

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

February 27, 2014



Grayson County Poor Farm story, Saturday



Dot's
Dashes



Let's
Reminisce
Contest



Grayson County Poor Farm



On left, Lois and Herman Goldston in front of New County Farm Building

Right is 3 of their children, Troy, Loy and Delton. Old building is standing behind the kids.

The 1st Saturday Genealogy Group in Tom Bean will be hosting a presentation about the old Grayson County Poor Farm by Dusty Williams, a noted local author and cemetery preservationist. The Farm, west of Sherman on what was then called Shady Oaks Road, was established by the county on land that had been the homeplace of the James H. and Elizabeth Jackson Vaden family. He will also give a brief introduction to his "Adopt-A-Pauper Program" and will allow time for what should be plenty of questions for him to answer!

Anyone with an interest in the Poor Farm, the history of Grayson County or the genealogy of the county is very welcome to attend. The Community Room is in the Tom Bean City Hall building, 201 S. Britton St. at 2 P.M. to 3 P.M. The public is always invited to our regular genealogy group meeting that will end at 4 P.M. For more information or directions call Lea Head [903-364-2403](tel:903-364-2403) or the library [903-546-6250](tel:903-546-6250) 10 A.M.-5 P.M. We hope to see you on Saturday, March 1st. Come early and get a good seat!

[More Area Events](#)



Chrystal Opry House Bluegrass Events

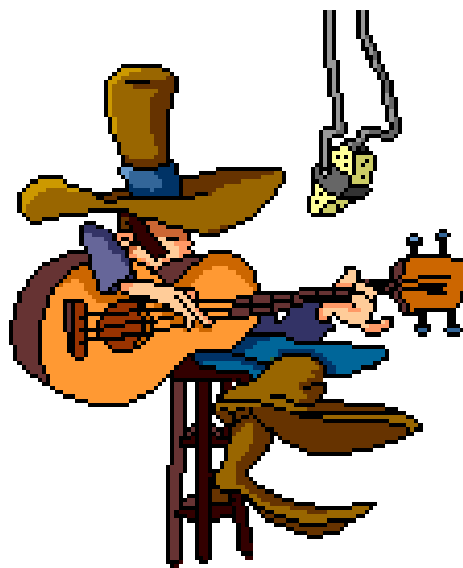
“Bluegrass Day” this month is March 1st. A bluegrass jam begins at 5 pm. Donations will be accepted to defray expenses. For those staying for the show, we have scheduled an open mic at 6:30 pm. It is a good opportunity to get some stage experience. Our regular show will then begin at 7 pm. Let’s try a new policy, bring 10 paying guests (at regular price) to one of our first Saturday bluegrass shows, and you will be admitted free.

We welcome a family band from Stephenville, TX. They are The 2nd Time Around and includes dad, Gary Gore, guitar and vocals, Mom, Katy Gore, banjo and guitar, son#1, Cole Gore, mandolin, lead and harmony, son #2, Lane Gore, fiddle and vocals. This is their first appearance at the Opry. Let’s make them welcome!

We will begin our gospel shows on the third Saturday night of the month. If you would like to be a guest or know someone who would, please contact us. Our first gospel show of the year will be March 15th.

The concession area will be open at 6 pm, with brisket sandwiches and hot dogs as well as coffee, soda, water, popcorn, and candy.

The Chrystal Opry House is located at 1977 White Mound Road, Sherman, Texas which is 1.5 miles west of Tom Bean or 6 miles east of Howe on FM 902 and a half mile south on White Mound Road. No alcohol is permitted and there is no smoking inside the building. Seating is provided. Persons interested in performing at the Chrystal Opry House should contact Bill Hayes at 903-546-6893 or <http://www.chrystalopryhouse.com>. (“Like” us on face book--chrystalopryhouse and (www.melodyranchbluegrassfestival.com))



Pamela S. Egner, D.D.S.
Family Dentistry



217 E. Jefferson St.
P.O. Box 729, Van Alstyne, TX 75495
Ph: 903-482-6339 Fax: 903-482-1313





Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Interim Charges for House Committees

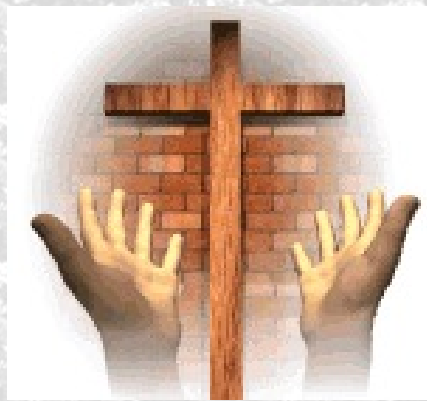
This week I will continue to discuss the interim charges recently issued to the House Committee on Appropriations. The Appropriations Committee is the largest committee in the House with twenty-seven members, and is charged with preparing the state's biennial budget. The Committee has sixteen charges, about half of which I wrote last week, and this week I will discuss the last 8 charges. Interim charges are the issues that the Speaker asks committees to study during the time between regular legislative sessions in order to make recommendations for legislation for the following legislative session. The charges are good indicators of what legislation the legislature will take up during the next session. Legislators rely on public input when crafting legislation, and it is important that they hear from people during the interim.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS:

- Study the implementation of provisions in legislation passed during the 83rd Session regarding the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Make recommendations for expansion of, and improvement in, the delivery of those services if cost-effective.
- Conduct a basic review of current public education and higher education funding formulas. Specifically, focus on whether items funded outside base formulas (Foundation School Program (FSP) and higher education formulas) should be included inside the formulas. After the review, the committee may recommend the addition or deletion of funding items or changes in levels of current funding.
- Review existing research funds; evaluate the purpose for their creation and the progress made toward the goal of each fund. Recommend any changes necessary to improve the effectiveness or outcomes of each program's stated purpose. Determine to what extent eligibility overlap exists among the funds. Make recommendations on eligibility and funding levels for each fund.
- Review current capital needs in higher education. The committees shall examine past methods of financing higher education's capital needs, as well as approaches used in other states. The committees shall jointly make recommendations to address these costs in the future. In adopting recommendations, the committees should focus on methodologies that identify priority capital projects, treat institutions of higher education equitably, and uniformly share costs between the state and institutions. The committees should also examine the viability of alternatives to traditional models for funding capital projects. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Higher Education)
- Monitor the use of funds provided or made available to Texas in relation to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill and make recommendations on the appropriate use of these funds in the future. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Natural Resources)
- Examine the immediate and long-term fiscal impact of the Employees Retirement System (ERS) employee health care plan. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Pensions)
- Study the affordability of health care for active public school employees. Examine how premiums and out-of-pocket costs have increased over time and how these increases have affected employees and school districts, and make appropriate recommendations. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Pensions)
- Examine the immediate and long-term fiscal impact of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) health care plan (TRS-Care). (Joint charge with the House Committee on Pensions)

The House Committee on Appropriations can be reached at 512-463-1091. For more information on these charges or any other matter of state government, please contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by emailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us. My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297.





Proverbs 7:1-27 (KJV)

- ¹ My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.
- ² Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.
- ³ Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.
- ⁴ Say unto wisdom, Thou *art* my sister; and call understanding *thy* kinswoman:
- ⁵ That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words.
- ⁶ For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,
- ⁷ And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,
- ⁸ Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,
- ⁹ In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:
- ¹⁰ And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.
- ¹¹ (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:
- ¹² Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)
- ¹³ So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him,
- ¹⁴ *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows.
- ¹⁵ Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.
- ¹⁶ I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt.
- ¹⁷ I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
- ¹⁸ Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning; let us solace ourselves with loves.
- ¹⁹ For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey:
- ²⁰ He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed.
- ²¹ With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
- ²² He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;
- ²³ Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life.
- ²⁴ Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.
- ²⁵ Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.
- ²⁶ For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by her.
- ²⁷ Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Christian Fellowship

David Ellis will lead worship service this week at A Christian Fellowship church in Luella. Come out and join them beginning Sunday mornings at 9:00am for coffee and doughnut fellowship. S.S. classes for ages toddler to adult begins at 9:30 and worship service at 10:30.

David Ellis is the leader for praise and worship and it is a contemporary style service. Dress is casual. The congregation celebrates The Lord's Supper each week during worship service.

Kidz in Da Zone for Jesus is a class for kids ages 2-10. They learn bible verses, do skits, have puppet shows for the kids, just to name a few. Bring your kidz out for a fun time. This takes place during worship hour.

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

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

Tom Bean Church of Christ

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

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

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

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

Area Churches

Cannon

CANNON BAPTIST CHURCH
RFD 1, Rev. John Wade, pastor,
903/482-6761
SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
George Seevers, 903/364-2942

Cherry Mound

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

Dorchester

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

Gunter

COLLEGE HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST
304 E. College, 903/433-4835
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
300 Pecan, 903/433-3335
GRACE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Pastor Bruce Stinson
Brooks Plaza
Sundays - 9:30 AM Worship
www.thegbf.com
VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Howe

APOSTOLIC LIFE UPC
405 S. Collins Frwy,
Jerry Pentecost, 903/821-9166;
Sun. 10am & 6pm
NEW BEGINNING FELLOWSHIP/AG,
912 S Denny St.
903/532-6828; Roger Roper,
S-school, 9:30, worship 10:45
BETHEL BAPTIST
Hwy. 902 E & Ponderosa Rd,
Weldon Hutson, pastor,
903/532-6032
SUMMIT CHURCH
Howe Middle School Cafeteria,
903/815-1472 ; 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

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

Tom Bean

CHURCH OF CHRIST
903/546-6620
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
903/546-6231
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
903/546-6898
INSPIRATION POINT COWBOY CHURCH
FM 2729, 2.5 miles
South of Tom Bean
Duane Peters,
903-815-2278



More Church Page



LIVING WATER The Bridge

Once upon a time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want you to build me a fence-an 8-foot fence-so I won't need to see his place anymore. Cool him down, anyhow."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped.

There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge – a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all – and the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched. "You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers met at the middle of the bridge, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have so many more bridges to build."

*
When WE were separated from God due to our sin (Isaiah 59:1-2), God, because of His great love for us, sent His Son Jesus to "build a bridge" of reconciliation.

Actually, Jesus WAS and IS the bridge that reconciles man to God, for Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our redemption (Ephesians 1:7). Through Jesus, we are reconciled to God (see 2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

To access the Bridge of reconciliation to God... we must place our faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

Don't remain separated from God! Cross the Bridge of reconciliation through your trusting obedience to His Will.

Won't YOU?

David A. Sargent, Minister
davidsargent1@comcast.net

* From illustrations data base at www.bible.org, Author Unknown

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

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

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

**PILOT GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH**
1271 Pilot Grove St.
903/450-3708

**Sherman/Denison
THE CHURCH OF JESUS
CHRIST OF LATTER DAY
SAINTS**
1900 Lamberth Rd, Sherman.
**FRIENDSHIP UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
RFD 2 off Hwy. 56; 903/892-8450
**WESTERN HEIGHTS
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
800 Baker Park Dr.,
903/892-9635, Sun. 10
**CHURCH OF THE
NAZARENE,**
601 Hwy. 1417, Pastor,
Rev. Mack Rogers
**RED RIVER
COWBOY CHURCH**
3800 Hwy. 691 (w of Hwy. 75);
Novice Northington, 903/463-5840

**Van Alstyne
COMMUNITY BIBLE
CHURCH**

Northwest corner Hwy 5 &
County Line Rd.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

105 Hopson,
Shannon Jackson, minister,
903/482-6033

EAST SIDE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

PO Box 141, Larry Shead,
minister; worship 11am

ELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

FM 121 W, Elmont;

Jim Poole, pastor,
903/482-6356

FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH,

corner of Pearl & Nash,

Pastor Kenneth L. Price,
972/547-0243,

LIFE CHURCH,

201 W. Marshall,

Pastors – Lance/ Mary Baker

903/433-8089

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

102 E. Marshall, 903/482-6334,

Jimmy Tarrant, pastor

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

206 Waco, 903/482-5515,

Gary Gibbs, pastor

**FIRST PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**

903/482-6646,

Rev. J.R. Thornhill, pastor

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

301 S. Preston,

Rev. Jack Wallace, minister

**GREYWOOD HEIGHTS
WORSHIP CENTER**

On Hwy. 75 just north of Dairy

Queen, 903/482-6700;

Chris Jones, pastor

**HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Father Stephen W. Bierschenk,

972/562-0752

**MORNING CHAPEL
CHRISTIAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL**

103 Bowen, 902/482-5431

SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH

702 E. Fulton, 903/482-5664, Rev.

Arnold Baker, pastor



Copyright © All rights reserved.





“Summer Science Splash Camp” for Middle Schoolers Begins at Austin College in 2014

SHERMAN, TEXAS--Middle school students who love science or want to learn more are invited to the newly instituted “Summer Science Splash Camp” at Austin College during summer 2014. No particular advance science knowledge is required; students should come motivated to learn and have fun in the process. The week-long residential summer camp includes research and science exploration led by certified science teachers during the day and plenty of fun activities outside the lab in the late afternoon and evening, supervised by camp counselors who are well-trained Austin College students.

The Summer Science Splash Camp is now accepting registrations on the Austin College website: www.austincollege.edu/sciencesplash. The camp is sponsored by the II-VI Foundation and hosted by and conducted on the Austin College campus.

Austin College sessions for summer 2014 will be offered July 13 – 18 and July 20 – 25. Because of the generous support of the II-VI Foundation, registration for the camp, including programming and room and board, is offered at the reduced cost of only \$300 per student (\$1,130 value). Registration includes all activities and a camp t-shirt. Each session is designed for only 60 participants (waiting lists will be maintained).

Learning teams of 12 students and one teacher will work in labs and classrooms with curriculum prepared in conjunction with Austin College faculty. Campers will be engaged in team competitions in daily experiments and in their evening activities.

All meals will be provided in the Austin College dining hall, offering healthy and tasty food choices. Campers with any dietary needs should report that to the camp director upon registration. Students will live with camp counselors in Austin College air-conditioned residence halls.

Participants should bring their own linens and all personal toiletries as well as clothing for recreation (including swimming) and appropriate lab attire, which includes closed-toe shoes, long pants, and non-baggy clothing.

Summer Splash Programs at Juniata College in Pennsylvania and Eckerd College in Florida, both sponsored by the II-VI Foundation, have received high praise from participants.

The II-VI Foundation is headquartered in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, and operates with the mission to “encourage and enable students to pursue a career in engineering, science, and mathematics while maintaining a standard of excellence in that pursuit.” The foundation aims to fulfill its mission through early education initiatives, undergraduate scholarships, the Undergraduate Research Program, and a Block-Gift Program for graduate student support. The foundation supports research at Austin College in addition to the new summer program.

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*](#).



More College News





GC offers spring cooking classes

Valentines, Italian, Tex-Mex, Easter and dreamy breakfasts are the menu themes when Grayson College's Hospitality Management & Culinary Arts Center partners with its Center for Workplace Learning to offer recreational cooking classes this spring. Open to the public, classes take place at the Culinary Arts Center on GC's Main Campus in Denison, east of the Viking Dorm. Participants must be at least 16 years old to enroll in the classes, except where noted.

Taught by GC's chef instructors, courses provide hands-on training, demonstrations, and interactive learning in the college's state-of-the-art facility. Participants learn knife skills and explore cooking methods as they prepare and consume cuisine that ranges from the familiar to the unexpected. In some of the classes, participants prepare goodies to take home as well.

"Let's Cook Tex-Mex" brings the fiesta into the kitchen. Participants tackle Tex-Mex favorites such as sour cream chicken enchiladas, tamales with green chili sauce and flan from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4. Cost is \$29 per person.

"Kids' Easter Egg Dyeing Class" is designed for kids of all ages. Participants learn fun ways to dye and decorate eggs using many different techniques, a lot of colors, stickers, and glitter. Cost is \$12 per person for the class, which meets Saturday, April 19 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

"Easter Bunny Cake" teaches participants how to make the perfect dessert and centerpiece for Easter brunch or dinner. The Easter bunny-shaped cake and Easter basket cupcakes are fun to create and delicious to eat. The class meets Saturday, April 19 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$29 per person.

"Dream Breakfast Party" makes the most important meal of the day the tastiest too. Participants learn how to make the perfect muffin recipe, crepes, made-from-scratch biscuits and more. Cost is \$29 per person. The class meets on Saturday, May 3 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

"Intermediate Fondant Work" takes cakes to the next level. Participants use fondant to work on basic flowers, cut out shapes, create ball borders, and more. The class meets Saturday, May 10 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$39 per person.

In addition to the spring cooking classes, private cooking classes and children's birthday cooking classes are available as well. For more information or to register for the spring recreational and private classes, visit the GC Center for Workplace Learning website at www.cwlgcc.org. Registration may be completed online at www.cwlgcc.org, in person weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the CWL on the college's Main Campus in Denison, or by phone at 903-463-8765 if paying with MasterCard, Discover or Visa credit cards.

GC presents two plays this spring with diverse subject matter

Grayson College's Theatre Department is preparing two very different plays for audiences this spring. Both productions are presented in the Arts & Communications Building's state-of-the-art facilities on the college's Main Campus in Denison.

David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Glengarry Glen Ross," runs Feb. 20-22 in the Black Box Theatre. Set in the cut-throat world of real estate, the plot explores the journey of what men will take to make money. Rated NC-17 due to strong language, "Glengarry Glen Ross" features an all-male cast. Reservations are encouraged because seating is limited.

"Commedia Pinocchio" is a comedy designed for the whole family that younger audiences will particularly enjoy. Award-winning playwright Lane Riosley is known for plays with high energy and physical comedy. The plot follows the antics of a comedy troupe as it attempts to present the classic tale about the puppet-turned-real-boy. "Commedia Pinocchio" runs from April 30 to May 3 in the Cruce Stark Auditorium. Reservations are not necessary.

Tickets are free for "Glengarry Glen Ross" and \$1 for "Commedia Pinocchio" or free with college ID. For reservations or more information about either show, contact the GC Theatre Department at 903-463-8609 or theatre@grayson.edu.



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Texoma Enterprise

805 N. Hughes

Howe, Texas 75459-3587

903-487-0525

dalerideout@cablone.net

lanarideout@cablone.net

Texoma Enterprise is owned and operated by Dale and Lana Rideout. They have been doing this since 1978. The picture on the left is about 5 years old, with Dale shown as "Santa" Rideout at Christmas, 2009. The family shot on the right includes all our grandchildren, plus a couple of Step-grandchildren. It was taken at Elves Christmas Tree Farm. This farm opened to the public in 1990 when Jordan was only 2 months old and he went there with us. Every year since we have taken every grandchild with us. This year was our 23rd year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.



Grandkids singing at the Elves Christmas Tree Farm, 2007



Dots Dashes

By Dorothy N. Fowler

After years of telling readers to use a little sense when they read or hear something ridiculously unlikely to be true, I am asking you to check this out. I didn't believe it, either, but it is nevertheless true. I checked it out on the Texas Education Agency website and then did more research.

It is testing time, accountability time in Texas. School districts, and when it is over, administrators and teachers are going to be judged in part on whether high school special education students pass tests that everyone knows most cannot pass. What's more, students who take the tests know their individual test results will make no difference in whether they graduate from high school. The requirement for these students is only that they "attempt" the test.

There is no legal definition of the word "attempt." It might mean they come to a classroom, put their names on the booklet and then go to sleep. It might mean they really try to answer the questions.

This year is the last year that special education students will be allowed to take "modified" tests. These tests are not "modified" to meet the needs of individual students, but are standardized, like the ones their classmates down the hall take. It may be that "accommodations" for some students will be allowed; in some instances. For example, someone might be hired to read a test to a student.

Next year, these special education students will take exactly the same tests that other students take. It is a certainty that if these students can't pass "modified" tests, they will not be able to pass those without modifications. I don't know and no one can say with any certainty that "accommodations" will still be allowed.

To the special education students, it doesn't matter. All they have to do is "attempt" the tests. Only the school districts, the administrators and the teachers are "accountable" for the students' scores.

Many people think that all special education students are mentally retarded, incapable of much cognition as a result of anomalies in their brains. That is true of only about seven percent of special education students.

Most special education students suffer from one or more of the anomalies classified as learning disabilities. According to an article published in *The Future of Children* in 2012,

"IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) regulations define a specific learning disability as a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using spoken or written language that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations. Contributing conditions include perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. Specific learning disabilities can also affect executive function skills, such as impulse control, flexibility, planning, and organizing, as well as social and emotional skills. The regulations make clear, however, that learning problems resulting primarily from visual, hearing, or motor disabilities; mental retardation; emotional disturbance; or environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage are not specific learning disabilities under the law. Specific learning disabilities are an important group of disorders for the special education population, both because so many students have them and because by definition they affect learning."

I don't object to developing special programs for students who have needs that can't be met by throwing them into the general population of the general education classroom, although that has certainly been done and continues to be done, sometimes to the detriment not only of the special needs student, but also to the detriment of the other students in the class.

I do object to using test results to evaluate school districts, administrators and teachers, especially when a significant number of students cannot, because they are disabled, pass the tests under any circumstances and are not accountable for doing more than making an "attempt."

Check it out, Folks. It could get worse and next week, it will.

Statement by Gov. Perry on Occidental Petroleum Relocating Headquarters to Texas

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry today released the following statement on Occidental Petroleum Corporation moving its corporate headquarters from Los Angeles, California to Houston, Texas:

“Occidental Petroleum is the largest oil producer in Texas and one of the largest in the nation, so it seems only fitting the company would locate its headquarters in Houston, the Energy Capital of the World,” Gov. Perry said. “Oxy ranks 125 on the Fortune 500 list, and the company’s move is further evidence Texas has built the most dynamic, pro-growth economy in the nation.”

Cornyn: CBO Minimum Wage Estimate Reconfirms President’s Big-Government Experiment A Job-Killer

HOUSTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, today issued the following statement regarding the Congressional Budget Office’s estimate that President Obama and Congressional Democrats’ proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 would result in roughly 500,000 jobs being lost by late 2016:

“The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office confirmed yet again what we know to be true of government overreach in the marketplace: raising the minimum wage would slash jobs and harm an already fragile workforce. Whether it’s Obamacare, a minimum wage hike or a trillion-dollar stimulus bill charged to the nation’s credit card, the bottom line is the President’s big-government experiment kills jobs. It has made things worse not only for Americans who continue to look for a job, but also for the millions of Americans who have altogether given up looking for work.”

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

White House’s War on the American Worker

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn
Dallas Morning News

February 21, 2014

<http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/latest-columns/20140220-white-houses-war-on-the-american-worker.ece>

It’s hard to deny that the Obama administration has declared a war on the American worker. One need look no further than two recent reports from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. In a report released earlier this month, the CBO found that Obamacare will reduce the size of the American labor force by 2.5 million full-time workers over the next decade. Meanwhile, in a separate study, the CBO found that the president’s goal of raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour could kill up to 1 million jobs.

When the labor force is about to do a vanishing act to the tune of 2.5 million workers — and an additional 1 million jobs are potentially on the chopping block — the rational thing to do would be to change or avoid the policies that are to blame. Unfortunately, that sort of common sense is in short supply at this White House, where inconvenient facts have little sway over political priorities.

In fact, the White House has doubled down on these policies, and even gone so far as to tell the American people that fewer workers and reduced hours are actually good things. To quote the top White House economist, working less to maintain Obamacare benefits “might be a better option than what they had before.”

It’s a sad day when the White House and congressional Democrats are celebrating the prospect of a smaller American labor force. Sadder, still, when you consider the thousands of additional jobs being withheld from the American people on account of burdensome regulations and political posturing. But these are the realities of the Obama administration and the policies it promotes — policies that are decreasing opportunities for Americans and increasing their dependency on the federal government, policies that, collectively, amount to a war on the American worker.

I’ve met and corresponded with some of these workers — workers like the single mother I met in Tyler and the teacher from Irving, both of whom have had their hours cut as a result of Obamacare. They recognize something that seems to be utterly lost on this administration: Work is not just about money and income. It’s about dignity, self-reliance and self-respect.

In other words, jobs are important in ways that extend well beyond their immediate economic value. Opportunities for work have social and moral value. They promote strong citizens and, by extension, a strong country. Yet, under the guise of liberal compassion, the policies of the Obama administration have consistently rejected this reality. There’s nothing compassionate about deliberately making Americans more dependent on the federal government, nor is there compassion in robbing them of paid hours or incentivizing them to leave the labor force entirely.

A truly compassionate agenda would seek to expand opportunity rather than dependency. It would place a higher value on the dignity of work and the self-reliance of American workers. For that matter, a truly compassionate agenda would aim to dismantle Obamacare and replace it with patient-centered alternatives that encourage both work and job creation.

The last five years have been a policy experiment in the exact opposite. The result has been a historically sluggish recovery, a decline in median household income and less economic opportunity for Americans. As Republicans, it does us no good to simply point to these facts and say, “I told you so.” The status quo is not written in stone.

With the right mix of economic policies, America can return to the strong growth rates and robust job creation it enjoyed during the 1980s and 1990s. I urge the president to work with us toward a future full of opportunities for Americans. This is the America that was handed down to us by our forefathers, and it’s the America we must pass on to our children and grandchildren.

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



Humor

OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

OUTZKIRTS.COM



Hi Tech Prayer

As I boot up my PC,
my modem dialing next to me,

I ask the Lord, give me a sign...
Will I ever get on-line?????

If you'd kindly let me through,
I'll byte no more than I can chew.

I'll surf the waves amid the Net,
with my mouse, my loyal pet.

And through each window I will see
the websites that are offered me.

Resisting any chat room's lure,
I'll download only what is pure.

If system errors don't prevail,
I vow to read all my e-mail.

If you save me from a crash,
I'll dump my games into the trash.

Just please don't take my CD-ROM!
Thank you Lord, God Bless.com.

Copyright © All rights reserved.





LET'S REMINISCE: TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

By Jerry Lincecum

I can remember when we couldn't seem to get enough light. Courtesy of the REA and Limestone County Electric Co-op, electric lights had reached our farm about the time I was born. Among my early memories is a monthly ritual of watching Granddaddy Jones read the meter and complain about the expense of the "light bill." He would be shocked to know what I now pay for electric power. He would walk around my house turning off light switches.

But the Robertson Co. Co-op was slower in bringing electricity to my Lincecum grandparents' farm in Bald Prairie, so I saw the feeble light that came from kerosene lamps. Trying to read a book by lamplight would have strained my eyes. Having to depend on candles or fireplace light to read discouraged reading at night.

Although Thomas Edison held more than a thousand patents, it was the electric light which earned him the nickname "the Wizard of Menlo Park." He said, "We will make electricity so cheap that only the rich will burn candles." A 75-watt bulb burns brighter than 100 candles, and many of us grew up in homes with a single bulb suspended from the ceiling by braided electric wire.

Nowadays most of us live in light-saturated areas, according to Paul Bogard, whose book "The End of Night" I am reading. His point is that two-thirds of the world's population (including 99 percent of people living in the continental US and western Europe) no longer experience a truly dark night, one untouched by artificial electric light. Just ask any amateur astronomer how hard it is to find a location that is truly dark.

Four hundred years ago, everyone in Italy could see the multitude of stars that filled the skies overhead, but only Galileo had a telescope to study them. In the 21st century telescopes are commonplace but few of us can find enough darkness to let us to see more than the brightest stars.

To quote from Bogard's book, "The brightest light on planet Earth shoots from the apex of the Luxor casino in Las Vegas, made up of 39 blended xenon lamps, each one six feet tall and three feet wide. It's the greatest number of lamps they could fit into the space."

The endless pursuit of artificial brilliance has made the Vegas Strip the brightest real estate on earth, as confirmed by NASA photographs from outer space. Las Vegas is famous for the slogan, "What happens here, stays here," but that doesn't apply to the concept of saturation lighting. It reigns all over this country.

Even a small city like Sherman, where I live, expends far more kilowatts than are really needed to have brilliant lighting on acres of auto dealerships, gas stations, and parking lots. Bogard's book has maps that show the increase in artificial night sky brightness in the US from the late 1950s to the mid 70s and then 1997. The most stunning map of all shows how much light pollution we'll have in 2025, if the present trend continues.

Today the electricity required for lighting systems is measured in mega- and gigawatts, We've come a long way from those rooms with a single 75-watt light bulb hanging from the ceiling. I think we have too much of a good thing.

-30-

Jerry Lincecum is a retired English professor who now teaches classes for older adults who want to write their life stories. He welcomes your reminiscences on any subject. Email him at jlincecum@me.com.

STORY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-30-



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

These businesses help bring you
The Texoma Enterprise every
Week. Please use their goods and
Services whenever you can.

Pamela S. Egner, D.D.S.
Family Dentistry



217 E. Jefferson St.
P.O. Box 729, Van Alstyne, TX 75495
Ph: 903-482-6339 Fax: 903-482-1313

BUCK SNORT BBQ

ESTABLISHED 2009

Jim Smith, Proprietor

224 E. Jefferson 903.482.6171
P. O. Box 1241 jim@bucksnortbbq.com
Van Alstyne, TX 75495 www.bucksnortbbq.com



Bruce E. Maniet, D.O., P.A.
COMPLETE FAMILY CARE

WHITEWRIGHT
BELLS MEDICAL CLINIC FAMILY PRACTICE
BROADWAY & MAIN 319 X HWY 69
BELLS, TX 75414 WHITEWRIGHT, TX 75491
PHONE (903) 965-7700 PHONE (903) 364-2022

TEXAS STAR BANK
Banking, Texas Style.
TexasStarBank.com

Member FDIC

Texas Tradition

Our tradition of excellence has remained our top priority for nearly 120 years. Discover our difference and how we can make your financial dreams a reality. Visit our Web site or stop by to learn more.

[Click here for more information](#)

**Van Alstyne
Mini-
Warehouse**

All sizes
available
Manager
on premise
Call
903-482-6074

ABM
ADVANTAGE
BUSINESS MACHINES

PO Box 561
200 S Denny
Howe TX 75459

Todd Creekmore
Sales & Service

Copiers * Printers * Fax
Sales * Service
Supplies

Office: 903-532-6529
Fax: 903-532-6439

Email: advbusmach@verizon.net

City Drug Co.



Available 24 hours.
M - F 8 am to 5:30 pm
Saturday 8 am to 2 pm
After hours call:
David Schatz - 903-482-6063
Jack Strickland - 903-482-5830

(903) 482-5279

209 E. Jefferson -- Van Alstyne

TOM BEAN 8TH GRADERS

COMPLIMENT EACH OTHER IN LETTER FORM

Learning to type letters is a real-world skill that students may use in their future. Complimenting each other and creating kind comments while learning to type letters goes a step beyond.

Students in Ms. Yates's Technology classes took time to think about positive traits each student has, then wrote comments about each student in the class. Names were put in a hat, and two students were drawn to be partners. Each partner received an envelope full of anonymous comments about their partner.

The first student wrote a letter to the other student telling them about the traits written about them, what they admired and asking about events in that student's life. The partner student had a chance to write back and thank them for their kind comments and tell about themselves.

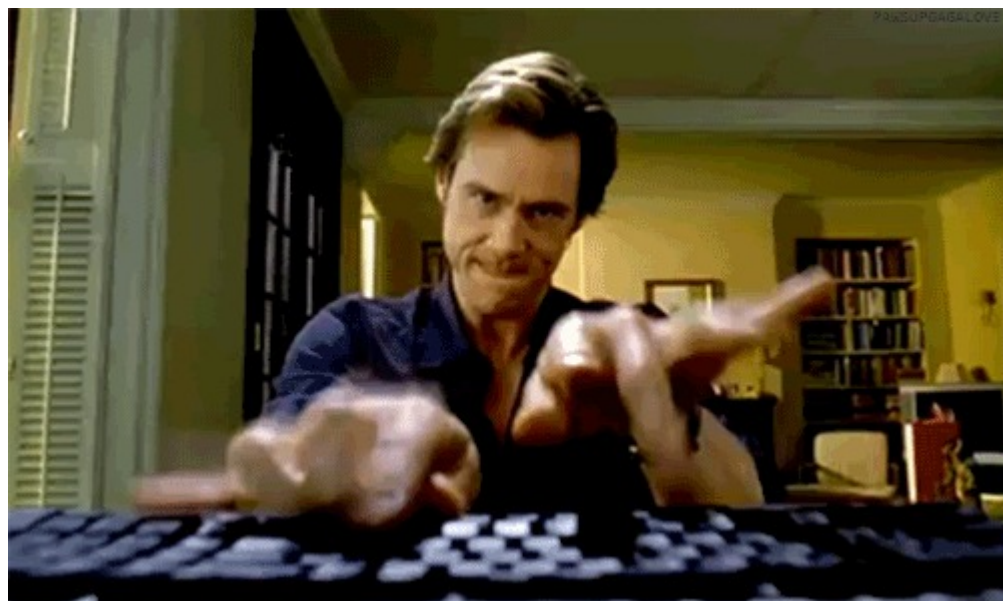
Students agreed that it was a moving experience.

Kelli said, "It was interesting to know what people think about each other."

Brianna added, "I was complimented, and that doesn't happen on a daily basis!"

Ty thought this was "really fun because we get to talk about our classmates and have fun doing it."

This is a school district that continually tries to curb bullying and teach young people to accept others. Dr. Tim Allen, Principal, says "I encourage project-based learning, and if it goes beyond the project to help with real life situations, that's even better."



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459



Bruce E. Maniet, D.O., P.A.
COMPLETE FAMILY CARE

WHITEWRIGHT
BELLS MEDICAL CLINIC FAMILY PRACTICE
BROADWAY & MAIN 319 X HWY 69
BELLS, TX 75414 WHITEWRIGHT, TX 75491
PHONE (903) 965-7700 PHONE (903) 364-2022

Twinkie Delight

1 box twinkies
2 (10 oz) pkg. Frozen strawberries
1 can Eagle Brand milk
1 (4 oz) cool whip
1 3.25 oz. box instant vanilla pudding
Slice Twinkies in halves; place in bottom of one to two metal loaf pans.
Pour strawberries over Twinkies. Mix remaining ingredients. Pour mixture over strawberries and Twinkies. Freeze.

TEXAS STAR BANK
Banking, Texas Style.
TexasStarBank.com

Member FDIC

Texas Tradition

Our tradition of excellence has remained our top priority for nearly 120 years. Discover our difference and how we can make your financial dreams a reality. Visit our Web site or stop by to learn more.

[Click here for more information](#)

Van Alstyne Mini-Warehouse

All sizes available
Manager on premise
Call
903-482-6074



ADVANTAGE BUSINESS MACHINES

PO Box 561
200 S Denny
Howe TX 75459

Email: advbusmach@verizon.net

Todd Creekmore
Sales & Service

Copiers * Printers * Fax
Sales * Service
Supplies

Office: 903-532-6529
Fax: 903-532-6439

BUCK SNORT BBQ

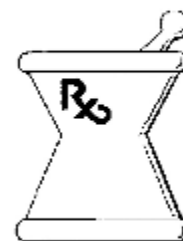
ESTABLISHED 2009

Jim Smith, Proprietor

224 E. Jefferson
P. O. Box 1241
Van Alstyne, TX 75495

903.482.6171
jim@bucksnotbbq.com
www.bucksnotbbq.com

City Drug Co.



Available 24 hours.
M - F 8 am to 5:30 pm
Saturday 8 am to 2 pm
After hours call:
David Schatz - 903-482-6063
Jack Strickland - 903-482-5830

(903) 482-5279

209 E. Jefferson -- Van Alstyne



Music by Kevin McCloud