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March 13, 2014

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Texoma Patriot events . . .

We have invited Kevin Freeman to speak in April. Are you certain your money is safe? His topic will be about how to protect yourself from the coming cyber-economic attack.

Kevin is a global financial analyst commissioned by the Pentagon, is one of the world's leading experts on the issues of Economic Warfare and Financial Terrorism. In his latest book *Game Plan*, he outlines the potential threats against our economy and how Americans can be prepared to protect their savings and investments. Date will be announced later.

Instead we will participate in the STATEWIDE BLOCK WALK on March 29th

On March 29th, the Texoma Patriots along with the Republican Party of Texas and General Greg Abbott are hosting a statewide block walk. Texans in every corner of the state will knock on over 60,000 doors in just one day. This is all about showing Battleground Texas that we are united and ready to defend the values that have made Texas so great for so long.

Will you join us in this fight? We will meet at 9:00a.m. at the GCGOP Headquarters, 225 N Travis, Sherman (across from Chase Bank drive-in) and walk till 1:30 p.m. Coffee and donuts provided. Other members of your Grayson County delegation will be there to help kick things off!

Attorney General Abbott - our nominee for Governor - is also offering each volunteer a FREE t-shirt. Sign-up here to receive your free t-shirt: <http://www.texasgop.org/tarrant-ss/>

If you are planning on attending, we also ask that you just shoot us a quick email to let us know you are going to attend. amyzimmerman36@yahoo.com

Together, we will make sure the great state of Texas remains an example of liberty for the rest of the nation



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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 County Affairs. 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 COUNTY AFFAIRS:

Examine population growth in Texas counties and the impact the growth has had on housing, available land resources, businesses in Texas, as well as the impact of growth on the state's economy. Evaluate Texas's preparedness to respond to future growth and ensure economic stability.

Continue oversight of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards and issues jails currently face, including the mental health of those in jail, and make recommendations for refinement or improvement of processes and programs.

Determine which counties have implemented a cite-and-summons policy, whether the policy has been effective in lessening overcrowding in county jails, and whether those cited by peace officers comply with the policy.

Study the implementation of SB 462 (83R), which reorganized the Texas statutes relating to specialty courts. Examine which counties currently have veterans courts, as well as veterans courts in other states, and determine how those programs are working and whether these courts provide additional services or resources for veterans. Make appropriate recommendations. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs)

Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 83rd Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should: consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens; identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate; determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

The House Committee on County Affairs can be reached at 512-463-0760. 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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Proverbs 11:1-31 (KJV)

- ¹ A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight.
- ² *When* pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly *is* wisdom.
- ³ The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.
- ⁴ Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.
- ⁵ The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.
- ⁶ The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in *their own* naughtiness.
- ⁷ When a wicked man dieth, *his* expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust *men* perisheth.
- ⁸ The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.
- ⁹ An hypocrite with *his* mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.
- ¹⁰ When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, *there is* shouting.
- ¹¹ By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.
- ¹² He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.
- ¹³ A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.
- ¹⁴ Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.
- ¹⁵ He that is surety for a stranger shall smart *for it*: and he that hateth suretyship is sure.
- ¹⁶ A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong *men* retain riches.
- ¹⁷ The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but *he that is* cruel troubleth his own flesh.
- ¹⁸ The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness *shall be* a sure reward.
- ¹⁹ As righteousness *tendeth* to life: so he that pursueth evil *pursueth it* to his own death.
- ²⁰ They that are of a froward heart *are* abomination to the LORD: but *such as are* upright in *their way are* his delight.
- ²¹ *Though* hand *join* in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.
- ²² As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, *so is* a fair woman which is without discretion.
- ²³ The desire of the righteous *is* only good: *but* the expectation of the wicked *is* wrath.
- ²⁴ There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and *there is* that withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth* to poverty.
- ²⁵ The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.
- ²⁶ He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing *shall be* upon the head of him that selleth *it*.
- ²⁷ He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.
- ²⁸ He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.
- ²⁹ He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool *shall be* servant to the wise of heart.
- ³⁰ The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise.
- ³¹ Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

Christian Fellowship

D'anna Lodge will be leading worship service this week at A Christian Fellowship. This week they will begin a six week series leading up to Easter. It will be a very exciting series so come join them.

They start each Sunday morning at 9:00am for coffee and donut fellowship. Then at 9:30 classes for all ages, worship service begins at 10:30. Dress is casual.

David Ellis leads praise and worship and it is a contemporary style service.

The congregation celebrates The Lord's Supper each week during worship service.

They also have a class for the children called Kidz in Da Zone for Jesus. Kidzone is a ministry for children 5-12 and it takes place during worship service. The kids learn about God's love through skits, games, object lessons, CD's, DVD's, and dance moves. They also learn a memory verse each week.

Wednesday nights begin with a pot-luck dinner beginning at 6:30pm and praise and worship and a devotional following. Bring your favorite dish and join them.

The church is located on the West side of Hwy 11 in Luella. Look for the red brick building with the green metal roof on the hill. The cross will light the way. For more information contact Mike Ball at 903-271-1870 or David Ellis at 903-815-1333.

Tom Bean Church of Christ

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us. Our services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9:00 am and worship at 10:00 am with congregational singing. The evening worship service begins at 6:00 pm. The Lord Supper is given each Sunday. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7:00 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX..

We have radio programs each Sunday at 7:30 am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Quinn. Also there are two other programs; the North Side church of Christ is on at 8:00 am, and Leonard church of Christ is on at 8:30 am both on KFYN 1420 AM.

The Gospel of Christ news letter can be found at <http://www.thegospelofchrist.com/newsletter>. Their television program comes on CBS at 7:30am.

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

Area 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
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
Duane Peters,
903-815-2278



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LIVING WATER

More Than Medals

The 2014 Winter Olympics recently ended with the host country, Russia, winning the medal count. Russia won 13 golds and 33 total medals, becoming the first Winter Olympic host nation to lead gold- and total-medal counts since Norway in 1952. The country has celebrated the victories of their medalists and recently congratulated them with more than just the honor of earning the medals.

On Thursday, February 27, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev handed out keys to a fleet of white Mercedes-Benz cars to 44 of the Russian medalists next to Red Square in Moscow. Three different classes of cars were offered for the three medal colors. Each of the cars was adorned with the Russian Olympic Team logo.

What about the medal-winning athletes like figure skating champions Yuliya Lipnitskaya (age 15) and Adelina Sotnikova (age 17), who are under the minimum driving age of 18 (in Russia)? According to the Associated Press, those without licenses also received a paid-for driver.

These Olympic athletes received more than nice new cars. The cars came on top of cash prizes. Gold medalists received \$120,000, silver medalists \$76,000 and bronze medalists \$52,000, according to R-Sport. *

Yet all of the medals and the additional prizes cannot compare with the "reward" that is promised for faithful followers of Christ...

Against the backdrop of Olympic-like games in Greece, the Apostle Paul wrote to Christians in Corinth: "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever" (1 Corinthians 9:25). James also wrote about the crown that awaits the faithful child of God: "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12). The "crown" is the reward of eternal life for those who follow Jesus!

The differences between the "crown of life" and Olympic medals (and all of the accolades and prizes that accompany the medals) are many. The main difference is: we cannot EARN the crown of life. The crown of life is received, not achieved. In fact, the basis of receiving the crown of life is not our flawless performance. That's wonderful news because "ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Each of us has fallen many more times than any figure skater – Olympic or otherwise! Just because our "performance" may be better than others doesn't earn the crown for us either.

The basis of receiving the crown of life is not our performance but what Someone else did for us. Despite our "falls" (our sins), God loves us so much that He gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Through His death on the cross on our behalf, Jesus paid the price for our redemption (Ephesians 1:7). Then three days later, He rose from the grave achieving victory over sin, Satan, and death!

To share in the victory of Christ and receive the crown of life, we must place our faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from our sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38).

Then, as we continue to "fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2) and follow Him faithfully (not flawlessly), He will continue to cleanse us from all sin (1 John 1:7) and, one day, give to us the crown of life (READ 2 Timothy 4:6-8).

The crown of life is worth far more than any "medals" this world has to offer. Jesus died so that you might receive this crown.

Our response should be to seek to please the One who DIED for us so that we might LIVE eternally!

Won't YOU accept His offer on His terms?

David A. Sargent, Minister., davidsargent1@comcast.net

* Information gleaned from "Russian Olympic Medalists Receive Luxury Cars" by Nick Zaccardi of NBCsports.com

Archived issues of "Living Water" can be viewed and Archived issues of "Living Water" can be viewed and accessed from our website at: www.creekwoodcc.org

HTML version: subscribe-livingwater@lyris.dundee.net

TEXT version: subscribe-livingwater-text@lyris.dundee.net

**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 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



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Registration Open: "A" Run for 'Roos

SHERMAN, TEXAS—The Austin College Alumni "A" Athletics Board has scheduled "A" Run for 'Roos 5K and Fun Run on May 10 at Myers Park in McKinney, Texas, with proceeds benefiting Austin College athletics.

The 1-mile Fun Run will begin at 8 a.m. and the 5K run/walk will begin at 8:30 a.m. Age groups include 12 and under, 13-14, 15-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and over, with cash prizes for the overall male and female winners and medals for the top five male and female contestants in each age group.

Registration for "A" Run for 'Roos is now open online. Through March 31, early registration cost for the 5K is \$30 per runner. As of April 1, the entry fee is \$40. Registration for the 1-mile Fun Run is \$15. A 5K team of 10 or more may register for \$20 per person. Registration ends Thursday, May 8.

Austin College athletic teams participate as a member of the NCAA Division III and the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

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*.



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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 23rd year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.



Grandkids singing at the Elves Christmas Tree Farm, 2007

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Dot's Dashes

Dot's Dashes

By Dorothy N. Fowler

The Dallas Quilt Show last weekend was interesting and colorful. It was also a mini-disaster for me because I dropped my camera and it broke. That ended my picture taking for the rest of the day, although by the time of the accident, I had taken most of the pictures I cared about.

However, I wanted another camera — not the camera in my dumb phone — but a camera that stays in its own case and is a separate entity so that if I lose either the phone or the camera, all is not lost at the same time.

Thus, within an hour or so after arriving home, I had found a camera at a store that sells both on-line and locally. The local store's camera department is presently in disarray, awaiting the return of a manager who is on vacation and who apparently has the final say as to how the refurbished camera department will display and sell its wares. Because my previous experience ordering from this source has been more than satisfactory, I placed the order for the camera that I did not expect to arrive until the next Friday. Instead, as is usual, the camera arrived Tuesday, several days earlier than expected.

The e-mail I received reminded me to take a picture ID and a copy of the original order that had come to me via e-mail. None of that would have been a problem except that I left my billfold in the car when I went into the store. The clerk at the pick-up counter followed her instructions to the letter and required me to go back to the car to get the billfold, which contained my driver's license.

"This won't do you any good," I said when I handed her the driver's license. "The picture was taken before my hair turned so gray."

"How did you get your driver's license without going to the driver's license place," she asked.

"I applied for renewal on-line and there was no problem," I replied.

"Why did I have to go down there?" she asked.

"Probably because your license expired after the new voter registration law became effective," I said. "Texas Republicans are trying to keep you from voting fraudulently."

She frowned at me. "I thought when you got to be a certain age, they made you go down there," she said. She was looking at my birthdate, 1936, which a little elementary subtraction would yield an age of 77.

Just then my cell phone rang and I answered because it was my daughter calling. "This very nice clerk just told me she thinks DPS required people of a certain age to appear in person to renew their driver's license," I laughed.

"What do you think they do to people of a certain age when they go to get their driver's license renewed?" I asked.

But it was too late. The clerk had gone to get my camera and when she came back, she opened the big box and I opened the small box with the camera in it, signed the necessary form, gathered up my papers and left the store.

I think the clerk has missed the latest research that indicates that drivers of "a certain age" have fewer accidents than younger drivers.

I was reminded of a time when I went shoe shopping with my mother. She was about 65 and was a college student at the time. (She received her Bachelor's Degree when she was 68 and had a solid academic record.) The shoe salesperson was an acquaintance of both my mother and me and was not more than two or three years younger than Mama.

When Mama got the shoes she was trying on her feet, the clerk turned to me and asked, "How do those shoes feel on your mother's feet?"

"I don't know," I answered. "She's right here. Why don't you ask her?"

That was a day no shoes were bought by my mother. I think of that day and how furious Mama was every time the greeter at Sam's Club, surely very nearly my age, says "And how are you today, Young Lady?" I smile graciously and answer, "Fine, thank you. And yourself?" because I know he thinks he is being kind and I don't want to disillusion him.

What I would like to do is tell him and everyone else who calls me "Young Lady" is that condescension is good for neither the young nor the old, but a little real respect goes a long, loooong way.



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Cornyn: Stop Cherry-Picking Law To Prop Up Obamacare

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) issued the following statement after the White House announced that Obamacare cost-sharing subsidies are exempt from the cuts of the sequester.

“After all his claims that he was powerless to stop the effects of the sequester, the President is now conveniently exempting a portion of his failed healthcare law. Rather than cherry-picking when the law applies in order to prop up Obamacare, President Obama should focus his attention on policies to grow the economy, increase jobs, and address his flawed healthcare law.”

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Cornyn Supports Victims Protection Act

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) issued the following statement after voting for the Victims Protection Act of 2014.

“I support the Victims Protection Act because it empowers the victims and holds the military chain of command accountable. By making the needs of the victims the top priority, this bill will allow us to take immediate action to end sexual assault in the military.”

Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Gov. Perry Appeals Denial of Presidential Disaster Declaration for Winter Storms

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry today appealed President Barack Obama’s denial of a major disaster declaration for 15 Texas counties following severe winter storms December 5-9, 2013. The declaration would have provided federal public assistance for recovery efforts.

“Severe winter weather of this scale and duration is highly unusual in Texas, and has created a strain on both finances and resources for Texas communities,” Gov. Perry said. “Families and businesses affected by the storms are in need of significant additional resources beyond local and state capabilities. I urge President Obama to reconsider his denial of assistance to these communities.”

On December 5, a destructive ice storm and severe cold front moved into Texas, bringing snow, freezing rain and ice to more than half of the state. In response, the governor issued a state emergency proclamation, which directed additional state resources to prepare for the storm. Continued freezing temperatures led to snow and ice buildup through December 9.

To view Gov. Perry’s letter to President Obama, please visit: <http://governor.state.tx.us/files/press-office/O-ObamaBarack201403130190.pdf>.



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Photographer of the Month March 2014 - Michael B. Keck



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By: David & Doreen Dotson

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Fried chicken

In class the teacher showed pictures of various birds. Then he asked one of the students, What kind of bird do you like best, Jack?

Jack thought a moment, then answered, Fried chicken, sir.

So hospitable the boy is

The hostess apologized to her unexpected guest for serving an apple-pie without any cheese. The little boy of the family left the room quietly for a moment and returned with a piece of cheese which he laid on the guest's plate. The visitor smiled, put the cheese into his mouth and then said: "You must have better eyes than your mother, sonny. Where did you find the cheese?" "In the rat-trap, sir," replied the boy.

A Chimpanzee and a Norwegian

In 1990 the Swedes sent their first rocket up into outer space with a crew consisting of a chimpanzee and a Norwegian. On the control panel in front of them was a red light and a green light. When the red light flashed in indicated that instructions were about to come through for the Norwegian and when the green light showed it signalled an imminent instruction for the chimpanzee.

Ten minutes after blast-off the green light flashed and the chimpanzee was instructed to alter the course of the rocket slightly, to take infra-red photographs of Sweden and to repair the radio transmitter. Half an hour later the green light flashed again and the chimpanzee was told to calculate the rate of fuel consumption, adjust the computer and make observations in connection with the earth's magnetic field.

By this time the Norwegian was getting restless at having nothing to do and resentful of the busy chimpanzee. Then one hour later the red light flashed and the Norwegian eagerly awaited his instructions. A minute later came the order: "Feed the chimpanzee."



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LET'S REMINISCE: IRISH HERITAGE

By Jerry Lincecum

With St. Patrick's Day coming up, I want to reminisce about Ireland (also known as Eire) this week.

Despite having no Irish ancestry that I'm aware of, I fell in love with Ireland and the Irish people on my first visit with students in 1970. As I made numerous return trips, Irish literature and film became one of my major interests in literary study and teaching. There are several major themes in Irish history and culture.

First is geography and climate. To a Texan Eire seems very small: the greatest distance N-S is 295 miles; E-W is 171. Its coastline has so many zigs and zags that it extends for 2,000 miles. As a small island located within easy sailing distance of several Scandinavian countries as well as England, Spain, and France, it was often invaded. Enough of the invaders stayed behind and intermarried with the native Celts to make a diverse mixture of people. Prehistoric glaciers have given Ireland a beautiful and varied landscape. The weather is temperate all year round (because of warm ocean waters from the Gulf Stream), and the landscape stays green.

The past, or the memory of the dead, is an important cultural and political source for the Irish. In the countryside are many ancient ruins and relics from the past, like the huge stone crosses that dot the countryside (erected in the 10th century by traveling monks). Modern Ireland has drawn heavily on the history and legends of its past in creating a proud heritage for the present. Compared with Americans, the Irish general population nurtures a deeper, stronger sense of history.

Possession or ownership of land is the highest priority of Irish life. Only a day's drive across, Ireland seems too small to contain its epic and clamorous history of struggle for possession. A succession of early invaders—Celts, Vikings, Normans—were followed by 700 years of English domination. Today there are two separate nations: British-controlled Northern Ireland (6 counties) and the Republic of Ireland (26 counties).

Religion, and especially the Roman Catholic Church, is a very important part of Irish culture and society.

Today over 90% of the population in the Republic is nominally Catholic. For most of Ireland's history, the Catholic church has been closely identified with the Irish people.

Because the Church of England (Prot.) was the official state church as long as the English dominated, Catholic priests were persecuted, sometimes holding mass out in open fields because they weren't allowed to have a church building or hold public services. Consequently, when the Irish Free State was created in 1922, the Catholic Church established itself strongly and had several of its doctrines written into the constitution. The current movie "Philomena" reflects the dominant role of the church in Irish life during the late 20th century.

Even before the Potato Famine of 1845-50 forced millions to leave Ireland, large numbers of Irish immigrants were coming to the US, and that continued for decades. They brought their love of stories and music, and many wound up in the American South where they contributed greatly to the cultural riches of our region.

-30-

A retired English professor, Dr. Jerry Lincecum teaches classes for older adults who want to write their life stories. He welcomes your reminiscences on any topic: jlincecum@me.com

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Mixing nutritious vegetables with colorful flowers and trailers that spill over the container edges creates an interesting and attractive container garden.

Grow a Nutritious Garden in a Pot

by Melinda Myers

Don't let a lack of time or space get in the way of gardening your way to a healthy lifestyle. Plant a container of nutritious vegetables and herbs. Include a few planters on the front porch, back patio or right outside the kitchen door.

All that's needed is some potting mix, fertilizer, plants and a container with drainage holes. A fifteen to twenty-four inch diameter pot or twenty-four to thirty-six inch long window box is a good starting size. Bigger containers hold more plants and moisture longer, so it can be watered less frequently.

Check containers daily and water thoroughly as needed. Self-watering pots need less frequent watering, allowing busy gardeners and travelers the opportunity to grow plants in pots with minimal care.

Fill the container with a well-drained potting mix. Read the label on the container mix bag. Add a slow release organic nitrogen fertilizer, like Milorganite (milorganite.com), at planting for better results with less effort. It provides small amounts of nutrients throughout most of the season and eliminates the need to mix and water in fertilizer throughout the growing season. Sprinkle a bit more on the soil surface midseason or when changing out your plantings.

Mix colorful flowers with nutritious vegetables for attractive, healthy results. Bright Lights Swiss Chard, pansies (their flowers are edible), colorful leaf lettuce, spinach, radishes, and trailing ivy make a great cool season combination. Fresh-from-the-container-garden vegetables make the best tasting salads and the greens provide Vitamins A and C as well as calcium. Use the pansy flowers to dress up a salad or frozen in ice cubes for an added gourmet touch to beverages.

For summer, use a tomato, pepper, eggplant or peas, beans, and cucumbers trained on a trellis. All are packed full of nutrients and make a great vertical accent. Surround the towering vegetables with purple basil, tri-color sage, carrots, beets and a colorful trailing annual like verbena, lantana, or bidens.

Don't forget to squeeze in a few onions or garlic. The fragrant foliage can be decorative and these vegetables help lower blood sugar and cholesterol, while aiding in digestion.

So be creative and add a few small-scale, attractive vegetables high in nutritional value to a variety of containers this season.

Gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Can't Miss Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment segments. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' web site, www.melindamyers.com, offers gardening videos and tips.



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Praline Strips

24 whole graham crackers

1 cup butter

1 cup brown sugar, packed

1 cup pecans, chopped

Arrange crackers on ungreased 9x13 inch pan. Place butter and sugar in sauce pan. Heat to boiling point and boil for 2 minutes on low. Stir in pecans. Spoon and spread over crackers. Bake at 400 for 5 minutes. Cut each cracker in half while still warm.

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Amber Blasingame and Taylor Stephens

Tom Bean High School FCCLA members Amber Blasingame and Taylor Stephens won first place in the Life Event Planning STAR event competition held in Irving on February 28.

Their project was on managing the expenses of prom.

They will advance to State competition on April 10 in Corpus Christi.

-submitted by Sharon Stephens, FCCLA advisor

