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July 25, 2013

New Look

We are using new, updated software to make our pages. We have made some changes in the look of the pages and the overall design. We hope you like these changes. Please excuse any errors that may crop in while we are learning the new software.



Experiencing Texas' Natural Beauty

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Whether it's a refreshing dip in the crystal clear waters of the Frio River or horseback-riding on the trails of the Palo Duro Canyon, Texas is home to 95 diverse state parks, historic sites, and natural areas that offer countless excursions for Texans and the millions who visit our state each year. This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), an agency with a rich history of protecting, cultivating and showcasing Texas' vibrant lands and wildlife.

From fishing and hiking to paddling and camping, Texas parks offer inexpensive activities for tourists, families, students and outdoor enthusiasts year-round. Every spring, Lyndon B. Johnson State Park is painted with the bright colors of Texas wildflowers. Visitors can swim, fish, hike and picnic against the beautiful spring backdrop complete with bison, Texas longhorns and buffalo. The park also boasts an impressive Visitor's Center including memorabilia from President Johnson's time in office.

Sen. Cornyn at Big Bend



During the summer, the options are endless for Texans looking for a break from the sweltering heat. TPWD has more than 50 designated paddling trails to make the most of Texas' 200 major lakes, 190,000 miles of rivers, and more than 300 miles of coastland. Many parks offer paddle-boat, canoe, kayak, and lifejacket rentals. At Mustang Island State Park, go kayaking, bird-watching and fishing on the paddling trails that pass through one of the few undeveloped barrier island habitats on the Texas Gulf Coast. Towering sand dunes protect the rich vegetation and wildlife on Mustang Island, including bulrushes, cattails, sedges and over 400 species of birds.

Each fall, autumn foliage decorates parks across the state, from the red and orange leaves of the majestic Bigtooth maples at the Lost Maples State Natural Area to the golden hues of the cottonwoods at Daingerfield State Park in East Texas.

During the cooler temperatures of the winter months, nature trails and hikes abound in Texas parks. Serious hikers enjoy the 19-mile Rancherías Backpacking Loop through Big Bend Ranch State Park, which takes them through canyons, over ridges, and across flat-topped hills called mesas.

Fredericksburg is home to Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, which centers on a massive, pink granite rock that rises 425 feet above ground -- the second largest formation of its kind in the country. Legend has it that Tonkawa Indians named it after a Spanish Conquistador cast a spell on the formation and caused magical fires to glow on its peak.

In Texas, we do things bigger and better, and that's no exception when it comes to our state parks. I congratulate the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on 50 years of careful preservation of our precious lands, and I encourage all Texans to take advantage of the natural beauty our vast park system affords us.

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.



Chrystal Opry House Bluegrass Events

“Bluegrass Day” this month is August 3rd. A bluegrass jam begins at 5 pm on the first Saturday of the month. 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.

We welcome The Upper Grassmen to our stage this month. They have a good sound and are regular monthly players at Pops here in town. Members include Don Sharp, banjo, Randy Keister, dobro, Gary Byrne, bass, and Vance Jones, guitar. All sing.

Admission for the 7 pm show is \$7 per adult with children under 12 accompanied by an adult admitted free.

The doors and 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))



Yikes, my dog is eating genetically modified (GMO) dog food!

By Mike Barnett

I must say, I was surprised when I saw a post relating to the purported dangers of GMO dog food on Facebook by Caroline O’Sullivan, DVM. She is not just any veterinarian. She is a holistic veterinarian. And that’s dandy with me that Dr. O’Sullivan considers all aspects of a dog’s needs, including psychological, physical and social, should be taken into account and treated as a whole. I’m not sure that the dog cares, but the good veterinarian is not marketing to dogs, she’s marketing to people.

Actually, it’s good to know that dogs -- just like people -- have a choice when it comes to the food they eat. I know people care about their pets’ health. I feed my dog, Miss Molly, a premium dog food because I want her to have the proper nutrition. I don’t know for sure, but I suspect that dog food has genetically modified grain in it and I don’t care. Why? I eat genetically modified food, too—the people variety, however -- and I have for many, many years. Miss Molly -- my dog -- is only five years old, so as far as I know, GMOs have always been part of her diet. We’re both pretty healthy.

It seems that anti-GMO activists use the same, tired pseudoscience in talking about pet food as they do with people food. Dr. O’Sullivan cites the American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) as her primary source. I have never heard of the AAEM, but I have heard of the National Academies of Science and the American Medical Association, who have concluded that genetically engineered foods do not pose any more risk to people than other foods. I would assume that holds true for pets, as well.

But if you still want Fido to remain GMO free, there’s a number of dog foods out there like Grandma Lucy’s Organics: Pumpkin, Blueberry, Banana-Sweet Potato; Honest Kitchen; and Anita’s Organic Animal Feed. By the way, a 10-pound box of Honest Kitchen’s Love Dog Food, described as “a gluten-free dog food made with dehydrated Midwestern beef and produce like sweet potatoes, dandelion greens and papaya,” is listed on the Internet for \$96.99. That’s some expensive dog chow.

I asked Miss Molly if we could stick with Purina Pro Plan. I took the tail wag as a yes.

Mike Barnett, Director of Publications, Texas Farm Bureau. I’m a firm believer that farmers and ranchers will continue to meet the needs of a growing world population by employing equal measures of common sense, conservation and technology.



Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

What's Happening?

August 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

This calendar is new to the Texoma Enterprise. It is our intent to include National Holidays, local events, and birthdays/anniversaries. If you wish to include an event please let us know. Email lanarideout@cablone.net with your information.



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Psalm 25:1-14 (KJV)

- ¹ Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.
- ² O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.
- ³ Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.
- ⁴ Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.
- ⁶ Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they *have been* ever of old.
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.
- ⁸ Good and upright *is* the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.
- ⁹ The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.
- ¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- ¹¹ For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it *is* great.
- ¹² What man *is* he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way *that* he shall choose.
- ¹³ His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.
- ¹⁴ The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Christian Fellowship

Come on out and join them at A Christian Fellowship in Luella every Sunday morning for coffee and doughnut fellowship at 9 am followed by classes for all ages at 9:30 and worship service at 10:30. David Ellis will be leading worship service this week. Remember dress is casual.

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

The church celebrates The Lord's Supper each week during worship service.

ACF is proud to announce they are a part of the "One" movement.

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

Also during our morning worship service each Sunday morning we have a special class for kidz ages 2-10 called Kidz in Da Zone for Jesus! Kidz under construction for Jesus. Bible stories and a journey on Rt. 66 to learn the books of the Bible. Bring your Kidz, they will have fun while learning about the Bible.

The church is located on the West side of Hwy 11 in Luella. Look for the red brick building with the green metal roof on the hill. The cross will light the way. For more info call 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. Services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9: am and worship at 10 am with congregational singing. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord's Supper is given each Sunday. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX.

We have radio programs each Sunday at 7:30am 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 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 7:30 am.

"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 ; 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



La Mano

Dennis Fisher reports: On a sandy beach in Uruguay, giant concrete fingers partially submerged in sand reach up toward the sky. It is called the Monument to the Drowned. Locals just call it La Mano, "The Hand." It was created by Chilean artist Mario Irarrázabal as a warning to swimmers about the danger of drowning. "The Hand" has become a tourist attraction, but its real purpose remains to remind swimmers about the perils of the sea. *

The Word of God contains its own kind of warning signs. The book of Hebrews, for example, provides cautions about perils to the soul. "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:12-13).

The Word of God warns: sin is deceitful – and deadly! It promises freedom but delivers bondage (John 8:34). It promises thrilling life but delivers chilling death (Hebrews 11:25; Romans 6:23). It promises "no restraints!" but in the end, it brings about the judgment of God (Romans 1:18). In our sin, "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

Fisher reminds us that "warning signs are given to us for our safety. Praise God that He has given us protective warnings in His Word because of His great love for us."

The Word of God also reveals: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Yet because of His great love for us, God has "reached out to us with His hand" in the person of His Jesus with His offer of forgiveness and eternal life. Although our sins separated us from Him, God "bridged the gap" by allowing Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (Ephesians 1:7). Through Jesus we can be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

God will save those who accept His offer of salvation and life by placing their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turning from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confessing Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

For the penitent sinner who places his faith and trust in Christ, God's hand – la mano de Dios – is not a dreadful place but rather a place of forgiveness, peace, and eternal life.

Won't YOU trust and obey Christ today?

David Sargent, Minister

dauidsargent1@comcast.net

Church of Christ at Creekwood

<http://www.creekwoodcc.org>

* Adapted from Our Daily Bread -- Warning Sign, July 14, 2013

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

**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





GC offers T-STEM scholarships

Several Grayson College students will receive scholarship help for the 2013-2014 academic year, thanks to a new grant the college received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Awarded \$163,200 for its Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (T-STEM) Challenge Scholarship, the college expects to allot up to \$2,500 per qualifying student for the 2013-2014 academic year.

“These 62 T-STEM scholarships are available to students majoring in certain science, technology, engineering and math programs at Grayson,” said Janis Thompson, grant writer and program development specialist at the Grayson College Foundation. “Students can apply the funds toward tuition, fees, necessary textbooks and classroom supplies.”

Some of the fields included in this scholarship opportunity are: computer science and information systems, computer maintenance and networking, engineering, drafting/CADD, electronics, HVAC, biological sciences, mathematics, chemistry, geology, physics, dental assisting, EMT/paramedic, radiologic technology and medical lab technician. To qualify, applicants must have a 3.0+ GPA on all math and science courses on their high school transcripts (or equivalent on GED scores) and be a self-declared major in one of the qualified T-STEM programs at Grayson College.

Awards such as the T-STEM Challenge Scholarship are good for the community, too. “This is a great opportunity for local employers and service providers who need skilled employees or who wish to improve their own skills,” Thompson said.

Established by the 82nd Texas Legislature, the T-STEM Challenge Scholarship Grant Program provides Texas public community and technical colleges with grants for merit-based scholarships for qualifying, high-achieving students. Participating colleges like Grayson develop partnerships with local business and industry to identify local employment needs in T-STEM occupations and develop part-time employment opportunities for T-STEM scholarship recipients.

“These prestigious awards are provided to assist Grayson College full-time students, of any age, who are self-declared majors in a T-STEM instructional program,” said Tina Dodson, director of annual giving for the GC Foundation. “Recipients must complete at least 80% of all semester credit hours to retain his/her T-STEM scholarship for the following semester. All applicants, unless exempt, must have a statement on file that he or she is registered with the Selective Service System. Part-time employment is limited to 15 hours per week in a STEM-related field.”

For more information about the T-STEM Challenge Scholarship or to complete the scholarship application, go to www.grayson.edu and click on “New Scholarship Opportunity for STEM Students” under News & Announcements, or call Dodson at 903-463-8716.

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

Texoma Enterprise

805 N. Hughes

Howe, Texas 75459-3587

903-487-0525

dalerideout@cableone.net

lanarideout@cableone.net

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



Grandkids singing at the Elves
Christmas Tree Farm, 2007



Dot's D-A-S-H-E-S

By Dorothy N. Fowler

There is an old fashion and very old black and white vampire movie on Turner Classic Movies this morning. The film has probably benefited from some massive restoration, because even though it is dark, it is not grainy and it does not have those small lightning flashes that indicate a scratch or other damage.

So far, there are the usual characters in an old vampire movie. There is an old and wise scholar who believes in vampires, a skeptical younger man who doesn't and who loves a beautiful young woman, the intended victim of the vampire. There is a housemaid who knows where the vampire sleeps during daylight hours and the equivalent of Igor, faithful servant of the vampire.

There is also a simple plot based on the assumption that vampires are bad and that good people should try to annihilate them all and the one in this movie in particular.

The machinations involved in this effort are what kept people from 1930 through 1950 glued to the edge of their theater seats. Or maybe it was just the remains of the spilled soft drinks that stuck them there.

One might have thought that fascination with vampires, werewolves, zombies, man-made monsters and/or demonic possession would die out with the advent of the scientific advances of the post WWII world, but instead, that fascination seems to have increased.

I didn't see *The Exorcist*, a 1973 horror film, but all my senior students must have seen it because they seemed to believe that the classroom floor might suddenly open to expose the flames of hell, complete with sulfur and brimstone and the devil wearing horns and in possession of cloven feet.

According to Wikipedia, the film was based on a book about a 1949 case of exorcism undertaken by two priests at the request of a mother whose daughter was demon-possessed. The movie was one of three similar movies that included *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Omen*. However, I think the cycle might have started sooner with *The Bad Seed*, which was released in 1956, while I was still in college and which inspired horrific nightmares for months after I saw it. It received four Academy Award nominations.

The Exorcist received 10 Academy Award nominations, including one for best picture. It was the first horror movie ever to be nominated for best picture. It lost out to *The Sting*.

Wikipedia says that the film was named the scariest film of all time by *Entertainment Weekly* and *Movies.com* and by viewers of AMC in 2006, and was No. 3 on Bravo's *The 100 Scariest Movie Moments*. In 2010, the Library of Congress selected the film to be preserved as part of its National Film Registry. In 2003, it was placed at No. 2 in Channel 4's *The 100 Greatest Scary Moments in the United Kingdom*

If the *Twilight* series does not seem to have met with the same artistic acclaim, the revenues from its showings make up for it.

Fear not that monsters have left the building. Vampires and werewolves have been replaced by zombies in *The Walking Dead* and *WWZ*.

I suppose this proves that Shakespeare was right: "What fools these mortals be." The only question is what the next monster craze will be.



Dear editor,

I'm glad that suspended Milwaukee Brewers outfielder Ryan Braun has taken responsibility for his part in baseball's most recent drug scandal. I just wish all the other players, if they are guilty, can follow suit.

A.J. Chilson,
Princeton, TX

Hall Responds To DOJ Voter Discrimination Against Texas

WASHINGTON, DC . . . Today, Department of Justice (DOJ) Attorney General Eric Holder singled out the State of Texas and stated the Justice Department would ask a San Antonio-based federal court to enforce a preclearance formula that would require Texas to receive permission from the federal government before the State can make changes to its voting and election laws. This same preclearance law was declared unconstitutional and struck down by the Supreme Court last month.

In response, Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-04) released the following statement:

"It is unfortunate, but comes as no surprise that this Administration would attempt to circumvent current law that just last month the Supreme Court declared both discriminatory and unconstitutional. Rather than interfere with Texas elections and push partisan agendas, Attorney General Holder should focus on helping Texas defend its borders."

Letter to the Editor:

The Abominable Snowden

Edward Snowden is not a human rights activist, he is a loathsome (abominable) traitor and spy.

He stated his aim was to inform the world about the surveillance programs operated by the NSA. He expressed concern the U.S. government could monitor the communications of the U.S. public, but he did not say it occurred.

If Snowden is the activist who just wanted to expose the possible monitoring of the U.S. public, why did he go to Hong Kong (China), a totalitarian country opposed to democratic values and freedoms? Why did he go to China with his four laptops filled with NSA information, and probably allow the Chinese to copy the NSA material?

If Snowden was concerned with the U.S. government infringing on our freedoms, why did he go to Russia, another totalitarian country opposed to our democratic values, a country who most likely copied the NSA information on his laptops?

Snowden could be a disgruntled individual who decided to get even with the U.S. over personal problems, possibly work related. His aim is to harm our national security. He should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for breaking the trust we placed in him.

Donald A. Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

Cornyn Introduces Amendment to Prevent IRS From Enforcing Obamacare

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced "Keep the IRS Off Your Health Care" as an amendment to the THUD appropriations bill.

"After the abuses and mismanagement that have come to light, it is clear we must prevent the IRS from having any role in Americans' health care.

"I cannot support giving the IRS any responsibility or taxpayer dollars to implement this broken law."

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 Announces Amendment to Bar Taxpayer Bailout for Detroit

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) spoke on the Senate floor today about his amendment to the THUD appropriations bill that would prohibit the federal government from bailing out Detroit, or any other city in America, with taxpayer dollars.

The full speech can be seen here<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArzUIZUM-wI>> and excerpts of his remarks are below

“Our amendment would prevent any funds in this bill from being used to bail out Detroit or any American city that mismanages its public finances.

“There’s no good reason why Detroit or any other American city ought to receive a taxpayer-funded bailout from Washington. I hope that the normal bankruptcy process will be allowed to go forward, and I hope that the bankruptcy follows the rule of law, and the Obama Administration resists any temptation to meddle in the process and play politics.

“Detroit’s financial woes offer a warning to all cities and states that are struggling with pension obligations and unfunded liabilities.

“It’s time for government officials at all levels-at the state, federal and local-to make the hard fiscal choices that we have been postponing for way too long.”

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: By His Own Measuring Stick, Obama’s Big Government Experiment a Failure ‘His economic record has been a huge disappointment’

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) spoke on the Senate floor today previewing President Obama’s speech on the economy.

The full speech can be seen here<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4t8EBef6Ag>> and excerpts of his remarks are below:

“The president, when he came to office...his party controlled all branches of the legislative and executive branch; he got virtually everything he wanted. He got \$1 trillion stimulus package. He wanted a government takeover of America’s health care system and that’s what he got. He wanted extensive new regulations for the financial industry, and he got that, too. He wanted to impose, through the Environmental Protection Agency, radical environmental regulations, and that’s what he got as well.

“That was their great experiment, to see whether a growing and intrusive and expanding federal government was the answer to our economic challenges and high unemployment. But we now know what the results have been.

“Add it all up, and we’ve been experiencing the weakest economic recovery in the longest period of high unemployment since the Great Depression in the 1930’s.

“Even by the president’s own measuring stick, by his own standards, his economic record has been a huge disappointment. Hence, his repetitive pivots to the economy time and time again, particularly at a time when his administration is having to answer a lot of hard questions about various scandals.

“I’m afraid if we continue with the policies of the last four years, we will create a lost generation of young Americans who cannot find good, full-time jobs. None of us - Republicans, Democrats alike - none of us want that to happen.”

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

Sen. Cornyn Votes to Reduce Student Loan Debt for Nearly 650,000 Texas Students Backs Market-Based Reforms to Fix Broken Student Loan Program

WASHINGTON-U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, today issued the following statement after voting in favor of legislation that makes substantial, market-based reforms to the broken federal student loan program and brings down interest rates for Texas college students:

"I'm proud to have supported a meaningful set of market-based reforms today that will translate into real savings for nearly 650,000 Texas students and their parents who are estimated to borrow over \$5 billion in the coming year to help pay for college. These are the kind of bipartisan steps we must continue to take to help our young people succeed and get this economy back on track for a more prosperous future."

Background:

The Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act requires that, for each academic year, all newly issued student loans be set to the U.S. Treasury 10-year borrowing rate (specifically, the yield on the 10-year note as determined by the last auction held before June of each year-not the changing daily rate).

The resulting interest rates for loans taken out this year, after July 1, 2013, would be 3.86% for all loans for undergraduate students-both subsidized and unsubsidized. Rates would be 5.41% on unsubsidized loans for graduate students, and 6.41% on PLUS loans for parents and graduate students.

These rates would apply retroactively to newly issued loans taken out after July 1, 2013. The interest rate would be fixed over the life of the loan to provide borrowers with certainty to plan for the future. Additionally, this bill protects against the threat of unforeseen circumstances by imposing a cap to ensure interest rates never exceed 8.25% for undergraduate students, 9.5% for graduate students, 10.5% for PLUS borrowers. The Congressional Budget Office has determined this legislation would save taxpayers \$715 million over ten years.

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.



Next

Cornyn: Obama Policies, Not Speeches Damage Our Economy

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) spoke on the Senate floor today, inviting his fellow Senators to embrace the Texas model, proven to create economic growth, rather than relying on the failed policies of President Obama.

The full speech can be seen here<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSYUYP7Pv9Y>> and excerpts of his remarks are below:

“President Obama is scheduled to give a major speech on the economy tomorrow. Unfortunately, according to press reports, his new ideas for bolstering job creation bare a remarkable resemblance to his old ideas.

“The problem is that President Obama’s, not his speeches, but his actual policies, have done tremendous damage to the economic prospects of the same people he purports to be championing. Indeed, the Obama economy has threatened to create a lost generation of younger Americans who are drowning in debt and are unable to find good, full-time jobs.

“Unfortunately, as a result of the failed policies that we’ve seen over the last five years, recent college graduates actually believe they’re going to have less opportunity and less prosperity than generations that come before. There’s no reason why that has to be the case. There’s no good reason why the Obama economy has to become the new normal...not in a country as hardworking, entrepreneurial and innovative as the United States of America.

“Here in Washington, many policy makers seem to have forgotten the recipe, the secret sauce, if you will, for a strong, sustainable economic growth.

“Now I would invite them to visit my state of Texas, which has been luring job creators from all across the nation, and lo and behold you find that when people have opportunity and jobs, they tend to vote with their feet. Which is one reason why after the last census we had four new congressional seats created in Texas, because people had literally shifted from parts of the country where they couldn’t find jobs to places like Texas where they could.

“Hopefully, we in Washington, D.C., those of us who happen to work here as part of our job, we will embrace those policies and those success stories and make them possible for the rest of the country as well.”

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: House Should Pass Smart Border Security Reforms

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), ranking member of the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee, testified today on the need for smart border security solutions that use real metrics to achieve results before the House Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security.

The full testimony can be seen here<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOPiu5rqEjw>> and excerpts of his remarks are below:

“Over the last 30 years, the federal government has repeatedly promised the American people that our borders would be secure. And every time, the federal government has failed to keep that promise.

“While S. 744 throws more than \$46 billion of resources at the border, as you said, it contains no mechanism to ensure that these resources will be effectively or properly implemented. No accountability, no guaranteed results-just more hollow promises emanating from Washington.

“The legislation would also require the Department of Homeland Security to purchase billions of dollars of specific equipment designated by the Congress -with no approved plan or strategy for deployment.

“S.744 has no accountability mechanism to ensure that the required equipment is actually integrated to achieve results, merely that it is deployed.

“This is a backwards approach that will virtually ensure that billions of taxpayer dollars and border security resources are wasted.

“So what would a smart and sustainable border look like?”

“A smart border must start with a comprehensive, flexible border security strategy.

“A smart border must ensure accountability for how this strategy would be implemented with objective metrics that tell us exactly how many border crossers there are and how much contraband is successfully entering the country.

“No more guessing, no more estimating, no more cooking the books.”

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.

Next



Cornyn Responds to Justice Announcement on Texas Voting Laws

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) issued the following statement responding to reports <http://www.chron.com/news/texas/article/AG-opens-new-front-on-voting-rights-protection-4686188.php> that Attorney General Eric Holder will again target Texas' voting laws in court:

"By first going around the voters and now the Supreme Court, Attorney General Holder and President Obama's intentions are readily transparent. This decision has nothing to do with protecting voting rights and everything to do with advancing a partisan political agenda.

"Texans should not - and will not - stand for the continued bullying of our state by the Obama Administration."

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.

Tax Reform Should Put Consumers First -- Not Banks

By Patricia Wesenberg

As tax reform picks up speed in Congress, special-interest groups are storming Capitol Hill to ensure that they get favorable tax treatment. Fortunately, some groups -- like credit unions -- are looking out for the interests of hard-working Americans in this tax reform debate.

For years, big banks have been trying to saddle their non-profit credit-union competitors with new taxes. They see a congressional tax reform push as their best chance to sneak such taxes in.

Consumers should hope that the big banks don't succeed. New taxes on credit unions would pick the pockets not just of their 96 million predominantly middle-class customers -- but those of all Americans, by reducing competition in the financial services sector.

Credit unions and banks offer many of the same services -- like checking accounts, savings accounts, and home mortgages. But they couldn't be more different in philosophy and structure.

As non-profit financial cooperatives, credit unions exist solely to benefit their member-owners. They do so by charging low or no fees and offering higher interest rates on savings and lower rates on loans. They've advanced that mission since the 1930s, when Congress authorized their creation and granted them non-profit status.

And while credit unions are exempt from federal and state income tax, they do still pay property, sales, and payroll taxes.

Banks, in contrast, are obligated to maximize profits for their shareholders. And profitable they are, with some of the highest margins of any industry. Sometimes they generate those profits on the backs of their customers -- by not offering them the best deal.

Today, roughly 40 percent of Americans belong to credit unions. They've proven especially valuable for middle-class families, small-business owners, low-income seniors, and others looking to avoid the fees that have proliferated at banks.

The majority of credit unions don't have minimum balance requirements. Nearly three-quarters of credit unions offer free checking, compared to just 39 percent of banks. Competitive pressure from credit unions has no doubt forced many banks to rethink their fees -- or eliminate them altogether.

Credit unions also best banks on interest rates. The average rate for a one-year certificate of deposit at a credit union, for example, is 50 percent higher than that offered by the average bank. Interest rates on car loans at credit unions are about a third lower than those at banks. On credit cards, credit union members face interest rates that are 20 percent lower than those at banks.

Thanks to these more favorable rates, credit-union members realized between \$4.3 billion and \$8 billion in economic benefits per year between 2005 and 2011. And by moderating the pricing behavior of banks, credit unions delivered \$10 billion annually in benefits to all consumers.

But those benefits would vanish if credit unions were to lose their non-profit status -- and be forced to pay federal income taxes. They'd essentially become for-profit banks. Fees and interest rates would go up for all consumers -- not just those at credit unions.

A credit-union tax would also generate miniscule levels of revenue. Although 96 million Americans belong to credit unions, they hold just 6 percent of all financial assets in the United States.

In fact, scrapping the credit-union tax exemption would barely generate \$0.5 billion in revenue in 2013, according to an analysis by Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation. This represents just 0.008 percent of the projected federal budget deficit for 2013.

Yet the economic impact of such taxes would be disastrous. For every dollar in new credit union taxes, the government wipes out ten dollars in member benefits.

The federal tax code certainly merits reform. But lawmakers must ensure that they don't unwittingly line the pockets of the banking industry at the expense of average Americans. Slapping credit unions with new taxes would do just that. It's time to stand up and ensure that doesn't happen.

Patricia Wesenberg is the Chairman of the Credit Union National Association and President and CEO of Central City Credit Union in Marshfield, Wisconsin.





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Should You Prepare a Medicaid Application Yourself?

Whether you should prepare and file a Medicaid application by yourself or should hire help depends on answers to the following questions:

- How old is the applicant?
- How complicated is the applicant's financial situation?
- Is the individual applying for community or nursing home benefits?
- How much time do you have available?
- How organized are you?

Medicaid is the health care program for individuals who do not have another form of insurance or whose insurance does not cover what they need, such as long-term care. Many people rely on Medicaid for assistance in paying for care at home or in nursing homes.

For people under age 65 and not in need of long-term care, eligibility is based largely on income and the application process is not very complicated. Most people can apply on their own without assistance.

Matters get a bit more complicated for applicants age 65 and above and especially for those of any age who need nursing home or other long-term care coverage. In these cases, availing yourself of the services of an attorney is practically essential.

Medicaid applicants over age 65 are limited to \$2,000 in countable assets (in most states). It's possible to transfer assets over this amount in order to become eligible, but seniors need to be careful in doing so because they may need the funds in the future and if they move to a nursing home, the transfer could make them ineligible for benefits for five years. Professional advice is also crucial because there is a confusing array of different Medicaid programs that may be of assistance in providing home care, each with its own rules.

All of that said, the application process itself is not so complicated for community benefits (care that takes place outside of an institutional setting, such as in the beneficiary's home). In short, those over 65 in many cases will need to consult with an elder law attorney for planning purposes, but they or their families may be able to prepare and submit the Medicaid application themselves.

But submitting an application for nursing home benefits without an attorney's help is not a good idea. This is because Medicaid officials subject such applications to enhanced scrutiny, requiring up to five years of financial records and documentation of every fact. Any unexplained expense may be treated as a disqualifying transfer of assets, and many planning steps -- such as trusts, transfers to family members, and family care agreements -- are viewed as suspect unless properly explained. Finally, the process generally takes several months as Medicaid keeps asking questions and demanding further documentation for the answers provided.

Many elder law attorneys offer assistance with Medicaid applications as part of their services. This has several advantages, including expert advice on how best to qualify for benefits as early as possible, experience in dealing with the more difficult eligibility questions that often arise, and a high level of service through a long, grueling process. The one drawback of using an attorney rather than a lay service is that the fee is typically substantially higher. However, given the high cost of nursing homes, if the law firm's assistance can accelerate eligibility by even one month that will generally cover the fee. In addition, the payments to the attorney are generally with funds that would otherwise be paid to the nursing home -- in other words, the funds will have to be spent in any event, whether for nursing home or for legal fees.

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Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



Second Special Session Update

A few weeks ago I wrote about the three items on the call for the 2nd Called Special Session of the 83rd Legislature. This week I will provide information on the status of each of these bills.

The 2nd Special Session convened in Austin on July 1 to consider the items placed on the call by the governor: legislation relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities; legislation relating to the funding of transportation infrastructure projects; and legislation relating to establishing a mandatory sentence of life with parole for a capital felony committed by a 17-year-old offender.

On Friday, July 12, the Senate passed House Bill 2, which regulates abortion procedures, providers, and facilities. This bill would prohibit an abortion of an unborn child that is more than 20 weeks of gestational age, with certain exceptions. The bill would also require that by September of 2014, facilities where abortions are performed must meet the same minimum safety standards as do ambulatory surgical centers. House Bill 2 was signed into law by Governor Perry on Thursday, July 18.

Senate Bill 2, which relates to the punishment for a capital felony committed by an individual younger than 18 years of age, has been passed by both the House and Senate, and has been sent to the governor. Since 2/3 of the members of each chamber voted in favor of SB 2, the bill will take effect immediately.

The House this week passed a constitutional amendment relating to transportation funding, HJR 2. The Senate on Friday also considered and passed HJR 2 on Friday, however significant changes were made to the bill. The House must either concur to the changes made by the Senate or go to conference committee. Because HJR 2 is a constitutional amendment, a 2/3 majority in both chambers must vote in favor of the bill. Should this constitutional amendment pass, it would then go to the voters for approval.

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

Turn off your voice, Let your hands do the talking

Have you ever seen people talking with their hands instead of their voices? Do you want to learn more about them and their language? Come join us for an intro into Sign Language and the deaf community.

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Place: Howe Community Library. Cost FREE

Look up to the stars

Bring your family and friends to this fun and informative event for all ages.

Join forces with international award-winning astrophysicist and former consultant to NASA, Kevin Manning, a man on no ordinary mission. Kevin founded Look Up to the Stars with a mission to generate interest and foster scientific literacy in the general public nationwide through the delivery of awe-inspiring, education and entertaining programs. Your family will love going on an unforgettable cosmic journey through the universe with Kevin as their captain, expertly able to field a meteor shower of diverse questions and to push back the dark side with the latest scientific knowledge.

Date/Time: Aug. 5, 7 p.m.

Location: Van Alstyne Public Library

Cost to you: FREE

Brought to you by Friends of the Van Alstyne Library and Friends of the Howe Library.



How Many Women?

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he knew the answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said.

"All you have to do is add it up, like the Preacher said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

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LET'S REMINISCE: WATER WITCHING

By Jerry Lincecum

After reading my last week's column on well diggers, several people responded to say they had known someone who mastered this craft. One or two had even witnessed the procedure called "water witching" (also known as dowsing) to locate a source of water and then seen a good well dug on that site.

The impression I got from talking with a number of readers was that most people my age or older who grew up in rural Texas or small towns had either seen water witching performed or heard about it from family members who had. It was widely practiced in the first half of the last century.

A friend who had three books on the subject of dowsing loaned them to me, with the admonition "You are responsible for remembering where you got these books, because I won't remember who I gave them to." If he thinks my memory is better than his, he is sadly mistaken.

Let's acknowledge right away there is no accepted scientific rationale behind dowsing, nor any scientific evidence that it is effective. Yet it remains popular.

Dowsing as practiced today seems to have originated in Germany during the 15th century, when it was used in attempts to find metals. As American settlers moved westward into drier climates in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries they sought out dowsers to help locate water wells.

A Y-shaped twig or rod, called a witching rod is often used during dowsing, although some use two pieces of wire about the thickness of old coat hangers. Some prefer branches from particular trees, freshly cut. Most commonly used in this area are branches from willow or peach trees.

The two ends on the forked side are held one in each hand with the third (the stem of the "Y") pointing straight ahead. Often the branches are grasped palms down. The dowser then walks slowly over the places where he suspects the target (for example, minerals or water) may be, and the dowsing rod supposedly dips, inclines or twitches when a discovery is made.

This method is sometimes known as "willow witching," and I have seen it done, followed by the digging of a good well. One of my readers reported that her family lived in west Texas and always brought in a water witcher when they needed a new well.

As you would expect, dowsing has been widely discussed on the fringes of the scientific world in an effort to determine whether the dipping or twitching of the branch or rod results from a force in the ground or a muscular contraction by the dowser. Dr. Jan Merta carried out a series of experiments in the 1970s which seem to have proved that muscular movement makes the rod/branch move.

If you can find a copy of "The Diviner's Handbook," the author tells you how anyone can develop the skill of dowsing. Given the shortage of water in Texas these days, skilled dowsers should be able to make a fortune.

-30-

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

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Howe's That

Lana Rideout

Congratulations to the royal couple -- a son was born on July 22. He is third in line for the throne after his grandfather and his father.

One newspaper used the headline "Woman Has Baby."

His name is George Alexander Louis -- George VI was Queen Elizabeth's father.

Saw a joke on the internet -- "Where's 'Barack Obama' saying, if I had a son, he wouldn't look like the Royal Baby."

On a different topic Atheist soldiers want to have atheist chaplains -- It may be coming as soon as they can find a way to organize. One current chaplain said that he works with all faiths as well as no faiths.

What's Cooking

Veggie Recipe

2 cups cut up veggies (bell pepper, broccoli, zucchini, etc)

2 T chopped green onion

2 T margarine

4 - 8-inch tortillas, cut into 8 triangles

1 C Egg Beaters

1 C fat free skim milk

1/2 t dried basil leaves

In medium non-stick skillet, over medium heat, sauté veggies & green onion

Arrange 4 tortilla pieces in each of 8 (6 m0z) greased custard cups or ramekins, placing points of tortilla piece at center. Press lightly to form shape of a cup.

Divide veggie mixture evenly among cups.

In a small bowl, combine Egg Beaters, milk, & basil. Pour evenly over veggie mixture.

Place cups on baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees F for 20-25 minutes or until puffed and knife inserted into center comes back clean.

Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

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