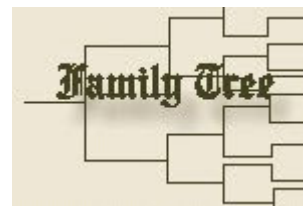
Join us at the Gunter Library and Museum on Tuesday, February 21 from 7-8 pm and Saturday, February 25 from 2-3 pm for a special showing of *For the Love of Liberty, the Story of America's Black Patriots*. The Library will show the abridged version of the film, which lasts for 45 minutes. The DVD which contains the entire four hour, two-part film will be available for check out after February 25.

Over 5,000 black soldiers fought in the American Revolution and though most were not recognized as citizens or even free men, more than 200,000 took up arms in the Civil War. Over 380,000 African-Americans served in World War I and more than 2,000,000 defended this country in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Yet most accounts of their valiant actions are absent from history books and contemporary film.

For Love of Liberty: the Story of America's Black Patriots has finally, and for all time, set the record straight. It is an unprecedented documentation of the African-American experience in the U.S. military. At the center of this multi-faceted initiative is a four-hour high definition, two-part documentary introduced by Colin Powell and hosted on-camera by Halle Berry. The film uses letters, diaries, speeches, journalistic accounts, historical text and military records to acknowledge the tremendous, unheralded accomplishments of African-American servicemen and women – from the earliest days of the Republic through our present conflict in Afghanistan. The documentary asks the question why these heroic men and women fought so valiantly for freedoms they themselves did not enjoy.

Join us on February 18, February 25, and March 3 for a three part session on Family Research and Genealogy taught by Dale Rideout. This seminar will help you get started on family research if you are a beginner, and help you find useful sources if you already have completed part of your search. There will be a \$10 charge for materials for participants. Class will meet from 10:30-12:30. Please register ahead of time so we can provide enough materials. To register, call 903-207-4527 or 903-271-5190.

New books added to the collection this week include John Grisham's *The Litigators*; J.A. Jance, *Left for Dead*; *Your Scottish Ancestry: a Guide for North Americans*, by Sherry Irvine; and *The Complete idiot's Guide to Genealogy* by Christine Rose.



Family Research and Genealogy event for March 3 has been postponed to March 10.



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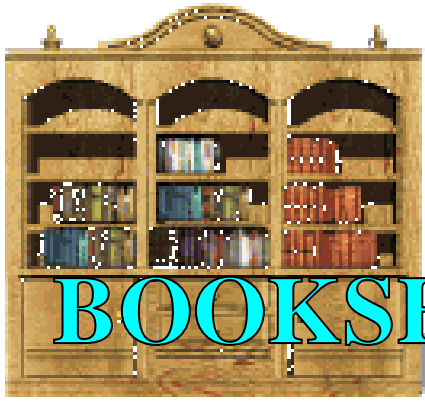
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BOOKSHELF

By Tracy Luscombe

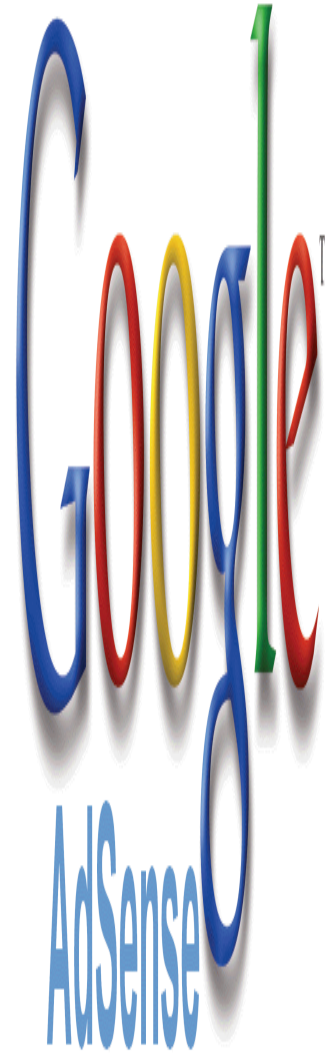
“The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” This is a saying we hear a lot. It’s actually an adaptation of part of a poem by Robert Burns entitled “To a Mouse”. In our case it applies to our Teen Council Poetry Night. Due to circumstances beyond our control we are, once again, changing the date of this event. It will now be Thursday, March 8, 4:30-6:30 pm. Many of the English teachers are offering extra credit for participating. Join us that afternoon at The Van Alstyne Public Library.

The week of March 5-9 our Children’s Library Assistant will be on vacation so there will be no children’s programming that week.

Spring Break will be here soon. On Monday, March 12 we’ll have a special program for kids ages 6-12 on gardening. They’ll learn how seeds become the food they eat, and how to reuse some of the things around the house in their seed growing. The program is 10:30-11:30. Our regular story time programs will be held that week as well. Hope to see you there.

Want to learn something new? Consider some of these interesting designations for the month of March. National Nutrition Month. Irish American Month. Music in Our Schools Month. National Craft Month. National Frozen Food Month. Women’s History Month. Poetry Month. Red Cross Month. Kidney Month. Come by the library to find information on these and other interesting topics.

This Saturday, March 3, is the monthly Friends of the Library breakfast at the Van Alstyne Community Center. Join us 7-10 am for eggs, sausage, biscuits, gravy, pancakes, coffee and juice for only \$4. Then hop on over to the library to check out a good book or movie.



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Tom Bean School Board Report

The Board of Trustees of the Tom Bean Independent School District held the regular monthly board meeting on Monday, February 20, 2012 at 7 pm. President, Jimmy Jones called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Shane Pennell led the invocation.

The minutes of January 23, 2012 board meeting along with the Financial Reports for the month was approved as presented.

Student of the Month recognition and plaques were presented to the recipients from each campus. Recipients included Breanna Crockett (Elementary); Michaela Burrough (Middle School); and Austin DeBerry (High School). Teachers selected the candidates based on their attitude, behavior, and character. Jessica Boren, band member, received an All-State plaque from the board in honor of her State win in the trumpet.

Each of the campus principals gave a report with the total enrollment, attendance, discipline, number of walk-through evaluations, number of teacher absences, newsletters, and current events for February and March.

Mr. Orozco shared the backpacks that were given to our homeless students along with a report concerning Athletics from Mr. Torrey Price, Athletic Director. The Board of Trustees approved the resolution for Joint Election with the City of Tom Bean in May, 2012. Three charter school impact statements from the Lewisville and the Arlington area were signed stating that TBISD's enrollment would not be affected.

Tom Bean ISD board approved a resolution concerning High Stakes, Standardized Testing of Public School Students. This resolution states that we as an Independent School District would like for the Texas Legislature to reexamine the public school accountability system. Too much testing takes away from our fundamental principles of good teaching and destroys a students' love of learning.

Roger Ellis, HS Principal; Dewitt Smith, MS Principal; Patrice Counts, Elem. Principal; and John Orozco, Curriculum/Federal Programs Director all received a one year extension of their contracts with salary to be determined. Torrey Price, Athletic Director was given a one year term contract with salary to be determined.

The informational items included the update of the Employees Contracts for 2012-2013. Mrs. Lorry Royal, HS counselor, provided the Board with the HS testing calendar for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Garrison informed the board of the resignation of Courtney Braddock, HS Special Education aide and Brandy Osborne, MS cafeteria worker. There was also a discussion of the fencing and parking at the baseball/softball fields.



Tom Bean Students of the Month

Top - Elementary - Breanna Crockett

Middle - Middle School - Michaela Burrough

Bottom - High School - Austin DeBerry

More Tom Bean News

Click Here



Left to right is Robert Dixon (TBVFD), Jesse Williams, Mayor Sherry E. Howard, Jason Langford (TBVFD) and Phillip Bradley

Tom Bean studies improvements to ISO rating

The City of Tom Bean along with the Tom Bean Volunteer Fire Department and Public Works Department met with Phillip Bradley (ISO) and Jesse Williams (State Fire Marshal's Office) recently to discuss the present rating of the city. This class detail meeting was an overall evaluation of public building size and locations, the receiving and handling of fire alarms, available water supply and fire department staffing, training, equipment and geographic locations. This meeting was to review and see where we are today and what can be done to improve the overall ISO rating.

Most insurance companies use this information to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance. Overall, the price for fire insurance in a

community with a good Public Protection Classification or PPC is substantially lower than a community which has an overall poor PPC. The PPC rating is on a scale from 1-10 with lower being the better rating.

Over the next few months, all departments will be working on suggested improvements prior to field representatives coming to the city to evaluate the overall systems of the city. Many thanks to Mr. Bradley and Mr. Williams for traveling to Tom Bean to assist in the review of our city!

Tom Bean Middle School Boys Track

The middle school boys track teams participated at Gunter this week. The 8th grade scored 30 points led by Brad Presson, Zack Bankston, Daniel Jackson, Clayton Stephens, Randall Reed, and Jonah Gilmore.

The 7th grade placed second overall, scoring 104.5 points. Those receiving ribbons were Jacob Miller, Ryan Webster, Dylan Goff, Noah White, Carter Khoury, and Ben Peeples. Bronze medalist included Peeples, Khoury, Peyton Jones, and Tyler Hunt. Peyton Jones and Jacob Miller also received a Silver medal. Gold medalists were Tyler Hunt in the 110 hurdles and High Jump, Peyton Jones in the Long Jump, and Carter Khoury in the Pole Vault. Congratulate these individuals when you see them.

We will host a middle school track meet at Tom Bean next Monday. Come out and support the Tomcats. - Coach Boykin



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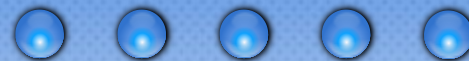
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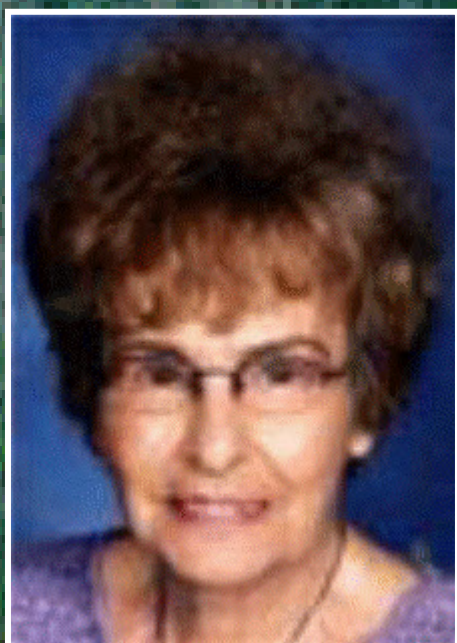
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Mae Pearl (Meek) Armstrong Holloway (1923-2012)

The family of Mae Pearl Meek Armstrong Holloway celebrates that she is gathered to her people in heaven at the ripe old age of 89.

Born the seventh of 12 children to William Henry and Dovie May Meek in Grayson County, Mae married Olin V. Armstrong in 1940 when she was 17, only to be widowed a few weeks later. Mae moved back to her parent's home, and completed her senior year at Howe High School, graduating in 1941.

Mae's schoolmate and best friend, Jessie Jo Holloway, thought her older brother, Herbert Orran Holloway, a farmer from Tom Bean, Texas, should cultivate a lasting relationship with Mae. Falling on fertile ground, Jessie's planted idea resulted in Mae and Herbert's wedding on June 12, 1942, sprouting a marriage that flourished until Herbert's death in 1988. They raised five children: Robert E. "Bobby" of Howe; John Herbert of Gunter; Jo Linda Thomas of Denton; Stephen Ray of Luella; and Cynthia Lou Stephens of Howe. Cultivation of the Holloway family tree continued through marriages, and births of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and then great-great-grandchildren.

Mae and Herbert weathered many back-breaking years, as well as enjoyed many prosperous ones, farming their land near Howe, Texas. When lean years came, Mae went to work. In 1964, she traded the cotton fields for the cotton ball machine at the Sherman Johnson & Johnson plant where she made many lifelong friends. Throughout Mae's life, she drew strength from her belief in God, and His Son Jesus Christ. Her membership at the First Baptist Church of Howe kept her rooted in the faith, encouraging and ministering to fellow believers with her wry sense of humor and delicious peach cobbler. The fruits of Mae's lifelong labors of love will be harvested for generations to come.

Mae is survived by sisters-in-law Jessie Jo Geer of California and Helen Holloway of Oklahoma; and her brothers and their spouses, Marion and Doris Meek of Bells, Eual and Leah Meek of Henderson, Bill Meek of Sherman, and Bob and Irene Meek of Seagoville plus numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, treasured friends and wonderful caregivers.

The family wishes to thank Home Hospice of Grayson County. Memorials may be made online to www.HomeHospice.org/Donations.

Visitation is Saturday, March 3rd from 3 – 5 pm at Waldo Funeral Home.

The funeral is Monday, March 5, 10 am at First Baptist Church of Howe, 100 E. Davis. Grandsons will be pallbearers. Interment is at the Holloway Cemetery in Luella, Texas. Arrangements are under the direction of Waldo Funeral Home.

The online guest register may be signed at waldofuneralhome.com.



Theatricks Opens CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Theatricks' CHARLOTTE'S WEB Weaves A Touching Tale Of Friendship

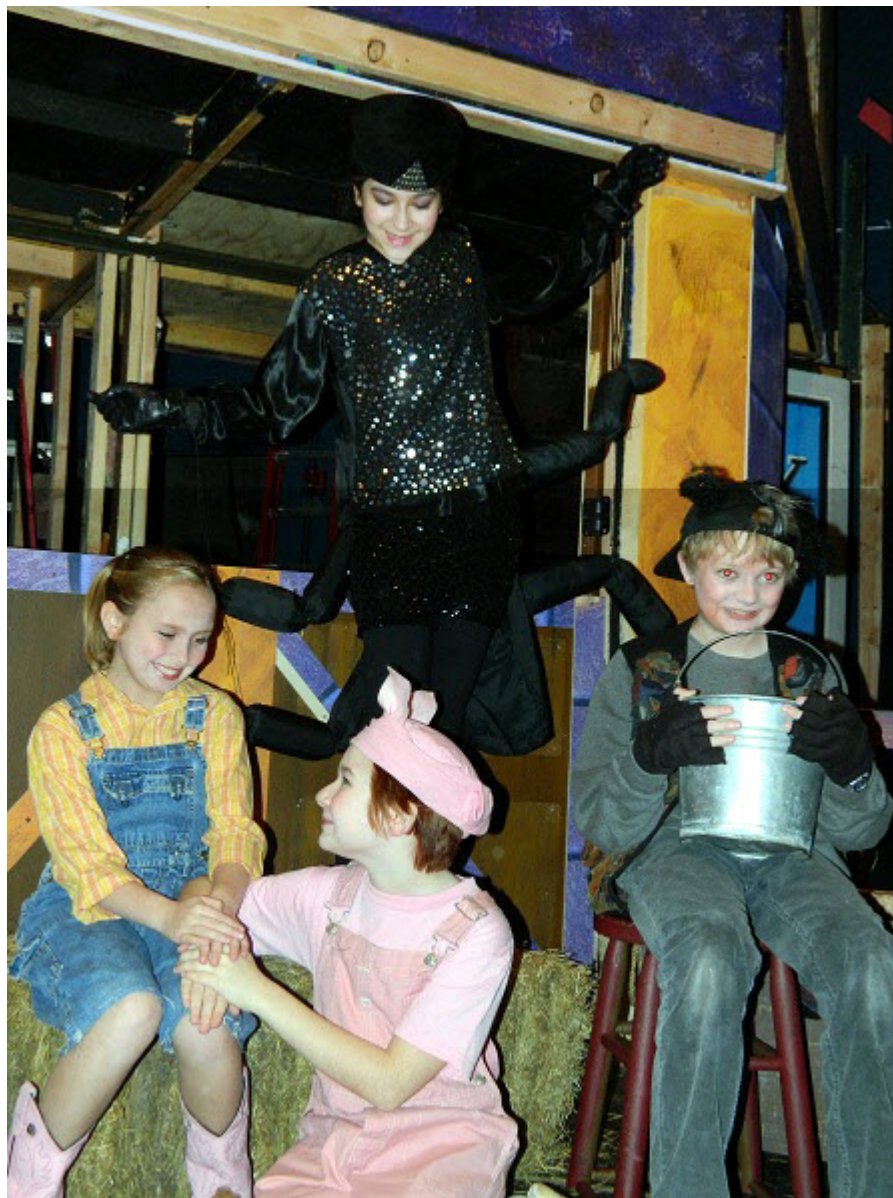
"I'll be your friend," says Charlotte the spider to Wilbur the pig in Theatricks 2012 spring production of CHARLOTTE'S WEB sponsored by Stokes Orthodontics which opens Friday, March 2nd in the Honey McGee Playhouse in Sherman, TX.

This touching tale of friendship as written by award winning children's author E.B. White, is poignantly captured in this 90 minute play adaptation by renowned children's playwright Joseph Robinette. Cast by 26 talented local community members, what better way to begin one's spring break than with Fern Arable's adorably loveable pig, Wilbur.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB plays for two weekends with performances March 2,9,10 at 7 p.m. and March 3,4,10,11 at 2 p.m., and to help bring the story to life for the young audiences and family members, Theatricks Advisory Council and Supporting Cast have decorated the Honey McGee lobby and cookies served at intermission with the theme of the book and play. These Theatricks groups have also prepared some extra fun activities for the audience members to participate in, including a coloring contest held during the run of CHARLOTTE'S WEB and that will award three prizes for three different age groups on the day of the last performance, and a preshow activity of "county fair" type games, face-painting, and balloons on Saturday, March 3 from 1 to 2 p.m.

This production will mark the third time Theatricks has performed this play in this community; the first time in the fall of 1989, then the spring of 2001, and now the spring of 2012. This 2012 production is being dedicated in the memory of two dear friends of SCP and Theatricks, Suzan Fincher and Sandy Beisly. Suzan Fincher was the one who made the spider costume for Charlotte the spider in the 1989 production which also marked the debut of Webster Crocker as Theatricks Director, and Sandy Beisly has been a loyal Theatricks season member and was currently serving on the SCP Board of Directors. As the last lines from the play say, "It is not often that someone comes along that is a true friend..." and Suzan and Sandy both were.

The SCP box office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to make reservations by phone 903-892-8818 or to visit the ticket window inside of the Honey McGee Playhouse on 313 W. Mulberry Street in Sherman, TX. All tickets are \$7.00. Beginning on Monday, February 27, Theatricks season members only can make reservations, and then on Tuesday, February 28 it will be open for the general public to make reservations. Theatricks 2011-2012 season is sponsored by Texoma Medical Center.



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Chrystal Opry House Bluegrass Events

Our regular Bluegrass jam will be Thursday night, March 1, at 7 pm. Doors will open at 6 as usual. Donations will be accepted at the door to defray expenses.

Jill Brown Studios will perform a concert on March 2nd, at 7 pm

On March 3, at 7 pm we welcome the Melody Ranch Ramblers and Levin Wells and the Bluegrass Ramblers. Members of the Melody Ranch Ramblers are Tammy Wortham, vocals, George Kirby, fiddle, Mike Gemberling, banjo, Dale Anderson, bass and vocals, Charles Woolly, mandolin and vocals, and Bill Hayes, rhythm guitar and vocals. Members of The Bluegrass Ramblers are, Levin Wells, vocals, and guitar, Charles Sisson, fiddle, George Branch, bass, Charles Branch, guitar, and Mike Gemberling, banjo. Mark your calendar for March 24 -- That is our regular gospel program night.

Doors open at 6 pm for a 7 pm performance. Admission to this event is \$6 for adults with children under 12 admitted free. The concession area has 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>

Water Wise Landscaping Series

March 8 and March 22
6- 8:30 pm

Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Assembly Room

Drought conditions in 2005 and 2006, and now in 2011 and 2012, have dramatically impacted our landscapes and water quantity and quality. AgriLife and Grayson County Master Gardeners are offering the Water Wise Landscaping Series to all people interested in learning about water conservation in the landscape. Topics to be presented are water wise practices for home and landscape, low water landscape design, plant selection – well adapted and native plant selection, rainwater harvesting, and drip irrigation.

The series will provide Private Applicators with two general ceus. \$15 fee for the series. Enter the courthouse on the south side across from Knight Furniture. Any questions should be directed to Chuck Jones, 903-813-4202.

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

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March 1

An Affinity for Place Names

By Bob Bowman

When settlers from the U.S. poured into Texas following its independence and later statehood, they starting slapping names on the places where they put down roots.

Most of the names are still around and just as colorful as they were decades ago.

Bloody Hollow in Delta County was named for a disagreement at a brush arbor revival. Buggy Whip Creek in Hopkins County was named for local switch cane often used as buggy whips.

Looneyville in Nacogdoches County is near Loco and Crazy creeks, but the name comes from the Looneys, a stable local family. Buck Naked lies in Parker County and, contrary to rumor, is not a nudist colony.

Crush in McLennan County, west of East Texas, is famous for the Crash at Crush, where two locomotives were pointed at Crush on the same track, and their throttles tied open The result was perhaps the only deliberate train crash in Texas.

In Lipscomb County, the folks who named five local creeks apparently couldn't find any colorful names, so they named them First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth creeks.

Cut 'n Shoot in Montgomery County was apparently named for the disposition of the local menfolk. There are a few other supposed reasons.

There's a Deadwood in Panola County, a Dime Box in Lee County, a Dollarhide in Angelina County and a Day Duck Creek in Kent County.



Dot's

D-A-S-H-E-S



By Dorothy N. Fowler

It is yea verily tempting to add one more voice to the cacophony created by the men who are seeking the nomination of the Republican Party for President of the United States. However, my father and mother often said that if you decide to argue with an idiot, observers soon will not be able to tell the difference between you and your opponent.

I am, therefore, limiting my comments about the race to people of my own political persuasion and to my four dogs, who have gradually become accustomed to great roars and torrents of words common among the oil field workers of my childhood and youth. By the time the nominee is named and the campaign for the office has started, the dogs will probably not even wake up when they hear me roar.

The cats who have moved into my house from somewhere in the neighborhood have already learned to ignore my roars unless the words are "get out." Then they look quizzical, and if it suits them, they amble to the front door. If it doesn't, they race under the bed in the first bedroom on the left, leaving me to decide whether to get the broom after them. So far, getting the broom has been too much trouble, so they are getting pretty much a free ride as well as a free bed and free food. I bought a king sized flat sheet to put on top of the bed spread, so unless they are flea bitten, they aren't really hurting anything.

The cats are mirror images of each other. When the first one arrived and made known her intention to stay, I took her to the vet to get her spayed. But when the vet-tech got her ready to shave, they discovered she had a scar that certainly looked like a spay scar. That made the idea that she had simply been abandoned more unlikely than ever and since she occasionally stayed out all night, I decided she was a bigamist -- or whatever it is you call a cat that has two homes.

When the second arrived, I meant to take her to the vet, but put it off since they were clearly a matched set and if one were spayed, it seemed to me that the other almost surely



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BOB BOWMAN'S EAST TEXAS, continued

Four Notch can be found in Walker County and Five Notch lies in Harrison County.

Byspot in San Jacinto County got its name when O.H. Bennett of Conroe spelled his wife's name Topsy backward and added a B from his own last name.

Can't 'Cha Get Over That Creek lies in Kaufman County. The creek flooded after the smallest rain, blocking the way of travelers.

Chicken Creek in Walker County was named for wild chickens who occupied the area.

Fair Play lies in Panola County and was named for the community's concern for a child from a wagon train who died in the community.

Uncertain on Caddo Lake in Harrison County has several origins, and the most popular is that it was named for the difficulty steamboat captains had mooring their vessels at the site.

There are hundreds of places where people have deliberately chosen short names, probably because they were easy to remember.

Among them are Abe (Houston County), Art (Mason County), Dull (LaSalle), Dew (Freestone), Drop (Denton), Enon (Upshur), Fife (McCullough), Fink (Grayson), and Cash (Hunt) and Eli (Hall).

(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)



Dot's Dashes, continued

would be also. Moreover, I couldn't tell which one had already been declared safe.

This has proved to be a mistake. One of them has either developed an immense belly girth or she is carrying several kittens. I suspect the latter because she keeps looking for a nest. I put two towels down in a dark closet for her; she doesn't like that spot all that much, but she keeps going in and lying down, so if she is pregnant, maybe she won't have her babies on the living room couch.

Somehow this whole catty episode has reminded me of Archy and Mehitabel, characters created by Don Marquis, a columnist for the *Evening Sun* in New York along about 1916. Marquis was the boss of Archy, a cockroach who had been a poet in another life. Mehitabel was an alley cat who was dancing through her ninth life.

Archy continued his poetic life by jumping head first off the carriage of Marquis' typewriter -- manual, of course -- and hitting the desired key. Because he couldn't operate two keys at once, he was not able to capitalize words or punctuate what he wrote, but his sharp wit overcame whatever obstacles lack of capital letters and commas imposed.

Mehitabel was often pregnant and lamenting to Archy, her best friend, that she didn't know where those kittens came from. Apparently she also never knew what happened to the kittens because each litter just sort of disappeared.

I have named neither of my cats. My father named every cat we had Wampus and that would be all right if there weren't two of them. I suppose they could be Wampus I and Wampus II, but since I don't know which is which, naming them won't do much good anyway. Nevertheless, I am toying with the idea of naming one of them Archie and the other one Mehitabel.

If we do have kittens, I can guarantee that their mama will be spayed as soon as the kittens are weaned. I know where those kittens come from, even if she doesn't.

If you would like to know more about Archy and Mehitabel, you can find everything in one place at DonMarquis.com. You can still buy the books. They are worth the money if you like satire.



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Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Interim Charges for House Committees

This week I will discuss the interim charges recently issued to the House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence. Interim charges are the issues that the Speaker asks committees to study during the time between regular legislative sessions in order to make recommendations for legislation for the following legislative session. The charges are good indicators of what legislation the legislature will take up during the next session. Legislators rely on public input when crafting legislation, and it is important that they hear from people during the interim.

House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

**Study the potential effects on victims of family and domestic violence in the judicial process if courts are allowed to issue agreed protective orders without a finding of violence.*

**Study and make recommendations regarding the discrepancies in guardianship and child custody statutes. Review potential solutions to the problems surrounding "arbitrary and capricious" findings by trial court judges.*

**Study the rules of statutory construction and establish a method of determining legislative intent.*

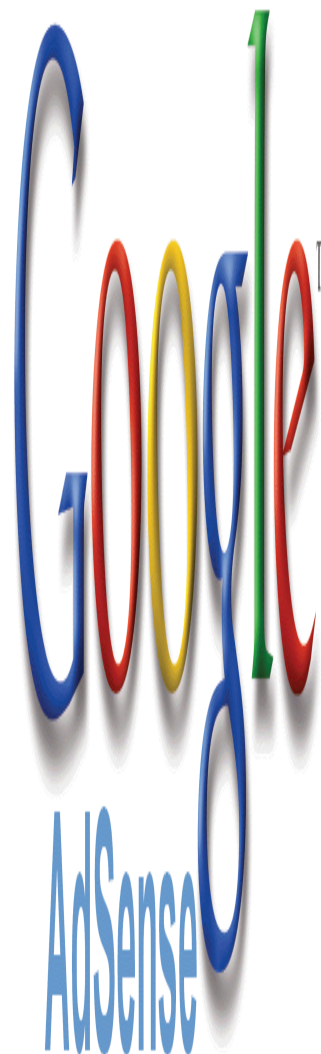
**Study the degree of transparency in asbestos bankruptcy trusts and how it affects litigation of asbestos exposure claims in Texas courts.*

**Study the public policy implications of lawsuit lending and its effects on the civil justice system.*

**Study whether the asbestos and silica multidistrict litigation courts should be allowed to dismiss, without prejudice, claims on the courts' inactive dockets for want of prosecution under certain circumstances.*

**Study best practices regarding corporate governance. Make recommendations on the confidentiality of communications to ombudsmen in order to provide more protections to complaining parties.*

The House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence can be reached at 512-463-0790. For more information on these charges 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.



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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

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Howe Public Library

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Van Alstyne Public Library

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

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Selected Sites

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

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

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

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

Local Churches

An exhortation to fear God and believe His word

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

To avoid the enticings of sinners

10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. 11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: 12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: 13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: 14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: 15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: 16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. 17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. 18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. 19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Prov 1:7-20 (KJV)

Christian Fellowship

A Christian Fellowship church begins each Sunday morning at 9 am with coffee and doughnut fellowship, followed by classes for all ages at 9:30. Praise and worship service begins at 10:30 and dress is casual. This week's service is led by Mike Ball.

Praise and worship is led by David Ellis. The church celebrates The Lord's Supper each Sunday morning during worship service.

C. R. Men's Step Study class meets every Saturday night at the church building at 6:30 pm. This program helps those struggling with alcohol and drug abuse or family issues. There is also a class called Celebrate Recovery that is held at the church on Thursday night from 6:30-9 pm. Both classes are a Christ Centered Recovery Program based on the 12 steps and 8 recovery principals. This one helps to deal with Life's "Hurts habits and Hang Up's". Not just drugs and alcohol.

The church will also be having "Movie Night" once a month and the public is invited to attend. The movie in March will be on March 16, with the movie to be announced later. So mark that day on your calendar for a free movie, with fresh hot buttered popcorn, candy and drinks, all free, and the public is invited to attend.

The church has home study groups throughout the week. Wednesday night begins at 6:30 pm with a pot-luck dinner followed by praise and worship and a devotional.

The church will have VBS July 16-20 from 6:30-8:30 pm

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 your way.

For more information contact Mike Ball at 903-870-0219



Tom Bean Church of Christ

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

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

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

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Sherman/Denison
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER
DAY SAINTS
1900 Lamberth Rd, Sherman.
FRIENDSHIP UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
RFD 2 off Hwy. 56; 903/892-8450
WESTERN HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST
800 Baker Park Dr.,
903/892-9635, Sun. 10
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE,
601 Hwy. 1417, Pastor,
Rev. Mack Rogers
RED RIVER
COWBOY CHURCH
3800 Hwy. 691 (w of Hwy. 75); Novice Northington,
903/463-5840
Van Alstyne
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
Northwest corner Hwy 5 & County Line Rd.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
105 Hopson,
Shannon Jackson, minister,
903/482-6033
EAST SIDE
CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO Box 141, Larry Shead,
minister; worship 11am
ELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
FM 121 W, Elmont;
Jim Poole, pastor,
903/482-6356
FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH, corner of Pearl & Nash,
Pastor Kenneth L. Price,
972/547-0243,
LIFE CHURCH,
201 W. Marshall,
Pastors – Lance/ Mary Baker
903/433-8089
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
102 E. Marshall, 903/482-6334,
Jimmy Tarrant, pastor
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
206 Waco, 903/482-5515,
Gary Gibbs, pastor
FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
903/482-6646,
Rev. J.R. Thornhill, pastor
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH 301 S. Preston,
Rev. Jack Wallace, minister
GREYWOOD HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER
On Hwy. 75 just north of Dairy Queen, 903/482-6700;
Chris Jones, pastor
HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Stephen W. Bierschenk, 972/562-0752
MORNING CHAPEL CHRISTIAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL
103 Bowen, 902/482-5431
SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH
702 E. Fulton, 903/482-5664, Rev. Arnold Baker, pastor

While Rome Burned

By Willie Sofey

Nero was Roman Emperor from 54 to 68 A.D. He used his style of diplomacy to enhance the cultural life of the empire. In 64 A.D., most of Rome was destroyed, which many Romans believed Nero was responsible for in order to clear land for his pre-planned palatial complex.

Nero is known as the Emperor who “fiddled (on his lyre) while Rome burned”... and sang “Sack of Ilium”, a popular song of the day. Historians of the day Suetonius, Cassius Dio, and Pily the Elder favor Nero as the arsonist..., however other historians since place possible sources as accidental.

In any event, to deflect blame, Nero targeted Christians and ordered Christians to be eaten by dogs..., while others were crucified and burned alive.

There is an historical rumor that in 66 A.D. during a revolt between Greeks and Jews in Caesarea and Jerusalem, that Nero converted to Judaism to avoid retribution from the God of the Jews because of the interpretations of Ez. 25:14 by a child in Jerusalem. Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea (275-339) was the first to write that Paul was beheaded and Peter crucified during the reign of Nero.

In order to please the majority of citizens (for political reasons), he reduced “oppressive” taxes of the masses and increased taxes of the rich. He gave annuities to “distinguished” cronies so they would support his non-productive, grandiose, pompous ideals of Kingdom splendor. Does this seem similar to our present situation from the mindset of our present leader?

This incident in Rome’s past reminds me somewhat of what’s happening in America today under the leadership of our president. It seems another leader with a similar mindset is “Fiddling and Singing” While America Burns.

It seems the populace is infatuated with the singing talents of our president. The president had Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones along with bluesman Buddy Gay perform at the White House’s East Room concert. The president joined in on a few lines of “Sweet Home Chicago”. This is the historical evil city that spawned some of the U.S.’s most notorious crime figures and is well known for its lawbreaking political graft, a city suited for politically educating the likes of Obama.

The president’s similarities to Nero are thus:

1. Says he’s a Christian when “politically” advantageous as Nero claimed to convert to Judaism.
2. Places the blame of America’s problems on the right-wing moral majority (mainly Christians).
3. Obama, like Nero, advocates legislation contrary to the law of God., e.g. killing of innocent babies (the image of God) in the wombs, legalizing and approving the sins of homosexuality as well as allowing this lifestyle to be taught in public schools.
4. Approves of laws that disallow prayer or anything referencing to Almighty God or Jesus Christ.

Because the majority of America has “set up kings without My consent”, God to Hosea 8:4..., America will continue to reap the chastisement of Almighty God. America needs to remember the words of Jesus Christ., “Take heed lest any man deceive you” (Mark 13:5). “He who does what is sinful is of the devil” (1 John 3:7-8).

The apostle Paul speaks of the end times when mankind will revolt against God (breaks God’s laws) which prepares the way for the appearance of the man of sin (man of lawlessness)..., 2 Thess. 2:3; 1 Tim 4:15; 2 Tim 3:1-5.

America’s life is at stake and only repentance and a return to our Creator & Savior’s commandments will revive her.

From a small voice in the wilderness,
Willie Sofey



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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.

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Kill the CLASS Act Before it Kills Taxpayers

By Sally C. Pipes

The House of Representatives just voted to wipe a major part of President Obama's healthcare law from the books -- the Community Living Assistance Service and Supports Act. This CLASS Act would've established a federally run long-term-care insurance program.

The Senate should continue the House's work and repeal CLASS right away. If the august body does not, then this ill-conceived entitlement could, at any time, spring back to life -- and resume its quest to devour the federal budget.

CLASS is designed to give disabled or elderly beneficiaries who have trouble performing basic activities like dressing or bathing, cash assistance to help them pay for an in-home caregiver or adult day care.

The program is supposed to be self-sustaining, with premiums automatically deducted from the paychecks of enrollees. However, no one could claim benefits until they'd paid premiums for five years.

But CLASS is also voluntary and open to everyone. So only those who think they might need the cash would sign up. Indeed, even government analysts predicted in 2010 that only 2 to 6 percent of the population would sign up for the program.

They'd likely be older and sicker workers who anticipate needing long-term care. If everyone in the insurance pool drew more benefits than they paid in, then the program's finances would rapidly become unsustainable.

Incredibly, the CLASS Act would allow low-income Americans to purchase long-term care insurance for as little as \$5 a month. After paying into the fund for just five years -- a \$300 investment -- they could become eligible to collect benefits worth \$18,000 a year for the rest of their lives.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recognized this disconnect and stated that the program would cost taxpayers "tens of billions of dollars for each 10-year period" following 2029.

Democrats were repeatedly warned prior to the passage of Obamacare that CLASS would cost, not save, billions of dollars. "Thirty-six years of (professional) experience lead me to believe that this program would collapse in short order and require significant federal subsidies to continue," said Richard Foster, the chief actuary for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, in July 2009.

It's no wonder, then, that CLASS has been called a "Ponzi scheme of the first order" and "not a well-done solution." And that's by two Congressmen who voted for it!

So why did Democrats in Congress approve such an obviously flawed measure? It appears they were either completely ignorant or dishonestly trying to make Obamacare appear cost-effective.

When tallying the law's cost, the CBO used a 10-year budget window. But beneficiaries had to be enrolled in CLASS for five years before claiming benefits. So the program would actually collect premiums for 10 years while only distributing cash for five.

Consequently, the CBO found that CLASS would reduce the overall budget deficit by \$72.5 billion in its first decade. In fact, the program's premiums were responsible for more than half of Obamacare's purported \$143 billion in savings.

Never mind that these "savings" would have to eventually be paid out to beneficiaries.

The Obama Administration has not yet figured out how to stave off the multibillion-dollar catastrophe that the CBO has predicted for CLASS. So it's decided to suspend implementation of the program.

But such promises should not satisfy Members of Congress -- or the American people. As long as the CLASS Act is officially on the books, a lawsuit could force the executive branch to implement it, according to a study by the Congressional Research Services.

"CLASS could return . . . A federal judge could bring it back," warns Rep. Charles Boustany (R-LA), the sponsor of the bill to repeal the measure.

That's why the White House has threatened to veto any attempt to repeal CLASS. Right now, interest groups such as the AFL-CIO and Alliance for Retired Americans are fighting to keep the CLASS Act. Successful legal action by the measure's supporters could compel the Obama Administration to implement the program apace -- its catastrophic fiscal projections notwithstanding.

As Thomas Miller, a former senior health economist for the congressional Joint Economic Committee, puts it, failing to repeal the CLASS Act is like leaving "a partly loaded gun on the table."

If Congress doesn't formally scrap the CLASS Act, taxpayers will end up bleeding.

Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Taube Fellow in Health Care Studies at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is *The Pipes Plan: The Top Ten Ways to Dismantle and Replace Obamacare* (Regnery 2012).



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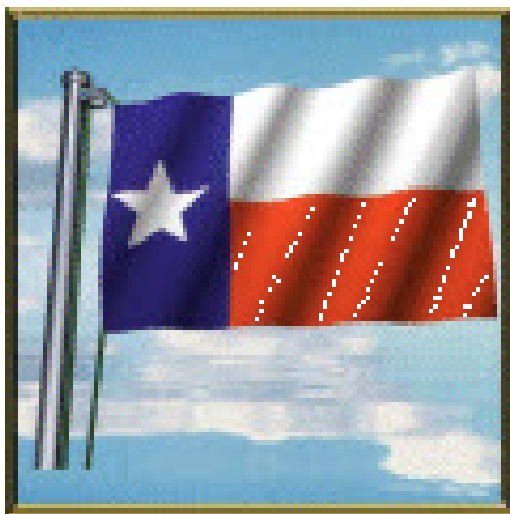
Texas Supreme Court rules landowners own groundwater

The long-awaited decision from the Texas Supreme Court on the Edwards Aquifer Authority v. Day McDaniel makes it clear that the landowner owns the groundwater in place as part of their land, according to Kenneth Dierschke, president of the Texas Farm Bureau.

“This is another in a long line of recent successes defending private property rights, including key eminent domain reforms,” Dierschke said. “The ruling recognized the passage of SB 332-Texas Farm Bureau’s priority legislation on groundwater ownership passed in the last legislative session-that says a landowner’s interest in groundwater in place cannot be taken for public use without adequate compensation.”

Dierschke said the ruling goes beyond state water codes, giving landowners a constitutional protection under takings laws regarding private property. However, the president of the state’s largest farm organization noted that ownership of groundwater does not preclude the regulation of groundwater for conservation purposes.

“The court recognized the authority of the Edwards Aquifer Authority and groundwater conservation districts to regulate groundwater, even though it is the private property of the landowner,” Dierschke said. “The Texas Supreme Court decision provides a critical balance between the state and local entities’ authority to conserve this precious resource and the landowner’s right to use it.”



Cornyn Op-Ed in Houston Chronicle on Gas Prices

The following op-ed ran in the February 28, 2012 issue of The Houston Chronicle.

Last week, President Obama told us that drilling is not the answer to rising gas prices. It’s a good thing he made those comments in Miami and not Midland. Texans are proud that our state remains the leading U.S. producer of oil and natural gas, and we know that America has only just begun to tap the potential of its vast resources. We also know that the single biggest obstacle to greater domestic energy production is the Obama administration.

Here are a few numbers the president didn’t mention in Miami: Since his inauguration, U.S. gas prices have increased by 90 percent; and last year, according to the *Associated Press*, the average American household spent \$4,155 on gasoline, which represented 8.4 percent of median family income, the largest portion in three decades.

President Obama says there is very little we can do about high gas prices in the short term. But that’s not entirely true.

The administration could loosen access restrictions on federal lands and offshore drilling. It could end needless delays and issue more drilling permits. It could ditch Environmental Protection Agency plans to impose costly greenhouse-gas regulations that would threaten the existence of many refineries. And it could stop making abusive power grabs under the Clean Water Act.

Indeed, if the president is serious about looking “for every single area where we can make an impact” on gas prices, as he pledged in his Miami speech, he must reverse the regulatory overreach of the past three years. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce reports that EPA alone “is moving forward with 31 major economic rules and 172 major policy rules” that affect our energy supply - “an unprecedented level of regulatory action.”

Texans know this all too well. Our state provides more than a quarter of America’s total refining capacity. Last month, I met with refinery workers in Port Arthur who expressed concern about the future of their livelihood. They were particularly upset that the Obama administration had rejected the Keystone XL pipeline, which would terminate in the Port Arthur region and allow our state to refine an extra 700,000 barrels of oil each day.

Meanwhile, many folks in West Texas are worried about a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to list the sand-dune lizard as an endangered species. Such a listing would threaten the jobs of nearly 27,000 Texans who work in the Permian Basin, which is home to more than one-fifth of the top 100 oil fields in America.

All across our state, Texans are being forced to make difficult sacrifices. Family budgets have been squeezed. Savings have been depleted. Trips have been canceled. And parents are working overtime to keep up with soaring transportation costs.

At a time of high unemployment, spiraling deficits and geopolitical unrest, misguided federal regulations are costing us private-sector jobs and public-sector revenue, contributing to greater U.S. spending on imported oil, and driving up prices at the pump. According to the Congressional Research Service, our country has more recoverable energy resources than Canada, China and Saudi Arabia combined. As American Enterprise Institute scholar Kenneth Green has noted, the Outer Continental Shelf of the U.S. alone contains “enough oil to fuel 85 million cars for 35 years.” Yet more than 97 percent of that territory is not under lease.

Rather than demonizing oil and gas companies that collectively employ millions of hard-working Americans, while wagering more taxpayer dollars on boondoggles like Solyndra, the Obama administration should take its regulatory boot off the neck of our domestic energy producers.

TELLING OUR STORIES

By Jerry Lincecum

In two decades of listening to elderwriters sharing reminiscences, I have noticed that the Christmas season has often been the setting for unforgettable childhood memories. They are as precious as gold nuggets or polished gems.

One TOS writer who lived more than a century treasured a tiny cup and saucer set she had been given at a Christmas program around 1915. What made it special was her memory of getting there: her grandfather hitched his team of horses to a wagon, they all piled in and jostled their way to the country schoolhouse.

Others recall a tradition of celebrating Christmas by traveling to the home of the children's grandparents on Christmas Eve. Only when all children were asleep did adults put up the cedar tree and other decorations.

Can you imagine the magical feeling experienced by a child waking up on Christmas morning to find a beautiful tree that had appeared overnight, complete with gifts delivered by Santa Claus?

On the other hand, one gentleman remembers the unfortunate year when days of rain on muddy roads made the Christmas Eve journey very doubtful. Then Papa came up with a brilliant solution. He had a sled the horses could pull, and he placed the wagon box on top of it.

With warm lap-ropes to shelter them from the cold, the little family set off through the woods. Then Papa decided he wasn't sure he had securely locked up the corncrib. He was obliged to leave Mama and the children alone in the dark woods while he briskly walked back to make sure. It is no surprise that 80 years later his five-year-old son can revisit his anxiety on that Christmas Eve long ago.

Around 1930 two little girls discovered something amazing: new toys in the smokehouse. A quick-thinking mom advised them that she felt sure Elves from the North Pole had stashed them there. Moreover, this wise adult had heard that children who meddled in Santa's business would receive nothing good on Christmas morning. Mystery solved and lesson learned: stay away from that smokehouse.

Often a child was amazed to receive a gift that had been seen and coveted but seemed too expensive. Somehow a parent knew the child's desire and managed to find a way to pay for it. Mary Ann Wright of Sherman received a suede fringed jacket for Christmas in 1946, and she still remembers how much it cost.

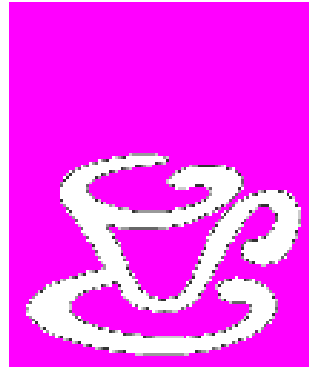
Coming from a large family, I have memories of a very orderly system of taking turns opening gifts. Then chaos ensued and almost inevitably some important tag or leaflet disappeared amid the wrapping paper.

At least one adult would lose patience as the trash had to be sorted a couple of times. Incidentally, these little episodes occurred after WWII, when wrapping paper was cheap and plentiful.

I'm sure you are already remembering your own little nuggets and gems of Christmas past. The scenes we can revisit at will with the mind's eye easily surpass all the digital photos and movies that will be made this holiday season.

-30-

Dr. Jerry Lincecum is emeritus professor of English at Austin College and director of Telling Our Stories.



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Q: What was the secret of Delilah getting into Samson's house?

A: She picked his locks.

Q: Why didn't Pharaoh let the Israelites go into the wilderness after the first six plagues?

A: He was in de Nile.

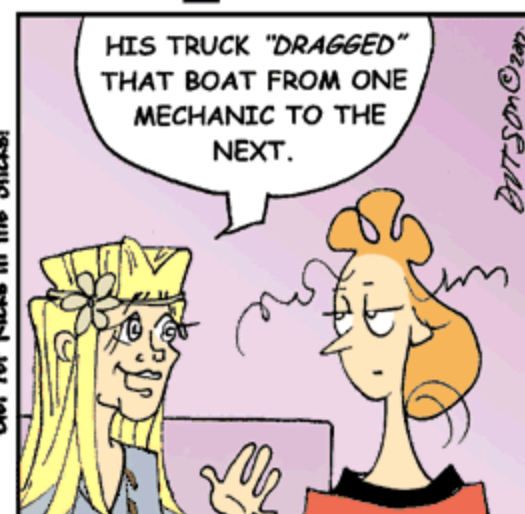
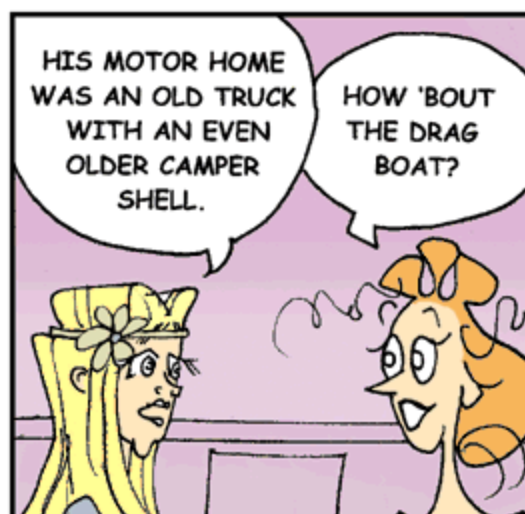
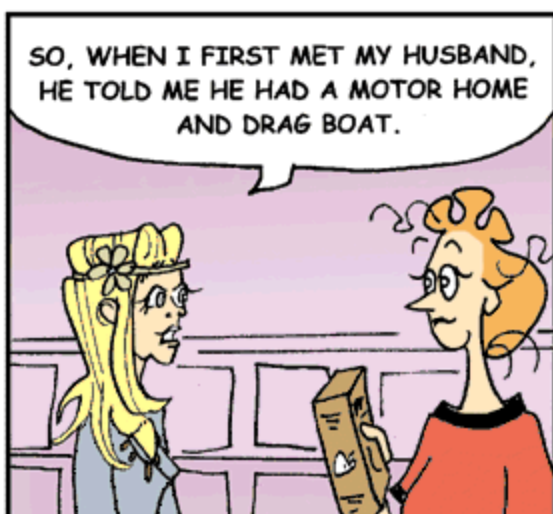
Q: Why did Samson try to avoid arguing with Delilah?

A: He didn't want to split hairs.

Salvation by Annoyance - An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"

OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson



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Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Texoma Enterprise
805 N. Hughes
Howe, Texas 75459-3587
903-487-0525
dalerideout@cablone.net
lanarideout@cablone.net

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



Dale & Lana Rideout



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



"Santa" Rideout



Grandkids singing at the Christmas Tree Farm 2007

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