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Beating up the Beatles - by Don Mathis

when you got back home, and the refrain seemed like it went on forever.

If you were a child of the 60s, you probably heard this every time you turned on the radio, every time you got into a car,

It's not that I hate the Beatles; I just don't think they deserve the pedestal where most people put them. 2014 is the 50th anniversary of their first U.S. appearance – a good time to reevaluate their popularity and appeal.

When I was a young man, I constantly heard what a great singer Frank Sinatra was. But I wasn't there during his rise to stardom and I don't like his music that much. Sinatra's songs, like "My Way" and "New York," were good but he sounded a tad boastful. I think he was a far better actor than a singer. Yet many of my peers, having heard the hoopla about how great 'Old Blue Eyes' was, think his music is fantastic. And I think that is the appeal of the Beatles for many.

OK, full disclosure; I was opposed to the Beatles at first – but that was petty jealously. My dad was still giving crew-cuts to me and my brothers. John, George, Paul and Ringo had the "exi" (existentialist) haircut style popular among the Merseybeats. No way could a Texas boy compete with mop-tops. But my annoyance towards the Beatles grew past mere envy when outright overkill was attained.

When I was 15, I loved the song, "Snoopy and the Red Baron," by the royal Guardsmen. I sang along with it every time it came on the radio - and that was often! One time, after it finished playing on the radio, we changed the dial and it was playing on the other station! How cool was that? Fortunately, the one-hit wonder was gone from the airwaves within months, only to be heard again once a year if at all.

bopper and such cutesy thing mattered to me. Two years later, at the ripe old age of 17, I soon tired of "Jude." And really, a seven minute song has no business being on the airwaves – particularly with a four-minute fade-out coda of 10,000 'nah-nah's. To me, familiarity does not equal greatness.

But the Beatles music never went away - much to my dismay. I enjoyed "Snoopy" at the time because I was a teeny-

Besides, who really thinks "I want to hold your hand, I want to hold your hand, I want to hold your ha-a-and" is worthy of lasting attention? I was burned out on their repetitive lyrics early on.

For many of my generation, the argument was: "Who is better, the Beatles or the Rolling Stones?" But for me and my 1965 circle of friends, the debate was: "Music from Motown or Atlantic Records?" And although I like the Supremes, the Four Tops, and the Temptations, I would always turn up the radio whenever Wilson Pickett, Sam & Dave, or Otis Redding came on.

I liked the Stones more than the Beatles for the same reason I liked Soul music from the American South more than the Detroit sound. It was more plaintive, more emotion and more soulful.

The Beatles early American hits were remakes of the Motown Sound. The Beatles were good copy-cats. Their very name came from homage to Buddy Holly's Crickets.

The Beatles started out as Rockers, a British phenomenon that glorified the raunchy music from the United States. Black leather jackets and cowboy boots symbolized the heyday of American Rock 'n Roll and the Beatles reveled in it! Had they kept this persona, perhaps I would have liked them better.

When tastes shifted, the Beatles joined the conflicting British sub-culture, the Mods, which focused on fashionable suits and clean-cut outfits. The Who, the Zombies, and the masters of mod, the Kinks were all influenced by soul, rhythm & blues, and beat music – and the Fab Four followed. The Beatles wanted to be like everyone else – like everyone else. They copied the sounds of the Everly Brothers and Elvis Presley. They copied the songs of Buck Owens and Carol King.

The Fabulous Foursome were great copy-caters and other bands copied them. Elvis couldn't act – but that didn't stop him from appearing in movies. The Beatles couldn't act either – and their movies were equally bad, if not worse. Fortunately, "Hard Day's Night" and "Help" inspired formation of the first 'corporate' band – a musical group formed by producers.

The resulting band and TV show, the Monkees, brought new film technology and garnered Emmy Awards. Some people believe Mike, Peter, Mickey, and Davy were better musicians than the smart one, the cute one, the quite one, and the funny one – they were certainly better actors. And other bands were more popular than the Mop Tops.

Have you ever heard of the Funk Brothers? This band formed in 1959 and produced more Number One hits than the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, a .nd the Beach Boys combined! The Funk Brothers were the back-up band for some of the best songs from Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, the Supremes, Temptations, Miracles, Four Tops and other Detroit groups of the 60s. (See the movie, Standing in the Shadows of Motown, to learn more about this super group.)

But hits from the Beatles remained in the public mind longer – and made more money. And money is why they are remembered. I think Shel Silverstein was thinking about the Beatles and their "genuine Indian guru" when he wrote, "We sing about beauty and we sing about truth at ten thousand dollars a show" (from his satire of the music business, "Cover of the Rolling Stone").

More than the guru, the Beatles were all about 'the profit' from the very start. In 1963, they recorded a copy of Berry Gordy's first Motown hit, "Money (That's What I Want)." The Beatles were all about amassing a fortune than about any

Consider their song, "Revolution," which capitalized on the Anti-War and the Civil Rights movement. The political left of the day felt it deluded their cause. Twenty years later, the song reappeared in a commercial for Nike tennis shoes (which are mostly made in the sweat shops of Asia). Such is the manner of the Beatles "Revolution."

When Psychedelic music hit the scene, the Beatles jumped on it – just as they previously jumped on other music from the Americas. They borrowed musical styles from the folk era, rhythms from the Caribbean, and instruments from India. Did they ever come up with an original idea?

The Beatles are not gods. For a while, John Lennon isolated himself from his fans because of the deification that was projected on him. Of course, this was after he claimed the Beatles "were more popular than Jesus." But the fact is - their mythology has surpassed the realism.

their early breakup, and finally, the death of their misunderstood singer - they would not be held in such high esteem. Although the band itself was influential and important, their music and lyrics left a lot to be desired. Name the most insightful of any Beatles' lyric. I bet Paul Simon or Bob Dylan can top it. Name their most emotion-filled

If not for their myths – their 'instant' superstardom, their hair, their good looks, their hair, their foreignness, their hair,

tune. There are plenty of other bands who can make you laugh louder . or cry harder. Name their most intricate and melodious song arrangement. There are others who can do it better.

It is not as their song suggests, "All you need is love." With the Beatles, "All you need is myth." And it is time for the mythicism to end.



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Chrystal Opry House Gospel Event

The Melody Ranch Gospel Band will perform on Saturday March 15th at 7 pm.

Members of this band are Judy Ziola, piano and vocals, Jody Cofer, bass and vocals, Al Guinn, guitar and vocals, George Kirby, fiddle, Flavil George, banjo and vocals, Tom Hackney, guitar and vocals, Charles Woolly, mandolin and harmony, Archie Shearer, lead guitar and vocals, Pat Shearer, vocals, Bill Hayes, guitar and vocals.

Admission for the evening is a donation at the door.

The Chrystal Opry house is located at 1977 White Mound Road, Sherman, Texas which is 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. Seating is provided.

The concession area is open at 6 pm. We serve hot dogs, chopped brisket sandwiches, candy, soda, coffee, water, and ice cream novelties.

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







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Interim Charges for House Committees

This week I will discuss the interim charges recently issued to the House Committee on Corrections. 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 CORRECTIONS:

·Study and review the correctional facilities and processes within Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, and Texas Juvenile Justice Department with emphasis on efficiencies, effectiveness, and recidivism. Examine the existing programmatic approach per facility in the areas of the vocation, education, visitation, rehabilitation, health and mental health services, parole supervision, and reentry initiatives. Evaluate opportunities for partnerships between facilities and private industries to offer education, job training, and potential employment for offenders during incarceration, parole, and final release.

Examine the association between co-occurring serious mental illness and substance use disorders and parole revocation among inmates from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Review current policies and procedures for incarcerating individuals with a dual mental health diagnosis in both state and county correctional facilities and examine potential remedies within the State's criminal justice system to ensure that the public is protected and that individuals with a mental health diagnosis receive a continuum of mental health services. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence)

In the area of Juvenile Justice, analyze and make recommendations on outcome-based financing models that allow the state to partner with private investors and innovative service providers willing to cover the upfront costs and assume performance risk to divert youths into cost-effective p rograms and interventions, while assuring that taxpayers will not pay for the programs unless the programs demonstrate success in achieving the desired outcomes.

· Assess the impact of school discipline and school-based policing on referrals to the municipal, justice, and juvenile courts, and identify judicial policies or initiatives designed to reduce referrals without having a negative impact on school safety. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Public Education)

·Monitor the administration of the Correctional Managed Health Care system and examine forecasts for short and long-term criminal justice populations and health care cost trends. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Appropriations)

·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 Corrections can be reached at 512-463-0796. 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 10:1-32 (KJV)

- ¹ The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son *is* the heaviness of his mother.
- ²Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.
- ³ The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.
- 4 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.
- ⁵ He that gathereth in summer *is* a wise son: *but* he that sleepeth in harvest *is* a son that causeth shame.
- ⁶ Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.
- 7 The memory of the just *is* blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.
- ⁸ The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.
- ⁹ He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known. ¹⁰ He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.
- ¹¹ The mouth of a righteous *man is* a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.
- ¹² Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.
- 13 In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod *is* for the back of him that is void of understanding.
- 14 Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.
- ¹⁵ The rich man's wealth *is* his strong city: the destruction of the poor *is* their poverty.
- ¹⁶ The labour of the righteous *tendeth* to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.
- ¹⁷ He *is in* the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.
- ¹⁸ He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool.
 ¹⁹ In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.
- ²⁰ The tongue of the just *is as* choice silver: the heart of the wicked *is* little worth.
- ²¹ The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.
- ²² The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.
- ²³ It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.
- ²⁴ The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.
- 25 As the whirlwind passeth, so *is* the wicked no *more*: but the righteous *is* an everlasting foundation.
- 26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to them that send him.
- ²⁷ The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.
- ²⁸ The hope of the righteous *shall be* gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.
- ²⁹ The way of the LORD *is* strength to the upright: but destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity.
- ³⁰ The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.
- 31 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.
- ³² The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked *speaketh* frowardness.

Christian Fellowship

Tom Bean Church of Christ

Palmer Miller will be leading worship

Service this week at A Christian Fellowship in Luella. Come on out and join them for coffee and donut fellowship from 9-9:30am, then classes for all ages at 9:30, followed by worship service at 10:30. Dress is casual.

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

The congregation joins together during worship time for The Lord's Supper each week.

Kidzone is a ministry for children from ages 5-12 and takes place during worship service. The kids learn about God's love through a multitude of learning activities including skits, games and object lessons. They use CDs, DVDs and dance moves to learn about Christ.

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

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 David Ellis at 903-815-1333 or Mike Ball at 903-271-1870

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/ne

wsletter. 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

Pastor Bruce Stinson Brooks Plaza Sundays - 9:30 AM Worship www.thegbf.com VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

FELLOWSHIP

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

CHURCH 810 N. Denny, 903/532-6718;

Tom Medley, minister

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

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

903/546-6898 INSPIRATION POINT COWBOY CHURCH FM 2729, 2.5 miles

FM 2729, 2.5 miles South of Tom Bean Duane Peters, 903-815-2278





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For The Journey

Keith Wishum recently shared some rules to equip us for our journey through life:

Each year some 2,000 eager hikers set out with high hopes of walking the entire 2,100 mile length of the Appalachian Trail as it meanders through the mountains of eastern states [of the U.S.] from Springer Mountain in north Georgia all the way to Mount Katahdin in Maine. Only a few make it. Of those who begin the trek, only about 150 complete the trail. Following a couple of simple rules of backpacking could keep many of them from failing.

The first is: PACK LIGHT! One guy struggled over the first 40 miles of mountainous terrain carrying a propane bottle – the big kind like you use for your gas grill in the backyard! Another hiker tried to travel the rugged trail pushing a grocery buggy full of supplies. ... One couple brought along their scuba gear because they thought it would be fun to go diving in the rivers and lakes along the trail. (They shipped the scuba gear back home and continued.)

Even if you don't intend to do any hiking, you may still want to remember the "Pack light" rule. It's a Biblical principle for life. We are just passing through this world as "aliens and strangers on earth" (Hebrews 11:13). So, it's foolish to get too attached to things which may hold us back. In fact, God advises us to lighten our load – to "throw off everything that hinders" (Hebrews 12:1). If you are feeling weighed down, maybe it's because you are.

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). We must turn from our sins in repentance, but we must also turn to Christ for cleansing. Jesus Christ, God' Son, died on the cross for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Through Him, we may have the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 1:7).

To be cleansed by the blood of Christ, we must place our faith and trust in Jesus (Acts16:30-31), turn from our sins 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; Romans 6:3-4).

Wishum continues: The second simple rule of hiking is: STAY ON THE TRAIL! Much of the Appalachian Trail is miles from any kind of road. The trail twists and turns so that it is difficult to keep a sense of direction. Other trails cross or branch off the AT. It would be easy to get lost, and, once lost, very difficult to be found. The good news is that the Trail is clearly marked with white paint blazes on trees every 200 yards or so. All you have to do is keep an eye open for those white marks and stay on the trail.

Life can be disorienting, too. And getting off the right course can be even more deadly than wandering off the AT. Again, though, the way is clearly marked! God sent his son to mark the course for us. All we must do to stay on the safe path is "fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2).

God has promised: "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Wishum concludes: It doesn't matter whether you ever hike the Appalachian Trail. It does matter, however, whether you walk the straight and narrow path to God's house. To succeed at either, remember these simple rules: Pack light, and Stay on the Trail.

Won't YOU submit your life to the Savior and follow Him all the way to Heaven?

 $David\ A.\ Sargent,\ Minister,\ davids argent 1\,@\,comcast.net$

Church of Christ at Creekwood http://www.creekwoodcc.org

* Keith Wishum, "You Can Make It All the Way." A Word from Williams Road, 2/18/14. Williams Road Church of Christ, Americus, GA.

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 Giibbs, pastor
FIRST PENTECOSTAL

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

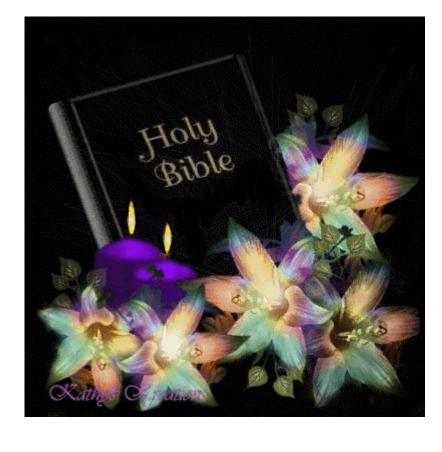
HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Stephen W. Bierschenk,
972/562-0752

CHRISTIAN METHODIST

MORNING CHAPEL

Arnold Baker,pastor

EPISCOPAL 103 Bowen, 902/482-5431 SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH 702 E. Fulton, 903/482-5664, Rev.



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GC scholarship applications due March 15

March 15 is the priority deadline for new and returning Grayson College students to apply for scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year. Scholarship funds totaling more than \$584,000 were awarded by the Grayson College Foundation to 406 GC students for 2013-2014, and it expects to increase scholarship awards this year to encourage students' scholastic endeavors.

"Scholarships can be a stepping stone to the future for many Grayson students," said Tina Dodson, GCF's director of annual giving. "It's amazing how appreciative recipients are because those scholarships support their dreams and help them reach their goals."

Scholarships are available to students of all ages and all majors. Students who meet the priority deadline are considered for scholarships first. Applicants must enroll as full-time students (12 or more semester hour credits) and maintain a 2.5 grade point average. All new and renewing applicants must complete and file the 2014-2015 version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. They also must complete the application process with GC's Office of Financial Aid. To download a scholarship application, visit the college's website at www.grayson.edu, click on Financial Aid under Quick Links, and scroll to Scholarships to find the application link. Information about the various scholarships available is listed there as well.

In addition to the scholarship application, applicants must submit their high school transcript/GED or college transcript(s), an essay, and a letter of reference or recommendation. Return the completed application and attachments in person or by mail to: Office of Financial Aid; Grayson College; 6101 Grayson Drive; Denison, Texas 75020.

Although most scholarships are not based on financial need, such need is considered for several scholarships presented each year. GC also awards federal and state grants.

"During the 2012-2013 school year, Grayson College awarded over \$21 million in federal aid," said Donna King, GC's director of financial aid. "For the 2013-2014 academic year, we awarded more than \$12.5 million in the fall of 2013, and we are continuing to award federal funds for the spring and summer of 2014."

For more information scholarships, grants and the financial aid process, visit the GC website at www.grayson.edu or call 903-463-8794.







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Howe, Texas 75459-3587
903-487-0525
dalerideout@cableone.net
lanarideout@cableone.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

By Dorothy N. Fowler

Imagine that you are a ninth-grade student confronted by this writing prompt: "Which is better, chocolate or vanilla ice cream?" You have exactly 26 lines on which to write your essay. You cannot write one word over those 26 lines or you automatically fail the test.

Now decide whether the essay is supposed to be an expository essay or a persuasive essay. The directions do not tell you, which means by any standard of objectivity that the test is flawed. Any good test question tells the text taker what is required. Thus, if you are taking a test that asks you to write all you know about nuclear physics and you write, "I don't know a thing about nuclear physics," you have earned a 100 because you followed the directions given in the test.

The English writing test your children will be taking is deliberately designed to confuse students and to cause a substantial number who make the wrong guess to fail. Presenters from Region 10 education center have said that 2C the curriculum designer has said that, teachers will tell you that.

When I first saw that prompt, I immediately thought, "Oh, this is to be a persuasive essay." Keep in mind that I am 77 years old, have a Master's Degree for which I wrote a thesis, have written hundreds of sermons (most of which made sense), graded thousands of research projects and have been paid to write by several different publications.

I would have failed this test because what the test maker wanted was exposition, not persuasion. The Region 10 presenter said, "the instant that the writer uses any word that shows any emotion, the essay becomes persuasive and the student fails." By that standard, the question fails, as the adjective "better" is a value judgment and I can infer from that value judgment that some emotion is involved.

Literary essays are defined on the Internet and by the UIL as essays on a given work of literature. That's everywhere except in Texas, where our test makers define a literary essay as writing with characters, a plot, and dialogue. In Texas, a literary essay for the purpose of the STARR test is a really, really, really short story—26 lines from beginning to end.

The prompt for literary essays is a picture at the top of the page. It might be a picture of a boy with a fishing pole or a dog running beside a bicycle or sunrise/sunset or almost anything else. There is also a quotation from someone. The students are supposed to interpret the picture and write a short story about it—on the 26 lines provided on the test form. Heaven help the kid who misinterprets the picture, who portrays the boy with the fishing pole as someone who didn't catch anything or the dog as a vicious beast trying to bite the rider of the bicycle. Now, let's go a step further. To pass the English test, a student has to score 65 total score. That doesn't seem like much or even enough if you are giving a test that is well made and has covered the prescribed curriculum, but clearly the test is not well-made and there is no alignment between the curriculum and the test.

How do I know? Because the testing company says so, because Region 10 presenters say so and because teachers say so.

A passing score on the math test is 35 percent and passing on the science test is somewhere around 45 percent. That's because everyone knows the tests do not reflect what the curriculum demands teachers to teach. Yet, when the test scores come out later this year, there will be much wringing of hands and weeping and wailing because "the public schools are failing." The hand wringers, weepers and wailers will say the solution to the problem of this failure will be privatization of the schools. Just turn all those luscious public dollars to private enterprise, and it will get the job done.

I am not often given to conspiracy theories. I kept a sign in my classroom that read, "Do not ascribe to conspiracy what is more easily attributed to stupidity."

But I believe there is a conspiracy in the matter of stacking the cards against students, teachers and public schools in the state of Texas. The object of the conspiracy is to privatize schools and get the public's tax dollars. When the Edison Project left Sherman ISD after its experiment in privatization, the second in command at Edison told me it had been a mistake to try privatizing the two schools involved in the program "because there was not enough federal money in it." Then Edison went to Dallas and in spite of the abundance of federal dollars, couldn't cut it there, either.

Or maybe they did better than we think. Edison refused to release most test scores because they are "proprietary information."

But if you know Texas—and as a native, I know it pretty well—the attitude toward privatizing schools will be this: "Even If it doesn't work anywhere else in the world, we can make it work."



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Cornyn: Another Day, Another Delay

WASHINGTON-U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) issued the following statement after the Obama Administration announced another two-year delay for plans to meet Obamacare's mandates.

"Make no mistake, this is yet another cherry-picked delay motivated not out of concern for the millions of Americans who have lost the health care plan they had and liked but out of a desire to help the President's political friends escape yet another embarrassing Obamacare blunder at the ballot box."

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.

Sen. Cornyn: President's Budget A Sad Attempt

To Clean Up Big-Government Experiment Failures

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas (March 5), today issued the following statement regarding President Obama's overdue FY 2015 budget proposal:

"This budget is a sad attempt by the President to clean up the failures of his big-government experiment by using the same tired ideas – more spending, more debt, and higher taxes. His policies have left Americans out of work, with restricted access to doctors and quality health care, and with fewer opportunities across the board. So his desperate answer is to continue to grow the government, refusing to address the root problems of our broken entitlements.

"Instead, we must rein in the government and reduce spending, in turn enabling employers and hard-working Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money and invest it as they see fit. These investments by Americans who know how to innovate and create opportunity—not an acceleration of the President's tax-and-spend agenda —are the keys to getting this economy on track again and getting men and women back to work."

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.

Hall Statement on Receiving Gigliotti Endorsement

(March 6, 2014) Rockwall, TX – Congressman Ralph Hall received the endorsement of North Texas businessman, Lou Gigliotti. Gigliotti finished third in the crowded field, taking 10,592 votes in the TX-04 primary on Tuesday for 16.1 percent of the vote.

"I have said this during the entire campaign, if I am not elected then we need Ralph Hall to go on one more mission for us," Lou Gigliotti stated. "The people of the 4th Congressional District of Texas deserve better than a trial lawyer who works with Washington lobbyists."

Giggliotti's early support marks the beginning of the May 27 run.

"I am pleased to receive Lou's support and vote of confidence," said Hall. "He ran a strong race, and I believe this endorsement sends a clear signal that voters respond to positive campaigns that focus on the issues. Baseless negative campaigns may play well in Washington, but not here in Texas."

"I'll stay focused on what I do best, being a strong conservative voice in Washington for the families in my district," Hall concluded.

Thus far, Congressman Hall has the support of every Republican Party Chairman in the 4th Congressional District, as well as nearly every Republican elected – official – many of whom know him best as a hardworking, conservative advocate for the district.

Texas adds 33,900 jobs; lowest unemployment rate since November 2008

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry today released the following statement regarding Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropping to 5.7 percent in January 2014, down from 6.0 percent in December 2013:

"Every day, more Texans are going to work, earning a living and supporting their families because we follow a simple recipe for job creation: we keep our taxes low, our regulations effective and predictable, our courts fair and our schools accountable. That's why Texas has been the national epicenter for job creation for more than a decade, and today's numbers indicate we're not slowing down anytime soon. While Washington is unable to significantly move the needle on unemployment, in Texas we free job creators to pursue success, which means more good-paying jobs for more Texans."



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Photographer of the Month March 2014 - Michael B. Keck





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OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson







Drop Dead

Six retired Irishmen were playing poker in Monaghan's flat in Dungarvan when Sean O'Toole loses €700 on a single hand, clutches his chest and drops dead at the table.

Showing respect for their fallen brother, the other five continue playing standing up. Michael Lennon looks around and asks, 'Oh, me boys, someone's got to tell Sean's wife. Who will it be?'

They draw straws. Cavan Colquhoun picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet and gentle and not to make a bad situation any worse. 'Discreet? I'm the most discreet Irishmen you'll ever meet. Discretion is my middle name. Leave it to me', announces Cavan.

He goes over to O'Toole's house and knocks on the door.

Brenda O'Toole answers and asks what he wants. Cavan declares: 'Your husband just lost €700 and is afraid to come home.'

'Tell him to drop dead!' snarls Brenda. 'I'll go tell him.' says Cavan.

Englishman, Irishman, Welshman, Scotsman

An Englishman, Irishman, Welshman, Scotsman were captured while fighting in a far-off foreign land, and the leader of the captors said, 'We're going to line you up in front of a firing squad and shoot you all in turn. But first, you each can make a final wish.'

The Englishman responds, 'I'd like to hear "God Save The Queen" just one more time to remind me of the auld country, played by the London All Boys Choir. With Morris Dancers Dancing to the tune.'

The Irishman replies, 'I'd like to hear "Danny Boy" just one more time to remind me of the auld country, sung in the style of Daniel O'Donnell, with Riverdance dancers skipping gaily to the tune.'

The Welshman answers, 'I'd like to hear "Men Of Harlech" just one more time to remind me of the country, sung as if by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir.'

The Scotsman says quickly, 'I'd like to be shot first.'



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LET'S REMINISCE: TEXAS WEATHER EXTREMES

By Jerry Lincecum

Most readers of this column would probably agree that the winter we are now hoping to escape from has been a real doozy. Every one of us can remember at least one winter in the past that had a really bad spell or two (like the ice storm of 1949), but this one has taunted us more than once with a beautiful day in the mid-70s, followed by a overnight drop in temperature of 50-60 degrees. That has been the worst part for me, those abrupt shifts.

Then I got a bit of historical perspective from a newsletter I receive from the Star of the Republic Museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos (a fine institution). In the newsletter's essay on "Texas Climate," Ferdinand Roemer, an early German immigrant to Texas, was quoted. He wrote that on the evening of Jan. 8, 1847, the water in his bedroom froze and the thermometer registered 22 degrees. The next day, the temperature rose to 82 (in the shade). Doesn't that sound familiar?

A similar abrupt change had been observed on March 15, 1843, by Adolphus Sterne. His poetic description said, "What was Italy in the morning has now changed to Siberia."

The museum also has records showing that in 1833 abnormal weather caused great hardship to pioneer Texas settlers. In January they had extremely frigid temperatures. Then in March heavy rains caused the Brazos River to overflow its banks, flooding fields of cotton and corn. Cotton couldn't be replanted until late June, and there was no corn harvested that year. With corn as the staple of their diet, many people went hungry for days. The final insult was an early frost in October which ruined most of the cotton that had been replanted in June.

Reading these 19th century weather observations reminded me that it was in 1835 my ancestor Gideon first explored Texas, and he experienced some of our weather extremes. I checked his writings and found a pertinent journal entry for 26 February 1835.

He wrote: "Lay by today on account of the severity of the cold. It was hailing, snowing & sleeting greater part of the day, wind from the north, very cold indeed. The weather in this country is the most variable that I have ever experienced in any country. Some days [are] so warm that you cannot keep your coat on, and perhaps a change will take place in three hours that will render you uncomfortable under all the clothes you can pack on. There appears to be a continual seesaw between the north and south winds; that is it has been so on our route ever since we crossed Red River. According to our recollection, we have not observed the wind to blow from any other direction than from the north or south, and what is most singular is that you seldom experience a calm."

In summary, we Lincecums have witnessed almost 180 years of Texas weather extremes, and I believe spring will arrive soon. If you'd like to start receiving the Star of the Republic Museum's newsletter, just go to their website: www.starmuseum.org.

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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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STORY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The Telling Our Stories program at Austin College is sponsoring a contest for autobiographical stories. The deadline for entries is March 15, 2014. Cash prizes totaling \$225 will be awarded, as well as certificates of merit.

The contest theme for this year is "Remembering Home Ground: Stories about Growing Up." No matter how far we have moved from childhood places and people, they remain with us. Go back in your memory to the time when you were a child and find a story in the setting and characters of your world at that time.

We are looking for stories that record significant incidents in the lives of individuals or reflect cultural patterns. The most interesting stories will be the ones unique to individuals and rich in details. Poems are not accepted.

Each writer may enter only one story, and the story should not have been entered in a previous year's TOS contest. Stories must be based on the personal experience or family history of the writer. Length should be approximately 750-1500 words. Entrants must be 18 years old or older and reside in Grayson or adjoining counties (in Texas or Oklahoma).

The age categories are as follows: (1) Super Seniors (80 and older); (2) Senior Citizens (age 60-79); (3) Adults (age 18-59). All entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2014. Mail to: Autobiography Festival, Austin College, Suite 61565, 900 N. Grand Ave., Sherman, TX, 75090-4440.

Attach a cover sheet with your name, age, address, and telephone number. Your name should not appear elsewhere on the entry. To facilitate unbiased judging, cover sheets will be removed and entries will be assigned numbers.

Winners will be announced April 20, 2014. All stories will be rated by the judges as meriting Gold, Silver, or Bronze Star rankings, and each entrant will receive a certificate of merit as part of a recognition program at Austin College on May 5. Cash prizes will be awarded to one outstanding story in each of the three age-categories: \$100 to the best story by a Super Senior; \$75 for the best Senior Citizen story; and \$50 in the adult category.

For additional information, contact Dr. Jerry Lincecum at 903/893-6041 or by e-mail: jlincecum@austincollege.edu. -30-







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THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE Opens This Weekend

There is still a chill in the air as the White Witch appears on the Honey McGee Playhouse stage in Theatricks 2014 spring production of THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE February 28 to March 9. The classic C. S. Lewis story has been faithfully adapted for the stage by renown children's theatre playwright Joseph Robinette. An old house in rural England becomes the home base for four children who wander into a fantastical country through an old wardrobe. In the incredible Narnia, they make friends with the frightened forest people who have almost given up hope for the return of good King Aslan, their true ruler. THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE is a charming play about courage and the love of freedom.

A group of 40 local actors and backstage crew have been assembled to assist in the telling of this story. Many are new to the Theatricks stage, but again there are some very familiar faces as well. THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE plays February 22 and March 7 at 7 p.m. and March 1,2,8,9 at 2 p.m. on the Honey McGee Playhouse stage. Tickets are \$10 adults and \$8 students. To make reservations call the SCP box office at (903)892-8818 Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, or visit the ticket window inside the Honey McGee Playhouse located on 313 W. Mulberry in Sherman, TX.

Hope to see you there!





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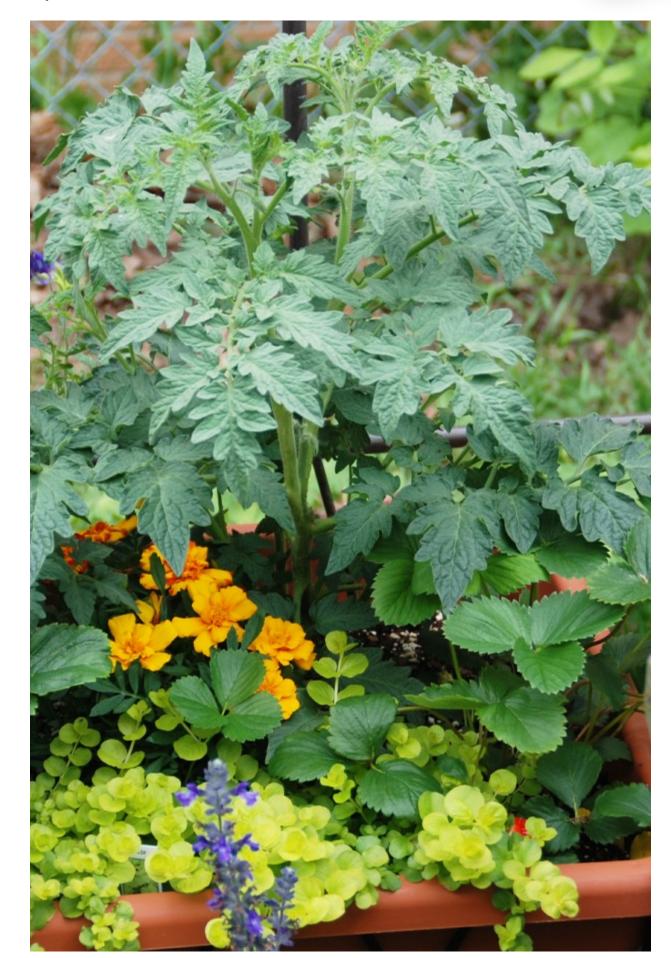
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Mixing nutritious vegetables with colorful flowers and trailers that spill over the container edges creates an interesting and attractive container garden.

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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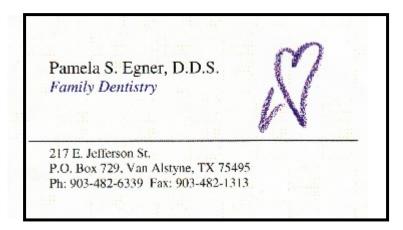
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1 box twinkies

2 (10 oz) pkg. Frozen strawberries

1 can Eagle Brand milk

1 (4 oz) cool whip

1 3.25 oz. box instant vanilla pudding

Slice Twinkies in halves; place in bottom of one to two metal loaf pans.

Pour strawberries over Twinkies. Mix remaining ingredients. Pour mixture over strawberries and Twinkies. Freeze.

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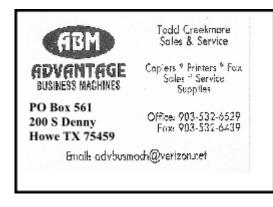
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Amber Blasingame and Taylor Stephens

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

