

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

October 27, 2011



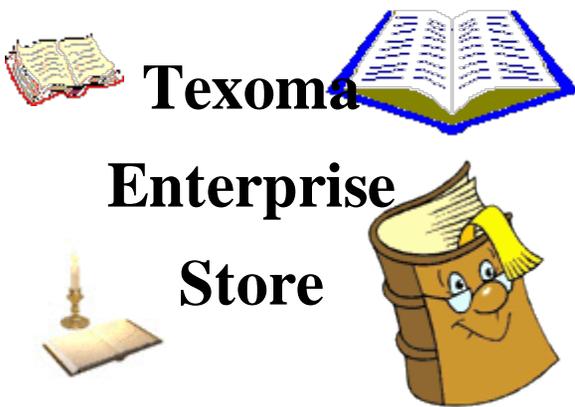
Each week we e-mail a number of readers who want to know when we update an issue. If you would like to be on this e-mail list, send your e-mail address to Lana Rideout at lanarideout@cableone.net.



Van Alstyne



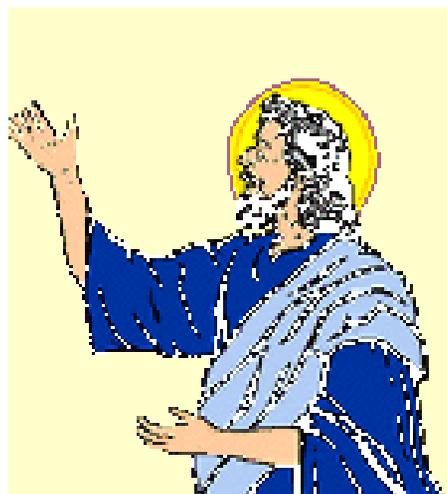
Tom Bean Elementary



Beware of dire predictions



Dot's
Dashes



Church
News



Francine (Long) Hickox (1943-2011)



HUMOR



Area Students Invited to GCC Welding Rodeo Preparatory Event

Grayson County College's first Welding Rodeo - presented in March 2011 with community support from area industries - garnered the attention of the National Endowment for the Arts. The federal agency invited GCC to apply for a \$10,000 matching grant, which was awarded in September. Funds will be used to support the 2012 Welding Rodeo in April as well as a preparatory event in December.

Teams from area high schools are invited to participate. Targeting career tech welding students, ages 16-18, the GCC Welding Rodeo affords students the opportunity to showcase their unique welding skills and encourages them to seek post-secondary skills development.

"There is a significant need for trained and employable welders in the Texoma region," said Greg Beckley, director of welding technology at GCC. "Area industries have expressed an enthusiastic desire to sponsor and participate in this event to promote awareness of these opportunities."

The 2012 Welding Rodeo's theme will be announced during the Pre-Rodeo Design Workshop, a special preparatory event on Dec. 7 that includes art and welding instruction as well as an artists' exhibition. Teams must register to participate in the free workshop. All events will take place on GCC's Main Campus in Denison.

The workshop features four seminars: thumbnail sketch design; 3-D drawing, including the creation of a maquette (sculpted cardboard art piece); refined drawing; and welding safety. The art courses are taught by Steve Black, a professor of fine arts and humanities at GCC; welding safety instruction is taught by Beckley. The NEA grant provides students with art supply kits to plan their competition designs for the Welding Rodeo. Following the seminars, area artists will present an exhibition of metal sculptures. The exhibition includes a general session in which each artist describes their unique sculpting techniques.

"The artistic educational components were not offered to students or instructors during the first welding rodeo," Black said. "By incorporating instruction and discussion on design, we expect students will gain greater knowledge and appreciation regarding the artistic concepts of the Welding Rodeo."

After completing the preparatory workshop in December, students will have several months to work on their designs for the 2012 Welding Rodeo, set for April 27. The one-day competition will focus on both team and individual creations. Scholarship awards are presented to the first-second- and third-place winners. Proceeds from the event's auction of final designs will benefit the welding scholarship fund for future events.

"Input from a planning committee of college faculty, industrial sponsors, high school instructors, and students contributed to the event's achievements last year and is essential to the success of the 2012 event," Beckley said.

Several 2011 industrial sponsors including Lloyd Plyler Construction, Caterpillar (formerly Bucyrus), Airgas, and Vector Systems Inc. are interested in participating again, but more are needed. Specific sponsor contributions can be cash donations and/or in-kind support such as donated metal, generators, tents, refreshments, meals, supplies, and professional donated time.

To register for the free preparatory event, or for more information about sponsorship or the 2012 Welding Rodeo, visit the GCC website at <<http://www.grayson.edu>> www.grayson.edu or contact Janis Thompson, GCC's grant coordinator, at 903-463-8766 or <<mailto:thompsonj@grayson.edu>> thompsonj@grayson.edu.

Southeastern's Native American Symposium set for Nov. 3-4

DURANT, Okla. - Southeastern Oklahoma State University will host the Ninth Native American Symposium and Film Festival -- "Where No One Else Has Gone Before" -- on Nov. 3-4.

The community, the Indian Nations, students, scholars, educators and all who are interested in studying and sharing the experience of the Native American culture are invited to attend.

The event features presentations on Native American literature, history, sociology, education, science, art, and film. Scholars, artists and members of Indian Nations from across the United States will come together to discuss topics related to the Native American experience.

All symposium sessions and films except the keynote banquet are free and open to the public.

The keynote speaker this year is distinguished educator and scholar Dr. Henrietta (Henri) Mann. A leading advocate of tribal education, she is currently serving as founding president of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College, temporarily located at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Mann also holds an endowed chair in Native American Studies at Montana State University and has taught at several other major universities, accumulating a long list of prestigious honors and awards.

She has always been aggressively focused on inspiring young Native Americans to set the highest goals for themselves so that like her, they too can go "Where no one else has gone before."

Mann's appearance is made possible by a grant from the Cultural and Scholastic Lectureship Fee Committee, a fund collected from and administered by the students of Southeastern.

The banquet is scheduled for 6 pm Friday, Nov. 4, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. Tickets are required and may be purchased for \$20 each.

The keynote speech is set for 7 pm in the VPAC. There is no charge for those wanting to hear the speech and the event is open to the public.

For further information, contact Dr. Mark Spencer at 580-745-2921 or m Spencer@SE.edu. Disability accommodations cannot be guaranteed without adequate advance notice. Please visit <http://www.SE.edu/nas/> for a complete list of films, speakers and topics.

City Drug Co.



Available 24 hours.
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After hours call:
David Schatz - 903-482-6063
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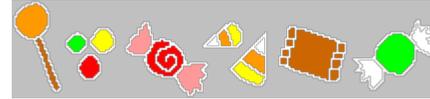
209 E. Jefferson -- Van Alstyne



Howe's That

by Lana Rideout

Recipe



"Were there no God, we would be in this glorious world with grateful hearts: and no one to thank." Christina Georgina Rossetti.

"You will go out in joy and be led forth to peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you; and all the trees of the fields will clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12 NIV

"The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day." Proverbs 4:18 NIV

On another note: Some of you may remember the Kingston Trio of the 1960's. They had a song about a man called Charlie who gets aboard an MTA subway car. He can't get off the subway as he didn't bring enough money for the "exit fares" that had just been established to collect an increased fare without upgrading existing fare collection equipment.

When he got there the conductor told him,
"One more nickel."
Charlie could not get off that train.

The song goes on to say that every day Charlie's wife is able to hand him a sandwich (but not, for some reason, a nickel) "as the train comes rumbling through."

It is probably best known for its catchy chorus:

Did he ever return?
No he never returned
And his fate is still unlearn'd
He may ride forever
'neath the streets of Boston
He's the man who never returned.

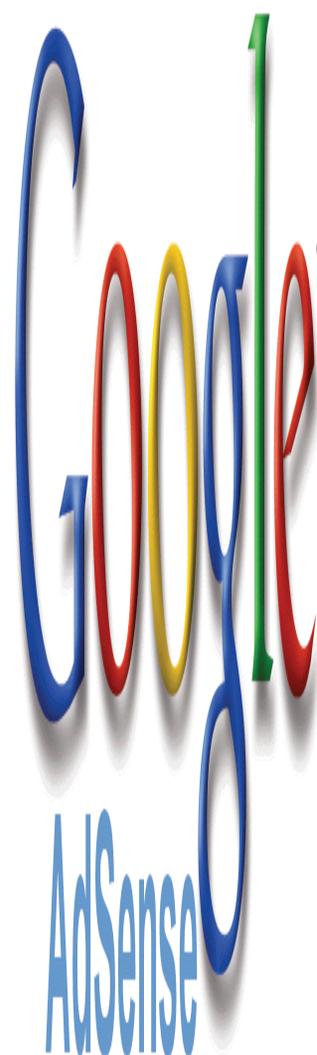
Fool's Toffee

36 to 40 saltine crackers (1 sleeve)
1 cup (2 sticks) butter
1 cup packed dark brown sugar
2 cups (12 ounces) milk chocolate chips
1/2 to 1 cup chopped pecans

Line a 10x17-inch baking pan with foil and coat the foil with butter. Arrange the crackers in a single layer with sides touching in the prepared pan. Combine 1 cup butter and brown sugar in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Boil for 4 minutes, stirring constantly.

Pour the butter mixture over the crackers. Using a wooden spoon, spread the mixture evenly over the crackers. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 minutes. Sprinkle with the chocolate chips and let stand for 2 minutes or until the chocolate chips soften. Spread the chocolate evenly over the prepared layers using a knife or metal cake spatula. Sprinkle with the pecans and press lightly. Chill for 30 minutes or until set. Break into pieces and store in a covered container in the refrigerator.

While saltine crackers may seem like an unusual ingredient to use in a toffee recipe, don't be "fooled" into thinking this is a mistake. This secret ingredient makes the toffee much lighter and crispier than using graham crackers. Good idea for gifts.



HOWE ISD

Regular board meeting held

Board of trustees met on Thursday, Oct. 20, for a regular meeting.

The board accepted the resignation of Howe High School Principal Blake Stiles. (Note: Stiles is taking a job as the Assistant Superintendent of Athens ISD.)

The board also approved the appointment of Shawn Martin as Interim Principal.

The board discussed committing fund balance for athletic facility improvement needs, but took no action on that at this meeting.

Other actions included approval of : Minutes from Regular Meeting/Public Hearing on September 15, 2011; Monthly Financial Reports; Budget Amendments; Quarterly Investment Report; Update Vendor List; and Update Signature Card for Howe High School Activity Accounts.



Howe Elementary "Top Dogs" for the week ending October 21 are: Brian Timmons, Magi Watson, Garrett Grigg, Jonathan Meneses, Hunter Robertson, Holly Cavender, Laine Watson, Alexis Gruszka, Stanley Bik, Ricky Ramirez, Austin Jones, Linda Segura, Jacob Upchurch, Carson Daniels, Payton Stapleton, Sandra Nitchman and Morrigan Booth. Not pictured is Madilynn Douglas.

Howe ES/MS Menus

Oct. 31-Nov. 4

Breakfast

Monday – Glazed donuts/ toast, cereal/toast, graham crackers w/yogurt, diced pears, apple juice

Tuesday – Biscuit & sausage, cereal/toast, spiced apples, orange juice

Wednesday – Pancake on stick, cereal/toast, graham crackers w/yogurt, fresh grapes, grape juice

Thursday – Blueberry muffin/toast, cereal/toast, fresh apple, orange juice

Friday – Eggs, toast, sausage, cereal/toast, graham crackers w/yogurt, strawberry cup, orange juice

Lunch

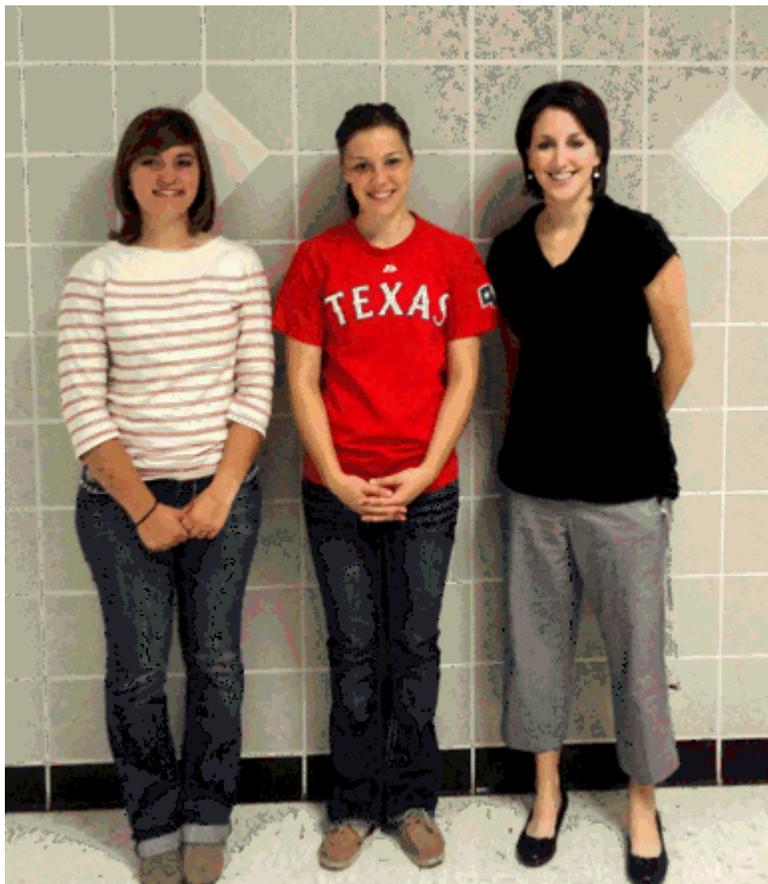
Monday – Hamburger or Frito pie, burger fixins, potato rounds, squash casserole, corn cobbette, diced pears, Halloween cup

Tuesday – Chicken rings or small chef salad, mashed potatoes/gravy, spiced apples, wheat roll, gelatin jewels

Wednesday –Hot dog, chili dog or fish strip, steamed mixed veggies, fresh grapes, mac & cheese, chocolate chip cookie

Thursday – Cheese pizza or ravioli casserole/toast, tossed salad, carrot & celery sticks, fresh apple, frozen fruit bar

Friday – Chicken crispeto or fajita quesadilla, garden salad, refried beans, strawberry cup, Spanish rice,



HHS teacher and students of the month. Picture from left to right is students Emily Dawsy and Madison Wilson, with teacher Debbie Venteicher.

Click for **more Howe news**



Accelerated Reader Top Ten – 1st Six Weeks

Second Grade: Eli Wilson, Caleb Wahrmund, Ashley Crees, Benjamin Speed, Luke Lopez, Avery Sapp, Zoey Moore, Jared Brussow, Jaicob Husband, Luke Catching

Third Grade: Grace Brennan, Alex Hernandez, Brett Burnett, Cameron Lankford, Katie Grogan, Ramon Rocha, Tatum Hartsfield, Kayle Chapman, Lizzy Robertson, Izaiah Lee

Fourth Grade: Arturo Uribe-Lowder, Lane Griffin, Waylon Knowles, Paetyn Ford, Jade Cox, Valerie Langford, Kolbe Lappin, Hailey Upchurch, Maci Watson

Accelerated Readers -First 6 Weeks

Kindergarten: Casie Adams, Catelyn Armstrong, Jayden Bookout, Anthony Gardner, Garrett Gibbs, Jaycie Grisham, Jaeden Howard, Kelcey Ireland, Alexander Jones, Carter Layton, Kolton Mitchell, Zebulon Montgomery, Jacob Ortega, Autumn Owens, Emery Snapp, Payton Stapleton, Mahlon Walker, Madilynn Douglas, Clayton Duree, Caden Garner, Cooper Jones, Kayley Laubhan, Jace Martin, Cheyenne Mathews, Gracie Max, Brooklyn McCaleb, Paris Menjivar, Lucas Mitchell, Railyn Murphy, Jenna Roper, Dakota Smith, Jonathan Smith, Gage Troxtell, Riley Troxtell, Courtney White, Mia Wilson, Brayden Bahr, Dax Foster, Shianne Freeman-Williams, Emma Hitesman, Cassandra Morrison, Kolin Murphy, Sandra Nitchman, Juanita Olivarez, Jesse Portman, Haley Richardson, Fisher Robertson, Matalee Stewart, Emry Woods, Nathan Wooten, Kenneth York, Cody Adams, Camryn Boatman, Zoey Bolen, Morrigan Booth, Ryleigh Craven, Ainsley Denham, Kendall Griffin, Willie Husband, Mikaylah Komoroski, Zadrrian Morris, Morgan Pitt, Lucas Reese, Thomas Roberson

First Grade: Bettye Delavan, Morghan Gifford-Lamb, Daniel Gonzalez, Danielle Hargrove, Matthew Hayes, Korben Kemp, Dalton Laisy, Jacob McGill, Madison Morrow, Zackery Petrea, Kolby Smith, Faith Stallings, Teagan Stubblefield, Donna Mendoza, Yair Ayala, Matthew Bearden, Mackenzie Bryant, Jentrie Doty, Hunter Hance, Tate Harvey, Ryan Hough, Kaylee Jones, Elijah Lewis, Colton Little, Cody McGill, Janna Nitchman, Keira Robertson, Ethan Strunc, Zander Toner, Jacob Upchurch, Samantha Lowder, Korie Bouse, Jordan Brunner, Carson Daniels, Ethan Duer, Kaden Dunn, Christina Harper, Dabney Henry, Edith Hernandez, Jalie Hill, Audie Martin, Connor Martin, Kaiden Martin, Brody McCollum, Landon Oswalt, Taylor Reynolds, James Richardson, Sergio Rico, Ariana Ross, Emma Sutherland, Antonio Tapia, Leo Becerra, Jazmine Bookout, Andrew Harper, Kaylee Hunnel, Trey Phillips, Cody Richards, Dakota Tinker, Ruben Trevino

Second Grade: Kevin Bateman, Cierra Brussow, Luke Catching, Louis Gonzalez, Emma Harvey, Lindsey Hymel, Austin Jones, Luke Lopez, Caleb Maddison, Zoey Moore, Ryan Murphy, Alyssa Sharp, Stanley Bik, Jaden Bryant, Michelle Caballero, Ethan Conrad, Ashley Crees, Jaryn Grisham, Jaicob Husband, Ramie Mosse, Conner Record, Gavin Richardson, Caleb Searcey, Trinity Williams, Sabian Acevedo, Jessica Bastida, Harley Brockelman, Jared Brussow, Zakry DeFrange, William Fleming, John Griffin, Ethan Lopez, Fenix Lugo, Katie Parker, Parker Pecina, Ricky Ramirez, Avery Snapp, Benjamin Speed, Caleb Wahrmund, Eli Wilson, Caytie Coco, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Paige Gifford-Lamb, Riley Griffith, Colby Hopper, Kailyn Ireland, Brooke Potter, David Rocha, Aiden Roulette, Kaleb Strong, Jennifer Torres, Ethan Turner

Third Grade: Camryn Adams, Jackson Adkins, Grace Brennan, Brett Burnett, Leah Butcher, Erin Catching, Holly Cavender, Kayle Chapman, Sierra Copeland, Hannah Dwyer, Ruvy Enriquez, Jacob Fabacher, Abby Fesperman, Kamryn Gardner, Karrah Gardner, Ethen Grant, Katie Grogan, Gabriel Hariman, Kriston Harris, Tatum Hartsfield, Alex Hernandez, Raul Hernandez, Courtney Hopper, Kameron Hopper, David Huerta, Sean Husband, Luke Jackson, Seth Key, Cameron Lankford, Grace Lankford, Izaiah Lee, Jonathan Meneses, Mason Moreau, Lizzy Robertson, Ramon Rocha, Ethan Sanders, Dylan Savage, AJ Shue, Austin Thurman, Leah Trevino, Braeden Wise

Fourth Grade: Jade Cox, Karsyn Fleming, Ally Harvey, Mary Henson, Taylor Hinkle, Valerie Langford, Layton Elvington, Alli Gleason, Lane Griffin, Kaleigh Smith, Colton Thurman, Cassidy Anderson, Bailey Bond, Hunter Brussow, Ivonne Delgado, Jenna Honore, Madison Kenney, Kacie Morgan, Jacob Roper, Jackson Wilson, Molly Wilson, Kolby Windon, Kira Allen, Kaden Bateman, Paetyn Ford, Zane Hughes, Jason Hunnel, Waylon Knowles, Jodee Newland, Ethan Sloat, Arturo Uribe-Lowder



Fall Festival

Howe ISD sponsored the annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 22. The event drew a large crowd of students, parents, community people, and others looking to enjoy food, games, visiting and more.

Many of the classes and organizations offered food or fun to folks.

It has been an annual tradition for more than 30 years. It is an opportunity to support the school and local organizations. And the best part is the chance to see friends and eat some interesting food items such as fried oreos and sausage on a stick plus many more food offerings.



More Howe News



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Howe City Council

Howe City Council met Tuesday, Oct. 18, for a regular council meeting. Council present were Dale Rideout, Georgia Richardson, Sam Haigis, and Jack Leavenworth.

Following a Public Hearing, the following ordinances were passed:

Ordinance no. 708 - An Ordinance By The City Of Howe, Texas, Revising And Establishing Water And Sewer Service Rates, Setting The Effective Date Of The New Rates; Establishing A Repeal Clause; Establishing A Savings Clause; And Establishing An Effective Date.

Ordinance no. 709 - An ordinance amending the code of ordinances of The City Of Howe, Texas, to amend chapter 6 section 1 entitled sanitation service, providing for repeal of ordinances in conflict; providing for an effective date.

Ordinance no. 710 - An ordinance of The City Of Howe, Texas to tax tangible personal property in transit which would otherwise be exempt pursuant to Texas tax code, section 11.253; and providing an effective date on and after its adoption.

Ordinance no. 711 - An ordinance amending ordinance no. 564, revising section 8-26 specific pollutant limitations; repealing of any ordinance in conflict with this ordinance; setting an effective date; and providing a penalty not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for violation of this ordinance.

Ordinance no. 712 - An ordinance establishing the minimum regulations governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures; by providing the standards for supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use; and the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use and the demolition of such structure; known as the building code.

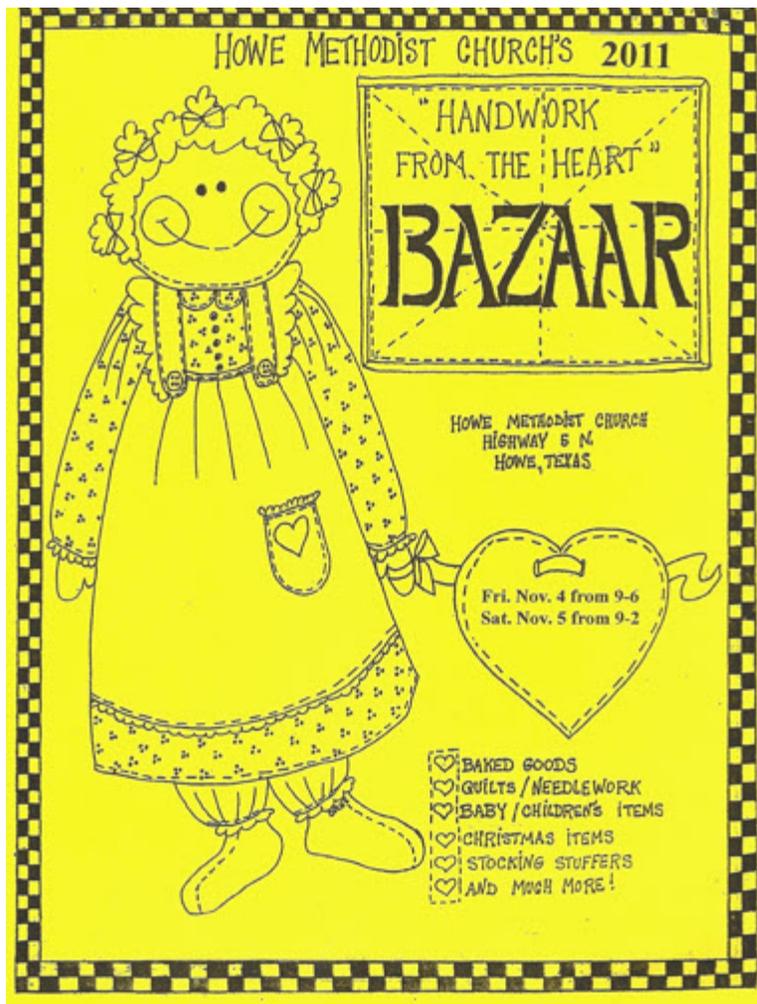
Council also approved:

Consent Agenda (Finance statements – September 2011; Minutes of August 2, 2011, September 8, 2011, September 13, 2011 and September 20, 2011 council meetings; and Library Contract 2011-2012

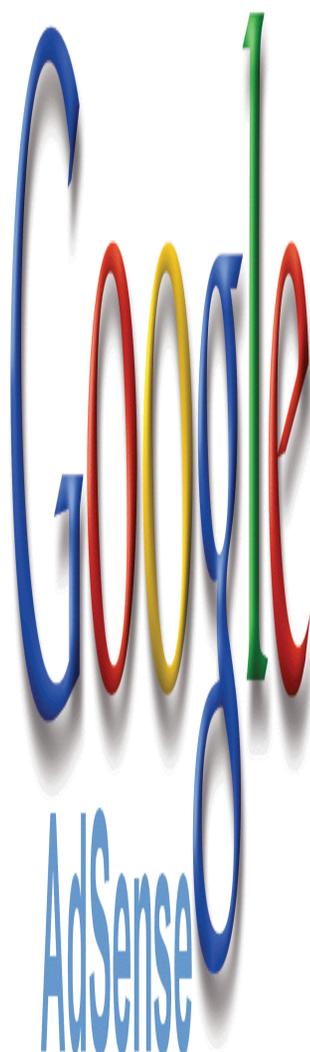
A presentation by Rick West, IESI, solid waste services noted an increase in the solid waste of 3%. Council approved this raise, 4-0.

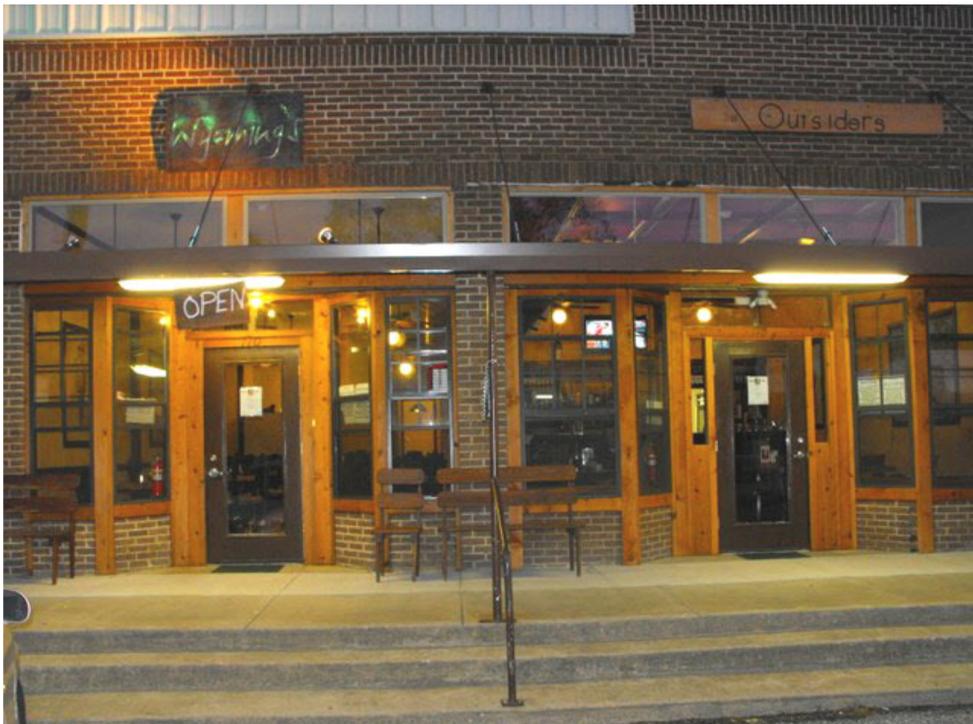
*Contract with City of Melissa for the minimum for American Municipal Services - \$18,350. Vote 4-0.

*Reinstating holidays for city employees: Floating holiday taken the Friday after Thanksgiving plus two personal days (no cost for city employees, total of \$604 for police). Approved 3-1 with Haigis voting no.



Howe Methodist Church
Hwy. 5 North
Annual Bazaar
Friday, Nov. 4, 9am-6pm
and Saturday, Nov. 5, 9am-2pm
Baked goods, quilts & needlework,
baby/children's items, Christmas items,
stocking stuffers, and much more!





Wyoming's Welcomes New Additions

For some time now we have been enjoying the pleasures afforded by Wyoming's Restaurant. How many small towns can brag that they have a restaurant with a fully trained chef as well as beer and wine available for their meals. Those of you who have enjoyed these pleasures know of the delicious choice of meals and the offering of some items not found anywhere else. I have enjoyed shark steak as well as bison burgers here in Howe, Texas.

Now we are bragging about some changes that should improve what was a tremendous restaurant to begin with.

We begin with a new owner and general manager, John Leavenworth. John lives in Dallas, but has close ties here in Howe. His parents live here, and until recently his sister lived here, too. John graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1991 with a degree in math and computers. He has worked in Dallas for PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and for IBM. He also has experience in a major games, bar, and fast food restaurant. John continues to work in Dallas with contract work in IT while spending some time here in Howe during the week and on weekends with his restaurant.

At the same time, a new Executive Chef has been hired for Wyoming's. Andrew Shaffer was born in Keokuk, Iowa but moved to the Howe area while still only about 4 months old. His grandparents are Bob and Dorothy Young who owned and operated Dorothy Bobs Bakery in Sherman from about 1993 until 2000. Andrew grew up in their restaurant and learned to love the business. He graduated from Howe High School in 2005.

Continuing his education, Andrew graduated in February, 2011 from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Dallas. He has worked in the Old Hickory Steak House at the Gaylord Texas Hotel in Grapevine. Andrew has over 12 years experience cooking. Eight of those years are professional cooking. He recently accepted his position in Howe with Wyoming's.

Wyoming's is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 2pm for lunch and 5:30pm to 10pm for dinner. They will also stay open on Fridays after home football games for your enjoyment.

They are now open on Monday nights for Monday Night Football. Doors open at 6:30pm and remain open until the game is over. You can watch the game on either of two large screen TVs and enjoy your dinner, or hors d'oeuvres and drink specials. When football season is over there will be other special occasions celebrated.

Menus will be changed quarterly. Being a seasonal restaurant, some of your favorites will continue to be on the menu but seasonal dishes will be featured as they become available.

Your waiters and waitresses will be spruced up with new uniforms. They will be wearing black slacks with wine colored shirts and "Wyoming's" embroidered on them.

John also wants to recognize area artists of all kinds. Perhaps an artist's works will be featured for a month, with a new artist the next month. Perhaps the works will be both on display and/or for sale. Perhaps your art work is painting, or wood work, or jewelry, or whatever. You can have a place to show off your talent.

Stop by and try the local delights you have right here in Howe, Texas. Wyoming's is located at 110 E. Haning Ave, downtown Howe.



Order your favorite beer or wine at the bar



Sit with your family in the dining room.



Myka Reeder, John Leavenworth, Justin Bailey, and Mechele Carver



Scan the menu to choose your favorite entree



Come in with a grin to join the fun.



Andrew passes through a fresh from the stove order.



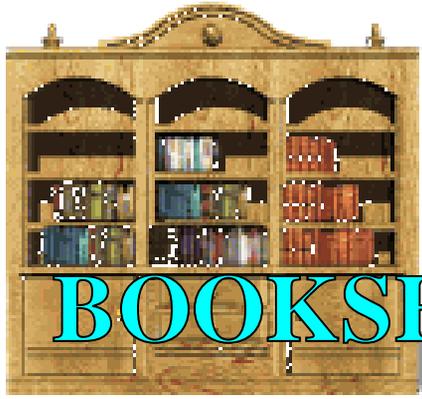
Treat yourself to delicious appetizers.



Mechele Carver, John Leavenworth, Andrew Shaffer, and Myka Reeder

Wyoming's
110 E. Haning Ave.
Howe, TX 75459
903-814-2128
Fine Dining





BOOKSHELF

By Judy E. Spence

It was a somber crowd that gathered in the library Thursday, October 20. Several members of the Friends of the Library joined library staff, members of Teen Council, and a number of members of the Williams family for the unveiling of the beautiful canvas gallery wrap that was created to memorialize the life of Miss Madison Williams.

I did not know Madison personally; however, I find that this is changing the more time I spend with her family and hearing the many stories about her from the teens in my group, Teen Council. Today, after spending some time with Madison's grandmother, Mrs. Eve McGee, I learned about Madison's sensitivity, her generosity of spirit, her love of animals, and of a grace and belief in God that permeated everything she did. Mrs. McGee came to our meeting with a couple of things that Madison herself had written as well as a few words as to how she perceived this beloved granddaughter. Teen Council member Bailey Smith laughingly told me a story of how she rarely saw Madison without a book in her hand. Madison had even been known to carry the book with her to the right outfield position while playing softball. As a former right outfielder I can only say that I wish I'd thought of that myself!

Mrs. Williams gave us the following words which we had framed and mounted beneath Madison's photo. "Through the magic that only books can bring, reading gave this little girl an exciting world one page, one line, one word at a time. May her love and passion for reading live in all who enter these doors. We love and miss you, Madison."

Mrs. McGee is an imposing lady who shared the following: "Dawn was a wonderful 14 year old who lived to do the work of Christ. She would go hungry and give her lunch money away. She stood up to bullies, she protected the weak, and gave kindness and hope where there was none. She wanted to be a veterinarian and had a passion for animals." Mrs. McGee tells me the story of how the family learned of Madison's chronic problem of repeatedly losing coats and jackets. While she never lied about where the missing garments were she was pretty good at giving a general answer of "left in the park", or "must be at school." Yes, both were true as the several recipients of her "lost" coats were, indeed, at school or the park. It is this unique penchant for clothing the needy and giving to those less fortunate that the family most would like Madison remembered for. They have already hosted one overwhelmingly successful coat drive in Madison's honor.

On behalf of the family we ask that the next time you see someone in need... of a coat, a hug, a hot meal, or companionship. Give freely and do so with Madison Williams in mind.

The Van Alstyne Public Library and the Friends of the Library would like to thank the family of Madison Williams for their generous donation. We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Jill Thompson of Jilly Bean photography in McKinney, who upon hearing the reason for the commission graciously donated her fee. We invite everyone to come and view the lovely gallery wrap which will always have a home in our library.





Francine (Long) Hickox (1943-2011)

Francine Long Hickox, a former teacher and librarian, age 67 of Howe, Texas, died on October 23, 2011 at her residence after a long battle with cancer.

Visitation was Monday, October 24th at First Baptist Church of Howe from 6 to 8 p.m.

Services were held on Tuesday, at First Baptist Church of Howe at 10 a.m. with Rev. Roger Tidwell officiating. Interment followed at Cederlawn Memorial Cemetery in Sherman.

Francine was born on November 14, 1943 to William Henry Long and Frances Pauline (Werline) Long in Sherman, Texas. She graduated from Howe High School in 1962 and went on to Texas A & M Commerce and graduated from there in 1966. Francine married Gerald Ned Hickox on June 27, 1964 and together they had two children. Francine taught school at the Howe ISD for 5 years and taught at the Whitewright ISD for 30 years where she was also director of the yearbook staff. Francine was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Howe. She was active in her church throughout the years volunteering her time in GA's also as an XYZ Director, and organist. She loved to travel and go to her grandchildren's events. Francine loved reading and music.

Francine is survived by her loving husband, Gerald Hickox, son, Robert Lynn Hickox and wife Michelle, daughter, Lisa Gay Hickox Nix and husband Michael; brother, Hubert Long and wife Phyllis of Sherman; sister-in-law, Dorothy Long of Mesquite, grandchildren: Michael Ray Huff, Ashley Dawn Nix, Randle Auten Nix, Cameron Cailee Hickox and Abby Allynn Hickox.

Pallbearers were James Slawson, Rick Ake, Scotty Harris, Michael Mosier, Don Felder and Brian Ross. Honary pallbearers are members of the 2011 All-Star Baseball Team first in the State of Texas. Team members are Caleb Ake, Quinton Harris, Easton Ross, Dalton Felder, Austin Williams, Garrett Fulenchek, Brice Harvey, Stratton Carroll, Griffin Underwood, Joaquin Lopez and Randle Auten Nix.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Rocque and the nurses at the cancer center as well as Home hospice of Grayson for their loving care. Francine was a fourteen year cancer center patient.



Donations may be made to any of the following Texas Oncology, Home Hospice, or First Baptist Church of Howe.



Tom Bean High School Homecoming King & Queen, Judah Mangrum and Ashton Brogdon.

Tom Bean MS

SADD members host car/bike show!

Members of the Tom Bean Middle School SADD Club are once again hosting the car/bike show held at the Whitewright Grand Street Festival this Fall. Held in conjunction with the festival, students invite classic car owners and motorcycle enthusiasts to bring their rides out to the country on Sat, Nov 5. Showing begins at 9 am with judging at 2 pm and awards presentations at 3 pm.

Students in SADD host a variety of activities at the middle school. So far this year, they have painted paws on the driveway leading to their school, planted flowers at the front of the building, hosted an anti-bullying program called RADIOS, joined in efforts to create Rachel's Challenge at their school, made a friendship chain of students' names, and enjoyed Red Ribbon Week dress up days.

They have also helped their city by planting bluebonnet seeds along the highway and made posters to help thank the volunteer firefighters that serve their community. A visit to the animal shelter was great fun, and they are looking forward to helping with a food drive before Thanksgiving and a Christmas dance in December.

Students are learning to make positive changes in their school and their community. If interested, donations may be made to the SADD Club at Tom Bean Middle School. But they would really like to see you at the Car and Bike Show in Whitewright. There's plenty to do at the festival and you can see some really cool cars/bikes! A special thanks goes to Ms. Yates, SADD sponsor, for working to coordinate the Carr/Bike show.

Tom Bean students and teachers work together to encourage kindness!

Every day, children across America wake up and are afraid to go to school. Bullying is a problem that affects many students, not just the kids on its receiving end. Yet because parents, teachers, and other adults don't always see it, they may not understand how extreme it can get.

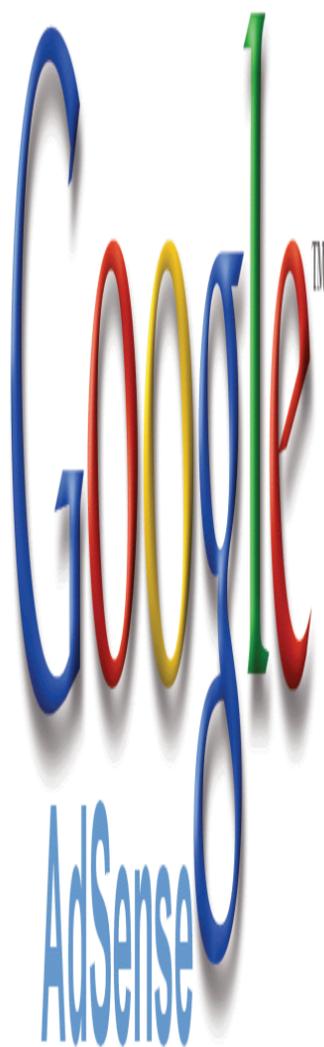
Because respect and courtesy are very important to the staff at Tom Bean Middle School, teachers have taken steps to encourage students to be kind to and accepting of others. Students recently participated in a RADIOS Program, hosted by SADD. RADIOS stands for Revolutions Acting Daily In Our Schools, and is a one-day program that encourages students to accept others even though they may be different.

School officials then hosted Rachel's Challenge, which included a speaker who talked to students about the first person shot in the Columbine school incident, Rachel Scott. She was known and remembered as being very kind and accepting of those around her. Her life story portrays a willingness to be helpful to and supportive of all, not just a few.

Newest in the effort to stop bullying at Tom Bean is a program called Negotiate. Students meet with their teachers once a week to practice and learn more about showing respect and good manners at all times. Examples and role modeling are utilized at each week's meeting.

Two of the main reasons people are bullied are because of appearance and social status. Students who are bullied may find their schoolwork and health suffering. One key to stop the bullying is to refrain from being alone. Ignore the bully and walk away, practice feeling good about yourself. Talk to a counselor, teacher or friend. Students working together can often find ways to resolve dangerous bullying problems

School officials and parents want to see good things come out of these programs at Tom Bean Middle School, and expect students to take it very seriously. Teachers are on board and watch for respect and courtesy to be high on the agenda every day. Kudos to Tom Bean Middle School/ISD for being proactive in working to provide students with a culture safety and accountability!



click for **more Tom Bean News**



From the Tom Bean Elementary Newsletter

BTW: Cell Phones Are Not Just for Talking

When you see young people today, they rarely are without a cell phone in their hands. But, it is no longer just a phone you have handed over to your children.

These devices allow them to surf the web, update their Facebook page, download apps, play games, take pictures, record videos, watch movies and more.

In other words, these phones are actually powerful media production tools that can allow your child to create and widely distribute in a matter of minutes a video than can haunt you for the rest of your life.

The gap between a child's tech knowledge and his realization that what goes on the web stays on the web is staggering.

We, as parents and teachers, should model responsible cell phone use. Please do not text and drive! Studies have shown this to be a deadly combination. And as parents, we must monitor our children's cell phone use, what are they texting, who are they texting and have some rules for times to turn the phone off -- at meals, at night, etc. Check your usage plan before you get your bill!

Now let's see how savvy you are on some text lingo! Identify the following (answers on last page)

121
A/S/L
BF
GF
PAL
POS
PIR
PAW
TAW
TMI
TTFN
WTGP

Answers to Text Lingo:
121—One to one
A/S/L—Age, sex, location
BF—boy friend
GF—girl friend
PAL—Parents are listening
POS—Parents over shoulder
PIR—Parents in room
PAW—Parents are watching
TAW—Teachers are watching
TMI—Too much information
TTFN—Ta-ta for now
WTGP—Want to go private

Kindergarten Visits Sharkarosa

On Tuesday, October 11, the Kindergarten classes visited Sharkarosa Wildlife Ranch in Pilot Point. The students took a trolley ride where they visited camels, a zebra named Spot, deer and many other wildlife. They saw and learned about brown and albino kangaroos. Everyone especially enjoyed watching the lemurs eat and interact. After a picnic lunch, the kindergarteners were treated to a barrel train ride. Perfect weather and great experience!



Student of the Month -- October 2011

Congratulations to Gavin Williams -- our October Student of the Month!

Gavin's favorite teacher is Mrs. Larpenteur and he chose her to present him at the October 17, 2011 board meeting. He picked Mrs. Larpenteur because she is his most patient teacher. Gavin said some of his favorite things include his show cows and jumping on his trampoline. Gavin also enjoys playing on the Wii with his family.

[More Tom Bean News](#)



From Tom Bean Elementary School Newsletter

Second and Third Grade go to Symphony

On October 12, the second and third grade classes got all dressed up and traveled to Dallas to hear the Dallas Symphony perform.

The program began with music played on their world famous organ. The organist explained how the organ worked and told of the number of keys and pipes it has.

Following this, the symphony played music written by Beethoven, Aaron Copeland, Mozart and Benjamin Britten.

This is an annual field trip Mrs. Anderson takes each year with grades second through fifth. Besides hearing music from long ago, it teaches students proper manners outside the classroom.

We will be ready to go again next year!

What Happens in A Landfill?

This is the question that Mrs. Ellis' 4th grade classes asked before making their sample landfills.

They used shoeboxes, soil and collected trash. The students then layered the boxes with plastic wrap, soil and trash.

Using the scientific method of asking a question, conducting research, constructing a hypothesis, analyzing data and then communicating their findings, each class predicted what would happen to the trash in their landfill over a two week period. They gathered their data and discussed the outcomes.

Tom Bean ISD Awarded HVAC Grant

As always, our District is looking for grants and ways to save money for our taxpayers. I am pleased to announce that Tom Bean ISD applied for a grant with the Texas State Comptroller's office which replaces air conditioners more than 20 years old. We were recently notified that we received the grant in the amount of \$982,140.00 for new HVAC (a/c) systems. Only 5 schools in our immediate area received a grant -- Tom Bean, Savoy, Sam Rayburn, Blue Ridge and Celeste. The amount of the grant is dependent on each individual school district. There were a total of 407 applications and 57 received the grant.

Thanks to Clinton Daniel and the maintenance department for getting the information and pictures needed to complete the grant.

TBES Receives Grant

Tom Bean Elementary has been selected to receive a grant of \$500 from the Exxon/Mobil Education Alliance program in conjunction with KwickChek Stores in Bonham. The \$500 will go towards enhancing Math and Science instruction on the elementary campus. Approximately 4,000 schools were nominated, but only 3,400 grants were awarded, and we were one of them!



Landfill

Counselor's Corner

The week of October 24, the Elementary school will be celebrating "RED RIBBON WEEK." This is a national campaign when schools, businesses and communities take a stand against illegal drug use as well as drug abuse. As this week progresses and we learn more about drug abuse, the students and faculty will have an opportunity to celebrate each day with a different theme and dress accordingly. The theme for each day will be:

Monday will be "ERASE DRUGS" day and everyone will receive pencils with a drug-free message.

Tuesday will be "SOCK IT TO DRUGS" day and everyone may wear crazy/mixed-up socks;

Wednesday will be "WEAR RED" day and NED the Yo-Yo-guy will be here for an assembly (and yo-yo's will be on sale for one week after that);

Thursday will be "I'M A 'JEAN-IUS -- I'M DRUG FREE" and everyone can wear jeans;

Friday will be "HOCUS POCUS-DRUGS AREN'T MY FOCUS" day and everyone may wear Halloween costumes. Thanks for allowing your children to follow the daily themes.



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September -- October Jr. Tomcats

September Jr. Tomcats:

Bryson Thompson, Alexis Sweigart, Madison Capps, Abby Watson, Gavin Garner, Chauk Bailey, Hannah Kelly, Austin May, Kaleigh Higginbotham, Natalie Alexander, Emmy Pennell, Hayden Thompson, Ethan Hall, Bryce Clark, Ryan Barker, Dylan Avila, Alexa Holloway, Kendal Britton, Claire McMeen Willow Miller, Kaylee Hood, Blake Hood, Powell Zuniga, Matthew Ball

October Jr. Tomcats:

Jena Brown, Nathan Gracy, Matthew Ball, Jonathan Wilson, Breanna Crockett, Mackenzie Chastain, Jackson Harris, Kyndell Yandell, Aiden Jones, Seth Bain, Jack Lifsey, Corbin Ramey, Kendal Cole, Gabriella Narro, Isis Lewis, Cayla Miles, Zach Adcock, Dakotah Punzel, Powell Zuniga, Azalea Murphy, Blake Hood, Ethan Perdue, Riley Robinson, Kyndell Yandell

Tom Bean Fire Department Volunteers

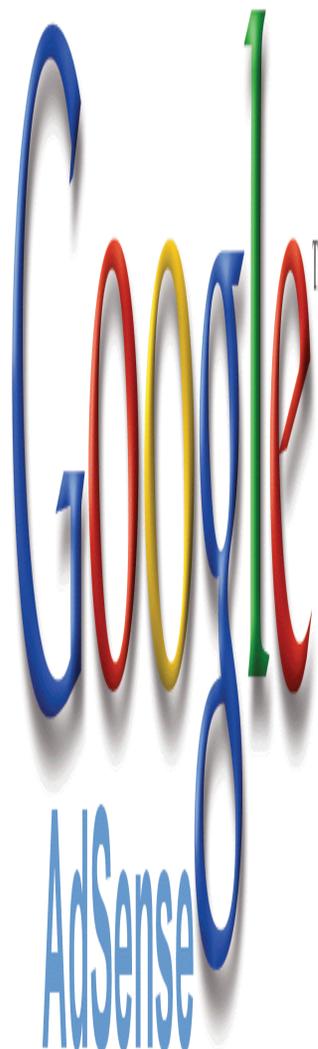
The City of Tom Bean is hosting a celebration event for our community on Saturday, November 5, from 6 - 8:30 to celebrate and recognize our TB Volunteer Firefighters. It will be held at the Tom Bean 1st National Bank in the Edwards Community Room with a full agenda planned.

A kids area/entertainment will be provided outside in the bank parking lot under the tree. We are planning to have a Tom Bean "look-a-like" contest, poem contest, essay contest and food for the event.

Please drop by city hall if you are needing a form to fill in for the contests. These forms are also available at all the TB school campuses. Hope to see everyone there to recognize our great volunteers!!



Pizza with the principal



Chrystal Opry House Bluegrass Events

Our regular Bluegrass jam will be Thursday night, Nov. 3, at 7 pm. Doors will open at 6 as usual. Donations will be accepted at the door to defray expenses. On November 5 we welcome Full Quiver and Grass Notes to our stage. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear some wonderful bluegrass music! Members of Full Quiver are John, who plays the banjo, mandolin, guitar and bass, and Shaun Grubb, who plays rhythm guitar, and their seven children all of whom play instruments and sing. They are Christina, autoharp, Melody, fiddle, Faith, mandolin, John, lead guitar and bass, James, bass, Abigail, mandolin, and Joshi, guitar.

Members of Grass Notes are Larry and Jerry Shoemaker. Larry plays the banjo and Jerry plays bass. Johnnie Lucky plays the fiddle. Walter McElheney plays mandolin and sings and Christie

McElheney plays the guitar and does much of the lead singing. Their daughter, Rebecca joins them on some songs.

Doors open at 6 pm for a 7 pm performance. Admission to this event is \$6 for adults with children under 12 admitted free. The concession area has brisket sandwiches and hot dogs as well as coffee, soda, water, popcorn, and candy.

The Chrystal Opry House is located 1.5 miles west of Tom Bean or 6 miles east of Howe on FM 902 and a half mile south on White Mound Road. No alcohol is permitted and there is no smoking inside the building.

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



Texas Quilt Museum to open Nov. 13

The city of La Grange is a low-key and relaxing small Texas town, but it soon will welcome visitors from all over the world as quilt artists and aficionados come to see the years-in-the-planning Texas Quilt Museum.

Nestled in the scenic hills of central Texas in Fayette County, the Museum is the culmination of a lifelong dream of fifth-generation Texas quilters and cousins Karey Bresenhan and Nancy O'Bryant Puentes, also the President and Executive Vice-President, respectively, of Quilts, Inc., producers of trade and consumer quilt shows around the country.

The Grand Opening of the Museum, located at 140 W. Colorado in La Grange, will take place on November 13 at 1 pm, and admission will be free all day.

Featuring 10,000 square feet of exhibition space and including a museum store, and the Pearce Memorial Library and Material Cultures Center, named for the pair's grandmother, the Museum also contains workspace for exhibition preparation.

The inaugural exhibit will showcase more than 60 quilts featured in the book Lone Stars III: A Legacy of Texas Quilts 1986-2011 (UT Press). It's the third volume in a trilogy documenting the state's quilt history.

"With this being the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Texas, we definitely wanted the first quilts that the public will see in the Museum to be from the Lone Star State,"

Bresenhan says. "But future exhibits will feature incredible quilts from all over the world."

The Texas Quilt Museum is housed in two buildings that date back to the 1890's in the heart of La Grange's downtown historic district. And while much has been renovated and restored in the buildings, they definitely maintain the flavor of past times.

"We fell in love with these structures as soon as we saw them, and felt immediately that they would make a wonderful home for the Museum," Puentes says. "What could be better than viewing great quilts in a historic building?"

In addition, the side of the building will feature a specially commissioned mural, Quilt History in the Making, that will overlook a planned period garden called "Grandmother's Flower Garden" after the well-known traditional quilt pattern.

"We just can't wait to cut the ribbon and invite people in the front doors for the first time," Bresenhan sums up. "And we're very happy that people from all walks of life-not just quilters-will be able to appreciate the artistry and history of quilting at this Museum."

Quilts, Inc. produces trade and consumer quilt shows all across the country, including the largest in the U.S., the International Quilt Festival/Houston, which in 2010 attracted more than 60,000 attendees from over 35 countries.

For more information about the Texas Quilt Museum, visit www.TexasQuiltMuseum.org or e-mail projects@TexasQuiltMuseum.org

click for **more Area Events**



Bad to the bone

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, East Texas was widely known for its outlaws -- men and women) who did much as they pleased. Law enforcement was still handicapped by a lack of resources and, public support.

As an early sheriff observed, most of the early outlaws were "bad to the bone" and deserved shooting on sight.

Bob and Doris Bowman of Lufkin have put together a unique collection of outlaws who rode rampant across East Texas, leaving behind legacies of malice and mayhem. The best known of the outlaws was John Wesley Hardin, who killed his first man as a teenager near the small community of Moscow in Polk County. When he was gunned down in El Paso, he had killed between 30 and 50 men.

Bob and Doris Bowman are among the most prolific writers in East Texas and Mr. Bowman authors a weekly history and folklore column for about 90 newspapers in the region. "Bad to the Bone" is the Bowmans' 51st book.

The Bowmans' books reflect the past and contemporary life of East Texas, touching on such diverse subjects as ghost towns, the

Alamo, historic murders, ghosts of the pineywoods, Indian atrocities, and famous hangings.

Bob and Doris are the only husband and wife to serve as presidents of the Texas Council for the Humanities, and Bob has served on the Texas Historical Commission, the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission, and the Texas Capitol Centennial Commission.

He is also a past president of the East Texas Historical Association and Doris is a past president of the Texas School Public Relations Association.

The Bowmans live in Lufkin where they own Bob Bowman & Associates, a successful marketing, advertising and public relations company, and Best of East Texas Publishers, which has published more than 100 books for authors throughout East Texas.

"Bad To The Bone" may be ordered from Best of East Texas Publishers, 515 South First Street, Lufkin, Texas 75901, or by calling 936-634-7444.
bobb@consolidated.net; Website: bob-bowman.com

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

*A tribute to the victims and rescuers of the 2008 Sherman bus tragedy will be part of 34th Annual Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Exhibition at Centro Cultural Aztlan in San Antonio. Inscribed on the sides of the homage crafted by former Texoma resident Don Mathis is his original poem, **Unscheduled Stop**.*

More than a dozen of San Antonio's most talented and credentialed artists will create a Dia de los Muertos experience unlike any before. The scent of zempasuchil (marigolds) will guide visitors into Galeria Expression, where altares y ofrendas (altars and offerings) created by local artists recall and celebrate the past. This event illustrates the artistic, cultural and religious facets of this popular pre-Columbian/Mexican tradition where death is seen as a natural part of life.

Pan de muerto (bread of the dead), ponche de frutas (fruit punch), and other treats will be offered to visitors at a reception for the artists on Wednesday, November 2, 2011. See http://www.centroculturalaztlan.50megs.com/index_2.html for more information.

Unscheduled Stop

Bus at night, gathering speed.
Distant ride, travelers read.
Restless sleep on the road,
try to keep your eyes closed.
Vietnamese on pilgrimage
dream of peace near a bridge.
Journey to be near to God
was not due to end this hard.
Retreaded tire on the front
led to fiery accident.
Bus careens against guard rail.
Good-bye dream. Hello Hell.
Twisted steel, busted glass,
down a hill, burning grass.
Driver thrown from the wheel.
Broken bones, bloody spill.
People cry in the night.
Those that die spared the fright.
Help arrives in total dark.
Each one tries to do his part.
Dark obscures the tragedy
but rescuers bring lights to see.
Confusion adds to melee,
foreign tongues cry for relief.
Airlifts begin to move the dying;
again, again, transport the crying.
Finally, at break of day,
all the dead are hauled away.
There is still work to be done.
But time to heal. Here comes the sun.
This poem's for those on the bus,
and also for the rescuers.

Don Mathis, San Antonio

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Hagerman NWR

Nature Programs Free and Open to Public

October 8, 2011, 10 am
Dr. Connie Taylor
Grasses & Fall Wildflowers

November 12, 2011, 10 am
Ross Anderson, SOSU
Swallows

December 10, 2011, 10am
Dr. Wayne Meyer
Winter Waterfowl at Hagerman NWR

Second Saturday for Youth
Hands on nature activities and crafts for ages 4-10, 10-11:30am

FOH Nature Photo Club
Club Meets Bimonthly
12:30 pm
Next meeting November 12, 2011

New mailing address
Friends
6465 Refuge Road
Sherman, TX 75092



Music by Kevin McCloud

THE TEXAS TEN HORN'S NEW SHOOTER'S CLINIC

The Texas Ten Horns is a Cowboy Action shooting club located in Hunt County, Texas a few miles north of Greenville. Our old western town is located on Jacob's Plain Gun Range. We shoot single action revolvers, lever action rifles and old west style shotguns three times a month, defending our town against the outlaws who roam these Texas woodlands. We are affiliated with the Single Action Shooting Society, referred to as SASS®. We are putting on a new shooter's clinic on Saturday, November 12th and we welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about this fun, family oriented shooting sport. This clinic is from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The men and women who conduct this clinic are all experienced Cowboy Action Shooters who can answer your questions about the guns we shoot, the old western clothing we wear, and how this sport is played. Whether you are a man or a woman, boy or girl 12 or older, or a senior over 75 or anywhere in between we have a category for you. Shooters in this sport can shoot with a revolver in one hand, with both hands on a revolver, or even with a gun in each hand. You can shoot modern smokeless powder or shoot the old timey black powder and enjoy the smoke, flames and roar of a double barrel coachgun blasting the steel targets down! The cost of this clinic is only \$25. This fee includes some ammunition to shoot in a revolver, rifle and shotgun as you shoot one of our "stages" under the watchful eye of one of our trained range officers who will safely guide you through the stage.

Cowboy Action Shooting involves shooting lead bullets at metal targets. Each shooter is timed to see how fast they can shoot the targets. A miss adds 5 seconds to their time. The faster the shooter shoots all the targets with the fewest misses the higher he or she scores. Some of our cowpokes really enjoy seeing how fast they can shoot a stage (usually about 20 to 24 rounds). Some of our shooters just enjoy getting dressed in their hats, boots, and clothing from the 1800's and enjoying fellowship with like-minded folk. If you have been looking for a family oriented activity that you can enjoy with your spouse, children, parents, grandparents, or a friend then you should give this sport a try. We will provide the revolvers, rifles and shotguns for participants in the clinic. We will have a good variety for you to hold and see what you like the best. Firearms safety is covered and safety rules will be gone over before any shooting takes place. We will be shooting .38 Special, .357 Magnum, and .45 Colt caliber guns. Mild loads will be used. All people must wear eye and ear protection while on the firing line. Walk ups are welcome, but if you think you may attend please let us know so we can anticipate the number of shootists to expect.

Phone #'s are: Lethal Larry (903) 271-9726, Mustang Sherry (903) 815-8162, Diablo Slim (214) 695-1946. Our club can also be found on Facebook by searching for Texas Ten Horns SASS Club for photos and videos. A new website will soon be up too. The range is located at 6374 FM 118 Greenville, TX 75401

Directions to the range and a map can be found by going to the Jacob's Plain Website at www.jacob-splain.com.

Name: _____ New Shooter Clinic Fee: \$25 per shooter

Home address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Make Check Payable to: Texas Ten Horns SASS Club



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Three-Legged Willie
By **Bob Bowman**

Three-legged Willie limped into Texas in 1827, a young man in his early twenties, already a capable and respected lawyer.

Born Robert McAlphin Williamson, Willie came from a Georgia family of lawyers.

When he was fifteen, his school career was terminated by an illness which confined him to his home for two years and left him a cripple for life. His right leg was drawn back at the knee; the wooden leg which he wore from the knee to the ground resulted in his widely-known title of "Three Legged Willie."

Williamson read much during his illness, was admitted to the bar around the age of nineteen, and likely practiced law in Georgia for more than a year.

In the late 1820s he migrated to Texas and settled at San Felipe de Austin.

Willie's deformity did not make him a weakling. On the other hand, the deformity was tough on him. His reputation as a judge became legendary in East Texas.

Willie was a circuit court judge for the Shelbyville district and made his first appearance in East Texas on the third Monday in September of 1837.

The night before he opened court, a group of radicals decided that the idea of submitting to a Republic of Texas judge was distasteful and made plans to break up Willie's court session.



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Dot's

D-A-S-H-E-S



By **Dorothy N. Fowler**

As we approach Halloween and Thanksgiving, we are already overwhelmed by Christmas decorations, which, in some stores, have been for sale since July.

I am not offended by this because as I mused about it, I remembered my Christmas closet. The Christmas closet is a closet where I keep Christmas gifts -- things I find on sale during the year and put away until the gifting time of year. Of course, I don't always wait until Christmas to give the gifts I've stored. There are birthdays and anniversaries and reasons for celebration and when there is something appropriate for the occasion in the Christmas closet, I try to find an appropriate gift sack, and away the object goes.

Some people tell me they think gift sacks are tacky, but I think they are the best thing since sliced bread. Recipients of gifts don't have to tear them up to get into them, so they are 100 percent recyclable. I have a couple of acquaintances who are engaged in a game to see how many times they can exchange the same gift sack before it tears up. The longest lived and still usable has gone through 10 cycles. That beats filling the trash with flimsy boxes and crackly paper.

It also beats spending a lot of time wrapping a box that looks like something that the dog chewed when I get through with it and it sure beats spending money on a box and paper that are destined to be destroyed instantly.

Despite the advances in packaging, I rather dread the gifting season. I belong to three sewing groups. Two of them are quilt guilds and the other is more interested in machine embroidery than in quilts, although members do use their machines to produce some remarkably beautiful quilt squares. In that group, the words "hand work" are verboten. The ones of us who do not own embroidery machines and who still do "hand work" are in the vast minority and are something of a curiosity.

Members in each group exchange original, individually made creations at Christmas. Please note my avoidance of the words "handmade." Over the years, I have received some lovely gifts, but the most useful gifts have been a small pair of spring-loaded Fiskars scissors and a tote made especially for sewers.

At the same time, I have given a number of gifts that I was really enthusiastic about and might have liked to keep for myself. I cannot recall a single time that the recipient of these gifts has shared my enthusiasm for them. The evidence of this lack of enthusiasm is apparent when the group does one of those drills where someone can "steal" a gift from someone. When you give something that no one else wants and the original recipient is stuck with, you know you gave a dud.

That hurt my feelings a little bit at first. Then I remembered my grandmother's advice. "When you lose something or you



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BOB BOWMAN'S EAST TEXAS, continued

The judge and his entourage arrived and set up court under the shade of an oak tree at Shelbyville and used a wooden box as the court's bench.

When Willie seated himself, the band of ruffians walked in and informed him that no such court would be held. When Willie asked the man what authority he had, the man pulled out a large knife and said: "This is the law of Shelby County."

Willie pulled out a long-barreled pistol and slapped it on the table beside the knife ... "If that is the law of Shelby County, this is the constitution that overrides your law."

As the ruffian slipped away, Judge Williamson said, "Mr. Sheriff, will you please call the grand jury."

Some people living in those days said Willie was so tough that he could have tried and convicted the devil himself if the sheriff had brought him to court.

Willie reportedly gave a sentence to a Shelby County man. "Sheriff, take this man across the Serbian River, and if he ever comes back, or even wets his toes in the river, shoot him."

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



Dot's Dashes, continued

give something away that isn't appreciated, just bless it and let it go," she said. That's what I'm going to do this year.

I'm looking at the materials I've gathered for a homemade Christmas ornament, for a homemade pin cushion and for some generic gizmo of my choice and I'm going to concentrate on the fun of making each one.

If the recipient wants to regift it, send it to the thrift store or wrap the dog in it, I have blessed it and let go. Amen.




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Capitol Watch
By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Proposed Constitutional Amendments

This week's column is the eighth and final column in a series outlining the proposed constitutional amendments on which Texas voters will decide on November 8. These amendments were joint resolutions that were passed during the recent legislative session; however, because they change the Texas Constitution, they need state-wide voter approval before they can take effect. The order that the amendments appear on the ballot has been randomly selected by the secretary of state. I will be providing information about the proposals in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. This information is taken from a report by the House Research Organization, a nonpartisan agency that provides information to the legislature.

Amendment No. 9 The constitutional amendment authorizing the governor to grant a pardon to a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision.

The Texas Constitution authorizes the governor, in all criminal cases except treason and impeachment, with the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, to grant reprieves and commutations of punishment and pardons. The proposed amendment would authorize the governor, in all criminal cases except treason and impeachment, and on the board's written signed recommendation and advice, to grant a pardon also to a person who is not convicted but who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision.

Supporters say that the Texas Constitution currently authorizes the governor to pardon a person who has been convicted of a crime but not a person who has successfully completed a term of deferred adjudication community supervision, a procedure by which a person charged with certain crimes can avoid a conviction. This incongruity allows a situation in which a person who is convicted of a violent crime may receive a pardon, while a person who is charged with a nonviolent crime and successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication is not allowed to seek a pardon and expunction of the person's criminal record. The existence of a criminal history record negatively affects persons applying for employment, housing, and professional licenses. The proposed amendment would address these issues by providing the means by which a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication may receive a pardon and an expunction of certain related criminal history record information.

Opponents argue that providing the means by which a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication may be pardoned would not efficiently achieve the goal of expunction of criminal history record information because the person still must proceed through the pardon process. The

expunction of criminal history record information for these persons should be achieved through another appropriate legal avenue.

Amendment No. 10 The constitutional amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district officeholders if they become candidates for another office.

The proposed amendment would specify that an announcement by certain elected county or district officeholders of candidacy for another office, or such candidacy itself, constitutes an automatic resignation of the office currently held if the announcement or candidacy occurs at any time when the officeholder's unexpired term exceeds one year and 30 days, rather than one year. Under the current resign-to-run provision in the Texas Constitution, an officeholder could file an application for a place on the general primary election ballot as late as January 2 of the primary election year, the current filing deadline, at which time the officeholder would have less than one year remaining in that office and would not be affected by the resign-to-run provision. Senate Bill 100, passed during the latest Legislative session, moves the filing deadline earlier in the year.

Supporters say a conforming change to the constitutional resign-to-run provision is necessary to preserve the original intent of that provision. Without such change, any officeholder subject to the resign-to-run provision who files to run for another office on the general primary election ballot would automatically resign because that officeholder would have at least one year remaining before the officeholder's current term of office would expire. By extending by 30 days the length of the unexpired term that triggers automatic resignation, the proposed amendment would retain the provision's intended purpose and would provide for the continued public service of local officials by allowing those officeholders to remain in their current post until their current term expires if they have less than one year and 30 days left in the term. There is no apparent opposition to this the amendment.

You can view a complete list of the proposed constitutional amendments with analyses online at www.hro.house.state.tx.us <<http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us>>. For more information regarding these propositions, you can 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.

More Government News



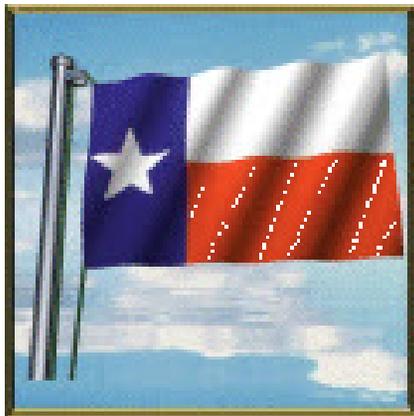
Senate Committees to Hold Joint Hearing on Texas Drought and Wildfires

State Senators Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls) and Troy Fraser (R-Horseshoe Bay) will bring their respective senate committees together on November 1, 2011 to discuss how the drought and wildfires have impacted a variety of industries and businesses in the state of Texas.

Representatives from the agriculture and energy sectors as well as from state agencies, municipalities and river authorities will testify on the economic impact of the drought and wildfires. Committee members will also focus on expectations for the future and the best ways to alleviate concerns as drought conditions continue.

Earlier this month, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst issued select interim charges to six senate committees and one subcommittee focusing on the extreme drought conditions and devastating wildfires that have burned across Texas this year. "Our state is growing faster than our ability to provide an adequate supply of water. This is a serious problem that is being further compounded by the ongoing drought conditions" said Senator Craig Estes, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs. "Every Texan is impacted by the damaging effects of drought and wildfires. The extreme drought places critical pressure on our state's energy load, strains municipal and state agency budgets, and wreaks havoc on the Texas farmers and ranchers that supply our food supply."

The joint hearing is scheduled for 9:00 am on November 1, 2011 in room E1.012 of the Texas State Capitol. Citizens can watch a live video feed of the hearing at www.senate.state.tx.us.



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

This Page is a Work in Progress

Howe Public Schools

Howe Public Library

Library information, Language courses, Student events

Van Alstyne Public Library

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

Search Engines-

Yahoo

Alta Vista

Google

Ask Jeeves

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

Quotations Page

Royalty Free Music

Spanish Dictionary

Selected Sites

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

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

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

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

Local Churches

Cannon

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

SOVEREIGN GRACE
BAPTIST CHURCH
George Seevers, 903/364-2942

Cherry Mound

BAPTIST CHURCH, 6335 FM 1753, Denison
Dennis Stewart, pastor,
Sun School 9:45; worship, 11, evening 6; Wednesday,
7pm

Dorchester

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

Gunter

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

300 Pecan, 903/433-3335

GRACE BIBLE

FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Bruce Stinson

Brooks Plaza

Sundays - 9:30 AM Worship

www.thegbf.com

VALLEY

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Howe

APOSTOLIC LIFE UPC

405 S. Collins Frwy,

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

NEW BEGINNING FELLOWSHIP/AG,

912 S Denny St.

903/532-6828; Roger Roper,

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

BETHEL BAPTIST

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

903/532-6032

SUMMIT CHURCH

Howe Middle School Cafeteria,

903/815-1472 ; Kcvin Bouse

CHURCH OF CHRIST

N. Collins Frwy,

903/532-6441;

Toby Socheting

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

100 E. Davis, 903/532-5504;

Roger Tidwell, pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH 810 N. Denny,

903/532-6718;

Tom Medley, minister

Ida

IDA BAPTIST CHURCH,

903/813- 3263. S- School

10 am, Worship 11 am

Charles Morris, pastor

Luella

LUELLA FIRST

BAPTIST CHURCH

3162 St. Hwy. 11,

Harvey Patterson,

903/893-2252

A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, 150 Fellowship Ln,

Luella

Mike Ball, 903/870-0219

Tom Bean

CHURCH OF CHRIST

903/546-6620

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

903/546-6231

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH 903/546-6898

INSPIRATION POINT

COWBOY CHURCH

FM 2729, 2.5 miles

South of Tom Bean

Genesis 1 (New International Version)

The Beginning

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.



Christian Fellowship

A Christian Fellowship in Luella begins each Sunday morning with coffee and doughnut fellowship at 9 am followed by classes for all ages, from the cradle to the adults beginning at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30. This week's service will be led by Palmer Miller so come on out and join them.

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

C R Men's Step Study classes meet every Saturday night from 6-8pm at the church building.

Wednesday night service begins at 6:30 pm 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 you.

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

That We Might Live

"Stacie Crimm made the ultimate sacrifice -- and she got her dying wish. As doctors and nurses wearing protective gear looked on last month, the 41-year-old mom got to hold her newborn daughter," stated a recent report from Fox News.

Three days later, however, Crimm died. But her baby girl, Dottie Mae, is alive. Dottie Mae is alive because her mother refused the cancer-fighting treatments that might have

Tom Bean Church of Christ

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us. Services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9 am and worship at 10 am. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord's Supper is given each Sunday. The morning and evening lessons are brought by Kerry King with congregational singing lead by Charles Counts.

Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX.

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

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

saved her own life because she feared they would risk the life of her unborn child.

Crimm, of Ryan, Okla., died from cancer that was in her head and neck. The cancer was revealed by a CT scan a few months after she learned that she was expecting a child. Her brother, Ray Phillips, told *NewsOK.com* that his sister "agonized only for a while" before deciding against taking potentially life-saving chemotherapy in hopes that she would deliver a healthy baby.

Dottie Mae had to be taken by cesarean section when Crimm collapsed in her home



click for **more Church News**

Local Churches

Numbers, continued

Duane Peters,
903-815-2278
PILOT GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH
1271 Pilot Grove St.
903/450-3708
Sherman/Denison
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER
DAY SAINTS
1900 Lamberth Rd, Sherman.
FRIENDSHIP UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
RFD 2 off Hwy. 56; 903/892-8450
WESTERN HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST
800 Baker Park Dr.,
903/892-9635, Sun. 10
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE,
601 Hwy. 1417, Pastor,
Rev. Mack Rogers
RED RIVER
COWBOY CHURCH
3800 Hwy. 691 (w of Hwy. 75); Novice Northington,
903/463-5840
Van Alstyne
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
Northwest corner Hwy 5 & County Line Rd.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
105 Hopson,
Shannon Jackson, minister,
903/482-6033
EAST SIDE
CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO Box 141, Larry Shead,
minister; worship 11am
ELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
FM 121 W, Elmont;
Jim Poole, pastor,
903/482-6356
FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH, corner of Pearl & Nash,
Pastor Kenneth L. Price,
972/547-0243,
LIFE CHURCH,
201 W. Marshall,
Pastors – Lance/ Mary Baker
903/433-8089
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
102 E. Marshall, 903/482-6334,
Jimmy Tarrant, pastor
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
206 Waco, 903/482-5515,
Gary Gibbs, pastor
FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
903/482-6646,
Rev. J.R. Thornhill, pastor
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH 301 S. Preston,
Rev. Jack Wallace, minister
GREYWOOD HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER
On Hwy. 75 just north of Dairy Queen, 903/482-6700;
Chris Jones, pastor
HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Stephen W. Bierschenk, 972/562-0752
MORNING CHAPEL CHRISTIAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL
103 Bowen, 902/482-5431
SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH
702 E. Fulton, 903/482-5664, Rev. Arnold Baker, pastor

due to the growing cancer. Crimm later regained consciousness and was able to hold her newborn baby. Crimm died three days later. *

Essentially, Crimm gave her life so that her baby might live. Her selfless love reflects the love that God has for you and me...

Even before we were born into the world and even though Jesus knew we would sin (Romans 3:23), He died for us so that we might have forgiveness of sins and eternal life (John 3:16).

He DIED for us so that we might LIVE eternally (1 Thessalonians 5:10).

God will grant forgiveness and life to those who: will place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed) into Christ (Acts 2:38).

Jesus Christ made THE ultimate sacrifice (John 15:13) when He died on the cross to pay for our sins (Ephesians 1:7). His “dying wish”.... (see Matthew 28:18-20) was that each one of us would accept His offer of salvation on His terms.

Won't YOU?

David A. Sargent, Minister, Church of Christ at Creekwood, 1901 Schillinger Rd. S., Mobile, Alabama 36695

* From

<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2011/10/18/oklahoma-mother-reportedly-refused-cancer-treatment-so-child-could-survive/> Many thanks to Gary Davis of Lavonia, GA, for sharing this article!

Archived issues of “Living Water” can be viewed and accessed from our website at: www.creekwoodcc.org
Searching For Truth? Download “Searching For Truth” videos. They're FREE -- visit: www.searchingfortruth.org



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

Neighborhood Genealogist - In The Cemeteries

By Dale Rideout

In an earlier article I suggested that you should always be ready to do research. This means to have your list of names, places, etc. always with you in some form. You never know when the perfect opportunity will arise to do research.

This past weekend my wife and I took a short vacation. We stayed in a motel in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Our visit was not primarily to Mt. Pleasant, but that was just where we stopped. One morning we were "sight seeing" and stopped in the Mt. Pleasant library. They had an historical museum in their basement along with genealogy books.

As we finished looking through the museum, I sat down at a table with an open book on it. This book was an index to the cemeteries of Titus County, Texas. My wife's great-grandparents had lived in Titus county, so we took time to research the book.

We found the family name and began to take notes on various family members and the cemeteries they were buried in. This is where we were not totally prepared. My wife's grandmother had many brothers and sisters. Of course the brothers last names were the same as the great-grand parents, but we could not remember the married names of all the sisters. Because of that we were limited in our research.

After making notes of all the "Landrums", we looked at the individual cemeteries for each name we found.

Now, let me explain something. These books were one of a kind. They were hand made and likely there was only one copy available anywhere. Books like this are difficult to find. Sometimes there will be handmade copies of these book in other libraries but there will not be hundreds of copies available in many different location. The main index told us the name of the individual, and the cemetery he was buried in. The second group of books gave an index by cemetery of the individual buried there, along with the birth and death dates from their marker, and name of spouse if both were buried in the same cemetery.

As I said, when we finished in the first book, we looked up all the other cemeteries to get the birth and death dates and spouse names and dates. This filled in a lot of information we did not have for those family members.

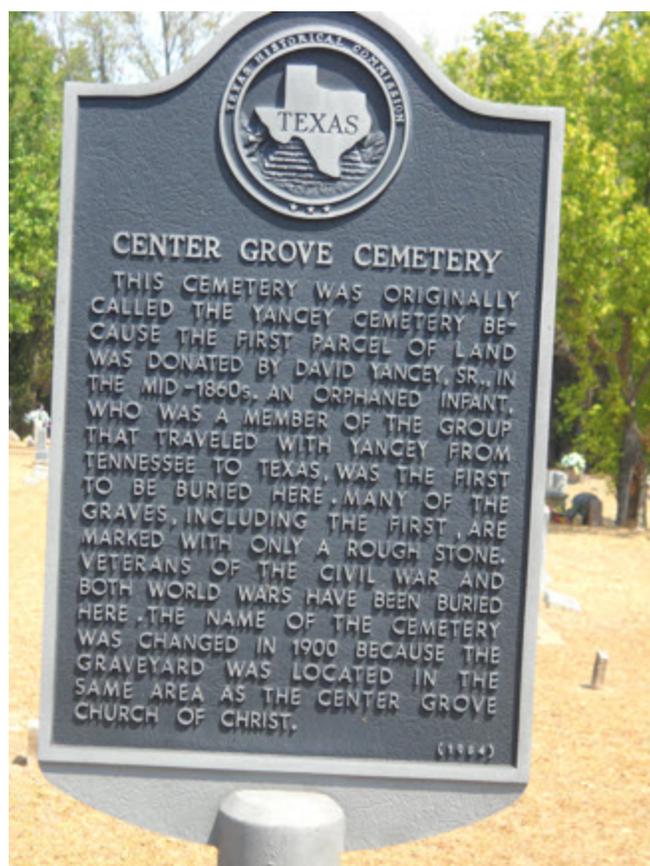
Now came the fun part. We chose the closest cemetery with the most family members buried there and visited that cemetery. The temperature was about 104 degrees. My wife took her umbrella for shade, and we began walking that cemetery looking for the markers, and photographing those of her family members. This gave us a good record of information necessary in completing your genealogy.

We had three extra surprises that we enjoyed. First, as we were walking, my wife saw a familiar name. It was the married name of the youngest sister. So we now had her information along with her husbands information, and a photo of the tombstone.

While back in the library reading about the cemeteries, I had read the name of the man who gave the land for a cemetery and church. Our second pleasant surprise was to find his family plot in this cemetery. We photographed that as well to add to our records.

Our third surprise was the church building we found. My wife's family history shows that many of her family were members of the Church of Christ. The cemetery was the Centergrove Cemetery. Across the street from the cemetery was the Centergrove Church of Christ. This was an old building with only the church name on it. There were no other signs. It was difficult to tell whether it was still in use. It was new enough to have air conditioning, and the yard area was mowed. The front door was locked with a chain and pad lock which is unusual for a building that is being used. The electric power lines were still connected, but we could not tell whether they were being used.

We feel that we found a real treasure of information. We also probably missed a lot because we did not know the married names of some of the women. We will have to make a trip back sometime after preparing better with a complete list of family names to look for.





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The Difference Between Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia

Many people use the terms Alzheimer's disease and dementia interchangeably, but they have very different meanings. Although dementia is a group of symptoms that include memory loss, the term itself doesn't explain what is causing the symptoms. Alzheimer's disease is the leading cause of dementia, but here are many other causes.

Dementia is a general term for memory loss that is severe enough to interfere with daily life. The signs of dementia may include forgetfulness, difficulty making plans, thinking ahead, or using language, as well as changing character traits, among other symptoms. Alzheimer's disease accounts for 50 to 80 percent of dementia cases according to the Alzheimer's Association, but there are other causes, including vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, frontotemporal dementia, and Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome. Some causes of dementia are treatable, so it is important to understand the cause.

Alzheimer's disease is a partially hereditary disease that causes a loss of brain cells. The symptoms start out mild but grow progressively worse over time. There is no cure, but there are medications that can treat the symptoms and slow the disease's progress. An early symptom of Alzheimer's is difficulty learning new information. It can then progress to more severe symptoms such as forgetting names and places, disorientation, mood and behavior changes, and an inability to relate to others. Eventually, it can lead to the inability to talk, walk, or eat. For more information on Alzheimer's disease from the Alzheimer's Association, [click here](#).

Dementia, whether caused by Alzheimer's disease or some other underlying disease, is not a normal part of aging. If someone you love is exhibiting signs of dementia, they should get immediate medical attention to understand what is causing it.





Occupy Wall Street protestors and anti-agriculture movement have much in common!

Beware of dire predictions

By Stewart Truelsen

Here is a prediction: American farmers and ranchers will be able to feed this nation well into the future if given access to land, water, capital and scientific advances. If you'd like the prediction to be more specific, let's say the nation's food supply will be secure until at least the year 2061.

There's an excellent chance this prediction will be true, but it's hardly the stuff books are written about. A prediction like this would only bring a yawn, and the reader would go back to worrying about dire predictions of economic collapse or the 2012 apocalypse.

Finally, someone has written a book about expert predictions: ***Future Babble*** by Dan Gardner. The author claims so-called expert predictions are next to worthless, and we can probably do better ourselves.

The expert predictions that catch our eye are ones predicting doom and gloom. One such book was ***Famine 1975!*** Written by William and Paul Paddock in 1967, the book predicted food scarcities so severe that food aid would have to be cut off from a few nations leaving their populations to starve. India and Egypt were said to fit this description.

The Paddocks underestimated the Green Revolution and other advances in production agriculture around the world, but they weren't the only ones. Paul Ehrlich predicted a similar fate when he said, "The battle to feed all humanity is over," in his book ***The Population Bomb***.

In a 1982 book, ***Encounters with the Future***, respected futurist Marvin Cetron and co-author Thomas O'Toole forecasted that the Soviet Union would invade Australia within 10 years for its natural resources. They missed the part about the Soviet Union crumbling.

Why do we pay attention to expert predictions in the first place? In ***Future Babble***, Gardner gives several reasons. Most people love certainty, so if someone says they know what will happen in the future, it attracts our attention.

We jump to conclusions about the future because we tend to look for patterns where none exist. Randomness and chaos limit our ability to see very far ahead.

We also are attracted to experts who are bold and confident about their predictions despite the fact that Gardner says they have the worst track records. In his words, "Reliable forecasting is a challenge on par with climbing Mt. Everest barefoot."

Life is unpredictable and uncertain, but that isn't as bad as it seems. Gardner believes an accurate prediction isn't necessary to make good decisions. A rough sense of possibilities and probabilities will do fine.

That's why we can stick by our prediction that American farmers and ranchers will meet our food needs for at least the next 50 years. They've done it in the past despite all kinds of obstacles and dire predictions. There's every reason to believe they can do it in the future.

This entry was originally published Oct. 17 to American Farm Bureau Federation's FBlog. Stewart Truelsen is the author of a book marking the AFBF's 90th anniversary, ***Forward Farm Bureau***.

Visit the Texas Farm Bureau website at www.txfb.org.



TELLING OUR STORIES

TALES OF TWO BARN

By Jerry Lincecum

Something I share with Mae Knox Burton of Sherman is appreciation for growing up on a family farm, complete with an old-fashioned barn. When I was four or five years old, my grandfather built a big barn on the homeplace where I grew up in Robertson County. It still stands there today, roughly two hundred miles south of here. But every square inch of it can be visited in my memory, any time I choose to.

The barn which Mae Burton remembers, in contrast, is clearly visible to me from my front yard. That's because the Knox farm became a part of the city of Sherman, and my neighborhood. In fact, the Dillingham School campus was carved out of a portion of it, with the street in front of the school named Luther Knox Road.

Among my favorite barn memories is the smell of freshly baled hay, although getting hundreds of square bales from the meadow into the loft, year after year, was hard work. One summer I was paid a penny per bale for working as part of a crew that loaded a "bobtail" truck, which held maybe 70-80 bales per load. Many years I gained experience in stacking 18-20 bales in the bed of a standard size pickup, a balancing act that required some skill.

Mae recalls their loft was not fully floored; once her mother fell through the widely-spaced boards while seeking a hen's nest. For me, finding a hidden nest was fun: Mother appreciated any fresh eggs, whereas rotten ones became valuable ammunition (grenades) for warfare. Corncob fights were forbidden because of possible eye injury. Since my grandfather was one-eyed due to a riding accident, we were especially sensitive to that kind of danger.

When my brother and I were too young to help with hauling, the elaborate tunnels and forts we built in the loft provided many hours of entertainment. We also learned a hide-and-seek trick that worked without fail on city cousins. Make them wait downstairs until you have climbed into the barn rafters. Call them up but remain quiet and they would never think to look at the ceiling.

What about snakes? Chicken snakes were easily distinguished from poisonous species, and spotting one with a bulging belly meant he'd already found the hen nest or maybe swallowed a big rat. Copperheads were given a wide berth unless a pitchfork was handy. Hoes were good for disposing of snakes in the garden but ineffective in the hayloft.

Mae recalls the pleasure of watching her father milk the cows. For me, learning how to milk Old Jersey was a challenge. First her calf had to be allowed to suck for a brief period, so she'd "let down" her milk. Then getting the steady sound of milk squirting into a galvanized bucket required just the right fingering sequence.

The cow's tail sometimes collected grassburs, which became guided missiles if she slapped you hard with it. Worse, if you really upset her, a foot in the bucket meant having to rinse it out and start over. The "milk calf" was a good one to slaughter, yielding better beef than his less pampered comrades.

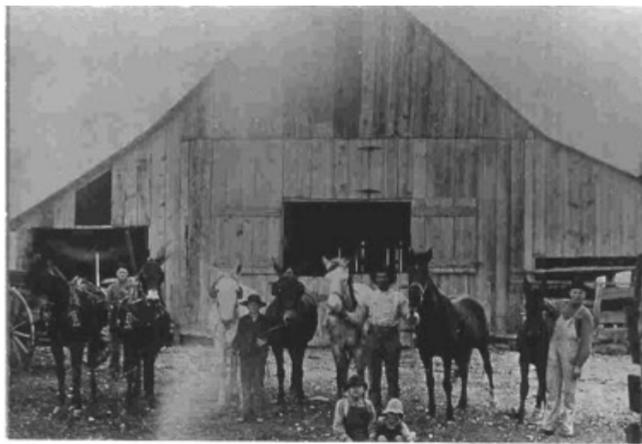
Barn cats were different from house pets: wary and rarely fed, they had to catch rats, mice and small snakes to survive. There was Nadene, inherited by my brother Joe when he returned to the farm in retirement. Nadene not only refused to socialize with the house tabbies; when Joe stopped using the barn and relocated to a lake house, she refused to move.

To this day I shake my head over the childhood surprise of discovering, under old towsacks in the darkest corner of a corncrib, a nest of baby mice, hairless and unable to see. Too tender-hearted to alert the cats, I covered them up again.

Like barn cats, the dogs we kept were more workers than pets, useful in rounding up cows. One of my most vivid childhood memories is of the time we tried to pen the horses at the barn and failed, even with help from the dogs. Granddaddy was a mild-mannered person who never used profanity or coarse language of any kind. However, when the mule Old Rhody led the charge which freed her and her horse mother Minnie, he lost control of his temper and his language. After hearing some new vocabulary words that day, I sneaked off by myself to practice cussing with great vehemence. Then I laughed so hard I choked.

Visiting the loft after my father stopped storing hay there was a sad experience. A magical storehouse of exciting memories had degenerated into a desolate attic: a dustbin for such shabby antiquities as the wooden highchair used by Lincecum children and grandchildren.

When I walk into my yard here in Sherman, however, and look up the hill to catch sight of the old Knox barn, the magical images and stories flood my mind.



Dead Duck

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried, "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$150."

Extra - Cats can work out mathematically the exact place to sit that will cause most inconvenience.

OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

 OUTZKIRTS.COM



Cat Chat



by C. Cat Jr.

¿ Que es ¿

I have been very busy the past few weeks. Old Man is now volunteering three days a week at an elementary school. He works with 5 kindergarten classes.

Several days ago, old man was teaching Spanish to his hispanic kids. Yep, that's right. He has not yet learned Spanish and these kids all speak Spanish, but that's what he was doing. The kids are now into their fifth week and beginning to write. While Old Man has learned a lot of Spanish in the past year he still struggles. But in writing, the teacher gives them three words and then asks them to select a fourth to complete their sentence. For example they might have to write, "Yo soy un_____." Then they can fill in the blank with, "gato, perro, nino, or mono." This makes it simple for Old Man because he knows all these word.

Something else Old Man is learning in the Spanish is that rules for capitalization are different. Of course you capitalize a persons name, but you do not capitalize their title. For example in English we would capitalize Mister Smith. In Spanish it is mister Smith. Unless you choose to abbreviate to Mr., then in Spanish you would capitalize - not because of the name but because of the abbreviation. Same goes for the days of the week and the names of the months.

While you try to remember all that, you must remember that there is a different vocabulary and even punctuation. The period and comma remain the same. But if you use an exclamation or question mark, you turn it upside down and place it both at the beginning and the end of the sentence. Confused yet? Well, we do have fun. Will visit you again in a few days.



Classified Ads

ELM HOUSE ANTIQUES

Doris Hayes, formerly of Elm House Antiques (at 710 N Elm in Sherman) is now located in A Touch of Class Antique Mall on the Square in downtown Sherman, Booth 115. Same fine quality & eclectic collections of fine art, glass, china & pottery.

WHO HAS?

Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: PO Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201.

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AAAA Automotive
3535 Hwy 902
Howe, Texas 75469
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Texoma Enterprise

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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

