

Howe, Texas
75459

Texoma Enterprise

March 22, 2012



Church



Humor



Civil Air Patrol Flag Raising

George Diggs traveled to Antarctica in January 2010 for sabbatical study to explore the vastness, raw beauty, and extreme conditions on the world's coldest, driest, and windiest continent.



Howe's New Eagle Scouts



**Howe Cub Scouts
cross over ceremony**

Texoma Enterprise



Professor George Diggs Shares “Antarctica: Continent of Extremes”

SHERMAN, TEXAS-Austin College professor of biology George Diggs will present “Antarctica: Continent of Extremes” on April 10 at 4:30 pm in Wright Campus Center, Room 231. The lecture, based upon his study in a recent sabbatical, is presented by Austin College’s Robert and Joyce Johnson Center for Faculty Development and Excellence in Teaching. A reception will be held at 4 p.m. in Wright Campus Center’s Johnson Gallery. The reception and lecture are free and open to the public.

Diggs traveled to Antarctica in January 2010 for sabbatical study to explore the vastness, raw beauty, and extreme conditions on the world’s coldest, driest, and windiest continent. During his April lecture, he will share findings about the fascinating animal life and the remarkable landscapes and ice formations he encountered. “I’ll cover a number of penguin species including the Emperor, who can dive more than 1,800 feet and hold its breath for 23 minutes; the wandering albatross, with the largest wingspan of any bird in the world-nearly 12 feet; and the elephant seal, a gigantic mammal known to reach a weight of 5.5 tons,” Diggs said. “We’ll also look at gigantic glaciers and deep blue and strangely shaped icebergs.”

An experienced photographer, Diggs has many photos from Antarctica to accompany his observations.

Diggs has been a member of the Austin College faculty for more than 30 years. A botanist, he is an expert on the plants of north Texas and has published, with coauthors, Volume 1 of Illustrated Flora of East Texas as part of the Illustrated Texas Floras Project, a collaborative effort between the Botanical Research Institute of Texas in Fort Worth and the Austin College Center for Environmental Studies. The first publication of the project, which Diggs also co-wrote was Shinners & Mahler’s Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas, released in 1999.

Scientific interests also have taken him to Kenya, Tanzania, Ecuador, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. He has inspected volcanoes, trekked rain forests, and scaled Mt. Kilimanjaro-often with his students alongside him.

His students were much of the impetus for his Antarctica studies. “From many years of teaching, I’ve learned that connecting with students, motivating them to really engage with the material, and getting them excited enough to want to learn more on their own all are quite important,” Diggs said. “Among the goals of my trip to Antarctica was to gain first-hand knowledge about these unusual animals, the extreme conditions, and the changing climate to incorporate in a variety of my courses. I believe being able to use such new and exciting examples in classes in a way that has ‘source credibility’ helps me to connect with the students and get them interested and excited.”

Diggs understands the art of teaching. He was named “Texas Professor of the Year” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education in 1999-2000. He received Austin College’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 1993.

Diggs earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the College of William and Mary and a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

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

I remember a 1947 movie starring a 15-year-old Elizabeth Taylor. The name of the movie is Cynthia. Taylor played the title character. Cynthia had always been sickly and was being treated by her uncle who was a doctor.

Cynthia was not able to go to parties or be out in the cold air at night. She couldn't eat fresh fruit. She could not do anything. Her parents were overprotective.

When I watched that movie many years ago I felt sorry for "Cynthia."

At the end of the movie, Cynthia went to a high school football game. She got her feet muddy. She got to have some fun. And she didn't get sick.

This movie was recently on the Turner Classic Movie Channel and I got to watch it again. It must be about 50 years since I saw it the first time.

Recipe



Mexican Cornbread

2 eggs
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup buttermilk
1/3 cup oil
2 – 4 chopped jalapeno peppers
2 Tablespoons chopped bell peppers
1/2 cup chopped green onions
1-1/2 cups self-rising corn meal
1 cup cream style corn
1 cup grated cheddar cheese

Mix everything together except cheese. Pour half batter in pan. Sprinkle half cheese and pour rest of batter, then the rest of the cheese. Bake at 450 degrees for 30 minutes.

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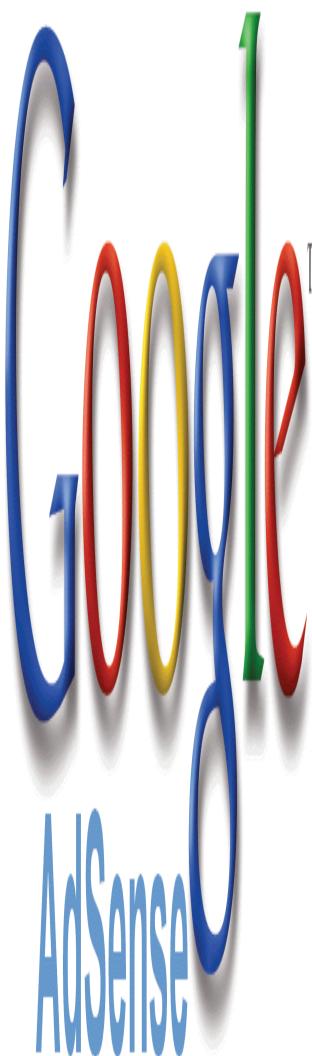


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Howe City Council Actions

The Howe City Council met Tuesday, March 20, with Mayor Jeff Stanley presiding and all five council members present (Sam Haigis, Scotty Harris, Jack Leavenworth, Georgia Richardson, and Dale Rideout).

The consent agenda (Finance statements – February 2012 and Minutes of February 21, 2012 council meeting) were approved.

Presentation of Fire Fighter of the Year Award was postponed until the April meeting.

Other actions included approval of Resolution No. 12-0003 – Establishing Fund Balance Policies as required by GASB54; Resolution No. 12-0004 – Adopting the Grayson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; Resolution No. 12-0005 – Disapproval of Grayson Central Appraisal District Resolution.

In addition, the board voted to approve the City Secretary Certification of Unopposed Candidates and to approve the Order of Cancellation of the election scheduled to be held on May 12, 2012.

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.



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Tyler Olin



Garrett Wogan

Two earn Eagle Scout rank

Two members of Boy Scout Troop 45 in Howe were awarded their Eagle Scout ranking during a court of honor on March 16. The ceremony was held at Covenant Church Texoma in Sherman. Troop 45 is chartered by the First United Methodist Church of Howe.

Tyler Olin, 15, is the son of Tim and Jennifer Olin, and earned his Eagle Scout rank on Nov. 29, 2011. His Eagle project was the construction of a community play set at the Howe Memorial Park. Prior to its construction, there was no such public play area available in the Howe community.

Within the troop, Tyler serves as assistant senior patrol leader. His previous roles have been Order of the Arrow representative, and senior patrol leader. In addition, he serves as the OA vice chief of service. He has earned 29 merit badges, Arrow of Light, Den Chief Award, Mile Swim, 50 Miler Award, and Order of the Arrow Brotherhood. This last summer he participated in a 12-day

trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He plans to continue to be an active part of Troop 45 and to work as a staff member this summer at James Ray Scout Camp.

Garrett Wogan, age 14, is the son of Todd and Kelly Wogan. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout on Nov. 29, 2011. His Eagle project consisted of constructing a table rack and flower bed for the First United Methodist Church of Howe.

Garrett started as a cub scout in September of 2004 while in the first grade. He earned the Arrow of Light award as a Webelo in 2007 before moving over to the Boy Scouts in Troop 45 of Howe. Garrett earned his way through the ranks with leadership positions consisting of patrol leader, senior patrol leader and was voted into the Order of the Arrow by his peers. As a Boy Scout, he earned 27 merit badges, 50 Miler Award, Order of the Arrow Brotherhood and is currently active on the OA ceremony team. He serves as a mentor to younger scouts, and credits his success to faith in God, a supportive family and leadership role models.

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Front row, Gage King, Jared O'Dowd, Clayton Haynes, Adam Gregg, Dawson Mitchell, Samuel Cherry

Second Row, TJ Knight, Cody Brussow, Joseph Brennan, Robert Rhew, Lake Taylor, Third Row

Okiciyapi Chapter of the Order of the Arrow Ceremony team were on hand to perform the crossover ceremony Sunday March 11, 2012 hosted at FUMC Howe.

Howe Pack 45 Members Receive Arrow of Light

Howe Pack 45 Cub Scouts Chartered by Howe Volunteer Fire Department who recently received their Arrow of Light the highest award in Cub Scouts, and crossed over to Howe Troop 45 Boy Scouts chartered by Howe First United Methodist Church.



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School Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Tom Bean Independent School District held the regular monthly board meeting on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7 pm. President, Jimmy Jones called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and James Harris led the invocation. The minutes of February 20, 2012 along with the Financial Reports were approved as presented.

Student of the Month recognition and plaques were presented to the recipients from each campus. Teachers selected the candidates based on their attitude, behavior, and character. The recipients included: Tom Newell (EL); Jillian Beck (MS); and Emma Kury (HS).

State Qualifiers in FCCLA were recognized and given a plaque for their accomplishment by the Board members. Those included were: Candace Johnson, Taylor Stephens, Bonnie Billings, Lindsey Holder, and Brianna Stowers.

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 March.

Torrey Price, Athletic Director, gave a report concerning the Spring Sports schedule along with upcoming dates. Cheryl Jones, Technology Specialist, gave a report concerning the change in the website for the next school year.

The Board of Trustees approved Policy Update 93 as well as the resolution for the Grayson Central Appraisal District to purchase real property.

The board approved employment of all certified staff for the 2012-2013 school year as presented. They also accepted a resignation from Alan Gann, High School Social Studies teacher and Boys' Basketball coach.

Students of the Month



Elementary - Tom Newell



Middle School - Jillian Beck



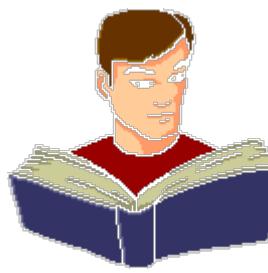
High School - Emma Kury



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Van Alstyne Library



By Judy E. Spence

Yet another Young Adult series is setting records for book sales. The most recent YA phenomenon is Suzanne Collin's *Hunger Games*. Our reserve list has been holding steady at 2-3 patrons for the past month and we have two copies of the book as well as a Playaway and an audio CD version. *Hunger Games* is well written, fast paced, and has a surprising dark undertone. This tale is human and gritty and touching and will surprise you with scenes of tender compassion. Those seeking sunshine and ponies need not apply. The entire series has the elusive appeal to all ages but I do not recommend it for younger readers.

According to today's article by the *Hollywood Reporter*: "Rarely does a film generate the sort of numbers that *Hunger Games* is enjoying. When the movie -- based on **Suzanne Collins'** wildly popular young-adult novel -- first popped up on tracking two weeks ago, the scores were so good that box-office observers and exhibitors immediately predicted an opening in the \$70 million to \$100 million range, with most betting on the higher number."

Teen Council celebrated the release of the movie this past Friday night by hosting our own Hunger Games. As teens arrived they were paired with another "Tribute" to form District teams. Tributes had to find items in the library as Teen Council members played the part of bioengineered "mutts" (part human, part dog). Nasty critters but our mutts were pretty well behaved seeing as how they simply tagged you to get you out. There was a berry choosing, a visit to our own "Hob" where foods from the book were served, and finally, a trivia showdown which determined our final surviving pair: Miss Ellen Thompson and Mr. Andy Wilson.

Library staff and Friends of the Library alike are getting geared up for one of our library's biggest events: Open House. Please mark your calendars for March 31, 4 – 7 pm. Food, door prizes, a silent auction, games, demonstrations, music and MORE await the entire family. Come see what your library has for you and your family!



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Civil Air Patrol Participates In Re-opening Of Local Museum

DENISON, Texas (March 22) – On Saturday, March 17, cadets of the Civil Air Patrol's Texoma Composite Squadron performed a flag-raising ceremony as part of a day-long celebration marking the re-opening of the Sam Rayburn House Museum in Bonham.

Rayburn (1882-1961), known simply as "Mr. Sam" by local residents, was one of the most influential and powerful politicians of the 20th century. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 48 years, 17 of them as Speaker of the House – longer than any other person. Following his death, his home was deeded to the State of Texas and turned into a museum.

The house was closed to visitors in March 2011 for extensive renovations. As the museum staff began to plan the re-opening, they contacted the squadron to request a Cadet Honor Guard to open the ceremonies by raising the U.S. and Texas flags.

"Our Cadets participated in a previous event at the Sam Rayburn House, and the museum staff was very impressed with their professionalism," said Capt.

Timothy Wilson, the squadron's Deputy Commander for Cadets. "They did not hesitate to invite us back for the house's re-opening."

Following the ceremonies, the cadets and senior members accompanying them were given a personal tour of the house by a member of the museum's staff, and then treated to refreshments. They also met state Sen. Robert Deuell, one of the many dignitaries who participated in the event.

"It is always a delight for us when our Cadets are invited to participate in a public ceremony such as the re-

opening of the Sam Rayburn House Museum," said squadron Public Affairs Officer 2d Lt. Michael Bernier. "It gives the Cadets a chance to show the public what they have worked many long hours to learn, and gives the public a chance to see the positive impact Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program has had on these young men and women."

For more information about Texoma Composite Squadron, call (903) 786-6227 or visit www.captexoma.org.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 61,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 54 lives in fiscal year 2011. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to nearly 27,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. CAP received the World Peace Prize in 2011 and has been performing missions for America for 70 years. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

Chrystal Opry House Gospel Event

This Saturday night, March 24, the Melody Ranch Gospel Band will perform. Members of the band are Al Guinn, guitar and vocals, George Kirby, fiddle, Mike Vaughan, drums, Tom Hackney, guitar and vocals, Judy Ziola, piano and vocals, Keith Francis, steel guitar, Jody Cofer, bass, and Bill Hayes, guitar and vocals.

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

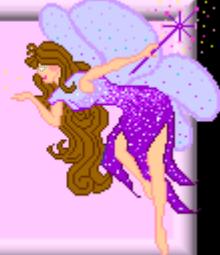
The Chrystal Opry House is located one and a half miles west of Tom Bean (or 6 miles east of Howe) on FM 902 and a half mile south on White Mound Road. No alcohol is permitted and no smoking is allowed inside the building. Contact Bill Hayes (903-546-6893) for more information.



The Cadet Honor Guard begins the flag-raising ceremony. Honor Guard members (Front to Back): C/MSgt Marcus Coleman, C/Amn Mandie Beitel, C/A1C Andrew Coleman, C/CMSgt Nathan Coleman.

More photos on the next page. Click on the box to the left.

More Area Events Click Here



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Left - The Cadet Honor Guard prepares to attach the flags to the flagpole halyard.

Below - Visitors and invited guests look on as the U.S. Flag is attached to the halyard.



Left - The U.S. and Texas flags are attached and ready to raise.





Vera "Nenaw" Moore (1919-2012)

TOM BEAN - Vera Louise Dudley Moore, age 92, of Tom Bean, Texas, went to meet her Lord and Savior face to face on Sunday, March 18, 2012. She was born, September 10, 1919 in Whitesboro, Texas to Bert and Ida Perry Dudley. She married Loyal Anson Moore on August, 5, 1945.

For 34 years, Nenaw served the Lord and the families of First Baptist Church in Tom Bean in the nursery. She also cared for countless children in her home over the years. Vera was a member of the First Baptist Church of Tom Bean. She was a member of Foster Grandparents of Texoma and she was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels.

She is survived by three sons and one daughter, Tommy Moore and wife Kathy of Charlottesville, Virginia; Jim Moore and wife Linda of Lake Kiowa, Texas; Larry Moore and wife Regina of Howe, Texas; Barbara Moore Kemp and husband Kenneth of Van Alstyne, Texas; three sisters, Rubye Moore, Margarite Barnes, and Jean Pinkston.

"Nenaw" as she was lovingly called by her grandchildren and most everyone who knew her, left behind 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Joyce McCrary and her husband Johnny; brother, Delbert Dudley; and sister, Ruth McCain.

Funeral services were held Thursday, March 22, 2012 at the First Baptist Church in Tom Bean. Officiating the service was Rev. James Craver and Rev. Dan Kemp. Burial will follow at Vittitoe Cemetery in Tom Bean. Pallbearers were Matt Graham, Jim Moore Jr., Jim Jackson, Allen Tillett, Paul Saffle, Tom Moore Jr. and Scott Kemp.

The family received friends during a visitation on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home, Whitewright, Texas.

Memorials may be made Home Hospice of Grayson County, 505 W. Center St. Sherman, Texas 75090

The family would like to thank the staff at Sherman Healthcare Center and Home Hospice of Grayson County for the love and care you provided for our Mom these last few years.

Arrangements are with Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home, Whitewright, Texas. An online registry may be signed at www.tjmfuneral.com.



Texoma Enterprise

The Biscuit and Cornbread Whistles

By Bob Bowman

In the 1940s, the daily lives of Dibollians were punctuated by the shrill blasts of a siren affixed to a 100-foot water tower owned by Southern Pine Lumber Company.

The siren was likely blown for loftier reasons such as personnel shift changes and fires, but Dibollians came to know the sounds as "the biscuit whistle" and the "cornbread whistle."

The long-standing story is that the whistle was blown as a signal to the town's housewives that it was time to mix up the bread and place it in the oven in preparation for the midday meal known as "dinner."

In those days, lunch was "dinner" and the evening meal was "supper." Breakfast was always breakfast and apparently there wasn't a whistle for ham and eggs.

The whistle was usually blown at 11:15 am, giving the town's womenfolk enough time to prepare a suitable meal.

It has been said that on a fateful day, when the whistle was not blown, chaos spread through the households of the sawmill workers.

Husbands came home for their noonday meal, but the biscuits and cornbread had not been prepared, the stove was cold, and the kids were still playing in the yard.

Chastised by their husbands for failing to prepare a hot meal, the wives had a solid reason, "Why, the even-fifteen ain't blowed yet"

Whether the whistle was "the cornbread whistle" or the "biscuit whistle" has been debated for years in Diboll.

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



By Dorothy N. Fowler

I'm beginning to wonder why at least some of the people who teach American government at either the high school or college level haven't come unglued over the idea that whoever is President of the United States can "pass" a law.

Presidents, governors, mayors, administrative county judges, and most other elected executives of political entities have the power to make proposals, which might be considered by the legislative body and passed. Without the approval of the legislative body, the executive's proposal is usually as dead the proverbial hammer.

Occasionally there are ways to get around Congress. When President Theodore Roosevelt wanted to rattle United States' sabers by sending the Great White Fleet around the world, Congress refused to appropriate the money. Roosevelt found that enough money was left in the navy's appropriation to send the fleet half way around the world, which he did. Then he sent word to Congress that the fleet was on the other side of the world and that if they wanted to leave it there, it was free to do so.

During the years of the George H. Bush administration it was more likely that the president would sign a bill passed by Congress, but attach to it a signing statement, which said in effect that he did not intend to have the members of his executive branch enforce that law. I suppose those statements were not invented by the Bush administration, but I confess I had never heard of them before he became president.

Be that as it may, it should be obvious to almost anyone who has two brain cells whose synapses connect even periodically that presidents, governors, mayors, administrative county judges, et. al. come to their offices with agendas and those agendas determine to a greater or lesser degree which laws they will seek to enthusiastically enforce.

Thus, one executive might enforce civil rights laws and another might simply choose to have law enforcement



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BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

But one of my high school teachers, Julia Schinke, whose father started the practice of blowing the whistle, once said that "it had to be the cornbread because biscuits don't take that long to bake."

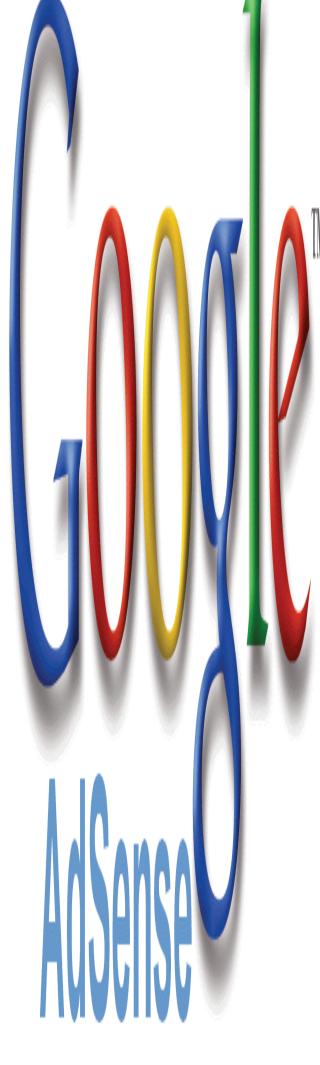
While working on a book about Diboll, the Diboll Historical Society agreed to stick with cornbread. Some members argued that white flour was too expensive for the sawmill families.

Years later, Vernon Burkhalter probably settled the matter with this observation: "I agree with Ray Rector that the biscuit whistle was at 5:30 am and the cornbread whistle was at 11:15 am."

But then again, there are likely some Dibollians who remember the old whistles in a different fashion.

But one question remains: "Why didn't they have a whistle for supper?"

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



Dot's Dashes, continued

"ignore" purported violations. One executive might use law enforcement to investigate reported violations of child labor laws and another might choose a laissez faire approach to labor relations.

The executive role in getting the lawmaking branch of government to pass a law to be executed is a matter of persuasion, of political compromise and political arm twisting.

If you have a law making body controlled by people who are determined that the executive fail, there is little the executive can do to push his or her agenda forward.

The way it works, without going into great detail, at the national government level is this:

1. A member/s of the House of Representative or the Senate introduces a proposal, called a bill, in the legislative body to which he/she/they have been elected.
2. The bill is numbered and sent to a committee whose members have, over the years they have been in the Congress, become experts in that field of legislation.
3. If the bill is deemed to have merit by the people in charge of the committee, the committee holds hearings on it. That means the committee meets and invites people who have a stake in whether the bill passes or fails to give testimony about the bill. If the committee wants to be fair, it invites people who are both for and against the legislation. If it does want to be fair, you get a deal such as the recent hearing on contraception to which not a single woman was invited. That was not the only example nor the first example of unfairness and probably will not be the last.
4. After hearing the witnesses and later and inevitably the lobbyists who show up in their offices, the committee votes on whether to put the bill on the calendar for debate. When the bill will be debated is also determined by committees in the House and the Senate. The calendaring committees have tremendous power over the life and death of the bill. If they decide to debate a bill at some time in the distant future, the bill for all intents and purposes is probably dead.
5. (While all this is going on in the Congress, members of the executive branch will be contacting members of Congress trying to persuade them to vote for or against the proposal. The administration may try to persuade members to make changes to strengthen or weaken the proposal -- but in the end, the executive has no power to do more than try to persuade, although he or she does have some heavy duty tools of persuasion.)
6. Whether in the House of Representatives or the Senate, the members debate bills that have been reported out of committee and placed on the calendar. Some of the debates have produced some of the most important and eloquent speeches in American history. The rules about debate differ in the House and the Senate and the rule is that s/he who knows best how to use the rules, wins. Learning to use the rules takes lots of experience and a good staff.
7. Once the debate ends, the House of Representatives or the Senate votes. If the required majority votes for the bill, let's say in the House of Representatives, the bill then goes to the Senate, where it goes through the committee process and may or may not be sent to the floor for debate. If it passes, to become law, it must be identical to the bill passed by the House of Representatives, down to the last comma and semi-colon.
8. If there are differences between the bills passed by the House and the Senate, both houses appoint a conference committee made up of members of both houses, allocated on the basis of which party has a majority in that house. The members of the conference committee meet, iron out the differences by means of COMPROMISE, which is absolute necessity in a representative government. No one party, no one individual gets all of what it wants. It has to give a little to get a little. Without COMPROMISE, the republic dies and is resurrected either as an oligarchy or an individual dictatorship. There are no other choices.
9. If the bill passes, it goes to the President of the United States, who has the following choices:
 - a. Let the bill become law without his/her signature;
 - b. Sign the bill;
 - c. Veto the bill. If he/she chooses this option, he/she attaches a statement explaining the decision.
10. A bill vetoed by the president may still become law if 2/3 of the members of each house vote to override the president's veto. That is a most unlikely event, but it is part of the checks and balances so dear to the hearts of our founders and so dear to my heart.

And there, in a very small nutshell, is the outline of the way it works. Presidents do not "pass bills." They may get someone in the House or the Senate to introduce a bill, but whether that proposal lives or dies is the sole responsibility of the legislature. Sometimes a law Congress approves is something the president wants; sometimes it isn't. But whether it is or isn't, no president can, acting alone, "pass" it.



Texoma Enterprise

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 Public Education. 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 Public Education

***Conduct a review** of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and make recommendations as needed.

***Monitor state and local** implementation of the new state assessment system (STAAR), specifically the impact on students, instruction, teachers, and graduation or promotion rates. Review how districts are implementing the requirement that the end-of-course assessment count for 15 percent of the student's course grade. Recommend any changes to graduation or testing requirements that promote instructional rigor and support postsecondary readiness while appropriately limiting an overreliance on standardized testing.

***Evaluate the charter schools** system in Texas. Examine success and failure stories in Texas and other states. Review the educational outcomes of students in charter schools compared to those in traditional schools. Identify any best practices and how those practices may be applied statewide. The study should include recommendations.

***Review and make recommendations** on the effectiveness of Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs (DAEPs) and Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs (JJAEPs) in reducing students' involvement in further disciplinary infractions. Determine the appropriate role of disciplinary alternative placements in promoting education achievement and how technology could be used to supplement education services. Consider appropriate placements in DAEPs or JJAEPs and consistent funding models for those programs. Consider options for counties without a JJAEP or inefficiently few placements in a JJAEP. Identify positive behavioral models that promote a learning environment for teachers to appropriately instruct while addressing any behavioral issues and enforcing student discipline.

***Review methods** and best practices in Texas and other states to encourage more parental and community involvement in the education of Texas children.

The House Committee on Public Education can be reached at 512-463-0804. 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.

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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.

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South of Tom Bean

7 Give ear, O my people, to my words; O Israel, I will be a witness against you; I am God, even your God.

8 I will not take up a cause against you because of your offerings, or because of your burned offerings, which are ever before me.

9 I will take no ox out of your house, or he-goats from your flocks;

10 For every beast of the woodland is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.

Psalms 50:7-11 (BBE)



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 Denis Gray.

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 Thursday night at 6:30 pm at the church building. This program is for those recovering from drugs and alcohol and finding your way back to Christ.

The church will also be having "Movie Night" once a month and the public is invited to attend. The movie in April will be on April 20 @ 6:30 pm and the movie that will be shown is "Courageous" 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 6:30pm 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. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord's Supper is given each Sunday. The morning and evening lessons are brought by Kerry King with congregational singing lead by Charles Counts. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX.

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

Our 2012' Spring Meeting will be April 8 - 13 at 7:30pm each night. This year's theme is: WHO IS MY LORD?

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

click for **more Church News**



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Lamenting

By Willie Sofey
Sherman, Tx.

God's prophet Jeremiah was given a Word for the nation of Judah (627-585 B.C.) as well as prophesies for the "Latter Days" (Jer. 23:5-6) when Judah and Israel (all the scattered descendants of Israel including Great Britain (Ephraim) and America (Manasseh)) would be saved (Jer. 31-40).

These will be the remnant of converted Christians and Jewish converts that will enter the millennium 1000 year reign of King Jesus on planet Earth.

My concentration in this article will be God's Word through Jeremiah to the nation of Judah prior to and during the siege of Jerusalem by the armies of Babylon (588-586 B.C.). This was Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd siege following his earlier (605 B.C.) occupation of Palestine when he took Daniel and others hostage.

Bible history students are knowledgeable of the on and off repeat disobedience of God's chosen people of Israel and the nation of Judah after the nation split into following King Solomon's rule in 931 B.C..

The nation of Judah (588 B.C.) had reached another height of decadency in its folly in idol worship, ungodly fleshly indulgences, and sexual promiscuity. Jeremiah (the resident prophet), sensitive and sympathetic by nature, did however deliver God's stern message of judgment. Jeremiah suffered the consequences of this message from his own people.

God allowed the pagan nation of Babylon to carry out His punishment over the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. In the book of Lamentations, Jeremiah expresses (in five melancholy poems) his grievous mourning over this destruction.

During the siege, people were starving and they continued to turn to idols for help. Some mothers ate their own children to stay alive..., temple priests were slain and left in the streets unburied (Lam. 2:20-21).

A loving God will chasten his children. I am presently lamenting over the disobedience of Christian America (the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Manasseh – whose descendants eventually, over time, migrated to Europe, then many of which migrated on to North America after the Assyrians deported this tribe from Israel in 701-695 B.C.).

America is legalizing and practicing the lifestyles of the ancient heathens and pagans. I believe God could tolerate a starving mother eating her child easier than He can tolerate a selfish, glutinous nation of people who allow the murder of 50,000,000 plus womb babies, so they can maintain the gluttony of their own opulent flesh.

America is the greatest consumer and exporter of pornography and the licentiousness of sexual promiscuity similar to ancient pagan nations as well as historical Judah and Israel during their falling away years of disobedience.

I can somewhat understand Jeremiah's gut wrenching pain over the prophetic sight of his beloved nation being destroyed.., for I know God shows no favoritism to nations or individuals, and America is not immune from the chastening hand of the Lord.

The "handwriting is on the wall". Slumbering Americans need to wake up to the destructive path that they are on and change their direction – away from their own idols and turn towards the face of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lamenting from the heart,
Willie Sofey



Texoma Enterprise



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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.



Texoma Enterprise



Texas food banks go farm fresh

By Amanda Hill

Texans are a giving breed. If their neighbor is in need, they'll bend over backwards to help out. That's one of the reasons I'm proud to call this state home. A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to see true Texas charity in action. It's a unique partnership between Texas farmers and ranchers, the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas Food Bank Network where the farmers donate their excess farm fresh produce, eggs, milk and meat to be distributed to food pantries across the state.

The program, called "Texans Feeding Texans," encourages farmers and ranchers to donate their products to one of the 19 regional food banks across the state. I had the chance to visit the Capital Area Food Bank in Austin and meet their President and CEO Hank Perret.

Hank Perret, president and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank in Austin, talks with a team member about coordinating volunteers to sort donations.

Hank and his team are working toward a goal of collecting at least half of the food donations that fill their 60,000 square foot center from local farms.

Thousands of pounds of fresh produce wait to be distributed to Central Texas food pantries.

To reach that goal, Hank and the Capital Area Food Bank team rely on farmers like Jason Jones of Vital Farms. Jason raises pasture fed chickens on a farm just minutes from the food bank. Every week, he donates eggs to go to hungry Texans.

Jason Jones, co-owner of Vital Farms, collects eggs to donate to the Capital Area Food Bank.

The Texans Feeding Texans program is a great example of Texans reaching out to help their neighbors. I believe that healthy eating is a right, not a privilege set aside for those who can afford it. Farm fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs and meat should be incorporated into our diets -- regardless of economic status or situation. I applaud the Texas farmers and ranchers and the regional food banks for making fresh, healthy food available to all Texans.



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More Editorial



Texoma Enterprise

Letter to the Editor

Regarding the US soldier responsible for killing 16 villages in Afghanistan.

Those advocating the death penalty for the US soldier responsible for killing 16 villages in Afghanistan would do well to read Portia's speech, "The quality of mercy", from William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. It is perhaps the best known "positive" representation of a lawyer in poetry. It serves, primarily as a reminder that all people are called upon to work within the man-made law to give effect to the "higher law" which is, mercy, "an attribute to God himself".

Shakespeare reminds us all - especially those whose duty it is to uphold the law - that "Though justice be thy plea, consider this, that, in the course of justice, none of us should see salvation: we do pray for mercy; and that same prayer doth teach us all to render The deeds of mercy."

Criminals are human persons who, despite their crime, deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. God's mission is to bring salvation to all men and women, excluding no one. His salvation is not imposed but reaches us through acts of love, mercy and forgiveness that we ourselves can carry out.

There is no moral justification for imposing a sentence of death. Violence begets violence both in our hearts and in our actions. By continuing the tradition of responding to killing with state-sanctioned killing, we rob ourselves of moral consistency and perpetuate that which we seek to sanction.

With respectful and cordial best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Paul Kokoski.

Letter to the Editor:

Exported Fuel Contributing To Gasoline Price Increases

The increase in gasoline prices is not attributable to worldwide supply problems. Threats by Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz are partly responsible for the increased prices, but another culprit is our oil industry.

In 2011 U.S. refineries exported a record amount of refined fuels to foreign markets. In December 2011 fuel exports averaged 2.89 million barrels a day compared to an average of 1.25 million barrels a day in 2007. Higher prices paid in foreign markets attracted U.S. exports.

Fuels exported overseas means less fuel in this country and higher gasoline prices. Our oil companies have put profits ahead of our economic health. It is estimated the five largest U.S. oil companies had profits of \$120 billion in 2011.

U.S. refineries closed some facilities or reduced production in 2011. We continue to be constrained by old refineries, which require major maintenance, and thereby increase the cost of refined fuels. The last new refinery to come on line in the U.S. was in 1975.

We need the Obama administration to pressure U.S. oil companies to upgrade refineries and sell more refined fuels to U.S. markets to help lower our prices. When Obama became President gasoline was \$1.84 per gallon.

Donald A. Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

Letter to the Editor

Legislators - Comedians, Man-Haters, or Just Uninformed?

Recently, Ohio Senator Nina Turner introduced a bill that would make it harder for men to receive treatment for erectile dysfunction. "We should show the same attention and love to men's reproductive health as we do to women's," Turner told the Huffington Post. "And my bill does that." She admits that her legislation is in reaction to the "heartbeat bill" which would prohibit abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected

Oklahoma State Senator Constance Johnson objects to the OK "Personhood" bill which states that life begins at conception. So last month, she introduced an amendment that said "spilled semen" should be considered an act against unborn children. It is unclear how she intends to police this matter.

The "Ultrasound Opportunity Act" in Illinois would require women to have an ultrasound procedure before having an abortion. Illinois State Rep. Kelly Cassidy feels that this is sometimes invasive and medically unnecessary, so she proposed an amendment that would require men to watch a graphic video about the side effects of Viagra before legally being able to receive a prescription for it.

Virginia Senator Janet Howell did not like her state's ultrasound bill either, so she introduced an amendment that would require men to have a rectal exam before being prescribed Viagra.

Is it any coincidence that the authors of such legislation are female? Or that they are Democrats? If anyone should find their ideals ludicrous, perhaps the lawmakers should seek employment at their local comedy club and quit wasting the taxpayers' money. Most of these women claim they are serious. Ms Johnson admits she seeks to draw attention to the absurdity, duplicity and lack of balance inherent in policies regarding women.

I guess these women did not hear Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's warning that "extremists" are out to control women. It sounds like these lawmakers are out to control men. But in the interest of fairness, I will hold judgment these legislators are not comedians or misandrists. They just might not be aware that many laws are already on the books that curtail men's reproductive freedom.

In Texas, an under-aged girl cannot get an abortion without her parent's consent. If circumstances warrant, a judge can make

the decision. Why does no one ask the dad? He may want the child. A new law here would benefit the father and the baby.

The Baby Moses law protects women who want to abandon their newborn at a safe place rather than throwing the infant in a dumpster. It's a good law and one that possibly saves many lives each year. But again, the father may want the child. Can you imagine a law that would allow the adoption of a baby without the mother's knowledge or consent? The Baby Moses law could benefit from an amendment (call it the 11th commandment), "Thou shall notify the father."

And I have never met a proponent of "Pro-Choice" who advocated a man's choice. In an intact marriage, what right does the husband have if his wife wants to abort their baby? The same right he has if he does not want a child and she does. Where are the Democratic legislators who are looking out for these men's reproductive rights?

The prospective father who is unmarried has even fewer rights. Many states have a Putative Father Registry but few have heard of it, even the agencies responsible for disseminating and recording the forms. This little-known law requires men who have sex with women to register their names with the state. If they do not and the woman becomes pregnant, the men have no recourse if their child is put up for adoption. Perhaps a thoughtful Democrat will propose a law that will remove a newborn from the single mother if she failed to notify the state of all the possible fathers.

Sandra Fluke, with the help of Rush Limbaugh, gained a lot of publicity about taxpayer funding for women's contraception after testifying before a congressional panel. Do you think Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi will convene a similar panel on men's health? I read a lot about the 'war' on the Women's Health Program but not a word on the program for men - because there isn't one. Here is another opportunity for a politician who wants to "show the same attention and love to men's reproductive health as we do to women's,"

Women who believe Republicans are trying to regulate their God-given reproductive rights have a long way to go to make things fair and equal. In 1994, the Office of Women's Health was established by Congressional mandate. If Democrats want to accomplish something necessary and beneficial, they should start with legislation for an Office of Men's Health. Do I hear any legislative proposals?

Don Mathis, fourteenpercenter@yahoo.com



Texoma Enterprise

The Landlord's Prayer

by Don Mathis w/apology to St. Matthew

Our Landlord, who lives upstairs,
You are the greatest!
Your apartment is fantastic.
Your lease agreement is OK
for us as it is for You.
Today, we ask You for a break;
just like we give the guy down the hall a break.
Don't make it too easy for us to cheat others.
Keep our cars and karma running smooth.
Because you are the best C.E.O.
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By: David & Doreen Dotson

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



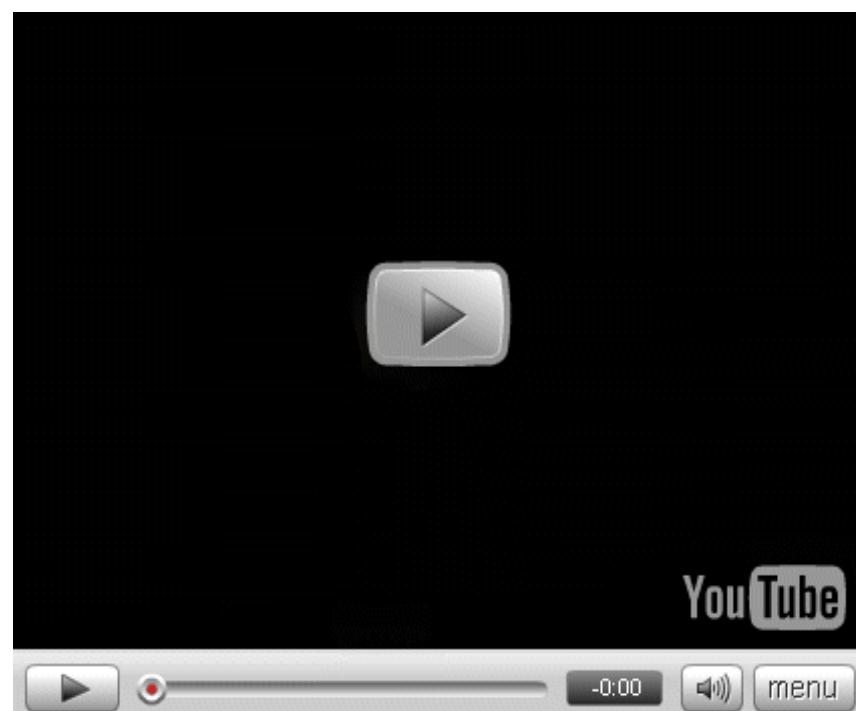
Dale & Lana Rideout



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



"Santa" Rideout



Grandkids singing at the Christmas Tree Farm 2007

