

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

April 21, 2011

WELCOME



Howe Volunteer Fire Department held their annual car show Saturday, April 16th. Featured on the Grill were hamburgers and hot dogs by Kevin Frantz. Also featured were tractors and collectible automobiles and trucks.



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Austin College Students Present Vocal Concerts May 6 and 8

SHERMAN, TEXAS - From doo-wop to classical, music will be in the air at Austin College in May as The Quartette, the College's premiere a cappella group, performs its first full-length concert on Friday, May 6, at 7:30 pm in Ida Green Theatre of Ida Green Communication Center. Two days later, on Sunday, May 8, the Music Department presents its annual spring choral concert in Wynne Chapel at 3 pm. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

The Quartette, a men's a cappella group sings a mixture of doo wop, R & B, and pop music.

The A Cappella Choir and the Chorale will perform during the May 6 concert, which will include classical music, folk arrangements, contemporary compositions, and spirituals.

Austin College's women's a cappella group, Descant, also will perform during the program.

Wayne Crannell is director of choral music at Austin College. The A Cappella Choir will tour France May 18 to June 2, performing in Paris, Lyon, Aix-en-Provence, Bordeaux, Angers, and Chartres.

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

GCC offers Dog Obedience Training on Saturdays

Grayson County College's Center for Workplace Learning is partnering with Gerry Alblas to offer Dog Obedience Training on Saturdays beginning April 30 through June 11 with the exception of May 28. The Puppy Class (for dogs six weeks to 12 months) meets from 9 to 10 am The Canine Class (for dogs 12 months and older) meets from 11 am to noon.

Both classes gather at the west parking lot of the Silver Wings Building on GCC's West Campus in Denison. Cost for each class is \$85. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required at the first class. In addition, needed class supplies include comfortable walking shoes for human participants; a six-foot leash, water, and treats for rewarding correct behavior should be brought for canine participants.

"Dogs are pack animals and as such are only comfortable when their role within the pack has been established," Alblas said. "Basic obedience helps to establish pet parents in the role of pack leader, and lays down clear behavior guidelines that the pack can follow. This allows the dog to relax since it knows what behaviors earn what types of attention."

During class, participants learn how to teach their dogs basic commands including heel, sit, stay, down, off, leave it, come, and wait. Each command provides the dog with an understanding of what is expected at a particular moment and reinforces a strong bond between the pet and its owner.

"In addition, it's fun learning the proper way to interact with your dog," Alblas said.

Registration may be completed in person in the CWL on the college's Main Campus, online at www.cwlgcc.org, or by phone at 903-463-8765 if paying with MasterCard, Discover or Visa credit cards.

City Drug Co.



Available 24 hours.
M - F 8 am to 5:30 pm
Saturday 8 am to 2 pm
After hours call:
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Jack Strickland - 903-482-5830

(903) 482-5279

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What's Happening in Fannin County

Interested persons are welcome to attend a political event in Bonham on Thursday, April 21, to hear a leading U.S. Senatorial Candidate, Roger Williams.

The meeting is at the Family Life Center, 200 W. 8th in Bonham and will begin at 6:30 pm with a King Ranch Chicken Dinner. This is a Fannin County Republican Party hosted event featuring Roger Williams and the fabulous Hospitality Committee cooks. Join us for a great time of food, fellowship and a great speaker. Donations are welcome.



JOIN THE PARTY

THE FANNIN COUNTY
REPUBLICAN PARTY

YA'LL COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING

APRIL 21, 2011 (Thursday)

6:30 PM at the **FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

200 W. 8th Street Bonham, TX

"EVERYONE IS INVITED"

KING RANCH CHICKEN DINNER

The fantastic cooks from the Special Events & Hospitality Committees of FCRW will provide dinner! Donations accepted.

FEATURING:

ROGER WILLIAMS

A leading U.S. Senatorial candidate, a conservative with a passion for principled leadership. Former Secretary of State, active in the campaign of George W. Bush and Senator John Cornyn

STANDING UP FOR AMERICA'S VALUES

**IMPORTANT EVENT: MAY 21st. ARMED FORCES
DAY**

Starting at 6:30 pm at the Multi Purpose Complex
Featuring Captain Scott O'Grady and Cong. Ralph Hall



TCOG Announces Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

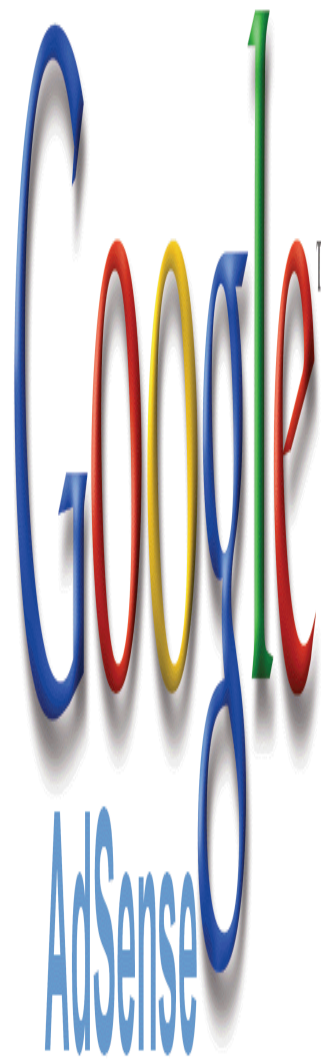
SHERMAN, April 18, 2011 – Dr. Susan B. Thomas, Executive Director of the Texoma Council of Governments, has announced the schedule for the 2011 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections in the Texoma Region. The collections will be held on April 30, 2011 in three separate locations including the Criminal Justice Center located in Gainesville, Midway Mall in Sherman, and the Precinct 4 County Warehouse on the east side of Bonham. All collections will begin at 9 am and close no later than 1 pm.

“This is an important service TCOG brings to the region. We can preach the benefits of ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’ all day long, but to be effective, we have to also provide our citizens the resources they need to properly dispose of and recycle materials,” Dr. Thomas stated. “This year we have an E-waste company that will be accepting anything that runs on electricity including items such as old refrigerators, window unit air conditioners, or your old kitchen mixer.”

Waste in and around our homes that cannot be composted, put in the trash, or in a recycling bin is called “Household Hazardous Waste.” HHW around the home includes fluorescent light bulbs, cleaners, paints, batteries, televisions, and computer monitors. Other items considered HHW are tires, fuels, pool chemicals, automotive batteries, motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, pesticides, and herbicides. All of these products contain potentially hazardous ingredients that require special disposal measures. The best way of knowing if a product is a hazardous waste is to read the label. Words such as caution, warning, danger or poison indicate the product is flammable, reactive, corrosive, and/or toxic. Improper disposal of these products would include pouring them down the sink, on the ground, in a storm drain, burning, and in some cases putting them in the trash. Without proper storage and disposal of these wastes, it is possible for them to become harmful to the environment and human health. It is important that HHW are not put into landfills because they could have a chemical reaction with items around them and become explosive. The possibility of HHW leaching through the ground and contacting groundwater and surface water can create contaminated drinking water and damage aquatic habitat.

There will be some restrictions at the collection events. Paint, oil, and other liquids will be limited to 10 gallons or less. Tires are limited to 4 or less per vehicle that brings material to the events. Only car and light truck tires will be accepted. Tires with rims are not allowed. Ammunition, explosive materials, and compressed gas cylinders will not be accepted.

The Texoma Council of Governments is a voluntary association of the local governments in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties. Established in 1968, the Texoma Council of Governments promotes economy and efficiency in the coordinated planning and development of the tri-county region through its community and economic development activities. Either directly, or through contractors, the Council provides housing, utility assistance, and weatherization services for low-income citizens in the region and assists the elderly through a variety of Area Agency on Aging programs. The Council also facilitates the delivery of grant funding for homeland security, criminal justice, and transportation needs.



Music by Kevin Mc Cloud



Howe's That



What's Cooking?

by Lana Rideout

We have had a lot of tornadoes in the area. April and May are notorious for such weather.

My grandmother told me that when she was a child living near Mt. Pleasant, Texas, there was a bad tornado. The family fled to a ravine where they were safe from the storm.

She told me that she saw a straw of wheat stuck in a tree trunk. Also the house she lived in with her parents and siblings had been lifted off the foundation blocks, and then set back down on the foundation, just a inch or so off the original base.

Large parts of Texas have also endured fires devouring home, fields, and such.

I read the following in an Associated Press article in the local daily paper: "The Texas Forest Service reported that the nearly 105,000 acre fire started more than a week ago by a welder's torch in Stonewall, Knox and King counties had been 90 percent contained Saturday, and another 152,000 acres fire spanning parts of Kent, Fisher, Scurry and Stonewall counties was 50 percent contained."

This over long paragraph makes it sound as if the welder went from county to county to set fires in each one. That is the problem with putting too much into a sentence. And unless the paragraph is small, it should have at least two sentences.

Fibber McGee Cookies

- 1 cup butter
- 1-1/3 cups sugar
- 1-1/3 cups brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1-3/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 3-1/2 cups quick-cooking oats
- 1-1/2 cups salted peanuts or pecans
- 1 package (6 ounces) chocolate chips

Cream together butter and sugars. Beat in eggs. Stir in vanilla. Add flour and soda.

Stir in oats, nuts and chocolate chips. Drop onto ungreased cookie sheet by teaspoonfuls.

Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes. Makes 5 dozen

Dorchester Women's Club

Dorchester -- The Dorchester Women's Club met at 1 pm April 13, 2011 at the Dorchester Baptist Church annex. President Carol Groner called the meeting to order and led the group in the club prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Members were welcomed with the thought for the day which was a Chinese proverb, "The person who says it can't be done should not interrupt the person doing it." The humor statement was a quote from Ronald Knox, "A good sermon should be like a woman's skirt; short enough to rouse the interest, but long enough to cover the essentials."

For roll call members completed the statement, "My grandmother was..." These statements gave a picture of the influential and cherished role that most grandmothers play in the lives of their grandchildren.

The program was presented by Social Worker Nancy Russell from Grayson County Home Hospice on "Packing Grandma's Trunk." As women grow older they often become the reservoir of family information on crystal, linens and other family heirlooms. Before it is too late to do so, each person should make a written record of their family treasures so that the next generation will know their importance. These treasures and the accompanying records should be kept together in a trunk or other container so that in the event of fire or other natural disaster they can easily be saved. Artifacts of the present generation should also be labeled as to the significance they played in that individual's life. These records become especially significant when the next generation no longer has his knowledgeable ancestor to ask for family information.

Following the program a business meeting was held which included the election of officers and making of other plans for the 2010-2011 year. April birthday celebrants were Louis Groner and Jim Harvey. Hostesses Welch and Groner carried out the Easter theme in their decorations and refreshments.

The next meeting will include a potluck salad luncheon to begin at 11:30 May 11 at the Dorchester Baptist Church annex. Area women are invited to attend.





Star Students for the week ending April 15th are: Allie Gard, Colton Lowe, Jodee Newland, Caden Stewart, Ty Trevino, Catherine Switzer, Lily Viers, Sean Husband, Raul Hernandez, Colby Hopper, Sergio Rico, Alexander Huerta, and Korie Bouse.



To help celebrate Earth Day and beautify our Elementary Campus, TJ Knight and Taylor Hinkle, cleaned out and replanted the flower bed at the north end of the elementary building. They are Mrs. Shadden's 3rd and 4th grade GT students.

HISD Menus

April 25-29

Breakfast

Monday-Cinnamon roll, cereal w/toast, shamrock pears, apple juice

Tuesday- Sopilla, cereal w/toast, fresh apple, orange juice

Wednesday- Breakfast burrito, cereal w/toast, graham crackers w/yogurt, fruit cocktail, grape juice

Thursday Breakfast pizzal, cereal w/toast, orange halves, orange juice

Friday- French toast, cereal w/toast, fresh grapes, orange juice

Lunch

MONDAY- Hamburger, Frito pie, burger fixins, potato rounds, corn cobbette, Shamrock pears, chocolate pudding

TUESDAY- Chicken rings, small chef salad, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash casserole, fresh apple, wheat roll, gelatin jewels

WEDNESDAY- Corn dog, fish strips, steamed mixed veggies, mac & cheese, fruit cocktail, chocolate chip cookie

THURSDAY- Cheese pizza, ravioli casserole/toast, garden salad, carrot sticks, orange halves, frozen fruit bar

FRIDAY- Beef & cheese nachos, fajita quesadilla, tossed salad, refried beans, peaches, Spanish rice

Milk & juice served with all meals

Menu subject to change according to availability



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Howe Elementary Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration

May 2nd – May 31st
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The following items are required for registration:

Shot Record
Birth Certificate
Social Security Card
Proof of Residence
Proof of Income (Pre-K only)

Howe ISD PTA Reflections

2010-2011 Participants with theme of “Together We Can” art entries were recognized at the recent Howe ISD School Board Meeting on April 14 for local PTA awards listed below as well as all received Honorable Mention ribbons in Texas PTA Area 15. The Best Overall Entry in Local School District went to Delainey Oliver who received an art easel supply kit valued at 70.00 from the local PTA.

On hand to present awards where Michelle Armstrong Reflections Chair 10-11 and Stacey Wilson HS Reflection coordinator 10-11 as well as Carolyn Cherry PTA President 10-11

Howe Girl Scouts Troop 475- Mirina Hansen, Jessica Robison, Bethany Holt Honorable Mention Literature

Howe High School ASL class II Honorable Mention Film Production

Mason Bearden Award of Merit for Visual Arts

Samuel Cherry Award of Merit for Visual Arts

Brianna Rideout Award of Merit for Visual Arts

Abigail Wakefield Award of Excellence for 2nd grade Visual arts

Mikayla Doty Award of Excellence for 4th grade Visual arts

Megan Bearden Award of Excellence for 5th grade Visual arts

Delainey Oliver Award of Excellence for 9th grade Visual arts

HOWE ISD
Board Meets

On Thursday, April 14, the Howe School Board met for their regular meeting.

The board also approved the minutes from Regular Meeting on March 24, 2011; Monthly Financial Reports; Quarterly Investment Report; Extended Bank Depository Contract; renewed Sherman Regional Day School Program for the Deaf Shared Services Arrangement

The Board decided to allow transfers at no cost based on conditions of availability of space and other factors such as previous problems, etc.

Following a closed session, the board voted to approve the recommendations from the principals for teacher contracts.

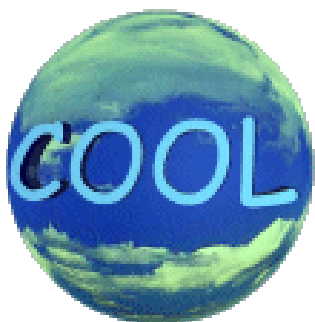
The board also held a budget workshop on preliminary 2011-12 revenue projections and potential reductions of expenditures.

Supt. Kevin Wilson said, “We are still cautiously optimistic that the legislature will continue to work to find more revenue to fund education. It is their constitutional duty to adequately fund education, and they have shown recent understanding that the current target revenue finance system is highly inequitable. As a relatively low-funded district, we welcome the new ideas to equalize the funding, but we cannot survive the draconian cuts that were first proposed.

Representatives for the Cottonwood #2 Municipal Utility District visited with the school board and answered questions concerning the progress on details for a developers’ agreement. Supt. Wilson along with board president Leonard Huntsman and board vice president Greg Akins have been meeting with the representatives and feel that the process is proceeding well.

Howe High School Campus Report presented at the board meeting included the following - Recent Events & Student Accomplishments:

- * EOC Eng. III Field Test was administered April 6
- * TAKS will be administered April 26-29
- * Regional Qualifiers - Girls Golf - Madison Wilson, Emily Taylor, Alex Akins, Courtney Scribner, Sarah Myer
- * Regional Qualifier - Girls Tennis - Bailey Hudman
- * One-Act-Play advanced beyond the Zone round
- * Texas FFA Scholarship Finalists from Area V. All three were selected in the top 25 from our area. They will be advancing to the state scholarship check to be held in late May. Scholarship amounts range from \$2,000 to \$16,000. (Hopefully all three will receive a scholarship, they are not guaranteed anything unless they are in the top 135 in the state) - Brittany Blum, John Burchfield, Gretchen Debner
- * State Fair of Texas Scholarship recipients. \$5,000 each - Brittany Blum, Gretchen Debner
- * Livestock Judging Team is advancing to the state contest at College Station. Brittany Blum, John Burchfield, Jennifer Vincent, Lane Rodgers
- * Loy Lake - 21 animals in the sale, Champion Black OPB, BarrowC hampion, Red Angus Heifer, Reserve Champion American Cross Steer, Reserve Champion Angus Heifer,

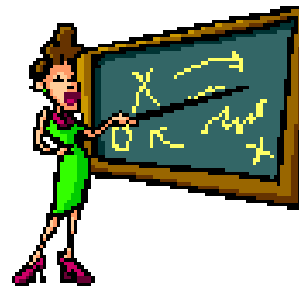


Texoma Enterprise

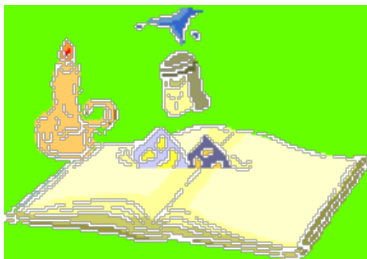
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Students of the Month

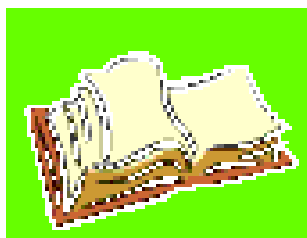
Elementary - Eli Allen



Middle School - Madi Gordon



High School - Tenae Sanders



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Wyoming's

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Fine Dining

COMMUNITY EASTER

EGG HUNT



For: AGES 10 and Younger

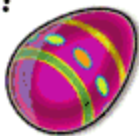


WHERE: Howe High School
(200 E. Ponderosa Drive)

WHEN: Saturday, April 23, 2011
11:00-1:00



Please be sure to join us for a lunch
that will be provided!!!



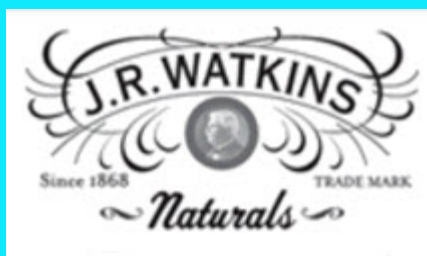
Sponsored by:
First United Methodist Church of Howe
Phone: 903-532-6718

Chrystal Opry House Gospel Event

Our Gospel event is the fourth Saturday night at 7 pm. This Saturday night, April 23, the Melody Ranch Gospel Band will perform their Easter Program. Members of the band are Archie Shearer, lead guitar and vocals, Al Guinn, guitar and vocals, George Kirby, fiddle, Charles Woolly, mandolin and vocals, Tom Hackney, guitar and vocals, Jody Cofer, bass and vocals, Debra Leake, vocals, Sue Harlin, piano and vocals, Keith Francis, steel guitar, Mike Vaughn, drums, and Bill Hayes, guitar and vocals. Our guest band for the evening will be the King's Trail Cowboy Church Band from Anna, Texas. They like to play those good old gospel tunes. You will enjoy their music. The band leader is Rocky James Crigler. Members of the band are Autry Andress, steel guitar, Dwight Oldam, bass, Josh Gonzales, drums, Paul Norrell, guitar, Derrick Hall, guitar, and vocalists, Wendi Gracy and Jennifer Smith.

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

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



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for more
information](#)

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St. Mary's Tiger Trot 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run

Race set for May 7, 2011

St. Mary's Catholic School is planning their first Tiger Trot 5K and 1-mile Fun Run for May 7, 2011. This event will directly support the school. Originally founded as St. Joseph Academy in 1877 by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, St. Mary's School has a longstanding tradition in the Grayson County community. For more than 75 years, the school existed as both an elementary and secondary school. During the last 40 years or so the school has offered primary education for its students. In 1972, a kindergarten was added, and in 1988, a preschool.

With the mission of empowering students through strong academics and Christian values, St. Mary's Catholic School provides an outstanding education for children, no matter what their religious affiliation is. Our Curriculum includes a solid concentration in the basics: religion, English, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. Spanish, French, music, art, and computer education round out a curriculum designed to educate the whole child.

Registration -Registration is open until 8:15 am race day. Packets will be available at the school office between 9 am-3 pm Friday, May 6, as well as Race Day. Early registration ends May 1. Mail registration to St. Mary's Tiger Trot, 713 South Travis, Sherman, TX 75090, or register in person at St. Mary's Catholic School.

Race Track - The Tiger Trot will begin at St. Mary's Catholic School, and parking is available at the campus.

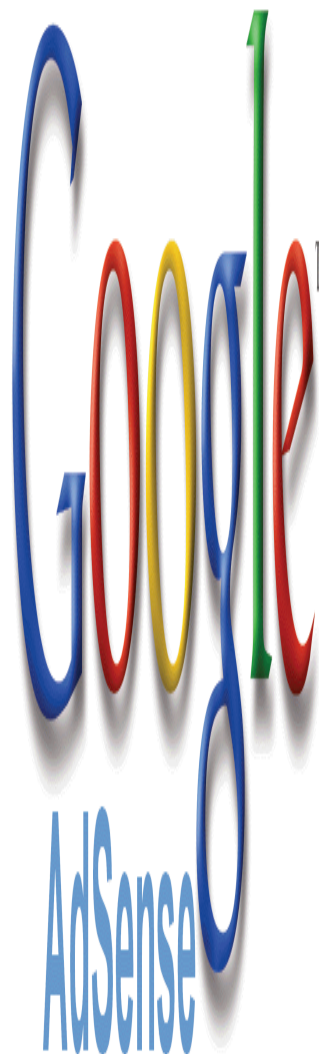
Awards - Awards will be given to the top 3 males and females in all races, and in each age division. All participating children will receive a medal.

Check out our web site for more information, www.stmarys-sch.org.



Music by Kevin McCloud

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Texas State Historical Association Launches Online Feature for Civil War Sesquicentennial

Handbook of Civil War Texas highlights the roles of Texans in the war and the conflict's extraordinary impact on their lives.

The Texas State Historical Association's Handbook of Texas Online, a multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, geography, and culture, has produced a comprehensive online resource to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

In commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, The Handbook of Texas Online presents a powerful new feature. The Handbook of Civil War Texas offers an unmatched online resource that tells the story of the roles of Texans in the war and the conflict's extraordinary impact on their lives. Explore more than 800 entries, including some 325 new articles about Texas people, places, and events in the Civil War.

Images from the Lawrence T. Jones III Texas Photographs collection and from the Civil War: Photographs, Manuscripts, and Imprints collections from SMU's DeGolyer Library enhance many of the entries and offer poignant glimpses into the lives changed by the events of 150 years ago.

First envisioned in 2005 by Mark Odintz, then Managing Editor of the New Handbook of Texas, he began to pull together the Handbook's coverage of Texas in the Civil War in a complete and coherent manner. TSHA Chief Historian and University of North Texas professor Randolph B. "Mike" Campell guided the Civil War project to its completion.

Readers can explore the story of Texas in the Civil War through entries on battles, military units, officers, Confederate industry, forts and camps, organizations, and other topics. The reference covers every Texas military unit from the famed "Terry's Texas Rangers," to Walker's Texas Division--the only Confederate division composed entirely of soldiers from a single state. Civil War buffs can track the events and battles of the war, from the lesser-known confrontation at Adams Hill in May 1861 to the Battle of Palmito Ranch in May 1865. Notable military figures such as generals Albert Sidney Johnston, Lawrence "Sul" Ross, and Hiram Granbury are included along with obscure, yet colorful characters such as Mollie Bailey, who served as a nurse and, according to some sources, possibly a spy.

The combined efforts of Civil War scholars, local historians, students, and others have resulted in the Handbook of Civil War Texas--a new resource about a pivotal time in the evolution of the Lone Star State.

Though Campbell acknowledges that this project has "taken longer than the war itself to complete," the combined efforts of Civil War scholars, local historians, students, and others have resulted in The Handbook of Civil War Texas -- an important publication about a pivotal time during the evolution of the Lone Star State.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The Handbook of Civil War Texas
Visit: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/civil-war>



Texoma Enterprise

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April 20

End of the Hanging Era

By Bob Bowman

From the inception of the Republic of Texas in 1836, the method of punishing criminals was usually by hanging at the county level. But in 1924, the State of Texas took the responsibility for capital punishment and changed the method from hanging to electrocution.

Charles Reynolds of Red River County became the first to die in an electric chair known as "Old Sparky." Another East Texan, Belton Harris of Henderson County, built the electric chair.

In October of 1923, Reynolds cut the throat of Horace Reed, superintendent of the Mill Gin at Clarksville. The murder apparently resulted from an argument between the two men.

Reynolds was soon captured and was charged with Reed's slaying. A trial was held in December and Reynolds was found guilty.

He was transferred to the Department of Corrections in Huntsville and on February 8, 1824, he became the first of five convicted criminals

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Dot's

D-A-S-H-E-S



By Dorothy N. Fowler

One the most important things I tried to teach my students was never to give up when they wanted an answer to a legitimate question and never to let someone else decide whether the question was legitimate.

Monday morning I was with a group of educators who were discussing the possibility of losing their jobs because the Republican governor and his Republican legislature several years ago developed a revenue plan that will not sustain the public school system.

Under the terms of that plan, it is impossible for a school district to increase the total amount of revenue the district receives. If new businesses come into a school district or a new housing development is built, the State of Texas reduces the amount it contributes to that school district by the amount that the local district receives in new local taxes.

When new students come into a district, state contributions increase, but rarely enough to cover the cost of services to those students.

Making a bad situation even worse is that the Republican governor and his Republican legislature have continued to mandate school districts to provide certain services, but have provided no money for that purpose. Readers can get a list of those mandates from their local school districts, but I suggest that you plan to read them at the administration building because your district cannot afford the copy materials to make them available to everyone without incurring considerable expense. The list is approximately 35 pages long and contains such things as requiring students and teachers to participate in school bus safety training regardless of whether they have ever ridden a school bus or plan to do so.

But I have digressed from the lede in my story, a journalistic faux pas of the first order. To get back to the point, if such there be, one of the educators who was in that early morning group said that if she lost her job, she would apply for unemployment benefits and wait for the job situation to improve. I replied that I was not sure teachers and other school personnel are eligible for unemployment benefits, but that I would find out before the end of the day.

I thought finding out would be a simple matter. I would call Texas Workforce Commission, which I did shortly after 9 am only to receive a recorded message that no one was available to take my call.

When inquiring minds really want to know, they call people who are the second most likely to know the answer to the question. In this case, those people were school district employees. The person at the first school district put me on hold while she checked with the administrator whom she thought would know and came back with this information, "I know our teachers in our district are covered, but I don't know whether teachers in all school districts are covered by unemployment insurance."

[Click to continue](#)

BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

to die in the electric chair. The others were Mack Matthews, Ewell Morris, Melvin Johnson and George Washington.

The legislator who introduced the law permitting death by electrocution, T.K. Irwin of Dallas, witnessed the death of the other four men. He said he was "horrified" by the deaths.

In 1964, executions by electrocution were stopped while the U.S. Supreme Court decided on the fate of execution practices. Executions resumed in 1982 with lethal injection replacing electrocutions.

The man who built "Old Sparky" was himself a convicted murderer. Belton Harris was in prison for killing his wife at Payne Springs near Athens in Henderson County. He was under the shadow of the death penalty for eight months until a higher court reversed his sentence and, after a new trial, Harris was sentenced to 15 years in prison instead.

When he was freed, Harris accepted a job at a sawmill in Walker County. Because prison officials recognized his mechanical ability, he was chosen to build the electric chair. He died in 1934 while working at the mill.

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin. is the author of almost 50 books about East Texas, including "Death By Rope." He can be reached at bob-bowman.com)

Dot's Dashes, continued

When I spoke with another person in another school district, she said that the question had not come up and she didn't know and that everyone who might know was in a meeting. And thus it was for several more phone calls.

The next to last phone call was what I call a "jackpot" call. The administrator had an anecdote that indicated to him that teachers are covered by unemployment insurance, but he couldn't cite chapter and verse of the regulation. "If you get the information, send it to me," he said.

It was after that conversation that I called Senator Estes' legislative aide, Robin McCoy, who said she didn't know, but she thought maybe teachers were not covered because their contracts expire at the end of each school year, but she would find out and call me. I don't know how much time she spent on this project, but I had been to the store to buy dog food and had eaten lunch by the time she called with a link provided by the person to whom she spoke at the Texas Workforce Commission.

"It is all very confusing," she said, a sentiment with which I heartily agree. "Apparently whether a teacher is covered depends on how his contract is written and one teacher in the building might be covered and the teacher next door might not be," she said.

The Website link she sent, <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/ui/bnfts/school-layoffs.pdf>, contained information that was interesting and about as definitive as anything that is decided on a case by case basis ever is.

Mike Mitchusson, director of personnel for Sherman ISD, clarified teacher contracts, saying that they "don't just die on the vine. They either have to be terminated or the teacher has to resign. If school boards don't act on them one way or the other, they just go on."

For me, this has been a productive day. I learned something I didn't know, talked to several very pleasant school people in different districts, and now am passing along what I learned to people who may be able to make use of it.

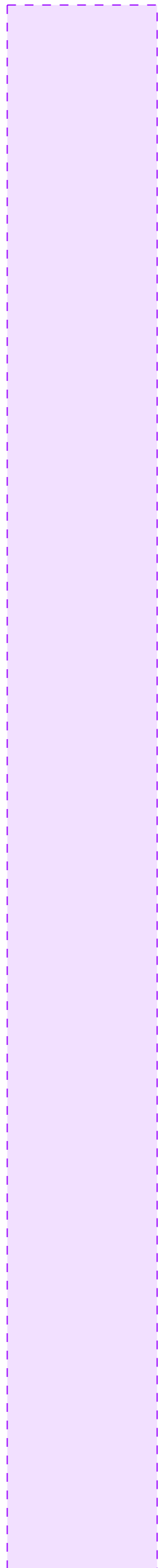
My special thanks to Robin McCoy for her research and to Mike Mitchusson, who spent time clarifying some things I didn't quite understand.

[Click to Return](#)

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Cattle Egrets



The third annual Spring Photo Safari is set at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge for Saturday, April 30. This nature photography event will begin at 8 am and end with a brown bag lunch and discussion forum at 11:30 am. It is open to photographers of all levels of experience and camera types. Small groups led by knowledgeable photographers will go out on the Refuge to shoot together and share techniques.

There is no charge for participation in the photo safari but advance registration is required as space is limited; to register, send your name, contact information and camera make and model to fohphotoclub@gmail.com.

Hagerman NWR is located at 6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, Texas, 75092. Photo programs at the Refuge are sponsored by the Refuge and the Friends of Hagerman Nature Photo Club. For more information, see www.friendsofhagerman.com or call the Refuge, 903 786 2826.

Friends of Hagerman NWR
P. O. Box 178, Sherman, TX 75091
www.friendsofhagerman.com
Refuge - 903-786-2826

Read more about Hagerman NWR on the Friends' Blog at
<http://www.friendsofhagermannwr.blogspot.com/>

Find us on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/edit/?id=157317297471#!/pages/Friends-of-Hagerman-National-Wildlife-Refuge/157317297471>





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E-mail matt@sullivanlawfirm.biz

Free Medicare Preventive Care Has Kicked In

One of the benefits of the health reform law took effect January 1, 2011: free preventive services for Medicare recipients. Under the law, people with regular Medicare will no longer have to pay a co-pay, coinsurance or deductible to receive preventive services that are highly recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force -- services that include screenings for breast cancer, colon cancer, diabetes and heart disease, as well as smoking cessation counseling. Private Medicare plans (also known as Medicare Advantage plans) may still charge for these services, but many do not.

Also under the health reform law, Medicare Part B beneficiaries will now receive an annual wellness visit free of charge. During this yearly visit, your doctor or other health practitioner recognized by Medicare (such as a nurse practitioner) will update your medical history and current prescriptions; measure your height, weight, blood pressure and body mass index; create a screening schedule for

the next 5 to 10 years and screen for cognitive issues. And Medicare now pays in full, without patient co-pays or deductibles, for the initial "Welcome to Medicare" that Medicare has offered since 2005 to beneficiaries within 12 months of their becoming covered under Medicare Part B.

"Preventing diseases that can be prevented, and detecting others at earlier, more treatable stages, are among the keystones for transforming Medicare," said Jonathan Blum, deputy administrator and director of the Center for Medicare at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"By eliminating the beneficiary's out-of-pocket costs for most preventive services, we are removing a barrier to access and paving the way for improved health for seniors and people with disabilities who rely on Medicare for their health coverage."



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Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Eminent Domain Legislation Passes the House

This week, the house passed HB 18, which provides for further restrictions on the use of eminent domain, or the taking of property for a public use. Senate Bill 18 passed the House unanimously on Wednesday, April 13, and will now head to conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

The "Takings Clause" of the 5th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution prohibits the taking of private property for public use without just compensation. Also, Article 1, Section 17 of the Texas Constitution prohibits a person's property from being taken without consent for public use without adequate compensation. In June of 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court held in its Kelo decision that a public entity could condemn private property and use that property for development projects and that this taking qualifies as a public use.

Since that time, the Texas legislature has passed laws and amendments to the Texas Constitution to provide protections and remedies to those people whose property is subject to eminent domain. However, some loopholes in the law remained, thus necessitating additional legislation. The governor also placed eminent domain protections on his emergency items list.

Senate Bill 18 revises the standards for the use of eminent domain and creates some well needed protections. It limits eminent domain takings for public use only; requires entities to make offers for property in good faith; requires fair compensation for the loss of access and expenses; and allows property owners to repurchase their land at the price paid by the entity if no actual progress on the project has been made after 10 years. The bill also requires an entity to disclose any and all property appraisal reports that were used in assessing the value of the property to the property owner. An entity could not include a confidentiality provision in an offer or agreement to take property. The entity would have to inform a property owner of his or her right to discuss the offer with others or to keep the offer confidential. SB 18 provides additional protections for landowners.

For more information on these bills or any other legislative matter, please contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by emailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us. My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297.

Groundwater rights bill threatened Prices mean nothing to farmers if it doesn't rain

By Gene Hall

I heard it again at a civic club meeting just this week: "Wow, farmers must be making a killing with these commodity prices so high." This comment came from a friend who knows I work for farmers. I've heard it dozens of times during this recent and historic escalation of most commodity prices. It's a quick, top of mind question that takes less than 10 seconds to ask. It takes several minutes to answer properly.

Recently, I conducted an interview with Frank Lucas, chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee. Lucas hails from the Oklahoma Panhandle, which shares a border with the Texas Panhandle. That part of Oklahoma also shares the Texas climate.

Lucas said, in response to a question about commodity prices: "I was 17-years-old before I knew you could end a prayer without calling for rain." There are many such prayers spoken all over Texas, Oklahoma and other places right now. Lucas' point was simple. It doesn't matter for farmers and ranchers how high prices get -- if it doesn't rain -- and soon.

A quick look online at the U.S. Drought Monitor tells the tale. The ugly, bright red splotches cover much of Texas. This is the indicator for "extreme drought." One part of the Texas Gulf Coast is a darker shade of red, indicating "exceptional drought," the highest level on the scale. There is one tiny little pocket of yellow on the lower Gulf Coast which is defined as "abnormally dry." That's the good news. The rest of the map displays shades of tan and brown which denotes drought from "moderate" to "severe."

I've talked to farmers in the last week or so that actually stopped planting rather than disturb the powder dry soil. Others are rolling the dice, planting in hopes of a rain. If a rain -- and a good one -- does not dampen Texas soil soon there will be very little to harvest or sell. Cattle herds, already depleted from the droughts of the last decade, will be further decimated. Crops will not even come up.

Of course, the meter has not stopped running on farm costs. The American Farm Bureau Federation completed a study that estimates farmers will pay 85 percent more this year -- due to rising oil prices -- than last to produce any crop.

The thing about extreme and exceptional drought is that there is so little that can be done by individuals or government. Disaster declarations help a little, buying time for agricultural producers. But in the end, we all resort to adding that call for rain to our prayers. Without rain, what looked like a very promising year for the people of the land could well dissolve into full-blown crisis.

Gene Hall is affiliated with the Texas Farm Bureau



SBOE approves standards for new technology courses

AUSTIN – Because of the changing nature of computer science and the digital environment, the State Board of Education last week gave final approval to a substantial revision and expansion of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications for kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as to 13 high school courses.

The new curriculum standards will be implemented in 2012 -2013. These replace standards in use in Texas classrooms since 1998.

Because of the evolving and expanding nature of technology, the board is considering ultimately expanding the number of high school level technology application classes from the current eight to a total of 19.

Some of the new courses for which curriculum standards were approved today are Robotics Programming and Development, Game Programming and Design, Mobile Application Development, and Digital Design and Media Production.

The board delayed adopting standards for six high school courses until July so the board members could continue to review and consider input they received during the public comment period. Those courses are Fundamentals of Computer Science; Computer

Science I, II, II; Discrete Mathematics; and Web Game Development.

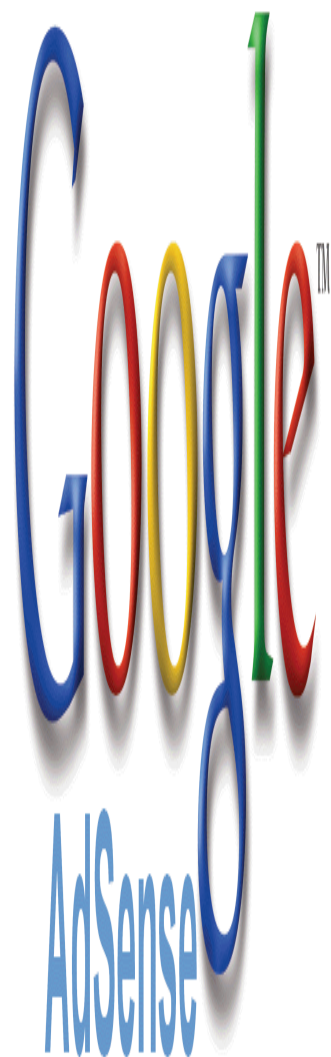
All the Technology Application TEKS are organized around six strands: creativity and innovation; communications and collaboration; research and information fluency; critical thinking, problem solving and decision making; digital citizenship; and technology operations and concepts.

More information about the curriculum standards update is available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=8192>.

In a precedent setting move, the board also voted to penalize publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt \$12,000 for making unauthorized updates to instructional materials adopted under Proclamation 2010. The publisher made updates to adopted materials for English Language Arts, grade 1; reading, grades 2-8; and Literature I-IV without SBOE approval.

Because textbooks and other instructional materials undergo rigorous review prior to state adoption, board rule requires that the SBOE approve any content change made to materials after they have been state-adopted.

The board also agreed to extend the investment counsel services contract with NEPC for four years. The firm provides investment guidance for the \$25 billion Permanent School Fund.

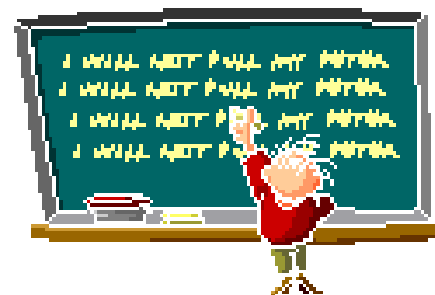


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President Obama Undermines His 'Innovation Agenda'

By Merrill Matthews

On many occasions, President Barack Obama has said, "The first step in winning the future is encouraging American innovation."

I agree. But in the president 2012 budget and elsewhere, he is undermining the very innovation he claims he wants to encourage.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the president's health care legislation, included a "data exclusivity" provision. The law permits brand name drug manufacturers of new biologic drugs to protect the data they create for 12 years before a competitor can use that information to create a generic version of the drug.

With standard prescription drugs, which usually come in pill form, patents give innovator drug makers the exclusive right to make and sell a new drug for several years, providing the economic incentive to invest hundreds of millions of dollars creating it. Once the patent runs out, a generic drug company can market a copy of the drug, and consumers get much lower prices.

But copying pills is much easier than copying complex, "large molecule" biologics, which are made from living material such as proteins. And so generic manufacturers need the innovator company's data in order to copy the biologic accurately. Prior to ObamaCare, there was no law to determine how long drug companies could protect that data from their competitors.

Now the law gives brand name manufacturers 12 years of data exclusivity—two more than Europe, a fact that could lure more drug innovation to the U.S. So far so good. The brand name companies were content, and Obama's "We win through innovation" agenda would seem to be taking a step in the right direction. Indeed, it was one of the few bright spots in the health care bill.

But then the president released his 2012 budget, where he proposes cutting the data-exclusivity provision down to seven years. So much for the innovation agenda.

And there will likely be many more such examples as the government, pressed for ways to find budget savings, pushes cheaper care over quality care. Take the current battle over Avastin vs. Lucentis, both made by San Francisco-based Genentech.

Avastin is a biologic that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use on several different cancers. Lucentis was especially developed and is FDA-approved for the treatment of eyesight loss due to age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Lucentis is expensive, about \$2,000 a treatment. Avastin is also expensive, about \$90,000 a year—when used for cancer. Because the two drugs are similar, many doctors have been using very small amounts of Avastin for the treatment of AMD. That reduced quantity means that an Avastin treatment for AMD costs about \$50. But the treatment is off-label, because Avastin is not FDA-approved for age-related macular degeneration.

In an effort to determine if there is a therapeutic difference, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been conducting a three-year study comparing Avastin to Lucentis. Results may be released in March of this year.

The NIH has done these kinds of drug-to-drug comparisons for years, with the goal being therapeutic: to determine which therapy is more efficacious or has the fewest side effects. Cost has not been a consideration. And it probably isn't in the current study either.

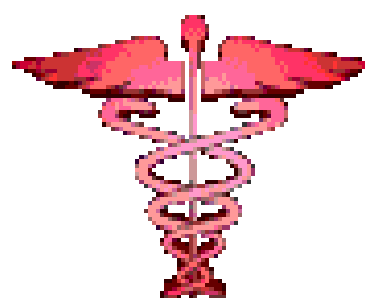
But that doesn't mean the Obama administration won't take cost into consideration when it makes its own decisions about what drugs will and will not be covered by Medicare and Medicaid, or even health insurance. Indeed, you can count on it.

And that is how a president can say one thing about winning the future with innovation, while completely undermining that effort with his policies—and hoping the public won't notice.

It's the battle we, as consumers, lost when ObamaCare passed. For several years the health care system had been slowly transitioning from a top-down system where the government, for those in Medicare and Medicaid, or an insurer limited patients' choices. The goal was to move to a consumer driven system where the patient would be in charge.

When patients make their own health care decisions, in consultation with their doctors, they make trade-offs. They may be willing to pay more if they think a drug or other therapy is a good value for them. Not so with the government, budgets drive decisions—especially these days. And when budgets are king, the patient is just a pawn.

Merrill Matthews is a resident scholar with the Institute for Policy Innovation in Dallas, Texas.



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

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.

Christian Fellowship

Easter is coming and if you need a place to worship on Easter morning, please come join them at A Christian Fellowship in Luella. The morning will start with coffee and doughnut fellowship at 9 am followed by classes for all ages at 9:30. Worship service will begin at 10:30. The younger age youth group will be performing a play about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It will be a very inspirational play for the whole family, so come on out and join them. Also dress is casual. Mike Ball will be leading the morning service.

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

The youth group will be having a garage sale in June with the official date to be announced at a later time.

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

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.

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 7:30am 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>.



Missing The Mark

by Willie Sofey

The Greek word hamartia is translated as sin in the New Testament. In classical Greek, it means to "miss the mark" or to "miss the target" as in archery. In the Hebrew, "hatta'â" is translated, "a falling away from or missing the right path." One of Webster's definitions of "target" is "a mark, a line, or a boundary."

God gave Adam four instructions in the boundary of the Garden of Eden, (1) work the garden, (2) guard it's sanctity, (3) name the animals, (4) eat of its fruit with the exception of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (and possibly of the fruit of the tree of life), Gen. 2:15-20.

This "mark" or "boundary" was quite a gracious "mark" of kindness provided by God to man, and a mark seemingly difficult to miss.

However, Adam and Eve "missed the mark" and by "missing the mark," sin entered into the being of mankind. Read Genesis 3:1-24 about the temptation by Satan, the sin of man, the judgments, the necessity of a second Adam (Christ Gen. 3:15) that would provide the way, or path back to a communion with Almighty God.

Mankind continued to sin (miss the mark) and 10 generations from Adam, God chose to repopulate the earth after a universal cleansing flood. Read chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the Book of Genesis. Then 10 generations later (Gen. 11:10-26), Abram was born, whom God made a covenant (Gen. 15:1-21) with and changed his name to Abraham. Because of Abraham's faith (Gen. 15:6) of God's "mark or target" for him, a succession of blessings ensued that are still prevalent today.

Ten generations later, God made a call on a reluctant man by the name of Moses to deliver the nation of Israel (Abraham's promised descendents) from the cruel nation of Egypt. During this exodus deliverance, God gave the nation of Israel a list of "boundaries" or

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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 ; Kevin 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
LUELLE FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH
3162 St. Hwy. 11,
Harvey Patterson,
903/893-2252
A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, 150 Fellowship Ln,
Luella
Mike Ball, 903/870-0219

Tom Bean
CHURCH OF CHRIST
903/546-6620
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
903/546-6231
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH 903/546-6898
INSPIRATION POINT
COWBOY CHURCH
FM 2729, 2.5 miles
South of Tom Bean
Duane Peters,
903-815-2278
PILOT GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH
1271 Pilot Grove St.
903/450-3708

Sherman/Denison
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY
SAINTS



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Missing the Mark, continued

“marks” (Ten Commandments) to live within (Exodus 20:3-17).

After Moses’ death, Joshua was triumphant in his conquest of Canaan (the Promised Land). However the Israelites failed to eradicate all the inhabitants of Canaan as God commanded. Because of this disobedience, Israel tolerated Canaan’s religious practices, such as idol worship, prostitution of both sexes, and infant sacrifices.

As a result Israel frequently absorbed these practices into their religion, a complete “missing of the mark” set by God. At the end of his life, Joshua made a covenant for the people, he drew up for them decrees and laws... and recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God (and on a large stone), the Lord said to us, “It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God.” (Joshua 24:23-27)..., another “mark” or “target” was established for God’s people.

God’s ultimate “mark,” “target,” “path,” “way,” given to mankind came in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, the Co-Creator of the universe, humbled Himself to become an incarnate being, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, being the 42nd flesh generation of Abraham (Matt. 1:17), whom God promised that “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Gen. 12:3 and Gal. 3:8&16).

In order to avoid “missing the mark” mankind needs to focus closer towards the “target” of the embodiment of God’s only Son, Jesus Christ, to regain God’s original communal intent of His creation of mankind.

Aiming closer towards the “target” makes it easier to hit and conversely aiming away from it... makes it impossible to hit.

Avoid sin (“Missing the Mark”) by aiming at Jesus (“The Target”).

Thanks for providing me with “The Target” and the instructor (Holy Spirit) that enables me to hit “The Mark” and receive the ultimate trophy (Crown of Life).

First Baptist Church, Melissa

First Baptist Church Melissa offers three identical worship services led by Pastor Trey Graham every Sunday morning at 9, 10:15, and 11:30 am. Pastor Trey’s current message series is an in-depth study of Genesis titled “From the Start.”

Small group Bible studies, known as Communities, meet Sunday mornings at 8, 9, 10:15, and 11:30 am, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, and many other times during the week. Contact Matt Ward at matt@firstmelissa.com for information on Communities.

Students in grades 7-12 gather at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays in the brand-new Strive Student Theater for the AMP’D worship service led by Matt Ward and the student ministry band.

“Ignite Kids” (birth-6th grade) have a number of worship and Bible study opportunities on Wednesdays. Our mid-week ministry for children is titled “High Voltage.” Fusion (grades 5-6) meets in their new home, room A300 in Building A. Preschoolers have moved into their beautiful new facility in Building B and children in grades K-4 meet in our main worship center to enjoy the exciting ministry led by Kevin Blevins and his team. For more information, email Kevin Blevins at kblevins@firstmelissa.com.

The women of First Melissa are studying the Beth Moore video study, called “Believing God”, led by Bretta Graham. They meet at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays in the newly renovated Catalyst hallway in Building A.

Pastor Tim Cypert will continue teaching a mid-week series on the New Testament book of James this Wednesday night at 6:30 pm in Annex 1.

First Melissa will offer four identical worship services on Easter Sunday, April 24. Join us at 7:45, 9:00, 10:15, or 11:30 am to worship the Risen Savior.

“Faith Walk with Trey Graham,” a daily Bible teaching radio program, is heard Monday-Friday at 10:00 am on The Word 100.7 FM. For more information, visit www.treygraham.com.

“Smart Talk with Trey Graham,” a weekly talk radio program, is heard Sundays at 4:00 pm on The Word 100.7 FM. For more information, visit www.treygraham.com.

“Lessons for the Journey” and “Light for the Journey,” inspirational books written by Pastor Trey Graham, are available for purchase at www.amazon.com, at www.treygraham.com, at the First Melissa church office, or in local bookstores.

First Melissa is making a difference for the cause of Jesus Christ around the world. To learn about mission trips and opportunities to visit Guatemala, Kenya, Vietnam, Israel, and New Orleans, contact Tim Cypert at tim@firstmelissa.com.

First Melissa is located at 2101 Melissa Road East in Melissa. For more information or directions, visit the church online at www.firstmelissa.com or call 972.838.2277.



Local Churches Continued

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. Bierschen, 972/562-0752
MORNING CHAPEL CHRISTIAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL
103 Bowen, 902/482-5431
SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH
702 E. Fulton, 903/482-5664, Rev. Arnold Baker, pastor

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Neighborhood Genealogist – Getting more Information

by Dale Rideout

In our first article I showed you how to fill out two of the basic information sheets that are used in recording your ancestry. I hope you filled out pages for everyone that you have information on because that is the best way to start. Later we will talk about putting that information on a computer program.

Now I will give you some ideas about finding more information. Look over the sheets you already have, and notice the areas that are missing information. Now look and see who on those sheets will know that information that you are missing. Think about it. We are talking about your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and others who are still living and may be able to answer your questions.

Make plans to visit these folks. I suggest you take a tape recorder and plenty of note paper. Also be prepared with the questions you need answered.

There are two types of questions you want to ask. First is the specific question that you needed answered. “When was Aunt Judy Born? Where was Aunt Judy Born? What was Aunt Judy's maiden name?” You may have a lot of these so be ready to get the answers. These questions usually have very short answers.

Next you will want to ask a lot of open ended questions. These are questions that may have very long answers. This is where you will want to have your tape recorder going. Once your “Grandma” starts on the answer, do not stop her. Let her keep going with her story. You will often get a lot of information that you never expected. This is the time that you will want to carefully listen to what she says and not be distracted by writing it all down. You will hear things that give you other questions to ask. These interviews are priceless and someday day you will be glad you have them recorded.

Here are some of the open ended questions that will start such a conversation:

Where did you grow up?
What were your parents like? Your siblings?
What do you remember about your grandparents?
Who were your friends?
What was school like for you?

What did you do for fun when you were a child?
when you were a teenager?

What movies and songs did you like when you were young?

How did you meet your spouse?

What important lessons have you learned in your life?

When and where were you born?

How did you get your name?

What did you look like as a baby?

What color are your eyes?

What color is your hair?

What are your earliest memories?

Who is your mother?

Describe her appearance and personality.

Did your mother work outside the home?

What did she do?

Who is your father? Describe him and his personality.

Did your father do home repairs?

What were his hobbies?

What was your father's occupation?

How many siblings do you have?

What are their names?

Where do you fit in the family?

What family rules did you have?

What did your parents value?

Did you have assignments or chores when you were a child?

Did you get along well with your siblings when you were children?

Do you get along well with your siblings now?

Did you know your grandparents?

What were they like?

Did you know any of your great-grandparents?

Tell about them.

Who were your earliest friends?

Where did you play?

What kinds of games did you play?”

Well you can see that these I much information to be gathered by these interviews. I have a six page list that I give to my classes when I teach beginning genealogy. I am sending that list to your newspaper and if you want a copy, contact them. Or you could send me an e-mail and I will send the list back to you:

dalerideout@cableone.net. Everywhere you go and everything you do gives you the opportunity to ask more questions. Keep records of all the information you gather and where it came from. You are on your way to becoming a real researcher. More next month.



Prices mean nothing to farmers if it doesn't rain Texas wildfires turn hopes and dreams into ashes

By Mike Barnett

N.L. Winter has lived over a century, but he has never seen anything like the Texas wildfires that rolled over his ranch north of Abilene last week. Known as "Boss," Mr. Winter lost the home he was born in, the two-room house his father built in 1910, and the house where he and his late wife, Leta, raised their three children. Much of his 1,400 acre ranch is charred.

"It's the worst fire I've ever seen," the 106-year-old cowboy told the *Abilene Reporter-News*.

Mr. Winter is just one of many whose dreams, hopes and livelihoods have turned to ashes this spring. Texas is burning. Wildfires have ravaged over 1.5 million acres since the first of the year. That's equivalent to 2,000 square miles.

It's not supposed to be this way. The calendar puts us on the back side of April. March rains should have replenished the soil. March rains should have nourished life. But they didn't fall. The only clouds this spring are billows of dense smoke.

Agriculture has been hit hard by drought, as my blogging partner Gene Hall documented last week. March was the driest month on record. Most of the state is officially classified in drought. Some of it is extreme. Much of it is severe. Crops wither in the field, if they've been planted at all. Pastures provide little grazing.

Mother Nature adds insult to injury, sucker-punching many who have been stretched thin by the dry weather. It may be the final bout for some. Plentiful rains last year built an understory of brush and grasses. A hard winter set the stage. Lack of rain prevented

green-up. High winds and low humidity have been prevalent. The result is wildfire.

The numbers are startling. No corner of the state is left untouched. 252 Texas counties out of 254 have been affected. As of today (April 18), 244 homes have been destroyed. 8,514 homes have been threatened. 7,807 fires have been fought by a brave, thin line of volunteer firefighters, Texas Forest Service crews and teams from the National Forest Service.

As I look out my window while writing this post, I see high winds once again shaking the trees. It's hot outside. I wonder whose land is burning today. I wonder who will lose their homes. One more is too many. But the forecast calls for many more.

There are ways you can help. Make a donation to your local volunteer fire department. They are the front line troops in this vast effort. They need your support, both financial and spiritual.

There are many relief efforts, both local and statewide. Support locally when you can. But don't forget worthy relief efforts such as Texas CattleWomen for feed and fencing and the Texas Department of Agriculture's State of Texas Agriculture Relief (STAR) fund to restore operations and rebuild fencing.

Also, if you can help out and have land where cattle can be relocated, please let us know!

Texas agriculture is built upon the backs of survivors like Mr. Winter. Mother Nature may take away the grass and the home and the fences. Farmers and ranchers may need a little help. But Mother Nature can't take away their spirit.

Spirit -- and faith -- those are traits which keep agriculture strong -- for Mr. Winter's generation and for generations to come.

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



FACTS THAT YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW. A Fun Fact for Each State

ALABAMA Was the first place to have 9-1-1, started in 1968
ALASKA One out of every 64 people has a pilot's license.
ARIZONA Is the only state in the continental U.S.that doesn't follow Daylight Savings Time.
ARKANSAS Has the only active diamond mine in the U.S.
CALIFORNIA Its economy is so large that if it were a country, it would rank seventh in the entire world.
COLORADO In 1976 it became the only state to turn down the Olympics.
CONNECTICUT The Frisbee was invented here at Yale University
DELAWARE Has more scientists and engineers than any other state.
FLORIDA At 874.3 square miles, Jacksonville is the U.S.'s largest city.
GEORGIA It was here, in 1886, that pharmacist John Pemberton made the first vat of Coca-Cola.
HAWAII Hawaiians live, on average, five years longer than residents in any other state.
IDAHO TV was invented in Rigby, Idaho, in 1922.
ILLINOIS.....Has a Governor in jail. one pending jail & the most corrupt state in the union!
INDIANAHome to Santa Claus, Indiana , which get a half million letters to Santa every year.
IOWA.....Winnebago get their name from Winnebago County . Also, it is the only state that begins with two vowels.
KANSAS Liberal, Kansas, has an exact replica of the house in The Wizard of Oz.
KENTUCKY Has more than \$6 billion in gold underneath Fort Knox.
LOUISIANA Has parishes instead of counties because they were originally Spanish church units.
MAINE It's so big, it covers as many square miles as the other five New England states combined.
MARYLAND The Ouija board

was created in Baltimore in 1892.
MASSACHUSETTS The Fig Newton is name Newton , Massachusetts.
MICHIGAN Fremont, home to Gerber, is the baby food capital of the world.
MINNESOTABloomington s Mall of America is so big, if you spent 10 minutes in each store, you'd be there nearly four days.
MISSISSIPPI President Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear here that's how the teddy bear got its name.
MISSOURI Is the birthplace of the ice cream cone.
MONTANA A sapphire from Montana is in the Crown Jewels of England.
NEBRASKA More triplets are born here than in any other state.
NEW HAMPSHIRE Birthplace of Tupperware, invented in 1938 by Earl Tupper.
NEW JERSEY Has the most shopping malls in one area in the world.
NEW MEXICO Smokey the Bear was rescued from a 1950 forest fire here.
NEW YORK Is home to the nation's oldest cattle ranch, started in 1747 in Montauk.
NORTH CAROLINA Home of the first Krispy Kreme doughnut.
NORTH DAKOTA Rigby , North Dakota , is the exact geographic center of North America ..
OHIO The hot dog was invented here in 1900.
OKLAHOMA The grounds of the state capital are covered by operating oil wells.
OREGON Has the most ghost towns in the country.
PENNSYLVANIA The smiley, :) was first used in 1980 by computer scientists at Carnegie Mellon University .
RHODE ISLAND The nation's oldest bar, the White Horse Tavern, opened here in 1673.
SOUTH CAROLINA Sumter County is home to the world's largest gingko farm.
SOUTH DAKOTA Is the only state

that's never had an earthquake.
TENNESSEE Nashville 's Grand Ole Opry is the longest running live radio show in the world.
TEXAS Dr. Pepper was invented in Waco back in 1885. The Hamburger was invented in Arlington, Texas in 1906.
UTAH The first Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant opened here in 1952.
VERMONT Montpelier is the only state capital without a McDonald's.
VIRGINIA Home of the world's largest office building... The Pentagon.
WASHINGTON Seattle has twice as many college graduates as any other state.
WASHINGTON D.C. Was the first planned capital in the world.
WEST VIRGINIA Had the world's first brick paved street, Summers Street, laid in Charleston in 1870.
WISCONSINThe ice cream sundae was invented here in 1881 to get around Blue Laws prohibiting ice cream from being sold on Sundays.
WYOMINGWas the first state to allow women to vote.

I hope you enjoyed this. I found it interesting!!! These "facts" are from the Internet, so consider the source before you make any bets on them.



OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

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



Dale & Lana Rideout



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

These Grandkids always have fun at the Christmas Tree Farm, and they really can sing - but my may not know it from this little video from 2009.



"Santa" Rideout





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