

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas

February 27, 2014

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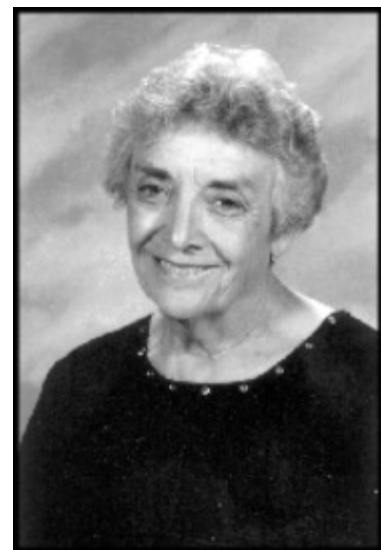
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Tom Bean

This is an experiment. We have new software that has been giving us trouble. This is the first upload of our pages with it. Hope it works well.



Grayson County Poor Farm story, Saturday



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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!

Garden Smart – Texas Style

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Assembly Room

Everyone would love to have a list of the toughest perennial plants that can live in north Texas and survive these droughts. Research is being conducted at Myers Park in McKinney to answer just this question. Come learn about the ongoing results. Find what native and well adapted plants do the best with the least care. See which ones bloomed the best, grew the best, needed the least water, had the least insect and disease issues, etc.

Also learn about growing tough turf for your lawns. Learn how to water, mow, fertilize, resist or fight diseases and pests, and make it tough on weeds to grow.

Program is sponsored by and brought to you by the Grayson County Master Gardeners. Program is Tuesday, March 4, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Grayson County Courthouse, 2nd floor Assembly Room. Enter the courthouse on the south side across from Knight Furniture and proceed to the second floor. \$5.00 at the door fee. RSVP Master Gardeners at 903-813-4204.

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.



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Capitol Watch
By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Interim Charges for House Committees

This week I will discuss the interim charges recently issued to the House Committee on Business and Industry. 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 BUSINESS & INDUSTRY:

Study the voluntary nature of workers' compensation in Texas and how it meets the needs of employers and employees.

Review existing lien laws in Texas. Examine laws concerning the enforcement of contract liens affecting real property. Identify improvements, if any, that will enhance the certainty of title following sale, enhance ability to ensure that sales are conducted by qualified trustees, prevent unnecessary litigation, facilitate loss mitigation between borrowers and sellers, and protect the interests of homeowners, lenders and trustees. Study the imposition of mechanics' liens on automobiles and its impact on mechanics, car owners and purchasers, and lenders. Review ad valorem tax lien lending after the implementation of legislation that passed last session and the impact on homeowners, taxing authorities, mortgage lenders, and tax lien lenders. Review the procedures and powers of the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner to ensure compliance. Study the impact of SB 1024 (82R) on wage theft and law enforcement's and regulatory agencies' responses to wage theft claims. Recommend changes if necessary.

Examine the issue of misclassifying employees as independent contractors on workers, employers, income tax withholding, and the unemployment insurance system. Review current statutory deterrents and make recommendations for changes if necessary.

Study the impact of credit card data theft and other credit or privacy information theft on Texas consumers and businesses.

Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 83rd Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should: consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens; identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate; determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

The House Committee on Business and Industry can be reached at 512-463-0766. For more information on these charges or any other matter of state government, please contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by emailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us. My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297



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Proverbs 8:1-21 (KJV)

¹ Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

² She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

³ She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

⁴ Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice *is* to the sons of man.

⁵ O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

⁶ Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things.

⁷ For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

⁸ All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or perverse in them.

⁹ They *are* all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

¹⁰ Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

¹¹ For wisdom *is* better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

¹² I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

¹³ The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

¹⁴ Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom: I *am* understanding; I have strength.

¹⁵ By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

¹⁶ By me princes rule, and nobles, *even* all the judges of the earth.

¹⁷ I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

¹⁸ Riches and honour *are* with me; *yea*, durable riches and righteousness.

¹⁹ My fruit *is* better than gold, *yea*, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

²⁰ I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

²¹ That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

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 ; Kcvin Bouse
CHURCH OF CHRIST
N. Collins Frwy,
903/532-6441;
Toby Socheting
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
100 E. Davis, 903/532-5504;
Roger Tidwell, pastor
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**
810 N. Denny, 903/532-6718;
Tom Medley, minister

Ida

IDA BAPTIST CHURCH,
903/813- 3263. S- School
10 am, Worship 11 am
Charles Morris, pastor

Luella

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

Tom Bean

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

Christian Fellowship

Angie Howery will be leading worship service this week at A Christian Fellowship in Luella. Come out and join them for a family oriented and moving sermon.

Each Sunday morning begins at 9:00am with coffee and donut fellowship followed by classes for all ages at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30. Dress is casual.

David Ellis lead the congregation in Praise and Worship. It is a contemporary style service.

The congregation joins together in The Lord's Supper each week during worship service.

Kidzone is a ministry @ ACF for kids ages 5-12 and takes place during worship service. Come on out and bring your kids for a fun filled worship service. In kidzone the kids learn about the love of God and the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ in a fast paced atmosphere. They use a multitude of learning activities including skits, games, object lessons, ect. They use CD's, DVD's, and dance moves to also learn about Christ. Kidzone is a fast paced atmosphere where kids learn that God is their number one priority no matter the circumstances.

Wednesday night begins 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 lead the way. For more information contact David Ellis at 903-815-1333 or Mike Ball at 903-271-1870.

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.



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LIVING WATER An Outreach Publication of the Church of Christ

Chiseled in Stone

The 8th century B.C. religious leader Isaiah is a very prominent figure in the Old Testament. Four kings – Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah – ruled Judah during the period in which Isaiah served as prophet and spiritual guide to his people. It was Isaiah who advised King Hezekiah that the invasion by Sennacherib and his Assyrian Army would not lead to the downfall of Jerusalem, and that Sennacherib would not enter the City. He is also the author of the well-known book of Isaiah, including the prophetic chapter 53 concerning the life of the Messiah Jesus Christ. Due to his accurate foreshadowing of Jesus in his writings, Isaiah is sometimes referred to as the “Messianic Prophet.”

In the third chapter of the book of Isaiah, he gives another foreshadowing. Here a vivid description is given of the fall of Judah. Isaiah 3:25-26 states “Your men will fall by the sword, your warriors in battle. The gates of Zion will lament and mourn; destitute, she will sit on the ground.”

In the year 70 A.D., four legions of Romans led by future emperor Titus surrounded Jerusalem and lay siege to the city and sacked it, including the beloved Second Temple. Josephus records the earlier scene as adorned and pleasant, but the aftermath as a “melancholy thing for those places which were adorned with trees and pleasant gardens, were now become desolate country in every way.”

To commemorate the accomplishment of his son and the Roman forces, the emperor Vespasian commissioned coins to be minted. Below is shown one such coin in which he has depicted Judah as a Jewess in attitude of defeat and mourning, seated destitute beneath a palm tree, being overseen by a conquering soldier. The caption reads “IVDEA CAPTA” (Judea Captured). While Vespasian, as Roman emperor, would have little reason to validate the prophecy of Isaiah, his coinage etches in refined stone the truth of Isaiah’s prophecy.

Interestingly, the Great Scroll of the Book of Isaiah, with the prophecies of Jesus and Judah, has been carbon-dated by the University of Arizona and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and was given calibrated dates well before 100 B.C. *

The eternal truth of God’s word -- His inspired Word, the Bible -- is “etched in stone.”

Now observe what Isaiah said the Messiah would do for YOU and ME: “Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” – Isaiah 53:4-6

This is EXACTLY what Jesus did for you and for me when He died on the cross for our sins.

We can accept the salvation from sin for which Jesus died by placing our faith and trust in Him (Acts 16:30-31), turning from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confessing Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38).

There are myriads of evidences of the truthfulness of God’s Word. And it is true: He will save you IF you will respond to Him on His terms. Won’t YOU? -- Terry Livingston and David A. Sargent

dauidsargent1@comcast.net
Mobile, Alabama

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

* References: www.Vcoins.com, www.Biblehistory.com, The Wars of the Jews by Flavius Josephus

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



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Grayson College Joins National Effort to Improve College Completion

Grayson College is joining 12 community and technical colleges from eight states as the newest cohort into the Achieving the Dream (AtD) National Reform Network that is focused on increasing student retention, persistence and completion rates. GC will immediately begin the challenging work of identifying and implementing evidence-based strategies for closing achievement gaps and increasing student success.

“Our pursuit of AtD is one indication that we are committed to developing a focused direction for our student success efforts, and that we will persevere in our journey to continually make Grayson College a world class college,” said GC President Jeremy McMillen. He adds, “AtD provides us with a structured process that goes out several years, it forces us to have courageous conversations about student success in a defined timeline, it encourages us to be thoughtful about our initiatives before we implement (or decommission) projects, and allows us to look at information from the perspective of how our students experience us.”

Achieving the Dream is a national nonprofit network that includes over 200 institutions from 34 states to help nearly 4 million community college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams. The partner institutions share best practices and data that help them keep focusing on student success initiatives and activities that will build long-term improvement in helping more students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree.

“We are delighted to welcome Grayson College into the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network as we celebrate our 10th year of working to improve student success and completion rates across the country,” said Achieving the Dream President and CEO William E. Truehart. “Grayson College represents a diverse group of students whose success means much more than just a personal goal secured. It means improved skills, better employability, and economic growth for the community and our nation as a whole.”

Each college will approach the work differently, but the Achieving the Dream network helps institutions build momentum and sustain their commitment to student success. GC is joined by 2014 cohort schools from Alabama, Kansas, Georgia, New York, California, Kentucky and Wisconsin. McLennan Community College in Waco is the other Texas school in the new group.

GC spent the last three years participating in a “Success By The Numbers” program that helped create a culture of data and evidence. “Through that work, the College was able to establish baseline data and reporting mechanisms that will provide a way to measure our results of new and revamped student success programs,” said McMillen. “We will be working closely with an Achieving the Dream Data Coach to guide us in collecting additional data to help us refine our student success activities.”



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lanarideout@cableone.net

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



Grandkids singing at the Elves Christmas Tree Farm, 2007

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Dot's Dashes

By Dorothy N. Fowler

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A passing score on the math test is 35 percent and passing on the science test is somewhere around 45 percent. That's because everyone knows the tests do not reflect what the curriculum demands teachers to teach.

Yet, when the test scores come out later this year, there will be much wringing of hands and weeping and wailing because "the public schools are failing." The hand wringers, weepers and wailers will say the solution to the problem of this failure will be privatization of the schools. Just turn all those luscious public dollars to private enterprise, and it will get the job done.

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

But I believe there is a conspiracy in the matter of stacking the cards against students, teachers and public schools in the state of Texas. The object of the conspiracy is to privatize schools and get the public's tax dollars.

When the Edison Project left Sherman ISD after its experiment in privatization, the second in command at Edison told me it had been a mistake to try privatizing the two schools involved in the program "because there was not enough federal money in it." Then Edison went to Dallas and in spite of the abundance of federal dollars, couldn't cut it there, either.

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

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



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Cornyn: Latest FWS Salamander Decision To Halt Economic Activity

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) issued the following statement after the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced it would list the Georgetown and Salado salamanders as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The FWS also announced a special rule that is expected to take a year to go into effect, and in the meantime, economic activities in the Central Texas region are in jeopardy, despite the intense efforts of local officials and businesses to protect the salamanders.

“If there’s any question the Obama Administration is targeting Texas in its unprecedented acts of government overreach, we need only look at this latest irresponsible ESA listing, which is supported by questionable science and ignores the input and conservation efforts of the Central Texans who will be directly impacted.

“Listing these salamanders is a serious blow to job growth and economic development in the region, particularly where a lack of clarity in the final special rule could leave development projects in limbo for a year.”

Sen. Cornyn introduced an amendment to reduce funding for FWS listing activities to help halt the premature proposed listing of these salamanders. He also introduced the Endangered Species Act Settlement Reform Act, to give impacted local parties a say in the settlement of ESA litigation between special interest groups and the FWS.

Previously, Sen. Cornyn and U.S. Representative John Carter (R-TX) sent a letter to Fish and Wildlife Regional Director Ben Tuggle asking the FWS to consider all relevant and reliable information before making a final determination.

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

Cornyn Responds To Reid Claim That Americans’ Obamacare Horror Stories Are False

“The only thing that’s ‘untrue’ are the many promises the President made when he tried to sell the nation on Obamacare”

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, today responded to Majority Leader Harry Reid’s claim regarding Obamacare horror stories: “All of them are untrue, but they’re being told all over America.”

“It’s not insult enough that Texans and Americans across the country are losing their health care plans or seeing their hours cut at work because of Obamacare. Now the most powerful Democrat in Congress has said Americans’ personal horror stories about Obamacare ‘are untrue’—not just some, but ‘all of them.’”

“I invite the Majority Leader to visit places like Plano, TX, where he can meet with Glenn Barlow, who is in his 50s, and lost his existing plan, which he liked. The most comparable plan he can purchase under Obamacare is 65 percent more expensive and includes maternity care that he doesn’t need,” Sen. Cornyn said.

“I wish these stories weren’t true, but this is what happens when a President shoves his big-government agenda down the throats of the American people and forces them to buy health care they don’t need or don’t want. At the end of the day, the only thing that’s ‘untrue’ are the many promises the President made when he tried to sell the nation on Obamacare, chief among them: if you like your plan, you can keep it.”

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.

Cornyn: Stop Taking From Seniors to Pay for Obamacare

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) joined with five Republican senators in sending a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to express deep concern with the Obama Administration’s recent actions regarding Medicare Advantage and the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

The senators urged Sec. Sebelius to suspend the administration’s “misguided policies” aimed at weakening the Medicare Advantage and prescription drug programs and leading to increased premiums and reduced choices for seniors.

In addition to Sen. Cornyn, the letter was signed by Senators McConnell (R-KY), Thune (R-SD), Barrasso (R-WY), Moran (R-KS) and Blunt (R-MO).

“This is a significant blow to seniors, many of whom are on a fixed income. To mitigate this financial impact, plans may be forced to reduce benefits or worse still, withdraw from certain communities -- causing seniors to lose the health plans they were told, by your administration, they could keep.”

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Religious Discrimination In America

By Glenn Mollette

Arizona legislatures pulled a dandy. They asked their Governor to sign a bill allowing any business the freedom to discriminate based on religious beliefs. The Governor vetoed the bill.

The First Amendment guaranteeing our nation the freedom of religion is not a legal loophole that allows religious people to hurt other people based on prejudice or interpretation of the Bible or any other religious book.

A lot of noise has been made recently about the Middlesboro, Kentucky pastor and church that handled poisonous snakes. National Geographic reality star of "Snake Salvation," Jamie Coots was bitten by a timber rattler almost two weeks ago and died within 90 minutes. He and his family refused medical treatment based on their interpretation of the Bible. I personally think they are crazy.

Simply because someone interprets the Bible, Koran or any other religious book a certain way does not give that person the right to hurt other people. Nor should anyone discriminate against another person because of race, nationality, money or gender preferences.

I do not understand why anyone would want to be gay. There is not a gay molecule in my frame. Because someone is gay does not give me or anyone else the right to not provide service in a restaurant or a seat on the bus.

Nor should one's sexual preference prohibit him or her from working the same job anyone else does.

I do understand that the majority of religious people in America believe that a gay lifestyle is a wrong lifestyle and is forbidden by the Bible. Please keep in mind that most church people believe it is wrong for a man and woman to live together without being legally married. Most church people believe stealing, killing and lying are wrong as well.

A church or religious entity traditionally has not hired ministers that were practicing thieves, murderers or liars or living with someone not in a legal marriage relationship. Is this discrimination? I don't think so. The average employer in America is only using commonsense if they decide to terminate someone because that person is a thief or liar or maybe causing disruption in the office by sleeping around with all the staff.

Religious entities that interpret the Bible as saying that a gay lifestyle is an unacceptable lifestyle should never be forced to hire someone that is gay. There are a few churches that are hiring gay persons because they believe it is acceptable. This is America where we have freedom of religion. Keep in mind there are also thousands of churches that still would never hire a woman to serve as a minister. There are also many that would never dream of hiring a divorced minister because they believe divorce is biblically unacceptable.

Arizona badly blundered on the concept of trying to create a law that allows discrimination in any business realm based on religious belief. Could this apply to someone divorced? Could they apply this rule to someone that is a habitual liar? What about church deacons who curse, smoke, chew and date girls who do? Would this rule apply to fat Christians? Whoops... sorry I forgot that gluttony is the Christian sin of choice.

Many of the very best people I know I met in church. However, religious people can be some of the meanest people in the world. A religious crowd was involved in nailing Jesus to the cross. Religious people are at the root of the problems in the Middle East.

If someone refuses to do business with another person it should not be based on prejudices and perceptions. Anyone abiding by the law and living in a respectful manner that is not disruptive or harmful to society deserves the same services as anyone else.

Finally, I doubt if an African American church will ever offer me a job as their senior pastor, although I would really like that.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of American Issues and nine other books. He is a graduate of Georgetown College, Southern Seminary and Lexington Seminary in Kentucky. Contact him at GMollette@aol.com.

Like his facebook page at www.facebook.com/glenmmollette.

Texas Values Interviewed on Sen. Cruz's State Marriage Defense Act

Late last week, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz and Senator Mike Lee (Utah) introduced the State Marriage Defense Act. If passed, the bill would protect states, including Texas, from the federal government's efforts to force gay marriage on them. The bill will ensure the federal government gives the same deference to the 33 states that define marriage as the union between one man and one woman as it does other states.

Over 2/3rds of Americans live in states, like Texas, where the people have voted for a constitutional one man – one woman marriage definition. In stark contrast, only 4.5% of Americans live in states that have actively voted to redefine marriage (states that have redefined marriage are the result of activist judges).



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OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson



Political Funnies

In a third-world country, an incensed man was on a soapbox in the middle of the city yelling in a loud voice - "THE GOVERNMENT IS CORRUPT! I TELL YOU, THE GOVERNMENT IS CORRUPT!!"

Suddenly the storm troopers came and began to drag the man away (I'm certain either to prison or to hang in the gallows).

"WAIT, WAIT!" the man shouted. "I DIDN'T SAY WHICH GOVERNMENT WAS CORRUPT!"

One of the storm troopers replied, as they continued to drag him away, "YOU KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE CORRUPT GOVERNMENT AROUND HERE!"

There once was a beautiful nurse
Who carried an ugly old purse
But she tripped on the door
And fell on the floor
And they both went away in the hearse.

There was a young girl from Flynn
Who was so terribly thin
When she sipped lemonade
Through a straw in the shade
She slipped through the straw and fell in!

Two men, Shot and Not got into a duel.
Now the shot that Shot shot, shot not Not, but shot not at all.
But the shot that Not shot, shot Shot.
Now Shot being shot, and Not not, Not won, Not withstanding.



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LET'S REMINISCE: APPLES AND BERRIES

By Jerry Lincecum

Remember when fresh fruit was available only in season? During my boyhood in central Texas we'd have peddlers offering peaches by the bushel in June, including some varieties grown near Mexia. In May and June we'd pick dewberries and blackberries that grew along the grader ditches and fencerows, rarely getting enough for Mother to can. Then in the late 1960s we got a setting of the hybrid Brazos Berries developed at Texas A&M, and from then on we could count on berries in abundance. There's no better dessert than a blackberry cobbler topped with a dip of Blue Bell homemade vanilla ice cream.

These memories came to mind recently as I was contemplating the numerous varieties of apples on sale in my grocery store. The only apples I can remember from childhood were of the Red Delicious kind, but my wife grew up in Illinois, where Golden Delicious and McIntosh varieties were common.

All of a sudden, or so it seemed to me, we began to see apples in the store year-round that bore strange names, like Fuji, Gala, Ambrosia and Honeycrisp. So I did a little websearch and found that Minnesota is now a center for new varieties of apples, and cold storage makes them available whenever you are willing to pay several dollars a bag for them.

The process of creating a new variety is complicated and expensive, and it involves cloning. Choosing which ones will sell requires evaluating characteristics that I never considered when eating apples, like "crunch." That is what made Honeycrisp an international sensation. (Half the world's apples are grown in China, so they are now producing Honeycrisps too.)

Humans have been consuming apples for thousands of years (according to the Book of Genesis that was what Eve tempted Adam to eat in the Garden of Eden). Johnny Appleseed was a hero to Americans, but hard cider became one of the alcoholic drinks that inspired the Temperance Movement and Prohibition.

Now to return to blackberries for a moment, I'm a sucker for the fresh ones grown in Mexico that are as big as Brazos Berries and on sale just about all year. So I'm happy to report that blackberries are notable for their high nutritional contents of dietary fiber, vitamins C and K, and a mineral that we need, manganese.

A cup of blackberries contains half the recommended dose of vitamin C, and the fiber is something older folks need to keep our digestive tract working (without laxatives). Even those troublesome seeds (which get between my teeth) contain oil rich in omega-3 acid, as well as protein and carotenoids that are good for us.

Finally, I will admit to being fickle about my taste in apples. Last year I was buying a new variety called Pink Lady (which originated in Australia), but now I'm on the prowl for a new sweetheart. Any suggestions?

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A retired English professor, Dr. Jerry Lincecum teaches classes for older adults who want to write their life stories. He welcomes your reminiscences on any topic: jlincecum@me.com

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STORY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hope to see you there!



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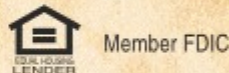
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